

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, April 26, 2002/Vaisakha 6, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Question Hour

Shri R.S. Patil, Q. 461.

SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI (Chikkodi): On behalf of Shri R.S. Patil and Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda, I am asking the question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You just mention the Question number.

SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Q. No. 461.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): Sir, he is asking on behalf of the Member. The Member is not present here.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Where is the Member? He cannot do that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If he is not there, then I call Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda.

Shri G. Putta Swamy Gowda—Absent.

Shri R.S. Patil is not there.

Yes, now Shri Ramesh. They have requested him to ask the Question.

SHRI RAMESH C. JIGAJINAGI : Q. 461.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, the Question is put by someone. Two Members are absent. We will be setting up a bad precedent.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It will be taken up in the second round after completing the Question List.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Loss Making PSUs

*462. SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item regarding Mounting losses in top ten public sector undertakings in 'The Hindustan Times' of March 25, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for the losses;

(c) whether there is large scale resentment among the employees of public sector undertakings due to anti-labour policies pursued by the Government and also on account of non-payment of salaries in certain Public Sector Undertakings;

(d) if so, the details of such Public Sector Undertakings; and

(e) the corrective measures taken by the Government to reduce the losses in Public Sector undertakings and also to pay the arrears of salaries to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for losses are enterprise specific. However, some of the common reasons include inherited sickness in case of taken over PSUs, obsolete plant and machinery, outdated technology, low capacity utilisation, surplus manpower, resource crunch, high input cost, high interest burden, severe competition and managerial problems etc.

(c) and (d) Some representations have been received from the Employees/Workers' Unions of Public Sector

Undertakings expressing resentment of the employees of public sector undertakings regarding Government policies on PSUs and labour issues as also due to non-payment of wages/salaries to the employees of some PSUs. The names of the enterprises in which payment of salaries/wages are pending, as per information available, are given in the enclosed Annexure.

(e) The policy of the Government is to restructure or revive potentially viable PSUs, close down PSUs which cannot be revived and protect the interest of workers. Enterprise-specific measures are taken by the administrative Ministries/Management of PSUs in consultation with various stakeholders including workers' representatives with a view to reduce losses and improve performance. Some of the measures include periodical review of the performance by the concerned administrative Ministries/Departments, referring sick industrial PSUs whose net-worth has become negative to Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for formulation of revival/rehabilitation schemes, business and financial restructuring, improving order book position, implementation of purchase preference policy, rightsizing manpower, improved marketing strategies, cost control measures etc.

The PSUs are expected to pay wages and salaries of the employees from their internal resources. However, due to financial constraints faced by some PSUs, budgetary support is provided on a case to case basis.

Annexure

PSU-wise position of salaries and wages of employees outstanding as on 31.12.2001 as per information available in respect of 187 enterprises

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of CPSU	Outstanding salaries /wages (Approx.)
1	2	3
1.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	107.70
2.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	0.26
3.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	2562.54
4.	Birds, Jute & Exports Ltd.	16.00
5.	Cement Corpn. Ltd.	1131.45

1	2	3
6.	Heavy Engineering Corporation	912.00
7.	Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Ltd.	319.41
8.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	89.75
9.	Hindustan Steelworks Const. Ltd.	12848.03
10.	HMT Ltd.	976.00
11.	Hospital Services Cons. Ltd.	0.01
12.	Indian Drugs and Pharma. Ltd.	1133.00
13.	Instrumentation Ltd.	975.00
14.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	0.97
15.	National Building Cons. Corp. Ltd.	260.88
16.	National Industrial Dev. Corp.	533.00
17.	National Jute Manufacture Corp. Ltd.	3123.00
18.	National Projects Con. Corp. Ltd.	1885.00
19.	National Seeds Corporation Ltd.	189.23
20.	NEPA Ltd.	1282.00
21.-30.	NTC & Subsidiaries	8389.00
31.	Richardson & Crudass (1972) Ltd.	460.00
32.	Sambhar Salts Ltd.	112.46
33.	Smith Stanistreet & Pharma. Ltd.	64.00
34.	State Farms Corporation Ltd.	450.00
35.	Tea Trading Corpn.	1030.00
36.	Triveni Structurals Ltd.	270.00
37.	Tungbhbhadra Steel Products Ltd.	126.72
38.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	183.12
Total		39430.53

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: Sir, in reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the Government has always reviewed the sickness of the PSUs. But we found that

despite whatever reviews they are making, the loss is increasing at a geometrical proportion. In 1991-95, the rate of loss was 1.5 per cent. In 1995-2000, it increased to eight per cent. Similarly, in 2000-01, the rate of loss has gone up to 33.7 per cent. So, what exercise the Ministry and others concerned are contemplating about the reduction of these types of losses?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the hon. Member is right in saying that the losses are continuously increasing. He has also desired that I should explain to the House as to the measures taken by the Government to reduce the losses, which the PSUs are suffering even today.

A number of steps are being taken by the Government. The first step that the Government takes is to revive the PSUs through the BIFR. The second is financial restructuring, which has been done in many cases. The Government has also accepted a policy of going in for formation of joint ventures whereby the joint venture partner could bring in more money. Wherever possible manpower rationalisation is also done through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Since the Government is aware of the seriousness of this problem, the Government had started a system of signing Memoranda of Understanding with the executives whereby it becomes possible to control the losses of the company. It is also true that regular monitoring is being done not only by the officers but also by the Ministries themselves so that a proper check is kept. We have also taken two important steps—one is improving of order book position of the public sector undertakings and the other is that purchase preference is given to PSU companies whereby their losses could be reduced. These are some of the steps that would definitely reduce the losses wherever possible.

SHRI A.F. GOLAM OSMANI: The most dismal aspect of the problem of losses in PSUs is in the fertiliser sector. The Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation and the Fertiliser Corporation of India are running huge losses and the only recourse the Government is interested is to close down the fertiliser factory. May I know from the Government whether any revival scheme has been taken in respect of this vital sector of production of fertilisers?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: In the case of the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, which has been mentioned by the hon. Member, a revival package for the Namrup unit is under implementation and also the rehabilitation package for others is under the consideration of the Group of Ministers. It has been found that the reason for the losses of the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation are obsolete technical design, operational inefficiencies, surplus manpower and resource constraint.

In respect of the Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation, three meetings have been taken by the Group of Ministers. Senior Officials of the Ministry are helping this Group. We are trying to find out whether revival of this particular company could be taken up.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH: What steps are the Government taking to create jobs for employees retrenched on account of disinvestment in PSUs? The overall economic growth in the country has not been in sectors that create jobs. How does the Government intend to tackle this problem, which could have far-reaching economic and social implications?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: The Government of India long ago created a special fund—NRF to help those who had lost their jobs or who had opted for the VRS. This scheme was so far with the Commerce and Industry Ministry. Now, it has been sent to my Ministry. The Budget provision was for Rs. 8 crore and through this NRF scheme, I found that so far about eight thousand to ten thousand people have been counselled or re-trained or have been provided with alternative jobs but the anxiety of the hon. Member is absolutely right that it is not possible for all the employees who opt for the VRS to get alternative jobs.

Therefore, the job creation is done by the Government by starting new schemes, and, particularly, in case of Ministry of Rural Development, new schemes are being taken up by the Government, whereby jobs can be provided to the people. But the best way would be of self-employment. This time the Budget provision of this training scheme has been increased and we have given a thrust that those who opt for VRS will be given self-employment opportunities. About 14 centres have been started in the country. Therefore, the fear, which is expressed by the hon. Member, though it is understandable, is not correct. It may not be able to give jobs to all, but some of them may be given self-employment. The re-training also will be done in their cases and wherever possible, we will find out the alternative jobs for them.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that there was a time when some of the public sector undertakings were regarded as the places of pilgrimage and it was agreed that they have greatly contributed in nation building but the present situation is that their problem is only aggravating with the efforts for solution. The situation with regard to public sector undertakings has come to such a pass that the

employees there have nothing to do. The dagger of V.R.S. is hanging over their heads. Through you, I would like to ask the Government that on the one hand it referred the HMT's case to B.I.F.R. and efforts were being made for its revival and on the other hand, some of its units were closed and the employees of its unit at Ajmer are being transferred to other places. Are the Government considering to close down the units after the transfer of employees or efforts are being made for making it earn profit? I want a clear assurance from the Government if a PSU like HMT would be kept alive or not? Secondly, the V.R.S. facility is given to one unit while it is denied to other. Consequently, people get the opportunity to say that they are being discriminated against. I would like to know the policy of the Government in this regard.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has specifically, asked about the H.M.T. I would like to tell him that I am personally monitoring the case of H.M.T. The Government have no intention to close down HMT because it had revived HMT through a special package. I would like to tell the House that the effort of the Government is aimed at not closing even one company. As far as possible it is the responsibility of the Government to revive a company. The hon. Member asked the reason of transfer of employees from one place to another and he is apprehending that the intention of the Government is to close down the unit. Let me answer him that the Government have so such intention. It so happens in a company like HMT that at one place there is less production or less work and at another place the work is more or likely to be more then we, to provide work to employees, transfer them to a place where there is work. As for Ajmer, I will discuss that with the hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, first of all, I would like to submit, through you, to the hon. Minister that his reply is not comprehensive and full.

In the list of 38 units where he mentioned in a statement that salaries and wages of employees outstanding stood at Rs. 39,430 lakhs of the 187 enterprises. Now, out of 38 units, if you look into the statement, not less than 13 units are in West Bengal alone.

I would like to inform the House that inspite of your banning the PWG, it is the State of West Bengal where in late-60s, the Nexalite upsurge came first from the rural side, followed by the industrial side. Now, for the last one month, in all these units which are already closed

and which are threatened to be closed, the workers and their families are on the street. Violence, in what amount, is coming in Asansol Sub-Division, in Howrah and in Midnapore, I cannot explain it due to paucity of time; the House will discuss it in the next Session. The Minister has stated that no PSUs are expected to pay wages and salaries of the employees from their internal resources. However, due to financial constraint faced by some PSUs, budgetary support is provided on a case-to-case basis. What is the budgetary support on a case-to-case basis? In Burn Standard, which is one of the biggest public sector undertakings for which we placed our demand to the hon. Minister at least to clear their wages, nine persons committed suicide. On one night, they asked 3,000 employees to take VRS. There is no money for VRS. The unit is closed. The National Jute Manufacturing Corporation, the first ever jute company nationalised by Shrimati Gandhi. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. M.P. JAISWAL: You put your question.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am putting the question. Do not get impatient. The Minister will reply. Why are you impatient? ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

We are talking about labourers, why are you getting impatient?

[English]

Till yesterday, the workers of the National Jute Manufacturing Corporation did not get their wages for six months. And who are working there do you know? Ninety per cent of the people are from North Bihar, Rajasthan, U.P. and Orissa and by that amount they look after their families. The Finance Minister is sitting here. Nothing has been paid so far to the employees of these big units and they are committing suicide.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You ask the question now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I shall sit down if it is not a serious question ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is this? I am here to control the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: What is this, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to put the question to the Minister. I am not giving a lecture, I am narrating the facts. They should have some patience. I told the hon. Minister earlier in the same House, along with the Trinamool Congress M.P., Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, and today also I ask the Minister whether he will call a meeting with the concerned State Government and the trade union leaders to find out: (a) which are the packages in BIFR where the Government can revive the units and (b) which are the areas where the Government cannot revive but can pay their existing claims and VRS? I want to know the clear policy. By keeping everything in hanging, things are burning and a lot of problem is created. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will respond to it and do the needful immediately after this Parliament Session. The Statement is not complete. The name of the National Instruments is not there. The workers of the National Instruments did not get their salary till last week.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, firstly, I would say about the Statement whether it is complete or not. According to me, the complete Statement about outstanding wages has been given here. We have asked all the 240 companies to submit their lists. Out of that 187 have already given the information. For the remaining companies, if the information is required, I would definitely be happy to give it to the hon. Members.

Secondly, the point must be made clear that the responsibility of making payment of wages, salaries and dues is basically of the company, not of the Government. But, at the same time, the Government also feels that in case there are constraint and the company is not able to pay wages and salaries, the Government has been giving financial support on humanitarian grounds. I must give you the figures. In 1997-98, Rs. 1,339 crore were given as Non-Plan assistance to different companies. In 1998-99, an amount of Rs. 1,411 crore was given; in 1999-2000, Rs. 1,817 crore were given; in 2000-01, Rs. 1,626 crore were given and in 2001-02 Rs. 1,775 crore were given as Non-Plan assistance.

The Government has also made the policy clear that wherever revival or restructuring is taking place, the Government is ready to clear up the salaries if required. This is revival package and, therefore, the Government will definitely take it into consideration. Wherever the people have shown willingness for closure or since there is no alternative and the closure is the only option, in such cases also the salaries, payment of wages, and the outstanding amounts also are cleared by the Government. But basically it is the responsibility of the individual company to do that.

The hon. Member has also asked that in this case, about the package of West Bengal, whether I am ready to speak to the Chief Minister of West Bengal. I am happy to inform him that on this issue, the Chief Minister of West Bengal has already written me a letter and I also agreed to meet him during my next visit to Kolkata and to see that in case of all the companies in my Ministry in West Bengal, a final decision can be taken and wherever possible, if the Government of West Bengal is prepared to give all the necessary concessions, the whole thing can be worked out in a meeting which may take place as early as possible.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the policy of disinvestment has been explained that it is based on wide division. In the first place they would say that profit is not the concern of the Government and in the matter of disinvestment they have made a very broad division that if a unit is strategic or non-strategic, profit is not the criteria for disinvestment according to the disinvestment policy of the Central Government. In the instant case, the hon. Minister would say that profit is the only criteria and they will try to revive the PSUs that can make profit; that can survive; and that are viable. For this there will be a periodical review also.

Moreover, there is the BIFR. Before that Board, several cases of PSUs are pending without decision. The decision whether a unit will be revived or will be closed down is a matter of argument before the Board for several years. The Board has not taken a decision even after some PSUs have made profits and they are capable of being revived. In such a case it has become the practice of the Board not to take a decision at the proper time. It is a matter concerning the industrial matters. A decision at the proper time is very important and very much material. But those decisions are never coming from the BIFR. They will not take a decision and they will go on hearing and hearing the cases without taking a proper decision at the proper time. This has resulted in converting some PSUs which are capable of being revived, not revivable.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, you ask your question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, my request to the hon. Minister is to give a specific guideline to the BIFR to take decisions in these matters which are pending before the Board. They should take a decision at the proper time whether the unit is revivable or not. It is a matter to be decided by them. But they are not taking a decision. You please advise the Board to take a decision in all cases which are pending before them; otherwise

your policy is of no use and the workers will not be benefited.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Radhakrishnan, let the hon. Minister answer your specific question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, the workers are the important people. I would request the hon. Minister to take a decision in these matters.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the disinvestment policy of the Government of India has been made clear from time to time.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: They would say profit is not their concern ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, let the hon. Minister answer the question now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, it is a serious matter. At one stage they will say that they have no concern for profit and they are concerned whether a unit is strategic or non-strategic. ...*(Interruptions)* Please revive the unit if it can be revived. You are creating confusion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: For the information of the hon. Member and the hon. House, I will read out what the Policy says :

"To bring down the Government equity in all non-strategic public sector undertakings to 26 per cent or lower, if necessary; to restructure and review potentially viable PSUs; close down public sector undertakings which cannot be revived, and fully protect the interests of the workers."

This is the general Policy. The hon. Member has rightly said that a number of cases take a lot of time when they are referred to BIFR. The Government is aware of this. Therefore, for revival purposes, the Government never depends fully on BIFR. There are cases where, in my own Department, 12 companies were revived through BIFR and, in seven cases, the companies were revived by the Department itself with the approval of the Cabinet and without going to BIFR. Therefore, it is not compulsory that the company must be referred to BIFR for revival.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Once it is referred, they cannot take a decision.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: In several cases, the revival of the company is done without going to BIFR. A number of Members, as Shri Radhakrishnan spoke, have written

to the Government or have spoken to the Union Ministers concerned stating that BIFR was taking a lot of time. Therefore, the Government is considering a proposal to do away with BIFR and to appoint a body which can take quick decision. Therefore, I do not think that there is any necessity of speaking or writing to BIFR again. The Government is of the considered opinion now that a new body will have to be created. I hope that all the Members who are complaining against BIFR will support this proposal of creating a new body when it comes before the House.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the hon. Minister has given year-wise details of the revival package given to the non-profit-making public sector undertakings. My question is this. How many such industries have been revived because of such revival packages? Is there any possibility of revival of any public sector undertaking whose net value has become negative? Are there any proposals of selling those industries where there is no possibility of reviving it?

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

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: It will be shorter than the question, Sir. There are a number of companies where it is decided that if those companies are running in losses, they can also be disinvested. I must say that the questioner wanted to know the exact number. I now the number of such companies relating to my Department where the revival proposals have been approved. Out of 48 companies under my Department, in case of 19 companies, the revival proposals have been approved by the Government.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: My question is, due to the revival packages given in the past, how many industries have been revived. That was my main question. He said that he is going to give the revival package. What about the past revival packages?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may give the details in writing.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: As regards the number of such companies, after consulting other administrative Ministries, I will send him the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can give the details in writing.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: No industry has been revived. That is why, he is unable to answer.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: This is a very important question from jurisdiction point of view also. At present, the question is being answered by the Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises. You will kindly appreciate that there are public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Petroleum; then, there are public sector undertakings under the Ministry of Textiles, and there are public sector undertakings under the overall control of various other Ministries also. In a particular case, when I wrote a letter to the Minister of Petroleum regarding take over of a loss-making petroleum unit in South India, I was given the reply by that Minister that, that letter should be addressed to the Minister of Heavy Industries. When I wrote again, the reply came that this would be answered by the Minister of Disinvestment. At this stage, I want to know from the Government, and in particular the Minister of Heavy Industries because the Minister of Textiles is also sitting next to him, about the National Textile Corporation mills which are being run all over the country and which are loss-making units. I am very concerned about this.

Sir, in part (b) of the answer, the hon. Minister has admitted that sickness in case of taken over PSUs. There are cases where loss-making units are being taken over by the Government and the profit-making public sector units are being disinvested. Will the hon. Minister take up this matter with the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister and also would look into the entire problem as has been put forward by the questioner? It is a very serious problem. There are textile mills in Gujarat and in all, there are 32 textile mills all over the country. The employees of these Mills are not getting regular salaries. I would like to know as to what would be the policy of the Government to meet the situation arising out of the loss-making public sector units.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, the general policy in respect of the loss-making public sector units have already been explained to the House. As regards the textile mills. I would like to submit that a package has already been approved by the Cabinet. It is also true that the proposals for a package, particularly in case of the two companies that are suffering heavily—I am talking only about the textile companies had been brought to me as a Minister for the Public Enterprise by the Minister of Textiles and we have taken a decision to revive them. I am talking only of the two companies, Maharashtra (North) and Maharashtra (South), that are suffering heavy losses. In all, 17 mills are proposed to be revived and others would have to be closed down. Detailed information in this regard could be given by the Ministry of Textiles.

Sir, there is complete co-ordination between all the Departments. Whenever any question of this type comes before us the papers are sent to the parent Department and their remarks are obtained and thereafter only a decision is taken. Therefore, there is no necessity for appointing a separate Co-ordination Committee in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, last week there was an agitation by employees organisations wherein bank employees, insurance sector and other PSUs' unions also participated. They showed their anger. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister that disinvestment of loss making units is okay but why the disinvestment of profit making companies such as Maruti Udyog Limited is being made. The agitation of the previous week reflected the sentiments of the people and the employees. Labour and public undertakings are closely interlinked. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Heavy Industries the view of the Ministry on the said agitation and whether some of the units would be revived or not?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the agitating employees had two demands—one, for stopping the process of disinvestment of companies and second against introducing anti-labour reforms. These were the two major demands.

[English]

As regards the proposal for an amendment in the Industries Disputes Act—

[Translation]

We want some reforms in it. The Cabinet has taken a decision and when the subject is moved in this House, a detailed discussion can take place and then the hon. Member could have the reply. Secondly, the hon. Member has mentioned about Maruti Udyog Company. The Government have decided to disinvest the company. The process of disinvestment is underway.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Why do you want to disinvest it?

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: This is difficult to answer as the decision was taken by the Disinvestment Committee. But the Government have decided for disinvestment of the Company.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, anything that has to be done with respect to the public sector undertakings should be in the interest of the country. If they are to be revived, then it should be in the interest of the country and if they are to be disinvested, then also it should be in the interest of the country.

Sir, these public sector undertakings were established in those areas in which the private sector was unwilling to enter because of long gestation period required, because of requirement of a lot of funds and because there were so many complications involved.

For years together we worked, and these public sector undertakings were established. Now it seems that some public sector undertakings are not working well and there is a proposal for disinvestment of these public sector undertakings. We are not saying: "Do not disinvest even if it is absolutely necessary to do so". We are saying that if you have to disinvest, disinvest in a manner which will really help the country, the workers, the consumers, and will help the country to become competitive in the world. Do not disinvest simply to disinvest, or simply to accept a policy which has been floated somewhere else thinking that it should be accepted here.

There are public sector undertakings which can be revived. It is possible, if we pay attention to them, to revive them. They can help the economy of the country. They can help the people. They can help the country become competitive. What policies has the Government accepted, or has formulated to help these kinds of public sector undertakings which can really help us? Workers' interests are also involved. We cannot throw the workers to the wind, and ask them to face their fate, and say that it is for the public sector undertakings or for them to find jobs for themselves. We cannot say that we, sitting in the Government or in the Parliament, have responsibility towards them. This aspect that they should be provided with employment is also important. It has to be looked into. Though it is a fact that the public sector undertakings have to do something in that respect, ultimately it is the responsibility of the Government also to do it.

We would like to know on this important issue, what the policies of the Government are with respect to disinvestment, with respect to reviving these units, with respect to providing and continuing to provide employment to the people, and with respect to making these to become helpful to the economy of the country.

SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Sir, as I remember, discussions have taken place on the Policy of disinvestment in this august House not less than five times, which a number of Members have participated. They did give a number of useful suggestions and the hon. Minister of Disinvestment had replied during those debates. I must make it clear that the policy as regards disinvestment does not say that only loss-making companies will be disinvested. Even the profit-making companies are also disinvested because the general view of the Government is that the business of the Government is to do a number of things. Its main business is not to do the business. Therefore, it is quite clear that in all non-strategic industries, the Government will bring down its equity to 26 per cent and, if required, below that also, which means that it can be also privatised.

The hon. Deputy Leader of Opposition had raised a question as to whether the Government would take the responsibility of the workers or not. Whenever disinvestment is done, we put in a categorical clause in the agreement that no retrenchment by the purchaser of the company or one who takes the shares of the company will be done at least for one year. So far the experience of the disinvested companies has been that the number of workers has not reduced. As a matter of fact, in some of the companies it has gone up. It is necessary to understand the basic reason why it happened. More money has to be brought in, and new technology has to be brought in and, therefore, a joint-venture partner is found out. The joint-venture partner also does not want to reduce the number of workers unless it is absolutely necessary. Therefore, the workers interest is also protected.

The hon. Member also desires that wherever possible we must revive the viable companies. It is true. From the point of view, a number of proposals are coming to the Cabinet. In a number of cases, revivals done because the Government also thinks that closure of a company is the last resort, and as far as possible restructuring has to be done.

Therefore, the Government is aware of the suggestions made by the hon. Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We will take all care, as far as possible, to see that we revive the companies and restructure them. We will see that the interests of the workers are protected.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have kept raising my hand for half an hour, but have not been allowed to put the question. I

seldom rise to speak but when I do, I do not get the chance. It is an injustice to me. Some Members who are known faces are given chances repeatedly, but we are sidelined.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Everybody will get a chance.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: They deliver speeches for as long as half an hour but we are not given opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

Assistance from Japan

*464. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Japanese Government have decided to lift the sanctions imposed against India and to extend assistance to this country once again;

(b) if so, whether the Government of Japan has identified certain sectors for providing assistance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Japan and the Government of India through mutual consultations have identified economic infrastructure, environmental protection and basic human needs like health, education, water & sanitation as the areas for possible assistance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the total official assistance pledged by the Government of Japan to India. And whether this amount is more than the assistance given prior to nuclear tests or less?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have since mentioned in reply to main question, the fields in which we want assistance from Japan. As for the total amount, it will depend on the number of projects we submit and the number they approve alongwith the cost of such projects. Annual targets as such, are not fixed in this regard. Therefore, it will not be right to compare the amount with past figures. It will be our efforts to put forth maximum projects to Japan, so that we could get maximum assistance.

SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the reply, the Government have said that the two countries have identified the areas of cooperation through bilateral discussion according to humanitarian needs. I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the areas in which assistance has been sought.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I said in reply to main question, the areas identified are related to infrastructure and basic human needs. But after the lifting of sanctions, the major projects which have been proposed in priority, are, Yamuna Action Plan which is a multi-state project, Anpara Thermal Power Project, Naini bridge, Pollution abatement of the river Gomati at Lucknow and Buddhist Circuit-Phase-II. Such projects have been included.

SHRI C.N. SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether the assistance we are getting from Japan for various projects is in the form of loan or grant? What they are getting for the funds they are providing to us? Are they giving loans or financial assistance? I would also like to know whether the agreement has been signed with the Government there or with private companies? Besides, I would also like to point out that our economy has been shattered because of the smuggled goods from Japan. Why are we not making efforts to check smuggling which occurs through Bangladesh and Nepal—are we under pressure from any quarters?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make it very clear from the very beginning that we are not under any kind of pressure. I will come to the question which was asked last, but I would like to tell the House that the picture emerging for cooperation between Indian and Japanese Government is between the two Government, it is not for private sector. The Japanese agency—Japanese Bank for international cooperation, is the organisation of Japan—through which most of the aid is provided to us in the form of loan. A part of it is in form of grant also, which is given for some special purposes such as study and consultancy and most part of it is loan, and terms of loan are very easy—the moratorium is of ten years, repayment period is of 20 years, the rate of interest is 1.8 per cent and it is united, not tied. I would also like to tell the House that Japan has been the biggest helper in this case during last ten years and Japan has been biggest source in bilateral assistance. Our relation with them are cordial. The sanctions imposed after Pokhran, were lifted by the Japanese Government itself in last October and now our relations with Japan are cordial, economic cooperation is going on and it would be further strengthened in future, because many exchanges have taken place between the

two countries and the Prime Minister of both the countries have paid visit too.

As far as smuggling is concerned, I do not think that Japanese Government have any role in it. If smuggling is taking place in our country, it is our problem and that smuggling has to be stopped and we are working in this direction.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as he has just said that items are imported from Japan, China and other countries in containers, and those containers also carry brown sugar and other narcotic drugs, whether there is any system in our country, by which x-ray of containers could be done? I have talked to one or two departments. They said that this work relates to the department which receives excise. I would like to know whether the Government have tried to make any such arrangement?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The original question is about the cooperation of Japanese Government as to what economic assistance we get from them, but this question is deviated to the other direction and now smuggling is being talked about—it is not directly related to the original question, but I would like to tell the hon. Member as far as smuggling is concerned, as I have said earlier, we are alert and we take necessary precautions and see what items are being imported in containers. Containers are also examined and there are some equipments which also scan the contents without examination, what kind of material is inside at some places these types of machines have been installed, other places do not have this facility. But as far as smuggling is concerned, as I have said earlier, we are committed and trying to make efforts to save the country from this problem. I am unable to admit that in view of this, the economy of the country is being ruined. Even then I wish that all of us should work collectively to solve this problem and the Government is trying to do best on its part.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance have said in his reply that assistance is being sought from Japan in the field of Health, education and eco-friendly environment. But I regret that there is an important topic of solar energy. Japan has made remarkable achievement in this field but you have not paid any attention in the field of solar energy. I as well as the entire House regret about it. Today the entire country is facing serious power crisis. The farmers are unable to irrigate their fields. No

agreement has been entered into between Japan and India in the field of solar energy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the interest of farmers and the country, you are going to seek any assistance from Japan in the field of solar energy?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think that there is anything to regret.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: We regret, you may not. That is why Bharatiya Janata Party is in the State of Affairs ...*(Interruptions)* You have isolated farmers. The condition of farmers is very pathetic ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has wrongly jumped to this conclusion that as we did not seek assistance from Japan in the field of solar energy that is why BJP has suffered this fate ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: This is one aspect. There are many other aspects of this. That is why in future, we will sit there and you will sit here ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : All these things are true with the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Do not worry about it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would like to state and know that from where does projects come to the Ministry of Finance for seeking cooperation with Japan or any other country or multilateral organisation. We expect State Governments to send projects to the Ministry. We also expect different Ministries to send projects to us. After examining those projects, we prepare project reports and present them before those countries and multilateral agencies. It is not so that project regarding solar energy was not presented before Japan, or any attention has not been paid towards this. You know that there is a Ministry in this Government to deal with solar energy, which not only look after solar energy, but also see development of all non-conventional energy sources. I think it is wrong to reach at this conclusion that as this issue was not placed before Japan so the development of solar energy is not taking place in the country. Even then I would like to say that we are getting assistance from Japan in the energy sector. Many projects are running or will run with the cooperation of Japan. This includes not only setting up of new energy projects with their cooperation but to know about the energy conservation also. Therefore, I feel that if the hon. Member is regretting he should ask the Madhya Pradesh Government to send power related projects to us, we will definitely consider their proposals.

SHRI LAXMAN SINGH: A scheme was sent to the Union Government five years ago, but no attention has been paid towards it.

[English]

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, since the aid to India was cut off by Japan because of nuclear explosions and since Japan acts in concert with the Western and European democracies, I beg to ask the Finance Minister whether due to genocide being perpetrated in Gujarat and due to suppression of Christians recently in Himachal Pradesh, is it likely that the Western democracies and Japan are going to cut off aid to India?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: The short answer is no.

DR. V. SAROJA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether it is a fact that Dr. Taro Nakayama, MP, former External Affairs Minister of Japan, Special Envoy of the Prime Minister of Japan, Chairman of Asian Population and Development Association, Tokyo, Japan, and the Parliamentarian's Delegation from Japan are visiting India from 28-30 April, 2002. Is there any specific agenda that the Government of India has got to discuss with Japan?

Secondly, there are many health schemes prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu and processed through Government of India to Japan. Will the Government make good use of this opportunity to clear all the health schemes for Tamil Nadu?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Sir, as I have already stated, there is a subsisting mechanism between the Government of Japan and Government of India to take up all the projects which we receive from, as I said, the State Governments and the various Ministries. The Tamil Nadu projects relating to health, as and when received, will also be taken care of by this joint mechanism that we have.

Sir, as far as the visit of the Parliamentary Delegation is concerned, I do not have the information because this is not a matter connected with my Ministry. I would suggest to my colleague who deals with it to give the information to the hon. Member.

Shishu Griha Yojana

*465. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise its policy for giving financial assistance under Shishu Griha Yojana;

(b) if so, whether the financial assistance is given upto the age of 18 years only;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the age limit upto 21 years, especially for the girls;

(d) whether the marriage age limit has been increased from 18 to 21 years;

(e) if so, whether the orphanages and Kanya Ashram are demanding to raise the limit upto 21 years; and

(f) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Scheme for Assistance to homes (Shishu Griha) for children to promote in-country adoption was revised w.e.f. 1.4.2001 and has been now made applicable to Shishu Grihas run by State Governments in addition to those being run by NGOs.

(b) The scheme provides financial assistance for care, protection and rehabilitation of orphaned/destitute children from 0 to 6 years.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the age limit beyond 6 years.

(d) As per the Child Marriage Restraint (Amendment) Act, 1978 the minimum marriage age is 18 years for girls and 21 years for boys.

(e) There is no such demand to raise the age limit to 21 years.

(f) Question does not arise.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to state that due to the lack of coordination between social welfare department of State Government and Union Government, many social organisations are not getting grant inspite of filing application in time and the cases related to grant are pending for last 7-8 years. What would the hon. Minister say in this regard?

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, definitely my Ministry pays attention to the proposals

received through State Governments, but we are also considering to formulate schemes to pay attention to the proposals not routed through State. It has been considered seriously in the recent past Government. We are also considering the likely action to be taken if the proposal from State Governments are not received within stipulated time frame.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my question is very specific. I have given names of two organisations i.e. Shradhanand Mahila Ashram and Vatsalya Trust. They have submitted application on time, but there is no coordination between the departments of State Government and Central Government. Whether the Government will make provision to provide them grant? Secondly, the norms in this regard were framed 25 years ago. Whether there is any proposal to amend them?

12.00 hrs.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned two organisations and Shradhanand Mahila Ashram is one of them. We have given grant to them till 1995-96. After that, we have not received any application, since 1996-97, therefore, we were unable to take any decision.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : The State Government have received their proposal.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA : We have not received it. If it comes, we will consider it after fulfilling the formalities. Secondly, the hon. Member has asked about Vatsalya Organisation. Grant was given to them up to 1993-94. We have given total grant of Rupees 31 lakh 70 thousand and four hundred 55 to the above mentioned organisations from 1993-94 to 2001. Proposal regarding grant for the period 1997-98 and 1998-99 will be considered only after getting it from the Maharashtra Government, after getting clarification on it, we will consider it. As far as the question of giving grant to the organisations is concerned, we have revised it. After revising it, we have taken measures for its smooth execution.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Fall In Prices of Tobacco

*461. **SHRI R.S. PATIL:**
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

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

(a) whether falling price of tobacco has resulted in accumulation of stocks with tobacco farmers;

(b) if so, whether the tobacco growing States have requested the Union Government to arrest falling price of Tobacco by purchasing it through Tobacco Board at the rate of Rs. 55 per kilogram;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to the requests of State Governments;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) There are no accumulated stocks of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco with the farmers.

(b) The Government of Karnataka had, in November 2001, sought the intervention of the Union Government for purchase of tobacco at Rs. 55 per kilogram through the Tobacco Board.

(c) to (e) As the prices started rising from December, 2001 onwards, such intervention through the Tobacco Board was not deemed necessary.

[Translation]

Import of Indian Textiles by European Countries

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

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the European countries and Bangladesh have increased various types of taxes to discourage the import of Indian textiles;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the names of the countries alongwith the efforts made by them recently to discourage the import of textiles from India;

(c) whether due to above said reasons, export from India has decreased to these countries; and

(d) if so, the latest position in this regard and the action taken by the Government to remove such restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) and (b) The European Union (EU) is presently

maintaining anti-dumping duties in the range of 14.7% to 35.4% on imports of Polyester Staple Fibre from India. Bangladesh has recently imposed a regulatory duty of 10% on import of all types of cotton yarn. Turkey is also maintaining anti-dumping duty of 6.8% to 33.7% on import of Polyester Textured Filament Yarn from India. The textile imports from India are also facing other impediments such as duty free/quota free access granted by EU to textiles originating from our neighbouring competing countries; initiation of anti-subsidy/anti-dumping investigations by EU on Polyester Textured Filament Yarn; ban on yarn imports through land route by Bangladesh; and review of suspension of collection of duties on imports of bed-linen etc.

(c) and (d) Overall exports to European Union and Bangladesh showed an upward trend during the financial years, i.e., 1999-2000 and 2000-01. During the current year, the exports have, however, declined. The Government of India is taking all possible steps including taking the matter to Dispute Settlement Body of WTO as per international rules & regulations.

[English]

Compound Interest on Agricultural Loans

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

(a) whether RBI has allowed commercial banks to charge compound interest on all agricultural loans;

(b) whether the RBI has issued a circular in this matter in May, 2001;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this decision adversely affected the farmers; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure that farmers do not pay penal rates of interest on their loans?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in May 2001 a circular was issued by them regarding adoption of 90 days' norm by commercial banks for recognition of loan as a non-performing asset (NPA) from the year ending March 31, 2004 with a view to moving towards best international practices. Further, to facilitate this measure, banks were also advised to move over to charging of interest at monthly rest by April 1,

2002. Subsequently, on receipt of representations from some banks, in consultation with IBA, it was clarified by RBI vide circular dated March 9, 2002 that charging of interest on monthly rest would not be applicable to agricultural advances.

Refusal of State Governments to take Delivery of Palm-Oil

*467. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether various State Governments have refused to take delivery of palm-oil from the godowns of Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation;

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

(c) the losses suffered by the Union Government on this account during each of last three years;

(d) whether the Government have imported palm-oil despite the adverse situation; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) No, Sir. The delivery of RBD Palmolein imported for the Public Distribution System is not made from the godowns of the Food Corporation of India/Central Warehousing Corporation.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (STC) was authorized to import edible oil for the Public Distribution System. The losses incurred by the STC on account of edible oil operations due to the difference in the cost of import and the Central Issue Price were reimbursed to the STC by the Government. The details of reimbursements made during the last three years are indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)	
Year	Amount
1999-2000	50.00
2000-2001	40.00
2001-2002	7.99

(d) and (e) Due to easy availability of edible oils at reasonable prices in the open market, the Government has not imported any edible oil after September, 1999.

Jan Raksha Insurance

*468. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched Jan Raksha Insurance to cover health aspects of rural people;

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

(c) whether any insurance scheme is under consideration for urban population covering both indoor and outdoor treatment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A new insurance scheme called "Janraksha", intended to cater to the needs of rural population, has been announced in the Budget for 2002-03. Under the Scheme, the insured person will be entitled to indoor treatment upto Rs. 30,000 and outdoor treatment upto Rs. 2,000 per year for an annual premium of Rs. 365 at designated hospitals and clinics including civil hospitals, medical colleges, private trust hospitals and NGO run institutions. The scheme is to be launched by the four public sector general insurance companies.

(c) and (d) The four public sector general insurance companies are already operating a medical insurance scheme known as 'Mediclaim' which caters to the needs of both urban and rural population. The scheme provides for reimbursement of medical expenses incurred by an individual towards hospitalisation/domiciliary hospitalisation for any illness, injury or disease contracted or sustained during the period of insurance.

Foreign Banks

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

(a) whether the local bankers have opposed the policy of giving liberal sanctions for the expansion of foreign banking activities in India;

(b) if so, the number of foreign banks together with their branches operating in India;

(c) the names of the new banks seeking permission of the Government to start their operations in India;

(d) the reasons advanced by the Indian bankers for not granting permission for setting up of new banks/ expansion of existing banks; and

(e) the policy of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) As on 31st March, 2002, 40 foreign banks were operating in India with 192 branches.

(c) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), no application is pending from any new foreign bank for starting operations in India.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

(e) As of now foreign banks are allowed to conduct banking business through branches only. In the Budget Speech 2002-2003, the decision was announced that foreign banks will be given an option to either operate as branches of their parent banks or to set up subsidiaries.

Incentive to Exporters

*470. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

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

(a) whether his Ministry has forwarded several proposals to the Ministry of Finance for providing incentives to exporters after the attack on twin towers in USA on 11 September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of such proposals;

(c) the proposals out of them which have been accepted by the Ministry of Finance;

(d) whether the said incentives have been provided to the exporters; and

(e) if so, the impact of such incentives on Indian export performance?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) In the background of fall in growth of exports in the first half of 2000-01

and slow down of world economy several steps were taken in October 2001 to boost exports in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. These included reduction in interest rate for export finance, special financial package for large value exports of Rs. 100 crore or more, extension in repatriation period for exports to Latin American Countries (LAC), increase in drawback rates for approximately 500 items, increase in residual drawback rates for capital goods and machinery and removal of value caps on 429 items under Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme.

These measures were aimed at arresting the decline in the rate of growth of Indian exports in an otherwise sluggish international trade scenario. Indian exports in the months of November, 2001, December 2001 and January, 2002 have grown at 3.29%, 1.11% and 18.18% (in dollar terms) respectively over the same period last year as against decline of 1.06%, 8.61% and 7.39% in the months of August, September and October, 2001 respectively over the corresponding period of the year before.

Appointments on Compassionate Grounds in Banks

*471. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending with the nationalised banks for providing appointments on compassionate grounds to the dependents of the deceased persons;

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

(c) by when a final decision in regard to these cases are likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Some cases of providing appointments on compassionate grounds are pending in the nationalized banks. Mostly such cases remain pending due to non-submission of requisite information by the applicants as to the assets, liabilities, income etc.

(b) The bank-wise details are as under :

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Number of cases pending
1	2	3
1.	Allahabad Bank	96
2.	Andhra Bank	13

1	2	3
3.	Bank of Baroda	104
4.	Bank of India	58
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	12
6.	Canara Bank	53
7.	Central Bank of India	51
8.	Corporation Bank	Nil
9.	Dena Bank	6
10.	Indian Bank	257
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	91
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	76
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	166
14.	Punjab National Bank	29
15.	Syndicate Bank	6
16.	UCO Bank	133
17.	Union Bank of India	66
18.	United Bank of India	28
19.	Vijaya Bank	149

(c) No time frame has been fixed. However, banks make efforts to settle the cases as early as possible after receipt of complete information from the applicants.

Credit Policy of RBI

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

(a) whether the credit policy for cooperative banks is decided by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has written to his Ministry and the Reserve bank of India to make suitable amendments in the credit policy for cooperative banks in the State of Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lays down macro-level credit policy measures in its annual monetary and credit policy statement, which is announced in April every year. This policy is applicable to entire banking sector including Cooperative Banks. It covers areas such as maintenance of Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), prudential norms, etc. All banks are expected to follow the guidelines laid down by RBI.

(c) to (e) The recent crisis in the Urban Cooperative Banking Sector necessitated certain tightening of norms in areas relating to SLR investment pattern for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs), operations in call money market, investment of funds by urban cooperative banks as deposits with other co-operative banks and bank finance against shares and debentures which were announced in the annual monetary and credit policy statement in April 2001. The State Government of Maharashtra requested Government of India and RBI for giving more time to UCBs to withdraw their SLR holdings from District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs)/State Cooperative Bank (SCB) for investing in Government and other approved securities, as this would adversely affect resource position of SCB/DCCBs in Maharashtra. On review of monetary policy measures and pace of progress in implementing them in October 2001, RBI extended the time frame for achieving the prescribed levels of SLR holding in the form of Government and other approved securities.

Financial Assistance for Expansion of Sugar Mills

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

(a) the number of proposals received for seeking financial assistance for the expansion and modernisation of sugar mills from several States during 2000-2001;

(b) the number of proposals out of them cleared so far, State-wise; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the remaining proposals and the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) to (c) During the year 2000-01, 13 applications seeking loan from the Sugar Development Fund for the purpose of expansion and modernisation of sugar mills were

received. The loan was sanctioned in 11 of these cases. State-wise details are given below:

Sl.No.	Name of States	Proposals received	Proposals cleared
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3	2
2.	Bihar	1	1
3.	Maharashtra	6	6
4.	Tamil Nadu	1	1
5.	Uttar Pradesh	2	1
Total		13	11

The loan could not be sanctioned in two cases as the conditions prescribed in the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 were not satisfied.

[Translation]

Autonomy to Rural Banks

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to provide more autonomy to Regional Rural Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Regional Rural Banks already have sufficient autonomy.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Deposits under National Savings

*475. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the existing percentage of advances admissible to the State Governments from the deposits under National Savings;

(b) whether the Government propose to revise the existing percentage of advance facility from the National Savings to cent percent;

(c) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(d) the total collection of National Savings from Gujarat and other States during the last year; and

(e) the amount of advance outstanding to the States from the National Savings?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The recommendation of an Expert Committee "to transfer the entire net proceeds under small savings schemes to State Governments" has been accepted and acted upon since April 1, 2002.

(d) Net small savings collections in post offices during the year 2001-02 (upto February, 2002) in the State of Gujarat and other States and Union Territories of the country were Rs. 3592.02 crore and Rs. 29102.45 crore respectively.

(e) An amount of Rs. 24194.32 Cr. due against net small savings collections in post offices during 2001-02 (upto January, 2002) has so far been released to the States and Union Territory (with legislature) Governments. Rupees 3417.95 crore is due for release to the States and Union Territory (with legislature) Governments in May, 2002 against collections in February, 2002.

Market for Indian Goods in Russia

*476. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Russian Federation is a growing market for Indian goods and also a promising investment destination;

(b) if so, whether Moscow based Indian Business Alliance has reported that India may lose this opportunity because of the default on the part of Indian entrepreneurs, including export of goods to third world countries; and

(c) if so, the corrective steps being taken by the Government to ensure that the opportunity for the Indian goods in the Russian Federation are fully tapped?

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

(b) During their visit to India in March 2002 to attend "India-Russia together Seminars" held in New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai, the representatives of the Moscow based India Business Alliance urged Indian businessmen not to ignore the Russian market and to seriously consider trade and investment opportunities available in Russia. They also pointed out that due to hesitation of Indian

exporters and entrepreneurs to enter the Russian market they were losing out to the exporters/businessmen from other countries.

(c) The larger Question of strengthening Indo-Russian economic and commercial relations is reviewed and discussed at the governmental level within the framework of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission (IRIGC) which met for its 8th session in New Delhi on 7th February, 2002. It was agreed that both sides should actively promote and further facilitate increased as well as direct interface between Indian and Russian entrepreneurs which would lead to a better understanding of economic and commercial opportunities for doing business in the two countries. It was decided to encourage direct business to business contact through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc. An important development has been the signing of the agreement in November, 2001 between the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs on the setting up of their representative offices in Moscow and New Delhi respectively.

Indian Banks Classified as Fragile

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

(a) whether 35 banks in the Indian banking system have been classified as being fragile and having a negative network;

(b) if so, the details of such Indian banks;

(c) the details of factors responsible for such Indian banks classified as fragile;

(d) whether the Government have taken any steps to tone up the functioning of the Indian Banks classified as fragile; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) one public sector bank viz. Indian Bank and two private sector banks viz. the Benares State Bank Ltd. and the Nedungadi Bank Ltd. had negative network as on 31st March, 2001. The major factors responsible for their negative network are high incidence of NPAs and continuous losses incurred by them.

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Government have advised the banks to take several steps

such as to rationalize their staff strength and branch network, abolition of zonal offices, lowering of cost of deposits, operations, increase in their productivity and reduction of NPAs. RBI conducts inspections of the banks periodically and takes follow up action. Government also monitors the performance of the public sector banks on a continuing basis. In the case of Indian Bank, Government of India has provided recapitalisation support of Rs. 1300 crores during the year 2001-02 to improve its net worth.

Revenue Deficit of States

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to permit the State Governments for taking structural adjustment loans from World Bank in order to overcome revenue deficit of the States; and

(b) if so, the details of those States which have been granted permission so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) No Sir. State Governments are not allowed to directly borrow from World Bank. However, Government of India, in the instance of three States, has taken World Bank assistance to supplement the resources required for fiscal reforms in these States. This amount is passed on to the States as Additional Central Assistance. The States which have availed of such assistance are Uttar Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

Demand for Withdrawal of Import Duty on Natural Rubber

*479. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for withdrawal of import duty on natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no demand for withdrawal of import duty on natural rubber.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Support Prices for Cash Crops

*480. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) the factors being considered at the time of fixing the minimum support price for any cash crop;

(b) the minimum support prices fixed for each cash crop such as tea, coffee, tobacco, cashew and rubber for the current year;

(c) whether there is a demand to increase the minimum support prices of above mentioned crops;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have considered those demands; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) There is no Minimum Support Price for tea, coffee, cashew and rubber. As far as tobacco is concerned the Minimum Support Price for the two grades of Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco, L2 and F2, is Rs. 29.00 per kg and Rs. 27.00 per kg for the year 2001-2002. Price policy for FCV tobacco for the year 2002-2003 is yet to be announced.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommends the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for tobacco after consulting the tobacco farmers and the Central Tobacco Research Institute. The Government fixes the Minimum Support Price after taking into consideration the recommendation of the CACP and the views of the concerned State Governments. Representations have been received for increase in the MSP for tobacco and will be duly examined by the CACP.

Jobs on Compassionate Grounds

4985. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the year-wise/office-wise names and designations of officials of his Ministry/departments under his Ministry

expired while in service during each of the year-1999, 2000 and 2001;

(b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs and compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those whose eligible dependents have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds will be provided to such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Details of officials who have expired in the Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises while in service are as under:

1999	Shri A. Basu, Senior Investigator, Department of Public Enterprises
2000	NIL
2001	Shri A.K. Mahato, Upper Division Clerk (working as Jr. Hindi Translator on adhoc basis) in Department of Heavy Industry.

(b) to (d) There are no eligible dependents of Shri A. Basu and Shri A.K. Mahato who could be offered job on compassionate grounds.

ODA from Japan

4986. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought Official Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan recently;

(b) if so, whether any dialogue has been held between the Indian Government and Japan on this issue;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether a high level Japanese Mission for policy dialogue visited India recently; and

(e) if so, the outcome of the visit?

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

(c) to (e) Government of India have sought Loan & Grant assistance for fresh proposals after the Policy Dialogue with the ODA Mission fielded by the Government of Japan during March, 2002. Govt. of Japan has agreed to consider fresh proposals for assistance. Fresh proposals for Loan & Grant assistance were prioritised in consultation with the concerned Line Ministries and have since been posed to the Government of Japan.

Economic Slowdown

4987. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association and the Greater Mysore Chamber of Industry have urged the Central Excise Department to be considerate towards the industry in the backdrop of the economic slowdown;

(b) if so, whether the small scale industries are struggling owing to recession, impact of WTO and globalisation;

(c) if so, whether these organisations have appealed to the Central Excise Department to give ample time to small industries to start research and development, production and marketing work in order to generate more revenue; and

(d) if so, to what extent their suggestions have been agreed to by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) In their pre-Budget memoranda, the Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association as well as the Greater Mysore Chamber of Industry, had requested for certain concessions in central excise duty rates, on various grounds.

(b) Though there is decline in the rate of growth in the SSI sector, it may not be feasible to attribute it entirely to impact of WTO and globalisation.

(c) As per information available, no such appeal appears to have been made.

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

Civil Servants in World Bank and IMF

4988. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers and bureaucrats in Central services, who had served the IMF and World Bank earlier;

(b) the number of Ministers who served IMF and World Bank earlier.

(c) whether the Ministers, officers and bureaucrats are receiving pension from IMF and World Bank; and

(d) if so, the amount of pension received by them as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) In the absence of clear definition of 'officers' and 'bureaucrats' and also on account of non-maintenance of records for service prior to joining 'Central Services', it is not possible to indicate accurate number of 'officers' who have served the IMF and World Bank. As per the records available with Department of Personnel and Training, there are 29 officers who have been deputed/permited to serve IMF and World Bank during the last 5 years.

(b) The Government is not keeping any such record.

(c) and (d) Pension information cannot be released as per Bank/Fund Staff Rules except to the member government for tax purposes and consulting actuaries, without the consent of the staff concerned.

National Policy on Older Persons

4989. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a senior citizens form a body of aged persons, has urged upon the Government to fully implement the National Policy on older persons;

(b) if so, whether the Government have appointed a nodal agency to implement the policy;

(c) if so, the details of the nodal agency;

(d) whether the Government have received recommendations of the agency;

(e) if so, the details of these recommendations; and

(f) the steps taken for providing help to the senior citizens?

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

(b) to (e) Implementation of the National Policy on older persons involves 22 Ministries and all State and UT Governments, various non-Government Organisations, with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment as the nodal Ministry.

(f) The following steps inter alia for providing help to senior citizens have been taken. Financial assistance has been provided by the Ministry to 609 NGOs to set up 391 Old Age Homes, 469 Day Care Centres, 83 Mobile Medicare Units and 2 Non Institutional Service Centres in the country. Under the Annapurna Scheme, 10 Kgs of food grain is distributed to each destitute elderly every month. All States/UTs have been advised to provide for separate queues for elderly persons in hospitals. Priority is given for telephone connections and to grievance redressal to Senior Citizens above 65 years. Senior Citizens are allowed concessional fares for rail and air travel. Some public sector banks are allowing higher interest on deposits by the elderly. National Institute of Social Defence conducts courses for NGO personnel engaged in geriatric care.

World Bank aid for Forestry Projects

4990. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has been funding forestry projects in some States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and Union-Territory-wise alongwith terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the funds provided to States and Union Territories for these projects during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

(b) At present two World Bank assisted forestry projects, namely Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal Forestry Project and Kerala Forestry Project are under implementation in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and Kerala. The interest free funds, with a maturity period of 35 years

(including a grace period of 10 years), for these projects have been provided by the World Bank at standard IDA terms and conditions which include commitment and service charges at the rate of 0.5% and 0.75% per annum respectively.

(c) Funds provided by the World Bank to the States of Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal and Kerala for the above forestry projects are as under:

	Amount (Us \$ million)		
	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Uttar Pradesh/Uttaranchal	6.686	7.329	8.986
Kerala	4.746	5.795	3.044

Increase in Authorised Share Capital of CWC

4991. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh for increasing the authorised share capital of the Central Warehousing Corporation;

(b) if so, the details thereof, till date; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to increase the authorised share capital of the Central Warehousing Corporation to Rs. 15 crore?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

World Bank aid to A.P.

4992. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have sent any proposal worth Rs. 8,000 crores for World Bank assistance for implementing irrigation projects for providing water to 11.60 lakh acres in the State's Telengana region; and

(b) if so, the present status of the proposal?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Performance of Navratnas and Mini-Navratnas

4993. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state the performance profile of the Navratnas and Mini-navratnas Public Sector Undertakings during the end of the financial year in March, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): The performance profile of all the Central Public Sector Undertakings including Navratna and Mini-Ratna PSUs for the year 2000-2001 has been given in detail in the Public Enterprise Survey 2000-2001, which was placed on the Table of the House on 7.3.2002. A brief performance profile for the year 2000-2001 in respect of Navratna & Mini-ratna PSUs based on the data given in the Survey is given in the enclosed statement.

From the statement it is evident that in case of Navratna CPSUs except SAIL all the PSUs were in profit and in case of Mini-ratna, five PSUs had shown losses.

Statement

Profile of Navratna Companies as on 31.3.2001

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the PSEs	Paid up Capital	Capital Employed	Turnover	Net Profit	NP/CE(%)	Number of Employees	Net worth	NW to C.E.(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	245	4556	6348	313	6.86	51808	3602	79.06
2.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	300	6248	45932	820	13.13	12670	4079	65.29

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
3.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.	846	6897	10059	1126	16.33	3264	5480	79.45
4.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	339	8964	48567	1088	12.14	11549	6485	72.35
5.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	779	28418	113327	2720	9.57	32266	15804	55.61
6.	Indian Petrochemicals Corp. Ltd.	249	7219	5818	249	3.45	13731	3138	43.47
7.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.	630	10414	5785	1540	14.79	61104	8348	80.17
8.	National Thermal Power Corporation	7813	27809	19065	3734	13.43	23978	25812	92.82
9.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	1426	31532	23640	5229	16.58	40226	30148	95.61
10.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	4130	16745	16400	-729	-4.35	156721	4165	24.87
11.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.***	285	5981	7298	1779	29.74	2991	6589	110.16

***No More a Central PSU after its disinvestment in 2001-2002.

Profile of Mini-ratnai Companies as on 31.3.2001

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the PSEs	Paid up Capital	Capital Employed	Turnover	Net Profit	NP/CE(%)	Number of Employees	Net worth	NW to C.E.(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	115	295	164	49	16.59	3178	294	99.59
2.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	80	641	1715	155	24.22	14177	623	97.20
3.	Bongaigaon Refinery & Petrochemical	200	521	1255	-57	-11.03	1826	556	106.77
4.	Central Warehousing Corpn.	68	650	262	73	11.29	8579	718	110.49
5.	Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd.	149	2250	7133	122	5.44	1718	1234	54.84
6.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.	65	724	1075	217	29.93	687	776	107.26
7.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	28	523	416	109	20.78	1064	437	83.46
8.	Engineers India Ltd.	56	523	973	124	23.70	3606	713	136.47
9.	Fertilizers & Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	355	1251	1733	-152	-12.15	7198	423	33.80
10.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	121	1175	2447	244	20.74	32642	1015	86.41
11.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	83	218	253	16	7.43	1457	216	99.21

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	67	480	408	-39	-8.13	2170	198	41.19
13.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	423	1035	1613	169	16.35	10611	1160	112.10
14.	I.B.P. Co. Ltd.	22	724	8388	54	7.49	2626	369	50.99
15.	India Tourism Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	68	161	296	-35	-22.00	7469	186	115.61
16.	IRCON International Ltd.	5	353	774	66	18.58	1808	495	140.22
17.	Kochi Refineries Ltd.	138	2101	7138	109	5.21	1988	1362	64.79
18.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	635	894	583	59	6.54	2290	1033	115.51
19.	M M T C Ltd.	50	821	5338	12	1.51	2456	562	68.39
20.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	644	2381	2406	656	27.55	6515	3572	150.07
21.	National Fertilizers Ltd.	491	2308	2809	27	1.18	6602	1407	60.95
22.	National Mineral Development Corpn.	132	784	1015	235	29.98	6358	1126	143.65
23.	Oil India Ltd.	214	2994	1976	467	15.61	9980	3077	102.78
24.	Power Finance Corporation	1030	722	1898	604	83.67	272	4706	651.72
25.	Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.	2906	11117	2485	742	6.68	6877	6606	59.42
26.	Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers	552	1867	2092	65	3.48	5408	1367	73.20
27.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.	282	3138	2995	383	12.19	1478	2187	69.71
28.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	30	443	1078	27	6.02	1224	421	95.02
29.	Telecommunications Consultants (INI)	7	348	755	59	16.89	642	332	95.59

Profile of Mini-ratna II Companies as on 31.3.2001

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the PSEs	Paid up Capital	Capital Employed	Turnover	Net Profit	NP/CE(%)	Number of Employees	Net worth	NW to C.E.(%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Educational Consultants (India) Ltd.	1	9	58	1	11.49	99	9	100.00
2.	Ferro Scrap Nigam Ltd.	2	109	79	12	10.63	1312	110	110.91
3.	HMT (International) Ltd.	0	33	46	0	0.91	82	20	61.68

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
4.	Hospital Services Consultancy Corp.	0	14	10	8	55.25	100	14	100.73
5.	Indian Medicines Pharmaceutical Corp.	1	2	3	0	1.68	130	2	93.70
6.	M.S.T.C. Ltd.	2	125	336	4	3.04	287	58	46.49
7.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	15	100	165	20	20.01	7761	102	101.98
8.	Mecon Ltd.	2	117	274	-51	-43.95	2853	55	47.13
9.	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	14	20	67	3	16.35	241	20	99.26
10.	PEC Ltd.	2	88	1729	3	2.93	219	22	25.53
11.	Rajasthan Electronics and Instrument	1	8	32	0	3.38	173	4	56.53
12.	Water & Power Consultancy Services	2	22	42	5	24.00	393	27	122.06

Impact of Restructuring of Income Tax Department

(Rs. in Crores)

4994. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assessed the impact on restructuring of Income Tax Department in the collection of Direct Taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the cost of collection of direct taxes have come down compared to the previous year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Restructuring of the Income Tax Department is expected to contribute towards higher collection of Direct Taxes. However, no assessment of the actual increase in collection of Direct Taxes resulting from restructuring has been made by the Government.

(b) Not applicable in view of reply to para (a) above.

(c) and (d) Comparison of the cost of collection upto Feb., 2002 with the figures for corresponding period of last year shows a marginal increase in the cost of collection as well as in the cost (paise) per rupee collected as shown in the following table.

Period	Collection of direct taxes	Cost of collection	Cost (paise) per rupee collected
1.4.2000 to 28.2.2001	49941	792.64	1.58
1.4.2001 to 28.2.2002	49953	823.83	1.64

Consumer Protection Council

4995. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have urged the State Government of Karnataka to set up Consumer Protection Council as required under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka is yet to establish a Consumer Protection Council; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the main reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government of Karnataka has informed that the State Consumer Protection Council was constituted on 17.3.1999 and has been reconstituted on 14th March, 2002.

[*Translation*]

Handloom Development Corporation

4996. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Handloom Development Corporation of several States has sought assistance from the Union Government to implement the schemes relating to the development of handlooms like wood-art, copper and glass items, hand-carpet, sari weaving and working of earthen pots etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise; and

(c) the scheme in existence to provide financial assistance to the skilled and unskilled workers and artisans for the development of handloom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Karnataka Handloom Development Corporation had sent proposals in conformity with the guidelines, through the State Government, for assistance under Handloom

Development Schemes namely Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) and Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM) during the year 2001-02. The Central Government released a sum of Rs. 250 lakh under DDHPY and a sum of Rs. 7.95 lakh under DEPM on those proposals during the year 2001-02. None of the proposals was for development of wood-art, copper, glass items, hand-carpet or earthen pots as the Handloom Development Schemes do not cover assistance for these Handicraft items.

State Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporations had, however, sought assistance for development of handicrafts. The details of releases made under Handicraft sector schemes during the year 2001-02 are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) In addition to the Modified Decentralised Training Programme for handloom weavers, implemented by the Ministry of Textiles, the Ministry has also been implementing a number of plan schemes for the development of the handloom sector and welfare of handloom weavers. Of those schemes, the following schemes implemented in the IX Plan had provisions for grant of financial assistance to handloom weavers:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
2. Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme
3. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
4. Health Package Scheme
5. Group Insurance Scheme
6. Thrift Fund Scheme.

Statement

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the State	Name of the State Handloom and Handicraft Development Corporation	Amount Released
1	2	3	4
2000-01			
1.	Himachal Pradesh	Himachal Pradesh State Handicrafts & Handlooms Development Corporation	9.26500
2.	Madhya Pradesh	Madhya Pradesh Hastshilpa & Hathkargha Vikas Nigam	72.76000

1	2	3	4
3.	Mizoram	Mizoram Handlooms & Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd.	22.03000
4.	Meghalaya	Meghalaya Handlooms & Handicrafts Development Corporation Ltd.	1.20000
5.	Nagaland	Nagaland Handlooms & Handicrafts Development Corporation	28.95000
6.	Tripura	Tripura Handlooms & Handicrafts Development Corporation	49.12000
Total			183.32500

[English]

Sambhar Salt Limited

4997. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are exploring a possibility of finding a joint venture partner with off-load equity upto 74 percent in Sambhar Salt Limited;

(b) if so, the details of the share of Central Government and State Government in the remaining 26 percent equity;

(c) whether the Government have evaluated current assets and liabilities of Sambhar Salt Limited; and

(d) the details of the terms and conditions for transfer of this Salts Limited to joint venture company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Sambhar Salts Limited is a subsidiary of Hindustan Salts Limited. 60% equity of Sambhar Salts Limited is owned by Hindustan Salts Limited and the balance by the Government of Rajasthan. Government is exploring the possibility of a joint venture for off loading the equity in Sambhar Salts Limited. The evaluation of the assets and liability of the company and the detailed terms and conditions of the transfer would be decided at an appropriate time.

Zero Based Budget

4998. SHRI S. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating for formulating zero based budgeting; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) A review has been undertaken of the existing Plan Schemes, both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes, of 51 Ministries/Departments. These schemes have been subjected to Zero Based Budgeting with a view to retaining only those schemes in the Tenth Plan that are demonstrably essential. The exercise will help in rationalising the schemes by making them more focused and streamline the delivery system to ensure that the benefits reach the target group.

Service Tax Act, 1994

4999. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Service Tax Act, 1994 is not applicable in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the revenue the Union Government have lost thereby till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Service Tax has been introduced through the provisions of the Finance Act, 1994 (and not any Service Tax Act, 1994). Service Tax provisions have not been extended to the State of Jammu & Kashmir as a matter of policy.

(c) Since it was a conscious decision not to extend Service Tax Law to the State of Jammu and Kashmir,

the question of any loss of revenue on this account does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Import of Banned Items

5000. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the items which have been banned for import into India;

(b) whether the Government have permitted import of some of these banned items into India for special reasons during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details of such items alongwith reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government have analysed the scheme for import under special reasons;

(e) whether the Government have received any complaints against such imported items; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The names of the items prohibited for import are available in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items. Copies of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items are available in the Parliament Library.

(b) to (f) Requests for grant of import licence for import of Wild Life Trophies have been considered by the Restricted Import Licensing Committee/Export Facilitation Committee (an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of representatives from various Ministries/Departments) in its various meetings during the period April 1999 till March 2002 and on its recommendations, based on written recommendations of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, clearance from the Chief Wild Life Warden of the State, the NOC from the High Commission of the exporting country, permission has been granted to 7 applicants for import of 68 pieces of Wild Life Trophies. No complaints have been received in respect of these permissions.

Computerisation of RRBs

5001. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Gramin Banks computerised alongwith the number of those yet to be computerised in each State of the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to computerise all the Gramin Banks; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) has advised all sponsor banks that Head Office, Area Office and a minimum of 50% of branches of each Regional Rural Bank (RRB) may be computerized in a phased manner in the next 5 years. Further, the sponsor banks have been advised by NABARD to formulate RRB wise computerisation plan keeping in view the financial position of each RRB, infrastructural facilities available in their command area and the business potential of their branches. In accordance with this, individual plan/scheme of each RRB is to be finalized and implemented by the sponsor banks.

Import of Silk

5002. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of silk imported between April 1, 2001 to March 31, 2002;

(b) whether the Government have issued any quality certificate for the import of silk;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the silk being imported is as per the quality certificate issued for the purpose or is of substandard quality; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check the import of substandard quality of silk?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Data is available at this point of time only to the end of January. During the period April-January, 2002, import of raw silk is provisionally reported at 5081 tonnes.

(b) to (d) Till 31.3.2001 import of only grade 2A and above of mulberry raw silk was allowed under Special Import Licence (SIL). Since 1.4.2001 the import of silk is under Open General Licence (OGL) and no condition of quality certificate is specified by the Government.

(e) No complaint regarding import of substandard silk has been brought to the notice of this Ministry.

[English]

Sugar Development Fund

5003. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some sugar factories have applied for loan from Sugar Development Fund for production of Ethanol;

(b) if so, the details of loan applications received, State-wise, and the quantum of funds available with the Sugar Development Fund for this purpose;

(c) whether all the loan applications, particularly in Maharashtra, will be covered; and

(d) if not, what action is proposed by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The existing provisions of the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 (SDF Act) do not provide for the Fund being applied for making loans to sugar factories for the production of ethanol. Accordingly, the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 (SDF Rules), framed under the SDF Act 1982, do not presently provide for loans for such purpose.

Government has introduced a Bill in Parliament to amend the SDF Act 1982, inter-alia, to apply the Sugar Development Fund for making loans to any sugar factory or any unit thereof for production of anhydrous alcohol or ethanol from alcohol with a view to improving their viability.

A few sugar factories have informed this Ministry about their projects for manufacture of ethanol and their requirement for financial assistance from the SDF. However, presently under the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 & the SDF Rules, 1983 there is no provision to fund such activity from the SDF.

NGOs for Destitute Children

5004. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some NGOs which are active in welfare of destitute children have misappropriated the financial assistance provided to them during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of such NGOs who have misused the Government funds; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against these NGOs?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Some instances have come to the notice of the Government where a grantee organization was found misutilising the grant released for the welfare of destitute children. A list of such organisations is given in the statement enclosed. In all such cases, show cause notice is issued to the defaulting organisation and further grant-in-aid is suspended. Steps are also taken for blacklisting them. Recovery of assets created out of Government Grants and recovery of funds through the State Governments is also resorted to.

Statement

List of NGOs whose grant in aid has been suspended or who have been blacklisted during the last three years

Sl.No.	Name and address of organization
1.	Yuvajana Vikalanula Samkeshma Sangam, Kummara Palem Road, Vinukonda-522647, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh
2.	Zila Vikalangula Sangam, Dakshinam Bazar, Venukonda-522 647, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh
3.	Novodaya Seva Sangam, H.No. 10-107, Netaji Road, Jadcherla, Mahaboobnagar District, Andhra Pradesh
4.	Learning in the Field of Training, Flat No. 302, Rocky Apartments, Venkatreddy Colony, Sikh Colony, Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh
5.	Bagini Niketan, 10, Tulsi Marg, Baug Colony, Near Core House, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad, Gujarat
6.	Awadh Sansthan, Ramghat, Ayodhya, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Investment Climate in Kerala

5005. SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the survey report of CII and World Bank, investment climate is much poor in Kerala than compared to other States;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the reasons highlighted in the report for poor investment climate in Kerala; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to overcome the situations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) As per a study jointly conducted recently by the World Bank and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on "Competitiveness of Indian Manufacturing—Results from a Firm Level Study", states considered best in terms of investment climate are Gujarat and Maharashtra; second in the order (good) are the States of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh; in third position (medium) are the States of Delhi and Punjab; and the States of Kerala, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are in the bottom of the list.

The report has identified poor infrastructure, excessive management time being spent with Government officials on regulatory issues, inadequate port facilities, relatively high delays in custom houses, excessively high power cost, etc., as the main reasons for the poor investment climate in the States referred to.

Industrial development including creating good investment climate in the States is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. The Government of India complements the efforts of State Governments through its schemes.

[Translation]

Welfare of Weaker Sections

5006. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched several new programmes for the welfare of weaker sections of different categories as well as unemployed persons

besides the programmes mentioned in the 20-point programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to reorganize and implement all the developmental and welfare works systematically; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

Smuggling of Narcotics

5007. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether after fall of Taliban Rule in Afghanistan, Delhi and Haryana have become the hub of 'Narcotics';

(b) whether 'Narcotics' worth crores of rupees has been seized in Delhi and Haryana recently;

(c) if so, the number of the culprits nabbed and penalized in this connection; and

(d) the details of the stern action taken by the Government to uproot the menace of 'Narcotics' trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The proximity to the international border and good air-linkage with other countries makes Delhi and its neighbouring State Haryana vulnerable to drug trafficking, which is a clandestine activity. Seizure of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances during 2002 as compared with those in the previous years in Delhi and Haryana, as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies, do not indicate increasing trend.

(b) During 2002 (upto March), as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, 15.80 kgs of Opium,

21.76 kgs of Heroin, 32.75 kgs of Ganja and 36.99 kgs of Hashish have been seized in Delhi and 41.48 kgs of Opium, 0.04 kgs of Heroin, 6.80 kgs of Ganja and 13.87 kgs of Hashish have been seized in Haryana. All confiscated narcotics are liable to be destroyed and no authentic market value exists. Hence valuation of the above mentioned seized narcotics is not possible.

(c) The total number of persons arrested for drug trafficking in Delhi and Haryana during the year 2002 (upto March), as reported by the various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, is 118 and 60 respectively. All the arrested persons are liable to be prosecuted and punished under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

(d) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing and flood lighting of indo-Pak border, vesting of powers in the Border Security Force and Coast Guards under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs, notifying certain precursor chemicals, viz., Acetic Anhydride, Ephedrine etc. as 'Controlled Substances' under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by the Narcotics Control Bureau with all Central and State Agencies concerned, holding of periodic bilateral meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing some assistance to Myanmar.

Wheat Spoiled in Godowns

5008. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

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

(a) whether a large quantity of wheat has been spoiled in the Government's godowns due to the pests and insects during the last two years;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against the persons found negligent in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. Foodgrains including Wheat in the Food Corporation of

India's (FCI) godowns are preserved and maintained scientifically and regular prophylactic and curative treatments are undertaken to control the insect pests.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Wherever the damage to the foodgrains are found due to the negligence of officers, disciplinary action is taken against them.

[English]

Street Children

5009. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) when the programme for the development of street children was started in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Grant-in-aid is being sanctioned to NGOs who are running the programmes for street children in Karnataka;

(c) if so, the number of Non-Governmental Organisations in Karnataka which have been sanctioned grants during 2000-01 and 2001-02;

(d) whether the above programme is under implementation in Bellary District of Karnataka; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) This programme was started during 1993-94 in Karnataka.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Three Non-Governmental Organizations were sanctioned grants during 2000-01 while four Non Governmental Organizations were sanctioned grants during 2001-02 in Karnataka for running the programmes for street children.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Digital Signature in Banking and Business Transaction

5010. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(d) the measures taken to make this system secured?

(c) This would be beneficial for banks/financial institutions which transmit funds based messages electronically. As far as internet based computer users are concerned they have to make use of digital signatures provided by other certification agencies.

[Translation]

Bank Dacolties

(b) the State-wise details of the loss incurred by each of these banks due to these dacoities?

(b) State-wise details of losses suffered by the banks on account of the dacoities are furnished in the enclosed statement.

Statement

State-wise details of loss suffered by the public sector banks/private sector banks due to robberies/dacoities during the year 2001

1. Public Sector Banks

(Amount Rs. in lakhs)

[illegible]

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
6.	Gujarat	-	-	-	-	-	-	9.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7.	Haryana	8.86	-	-	1.19	-	-	-	-	-	3.00	5.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.85	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9.	Karnataka	-	-	-	-	-	8.23	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	-	-	-	2.21	-	-	-	-	7.07	1.96	1.92	-	-	-
11.	Madhya Pradesh	-	-	2.05	1.21	4.04	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.35	-	-
12.	Orissa	-	6.27	-	4.78	9.28	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
13.	Punjab	9.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.16	-	-	-	-	-	7.1	-
14.	Uttar Pradesh	6.42	-	4.76	15.5	-	-	4.4	-	4.05	-	6.00	-	-	-	1.00	-	-
15.	Uttaranchal	15.00	-	-	-	-	-	0.84	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
16.	West Bengal	8.85	30.37	2.94	0.35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.43
17.	Jharkhand	2.08	-	6.94	8.84	-	-	3.45	5.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		113.4	46.61	32.03	48.96	26.9	9.30	20.78	28.44	4.05	4.16	11.00	7.07	1.96	1.92	1.35	7.1	1.47

2. Private Sector Banks

Sl.No.	State/Name of the Bank	Vysya Bank Ltd.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd.	Tamilnadu Mercantile Bank Ltd.	United Western Bank Ltd.
1.	Delhi	3.87	-	-	-
2.	Jammu and Kashmir	-	4.21	-	-
3.	Maharashtra	-	-	-	20.00
4.	Tamil Nadu	-	-	6.90	-
Total		3.87	4.21	6.90	20.00

*[English]***Expenditure on Development of Plantation Industry**

5012. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the Union Government to develop tea, coffee, spices and tobacco industry in

various States during the last two years, particularly those functioning in backward areas, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to develop these industries in the Southern States also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The information in respect of tea and coffee is given below:

Tea

Region-wise disbursement of loan and subsidy for the last two years for field and factory related activities is as under:

(Rupees in lakhs)

Year	North East		South India		West Bengal	
	Loan	Subsidy	Loan	Subsidy	Loan	Subsidy
1999-2000	530.31	384.71	52.28	143.24	451.51	18.79
2000-2001	299.13	774.32	59.70	97.32	306.15	29.61
Total	829.44	1159.03	111.98	240.56	757.66	48.40

The region-wise disbursement of subsidy for backward areas for the last two years is as under:

Year	North East	South India	West Bengal & Sikkim
1999-2000	92.67	29.85	—
2000-2001	193.01	21.02	5.45
Total	285.68	50.87	5.45

Coffee

(Rupees in lakhs and area in hectares)

State	2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Area benefited	Amount involved	Area benefited	Amount involved
Karnataka	700	114.00	915	127.00
Kerala	68	13.00	51	4.00
Tamil Nadu	26	29.00	43	5.00

The details of development assistance given to backward/tribal sectors of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa are as under:

(Amount in Rs. lakhs and Area in Hectares)

Purpose	2000-2001		2001-2002	
	Area	Amount	Area	Amount
Expansion	526	25.45	1168	73.00
Consolidation	1120	66.44	14	0.80
Quality upgradation	16 Units	4.00	3 Units	0.51

Tea

Government/Tea Board are taking various steps to develop tea industry in various areas including Southern States. The measures supporting include extension of tea area, replanting of old and uneconomical section, improvement of quality through replacement of old and worn out tea machinery in tea factories, creation of irrigation facilities, extending advisory services to small growers, research & development support, organizing training programmes on modern aspects of tea growing for small tea growers etc.

Coffee

Government/Coffee Board has undertaken various developmental measures to promote and assist the coffee industry under its plan schemes. An exclusive small sector development scheme has been implemented in the three coffee growing States viz. Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu which envisage financial assistance for water augmentation activities and establishment of infrastructure at farm level for upgrading the quality of coffee produced.

So far as Spices and Tobacco industry are concerned, information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Fraud by Non-Banking Companies

5013. SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to check frauds committed by the non-banking companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the non-banking companies which defrauded the public during the last two years; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory

framework includes, inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder. Government has introduced Financial Companies Regulation Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 13th December, 2000. The Bill has been referred to Standing Committee on Finance by the Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not come across any financial frauds committed by NBFCs operating in the country during the last two years. Though there have been some complaints of depositors as some NBFCs have defaulted in paying deposits due to liquidity problems.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Eleventh Finance Commission Grants to Gujarat

5014. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI
CHIKHALIA:
SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY:
SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eleventh Finance Commission grants for Panchayati Raj is due to the Gujarat Government for the year 2000-01;

(b) if so, whether the grant has been released;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) The Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) had recommended an annual grant of Rs. 69.61 crore for the period 2000-05, for the State of Gujarat. As per the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Finance for utilisation of local bodies grants, the local bodies grants shall be released to States that have completed the due election process in respect of local bodies. Further, in case of delay in holding local bodies elections, funds will be deducted proportionately. Since the elections to

Panchayats in Gujarat had been held only in December, 2001, the State Government is not eligible for grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions for the year 2000-01.

Research and Development in Textiles Industry

5015. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of the Government to lay more meaningful emphasis on the Research and Development to counter the threat from the foreign textile competitors in the new era of W.T.O.;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the indigenous textiles industries whose present condition is rather precarious;

(c) the percentage and the total amount at present being spent by the Government on textile research in comparison to other countries of the world;

(d) whether it is less in comparison to other countries of the world;

(e) if so, the steps taken to increase it;

(f) whether the Government propose to encourage exhibition/fashion shows of designed dress material made from indigenous fabrics so as to spread awareness among the people of the country to prefer "made in India" apparel; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (g) To counter the threat from the foreign textile competitors

in the new era of W.T.O. the following areas of R&D have been identified:

- * Decentralised sector (powerloom, handloom and processing) to be the main target group for R&D.
- * R&D in weaving and processing sectors to ensure the production of defect-free cloth and quality finishing for desired quality of end product.
- * R&D for improvement in loom productivity.
- * R&D in knitting and garmenting technology in view of emerging importance of this sector in the textile industry.
- * Production and development of technical textiles.
- * Product development.
- * Eco-friendly technologies and treatment of effluents, including salt recovery from treated residual effluents.
- * Development of technologies and equipment to substitute the imports so as to make them affordable to the domestic industry.
- * Cost reduction technology in energy conservation, water conservation, process optimization etc.
- * Application of non-conventional energy sources.
- * R&D in textile machinery.
- * Application of Information Technology.

Department of Science and Technology has provided following information about Government's expenditure on Research and Development (R&D) and Textile Research during 1996-99:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Years	Total Government expenditure on R&D	Expenditure on R&D in Textiles	Expenditure on R&D in Textiles as a percentage of the Total expenditure
1996-97	106443	4769	4.48
1997-98	119120	5189	4.35
1998-99	148267	5459	3.68

Government does not maintain data relating to amount spent on Textile Research in comparison to other countries of the world. Therefore, it is not possible to draw a comparison with other countries. However, Ministry of Textiles have been giving grants-in-aid to Textile Research Associations (TRAs) to carry out research and render consultancy services to the Textile Industry on various aspects of textile technology with a view to reducing the cost and improving the quality and durability of fabrics, reducing pollution, conserving energy and utilizing waste, adopting new technology and improving the technology in the decentralised handloom sector.

Government has established the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) with a view to train professionals in various aspects of the garment industry. NIFT has been organising several exhibitions and fashion shows for promoting Indian fabric and designers in India and abroad.

National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology

5016. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to establish National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST) at Mau during 1993-94 when already similar Institute (NSI, Kanpur) existed resulting into unproductive expenditure of Rs. 16.72 crore as on September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for establishing NISST at Mau; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to control wasteful expenditure like this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) The Central Government decided to establish the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST) at Mau in Uttar Pradesh in 1993-94. The objective for setting up the Institute was to conduct short-term courses for sugarcane farmers and the technicians of the sugar industry mainly from Eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and also to provide extension services to sugarcane farmers and sugar industry in that region. At a later date, it was decided to introduce teaching courses at post graduate level in the fields of Sugarcane Technology, Sugar Technology, Sugar Engineering, Industrial Fermentation & Alcohol Technology and also to conduct the research work in these fields.

The Central Monitoring Group, in its meeting held on 27th January, 2000, recommended as follows:

"As the National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau has not yet fully developed as an Institution, though a substantial investment has been made in infrastructure like buildings; the group strongly recommended the winding up of this Institution and transfer of the buildings along with land to any Central Agency, which is looking for accommodation in this area. If no such central institution shows any interest, the Department should also explore the possibility of transferring the assets to the State Governments. The specialized functions, if any, which are to be performed by this Institute could as well as be entrusted to the NSI, Kanpur which has a good track report in promotion of sugar technology and in training of personnel for eventual employment in sugar industry."

Pursuant to the recommendations of the Central Monitoring Group, Government has taken up the matter of transfer of the assets of NISST to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) so that the assets created at NISST, Mau and the capital expenditure incurred on it can be fruitfully utilised by the Council which is a body under the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Planning Commission has conveyed its no objection to ICAR for taking over and utilizing the assets and the infrastructure at NISST, Mau.

Coffee Plantation in Orissa

5017. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in the State of Orissa where coffee plantations have started;

(b) the total areas in that State brought under coffee plantation so far;

(c) whether any of these areas falls under the scheduled district;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the cost of production of coffee in those areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) An estimated area of 22,258 ha. in the State of Orissa has been found suitable for coffee cultivation. The total area brought under coffee cultivation

in the various districts of Orissa is given below:

District	Area under coffee (ha)
Koraput	957.02
Rayagada	264.24
Kalahandi	340.00
Kandhamal	208.20
Keonjhar	12.08
Gajapati	48.40
Total	1829.94

All the above coffee growing districts fall under the scheduled districts.

(e) The pre-dominant coffee variety cultivated and found suitable for cultivation in Orissa is Arabica and the cost of cultivation of Arabica per ha. is Rs. 62,500 spread over a period of 4 years.

Demands of Delhi Exporter's Association

5018. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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 "DEA asks for more incentives" appearing in 'Pioneer' dated April 4, 2002;

(b) if so, the demands of the Delhi Exporter's Association; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Delhi Exporter's Association has suggested further enhancement of the benefits to small scale sector and grant of concessions available to SEZ to SSI sector towns like Moradabad, Agra, Bhadohi, Saharanpur, etc. The Association has welcomed the continuance of the DPEB Scheme and has demanded clearance of pending draw back payments. The Department of Revenue is organizing draw back clearance drive to clear pending cases of draw back.

Choice for Packing Foodgrains/Sugar

5019. SHRI C.N. SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to allow full freedom to foodgrains/sugar sectors to procure packing material (jute/non-jute) of their choice, at par with cement and fertilizer sectors;

(b) if so, whether necessary amendments have been issued in Jute Packaging (compulsory use in packing commodities) Act, 1987 and Sugar (packing and making) Order, 1970 to facilitate the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee consisting of Minister of Textiles, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to formulate a road map for the progressive dilution of compulsory packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

Non-Receipt of Duty on Exciseable Goods

5020. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees have remained unrecovered because of short levy or non-levy and non-receipt of duty on exciseable goods due to fraud, collusion etc. or otherwise as has been pointed out by the C&AG in its Report No. 11 of 2002 pages 56 onwards;

(b) if so, how much money in total is involved and since when including interest element thereon;

(c) the measures taken to recover the dues and to ensure the non-recurrence of such cases in future;

(d) whether has the accountability and responsibility of the officials responsible for the State of affairs been fixed and any action taken against them, Commissionerate-wise; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) Sir, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India (C&AG) has pointed out certain cases of non-recovery of duties of Central Excise because of short-levy or non-levy due to fraud, collusion, etc., in Chapter 10 of Report No. 11 of 2002. The observations made by the C&AG in the Report, laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha on 15th March, 2002, have been forwarded to the concerned Central Excise Commissionerates for initiating necessary remedial measures, including fixation of responsibility on the erring officers, and recovery of duty short-levied/not-levied, under the Central Excise Act, 1944, and the rules made thereunder, wherever warranted. Action Taken Notes (ATNs) on the Report will be sent to the C&AG of India.

Funds for Economic and Social Sector

5021. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amounts of funds in vital economic and social sectors remain unspent during the last year; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Actual grant-wise savings and surrenders and reasons thereof will be available only after finalisation and audit of Union Government Appropriation Accounts for the financial year 2001-02.

[Translation]

Trade Agreement with USA

5022. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some trade agreements have been signed with United States of America in the recent past;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these agreements have been implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No Inter-governmental trade agreements have been signed with the United States in the recent past.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

RBI and Inflation

5023. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has reduced the supply of money during 2001-2002 to only 14.3%;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether RBI has also contained the Government borrowing programme for the year 2001-2002;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the RBI during 2001-2002 to contain of money supply alongwith the target fixed for 2002-03 in this regard;

(e) whether re-finance facilities for banks was also restricted last year; and

(f) the impact of this policy of RBI on the economy and inflationary trends in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India in its Annual Monetary and Credit Policy Statement released on April 19, 2001 had projected expansion in money supply (M3) for 2001-02 at about 14.5 per cent. This was based on the expected growth rate of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at 6.0 to 6.5 per cent with inflation remaining within 5.0 per cent. This order of growth in M3 was expected to adequately meet the credit needs of the economy. During the financial year 2001-02, money supply increased by 14.0 per cent.

(c) During 2001-02, the net market borrowing of the Central Government was Rs. 92,302 crore, higher by Rs. 822 crore as compared with the revised estimate of Rs. 91,480 crore.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) RBI provides standing liquidity facilities by way of Export Credit Refinance (ECR) and Collateralised Lending Facility (CLF) to eligible banks. The limits available to banks under these two facilities together have increased

from Rs. 7,849 crore as on March 23, 2001 to Rs. 9,743 crore as on March 22, 2002. Thus, there was no reduction in the standing facilities available to banks.

(f) The policy of the Reserve Bank and the measures taken by the Government had a favourable impact on the economy. There has been a steady increase in the growth of GDP from 4.4 per cent in the first quarter to 5.3 per cent and 6.3 per cent in the second and third quarters of 2001-02 respectively. Rate of inflation, as measured by wholesale price index on a point to point basis, remained subdued at 1.38 per cent as of March 29, 2002.

Jobs to the Backward Classes

5024. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of youths of the backward classes have crossed the prescribed upper age limit, to get a job due to the excess of time taken for making recommendations by the Backward Class Commission and according approval by the Government;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the action being contemplated by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No such reference has been received in the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Audit Inspection of UTI

5025. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI had undertaken an audit inspection of the UTI's market practices in 1998-99;

(b) whether it was found during such an inspection that UTI has been deliberately not making full disclosures on its portfolios in its annual reports according to SEBI regulations; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the SEBI on UTI's lapses as detected during the inspection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) According to SEBI, an inspection of UTI was conducted by chartered accountants appointed by SEBI to look into the regulatory compliance of UTI schemes which were under the regulatory purview of SEBI for 1998-99.

(b) and (c) The inspection, inter-alia, revealed that UTI had disclosed only 75% of the portfolio of these schemes as on 30.6.1999. SEBI advised UTI to disclose the entire portfolio of the schemes, as required under the regulations. UTI disclosed the entire portfolio in their 1999-2000 Annual Report.

Observation of C & AG

5026. SHRI ARUN KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report No. 11 of 2002 on pages 23 and thereafter have revealed the absence of appropriate provision in the Rules enabling assesses to get unintended benefit of crores of rupees, ambiguous notifications leading to non-levy of additional duties etc.;

(b) if so, the total amount of money that has thus been lost by the State in each of the last three years, Commissionerate of Central Excise-wise;

(c) the steps taken to realise that amount now; and

(d) the action taken against the officials responsible for that state of affairs and whether such lapses were due to ignorance of rules and regulations or due to fraud and collusion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Sir, the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (C&AG) has pointed out certain cases of grant of unintended benefit of excise duty and non-levy of additional duties of excise leviable under Additional Duties of Excise (Textiles & Textile Articles) Act, 1978 and the Additional Duties of Excise (Goods of Special Importance) Act, 1957 in Paras 3.1 & 3.2 of Report No. 11 of 2002. The Government has not admitted the audit objections.

[Translation]

Export of Cotton Yarn

5027. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cotton yarn is constantly decreasing;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take any steps to increase the export of cotton yarn; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Cotton Yarn export in quantitative terms had shown an increasing trend during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001. However, during the year 2001-02 (April-November) export of cotton yarn has shown a declining trend as compared to the same period of previous year. The decline of around 8% is due to recessionary trend in the international market. The details of Export of Cotton Yarn are given below:

Year	Quantity (in Kgs. Mn.)
1998-1999	376.86
1999-2000	443.99
2000-2001	505.49
2000-2001 (Apr.-Nov.)	314.17
2001-2002 (Apr.-Nov.)	288.75

Government has been taking various steps to increase the export of Cotton Yarn, which include:

- (i) All restriction on export of cotton, cotton waste and cotton yarn have been removed thus allowing the exports free from all administrative control.
- (ii) To increase the competitiveness of the industry, Government has launched Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.99 where 5% interest subsidy is provided on the finance raised from the designated financial institution for projects of benchmarked technology upgradation.
- (iii) Government has advised "Export Promotion Councils" such as Cotton Textile Export Promotion Council (TEXPROCIL) for diversifying its markets for cotton yarn export etc.

Welfare Schemes

5028. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) scheme-wise and State-wise details of the new welfare schemes formulated and implemented so far by the Government for upliftment of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, Minorities, widows, orphans, children affected by terrorism, handicapped and helpless persons in various parts of the country;

(b) the total financial assistance provided and the actual amount spent for implementation of the above-mentioned schemes during the last three years as on date; and

(c) the necessary steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) No new welfare scheme for the upliftment of persons affected by terrorism, handicapped and helpless persons has been formulated and implemented during the last three years in the Ministry. Existing schemes of 9th plan are being implemented.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Mentally Challenged Children

5029. SHIV VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

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

(a) the schemes formulated by the Union Government for the welfare of the mentally challenged children;

(b) the institutes set up/proposed to be set up to make proper arrangements for the welfare of such children, State-wise; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose during 2001-2002 and the funds earmarked for the purpose during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The National Trust for Welfare of Persons with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities, New Delhi and the National Institute for

Mentally Handicapped, Secunderabad are already functional. An amount of Rs. 45.30 crores has been allocated during 2001-2002 and 6.00 crores during 2002-2003 for this purpose. No funds are earmarked for the National Trust during current financial year as the Corpus Fund has already been contributed by Government. Besides, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are given financial support to run various projects for the welfare of mentally retarded persons.

[English]

Centrally Sponsored Schemes

5030. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the Centrally sponsored schemes being in operation at present;

(b) the assistance provided to textiles industry under the Centrally sponsored scheme during 2000-01, 2001-02 and proposed for 2002-03, State-wise and Scheme-wise particularly of Karnataka and Maharashtra States; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilization of assistance given for textile sector under Centrally sponsored scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes being administered by the Ministry of Textiles and its offices are as follows:

Sericulture Sector—

Catalytic Development Schemes

- (i) UNDP assisted sub-programme on development of non-mulberry silk;
- (ii) Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation;
- (iii) Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States;
- (iv) On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists;

- (v) Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar);
- (vi) Support to agencies (NGOs/Coops.) for popularization of improved reeling/spinning devices for tropical tasar;
- (vii) Bye-product use development projects;
- (viii) Support for quality enhancement for silk sector;
- (ix) Support for reeling units—
 - Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk;
 - Working capital interest subsidy**
- (x) Providing training and start up tools to farmers to practice muga culture;
- (xi) Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed;
- (xii) Support to agencies (NGOs/Coops.) for popularization of improved reeling/spinning devices for muga;
- (xiii) Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***;
- (xiv) Installation of common facility centers for handloom silk processing;
- (xv) Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens;
- (xvi) Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools;
- (xvii) Support to agencies (NGOs/Coops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri;
- (xviii) Augmentation of muga food plants.

Handloom Sector

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana;
- (ii) Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme;
- (iii) Group Insurance;

**Amount kept in fixed deposits with the Banks. Only the interest earned from the FD's will be the interest subsidy to the reelers.

***Central Silk Board's share only. Equal amount has also been given by the State Governments.

- (iv) Health Package;
- (v) Thrift Fund;
- (vi) New Insurance;
- (vii) Scheme for Handloom Export Development;
- (viii) Project Package Scheme;
- (ix) Margin Money for Destitute Weavers.

Powerloom Sector

Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers.

Cotton Sector

Cotton Technology Mission.

(b) Assistance provided to the State Governments is as follows:

Sericulture Sector

State-wise and scheme-wise assistance provided under the sericulture sector is given in the enclosed statement.

Handloom Sector

The assistance provided to the State Government of Karnataka and Maharashtra is as follows:

(Rs. in lakh)

Karnataka		Maharashtra	
2000-2001	2001-2002	2000-2001	2001-2002
109.73	473.94	103.07	54.26

Powerloom Sector**Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers**

No State-wise allocation is made. The quantum of assistance in each case for the year 2002-03 will depend on various factors including utilization of the grant released earlier, progress of the programmes etc. No grants have been released to the State Governments of Karnataka and Maharashtra as there were no proposals from them. However, grants released to some other State Governments are as follows:

Year	Amount	Name of the State Government
1999-2000	Rs. 96,800	Madhya Pradesh
	Rs. 80,280	Rajasthan
	Rs. 68,000	West Bengal
	Rs. 45,320	Kerala
Total	Rs. 290,400	
2000-2001	Rs. 36,800	Madhya Pradesh
	Rs. 29,320	Kerala
Total	Rs. 66,120	
2001-2002	Rs. 11,680	Madhya Pradesh
	Rs. 7,720	Rajasthan
Total	Rs. 19,400	

Cotton Sector**Cotton Technology Mission**

This was started in February 2000. Ministry of Textiles is responsible for two parts of this Mission. The other two parts are the responsibility of Ministry of Agriculture. For Maharashtra and Karnataka Rs. 1489.68 lakhs and Rs. 465 lakh respectively have been given as Government of India's share.

(c) Funds are released generally only on receipt and approval of proposals sent by the State Governments. Progress as well as appropriateness of utilization of assistance is monitored periodically through various means such as reviews, meetings, returns, evaluation, etc. Assistance is released in instalments and subsequent instalments are released only when utilization certificates are given to show that earlier releases are utilized. Issue of proper utilization of assistance is also the subject matter of the reports of Statutory Bodies such as CAG.

Statement

State-wise and Year-wise details of subsidy released by Central Silk Board during the last three years i.e. 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01

(Rs. in Lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Andhra Pradesh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	2.87	25.50	28.37
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	22.50	-	22.50	45.00
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	6.05	-	31.97	38.02
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	17.50	-	73.32	90.82
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	5.10	5.10
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	0.02	-	1.52	1.54
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	6.00	6.00
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	5.19	1.65	20.53	27.37
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	9.50	29.20	2.30	41.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	0.60	0	0.60
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

**Amount kept in fixed deposits with the Banks. Only the interest earned from the FD's will be the interest subsidy to the reelers.

***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Jharkhand			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	15.70	46.82	62.52
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	0.45	0.30	0.75
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

**Amount kept in fixed deposits with the Banks. Only the interest earned from the FD's will be the interest subsidy to the reelers.

***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Orissa			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	13.25	52.90	66.15
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	4.00	4.00	-	8.00
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	17.50	9.83	0.58	27.91
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	4.13	0.12	0.08	4.33
7.	By product use development projects	1.50	-	-	1.50
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	0.05	0.05
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	0.41	0.42	0.17	1.00
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	4.90	10.00	1.10	16.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	West Bengal			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	1.07	43.79	44.86
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	5.00	1.25	22.36	28.61
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	4.01	9.05	13.57	26.63
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	5.10	-	5.10
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	1.21	0.02	1.37	2.60
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	0.26	-	0.26
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	1.58	1.58
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	0.36	0.36
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	2.20	-	5.60	7.84
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	1.42	3.10	4.52

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Assam			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	33.29	122.04	155.33
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	2.74	2.74
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	0.48	9.30	9.78
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	2.80	2.80
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	2.32	0.21	7.33	9.86
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	0.94	0.94
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	3.70	-	0.30	4.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	0.01	3.19	8.18	11.38
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	0.78	0.83	13.21	14.82
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	10.86	15.25	52.15	78.26

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Nagaland			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	3.38	6.67	10.05
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	0.13	2.63	2.76
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	0.27	-	-	0.27
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	1.46	0.16	1.08	2.70
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	0.20	-	-	0.20
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	1.63	3.05	5.31	9.99

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Meghalaya			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	21.48	21.48
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	0.30	0.85	1.15
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	0.47	0.31	0.24	1.02
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	0.33	2.32	2.65
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	0.10	0.14	0.29	0.53
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	3.17	5.93	9.67	18.77

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Chhattisgarh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	11.52	11.52
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	5.40	4.80	10.20
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	13.00	13.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Maharashtra			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	0.26	-	0.26
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	11.25	11.25	22.50
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	5.12	-	5.12
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	22.47	20.83	45.82	89.12
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	1.50	4.95	6.45
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	0.24	-	1.31	1.55
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Himachal Pradesh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	0.05	0.05
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	5.00	5.00
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	7.14	7.14
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Karnataka			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	25.31	25.31	67.50	118.12
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	22.48	16.10	38.58
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	35.00	35.00
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	1.50	0.69	2.19
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	0.04	2.88	2.92
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	12.00	18.58	27.40	57.98
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	12.03	10.84	63.86	86.73
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	2.90	7.20	5.70	15.80
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	3.25	-	-	3.25
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Tamil Nadu			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	30.51	34.34	26.73	91.58
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	17.14	12.29	29.43
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	8.40	14.00	14.00	36.40
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	0.16	0.16
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	4.75	4.40	9.15
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	12.03	1.88	4.96	18.87
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	13.40	26.20	1.90	43.50
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	0.16	0.16	0.32
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Kerala			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	1.58	1.58
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	2.45	2.45
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	7.11	8.15	2.78	18.04
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	7.50	5.40	12.90
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	0.02	0.02
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Jammu & Kashmir			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	4.00	5.00	4.00	13.00
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	15.00	15.00	-	30.00
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	8.34	-	10.17	18.51
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	8.35	4.90	-	13.25
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	5.19	-	6.13	11.32
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Madhya Pradesh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	15.19	4.88	20.07
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	1.68	-	1.68
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	5.99	-	8.40	14.39
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	1.33	-	1.33
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	3.00	3.00
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	0.94	-	-	0.94
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	4.90	3.80	0.30	9.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Bihar			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	2-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	3.20	0.59	-	3.79
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	1-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	2.05	-	-	2.05
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Uttar Pradesh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	9.00	-	-	9.00
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	2.25	2.25
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	0.41	0.46	0.30	1.17
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	5.08	0.18	5.35	10.61
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	1.00	1.00
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	3.79	-	-	3.79
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	2.80	18.20	21.00
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Sikkim			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	1.00	0.06	2.19	3.25
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	1.40	-	1.96	3.36
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Arunachal Pradesh			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	6.75	6.75
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	2.02	2.02
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	0.11	-	-	0.11
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	0.38	-	-	0.38
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	0.07	-	-	0.07
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	1.63	1.14	2.48	5.25

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Mizoram			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	5.00	-	-	5.00
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	11.15	-	-	11.15
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	1.05	1.05
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	1.29	0.51	2.15	5.95
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	1.20	0.73	2.70	4.63

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Tripura			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	2.79	6.80	-	9.59
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	4.60	-	-	4.60
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	9.40	9.40
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Manipur			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	0.21	-	0.05	0.26
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	-	-
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	0.02	0.02
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	1.20	-	1.20

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Uttaranchal			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	0.71	0.71
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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***CSB's share only. Equal amount has also been given by State Government.

Sl.No.	Name of the Schemes	Punjab			
		1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	Total
1.	UNDP assisted sub - programme on development of non-mulberry silk	-	-	-	-
2.	Promotion of Resources conservation technologies through drip irrigation	-	-	-	-
3.	Support for pre-reeling productivity improved measures of demonstrative kind adopted by States	-	-	-	-
4.	On farm training and supply of start-up tools to new mulberry sericulturists	-	-	-	-
5.	Support to States for upgradation of seed multiplication infrastructure (Tasar)	-	-	-	-
6.	Support to agencies (NGOs/Co-ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for tropical tasar	-	-	-	-
7.	By product use development projects	-	-	-	-
8.	Support for quality enhancement for silk sector	-	-	-	-
9.	Support for reeling units				
	a. Incentive for reeling bivoltine silk	-	-	-	-
	b. Working capital interest subsidy**	-	-	-	-
10.	Providing training and startup tools to farmers to practice muga culture	-	-	-	-
11.	Pilot schemes for support to private graineurs for production of quality muga seed	-	-	-	-
12.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co - ops.) for popularization of improved reeling / spinning devices for muga	-	-	-	-
13.	Scheme for increasing quality raw silk production by promoting use of multiend reeling machines***	-	-	0.94	0.94
14.	Installation of common facility centers for Handloom Silk processing	-	-	-	-
15.	Promotion of resource conservation technologies through economic ovens	-	-	-	-
16.	Demonstration of systematic plantation in eri food plant with training and supply of start-up tools	-	-	-	-
17.	Support to agencies (NGOs / Co-Ops.) for popularization of improved spinning devices for eri	-	-	-	-
18.	Augmentation of muga food plants	-	-	-	-

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Sale of Stationery At Higher Rates by NCCF

5031. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:
SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:

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

(a) whether NCCF is selling sub-standard as well as unbranded stationery and other items at higher prices to the Government than those prevailing in Kendriya Bhandar and open market;

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

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

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The NCCF has informed that they are not selling sub-standard articles. As for the un-branded items supplied by the NCCF, they are maintaining quality and competitiveness of their rates. The NCCF and the Kendriya Bhandar are two autonomous cooperative organizations having their own Board of Directors to decide about their business policies. The pricing policies of the two organizations as also their terms of sale differ.

(c) to (e) Since the NCCF and the Kendriya Bhandar are autonomous cooperative organizations having their own Board of Directors to decide about their business and administrative matters, Government of India do not interfere into these affairs.

Power Plants Installed by BHEL

5032. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants installed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) at various places in the country and abroad during the last three years;

(b) whether BHEL has bagged some new orders during 2001-2002;

(c) if so, the total value orders awarded to BHEL in that year; and

(d) the steps taken by BHEL to manufacture, supply, erections and commissioning of the projects according to the orders received from various organizations during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) The number of Power Plants equipped with BHEL equipments installed at various places in the country and abroad during the last three years are given below:

Domestic	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
*Power Sector	49	26	20
*Industry Sector	10	05	11
Overseas	02	02	04

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The total amount of orders awarded to BHEL during 2001-2002 are:

Domestic

*Power Sector—Rs. 7075 Crores.

*Industry Sector—Rs. 1961 Crores (of which Rs. 470 Crores for Captive Power Plants)

Overseas—Rs. 800 Crores (of which Rs. 767 Crores for Power Plants).

(d) BHEL has taken various measures specific to functions such as commercial, engineering, procurement, manufacturing and construction activities in order to meet the requirements of manufacturing, supply, erection and commissioning of projects ordered by various organizations. Some of these are given below:

- * Initiation of pre-contract engineering work based on the market intelligence and assessment of likely award of work and reduction of engineering cycle time by using various software packages.
- * Completing pre-contract procurement activity without financial commitment for bought out items and processing purchasing enquiries up to order placement stage, while order receipt from customer is being pursued.

- * Advance manufacturing action for long lead interchangeable items like castings, forgings and sub assemblies based on the market intelligence and assessment of likely award of work.
- * Finalising long term rate contracts for purchase of specific items.
- * Modernisation of manufacturing facilities at major manufacturing units.
- * Construction activities improved with induction of high capacity mobile cranes and other equipment to speed up erection.
- * Project Management/monitoring groups set up at manufacturing units/business sectors and at corporate level.
- * Review of delivery and commissioning schedules every month at the apex level in the meeting of Management Committee.

Rate of Interest of the Urban Cooperative Banks

5033. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued a directive to the Urban Cooperative Banks to slash the interest rates of deposits to the level offered by the commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the rate of interest paid by the Urban Cooperative Banks before the directive of the RBI; and

(d) the rate of interest of commercial banks at present?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Urban Co-operative Banks are free to determine their rate of interest on term deposits with the approval of their Board of Directors. However, offering higher rate of interest which is not in alignment with market rates, affects the profitability of banks and adds to their liability. Therefore, Urban Coop. Banks were advised by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in January 2002 to review their interest rate structure on term deposits of different maturities and take appropriate action to make them comparable with the rates offered by commercial banks.

(c) and (d) With effect from October 22, 1997, RBI has given freedom to all banks to fix their own interest

rates on domestic term deposits of various maturities. At present the term deposit rates of different Urban Cooperative and Commercial Banks are generally between 8% to 16% and 8% to 9% per annum respectively. However, interest rate on savings deposits is still regulated by RBI and this rate has been fixed at 4.0 per cent per annum since April 1, 2000.

[Translation]

World Bank Assistance to Education and Health Scheme

5034. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered more assistance to India for education and health schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which aforesaid assistance likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) World Bank is considering following proposals under Education and Health sector for providing assistance to India:

1. Disease Surveillance Project
2. Food and Drug Capacity Building Project
3. Rajasthan Health System Development Project
4. Tamilnadu Health System Development Project
5. Assam Health System Development Project
6. Technical Education Quality Improvement Project of Government of India.

These projects are at various stages of consideration in the World Bank. No time limit can be given for approval of these projects by the World Bank.

[English]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of Onion and Cotton

5035. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantitative restriction on export of onion and cotton has been removed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government are considering to remove quantitative restriction on export of onion and cotton;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Restrictions on export of cotton have been removed w.e.f. 2.7.2001. However, restrictions on export of onion continue to remain. For the current year (2002-2003) 7 lakh metric tons of onion have been released for export. All such exports are to take place through State Trading Enterprises.

However, the export of Bangalore Rose variety onion and Krishnapuram onion is not subject to any quantitative ceilings, though such export is also to be carried out by State Trading Enterprises.

Policy in respect of export, including that of onion and rose onion, is reviewed from time to time.

Lifting of Lock-in period for immovable Properties

5036. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have lifted the lock-in period for repatriation of sale proceeds of immovable properties purchased in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the lifting will come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) In terms of Regulation, 6 of RBI's Notification No. 21/2000/RB dated May 3, 2000, NRIs and PIOs have been permitted to repatriate sale proceeds of immovable property subject to certain conditions, inter-alia, that the property is sold after 3 years from the date of acquisition or from the date of payment of final instalment whichever is later. As a result NRIs/PIOs who have entered into contracts to purchase properties in India are unable to take back their money unless they have paid full amount

of purchase. In the circumstances even in the cases where construction work is not progressing satisfactorily or for some compelling reasons the buyer has to cancel the contract, the funds brought in by the NRIs are blocked in India. In order to mitigate the difficulties faced by NRIs/PIOs Reserve Bank has decided henceforth to allow repatriation of sale proceeds or amount received on account of cancellation of purchase contracts, subject to the condition that the amount does not exceed amount paid for acquisition of the property in foreign exchange brought through Banking Channel, or the amount realized whichever is lesser.

Reservation for Handicapped

5037. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for 3 percent reservation of posts in all the Government offices and public sector undertakings for disabled people;

(b) if so, the number of posts identified in various Government services for disabled persons alongwith percentage of disabled people employed in Government offices/public undertakings as a whole; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to fill up the 3 percent job quota for disabled people in Government offices/public undertakings?

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

(b) Over 1900 posts have been identified for persons with disabilities in Government services. Deptt. of Personnel & Training (DOPT), the nodal department of Government for reservations in services has reported that the percentage of disabled persons employed in Government offices/Public Sector Undertakings with respect to identified posts is not maintained centrally.

(c) The matter is followed up regularly with Ministries/Departments. Also, instructions have been issued that a certificate to the effect that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disability has been taken care of is to be given while sending requisitions to the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Staff Selection Commission (SSC) etc. for filling posts that have been identified as suitable for being manned by persons with disabilities.

[Translation]

Manufacturing of Vehicles

5038. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of vehicles two wheeler/four wheeler manufactured in the country during each of the last three years, separately;

(b) the number of foreign companies with the collaboration of which vehicles are being manufactured at present;

(c) the number of persons engaged in this sector;

(d) whether more employment opportunities can be provided through the vehicle manufacturing sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) Production of two wheelers and four wheelers during the last three years is as under:

(in Nos.)

Category	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
Four wheelers	8,75,179	7,97,640	8,34,071
Two wheelers	37,78,011	37,58,518	43,23,644

(b) Since liberalization of Automobile sector in July 1991, 17 foreign companies have been granted approval by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) for setting up manufacturing units for the production of Passenger cars, Multi-Utility Vehicles and Commercial Vehicles.

(c) Automobile Sector employs 4.5 lakh people directly and more than one crore people indirectly.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir, the automotive sector has great potential for employment generation due to its forward and backward linkages. Among forward linkages, the key generator of employment are Oil Industry, distribution and after-sales service network as also the after sales supply of spares and replacement by the auto component industry. As for backward linkages, Auto Industry is also the largest consumer of raw material like steel, aluminium,

zinc alloys, rubber and plastics resulting in employment generation in these sectors.

[English]

Mutual Assistance Fund

5039. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has any proposal to ask all Urban Cooperative Banks to make mandatory contributions to a Mutual Assistance Fund; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that they have no proposal for creation of any mutual assistance fund for Urban Cooperative Banks.

Duty Free Import of Equipments for Service Sector

5040. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow duty free import of equipment by corporates for service sector exports in areas like education, medical, accountancy and consultancy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which it would help the corporates to achieve the export target; and

(d) the other incentive proposed to be given to service sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Exim Policy 2002-07 permits concessional duty import of capital goods/equipment by the service sector under the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) Scheme. The goods can be imported at 5% Customs duty subject to an export obligation equivalent to 5 times the CIF value of the goods imported which is to be fulfilled over a period of 8 years reckoned from the date of issuance of the licence. Additionally the

service sector is not required to maintain the average level of exports under this Scheme which would facilitate in achievement off the export obligation. The service sector can also avail of the funds under the market Access Initiative (MAI) for export promotion. The service sector is also eligible for Export House Status on a lower threshold limit of Rs. 5 crores.

[Translation]

Development Corporation for Backward Classes

5041. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from any State Government regarding setting up of a separate Development Corporation for backward classes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any assistance has been provided to any State Government for said corporation;

(d) if so, the amount of the Assistance so provided; and

(e) the number of persons benefited therefrom during each of the last two years, State-wise?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Cyber Crime Unit

5042. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs and Income Tax Departments have set up cyber crime units;

(b) if so, the number of cases detected by them so far; and

(c) if not, the steps taken to tackle economic crimes committed through the internet?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Information Technology Act, 2000 provides for the machinery to investigate offences and levy penalties in relation to offences committed under the said Act.

[Translation]

Women Voluntary Organisations

5043. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of women voluntary organizations receiving Central aid in predominantly Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes areas, State-wise;

(b) the schemes formulated in this regard; and

(c) the financial assistance provided to each of these organizations during each of the last four years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) There are no women voluntary organizations which are receiving central aid in predominantly Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes areas.

(b) No Scheme has been formulated.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Training Camps by Central Silk Board

5044. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Silk Board has undertaken training camps to train people in the mechanised spinning wheel in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the number of training camps held in Karnataka during the last year;

(c) the number of persons trained so far;

(d) whether the Government are aware that sufficient raw materials are available in Karnataka to operate the mechanized spinning wheel;

(e) whether the Union Government will take steps to organise more such training camps in other parts of Karnataka as well as in other states;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (g) Yes Sir. The Central Silk Board organizes training programmes to train people on the mechanized spinning wheels on receipt of request in this regard from State Governments or from non-Government organizations. During 2001-2002 five such training programmes involving 130 women from self-help groups have been conducted in Karnataka. Raw material is available in Karnataka to operate mechanized spinning wheels.

[Translation]

Expenditure in Public Sector Banks

5045. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether management expenses of the public sector banks have been continuously increasing;

(b) if so, the details of the amount spent as management expenses in public sector banks during the financial years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(c) whether administrative expenses of these banks have also increased continuously;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the aforesaid period;

(e) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to bring down these expenses; and

(f) if so, the details of the scheme so formulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the administrative and other expenses of public sector banks has increased during the last three years, from Rs. 20450 crores in 1998-99 to Rs. 22461 crore in 1999-2000 and further Rs. 28013 crore in 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) The public sector banks have been advised to reduce costs by introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS), technology upgradation, organizational restructuring, rationalization of branch network etc.

[English]

Food for Work

5046. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether after being allocated 3 lakh tonnes of rice for 'food for work' programme to Orissa no further allocation was made as the State were reeling under severe drought conditions; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The following quantity of foodgrains have been allocated to the State of Orissa during 2000-01 to 2001-02 under Food for Work programme.

2000-01 — 1,00,000 tonnes of rice for drought affected areas.

2001-02 — 50,000 tonnes of rice for drought affected areas.

1,00,000 tonnes of rice for flood affected areas.

During the current financial year 2002-03 a quantity of 2.00 lakh tonnes of rice under Special Component of Sampooma Gramin Rozgar Yojana has been released for the flood affected areas of Orissa.

No further demand has been received for the drought affected areas from the State Government of Orissa under 'Food for Work' Programme.

Creamy Layer among OBC

5047. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Review Committee has been constituted by the Union Government to review the income

criteria for identification of creamy layer among Other Backward Classes;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Committee has submitted its report;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) It is in the process of constituting a review committee.

- (b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Investment in Sick Textile Units

5048. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 25 per cent units of textile industry in the country have been estimated as sick units since this industry is passing thorough a miserable condition;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have found out the amount invested by the financial institutions in these sick units; and

(d) if so, the amount invested therein and the details of the investment made in the sick units under the public sector and the private sector, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Since textile industry is predominantly in the decentralised sector consisting of a number of segments, it is not possible to compile the information with regard to the total number of textile units in the country and the number of such units sick. However, as on 31.1.2002, 650 cases of textile mills have been registered with Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provision of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act 1985; out of which 317 cases have been disposed off.

(c) and (d) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India, number of sick textile units in

SSI and Non-SSI sector, as on 31.3.2001 financed by scheduled commercial banks is as under:

Sl. No.	Particulars	No. of Units	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Crore)
1.	Non-SSI Textile units (sick)	564	3362.49
2.	SSI Textile units (sick)	20315	489.98

The break up of Non-SSI sick textile units is given below:

Sl.No.	Sector	Number	Amount
1.	Public	92	436.27
2.	Private	457	2848.26
3.	Joint	9	66.76
4.	Co-operative	6	11.20
Total		564	3362.49

As per the report on Development Banking in India by IDBI for the year 1999-2000, at the end March 2000, Rs. 722 Crore loan amount is outstanding in respect of 139 sick textile companies registered with BIFR. This information relates to IDBI, IFCI and ICICI.

[English]

UK/USA Assistance to Tamil Nadu

5049. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sectors for which financial assistance is provided by USA and UK to Tamil Nadu State;

(b) the amount received from UK and USA during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the USA contribution to Tamil Nadu is maximum and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether USA and UK propose to increase their financial contribution to Tamil Nadu during the current financial year; and

- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No assistance from UK is received by the State of Tamil Nadu. At present USAID is providing financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu for one project i.e., AIDS Prevention and Control Project for a total value of US\$ 9.123 Mln over 15 years. Amount of assistance received from USAID during the last three years was as under:

Year	US\$ Million
1999-2000	0.925
2000-2001	1.419
2001-2002	1.592

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government has no information in this regard.

(e) Does not arise.

Godowns of Central Warehousing Corporation

5050. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of warehouses of Central Warehousing Corporation in the country as on March 31, 2002 alongwith their storage capacity, State-wise;

(b) the new storage capacity added during last year and in the current year, State-wise particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) The total number of warehouses being managed/operated by the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) as on 31.3.2002 is 475 with a total capacity of 89.00 lakh MTs. The State-wise storage capacity given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) CWC has added a total capacity of 3.24 lakh MT in the country during 2001-02, out of which 0.25 lakh MT was added in the State of Andhra Pradesh at Adilabad, Nandyal and Nandikotkur. Details are placed at Statement-II. This capacity is in addition to the capacity added for exclusive use of Food Corporation of India on Seven Years Guarantee Utilisation out of which a capacity of 1.22 lakh MT is in different phases of construction in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

During the current year, CWC has plans to construct 3.25 lakh tonnes capacity. Out of this, 0.27 lakh MT capacity is proposed to be constructed in Andhra Pradesh.

Statement I

Statewise Number of Warehouses and Storage Capacity of C.W.C. as on 31.3.2002

(In MTs.)			
Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of Warehouses	Storage Capacity
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49	12,60,753
2.	Assam	6	46,934
3.	Bihar	13	1,04,524
4.	Chandigarh U.T.	1	14,761
5.	Chhattisgarh	10	2,59,964
6.	Delhi	11	1,35,517
7.	Goa	2	30,400
8.	Gujarat	30	5,15,301
9.	Haryana	23	3,33,860
10.	Himachal Pradesh	2	5,370
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	6,265
12.	Jharkhand	3	33,950
13.	Karnataka	36	4,31,352
14.	Kerala	7	93,599
15.	Madhya Pradesh	31	6,65,873
16.	Maharashtra	52	12,49,404
17.	Nagaland	1	13,000
18.	Orissa	10	1,52,506
19.	Pondicherry	1	9,080
20.	Punjab	31	8,20,604

1	2	3	4
21.	Rajasthan	26	3,71,013
22.	Tamil Nadu	27	6,67,049
23.	Tripura	2	24,000
24.	Uttar Pradesh	50	10,18,469

1	2	3	4
25.	Uttaranchal	7	73,490
26.	West Bengal	43	5,63,758
Grand Total		475	89,00,796

Statement II*Total Capacity Completed during the year 2001-2002*

S.No.	Name of Centre	State	Capacity (in MT)
1	2	3	4
1.	Verna Goa (Open Yard)	Goa	2400
2.	Kakkanad (Kochi)	Kerala	1700
3.	Tuticorin CFS 5000 Sqm. (Open yard)	Tamilnadu	9000
4.	Dronagiri Node 12.5 Ha 40,000 sqm. (Open Yard)	Maharashtra	72000
5.	Greater Noida	Uttar Pradesh	
	19920 Sq. m. (Open Yard)		35800
	13200 MT (Covered)		6600
6.	Kota-II	Rajasthan	4000
7.	Gulbarga-II	Karnataka	5000
8.	Bhatinda	Punjab	5000
9.	Chanalon	Punjab	5000
10.	Maksi	Madhya Pradesh	3000
11.	Akola (CAP)	Maharashtra	15000
12.	Nasik Ahmedabad (CAP)	Maharashtra	10000
13.	Nagpur (CAP)	Maharashtra	5000
14.	Gondia (CAP)	Maharashtra	27000
15.	Nagercoil	Tamil Nadu	1640
16.	Surajpur 2800 Sq. mt. (Covered)	Uttar Pradesh	5000
17.	Choudwar	Orissa	6650
18.	Jeypore	Orissa	7800

1	2	3	4
19.	Rayagada	Orissa	6400
20.	SGT Whitefield	Karnataka	14200
21.	Dharwad (15000 MT)	Karnataka	9000
22.	Udumalpet	Tamil Nadu	5000
23.	Trichur	Kerala	7590
24.	Barhi (Ganaur)	Haryana	5000
25.	Adilabad	Andhra Pradesh	10000
26.	Nandyal	Andhra Pradesh	10000
27.	Nandikotkur	Andhra Pradesh	5000
28.	Bikaner	Rajasthan	3800
29.	Kota-III	Rajasthan	5000
30.	Mandi Gobindgarh	Punjab	5800
31.	Karnal-III	Haryana	10000
Grand Total			324380

Banking System

5051. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an independent agency to monitor the banking system effectively;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the working of 'Debt Recovery Tribunals';

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith successes achieved by DRTs in recovery of debts;

(e) whether the Government have received suggestions from the all India Bank Officers Association for improvement of functioning of the banks;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the reaction of the Government thereto?

(b) Reserve Bank of India, which is an autonomous institution, already exists to regulate and supervise banking system.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The performance of Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) was last reviewed in a meeting taken on 2nd July, 2001 with Presiding Officers of DRTs, Chairpersons of Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunals (DRATs) and Chairman and Managing Directors of Public Sector Banks/Financial Institutions. The overall performance of DRTs is satisfactory. Upto 30th September, 2001, DRTs had disposed off 18,703 cases involving amount of Rs. 14,026 crores (decreed amount of Rs. 7,065 crores) of which an amount of Rs. 3,527 crores have been recovered.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) and (g) Do not arise.

Functioning of Reserve Bank of India

5052. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "RBI functioning

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

influenced by Centre, says economist" appearing in the 'Asian Age', New Delhi dated March 27, 2002;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has been criticized by the economist for day-to-day interference of the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the RBI functioning is not influenced by the Union Government?

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

(b) Government does not agree with the views expressed by the economist. RBI functions as an autonomous organisation and Government does not interfere in its areas of work.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Investment and Loan Limit of Banks

5053. SHRI SURESH PASI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to amend investment and loan limit of banks in view of the frauds taking place in the banks;

(b) if so, the amendments made or proposed to be made in this regard; and

(c) the extent upto which the above amendments are likely to help to keep full check on the frauds in the banks in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has revised its guidelines in May, 2001 regarding the fund based and non-fund based exposure by banks. The exposure ceiling for single borrowers is reduced from 20% to 15% of capital funds. The group exposure limit has been fixed at 40% and the exposure limit for financing of infrastructure projects is kept at 50% of capital funds. The ceiling for total exposure to the capital market is stipulated at 5% of banks total outstanding advances. The exposures of banks in terms of direct investment in shares not to exceed 20% of its

net own funds. These changes are aimed at better credit risk management.

[English]

Tax Evasion by Companies

5054. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the income tax and wealth tax carried out assessments for the assessment years 1994-95 to 1999-2000 of 97 selected companies having profit before tax of Rs. 25 lakhs were audited and 326 observation raised with tax effect of Rs. 654.42 crore;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government on the audit reports and the amount of tax collected so far out of Rs. 6544.42 crore; and

(c) the modus operandi adopted in evading the tax by the said companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The C&AG in their Report No. 12A of 2002 (for the year ended March, 2001) laid down in Parliament on 15th March, 2002 have included the results of the Review on audit of assessments of Companies in select sectors, namely Cement, Automobiles and Textiles. The review focused on the income tax and wealth tax assessments of 97 selected companies (24-cement, 35-automobiles, 38-textiles) in these sectors for the assessment years 1994-95 to 1999-2000 having profit before tax of Rs. 25 lakh. 326 audit observations were raised having tax effect of Rs. 654.42 crore.

(b) and (c) The Report of the C&AG is being examined in the CBDT and also in the field formations with a view to give para-wise reply to C&AG and to determine the correctness or otherwise of aforesaid audit observations.

Annual Accounts of Autonomous Bodies

5055. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG dealt with the annual accounts of autonomous bodies in their Report No. 4 of 2000 (Civil) in Chapter-1 thereof;

(b) if so, the action taken on that report, autonomous body-wise on the various points brought out by the CAG;

(c) whether there has been any perceptible change/improvement in the maintenance of the accounts by the autonomous bodies including bringing transparency therein; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) to (d) It is for the respective Ministries/Departments to take corrective measures on the points made by C&AG and also evolve suitable mechanism so that autonomous bodies operating under their jurisdiction complete the annual accounts within the prescribed period and make them available for audit. A common format of accounts for autonomous bodies devised by the Committee of Experts and approved in consultation with C&AG has been circulated to all Ministries/Departments for issuing suitable directions to concerned Central autonomous bodies.

Currency Racket Unearthed by Income Tax Department

5056. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the investigation unit of the Income Tax Department has unearthed an organized currency racket;

(b) if so, the details of the racket unearthed and its modus operandi;

(c) the amount of currency found to have been smuggled out; and

(d) the persons apprehended with the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The Central Bureau of Investigation intercepted two parcels on 9th June, 2001 containing US \$ 25000 being sent by a person from Delhi to Hongkong by speed post. Cash of Rs. 1.14 crore was also found from the premises of concerned persons. Having come to know this, Income Tax Department conducted searches at premises of 5 beneficiaries of the racket in Delhi and seized cash of Rs. 29.40 lakhs and stock of Rs. 45.60 lakhs. Investigation is in progress to find out exact modus-operandi.

Export of Agricultural Commodities

5057. DR. C. KRISHNAN:
SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA:

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

(a) whether export of the major agricultural commodities during 2001-2002 in comparison to last two years has fallen substantially against the target fixed;

(b) if so, the details of agricultural commodities exported, in terms of quantum and value during the above period against the target, year-wise;

(c) whether any study or analysis has been made regarding this steep fall;

(d) if so, the finding thereof;

(e) the steps being taken to boost agricultural commodities export in the near future;

(f) whether the Government have set up a monitoring group to go in depth into the issue; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (g) International trade in agricultural commodities depends on various domestic and international factors. Projections of performance are made based on past trends which are in the nature of estimates. The agricultural exports (excluding marine, tea, coffee, cotton and castor oil) during the last 3 years are as given below:

Year	Value (Rs. crores)
1999-2000	14812.61
2000-2001	16713.48
2001-2002 (April-Jan.)(P)	14407.54
2000-2001 (April-Jan.) (P)	12953.38
(P) provisional	

Source: DGC&S

Quantity-wise and product-wise details of exports are given in monthly/annual number of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

Exports of agricultural products is continually reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Government through its agencies. The Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through its agencies such as Commodity Boards, Authorities etc. for promotion of agricultural exports.

Assistance for Industrial Development

5058. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh Government has submitted any proposal to the Union Government seeking Central assistance for industrial development of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Government of Madhya Pradesh has been submitting proposals from time to time under various schemes of the Government of India for sector-specific industrial development such as Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, Integrated Infrastructural Development Scheme, Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme, etc. However, no single consolidated proposal seeking Central assistance for overall industrial development of Madhya Pradesh has been submitted to the Government of India.

[Translation]

LIC Schemes

5059. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the ongoing schemes of the Life Insurance Corporation of India as on date; and

(b) the measures taken to improve the workings of the Corporation in the States particularly in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The details of the ongoing schemes of the Life Insurance

Corporation of India (LIC) for Individual life Assurance are given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) The LIC has informed that they have taken the following measures to improve the working of the Corporation:

- (i) Initiatives for improvement of its Customer Services. The major initiatives relate to Customer Relationship Management (CRM).
- (ii) Expansion of its training infrastructure to provide comprehensive training to agents to enable them to operate in a professional manner and to do need based selling and provide good service to their clients/customers.
- (iii) Enhancing its existing service through the latest use of Information Technology (IT) initiatives in the area of IT. These include Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS) for providing the status of the policy to the policyholders on telephone in 59 cities; Computerisation of all the branches and out of them more than 50% are Networked through Metro Area Network/Wide Area Network; the facility/option for the policy holder to pay the premium through ISPs by registering at LIC's website on the Net and installation of 30 Touch Screen Information Kiosks (TSIKs), in various cities all over the country, placed at the strategic points providing information about LIC's products and also status of individual policies to customers.

The LIC has informed that the position in respect of all the measures as mentioned above in the State of Rajasthan is as under:

- (i) *The Customer Relationship Management.* The Corporation has 5 Divisions in Rajasthan viz., Ajmer, Bikaner, Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur. These Divisions control the operations of 110 Branch Offices. There are 5 Customer Relationship Managers posted at the 5 Divisions and 110 Customer Relationship Executives at Branch Offices;
- (ii) *Training:* There are 5 Divisional Training Centres and 19 Agents Training Centres spread over the whole State.
- (iii) *IT initiatives:* IVRS is in operation in Ajmer, Jaipur and Jodhpur. There are 6 TSIKs, one each in Ajmer, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Udaipur and two in Jaipur. Out of a total of 110 branches, 40 branches are already networked thorough Metro Area/Wide Area Networks.

Statement**Brief Description of Ongoing Plans of LIC of India**

No.	Plan Code	Plan Name	Participating/ Non-participating	Brief description
1	2	3	4	5
1	2	Whole Life Assurance	Par	A low cost insurance plan where sum assured is payable on death.
2	3	Whole Life Limited Payment	Non-par	Whole Life Assurance where premiums are payable for a limited term
3	5	Whole Life Limited payment	Par	Participating Whole Life Assurance Limited Payment
4	7	Whole Life Limited Payment	Non-par	Whole Life Assurance by Single premium
5	8	Whole Life Limited Payment	Par	Participating Whole Life Assurance by single premium
6	11	Endowment Assurance	Non-par	Sum Assured is payable in case of maturity or earlier death
7	14	Endowment Assurance	Par	Participating Endowment Assurance where Sum Assured is payable on maturity or earlier death.
8	18	Double Endowment Assurance	Non-par	Endowment Assurance with basic sum assured is payable in case of death and twice the sum assured is payable on maturity
9	27	Convertible Whole Life Assurance	Par or Non-par depending upon conversion option	Whole Life Assurance Plan which can be converted to Endowment Assurance after 5 years
10	41	Children's Deferred Endowment Assurance	Par	Endowment Assurance for children with vesting age of 21 years
11	43	Temporary Assurance Policy	Non-par	Sum Assured payable in case of death during the term
12	47	Endowment Assurance Limited Payment	Non-par	Endowment Assurance where premiums are payable for a limited term
13	48	Endowment Assurance Limited Payment	Par	Participating Endowment Assurance where premiums are payable for a limited term.
14	50	Children's Deferred Endowment Assurance	Par	Endowment Assurance for children with vesting age of 18 years

1	2	3	4	5
15.	51	Capital Redemption	Non-par	Sum Assured is payable at the end of the specified term
16	52	Mortgage Redemption Policy	Non-par	Term Assurance policy where the death benefit is the outstanding loan amount
17.	58	Convertible term Assurance	Non-par	A term assurance plan which can be converted to endowment assurance after a specified term
18	60	Immediate Annuity Certain	Non-par	Annuity Plan where annuity is payable for specified term
19	61	Deferred Annuity Certain	Non-par	Annuity is payable for a specified term after a deferment period
20.	75	Money Back Plan	Par	20 year Plan where sum assured is payable on death and survival benefits are payable periodically over the policy term.
21	88	Jeevan Mitra	Par	Endowment Assurance plan with the twice the sum assured payable on death of the life assured during the policy term.
22.	89	Jeevan Saathi	Par	Double Cover Joint Life Endowment Assurance Plan for husband and wife
23.	90	Marriage Endowment/ Educational Annuity	Par	Sum Assured is payable at the end of the term, either in lumpsum or in instalments
24.	91	New Jana Raksha Plan	par	Endowment Assurance with a special provision of death cover for a period of 3 years from first unpaid premium, provided at least 2 years premiums have been paid.
25.	93	Money Back	Par	25 year Plan where sum assured is payable on death and survival benefits are payable periodically over the policy term.
26.	95	Bhavishya Jeevan	Par	Endowment Assurance Plan with higher premiums payable during first five years
27.	101	Jeevan Balya	par	Endowment Assurance Policy on the life of a child where the policy vests at age 21 years
28.	102	Jeevan Kishor	Par	Endowment Assurance for children where risk commences after waiting period
29.	103	Jeevan Chhaya	Par	A Children's Plan where sum assured is payable on death and a fixed benefit is paid instalments at the end of the term
30.	104	Jeevan Griha	Non-par	Endowment Assurance plan with the twice the sum assured payable on death of the life assured during the policy term.

1	2	3	4	5
31.	105	Jeevan Griha	Non-par	Endowment Assurance plan with the thrice the sum assured payable on death of the life assured during the policy term.
32.	106	Jeevan Surabhi	Par	15 year Limited payment plan with survival benefits payable periodically
33.	107	Jeevan Surabhi	Par	20 year Limited payment plan with survival benefits payable periodically.
34.	108	Jeevan Surabhi	Par	25 year Limited payment plan with survival benefits payable periodically
35.	114	Jeevan Aadhar	Par	Limited payment Whole Life plan with the provision of benefits to handicapped dependents.
36.	121	Asha Deep II	Par	Unique plan of life insurance covers the risk of four major ailments viz. Cancer, Paralytic Stroke, Renal failure of both kidneys and coronary artery disease
37.	131	Jeevan Asha II	Par	Endowment Assurance with fixed benefits for surgical treatment.
38.	133	Jeevan Mitra Triple Cover	Par	Endowment Assurance plan with the thrice the sum assured payable on death of the life assured during the policy
39.	135	Bal Vidya	Par	Single premium plan for children which provides annuity at specified intervals
40.	136	Jeevan Vishwas	Par	Endowment Assurance Plan for handicapped dependents
41.	140	Bima Plus	Term assurance part non-par	Unit lined Plan
42.	142	New Bima Nivesh	Par	Single premium five and ten years plan with compounding guaranteed additions payable on death or maturity
43.	146	New Jeevan Akshay-I	Non-par	Immediate Annuity Plan
44.	147	New Jeevan Suraksha-I	Par	Individual Pension plan which provides pension starting from 50 to 79 years.
45.	148	New Jeevan Dhara-I	Par	Deferred Annuity Plan with option of lumpsum payment on vesting
46.	149	Jeevan Anand	Par	Combination of Endowment and Whole Life Plan
47.	150	New Bima Kiran	Par	A term assurance plan which provides return of premiums on maturity and free insurance cover for 10 years after maturity.
48.	151	New Jeevan Shree	Par	Endowment Assurance by Limited Payment with minimum sum assured of Rs. 5 lacs.

*[English]***Recapitalisation of RRBs**

5060. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to recapitalise 36 Regional Rural Banks during the Tenth Five Year Plan by utilizing Rs. 550 crore; and

(b) if so, the names of the 36 RRBs selected for the recapitalisation process alongwith the proposed increase in share capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) The recapitalisation process of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) was initiated in 1994-95. Till March, 2000, 187 RRBs have been provided recapitalisation support. Of these 187 RRBs, 158 RRBs stand fully recapitalised and 29 RRBs are partially recapitalised. Out of 196 RRBs, 7 RRBs have not been provided recapitalisation support so far. Two RRBs do not require recapitalisation support. Due to the budgetary constraints, the process of recapitalisation of RRBs could not be continued. In view of the financial performance of RRBs it is expected that the RRBs will be able to stand on their own in the near future.

Research and Development Activities of PSUs

5061. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:
SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:

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

(a) the Research and Development activities undertaken by the Government to equip the Public Sector Enterprises to face the existing stiff competition in the domestic and international market during the last three years; and

(b) the extent to which the R&D activities have helped the PSUs in achieving their goal during the period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The Research and Development activities in Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) in the present context of competition, domestic as well as international, vary from PSE to PSE depending on the technology level and product/service profile. PSEs

have been advised that they should pay special attention to the assessment of their own technology status, to acquiring and assimilating their technologies necessary to make them competitive and to their own R&D efforts to maintain a sustained strength in the technological field. Monitoring the efficacy of R&D efforts comes under the purview of the respective PSEs/Administrative Ministries and information in this regard is not centrally maintained.

Impact of British Cotton

5062. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before the Union Government to give any kind of concession to the disputed British Cotton imported into the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are aware of press reports that the above policy is detrimental to Indian textile industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) No such proposals is under consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d) No such report has been brought to the knowledge of Government.

Jobs on Compassionate Grounds

5063. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) year-wise/office-wise names and designations of officials of his Ministry/department under his Ministry expired while in service during each of the years 1999, 2000 and 2001;

(b) the names of those whose eligible dependents have been provided with the suitable jobs on compassionate grounds;

(c) the names of those whose eligible dependents have not yet been provided with the jobs on compassionate grounds; and

(d) the time by which the jobs on compassionate grounds will be provided to such eligible dependents of deceased officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c)
A statement is enclosed.

(d) Providing jobs on compassionate grounds is
dependent on the actual availability of posts.

Statement

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Officers	Name & Designation of the officials expired	Names of eligible dependent who were provided with suitable jobs	Names of dependents who were not provided with suitable Jobs
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	1999	DC (Handicrafts)	Shri Prem Singh, Driver	Shri Prem Singh	
2.			Shri Chedi Lal, Chowkidar	—	Shri Chedi Lal
3.			Shri O.P. Rai, SK/AC	—	Shri O.P. Rai
4.			Shri Raja Ram, Instructor	—	Shri Raja Ram
5.			Shri H.R. Jaiswal, CTO	—	Shri H.R. Jaiswal
6.			Shri Sohan Lal, Asst. Instr.	—	Shri Sohan Lal
7.			Shri Y.B. Gaikwad, Peon	—	Shri Y.B. Gaikwad
8.			Shri Prabhat Kumar, SK/AC	—	Shri Prabhar Kumar
9.			Shri Taranjit Singh, SK/AC	—	Shri Taranjit Singh
10.			Shri M.S. Bhat, Instructor	—	Shri M.S. Bhat
11.			Shri Bedaruddin, Instructor	—	Shri Bedaruddin
12.			Shri K. Ramanna, Sweeper	—	Shri K. Ramanna
1.	2000		Shri Kanhaiya Lal, Driver	—	Shri Kanhaiya Lal
2.			Shri K. Algan	—	Shri K. Algan
3.			Shri P.P. Navahi	—	Shri P.P. Navahi
4.			Mohd. Yousif Khan, Chowkidar	—	Mohd. Yousif Khan
5.			Shri Krishan Kumar, AD(A&C)	—	Shri Krishan Kumar
6.			Shri Piara Ram, Section Officer	—	Shri Piara Ram
7.			Shri Krishna Nand, Peon	—	Shri Krishna Nand
8.			Mohd. Ish Heaq, SK/AC	—	Mohd. Ish Heaq
9.			Shri Raja Ram, Instructor	—	Shri Raja Ram
1.	2001		Shri Tejpal Singh UDC	—	Shri Tejpal Singh
2.			Shri Anil Dogra, HPO	—	Shri Anil Dogra
3.			Shri Sarujit Singh, SK/AC	—	Shri Sarujit Singh
4.			Sh. Gulam Rasool Bhat, Chowkidar	—	Shri Gulam Rasool Bhat

1	2	3	4	5	6
DC (Handlooms)					
1.	1999	Shri Mor Singh, Chowkidar	Shri Mor Singh	—	
2.		Shri Sher Ali, LDC	—	Shri Sher Ali	
3.		Shri Prem Singh, Dyer	—	Shri Prem Singh	
4.		Shri S. Krishna Naik, Printer	—	Shri S. Krishna Naik	
1.	2000	Shri Nawab Singh, UDC	—	Shri Nawab Singh	
2.		Shri Rajinder Singh, Chowkidar	—	Shri Rajinder Singh	
3.		Sh. Mohinder Singh, Chowkidar	Shri Mohiner Singh	—	
4.		Shri Dalip Singh, Jr. Carpenter	Shri Dalip Singh	—	
5.		Shri Puran Bahadur Singh, Hamal	—	Shri Puran Bahadur	
6.		Shri K. Venkatesan, Chowkidar	—	Shri K. Venkatesan	
7.		Sh. K.B. Wakalkar, Carpenter	—	Shri K.B. Wakalkar	
1.	2001	Shri B.V. Bargaonkar, UDC	—	Shri B.V. Bargaonkar	
2.		Shri J.K. Deori, Sample Cutter	—	Shri J.K. Deori	
3.		Shri V. Prabaker Naidu, LDC	—	Shri V. Prabaker Naidu	
4.		Shri Lakshmi Chand, Occupational Attendant	—	Shri Lakshmi Chand	
5.		Shri Abhimanu Prasad, Asstt. Master Gr. I	—	Shri Abhimanu Prasad	
6.		Shri B.N. Singh, Driver	—	Shri B.N. Singh	
7.		Shri S. Thiagarajan, UDC	—	Shri S. Thiagarajan	
8.		Shri R. Gunaseelan, Chowkidar	—	Shri R. Gunaseelan	
O/o Textile Commissioner					
1.	1999	Shri Kishore Kharku, LDC	—	—	
2.		Shri Dinesh Hodar, Peon	—	Shri Dinesh Hodar	
3.		Shri M.P. Solanki, Peon	—	—	
1.	2000	Smt. Q.J. Monterio, Asstt.	—	Smt. Q.J. Monterio	
1.	2001	Shri H.C. Desi, UDC	—	Shri H.C. Desi	
2.		Shri J.B. Bhalerao, Asstt.	—	Shri J.B. Bhalerao	
3.		Shri S.B. Panday, Chowkidar	—	Shri S.B. Panday	
4.		Shri Anirudh Choudhari, UDC	—	Shri Anirudh Choudhari	
5.		Shri K. Siaupal, EI(T)	—	Shri K. Siaupal	

1	2	3	4	5	6
O/o Jute Commissioner					
1.	1999				
2.	2000			—NIL—	
3.	2001				
Ministry of Textiles (Proper)					
1.	1999				
2.	2000			—NIL—	
2	2001				

Distribution of Levy Sugar

5064. SHRI GANTA SREENIVASA RAO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the present requirement of levy sugar of Andhra Pradesh for distribution under public distribution system;

(b) whether the full requirement of the State is being released and lifted;

(c) if not, the gap between requirement and release; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) The allocation of monthly levy sugar to the State of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) is made on the basis of the projected population as on 1.3.2000 @500 grams per capita to the families belonging to the Below Poverty Line (BPL). Accordingly, the present monthly allocation of levy sugar of State of A.P. for distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) works out to 9690 MTs. The entire allocation is released by the Central Government every month.

Open Offer Clause

5065. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation regarding giving weightage to small investor in 20 per cent Open Offer Clause;

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

(c) the Government's response thereto; and

(d) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) It was suggested that small investors should be given priority, that is, small investors upto Rs. 1 lakh or 1000 shares should be given priority over big investors. Effectively, it should be mandatory for the bidder/acquirer to purchase the full quantity of shares offered by small investors in the open offer.

(c) and (d) The matter was referred to the Securities & Exchange Board of India (SEBI). SEBI has intimated that on examination it was not found feasible to accept the suggestion regarding reservation for a class of shareholders in an open offer for the following reasons. Under the Companies Act, small shareholders are not treated differently from large shareholders. Such a measure may encourage investors to transfer their shares to their relatives and friends prior to an open offer and tender that many shares under different names in order to get all their shares accepted. Further, SEBI has to keep in view the interests of all shareholders.

Post-Matric Scholarship

5066. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI SHASHI KUMAR:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has submitted a proposal for Centrally sponsored Scheme-Post Matric Scholarship to Scheduled Caste students for release of Central Assistance during 2000-01 under reference SWD 380 SEW 2000, dated August 3, 2000 to the Union Government;

(b) if so, whether the expenditure under this scheme over and above the committed liability of the State Government will have to be met by the Union Government;

(c) whether under this scheme, the Union Government have been requested by the State Government of Karnataka to release the share of Rs. 1101.07 lakhs;

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

(e) if not, the reasons for the same; and

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

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

(d) Admissible Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 1111.61 lakhs for Scheduled Caste students for the year 2000-01 was released to Government of Karnataka vide letter dated 8.1.2001.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Suggestions for Emerging Market in South-East Asia

5067. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought quick suggestions from the Indian Industry and exporters for dealing with the emerging market realities in South East Asia, to protect and expand India's share in trade with Asean Region as also in China; and

(b) if so, the suggestions received from the Indian Industry and exporters in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Identification of export markets and opportunity assessments in such identified markets is a continuous process undertaken by all the export promotion

bodies in the country. Indian Industry gives suggestions from time to time to protect and expand India's share in world trade including trade with the ASEAN region and China. These are examined and appropriate steps are taken during the formulation of Export Strategy, EXIM policy and during the bilateral meetings with the different countries. In the Medium Term Export Strategy for 2002-07, announced recently, 25 focus markets have been identified which also includes South East Asian countries including China.

Nizam Sugar Mill

5068. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nizam Sugar Limited in Andhra Pradesh availed a loan of 17.88 and 5.88 crores of rupees for Sugarcane development from the Sugar Development Fund;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has taken a decision to privatise two units of Nizam Sugar Limited and has asked Union Government to waive the outstanding loan;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the State Government have also requested to increase the period of repayment; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (e) Loans aggregating Rs. 17.89 crores from the Sugar Development Fund were disbursed to three units of Nizam Sugars Limited for modernisation/expansion. In addition, loans aggregating Rs. 8.49 crores from the SDF were disbursed to seven units of Nizam Sugars Limited for sugarcane development.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh informed that it had taken a decision to privatise all units of Nizam Sugars Limited and requested for waiver of principal and interest accrued on Sugar Development Fund (SDF) loans borrowed by Nizam Sugars Limited. The State Government was informed that such waiver cannot be agreed to as the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 do not permit waiver of repayment of loans.

The State Government subsequently made a request for increasing the period of moratorium on repayment of SDF loans from 8 years to 11 years to provide some relief to the company until its units are transferred to a private promotor. The Sugar Development Fund rules, 1983 do not provide for enhancement of period of moratorium.

However, the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 provide that in case of default in repayment of the amount of loan or payment of any instalment thereof or interest thereon, an additional interest at the rate of two and a half percent per annum on the amount of default shall be payable. All repayment of loan is required to be made in accordance with the provision prescribed in the SDF Rules, 1983.

Discrimination against Girl Child

5069. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring in any adequate legal provisions to prevent discrimination against the girl child and punish those found guilty of committing the crime;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) All provisions of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 apply equally to all children under the age of 18. Hence, there is no discrimination under the said Act against the girl child.

Rehabilitation Council of India

5070. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Council of India organized a workshop on "Appropriate Models of Education for Children with Special Needs" at Secunderabad in September, 2001;

(b) whether the workshop inter-alia recommended for the formulation of a National Policy on special education;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the proposal; and

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

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

(d) The component of special education is already included in the draft national Policy on Disability Rehabilitation.

Import of Palmoil

5071. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether palmoil has been imported from Malaysia;

(b) if so, the quantum of palmoil imported during the last three years, year-wise and also during current year;

(c) whether the import has created a sense of insecurity among the domestic oilseeds growers; and

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

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

(b) The quantum of crude/refined palm oil and its fractions imported year-wise upto Dec., 2001 is as under:

Year (April to March)	Qty. (Lakh MT)
1998-99	11.73
1999-00	21.22
2000-01	17.21
2001-02 (upto Dec., 01)	10.39

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Public Distribution System

5072. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether monitoring committees have been constituted recently at district level to make the public distribution system more effective in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of the above Committees at national level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The concept of Monitoring Committees in the form of Vigilance Committees has been an important constituent of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

2. As per PDS guidelines issued in March, 1987 and TPDS guidelines issued in February, 1997 State Governments have been advised to constitute Vigilance Committees as a measure of social audit of the working of PDS in the country. In the Model Citizens' Charter issued in November, 1997 for adoption by State Governments, constitution of Vigilance Committees by the State Governments at the level of Panchayat/Ward, Taluk, District and State/UT has also been emphasised. Panchayati Raj Institutions guidelines issued in June, 1999, also state that the Gram Panchayats/Gram Sabhas should be encouraged to form FPS committees which should include members of existing Vigilance Committees from the FPS of the area and also representatives of consumer groups, women, as well as members of SC/ST/OBCs. Under the TPDS monitoring system, the State Governments are required to furnish information on the number of meetings of the Vigilance Committees held during the month at FPS, Block and District level.

3. All the State Governments/UTs except Goa and Daman & Diu have informed regarding constitution of Vigilance Committees at various levels viz., Block, District and State for monitoring the functioning of TPDS.

(c) and (d) PDS is operated under the joint responsibility of the Central and the State Governments. The operational responsibilities including allocation within the State, identification of families below poverty line, issue of ration cards, supervision of functioning of FPSs rests with the State Governments.

The State Governments and UT Administrations are expected to monitor the functioning of vigilance committees in their respective States and take corrective steps as deemed fit.

[English]

New Category of Exporters

5073. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the R.B.I. has created new category of Exporters;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the facilities provided to these exporters as per the latest R.B.I. policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Based on the representations that large export projects in the country need bank credit for extended period at internationally competitive interest rates, RBI in consultation with the Government of India, announced on 24.9.2001 for a period of one year, from 11.10.2001, a special financial Package for large value export of following select products which are internationally competitive and have high value addition:

- (i) Pharmaceuticals (including drugs, fine-chemicals)
- (ii) Agro-chemicals (including inorganic and organic chemicals)
- (iii) Transport equipment (including commercial vehicles, two and three wheelers, tractors, railway wagons, locomotives)
- (iv) Cement (including glass, glassware, ceramics and refractories)
- (v) Iron & Steel (including Iron & steel bars, rods and primary and semi finished iron & steel)
- (vi) Electrical machinery including transmission line towers, switch gear, transformers)
- (vii) Leather and leather goods
- (viii) Textiles.

Exporters covered under Special Financial Package will be extended credit at concessional rate of interest for an extended period upto 365 days at pre-shipment as well as post-shipment stages as against the maximum periods of 270 days and 180 days respectively applicable for normal export credits.

MoU Signed by Public Sector Enterprises

5074. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of MoU signed by the public sector enterprises under the control of his Ministry during the year 2000-2001;

(b) whether any grading was done by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by the Government where the MoUs were found not to be functioning properly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (c) The details are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(d) Performance of the MoU signing PSEs is reviewed periodically, constraints identified and action initiated accordingly including measures for restructuring, assistance in securing orders, cost reduction etc.

Statement

Name of PSEs	Ratings
Bharat Heavy Electrical Ltd. (BHEL)	Good
Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL)	Poor
Engineering Projects (India) Ltd. (EPI)	Excellent
HMT Ltd. (HMT)	Poor
Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. (BYNL)	Fair
Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. (BBUNL)	Very Good
Hindustan Cables Ltd. (HCL)	Very Good
Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. (HPC)	Excellent

Taxes Pending against Five Star Hotels

5075. SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6078 dated August 31, 2001 regarding Income Tax raids on Hotels and state:

(a) whether the Government have not yet realized the taxes dues from a number of five star hotels including the NIKKO hotel in New Delhi;

(b) if so, whether the Government have scrutinized the previous years documents of these hotels in order to realise the tax dues from these Hotels; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

(c) Assessment of undisclosed income in case of NIKKO Hotel, New Delhi on basis of search conducted on 21.11.2000 is in progress. Same shall be completed within statutory time limit of two years after scrutinising the record. Tax shall be collected thereafter.

[Translation]

Trifurcation of UTI

5076. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADODA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to trifurcate the Unit Trust of India;

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

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Expert Committees have recommended amendments to the UTI Act and Government has initiated action in this regard.

[English]

Interest of Share Holders

5077. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of share holders in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the share holders;

(c) whether some suggestions have been received by the Government from public, MPs and organisations during the last one year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that according to a study conducted by SEBI, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research and published in June, 2000, it was estimated that 7% of all Indian households representing approximately 18 million individual investors owned equity shares.

(b) The steps taken to protect the interests of shareholders, inter-alia, are that: (i) SEBI has taken several measures to give impetus to the dematerialisation of securities and trading of securities in dematerialised form, (ii) With the introduction of rolling settlement for trades, operational efficiency has improved, (iii) SEBI has issued public notice to educate and caution the investors about risk associated with the investments in securities, (iv) Under the investors' grievances redressal mechanism established by SEBI, complaints received by SEBI from Investors against companies are acknowledged and a

reference number is sent to the complainant. These complaints are taken up with the concerned companies/taken on record for redressal. SEBI monitors redressal of grievances periodically, until resolved.

(c) and (d) Government has received suggestions and representations from MPs and organisations regarding protection of interests of share holders. These, inter-alia, include issues concerning SEBI Takeover Code and delisting norms. SEBI has initiated appropriate action.

SC/ST Living Below Poverty Line In Rajasthan

5078. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of SC/ST still living below poverty line and the reasons therefor;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to uplift the standard of such SC/ST families in States especially in Rajasthan;

(c) whether such families have been identified and issued identity cards/ration cards; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Details of SC/ST population living below poverty line in 1999-2000, as estimated by the Planning Commission, based on consumer expenditure is enclosed as Statement I.

(b) Under the strategy of Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) and Special Component Plan (SCP) evolved by Planning Commission for ensuring rapid economic development of Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, funds are earmarked out of the Plan Fund available with the States/UTs in proportion to the percentage of ST and SC population in the State/UTs respectively, including Rajasthan. In addition, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and Ministry of Tribal Affairs are implementing schemes, as given at Statement-II, for development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes respectively.

(c) and (d) The information is under collection and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Statement I*Percentage of SC/ST population below poverty line by States—1999-2000*

Sl.No.	States	Rural		Urban	
		Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes	Scheduled Castes	Scheduled Tribes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16.49	23.82	41.42	44.99
2.	Assam	44.00	38.73	19.99	2.70
3.	Bihar	59.81	59.68	51.91	39.47
4.	Gujarat	17.77	29.11	29.13	36.66
5.	Haryana	19.03	0.00	25.38	0
6.	Himachal Pradesh	13.15	5.73	6.74	0
7.	Karnataka	26.22	25.49	47.01	51.37
8.	Kerala	14.64	24.20	24.15	0
9.	Madhya Pradesh	41.29	56.26	54.24	52.59
10.	Maharashtra	33.27	43.56	39.88	42.98
11.	Orissa	51.83	73.93	70.59	59.59
12.	Punjab	12.39	17.99	11.30	12.95
13.	Rajasthan	19.62	25.27	41.82	20.71
14.	Tamil Nadu	32.59	43.20	44.94	5.22
15.	Uttar Pradesh	43.65	34.06	43.51	13.27
16.	West Bengal	35.10	50.02	28.15	31.88
	All India	36.25	45.86	38.47	34.75

N.B. (i) The poverty line for all population is used for SCs and STs.

(ii) All India poverty ratio is worked out from the NSS distribution of persons and (implicit) all India poverty line.

Statement II*List of Schemes Formulated/Implemented for the Development of SCs/STs***Schemes for SCs**

1. Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs.
2. Special Educational Development Programme for SCs.

3. Post Matric Scholarship.**4. PCR and Atrocities****5. Hostel for SC boys & Girls****6. National Scheduled Castes Finance Development Corporation****7. State Scheduled Castes Development Corporations**

8. National Safai Karamcharis Finance Development Corporation
9. Book Banks
10. Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers
11. Pre-Matric Scholarship
12. Coaching & Allied
13. Supporting Project to All India Nature of SCs (Research & Training)
14. Upgradation of Merit of SCs/STs students
15. Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Scheduled Castes/OBCs and Minority Concentrated districts.
16. National Overseas Scholarships.

Schemes for STs

1. Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan.
2. Grants under first proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
3. Vocational training in Tribal Areas.
4. Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce.
5. Development of Primitive Tribal Groups.
6. Post Matric Scholarship for ST students.
7. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs
8. Upgradation of Merit of ST students
9. Educational complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas
10. Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
11. Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes
12. Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub Plan Areas.
13. Grants to Tribal Research Institutes
14. Book Bank Scheme for ST students
15. Coaching and Allied Scheme for STs

16. Village Grain Bank Scheme
17. State Tribal Development Finance Corporation.
18. National Overseas Scholarship scheme for STs.

[Translation]

Decline in Country's Self-Sufficiency in Edible Oil

5079. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's self-sufficiency in edible oil sector has constantly been declining;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the level of self-sufficiency in edible oil sector during the year 2001-2002 as compared to its level in 1998-99; and

(d) the extent of increase likely to be made in the import of edible oil in the coming years in view of decline in self-sufficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The production of oilseeds and availability of edible oils from domestic sources has been less than the demand of edible oils necessitating import of edible oils. The production of oilseeds and the availability of edible oils from domestic sources has been fluctuating. The net availability of edible oils from domestic sources, its import in 1998-99 and 2001-02 and the percentage of domestic availability to the total consumption (self-sufficiency) is indicated below:

Year	Net availability of edible oils from domestic sources in lakh MT	Import in lakh MT	Self-sufficiency%
1998-99	69.61	26.22	72.22
2001-02*	63.01	35.00	64.29

*Estimated figures.

(d) As per EXIM policy import of edible oils except coconut oil is under Open General License (OGL). As such, the import of edible oils would depend upon the commercial judgement of the importers.

Welfare of Scheduled Castes

5080. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for the welfare of Scheduled Castes under the Ninth Five Year Plan, scheme-wise in each State;

(b) whether the Government propose to allocate more funds during the Tenth Five Year Plan for the welfare schemes of Scheduled Castes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Details of amounts released to various States during the Ninth Five Year Plan under the schemes implemented by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment are given in the Annual Reports of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) Planning Commission has allocated Rs. 5786.00 crores for the schemes for welfare of Scheduled Castes implemented by the Ministry during the Tenth Five Year Plan.

Task Force to Boost Tea Export

5081. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tea Board has constituted any task force to boost export of tea;

(b) if so, the number of such existing task forces; and

(c) the details of the division of work among them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Tea Board has set up 10 task forces comprising of representatives from the tea industry & Members of Tea Board to implement the medium term export strategy developed by M/s Accenture India (Pvt.) Ltd. The task forces constituted have been assigned the following activities:

1. Product Mix-Orthodox Conversion
2. Promotion & Marketing—Logo Development

3. Export Rating System, Infrastructure & Service levels

4. Export Market Diversification

5. Market Consolidation

6. Niche Segments, Darjeeling & Value Addition

7. Quality Improvement

8. Cost Reduction

9. Information Dissemination

10. Sourcing of Funds.

[English]

Power Generation Units in Sugar Mills

5082. SHRI B.K. PARTHASARATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide funds to sugar mills to set up its own captive power generation units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government has introduced a Bill in Parliament to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982. The proposed amendment will, inter alia, enable the Government to make loans to any sugar factory or any unit thereof for bagasse based cogeneration of power with a view to improving its viability.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme

5083. SHRI N.T. SHANMUGAM:
SHRI ANANT GUDHE:

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

(a) the category-wise/post-wise number of officials of his Ministry as well as the Undertakings in his Ministry, who have sought voluntary retirement during each of the last two years;

(b) the amount of compensation paid to these employees, PSUs-wise;

(c) whether any public sector undertaking has also been wound up as a result thereof;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such retirements have in any way affected smooth functioning of his Ministry and the undertakings;

(f) if so, to what extent;

(g) whether the Government have sought additional allocation of Rs. 200 crore from the Planning Commission to effect voluntary retirement scheme for public sector undertakings from next month; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR.

VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) and (h) The requirement of Rs. 200 crore, as per details at enclosed statement, projected to the Planning Commission for meeting the expenditure towards the Ex-gratia component of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) for the employees of Public Sector Enterprises (PSEs) under the Department of Heavy Industry (DHI) has not been provided in the plan-side of the Budget 2002-03. The requirement of individual PSEs for Ex-gratia component of VRS will be met out of the Non-Plan Budget of the Department by re-appropriation and/or by seeking additional fund by Supplementary Demands for Grants.

Statement

Requirement of Ex-Gratia Amount for VRS

S.No.	Name of PSEs	Rupees in crore
1.	Heavy Engineering Corporation Ltd. (HEC)	14.75
2.	Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd. (BPCL)	17.00
3.	Triveni Structurals Ltd. (TSL)	10.00
4.	Praga Tools Ltd. (PTL)	19.80
5.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI)	46.00
6.	Hindustan Photo Films Ltd. (HPF)	13.30
7.	Hindustan Salts Ltd. (HSL)	1.25
8.	Burn Standard Co. Ltd. (BSCL)	52.00
9.	Nepa Ltd. (NEPA)	3.60
10.	Nagaland Pulp & Paper Co. Ltd. (NPPC)	3.88
11.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. (TCIL)	4.74
12.	Andrew Yule & Co. Ltd. (AYCL)	8.20
Total		194.52*

(*Rounded off to Rs. 200 crore)

Border Trade in North East

5084. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken to encourage border trade between North Eastern States and adjoining countries;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to monitor the border trade; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Central Government has been taking specific steps to promote trade and commerce in North Eastern Region and adjoining countries. Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, 21 projects relating to the development of trade related infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks in exports have been approved in the North Eastern Region and Rs. 41.69 crores has been sanctioned for the purpose upto 31.03.2002. As per the PM's action plan for the development of North Eastern Region, four border townships at Zokhawthar (Mizoram), Moreh (Manipur), Dawki (Meghalaya) and Sutarkhandi (Assam) have been identified for development of trade related infrastructure. Under the Export Development Fund Scheme for North Eastern Region, 14 projects have been sanctioned with a total sum of Rs. 6.61 crore for assisting trade promotion activities in the North East.

(c) and (d) The border trade and inter country trade issues in North East are being closely monitored through the Empowered Committee on North East as well through regular review of the progress in this respect.

Maximum Retail Price of Packed Items

5085. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware that the maximum retail price mentioned on the packed edible items are generally very high as compared to the actual cost of production;

(b) if so, whether the Government have taken remedial steps in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require the declaration of the retail sale price on package intended for retail sale in the form "Maximum Retail Price... Inclusive of all taxes". Government does not have information on the cost of production of various commodities contained in such packages.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Reduction in Prices of PDS Commodities

5086. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States have demanded or supply of wheat at the export price for Pav and Bread manufacturers to produce quality Pav and Bread;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal was received from the Federation of Maharashtra Bakers Association for release of 1 lakh M.T. of wheat per month for the next two years through the State Government of Maharashtra at the export price of Rs. 415 per qtl. for producing Pav and other bakery products at cheaper rates. The proposal, was examined but was not agreed to as there was no scheme for providing wheat exclusively to the Bakers of the Maharashtra State at subsidized rate for conversion into bakery products. Like other bulk purchasers of wheat, the bakers of Maharashtra are also free to purchase the desired quantity of wheat under the existing Open market Sale Scheme (Domestic) of wheat at the rates in force from time to time. From February 2002, the issue price of open sale wheat is being fixed by the FCI State-wise and for the month of April, 2002, the issue prices of Sound wheat/Lustre lost wheat (2001-2002) as fixed for all the States/U.Ts, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**State-wise Open Sale Rates of Wheat for the Month of April, 2002**

			Rate per qtl. (in Rs.)
Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	Lustre lost wheat 2001-02	Sound wheat
1	2	3	4
North Zone			
1.	Delhi	Not for sale locally*	655
2.	Chandigarh	Not for sale locally*	655
3.	Punjab	Not for sale locally*	655
4.	Haryana	Not for sale locally*	655
5.	Uttar Pradesh	Not for sale locally*	665
6.	Uttaranchal	Not for sale locally*	665
7.	Rajasthan	Not for sale locally*	665
8.	Himachal Pradesh	620	660
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	630	670
South Zone			
10.	Tamilnadu	685	725
11.	Pondicherry	685	725
12.	Kerala	685	725
13.	Andhra Pradesh	680	720
14.	A&N Islands	690	730
15.	Lakshadweep	690	730
16.	Karnataka	680	720
East Zone			
17.	Bihar	640	680
18.	West Bengal	660	700
19.	Sikkim	665	705
20.	Orissa	665	705
21.	Jharkhand	650	690
North East Zone			
22.	Assam & Other NE States	675	715
West Zone			
23.	Maharashtra	655	695

1	2	3	4
24.	Goa	660	700
25.	Madhya Pradesh	Not for sale locally*	670
26.	Chhattisgarh	650	690
27.	Gujarat	650	690
28.	Daman & Diu	650	690
29.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	650	690

*However, despatch of luster lost wheat to non-procuring regions will continue as per the existing instructions.

Reduction in Losses of Public Sector Undertakings

5087. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Ministry targets 91% cut in loses of PSEs" appearing in 'The Pioneer' dated April 4, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action plan chalked out by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The details for 49 PSEs under the administrative control of this ministry are annexed in the statement.

(c) steps to improve the performance include financial restructuring wherever appropriate, strengthening of marketing and finance activities, providing assistance in securing orders, measures for cost reduction including manpower rationalization etc.

Statement

Profit (+) Loss (-) (Before Tax) of Public Sector Enterprises under the Department of Heavy Industry

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of PSE	2000-2001 (Actual)	2001-2002 (Anticipated)	2002-2003 (Target Tentative)
1	2	3	4	5
(A) Profit Making PSES***				
1.	Hooghly Ptg.	0.05	0.48	0.52
2.	BHEL	294.00	667.00	739.00
3.	Braithwate	1.74	-15.54	-7.85
4.	BBJ	0.60	0.11	0.20
5.	TSP	0.07	-1.50	0.20
6.	BHPV	0.94	1.00	1.00

1	2	3	4	5
7.	HPC	32.80	44.65	48.32
8.	B&R	3.39	5.00	5.40
9.	EPI	17.76	9.75	10.60
10.	HMT (Hldg. Co.)	24.41	1.17	29.25
11.	HMT (B)	2.21	1.04	2.59
12.	HMT (I)	0.38	1.04	1.19
13.	REIL	0.43	0.80	1.05
14.	SIL	5.10	4.31	4.47
15.	HNL	30.35	22.53	14.74
Sub-total for (A)		414.23	741.84	850.68

(B) Loss Making PSES

16.	AY&CO	-26.78	-21.67	-2.53
17.	BBVL	-9.29	-7.13	*
18.	BPCL	-5.59	0.50	1.00
19.	BSCL	-45.22	-35.52	-14.51
20.	JESSOP	-48.77	-34.05	-19.90
21.	BWEL	-4.69	-4.63	0.67
22.	RBL	-2.68	*	*
23.	BPME**	-43.88	*	*
24.	WIL**	-10.26	*	*
25.	R&C	-8.15	-4.80	-4.50
26.	TSL	-45.92	-15.00	-6.50
27.	CCIL**	-46.48	*	*
28.	HCL	-71.41	-199.89	-132.62

1	2	3	4	5
29.	HEC	-189.26	-88.77	-66.12
30.	HMT (MT)	-96.17	-49.61	8.50
31.	HMT (Watch)	-59.18	-29.78	38.99
32.	HMT (Chinar)	-7.95	-6.45	-4.42
33.	PTL	-34.49	-19.11	-13.92
34.	ILK	-34.52	-24.74	7.50
35.	MAMC**	-197.97	*	*
36.	NBCIL**	*	*	*
37.	NIL	-4.48	-3.57	0.89
38.	BOGL	-24.88	-29.35	-32.10
39.	CCI	-230.76	-209.08	-182.39
40.	NPPC	-15.26	*	*
41.	HPF	-328.16	-346.08	-380.55
42.	HSL	-2.19	-1.66	-1.00
43.	SSL	-3.27	-0.80	0
44.	NEPA	-2.26	-15.39	-18.06
45.	RIC**	*	*	*
46.	TAFCO**	*	*	*
47.	TCIL	-66.43	-65.68	-61.91
48.	BLC	-2.42	*	*
49.	NIDC	-6.83	-11.14	-9.56
Sub-total (B)		-1675.6	-1223.40	-893.04
Grand Total (A&B)		1261.37	-481.56	-42.36

*Not in production/operation for the full year.

**Establishments of the company have been closed.

***Based on 2000-2001 classifications.

*[Translation]***Insurance of Poor People**

5088. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor people are given insurance cover only in case of fire breaking out at their residences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme to provide insurance cover to the poor people for their homes destroyed by natural calamities like flood, earthquakes and cyclones;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Insurance covers are available not only for fire but also for various other natural calamities, such as, earthquake, cyclone, flood, hurricane, landslide, etc. with the four public sector general insurance companies viz. (i) National Insurance Co. Ltd., (ii) New India Assurance Co. Ltd., (iii) Oriental Insurance Co. Ltd., and (iv) United India Insurance Co. Ltd. These covers can be purchased from these companies by paying the requisite premium.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

*[English]***Special Package for Karnataka**

5089. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments including Karnataka have forwarded some proposals seeking for special package for textile industry;

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

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Proposals are generally received from State Governments for release of financial assistance under various centrally sponsored or central sector schemes included in the Annual Plans of the different sectors of the Ministry. These proposals are appraised, discussed with the State

Governments for modification where necessary, to conform to the guidelines for implementation of the schemes, and given necessary sanctions and release of funds.

Some State Governments have from time to time proposed schemes or sent proposals, either directly or through the Planning Commission, that are not included in the Annual Plans of the Ministry. In such cases, technical appraisal scrutiny and comments are provided; if possible, sources of funds are suggested that the State may approach; and the needs of the sector as expressed in these proposals by the States are noted in order to include them in future plan schemes and programmes of the Ministry.

State Government of Karnataka like other State Governments has forwarded proposals under different centrally sponsored schemes. An Integrated Sericulture development Project called 'Rashme Sampathu' was also forwarded with the request to pass on this project for financial assistance to an interest funding agency. This project was discussed with the State Government, recast appropriately and duly forwarded for consideration for external funding.

*[Translation]***List of Item under Quantitative Restrictions**

5090. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the items in the list of quantitative restrictions Restricted List and Canalised list, separately at present;

(b) the details of changes effected in the above said lists during 2001-2002; and

(c) the economic structure of the country when there would not be any item under Quantitative restrictions lists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The names of the items presently in the restricted list are available in the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items. Copies of the ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import items are available in the Parliament Library. The names of the items presently under the State Trading regime are also available therein.

(b) Quantitative restrictions on imports being maintained on account of balance of payment reasons

were removed by 31.3.2001. Import restrictions on 715 such tariff lines were removed on: 31.3.2001. The list of these 715 tariff lines as well as the 714 tariff lines (at 8 digit level) on which such restrictions were removed on 31.3.2000 is available in the Parliament Library.

(c) Import restrictions are being removed as part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. The removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports of the country. The import growth rate during the year 2000-2001 was only 7.27% in rupee terms and 0.27% in US dollar terms. The growth rate of imports during the first nine months of financial year 2001-2002 was only 0.31% in Dollar terms and 4.55% in Rs. terms, compared to the same period for the previous year. The import data for 714 items, QRs on which were removed on 31.3.2000, for the year 2000-2001, indicates a growth in import of these items by less than 6%. Similarly, the import of 300 sensitive items, which is being monitored by a Standing Group of Secretaries, has also not indicated any surge in imports in the first nine months of financial year 2001-2002. The overall picture that emerges is thus one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors.

National Court for Direct Taxes

5091. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to set up a national court for Direct Taxes for speedy disposal of cases relating to direct taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) if not, the other steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir. The Government have not decided to set up a national court for Direct taxes.

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

(d) Several measures have been taken by the Government for speedy disposal of cases. These are as under:

(i) Advisory time limits have been prescribed for disposal of appeals by the Commissioner

(Appeals) and the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal.

(ii) Provisions have been enacted for reducing the quantum of litigation. Fees have been prescribed for filing appeals before the Commissioner and enhancement of the appeal fee in case of appeals before the Tribunal has been effected in order to discourage frivolous appeals.

(iii) Provision has been made for filing appeals directly to the High Court without waiting for the Appellate Tribunal to refer the matter to the Court.

(iv) The scope of the Authority for Advance Rulings has been widened to include decision or question of law or fact arising out of an order of assessment in the case of specified residents, and determination of issues arising out of transactions undertaken or proposed to be undertaken by residents with non-residents.

(v) Provision has been made that stay granted by Appellate Tribunal shall stand vacated if such appeal is not decided by the Tribunal within six months of the stay order.

Labour Incentive Items in Industrial Policy

5092. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether labour incentive items are not being paid attention in the present industrial policy due to which employment opportunities in industries have reduced;

(b) if so, the measures adopted in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) The Statement on Industrial Policy was laid before both the Houses of Parliament on 24.7.1991. The major objectives of the policy are to maintain sustained growth in productivity and gainful employment and attain international competitiveness. The policy aims to fully protect the interests of labour, enhance their welfare and equip them in all respects to deal with the inevitability of technological change.

[English]

**Anti-Dumping Investigations by
China against India**

5093. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether China has initiated anti-dumping investigation against Indian exports of phthalic anhydride;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

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

(b) On the basis of applications made by companies representing Chinese Phthalic anhydride industry, China has initiated anti-dumping investigations on 7.3.2002 against imports of phthalic anhydride from India, Japan and Korea. The applicants have claimed that import of the product from these countries have damaged the Chinese producers.

(c) The Indian companies exporting phthalic anhydride to China are required to respond to the Notice issued by China initiating the Anti-Dumping investigation.

[Translation]

Piling up of Handloom Items

5094. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that handloom and Khadi items have been piling up with the weavers in various States;

(b) whether this situation has arisen because of non-procurement of handloom items by different Government departments;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to take any concrete action in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) The government has information that large stock of Khadi cloth has been piling up with the Khadi Institutions. However, the stock position which was of the value of Rs. 778 crore as on 1.4.2000 had come down to Rs. 658 crore as on 1.4.2001.

In so far as handloom items are concerned, the Government of Tamil Nadu has reported that Silk Weavers' Cooperative Societies of Kancheepuram Circle are having a stock of one to two years old, worth Rs. 33.98 crore. Apart from that there has not been any report on piling up of handloom items.

(b) No, Sir. The Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries does not procure any Khadi directly. However, the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) does procure Khadi cloth. The situation has arisen mainly on account of poor demand and poor design of Khadi products. In fact, Khadi production has shown a steady decline from 98 million sq. metres in 1998-99 to only 69 million sq. metres in 2000-01.

In respect of Handloom items also, it may be stated that the production and sale of such items are not dependent upon the requirement of such items in Government Departments. It may, however, be stated that the Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) has executed orders worth Rs. 2041.00 lakh, Rs. 2217.24 lakh and Rs. 2506.62 lakh for supply of handloom items to various Government Ministries/Departments during the years 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 respectively.

(c) and (d) In order to strengthen the Khadi and Village Industries sector so as to make it viable, vibrant and sustainable, the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries announced a Khadi package on 14.5.2001. For the Khadi sector, the package, inter-alia, has provision for insurance for Khadi artisans, long-term rebate policy, option between rebate and Market Development Assistance, Brand promotion for Khadi products etc.

In so far as handloom items are concerned, the Government provides marketing support in the form of Marketing Incentive under the Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana implemented w.e.f. 1.4.2000. In addition, in order to provide marketing opportunities to the handloom organisations, the Government provides assistance for organising National Handloom Expos, Special Handloom Expos, District Level events i.e. Fairs and Melas etc. During the year 2001-02, 18 National/Special Handloom Expos and 101 District level events

were held and an amount of Rs. 682.45 lakh has been released to various States/agencies during the year 2001-02.

[English]

Achievements of Exim Policy 1997-02

5095. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the EXIM Policy, 1997-2002 has achieved its objectives;

(b) whether the Government have made full term appraisal of EXIM policy, 1997-2002;

(c) if so, the shortcomings noticed therein; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to overcome these shortcomings during the Tenth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) The Exim Policy 1997-2002 (incorporating amendments made upto 31.3.2001) managed to fulfill the goals of enhancing technological strength and efficiency of Indian agriculture, industry and services; stimulating sustained economic growth; accelerating the country's transition to a globally vibrant economy and providing consumers with quality products at reasonable prices. Based on the changing dynamics of external trade and the feedback received from various quarters, the new Exim Policy 2002-07 seeks to promote exports by initiating certain measures such as recognising towns of export excellence; removal of all export restrictions barring a few sensitive items; transforming specified rural regions as regional rural motors through the concept of the Agricultural Export Zones; permitting facilities such as overseas banking units, hedging of commodity risks and external commercial borrowings in the Special Economic Zones; introduction of transparent and simple procedures for the export promotion schemes and special dispensation to status holders.

Fraud in Export

5096. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the customs department in Delhi has recently detected an export fraud in which a private firm exported and over-valued garments consignments to obtain higher export incentives;

(b) if so, the modus operandi of the racket and the loss inflicted by fake firms upon the Government due to duty drawback;

(c) whether any arrests have been made in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check such frauds in future?

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

Import of Gold

5097. SHRI GUNIPATI RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of gold imported during each of the last three years alongwith its value in terms of rupee;

(b) whether the gold imports have come to a halt recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The quantum of gold imported into India during the last three financial years and its approximate value are furnished below:

Period	Quantity (MTs)	Value (Rs. Crore)
1999-2000	558.91	24542.35
2000-2001	583.72	26070.75
2001-2002*	469.70	21481.87

*Figures are provisional.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Swadeshi Melas

5098. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the Swadeshi Melas organized in the country till December 31, 2001 and the contribution of his Ministry in these melas;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to extend their cooperation in organizing more swadeshi melas in future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to restructure the Apparel Export Promotion Council; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) Ministry of Textiles neither organizes nor maintains any information on the number of Swadeshi Melas organised in the country. However, some of the organizations under it, as part of their developmental and promotional activities, do participate in or provide financial assistance to organizations or agencies for participation in exhibitions and fairs including Swadeshi Melas on the basis of their assessment of likely exposure, participation of beneficiary and sales. As per information available, the following organizations have participated and spent the amounts indicated against them in the various Swadeshi Melas organized during January-December 2001:

Name of organization/office	Name of the event	Amount spent
Weavers Service Centre, Delhi Under the Development Commissioner (Handlooms)	Swadeshi Vanvasi Mela organized by the Centre for Bhartiya Marketing Development in New Delhi.	Rs. 40,500
Central Wool Development Board, Jodhpur.	Swadeshi Mela at Jodhpur,	Rs. 207,500
Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), New Delhi	(i) Swadeshi Mela at Gorakhpur	Rs. 67,500
	(ii) Swadeshi mela at Indore	Rs. 405,000
	(iii) Swadeshi Mela at Cochin	Rs. 202,500
	(iv) Swadeshi Mela at Jodhpur	Rs. 10,50,000

(d) and (e) An Export Group was constituted to study the functioning of the Export Promotion Councils which has recommended parameters for membership and election of the Council Chairman, cap on overall tenure of Executive Committee Members; delegation of financial powers; staff control and supervision, etc. The report of the Expert Group has been sent to all textile Export Promotion Councils including apparel Export Promotion Council to incorporate and adopt the suggested changes.

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty

5099. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:
SHRI NAMDEO HARBAJI DIWATHE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Mauritius route companies who took the benefit of avoiding double taxation, which are originated from India, as on 31st March, 2002;

(b) the date of sanctioning the double taxation between India and Mauritius;

(c) whether the number of cases of fraud and cheating, manipulation of these companies, changing name or using fake name, have been referred to CBI; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

(e) whether the Government of Mauritius have proposed steps to avoid multi-national companies taking advantage of the loop-holes in the Treaty; and

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

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

Rehabilitation of Beggars, Hawkers and Street Children

5100. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to implement some central schemes for the rehabilitation of beggars, howkers and street children begging in various forms in the Metropolitan cities and particularly in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to implement such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment deals with issues of children upto the age of eighteen years. It implements "An Integrated Programme for Street Children" which aims at prevention of destitution and its consequences amongst children without homes and family ties. The programme has provisions of shelter, nutrition, health care, sanitation and hygiene, safe drinking water, education and recreational facilities and protection against abuse and exploitation to destitute and neglected children.

Under this programme, a total amount of Rs. 8.06 crores have been released to various non-governmental organizations during 2001-02.

[Translation]

Ban on Import of Marble

5101. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a ban on import of marble in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantum of marble in tonnes for which approval of import was given during the last three years and the basis on which this approval was given;

(d) the number of firms which have applied for licences to import marble and when these licencees were sought; and

(e) the Government's decision thereto?

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

(b) Question does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) to (e) With effect from 1.4.2001, imports of crude or roughly trimmed Marble falling under EXIM Code No. 25151100, 25151200 & 25152002 indicated in ITC (HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, April 1997-2002 (as amended upto 31.3.2001) have been placed under Restricted List i.e. import can be allowed only against a licence to be issued by DGFT. A policy circular No. 29 dated 14.3.2002 framing the guidelines in this regard has been issued. With effect from 1.4.1999 to 31.3.2001, these items were under SIL list and could be imported against surrender of SIL to the Customs Authorities and no specific licence was needed from DGFT. However, these were allowed with a value cap of US\$ 300 per MT and above for Rough Marble Blocks and US\$ 450 and above for Slabs. Other items i.e. finished marble etc., covered under Chapter 68 of ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items are freely importable under the current EXIM Policy.

During the period from 1.4.2001 to 31.3.2002, only 3 licences for a total quantity of 15,807.40 MTs for places of worship and Five Star Hotels have been issued. In addition to this 41 applications from traders/manufacturers and 3 applications from places of worship/5- Star Hotels have been received after 1.4.2001 which are being processed in accordance with the policy circular No. 29 dated March 14, 2002.

[English]

IDBI Assistance to Projects

5102. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) under various projects launched by it during last three years;

(b) the details of these projects;

(c) the criteria adopted for sanctioning funds to these projects; and

(d) the industry-wise and year-wise fund sanctioned for these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (d) IDBI does not launch any industrial projects. However, it

provides credit and other facilities to medium and large scale enterprises for setting-up new as well as for expansion, diversification and modernisation of existing units. The year-wise sanctions during the last 3 year i.e. 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are as under:

(Rs. Crore)		
Year	No. of units	Amount sanctioned
1999-2000	917	25034
2000-01	830	25445
2001-02	512	15091

IDBI extends financial assistance to all viable units of industrial concerns in conformity with the provisions of IDBI Act. The project is appraised for its viability in the parameters of promoters background, managerial competence, technical feasibility, financial soundness, commercial prospects, international competitiveness and economic justification. The other parameters used for evaluation of projects are the internal rate of return, debt service coverage ratio, economic rate of return etc. In financing industries off polluting nature, facilities necessary for treatment and disposal of effluents are ensured. The financial assistance sanctioned under direct financing schemes industry-wise during the last 3 years is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Assistance sanctioned under Direct Finance Schemes during the last three years ended March 31, 2002

(Rs. Crore)							
Sl.No.	Industry	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002*	
		No.	Asst. Sancd.	No.	Asst. Sancd.	No.	Asst. Sancd.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Food manufacturing:	62	490.31	44	346.37	26	232.93
	(a) Sugar	9	86.02	10	116.89	3	45.94
	(b) Others	53	404.29	34	229.48	23	186.99
2.	Textiles	172	2137.48	119	1150.99	60	512.40
3.	Jute	3	19.80	1	2.50	2	11.00
4.	Paper & Paper Products	21	275.48	12	214.39	5	82.00
5.	Rubber & Rubber Products	8	170.25	9	111.25	3	64.03
6.	Chemicals & Chem. Products	135	2381.91	118	2517.76	79	1344.89
	(a) Petrochemicals	11	1081.50	13	1185.17	16	503.12
	(b) Drugs & Pharmaceuticals	40	452.38	33	481.48	27	389.37
	(c) Basic Industrial Chemicals	14	235.25	17	272.35	1	2.50
	(d) Plastic & Plastic Goods	8	47.23	10	97.00	5	68.09
	(e) Other Chemicals	62	565.55	45	481.76	30	381.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Refineries and Oil Exploration	10	1945.25	4	1041.99	2	390.00
8.	Artificial Fibres	32	633.51	29	356.91	17	238.40
9.	Fertilisers	13	515.29	11	802.07	5	137.24
10.	Cement	18	460.21	11	430.05	13	695.36
11.	Basic Metals:	35	1114.16	32	1160.42	7	514.64
	(a) Iron & Steel	27	817.43	24	1070.69	4	499.90
	(b) Non-ferrous	8	296.73	8	89.73	3	14.74
12.	Metal Products	34	381.44	31	437.97	17	489.94
13.	Machinery	24	383.40	22	220.52	9	349.74
14.	Electrical & Elect. Products	56	840.08	37	1365.13	26	1706.07
15.	Transport Equipment	41	744.86	29	520.23	21	439.51
16.	Electricity Generation	39	6107.89	29	5017.98	9	1970.00
17.	Information Technology	19	274.55	6	72.95	3	33.97
18.	Services:	60	2317.09	84	2925.14	49	1323.23
	(a) Hotels	15	162.38	14	104.09	4	54.30
	(b) Hospitals	5	77.60	8	84.25	3	19.13
	(c) Road Transport	2	15.00	1	5.00	3	58.08
	(d) Telecom Services	15	1392.15	20	1695.63	7	737.00
	(e) Ports	4	466.00	3	473.00	1	9.00
	(f) Roads/Bridges	7	76.50	7	55.83	11	185.57
	(g) Industrial Estates	0	0.00	1	1000.00	0	0.00
	(h) Entertainment	1	10.00	5	49.20	11	92.63
	(i) Financial Services	47	2108.13	129	4448.69	111	3650.68
	(j) Others	12	127.46	31	507.34	20	260.15
19.	Mining & Quarrying	11	746.00	13	526.33	5	153.81
20.	Others	76	976.61	54	726.18	32	658.33
Total		917	25033.70	830	25445.02	512	15090.80

*Provisional.

Participation of Private Sector in Food Storage

5103. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

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

(a) whether the private sector agencies are interested in investing in food storage, handling and transportation and are demanding for 100% space utilisation guarantee;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the other demands made by the private agencies in this regard;

(c) whether any final decision has been taken by the Union Government on each of these demands; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. private sector agencies have expressed their interest in investing in bulk grain storage, handling and transportation facilities. No specific demands has been made by private agencies, however, National policy on handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains announced by the Government envisages various incentives including guaranteed capacity utilization for 20 years i.e. 100% capacity utilisation for first ten years and 75% utilisation for next ten years.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Export Promotion Councils

5104. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to abolish Export Promotion Councils;

(b) if so, whether it would be included in other organizations as well; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Export of Cashew

5105. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are encouraging cashew exports from India;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government have been able to gain new markets for Indian cashew exports;

(c) whether the cashew exports have shown as upturn in the financial year 2001-2002;

(d) if so, the details of cashew export for the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to ensure that Indian cashew will maintain its market share in the world cashew market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Government have been encouraging export of cashew kernel by implementing various schemes through Cashew Export Promotion Council which include modernization of cashew industry, obtaining ISO 9000/HACCP certification and acquiring latest flexible packaging systems by cashew export processing units. Financial assistance has also been provided to CEPC under the Market Access Initiative Scheme for market studies in Japan and USA which are major markets. The details of cashew kernel exports for the last 3 years are as given below:

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. crores)
1999-2000	92316	2456.60
2000-2001	81657	1878.5
2001-2002 (April-Jan.)(P)	60849	1176.00
2000-2001 (April-Jan.)(P)	73825	1722.54

(p) Provisional

Source: DGCI&S

Some of the new markets for Indian cashew kernel exports are Hungary, Iceland and Ethiopia.

Textile Policy

5106. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplated to prepare any employment oriented scheme for textile industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the employment generated through textile industry during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) National Textile Policy 2000 aims at developing a strong and vibrant industry which could contribute increasingly to the provision of sustainable employment and economic growth. Policies, programmes and schemes are prepared keeping this aim in mind.

(c) As per the estimates of the Working Group set up on Textiles and Jute Industry for formulation of the Tenth Plan, the employment generated through the textile and jute industry and allied sectors by the end of the Ninth Plan was 81.95 million persons.

Reward to Informer of Fake Currency

5107. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the desirability of introducing a reward scheme for informer of fake currency on the lines of such schemes run by Customs and Central Excise etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Handicapped

5108. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
DR. N. VENKATASWAMY:

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

(a) whether the number of handicapped persons has been increasing in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a monitoring body in every State to suggest modalities for monitoring the progress made in the economic rehabilitation of handicapped persons; and

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

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Trend in variation of the number of persons with disabilities will be known after the data regarding incidence of disability collected during the course of census 2001 becomes available.

(b) and (c) the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 provides for a mechanism in the persona of Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities in the States to coordinate with departments of State Governments for the programmes and schemes, to monitor the utilization of funds and to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities. All the State Governments have already appointed Commissioners for Persons with Disabilities.

Export of Engineering Goods

5109. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the engineering items exported each year during the last three years alongwith the value thereof;

(b) the estimate made for the export of engineering items during the year 2001-2002; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made to increase the export of engineering items in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The details of engineering items exported during last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The estimate made for the export of engineering items during the year 2001-2002 is US\$ 6000 million.

(c) To facilitate product up-gradation, the Government allows import of capital goods and machinery at

concessional rate of duty. Under the DEPB scheme, the Government has withdrawn the restriction of value cap of approved branded products made in India, which will help to increase export of engineering products. Exporters of engineering goods are also entitled to avail of benefits under various other schemes like Duty Exemption Scheme, Duty Drawback Scheme, exemption under

80 HHC of the Income Tax Act and Market Development Assistance. Further, various promotional activities are undertaken which, inter-alia, include sponsoring trade delegations abroad; holding buyer-seller meets in India and abroad; organising exclusive Indian Engineering Exhibitions and participation in specialised trade fairs etc.

Statement

Export of Engineering Goods during 1998-99 to 2000-01

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Group Wise Export	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Capital goods	5447.18	5225.98	7035.43
Prime Iron & Steel incl. Ferro Alloys	2516.18	3417.69	4485.31
Iron Steel products (Manufactured)	3302.51	4050.34	5866.39
Non-Ferrous Metals & Products thereof	1130.59	1548.92	2476.16
Consumer durables	3968.69	4660.79	6714.02

Source: Engineering Export Promotion Council.

[English]

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Taxes on Textile Goods

5110. SHRIMATI KUMUDINI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to permit additional taxes to be imposed by the State Government on textile goods over and above the additional excise duty now levied;

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

(c) if so, whether the Government are proposing to amend the Central Act for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the time by which such an amendment is likely to be presented in the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration in the Ministry.

ADB Loan by IDBI

5111. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) got a line of credit of \$100M from ADB (Asian Development Bank) recently;

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

(c) the name of the other financial institutions which have got such a facility from ADB?

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

(b) IDBI has taken the line on credit from ADB viz. PSIF-II for financing specified infrastructure projects in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The line has a drawal period of 5 years and a repayment

period of 20 years (including 5 years moratorium) commencing from the date of drawal.

(c) IDBI has reported that the Board of ADB at its meeting held in December, 2001 has also approved USD 100 million line of credit to IL&FS on the same terms and conditions. ICICI has also signed a loan agreement with ADB for USD 80 million on 18th December, 2001.

P.P. Prabhu Committee on Commodity Boards

5112. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on August 3, 2001 to Unstarred Question No. 1987 regarding Committee to Amalgamate Coffee, Rubber and spices Boards and state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the P.P. Prabhu Committee constituted to study the functioning of the commodity boards;

(b) if so, the details of recommendations which have been accepted by the Government especially in respect of Rubber Board; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken on the basis of said recommendations?

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

(b) and (c) Pursuant to the recommendations of the P.P. Prabhu Committee the Commodity Boards, including the Rubber Board, have rationalized and reformulated the Plan Schemes for implementation during the Xth Plan, research activities are being strengthened, staff is being rationalized and computerization of the activities of the Boards is underway.

Loss of Revenue due to Gujarat Violence

5113. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss of revenue which the Godhra carnage have caused to the Gujarat Government in the last two months;

(b) the details of sectors of economy and industries most affected by the riots/carnage in the State of Gujarat;

(c) whether any steps have been taken by the Union Government to improve the industrial, agriculture and other manufacturing services in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Recent violence in Gujarat has caused some impact on the industry, agriculture and other manufacturing services. However its overall impact is not expected to be very significant.

Retaining of Excess Money

5114. SHRI ARUN KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report 4 of 2000 (Civil) in paragraph 3.2 brought out the fact of retaining cash in current account much in excess of requirement than in fixed deposit resulted into loss of interest of Rs. 29.95 lakh;

(b) whether the Government tried to while away the audit observations but the audit did not accept the same;

(c) if so, the present status of the matter;

(d) the action taken in the matter including fixing the responsibility and accountability of the persons concerned for keeping money in current account for long without any utility than in the savings account/fixed deposit; and

(e) the measures taken or instructions issued in this behalf to check loss of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes Sir. However, the figure indicated against loss of interest should be read as Rs. 25.95 lakhs.

(b) to (e) The Government had examined in detail the audit observations and submitted the action taken report to the Principal Director of Audit for vetting on 13.9.2000 and the final ATN duly vetted by Audit, was submitted on 12.4.2001. The reply pointed out that the rule laid down by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) for bi-monthly remittances did not apply to Tea Board's overseas offices. Therefore, the assessment of excess cash balance by audit for the office of the Tea Board was not valid. Necessary instructions have been given to all the overseas offices of the Tea Board for investing surplus funds and reviewing cash balances from time to time as per their office and promotional requirements. Since no rule has been breached, no action has been taken against any individual.

C&AG Report on Purchase of Paper

5115. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG in its Report 2 of 1998 (Civil) in paragraph 5.1 on page 33 had brought out the extra expenditure of Rs. 3.22 crore in the purchase of paper asking for responsibility of the persons responsible to be fixed etc.;

(b) if so, whether the Government enquired into the matter of causing extra expenditure to crores of rupees and fixed the responsibility of the persons responsible for that;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken to recover the extra expenditure that had to be incurred by the State because of the indecisiveness in finalising the tender and laying down proper and unambiguous conditions in the tender; and

(e) the steps have been taken by the Government to direct all the Government offices to finalise the tenders within the given time?

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

(b) to (d) The extra expenditure incurred was on account of higher rates offered by the lowest tenderer (L-1) in response to a global tender for which no individual responsibility could be fixed. The decision to retender was a conscious decision of the Government keeping transparency and public interest in mind.

(e) Government has issued instructions to all the General Managers relating to the procurement proposals.

Lift Irrigation Projects

5116. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) have recently designed a State Frequency Converter for use in the Lift Irrigation Projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the design have proved to be useful in drought affected areas;

(d) if so, whether the Government would consider the technology in Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh which is prone to drought; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) BHEL has designed and manufactured a 4 KV, 7.5 MW Static Frequency Converter (SFC) for use in the Alimineti Madhava Reddy lift irrigation project at Srisailem Left Bank Canal at Puttamgandi, Nalagonda District of Andhra Pradesh (A.P.) The SFC is designed for sequentially starting four 18 MW, 11 KV synchronous motors. These motors drive the pumps that lift water from the Krishna River to a reservoir, from where a system of canals further distributes the water. The SFC system converts grid power supply to a variable voltage, variable frequency AC power supply to drive the motor during starting. The voltage and frequency are gradually raised till they match the grid. The Motor is then synchronized and the starting system is disconnected. It facilitates smooth starting of large capacity pump sets without any adverse impact on the electrical grid and also results in the longer life of the pump sets. The system had been installed and commissioned in September, 2001 and has been working satisfactorily.

(c) Yes Sir. The design has been proved to be useful in the Nalagonda District in Andhra Pradesh, which is a perennially drought affected area. This Static Frequency Converter was designed considering high temperatures prevalent in these areas.

(d) and (e) The Government would consider to extend the technology in Mehboobnagar district of Andhra Pradesh if and when such proposal is received from the State Government concerned.

Wasteful Expenditure

5117. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware that Ministry of Finance have taken steps to minimize wasteful expenditures in Government Departments and have already identified that there are certain sectors in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in various Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details of such sectors of his Ministry/ Departments under him, which have been identified by that Ministry for the purpose and quantum of wasteful expenditure identified therein during each of the last three years as on December 31, 2001; and

(c) the corrective steps taken so far by his Ministry to curtail/stop such wasteful expenditure, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises have received recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission and these are being implemented. 15 posts including 3 officers have been abolished in the Department of Public Enterprises and Internal Works Study Unit of Department of Heavy Industry has been wound up. This will save the Government approximately Rs. 25 lakh per annum.

Apart from the above this Department has been received various guidelines for Expenditure Management—Fiscal Prudence and Austerity from Ministry of Finance (Department of Expenditure) from time to time which have been followed for strict compliance. These guidelines pertain to economy in expenditure on telephones, stationery items, economy in use of staff cars, restriction on purchase of new staff cars, restriction of STD facility etc.

Assistance from UK

5118. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is the single largest recipient of UK aid;

(b) if so, the total aid provided by UK during 2000-2001;

(c) whether this aid is proposed to be increased during the next three years as stated by UK Foreign Commonwealth Minister during his recent visit to India; and

(d) if so, the States which are the recipient of this aid?

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

(b) During 2000-2001, the total Grant assistance received from the United Kingdom was 96.64 million.

(c) The New Delhi Declaration signed between our Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of UK on January 6, 2002 announced that the UK intends to triple its development assistance to India to approximately \$300 million (Rs. 2100 Crores approximately) a year by 2004.

(d) The priority States of UK Grant are West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh.

Revision in Ways and Means Advance

5119. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India revised the normal ways and means limit of State Governments;

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

(c) the guidelines issued by RBI to State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The total revised normal Ways and Means limit for all States is now Rs. 6,035 crores as against the earlier limit of Rs. 5,283 crores representing an increase of about 14 percent. The normal Ways and Means limit are revised w.e.f. 1st April every year taking into account the previous three years' average of revenue receipts and capital expenditure. To this base, a ratio of 2.4 percent is applied for the non-special category States and 2.9 percent for the special category States with a minimum of normal WMA limit of Rs. 50 crore for any State. As transactions in any State increases on a year to year basis, the Ways and Means limits have to be revised. Guidelines issued to the States incorporate the increased limits in Ways and Means assistance.

Splitting of NABARD

5120. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to split NABARD into four entities for better working;

(b) whether the reserve Bank of India has made such a recommendation;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the other measures taken/proposed to be taken for better management of NABARD ?

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

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) In order to provide more operational flexibility to NABARD and to take care of the changes that are taking place in the financial sector, amendments to the NABARD Act were carried out recently which included, inter alia, increasing the authorized capital of NABARD from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 5000 crore, changes in the composition of Board of Directors to include more representatives of the State Governments, enabling NABARD to grant loans to State Governments as well as direct loans for projects on selective basis etc.

[Translation]

Industrial Production Growth

5121. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI AMBAREESHA:

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

(a) the sector-wise industrial production targets fixed by the Government during each of the last three years;

(b) the actual industrial production rate achieved by each sector during the above period upto March 31, 2002, year-wise;

(c) whether industrial production rate for the year 2001-2002 has been further slashed in the months of January-March, 2002;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor in comparison to corresponding period of last year;

(e) whether the industrial production rate for 2001-2002 has thrown the aim of the Government of achieving the target of industrial growth rate during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(f) if so, the factors responsible for that and the sectors which have registered negative growth and upto what extent; and

(g) the specific steps proposed by the Government to achieve the fixed industrial growth target during Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The Planning Commission had set an annual target of 8.2 per cent for the industrial sector during the Ninth Plan period. Sector-wise targets are, however, not set by the Planning Commission. As against this target, following growth rates have been achieved in the industrial production during last three years:

Year	Growth rate (%)
1998-99	4.1
1999-00	6.7
2000-01	5.0
2001-02	2.6*

*April-February

(c) and (d) The growth rate in industrial production during January and February 2002 has been 3.9 per cent and 2.3 per cent, respectively, as against 4.5 per cent and 3.0 per cent, respectively, achieved during the corresponding months of the last year. Lack of aggregate demand has been identified as the primary reason for the slowdown in industrial production, besides other structural and cyclical factors and the global economic slowdown.

(e) and (f) The industrial growth during the Ninth plan period (1997-2002) has been less than the targeted annual growth rate of 8.2 per cent by the Planning Commission. The capital goods sector has registered a negative growth rate of 4.2 per cent during April-February 2001-02, as compared to 2.6 per cent growth achieved during April-February 2000-01. Cyclical factors have impacted industrial output by accentuating demand-supply imbalances, while structural factors have inhibited the growth of capacity creation/expansion in industry, and eroded competitiveness.

(g) The approach paper to the Tenth Plan mentions that the industrial sector will have to grow at over 10% to achieve the Tenth Plan target of 8% annual growth for GDP. To achieve this growth target, it lays emphasis on extending the process of industrial liberalization, which has been extensively implemented at the Central level, to State level also. It also lays emphasis on creating an industrial policy environment in which private sector

companies, including erstwhile public sector companies, can become efficient and competitive.

[English]

Sharp Decline in Demand for Consumer Durables

5122. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for consumer durables have gradually declined over the last six months;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the disposable income of the consumers thereby reviving the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) The production of consumer durables has shown a fluctuating trend in the last six months. Lack of aggregate demand is identified as the primary reason for slowdown in the industrial growth besides other structural and cyclical factors and global slowdown.

(c) The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate measures are taken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary. The various economic reform measures undertaken by the Government in the area of external sector, industry, agriculture, taxation, etc. are expected to have a favourable impact on the economy and on disposable income of the consumers.

US Complaints against India over Intellectual Property Rights

5123. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "US complaints against India over intellectual property rights" appearing in 'Pioneer' dated 4 April, 2002;

(b) if so, whether USTR has made certain remarks in its 2002 National Trade Estimate Report;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined the report;

(d) if so, whether the Government have agreed with the report; and

(e) if not, the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

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

(c) to (e) The National Trade Estimate report is an annual statutory exercise of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) under Section 181 of the United States Trade Act of 1974. It inventorises US perceptions of important foreign barriers affecting exports of goods and services, foreign direct investment and protection of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in different countries.

The exercise is inclusive of inputs/comments obtained from countries through diplomatic channels. These, inter-alia, indicate the status of issues. Appropriate inputs/comments regarding the status of India's implementation of IPR legislations were provided to the USTR through the Embassy of India, Washington on 4th March, 2002.

India has already enacted/amended the following IP-related legislations to, inter-alia, meet its international obligations:

- * The Geographical Indications (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999
- * The Trade Marks Act, 1999.
- * The Designs Act, 2000.
- * The Copyright Act, 1957 as amended upto December 1999.
- * The Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Layout-Designs Act, 2000.
- * The Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Right Act, 2001.

Further, in order to amend the Patents Act, 1970, a Bill, namely, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 is under consideration.

*[Translation]***Outstanding Income Tax against Banks**

5124. SHRI NAGMANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Income-tax outstanding against each nationalised bank, foreign bank and financial institution as on date;

(b) the date since when the said amount is outstanding;

(c) the reasons for accumulation of this outstanding amount; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the government as on date to recover the outstanding amount of income tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of outstanding income-tax over Rs. 1 crore against nationalised banks, foreign banks and financial institutions are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) The demands shown outstanding as per enclosed list consist of demand raised under different proceedings for different assessment years on different dates. As such, it is not possible to furnish specific dates since when demands are outstanding.

(c) The outstanding taxes have accumulated because of several reasons such as litigation in appeals, stay granted by appellate authorities, pendency in Settlement Commission and BIFR, demands not having fallen due, instalments and stay granted by departmental authorities, and demands pending verification of payments, etc.

(d) High priority is given to the work of collection/reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of case. Wherever the recovery proceedings are stayed by the courts, steps are initiated to get the stay vacated. Coercive measures are also taken in suitable cases for speedy recovery of demand. In bigger cases, the dossiers are maintained and the recovery position is reviewed regularly.

Statement

Sl.No.	Assessee	Amount (Rs.) (in Lac)
1	2	3
1.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd. (SISICOL)	382628
2.	IFCI Ltd.	61581
3.	I.D.B.I.	21091
4.	Fairgrowth Financial Services Ltd.	16615
5.	The Peerless General Finance & Inv. Col. Ltd.	11201
6.	Metropolitan Co-op. Bank Ltd.	9465
7.	J.V.G. Finance Ltd.	7375
8.	Wipro Finance Ltd.	5184
9.	The Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	4968
10.	Federal Bank Ltd.	4647

1	2	3
11.	Indian Railway Finance Corporation Ltd.	4644
12.	Lloyds Finance Ltd.	4576
13.	Indian Bank	4353
14.	Kiev Finance Ltd.	3936
15.	The Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	3610
16.	21st Century Finance Ltd.	3518
17.	Rusbahep Capital Finance Ltd.	3515
18.	CEAT Financial Services Ltd.	3386
19.	A.B.N. Amro Bank	3055
20.	Western India Financial Services Ltd.	2996
21.	State Bank of Saurashtra	2441
22.	Bhasin Leasing & Finance P. Ltd.	2323
23.	Aakar Leasing & Financial	2322
24.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	2291
25.	State Bank of Patiala	2257
26.	Gurgaon Grahmin Bank	2205
27.	State Bank of Travancore	2191
28.	ICICI Ltd.	2111
29.	Bank of America NT & SA	2107
30.	Spectrum Financial Services	2066
31.	H.B. Leasing & Finance Ltd.	1923
32.	Mangal Finance Ltd.	1821
33.	Tungabhadra Grameena Bank	1668

1	2	3
34.	Sardar Bhiladwala Pardi Peoples Co-op. Bank	1641
35.	D.S.J. Finance Ltd.	1563
36.	Tata Finance Ltd.	1530
37.	HUDCO Ltd.	1528
38.	The Surat Peoples Co-op. Bank Ltd.	1495
39.	Altek Finance Ltd.	1431
40.	Indian Overseas Bank Ltd.	1396
41.	The Thane District Central Co-op. Bank Ltd.	1299
42.	Andhra Bank (INTT. Tax)	1212
43.	Canbank Financial Services Ltd.	1066
44.	Kirloskar Investments & Finance Company	1032
45.	Synergy Financial Exchange Ltd.	1022
46.	Shriram City Union Finance Ltd.	1019
47.	Annamallai Finance Ltd.	1007
48.	Co-operative Bank of Ahmedabad Ltd.	1000
49.	Karan Finance Ltd.	978
50.	Casion Finance & Investment (I) Ltd.	977
51.	ITC Agrotech Finance & Investments Ltd.	977
52.	All Bank Finance Ltd.	974
53.	Elgi Finance Ltd.	956
54.	Shoppers investment & Finance Ltd.	932
55.	India Housing Finance & Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	909
56.	Bill Finance Corporation Ltd.	905
57.	Escorts Finance Ltd.	897

1	2	3
58.	Hellous Finance & Investment Ltd.	887
59.	Development Credit Bank Ltd.	875
60.	South West Finance Ltd.	860
61.	Renco Finance Ltd.	828
62.	Haritha Finance (P) Ltd (TVS Laxmi Credit Ltd.)	812
63.	Valsad Jilla Sahkari Bank Ltd.	805
64.	Tourism Finance Corpn. of India Ltd.	776
65.	Kinjal Finance Ltd.	735
66.	Global Finance Corpn. Ltd.	731
67.	Nath Capital & Financial Services Ltd.	718
68.	Madras Motor Finance & Guarantee Co. Ltd.	702
69.	The Kangra Central Co-op Bank Ltd.	684
70.	Muthoot Bankers	683
71.	MCC Finance	675
72.	Cholamandalam Investment & Finance Co. Ltd.	666
73.	Asia Pacific Financial Services Ltd.	658
74.	The Motor & General Finance Ltd.	654
75.	Williamson Financial Services Ltd.	617
76.	Pittie Finance Pvt. Ltd.	613
77.	The Surat Distt. Co. Op. Bank Ltd.	613
78.	Muthoot M. George Bankers	610
79.	The Anagram Finance Ltd.	607
80.	Bihar State Financial Corporation	593

1	2	3
81.	Development Co-op. Bank Ltd.	588
82.	Tender Leasing & Finance Ltd.	581
83.	Intec Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.	544
84.	Hundai Financial Service Ltd.	543
85.	Suraj Securities Finance Ltd.	535
86.	T.N.S.C. Bank Ltd.	516
87.	Bank of Karad Ltd.	503
88.	South Asian Financial Exchange Ltd.	502
89.	CIFCO Finance Ltd.	487
90.	Alta Leasing & Finance Ltd.	486
91.	Umakant Leasing and Finance Ltd.	475
92.	The Gujarat Industrial Co. Op. Bank Ltd.	465
93.	Haritha Finance Ltd.	458
94.	Twenty-First Century Finance Ltd.	454
95.	Muthoot Financer	447
96.	Rinki Finance Ltd.	444
97.	P.L. Finance & Invt. Ltd.	431
98.	Bhagiram Gramin Bank	430
99.	Adrika Finance & Investment P. Ltd.	429
100.	Bassein Catholic Co-op Bank Ltd.	416
101.	Somani Capital Investment & Finance Ltd.	410
102.	Bhagalpur Central Co-Operative Bank Ltd.	407
103.	Flying Investment & Finance P. Ltd.	400

1	2	3
104.	Sahara India Financial Corpn. Ltd. W.T.	399
105.	Madhusudan Leasing & Finance Ltd.	382
106.	Lily Leasing & Finance P. Ltd.	381
107.	Anagha Finance & Leasing P. Ltd.	373
108.	Sanmac Motor Finance Ltd.	370
109.	Cascard Finance Ltd.	368
110.	Hamlet Investment & Finance Ltd.	360
111.	Baccardi Investment & Finance P. Ltd.	359
112.	Tarjani Finance & Leasing P. Ltd.	357
113.	The Tiruchirrapalli Distt. Central Co-op. Bank	354
114.	Netwest Finance Ltd.	351
115.	Mafatlal Finance Co. Ltd.	339
116.	City Union Bank Ltd.	335
117.	Hoffland Leasing & Finance Ltd.	329
118.	Textile Traders Co-Op. Bank	328
119.	Upasana Finance Ltd.	324
120.	Leasing Finance India Ltd.	319
121.	Bhupati Finance Ltd.	318
122.	Worldlink Finance Ltd.	315
123.	ICIC Securities & Fin. Col. Ltd.	311
124.	Sheth Bhagwandas Brij. S.V. Peo. Co-op Bank	310
125.	Chitarani Finance & Investment P. Ltd.	306
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[English]

Licence to Import Marble and Dolomite

5125. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be
pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received
any proposal from Government of Rajasthan to reconsider
the decision about allowing import of marble and dolomite
as building material for personal use only;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided in-principle
to issue import licences for dolomite and marble only to
those persons who want to import for personal use only
and not for sale in open market; and

(d) if so, the time by which this specific provision
would be made effective so that "imported marble and

dolomite will not be sold in the open market" thus
restricting its commercial trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP
RUDY): (a) to (d) From 1.4.99 to 31.3.2001, import of
Rough Marble Blocks/Slabs was permissible on surrender
of SIL and no specific import licence was required from
DGFT. As the SIL scheme was abolished with effect
from 1.4.2001, import of these items was placed under
the restricted category i.e. import can be allowed only
against a licence to be issued by the DGFT and in this
connection it was decided to formulate suitable guidelines.
The draft guidelines were sent to Department of Industrial
Policy & Promotion (DIPP), Ministry of Mines and
Government of Rajasthan, Ministry of Mines & DIPP
conveyed their concurrence to the draft guidelines but
the Government of Rajasthan opposed issuance of any
licence for rough marble blocks/slabs. However, as it is
not possible to prohibit the issuance of licences in respect
of items which fall under restricted category, these

guidelines were issued vide Policy Circular No. 29 dated 14.3.2002. It may further be stated that import of dolomite and finished marble is free and no licence from DGFT is required for this purpose.

TPA System for Premium Procurement

5126. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Confederation of General Insurance Officers' Associations has cautioned Public Sector Insurance Companies against blindly adopting the Broker Third Party Administrator (TPA) system for premium procurement and claims administrations;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the above associations have also urged the Government to promote bilateralism with formal recognition of the bargaining agent, associations of employees with the majority membership; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA), which is responsible for regulating, promoting and ensuring orderly growth of the insurance business, has issued IRDA (Third Party Administrators—Health Services) Regulations, 2001 on 17.9.2001 after seeking the views of stake-holders and the advice of the Insurance Advisory Committee constituted under the provision of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999. Third Party Administrators (TPA) will only administer medical claims and have no role in procuring business.

(c) and (d) General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India has informed that modalities has been worked out for introduction of check off system to ascertain the representative strength of different unions/associations in each of the four public sector general insurance companies.

[Translation]

Child Labour in Industries

5127. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some countries have imposed ban on the import of the products manufactured by those industries where child labour involved therein;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to deal with the ban so imposed and to promote the export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Section 307 of the US Tariff Act of 1930 prohibits importation of goods that are manufactured using convict, forced or indentured labour. Under the said provision, the US Customs had issued detention orders against import of beedis from a specific Indian exporter, namely, M/s Mangalore Ganesh Beedi Works on the basis of "reasonable suspicion" that forced child labour is being used by the Company in manufacturing beedis. The Company and the Government of India have taken up the matter with the appropriate US Government authorities.

[English]

Evasion of Excise Duty by Companies

5128. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Excise Investigation has sounded the Central Board of Excise and Customs of large scale evasion of excise duty by companies selling goods to globally funded projects/institutions like UN, UNICEF, ADB, UNDP, World Bank, FAO, ILO and WHO;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the action taken to plug such tax drains?

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

(b) The finding is that such projects were not eligible for duty exemption but no duty had been paid.

(c) Cases have been booked against the suppliers concerned and Central Excise formations have been alerted to prevent such duty evasion.

Grants to Strengthen Consumer Redressal Machinery

5129. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of grants provided to various states during Ninth Five Year Plan for augmentation of infrastructure and to strengthen consumer redressal machinery, year-wise; and

(b) the amount out of that, which has been actually utilized by various State Governments during this plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) An amount of Rs. 350.00 lakhs was released to the States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the year, 1997-98. Further, a grant of Rs. 367.50 lakhs was released to the States of Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal during the year, 1998-99.

(b) An amount of Rs. 641.63 lakhs was utilized by the above mentioned States during Ninth Five Year Plan out of the total grant of Rs. 717.50 lakhs released during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Trade Talks with Australia

5130. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has expressed its keenness to initiate senior trade official level talks with India aimed at enhancing bilateral co-operation before the new World Trade Organisation round gets underway;

(b) if so, whether the two countries have much in common on a range of issues;

(c) whether the plan to strengthen the Indo-Australia ties have been achieved;

(d) if so, upto what extent;

(e) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Government has not received any formal request from the Australian Government to initiate bilateral dialogue for enhancing mutual cooperation in the context of the Work Programme at the WTO. However, during the Senior Officials meeting held at Canberra in April 2001, the Australian side had, inter-alia, suggested for working together for talks on multilateral trade, WTO, trade issues etc. As regards the commonality of interests between the two countries, Australia as a member of the Chairns Group of Agriculture export countries is pushing forward the idea of agricultural trade liberalization through elimination of trade distorting export and domestic subsidies. On the issue of granting higher Geographical Indications (GIs) protection to products other than Wines and Spirits being supported by India, Australia has been showing strong reservations. Australia believes that such an extension would potentially deprive Australian agricultural producers of the opportunity to use generic terms such as Basmati rice or Kalamata olives etc. in all domestic major export markets.

(c) to (f) Indo-Australia bilateral trade relations are regularly being discussed during Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) meetings. Pursuant to the decision at the JMC meeting held in April 2000 a meeting of the Joint Working Group on Energy and Minerals was held in New Delhi in May 2001. As regards bilateral trade between the two countries, the trade during the period 2000-2001 is US\$ 1450 million comprising exports worth US\$ 405 million and imports US\$ 1045 million. The bilateral trade has historically been adverse to India. The present level of bilateral trade between India and Australia during April-November 2001 is of the order of US\$ 1142.80 Million registering a growth of 17% as compared to the corresponding figure of the previous year.

World Bank Assistance for VRS

5131. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have sought World Bank assistance for VRS schemes of the public sector employees;

(b) if so, the terms of such finance from the World Bank;

(c) whether the Government will negotiate a deal even for State Governments going for VRS of their excess employees;

(d) if so, the details of such talks with the World Bank; and

(e) the quantum of loans already taken from the World Bank for this purpose?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Five projects have provisions for VRS. Specific amount committed for VRS being only US \$ 23.30 million in two loans.

[Translation]

Residential Schools for SC/ST Students

5132. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for admission to Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe students in residential Schools in Bihar;

(b) the amount spent by the Government of Bihar in this regard during 2001-2002;

(c) whether superintendents of the hostels are appointed by the Government; and

(d) if so, the responsibilities entrusted to the said superintendents for maintenance and upkeep of the hostels?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs give grant-in-aid to voluntary organizations for running residential schools for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes respectively. The only criteria for admission to residential schools for which grant-in-aid is sanctioned by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is that the students should belong to scheduled caste/scheduled tribe.

(b) No amount is required to be spent by the Government of Bihar for residential schools for which grant-in-aid is sanctioned either by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment or the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Cotton Textiles and Manmade Fabrics

5133. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a slowdown in exports of cotton textiles and manmade fabric in recent years;

(b) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to boost the exports of these items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A declining trend is noticed in the textile exports including cotton textiles and manmade fabric since the beginning of year 2001, which is mainly due to general slowdown in the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US; increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh; and high production cost, low productivity due to lack of modernisation of textile industry.

(c) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to strengthen and promote textile exports including cotton textiles and manmade fabric. 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 announced the de-reserved of knitted segment in the Budget 2002-03.
- (ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of this sector so that it can become more competitive in international trade.
- (iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures.
- (iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms

and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

- (v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.
- (vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (vii) Government has launched Technology Mission for Cotton. One of the important ingredients of the Mission is to improve cotton processing facilities by upgrading/modernizing the existing ginning and pressing factories.
- (viii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

[*Translation*]

De-Reservation of Reserved Vacancies

5134. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite of DOP's OM No. 36012/6/88-Estt. (SCT) dated 25 April, 1989, effective from 1.4.1989, regarding disallowing de-reservation of reserved vacant posts for SC's, ST's and OBC's a large number of reserved vacancies/posts meant for SC's, ST's and OBC's are deserved and being filled up by candidates of other categories;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of reserved vacancies/posts meant for SC's, ST's and OBC's in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises and its undertakings, autonomous and statutory bodies and affiliated offices under their administrative control have been dereserved and filled up by candidates of other categories since last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) In the last three

years there has been no case of de-reservation of reserved posts meant for SCs, STs and OBCs in the Department of Heavy Industry, Department of Public Enterprises and in the operational PSUs under the administrative control of this Ministry.

[*English*]

Decline in Export of Marine Products of USA

5135. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the reply given on November 23, 2001 to Unstarred Question No. 1101 regarding Export of Marine Products to USA and state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in the overall export of marine products to USA during 2001-2002;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to increase the export of marine products to USA and other countries during the 2002-2003;

(d) if so, the projection made thereon; and

(e) the efforts being made to achieve the target?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Making projections on exports is a continuous exercise based on the prevailing and anticipated market condition. The present projections for export of marine products during 2002-03 are to the tune of US\$ 1250 million. With a view to realise the same, the Government have taken several steps, which include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; participation by Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) in international fairs, conducting overseas market surveys; etc.

Conversion of EOZs into SEZs

5136. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert all export oriented Zones into Special economic zones shortly;

(b) if so, the objectives and reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the exporters would be benefited after bringing them into one category;

(d) whether any expert Committee has recommended such a course of action; and

(e) if so, the details of the expert Committee and the benefits expected from this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no proposal at present to convert all the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) into Special Economic Zones (SEZs)

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) The High Level Committee for the Exim Policy, 2002-07 setup under the Chairmanship of Shri P.P. Prabhu, Ex-Commerce Secretary, had recommended conversion of the remaining EPZs into SEZs, for reducing multiplicity of Schemes.

Dispute between India and US over Textiles

5137. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have again lodged complaint with dispute body of World Trade Organisation against United States over denial of free access to its textile and apparel products export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to create world opinion against frequent changes in rules of origin for textile by United States;

(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) and (b) Yes Sir. On 11 January 2002 India requested formal consultations with the United States under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) regarding the changes in rules of origin for textiles and apparel products set out in the United States' Uruguay Round Agreements Act and the Trade and development Act of 2000. India has questioned the compatibility of the changes with the provisions of the Agreement on Rules of Origin according to which rules of origin shall not themselves create restrictive, distorting or disruptive effects on international trade, shall not be discriminatory, and shall be administered in a consistent, uniform, impartial and reasonable manner. Formal consultations have been held with the United States on 7 February 2002 and 26 March 2002.

(c) to (e) The issue of changes introduced by the United States has been raised at various bilateral and multilateral fora.

Export of Woollen Textile

5138. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exports of woollen textile has been showing declining trend during the year 2001-2002;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the woollen export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) During the year 2000-2001, the export of woollen items excluding carpets registered a growth of 69% over the year 1999-2000. During the first 9 months of the year 2001-2002, they have shown negative growth of 18% over the corresponding period last year, but compare favourably with figures of 1999-2000;

(Rs. Crore)

Item	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Apr.-Dec' 01)
Woollens (excluding carpets)	982.18	1665.84	1115.44

(c) The Government has taken various steps to boost the export of woollen textiles, which includes Technology Upgradation Fund scheme for modernization of the sector to boost its competitiveness in international trade, de-reservation of the garment sector, increase in limits of investment for small scale units in knitwear sector, the Integrated Apparel Parks scheme, the Textile Centres Infrastructure Development Schemes, development of new blends and products to meet greater overseas demands, creation of design bank by National Institute of Fashion Technology, rationalization of tariff structure on machinery and raw materials, etc.

Restrictions Imposed by Saudi Arabia on Indian Bovine Meat

5139. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are in contact with Saudi Arabia for removal of restrictions imposed on Indian bovine meat and marine product export by Saudi Arabia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Saudi Arabia Government has forwarded its views in this regard;

(d) if so, the response of the Saudi Arabia Government; and

(e) the further steps taken or being taken by Government to remove the restrictions imposed by Saudi Arabia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Government have consistently raised with the Saudi authorities, the matter pertaining to the removal of restrictions imposed by them on import of Indian bovine meat and marine products. The Government of Saudi Arabia have not formally conveyed its response so far. Government will continue to pursue the matter.

Utilisation of DEPB Scheme

5140. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of exporters presently utilising the "Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme" in the country;

(b) whether such exporters have to be registered with the scheme;

(c) whether there is a demand from industry and exporters organisations to extend this scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) There are nearly 65,000 exporters availing the Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme in the country. Apart from the requirement of an Importer Exporter Code (IEC) number, there is no registration required for the Scheme. Many Chambers of Commerce and exporters had demanded the continuation of the scheme. The Government has agreed to continue the scheme and have announced this in the Exim Policy, 2002-07.

Repayment of Foreign Loan

5141. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the country's external debt;

(b) whether the Government propose to repay a part of the external debt amounting the \$100 billion out of the foreign exchange reserve; and

(c) if so, the amount of external debt proposed to be repaid during the financial year 2002-2003 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) India's outstanding external debt was US \$ 100.38 billion at end of September 2001.

(b) and (c) Government of India have constituted an Ad-hoc Group comprising officials of Ministry of Finance and Reserve Bank of India to analyse the issues of prepayment of costly external debt and prepayment of selected expensive external debt is under consideration of the Government. However, prepayment proposals of some PSUs, in respect of their multilateral loans, have been cleared as per the guidelines outlined by the Ad-hoc Group.

Hospitals under Tax Net

5142. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey has revealed that more than 66% of non-banking Finance Companies and a large number of private hospitals and Nursing Homes have not been brought under tax net;

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

(c) whether there are more than 12,000 NBFCs yet to be assessed for taxable income;

(d) if so, whether short levy of tax on the above account exceeds Rs. 1,000 crores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The C&AG in their Report No. 12A of 2002 (for the year ended 31.3.2001) laid down in Parliament on 15th

March, 2002 have included the results of the Review on Private Banking Companies and Non Banking Financial Companies and Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes. As per this report, in the States of Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi & West Bengal 12,210 (or 66%) of the 18,435 NBFCs identified by Audit were not in the tax net. The state-wise break-up of Private Hospitals and Nursing homes is available in the C&AG's report (Statement).

(d) As per the report of the C&AG irregularities on account of failure to follow the statutory provisions resulted in total short levy of tax of Rs. 104177.18 lakh in 1587 cases.

(e) The Report of C&AG is being examined in the CBDT with a view to give para-wise reply to C&AG and to determine the correctness or otherwise of the aforesaid audit observations. Suitable action can be taken after verification of facts.

Statement

Status of Non-Filers

State	Actual number of private hospitals and nursing homes as ascertained from different sources	Actual number of private hospitals and nursing homes subject to assessment (as confirmed by the Department)	Number of private hospitals and nursing homes not subject to assessment	%age (4 to 2)
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	975	378	597	61
Assam & North-eastern States	132	36	96	72
Bihar & Jharkhand	320	50	270	84
Delhi	536	93	443	83
Gujarat	3746	783	2963	79
Haryana	1228	667	561	46
Karnataka & Goa	1861	1037	824	44
Kerala	1537	492	1045	68
Maharashtra	4564	575	3989	87

1	2	3	4	5
Madhya Pradesh	788	501	297	36
Orissa	299	84	215	72
Punjab	941	410	531	56
Rajasthan	530	290	240	45
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	1168	966	202	18
UT Chandigarh	48	26	22	46
Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	1202	486	716	60
West Bengal	1228	366	862	70
Total	21103	7240	13863	

Scheme to Boost Export

5143. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have introduced some incentive schemes to boost exports during the past years;

(b) if so, the details of those schemes and the allocation made under these schemes during last three years;

(c) the specific steps taken to implement those schemes; and

(d) the details of fresh schemes of the Government to boost the export during coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) Two specific Schemes ASIDE (Assistance to States for Infrastructural Development for Exports) and MAI (Export Enhancement and Export Studies—Market Access Initiative) have been introduced in the last two years to facilitate growth of exports. Under ASIDE assistance is provided to State Governments to create appropriate infrastructure for export growth. The allocation under this Scheme would be on the twin criteria of gross exports and the rate of growth of exports from different states. A provision of Rs. 330 crores has been proposed for this scheme in the budget for the year 2002-03.

MAI Scheme is designed to fund market promotion efforts abroad on a country-product-focus approach. This amount can be used for marketing studies, warehousing facilities, setting up of showrooms, participation in International Trade Fairs, Seminars etc. In the year 2001-2002 an allocation of Rs. 14.5 crores was made. In 2002-2003 this amount has been increased to Rs. 42 crores.

(d) The Government proposes to formulate a scheme for the promotion of towns of export excellence. These are industrial cluster towns which are exporting a substantial portion of their products which are world class. Some such examples are Tirupur for hosiery, Panipat for woollen blankets and Ludhiana for woollen knitwear. It is intended to grant the Export Promotion Capital Goods facility to the common service providers in these clusters. The recognised associations in these towns would be eligible for Market Access Initiative (MAI) funds as also priority assistance for funds from the ASIDE Scheme.

Guidelines to Hold Fairs by ITPO

5144. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether ITPO has to ensure that no two fairs are held on the same theme within a gap of 45 days;

(b) if so, whether ITPO is not implementing this guideline;

(c) whether foreign exhibitors shying away from use of Pragati Maidan because of violation of such guidelines;

(d) if so, the steps the ITPO proposed to take to improve its image and viability;

(e) whether ITPO is earning income from the vast investment; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Guidelines, time gap required between two exhibitions/fairs on the same theme and product profile has to be 45 days when held in the same city.

(b) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) is implementing these Guidelines. The organisers of the exhibitions are directed to ensure that only such products are displayed as are declared in their applications, and that there is no conflict in respect of theme and product profile.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The annual calendar of events is generally announced in the month of March on the basis of the exhibitions approved by ITPO for the next financial year thereby giving adequate time for the organisers to plan their events and make necessary arrangements. It is also the continuing endeavour of ITPO to bring about improvements in its infrastructure, interface with the event organizers and viability of its activities in India and abroad.

(e) and (f) The gross income derived by ITPO from various sources during 2000-01 is indicated below:

Activities in India	Rs. 80.66 Crores
Activities Abroad	Rs. 33.19 Crores
Interest/Dividend	Rs. 17.30 Crores

[Translation]

Production/Consumption of Cement

5145. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any State-wise data about the annual production and consumption of cement;

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

(c) whether there is a gap between demand and supply of cement in any State;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of those States where there is a gap; and

(e) the steps proposed by the Government to bridge the gap between demand and production of cement in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Statewise data about the annual production and consumption of cement during the last three years is enclosed as statement.

(c) and (d) In the States of Uttaranchal, Haryana, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi, Jammu & Kashmir, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Goa, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, demand is more than the supply of cement. Details are given in the statement.

(e) The cement industry has been delicensed since 1991 and hence the Government does not regulate the demand and supply of cement in various States. These are regulated by the cement industry on the basis of economic considerations. Cement being a bulky item, the States deficit in its production naturally receive supply of cement from neighbouring States producing in excess of their demand. Further, there is no restriction on the cement manufacturers to set up cement plants in any State.

Statement

Production/Consumption of Cement

(In lakh tonnes)

Sl. No.	Name of the States	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02		
		Cement Production	Cement Consum.	Surplus/Deficit	Cement Production	Cement Consum.	Surplus/Deficit	Cement Production	Cement Consum.	Surplus/Deficit
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Northern Region										
1.	Uttaranchal	-	-	-	-	3.03	-3.03	-	8.30	-8.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2.	Haryana	0	27.59	-27.59	0.00	28.48	-28.48	0	32.55	-32.55
3.	Punjab	14.74	42.92	-28.18	15.24	40.99	-25.75	19.03	48.86	-29.83
4.	Rajasthan	148.52	51.53	96.99	145.28	47.44	97.84	160.05	52.11	107.94
5.	Himachal Pradesh	34.10	9.41	24.69	33.75	10.60	23.15	38.98	12.51	26.47
6.	Chandigarh	-	2.97	-2.97	-	3.47	-3.47	-	3.17	-3.17
7.	Delhi	-	28.13	-28.13	-	26.69	-26.69	-	29.43	-29.43
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.96	6.31	-5.35	1.09	7.29	-6.2	1.36	7.87	-6.51
Northern Region-Total		198.32	168.86	29.46	195.36	167.99	27.37	219.42	194.80	24.62
Eastern Region										
9.	Assam	1.18	8.56	-7.38	1.34	9.38	-8.04	1.33	8.30	-6.97
10.	Meghalaya	1.15	3.71	-2.56	1.22	5.23	-4.01	1.06	4.50	-3.44
11.	Bihar	30.02	39.49	-9.47	6.20	34.45	-28.25	6.25	32.84	-26.59
12.	Jharkhand	-	-	0.00	25.08	7.14	17.94	30.09	14.00	16.09
13.	Orissa	20.80	20.57	0.23	24.17	26.33	-2.16	24.33	29.30	-4.97
14.	West Bengal	8.64	47.28	-38.64	8.33	47.58	-39.25	17.40	59.36	-41.96
15.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	0.00	86.05	6.44	79.61	86.26	14.68	71.58
Eastern Region-Total		61.79	119.61	-57.82	152.39	136.55	15.84	166.72	162.98	3.74
Southern Region										
16.	Andhra Pradesh	143.17	77.11	66.06	126.35	58.62	67.73	134.12	67.55	66.57
17.	Tamil Nadu	78.60	81.99	-3.39	82.41	81.94	0.47	93.08	83.19	9.89
18.	Karnataka	62.91	49.50	13.41	60.89	49.78	11.11	67.64	61.77	5.87
19.	Kerala	4.36	47.72	-43.36	4.37	46.66	-42.99	3.94	45.59	-41.65
20.	Pondicherry	-	0.78	-0.78	-	0.99	-0.99	-	1.78	-1.78
21.	Andaman & Nicobar	-	0.25	-0.25	-	0.82	-0.82	-	0.99	-0.99
22.	Goa, Daman & Diu	-	2.54	-2.54	-	2.93	-2.93	-	3.36	-3.36
Southern Region-Total		289.04	259.89	29.15	274.02	241.74	32.28	298.78	264.23	34.55

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Western Region										
23.	Gujarat	92.87	75.09	17.78	93.14	63.84	29.3	105.45	75.28	30.17
24.	Maharashtra	60.28	122.91	-62.63	65.03	131.26	-66.23	66.84	132.33	-65.49
Western Region-Total		153.15	198.00	-44.85	158.17	195.10	-36.93	172.29	207.61	-35.32
Central Region										
25.	Uttar Pradesh	15.10	118.35	-103.25	16.02	112.80	-96.78	18.27	120.00	-101.73
26.	Madhya Pradesh	224.67	55.77	168.90	140.10	48.63	91.47	148.53	40.06	108.07
Central Region-Total		239.77	174.12	65.65	156.12	161.43	-5.31	166.80	160.46	6.34
Grand Total		942.07	920.48	21.59	936.06	902.81	33.25	1024.01	990.08	33.93

Production of Sericulture

5146. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to boost sericulture and also expand the area under mulberry in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed economic package likely to be provided for the purpose;

(d) whether the some State Governments have submitted proposals for the purpose; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The strategy for Sericulture sector for the X Five year Plan drawn up by the Central Silk Board in consultation with the State Governments aims to substantially expand mulberry silk and non-mulberry silk production by assisting and supporting quality and productivity in on farm and post farm activities from an estimated 16400 tonnes of mulberry and 1580 tonnes of non mulberry silk in 2001-2002 (provisional) to a projected 24150 tones of mulberry and 2300 tonnes of non mulberry silk by 2006-2007. Measures include the adoption of bivoltine sericulture wherever feasible, improved technologies in rearing & reeling, improved seed supply systems, expansion of area

of plantation and diversification and development of products etc. Programmes for Research & Development, transfer to technology and provision of critical inputs to States through centrally sponsored schemes have been emphasized.

(d) and (e) As per the procedure adopted for centrally sponsored schemes, State Governments are sending proposals to the Central Silk Board for financial assistance. Proposals are put through the process of sanction and approval and are being supported by release of Central share as per procedure. Technical advice and consultancy is being given by Central Silk Board wherever necessary.

[English]

Export of Spices

5147. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) the quantity of various spices exported during 2001-02, item-wise;

(b) whether the exports of spices has been declined during 2001-02 as compared to the previous year;

(c) if so, the extent to which it has declined;

(d) the reasons for the decline; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of spices;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per the latest data available, the item-wise exports of major spices during the period April-February, 2002 is given below:

Items	Exports during April-February, 2002	
	Quantity (Tons)	Value (Rs. Crores)
Pepper	20,500	189.02
Cardamom (Small)	800	46.36
Cardamom (Large)	1,200	19.61
Chilli	64,000	222.24
Ginger	7,500	23.16
Turmeric	34,000	77.73
Coriander	10,100	34.35
Cumin	12,250	105.20
Celery	4,300	13.37
Fennel	3,500	13.78
Fenugreek	4,200	12.10
Other Seeds (1)	4,400	15.17
Garlic	1,000	2.92
Other Spices (2)	35,000	156.45
Curry Powder	5,600	38.48
Mint Oil	3,300	116.11
Spice Oleoresins & Other Oils	4,000	353.98
Total	215,650	1440.02

Source : Spices Board

(1) Include Aniseed, Ajwan Seed, Dill Seed, Poppy Seed, Mustard etc.

(2) Include Tamarind, Asfoetida, Cinnamon, Cassia, Kokam, Saffron etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

(e) It is constant endeavour of the Government to increase the export of spices. Apart from the general policy reforms, some of the steps taken to boost export of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market; implementation of brand promotion schemes like "Logo Promotion"; grant of "Spices House Certificate" as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products; setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality; technology transfer; process upgradation and product development.

World Bank Report on Economic Development

5148. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank has published its global development finance, 2002, report recently;

(b) if so, whether any reference has been there in regard to India for the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether countries like India and Pakistan whose economy is based on commodity export were really hit hard due to lowest prices in the international market of products like coffee, cotton, rice and soyabeans etc.; and

(e) if so, the strategy planned by the Government in view of the World Bank Report to boost its economic growth in 2002-03 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. World Bank has published its Global Development Finance, 2002, report, recently.

(b) and (c) In Global Development Finance, 2002 published by World Bank reference with respect to Indian economy has been *inter alia* made stating that current sluggishness of growth was mainly due to tepid domestic demand although external factors have played greater role than was typical in the past.

(d) There has been a secular decline in the international market of commodity prices.

Commodity prices of coffee, cotton and soyabean are as under:

Commodity	Unit	1990	2000	2001
Coffee, other milds	Cents per Kg	197.2	192.0	137.3
Coffee robusta	Cents per Kg	118.2	91.3	60.7
Soyabeans	Dollars per metric tonne	246.8	211.8	195.8
Cotton	Cents per kg.	181.9	130.2	105.8

Source: Global Development Finance, 2002

(e) In the Budget presented for 2002-03, a number of measures have been announced in the form of investment in infrastructure, continuing reforms in agriculture and food sector, strengthening financial sector and capital market, deepening structural reforms and regenerating industrial growth etc. to accelerate the economic growth of the country. Besides this, policy package announced in the EXIM Policy 2002-07 recently has also incorporated a number of measures to proactively promote exports which *inter alia* include permitting off shore Banking units in Special Economic Zones, transport subsidy for export of certain agricultural products, development of centers of export excellence, additional support for electronic hardware exports and further education in transaction cost. Further Medium Term Export Strategy has also been announced for the period 2002-07 which aim at achieving 1% of world exports by the year 2006-07. All these measures are intended to boost economic growth in general and export growth in particular.

Wakf Board

5149. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the educational qualification required for being the Chairman of State or Central Wakf Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for the selection of Chairman of the State Wakf Board;

(d) whether all the State Wakf Boards are submitting utilization certificate for the funds made available by Government of India to them;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the number of State Wakf Board, who have not submitted the utilization certificate for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) and (b) No specific educational qualification has been prescribed for the post of the Chairman of the State Wakf Board or Central Wakf Council.

(c) As per the provision under Section 14(8) of the Wakf Act 1995, the Chairman is elected by the Boards concerned.

(d) to (f) State Wakf Boards are required to submit utilization certificates for the amount released. Details on utilization certificates for the last three years is under collection and will be laid on the table of the House.

Changes in DEPB Scheme

5150. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make the "Duty Entitlement Pass Book" scheme WTO complaint;

(b) if so, the changes proposed to be made to make the DEPB Scheme compatible with the WTO guidelines;

(c) whether this exercise has been started;

(d) if so whether any Committee has also examined such aspects; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) The Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme is based on the concept of refund of the basic customs

duty on the imported inputs deemed to have been used in the export product as per the input outputs norms. Hence the scheme is not violative of WTO provisions. The Prabhu Committee chaired by the former Commerce Secretary, Shri P.P. Prabhu, went into the functioning of the DEPB Scheme where, among other things, it also examined WTO compatibility. The Committee has recommended the continuation of DEPB and accordingly the scheme has been continued in the recently announced Exim Policy (2002-07).

New GIC Policies

5151. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether General Insurance Companies have stopped giving new policies in Gujarat;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the insurance companies have received claims worth crore of rupees for the damage caused to industry during the recent riots; and

(d) if so, the total amount of claims received by the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA) have reported that while existing insurance policies are renewed as per the normal practice, fresh policies are issued after inspection of the risk as per the underwriting requirement.

(c) and (d) The GIPSA have reported that the public Sector General Insurance Companies have received about 5000 claims amounting to about Rs. 173 crores.

Trade Relation with Singapore

5152. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the areas in which India has trade relation with Singapore;

(b) the steps taken for expansion of trade relation with Singapore during the last three years;

(c) the bilateral trade position with Singapore during the above period;

(d) whether the Government have a proposal to expand trade relations with Singapore;

(e) if so, the new areas identified for the expansion of Indo-Singapore trade; and

(f) the details of steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) India's trade with Singapore is mainly in office and data machine parts and electronic products, diamonds and jewellery, petroleum and mineral oils other than crude, aluminium, menthol, machinery including diesel engines, woven fabrics, unwrought silver, parts of boring or sinking machinery. Steps taken to expand bilateral trade relations include launching of Trade and Business Missions to and from India, organizing Business Forums, exhibitions, seminars and conferences, highlighting the opportunities in doing business with India, etc. during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Singapore in April 2002, the two countries have agreed to set up a study group for establishing a comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement.

Setting up of an India-Singapore Bio-Technology Park; furthering Tourism links and cooperation in Space technology are among the new areas identified during the recent visit of Prime Minister to Singapore.

The volume of bilateral trade with Singapore during the last three years has been as under:

(Value in US\$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Trade Balance
1998-99	517.45	1384.16	1901.61	-866.72
1999-2000	669.00	1534.41	2203.41	-865.41
2000-2001	867.75	1434.13	2301.88	-566.38

Trade with SAARC Countries

5153. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's trade with SAARC countries went up by 37 percent during 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the trend in trade to SAARC region in the financial year 2001-2002;

(c) whether imports from SAARC countries is also increasing rapidly;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the steps proposed to encourage exports to SAARC countries in the forthcoming years; and

(f) the details of plans proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) India's trade with SAARC Countries has increased by 43.18% from Rs. 7510.20 crores during 1999-2000 to Rs. 10,753.53 crores during the year 2000-2001.

(b) During the financial year 2001-2002 (April-December period) India's trade with SAARC region has increased to Rs. 9104.44 crores from Rs. 7490.24 crores during the corresponding period previous year, showing an increase of 21.55%.

(c) and (d) Imports into India from SAARC countries have increased from Rs. 1409.22 crores during 1999-2000 to Rs. 1971.88 crores during the year 2000-2001. The same trend has continued during the year 2001-02 and imports from SAARC countries have increased to Rs. 2092.97 crores during the April-December period in 2001-2002 from Rs. 1411.10 crores during the corresponding period in the year 2000-2001.

(e) and (f) India has entered into bilateral trade agreements with all countries in the South Asia region except Pakistan. Under the Treaty of Trade with Nepal, both countries exchange tariff concessions to promote the exports from one country to the other. Exports between India and Bhutan are allowed duty-free entry on reciprocal basis. The Free Trade Agreement between India and Sri Lanka provides for duty-free access to the markets in both countries to be achieved on an agreed time schedule. The Trade Agreements with all countries including Bangladesh and Maldives (except Pakistan)

provide for periodical review by the concerned authorities to address the bottlenecks in the flow of bilateral trade. The countries in the South Asia region are given special incentives to participate in the annual India International Trade Fair in New Delhi to make them aware of the Indian export potential.

At the SAARC forum, all member countries have engaged themselves in the process of bringing down the tariff rates to promote intra-regional trade, with the intention to establish a duty free trade regime to be known as SAARC Free Trade Area (SAFTA) as early as possible.

[Translation]

Simplification in Import-Export Norms

5154. SHRI RAJO SINGH:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:

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

(a) the extent to which the EXIM policy announced in 2001 simplified the procedures of export-import;

(b) the extent to which it has reduced the transaction cost of the exporters;

(c) whether the Government have further simplified the import-export norms recently;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the exporters are likely to be benefited as a result of simplification of the norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Exim Policy (as amended upto 31.3.2001) introduced certain procedural simplifications such as submission of the importer-exporter profile only once unless a change in information occurred, clarifications and interviews through email, removal of the time limit for filing application for golden status holders, extension of electronic filing to all categories of licences and introduction of the facility of offline filing. These have led to a reduction in the transaction costs.

(c) to (e) In the Exim Policy 2002-07, certain other simplification measures have been carried out such as a common commodity classification between the Customs, DGFT and DGCIS to eliminate classification disputes, reduction in the maximum application fee for electronic

filing, introduction of the same day licensing scheme in the regional offices, reduction in percentage of physical examination of export cargo by the Customs, reduction in the penal interest rate from 24% to 15% in the case of bonafide defaults, liberalization for the import/export of samples, no penalty for non realization of export proceeds when cover under ECGC is granted, permitting submission of foreign Inward Remittance Certificate (FIRC) in lieu of Bank Realisation Certificate (BRC) in the case of direct negotiation of documents and an optional facility to convert from one scheme to another in case of denial of benefit under one scheme. These measures would lead to simplification and reduction of transaction costs for exporters.

Corruption Cases in Banking Sector

5155. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some cases of corruption have been detected by the Central Vigilance Commission in Banking Sector during the last three years, till date;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of cases filed so far alongwith the steps taken to check this corruption?

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

[English]

Import of CBU Cars

5156. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the guidelines cleared by the FIPB and decided by a group of core Secretaries of Government of India, homologation certification by the ARAI was to be given on CBU cars produced abroad by automobile companies, which are engaged in car manufacturing activities in India with 500 million dollar investment;

(b) if so, whether the Government are aware that some agents are freely importing CBU cars to India by claiming to have obtained homologation for these BMW cars even though BMW is not manufacturing any car in

India or they do not have any manufacturing unit in India; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government to check this malpractice and illegal obtaining of homologation certificate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) All import restrictions maintained by India on account of balance of payment reasons have been removed in view of our International commitments. Accordingly, import restrictions on completely built car units were also removed with effect from 31.3.2001. Presently the import of cars is subject to the policy indicated in Notification No. 4 dated 31.3.2001. However, as per Notification No. 31 dated 14.9.2001, certain special categories of persons such as foreign diplomats posted in India, NRIs returning on change of residence etc. are exempted from these conditions. As per this Notification, the import of cars in India is subject to compliance of the provisions of Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR) including Rule 126, which relates to homologation. The Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI), a testing agency specified under Rule 126 of CMVR, 1989 has informed that some enquiries had been received from the agent of BMW AG Germany seeking clarifications on the guidelines to be followed for issuance of Type approval Certifications, and the same had been provided to them. They have, however, not received any request for Type Approval as yet.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

5157. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of CONSUMERS AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to withdraw all order issued by different States under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for their withdrawal;

(d) whether the State Government were consulted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the views of the State Governments thereon?

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

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The Central Government have issued an Order under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 allowing dealers to freely buy, stock, sell, transport, distribute, dispose, etc. any quantity in respect of wheat, paddy/rice, coarse grains, sugar, edible oilseeds and edible oils without requiring any license or permit therefor under any order issued under the Act. The Order took effect after thirty days from the date of its issue (15.2.2002) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any Order made by a State Government before the commencement of the Order. Facilitating free trade and movement of foodgrains would enable farmers to get best prices for their produce, achieve price stability and ensure availability of foodgrains in deficit areas.

(d) and (e) The need to relax various controls on agricultural products including controls on inter-State movement of such products was discussed in the Conference of Chief Ministers held on 21.5.2001 and thereafter in the Standing Committee of some Union Ministers and Chief Ministers which was set up pursuant to the recommendations made in the Conference of Chief Ministers. The Standing Committee has suggested that the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 may continue as an umbrella legislation for the Centre and the States to use when needed, but a progressive dismantling of controls and restrictions was also required.

[Translation]

Irregularities in Wakf Board

5158. **SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:** Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether large scale alleged irregularities/corruption in Wakf Board has come to the notice of the Union Government in recent past;

(b) if so, the nature of such irregularities/corruptions; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) Reported incidence of irregularity/corruption in the Wakf Boards has been referred to the concerned Wakf Boards for appropriate action.

[English]

Sale of Overhead Projectors and Computers at Higher Rates by NCCF

5159. **SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI:**
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI ARUN KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NCCF has sold overhead projectors to Air Headquarters at higher rates than their market rates;

(b) whether NCCF has also sold computers at higher rates than the company's unit price;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for selling the same at exorbitant rates;

(d) whether any action has been taken against the guilty officials; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereto?

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

12.10 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Extension of Ceasefire Agreement with NSCN (K)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had entered into a formal ceasefire with the NSCN (K) for a period of one year with effect from 28th April 2001.

During this period, there have been discussions between the representatives of Government of India and the NSCN (K). Both sides are satisfied with the progress made so far in implementing the ceasefire.

Both sides have, therefore, agreed to extend the ceasefire by a period of one year with effect from 28th April 2002.

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the years 1996-97 (Part), 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (Part).
- (ii) A copy of the Memorandum of Action Taken (Hindi and English versions) on the advices tendered by the National Commission for Backward Classes, New Delhi, for the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 (Part).
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 5517/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

- (1) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 2002)—(Commercial)—Public Sector Undertakings—Review of Accounts for the year ended the 31st March, 2001.
- (Placed in Library. See No. LT 5518/2002)
- (2) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 2 of 2002)—(Commercial)—Public Sector Undertakings—Comments on Accounts for the year ended the 31st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5519/2002]

- (3) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 3 of 2002)—(Commercial)—Public Sector Undertakings—

Transaction Audit Observations for the year ended the 31st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5520/2002]

- (4) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 4 of 2002)—(Commercial)—Public Sector Undertakings—Reviews on some of the activities of selected PSUs for the year ended the 31st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5521/2002]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): Sir, on behalf of DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:
 - (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2000-2001.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Yantra Nigam Limited and its subsidiaries, Allahabad, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5522/2002]

- (3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited and the Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5523/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.
 - (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation and its subsidiary corporations, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5524/2002]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology, Bhadohi, for the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5525/2002]

- (4) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5526/2002]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the FCI (Staff) (1st Amendment) Regulations, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. EP-36(1)/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2002 under sub-section (5) of section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. 5527/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table:—

- (1) 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. 226(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Paracetamol, originating in or exported from China and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 227(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on 2-Methyl (5) Nitro Imidazole, commonly known as 2-MNI, originating in or exported from China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 228(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Hexamine, originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia and Russia, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 229(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide commonly known as Caustic Soda, originating in or exported from Qatar, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (v) G.S.R. 230(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Pentaerythritol, originating in or exported from Canada, Japan and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 232(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Sodium Nitrite, originating in or exported from the European Union and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 233(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Hydrofluoric

Acid, of all concentration other than 70% concentration, originating in or exported from China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5528/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 200(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to make a technical change in Notification No 26/99-Cus., dated the 28th February, 1999.
- (ii) G.S.R. 246(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd April, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification no. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. 5529/2002]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 199(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 8/2001 and 9/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001, under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5530/2002]

(4) A copy of the Notification S.O. No. 1120(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th November, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum specifying issue of foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares, (through Depository Receipt Mechanism) Scheme 1993, under section 295 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5531/2002]

(5) 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 (Staff) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. HRDD/2266/Staff/Regulations published in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 2001.

- (ii) The Small Industries Development Bank of India (Issue and Management of Bonds) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification F.No. 3306/RMD Bonds published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-5532/2002]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:

- (i) The Union Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 5 (b)/24.11.2001 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2002.
- (ii) The Indian Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. SRC 47 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2002.

(iii) The Andhra Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 666/20/IR/573 in Gazette of India dated the 19th January, 2002.

(iv) The Oriental Bank of Commerce (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. 3937 in Gazette of India dated the 26th January, 2002.

(v) The UCO Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. ODAR/1/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2002.

(vi) The Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. IR/Amend-1/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2002.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5533/2002]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 30 of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976:—

- (i) The Tungabhadra Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PWIR4062/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 12th February, 2002.

- (ii) The Tulsi Gramin Bank (Name of the Bank) (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. H.O/CS/2001/2278 in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2001.
- (iii) The Chhatrasal Gramin Bank (Name of the Bank) (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. H.O./Admn./570 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2001.
- (iv) The Kalpatharu Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. CMS/00328 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 2002.
- (v) The Magadh Gramin Bank (Name of the Bank) (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. MGB/611/01 in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2001.
- (vi) The Farrukhabad Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 16 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.
- (vii) The South Malabar Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 9/SMGB/Govt./2031/2001/PAD in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 2001.
- (viii) The Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Ref./Pers/SKM/3648 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.
- (ix) The Muzaffar Nagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 566 C in Gazette of India dated the 24th April, 2001.
- (x) The Sravasthi Gramin bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Praka./Ka.Pra/1357/2450 in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2001.
- (xi) The Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. M.G. 372/403 in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
- (xii) The Jamuna Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. JGB/Pers/BM/478/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 2001.
- (xiii) The Durg-Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. H.O./Per-3178/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
- (xiv) The Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 103 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.
- (xv) The Avadh Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. H.O/Sect./VKS/G-1/G-4/-F-202/13 in Gazette of India dated the 8th May, 2001.
- (xvi) The Gurdas Pur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. STF/1565/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001.
- (xvii) The Devas-Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Pub./Personnel/467 in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2001.
- (xviii) The Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. RRB/STF/8351/01 in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001.
- (xix) The Vidur Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. VGM/1 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2001.
- (xx) The Marathwada Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. HO/ST/C-212/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2001.
- (xxi) The Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. CGGB/HO/Pers/P/245 in Gazette of India dated the 15th October, 2001.
- (xxii) The Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations published in Notification No. 1/758 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xxiii) The Sarayu Gramin Bank Lakhim Pur Kheri (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Pers./Dev. 922 in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
- (xxiv) The Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. LGB/CMS/100/05/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 2001.

- (xxv) The Dungarpur Banswara Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. H.O/18/PD/01-02/303 in Gazette of India dated the 29th October, 2001.
- (xxvi) The Kanaka Durga Gramina Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. Ref. No. 11/98/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001.
- (xxvii) The Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PNNL/21/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 10th April, 2001.
- (xxviii) The Sree Anantha Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. 1175/PD/CST/2000-2001 in Gazette of India dated the 18th April, 2001.
- (xxix) The Shri Venkateswara Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. 684/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2001.
- (xxx) The Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PGB/Admn./UBI/16/2001 in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2001.
- (xxxi) The Kolar Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. SS.52/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001.
- (xxxi) The Kolar Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. SS.52/2001-2002 in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2001.
- (xxxii) The Rajgarh-Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Admn./Pess/01-02/1446 in Gazette of India dated the 19th October, 2000.
- (xxxiii) The Malwa Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. MCUB/Service/Reg./4 in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2001.
- (xxxiv) The Chitradurga Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. PMS/STF/1402/2001/ABR in Gazette of India dated the 12th December, 2001.
- (xxxv) The Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. Per/RAI/2253 in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002.
- (xxxvi) The Nalanda Gramin Bank (Officers & Employees) Service Regulations, 2000 published in Notification No. NGB/P/SR/30/214 in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2001.
- [Placed in Library. See No. 5534/2002]
- (8) A copy of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 214(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum under section 77 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5535/2002]
- (9) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—
- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Industrial Investment Bank of India Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5536/2002]
- THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay on the Table:—
- (1) A copy of the Export and Import Policy (1st April, 2002-31st March, 2007) (Hindi and English versions).
- (2) A copy of the Handbook of Procedures (Volume 1) (1st April, 2002-31st March, 2007) (Hindi and English versions).
- [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5537/2002]
- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2000-2001.

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See. No. LT 5538/2002]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2000-2001.

(6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5539/2002]

12.03 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

"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 Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2002 which has been passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd April, 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."

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government business during the week commencing Monday, the 29th April, 2002 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government business carried over from today's order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by Rajya Sabha:
 - (i) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
 - (ii) The St. John Ambulance Association (India) Transfer of Funds (Repeal) Bill, 2001.
 - (iii) The Indian Succession (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
 - (iv) The Tea Districts Emigrant Labour (Repeal) Repealing Bill, 2001.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:
 - (i) The Multi-State Cooperative Societies Bill, 2000.
 - (ii) The Vice-President's Pension (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
 - (iii) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002.
 - (iv) The Constitution (Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the following items be included in next week's agenda.

- (1) Need for providing stoppage of Samath Express at Vilha station and of Amarkantak Express at Velagahana station under Bilaspur railway zone in Chhattisgarh State.

- (2) Need for declaring Bilaspur to Podi Madala, a 100 kms. long stretch of state highway in Bilaspur reserved Lok Sabha constituency for Scheduled Tribes in Chhattisgarh state as National Highway so as to widen it.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir, the following items be included in next week's agenda:

- (1) Need to make military education compulsory in the country so as to curb secessionist tendency, terrorism and anti-national activities prevailing in the country and to remove the feeling of discontentment, create feeling of heroism and courage and for strengthening feeling of national integrity among the people.
- (2) Need for stringent implementation of Prohibition, especially alcoholic drinks enshrined in directive principles of our constitution so as to curb increasing criminal activities, mutual hatred, violence, and enmity and indiscipline and to check luxurious living in the country.

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Sir, the following items be included in next week's agenda:

- (1) Need to lay national Human Resource Development Report—2001 submitted by the Planning Commission on the Table of the House and hold discussion on it.
- (2) Need to lay the recommendation of National Commission to review the working of constitution on the Table of the House and to hold discussion on it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I too have given the notice.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ramji Lal Suman, I will give you the floor. Not many names are there.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I have given notice to speak in the 'Zero-Hour'.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you when our turn comes.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi-Sadar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards severe power and water crisis being faced by Delhites. Severe power and water crisis has played havoc in Delhi with the on set of summer season. You may have seen a power cut in the House for quite some time on 23 April. Newspapers carried 2-3 headlines such as—"Pani sankat se trust RK Puram ke lagon ka sabra toota", "Sansadan ne chakha sansad main bijli sankat ka swad", "Bijli sankat se nepatne ke liye koi thos kararvaye nahin, kagaji, yojna" ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do, have a submission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I did not receive your notice.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem is not only in colonies. 70 lakh people out of a total population of one crore and 40 lakh are living in unauthorised colonies and slums (Jhuggi-Jhapariyon) that is why water supply is not available to them. Water tankers are not reaching them. I would like to draw your attention towards water shortage in Delhi. Last year the demand of water in Delhi was 800 MGD, this year it is 850 MGD whereas the supply is just 650 MGD, thus there is a shortage of 200 MGD.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I was Chief Minister of Delhi in 1984, Yamuna water agreement was signed between five neighbouring states wherein it was provided to construct Munak Canal, a 100 years old Kutchi canal, with an investment of Rs. 100 crore. An advance of Rs. 5 crore was also paid but so far it has not been completed resulting in loss of 30 percent water since the canal remains Kutchi and it absorbs the water. Two year back, the Central Government had ordered to provide 140 MGD water to Delhi but you would be surprised to know that the canal was scheduled to be completed two years back but it has not yet been completed. Only 16 percent work has been completed on Muradnagar-Delhi broad gauge. Only 36 percent work relating to water works has been completed and no progress has been made regarding work of pipe-laying in colonies. Nangloi get only 60 percent water whereas as per order of Supreme Court it should get 125 cusec water. Even water pipes are broken and no body bothers about it. As far as power is concerned, I would like to tell you that up to two days back 2760 MW power was available in Delhi against the

[Shri Madan Lal Khurana]

demand of 3250 Mega Watt. The irony is that DVB's Ring Circuit in Delhi cannot provide above 3000 Mega Watt power and so far the circuit has not been completed. Therefore, I would like to say that Delhi is reeling under severe power water crisis.

12.11 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

It is because of sluggish attitude and criminal negligence of the Government of Delhi which has made Delhites to cry. As I have already said that it is just beginning of summer and what would happen in the months of May and June.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I urge upon concerned Ministers to have a meeting with the Government of Delhi and render possible help in preparing any action plan for tackling this crisis so that Delhites may get relief from this crisis.

[English]

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): I am associating myself with the sentiments expressed by Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

[Translation]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a new Ministry for looking after the matters related to Delhi be created in the Central Government and Shri Khurana ji should be given the charge of that Ministry.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Khurana ji has stated that the Government in Delhi led by Shrimati Shiela Dixit has made Delhites to face severe power and water crisis. I represent East Delhi Parliamentary Constituency. The population of East and West Delhi Parliamentary constituencies is around 40 lakhs which includes Jhuggi-clusters, resettlement colonies and villages. People ring up at 3 or 4 in the night complaining about non-availability of water. When we ask concerned officers and Minister they tell that they have many water tankers but they do not send tankers.

People are clamouring for water. As has been said by Khuranaji, we need 850 mgd of water but only 600 mgd is available. For the supply of 140 mgd water, a project was to be implemented in Sonia Vihar in my

Parliamentary constituency, but it is yet to be completed. The responsibility lies with the worthless Congress Government. Through you, I would like to say ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He is holding the Delhi Government responsible for water and power crisis. He still is not ready to take lesson from their debacle in municipal corporation elections.

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: I request that power and water should be made available in Delhi so that the people do not have to suffer due to shortage.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, my only submission is that ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since he is from Delhi, he is supporting Shri Khurana.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Development could be seen only if it takes place.

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of people are in distress on account of the worthless Delhi Government. They should get rid of this government. It has failed to supply either power or water. The whole system has collapsed. They are not interested in regularising unauthorised colonies. Therefore, a motion should be introduced in the Parliament under rule 184 so that it could be dismissed after discussion and voting.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: They are so frustrated after having lost in the municipal elections in Delhi, that they are crying hoarse.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir the issue of privatisation of power in Delhi is under process for last two years and the Government

are making efforts for privatisation by giving Rs. 3000 crore to three-four companies in the last one and a half years. The Congress Party is opposing privatisation and disinvestment throughout the country but is doing nothing even when rampant corruption is prevalent in Delhi in the name of privatisation. Neither the government are improving power situation nor they are going for privatisation. It has resulted in total power crisis. If there is no power, then no water is available. One crore forty lakh people of Delhi are clamouring for water and power. The responsibility lies with the Delhi Government. We would like the Centre to take action against Delhi Government under article 355 of the constitution. Even otherwise, Delhi is a U.T., so strict action should be taken against it.

DR. (SHRIMATI) ANITA ARYA (Karol Bagh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Chief Minister of Delhi Government is also the Chairperson of Jal Board. Even then, there is water and power shortage in Delhi. Recently, there was power cut in the N.D.M.C. for 24 hours even though it is a VIP area and MPs reside there. When this is the position of VIP areas, The situation in common colonies could well be imagined. Besides there is serious water problem. In my constituency there are two assembly segments—Anand Parbat and Baljit Nagar. They have serious water shortage. The shortage of water is causing blockade of sewer lines there. It results in outbreak of diseases. It should be checked and the Chief Minister of Delhi should be dismissed from her office as she is not doing her work with responsibility. ...(*Interruptions*)

DR. SAHIB SINGH VERMA: Sir, if there is a discussion on the problems being faced by Delhi, then we, the MPs of Delhi, could express our views and the opposition will also have the opportunity to give its clarification. The Chief Minister is not even aware of the problems of Delhi. If he knows that, will be revealed during the discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should comment on it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should throw some light on it.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, Delhi's water problem is very serious. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdas ji, please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: If the problem of power and water in Delhi is to be solved, two of these three should be made ministers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, Please sit down.

[*English*]

This is not the issue.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is not a joke to recommend somebody for the post of Minister. I have great respect for Shri Khurana ji. Why was he not inducted in the Cabinet even through he is so capable a person?

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the army is displacing poor people from Agra Cantt. area. The land might have been of some use to Ministry of Defence when it was acquired by them, but today it is densely populated and poor people and Valmiki are living there for 50-60 years. Without any notice or prior information, thousands of people have been displaced. Situation has become so bad that for a person in whose home marriage is to take place tomorrow, the house is full of relatives and on the night of the marriage the house is being demolished.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousand of people have been forced to live in the open and the poor and the dalits are fleeing. If the Government had to demolish their houses, they should have first made alternative arrangements for them. It did not make any alternative arrangement.

My colleague Shri Raj Babbar and I personally met hon. Minister of Defence. The MP from my neighbouring constituency Shri S.P. Baghel also met the hon. Minister of Defence. In the recent meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, we asked the hon. Minister to correspond with the Government of Uttar Pradesh and tell the senior officers that they are poor people. They don't have houses. Therefore some arrangement of housing should be made for them, but, so far, no alternative arrangement has been made.

At the time when the dalit colonies were being demolished, the officers of the Central command of Air Force, issued an order that the people living within 900 metres of the boundary of the Agra airport would be

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

asked to leave. These people had obtained NOC before constructing their houses. All the formalities had been completed.

People are being displaced in a highhanded manner. It is a serious matter and I have already made personal representations. I have spoken to the Government and in the House also that the people cannot be left at the mercy of God. The Government have said that the people would be given 9 acres of land in Kalindi Vihar but that is not adequate. I would like the Government to settle them without charging to them even a paisa.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: You are raising the question of which area?

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Of course Agra. Did the question raised by you just now, was regarding London? Khurana ji, you live in Delhi, so you were talking about Delhi. I belong to Agra so I am speaking about Agra.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ramjilal Suman, please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very serious question. It has been noticed that the superintending officers and other officers are showing discrimination in the action taken by them. Poor people are being ruined. Big houses are not even touched. If in the action taken proceedings, a shop is locked, it is opened after some time. I do not want that anyone should be uprooted from there, but even those people are being removed from there who do not have any shelter to live, or who are living there for the last 50-60 years, or who are having telephone connection, Ration Card, Power connection and have their names in the voters list. But despite all these, they are being uprooted, which is really a serious problem.

I request the Government to take immediate action in this direction and direct the army not to uproot anyone from there and alongwith this the Government may also make arrangements for rehabilitating those persons, who have already been uprooted.

[English]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): I have given a notice and I want to raise a very important matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would call you.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, I would call you.

[Translation]

PROF. S.P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to speak about a few more things over the Statements given by the officers of Agra Cantonment Board and Agra Airport and the Air-Force, regarding which our senior M.P. Shri Suman has raised the issue. The viewpoint of myself and Shri Raj Babbar, hon. M.P. from Agra comprising of the Kheria Airport is the same in this regard. He had already met the hon. Minister of Defence as also officers in Agra regarding this matter. Orders have been given to demolish all the houses, shops, institutions, schools and hospitals located in the periphery of 900 metres from the boundary wall of Kheria Airport just in the name of airport security. It has also been said that no tree would exist there. This would lead to the destruction of 50 thousand houses and a population of 5 to 6 lakhs would get affected by this action, which invites a serious problem. These houses and colonies are from 25 to 100 years old. And some of the colonies are even older than 100 years i.e. they belong to the British period. Some colonies have been constructed 25 years back, the main colonies among these are—Arjun Nagar, Gyaspura, Lakshman Nagar, Adharsh Puri, Kamal Khan, Nabipura and Dhanauli. All these houses are duly registered having proper sale-deeds. Besides their plans have also been approved by the Agra Development Authority. The householders here are paying tax to the Agra Municipal Corporation. And the most important of all is that a 'No Objection Certificate' has also been issued by the Air Force officers to the house holders. I have brought the copy of this NOC with me here. These house holders are also paying House-tax to the Municipal Corporation. Besides, this land was purchased from landholder farmers. The condition laid down by the Air Force while granting NOC was that there should be proper drainage and sewerage system in that area, the Houses should not be more than 30 feet high. We also agree to the fact that this matter pertains to the air security and there is nothing higher than our nation. But the question is that six to seven lakh people would be ruined there. 50 thousand houses would be demolished, despite the fact that the land-owners have obtained NOC, their houses are duly registered and they are also paying tax. The housing plan is approved by the Agra Development Authority. 10 to 15 people have suffered heart attack

since this news was published in the newspaper 'Dainik Jagaran' dated 11th April. We all know that an honest man can, at the most make a house from his life income, or can get one or two of his daughters married. Please think what would they do if their houses would be demolished.

Shri Raj Babbar ji met the hon. Minister of Defence in this regard. He also gave assurance myself and Shri Suman also raised questions here. We would also say this in our area. Since the time, this announcement has been made, the value of these houses has come down. People would say that today I have raised this issue, or organized rallies and dharmas, so this matter would be deferred for the time being, but later on the houses would definitely be demolished in the near future. And that is why the value of the land there has fallen down. I wish to ask the hon. Chairman to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the destruction of 50 thousand houses, thereby affecting 5 to 7 lakhs of people. This may kindly be stopped.

SHRI RAJ BABBAR (Agra): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, my senior colleague Shri Suman and Shri S.P. Singh Baghel have, in detail, discussed about the pitiable condition of people in Agra due to the so-called terror spread by the said orders of the Government. I do not want to repeat those things but would definitely like to say that I talked to the hon. Minister of Defence two months back and met him when he came here with the delegation. He gave me assurance that no such incident would take place there. But the officers of Air Force have created terror there. They do not demolish any house in day time, but come in the night sometime at 2.00 O'clock with full-fledged bulldozers and troops and thus terrorise the people and start the process of demolition at five O'clock. At seven past thirty minutes when I reached there, then to my surprise, even I was not allowed to visit even the nearby places, despite I being the M.P. from that area. But I acted with patience. But later on at seven past forty five minutes, I called up the hon. Minister of Defence and I was informed that he had not got up. He was available on phone not before 8.15. I asked the local people there to talk to the hon. Defence Minister, I also said to him that these people are crying and their houses are being dashed down by bulldozers. The hon. Minister told me that he was sending his officers. The officers of course, came there but what happened after that is not known to me. But one thing I know that the process of demolition did not come to an end even after the visit of the officers. The announcement was made in the newspaper dated 11th April that all those houses falling in the Air Force periphery of 900 metres would be

demolished. My point is that these people constructed their houses in the 900 metres periphery only after obtaining the due NOC. They have very rightly said that 50 thousand houses would be destructed which would affect five to seven lakh people. So far as security of the country is concerned, we are the first persons to stand by the side of the Government in such schemes. I assure that wherever the point of security and safety of the country would come, the Samajwadi Party, our senior colleagues and we people would always be a step ahead. My only point is that in future if an ordinance is passed that houses may be demolished in the interest of security of the country, this would create an environment of terror in the country. Such things happened at many places of the world, viz., Chicago, London and other big cities. The air-strip of Kheria was done away with only because it was under the Army, the common man is not getting any facility there till date. In order to take due care of the security aspect, why not the air-strip be shifted somewhere 50-100 kilometres away. Why are they creating terror in the psyche of common man?

Five lakh people will be ruined there. Earlier the cost of a House there was not less than Rs. 10 lakh but today the prices have gone down. I met the hon'ble Defence Minister three days ago and, a delegation also met him in connection with the same air force matter. He said that he is expediting the matter. However, three days have since elapsed, but people of Agra did not get relief. It is being stated and has been reported in the newspapers also that the plots which have been taken forcibly from poor people in the name of security are being given to a big hospital or a corporate sector. The corporate sector will construct a telephone company or a hotel there. If it is so, it would be the biggest failure of the Government. We have requested the State Government and the Minister concerned in the Central Government. Through this House, I request you to save Agra from this terror. Poor Muslims, Hindus and dalits are most affected. There is an apprehension that the demolition of their houses can lead to communal riots between Hindus and Muslims. I would like to forewarn the House that a Gujarat like situation would arise in Agra if Hindus and Muslims raise a protest over this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, what the Government are doing? ...(*Interruptions*) Hon'ble Minister of Defence is not present. On behalf of the Government, please state the course of action the Government intend to take in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bhagel, Please sit down.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Speeches made by several Members indicate that they met the hon'ble Defence Minister several times and they are in constant touch with him. Hon'ble Shri Babbar has talked to him on telephone. Since he has raised this matter today in the House, I would convey his feelings to the hon'ble Defence Minister. But I can not take any decision and inform this House regarding the land that comes under Defence Ministry, I will convey the hon. Member's feelings to him. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Please say about the water and electricity crisis in Delhi also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Shri Khurana, please do not get annoyed. ...*(Interruptions)* These two demands of water and electricity pertain to Delhi government. I cannot write to them in this regard. Some one has demanded Shrimati Sheila Dixit's resignation but that would be done by Sonia ji. I cannot write to her in this regard. The other matter pertains to Central Government, that's why I intervened in it.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You please convey my suggestion to Shri Vajpayee to make Shri Khurana ji a Minister in his Government.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: No body listens to Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi in the Congress Party, however, if he has said, I would convey his suggestion to Shri Vajpayeeji.

SHRI J.S. BRAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring a very painful matter to the notice of Government. People from all parts of the country go abroad to earn their livelihood. In Punjab also, every year a large number of youth sell their land etc. to go abroad for getting jobs. However, travel agents loot them in the name of sending them abroad. I do not want to go into its details. Two days ago a boat tragedy took place in Malta in which approx. 350 youth died. A report has been published two days ago that 55 unemployed youth from Punjab have been deprived forcibly of their passports while going from Lebanon to Greece. A sum of Rs. 1 lakh 25 thousand was taken from them. The Finance Minister and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs are present here, I would like to draw their attention to this painful matter cutting across the Party lines. Rs. 2 lakh was taken from each of these 55 youth as fees. Thereafter, they were boarded in a boat. The news appeared that they were drowned in the sea. The Deputy Commissioner of Nava Shaher district in Punjab should coordinate for providing compensation to the families of these youth, even their dead bodies

have not been received till now. I would request the Government to immediately contact the Government of Greece, their embassy situated here, the Government of Punjab and Deputy Commissioner etc. Families of these youth are much worried about their children. Therefore, this matter should be taken up immediately.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai-North East): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the day before yesterday, advocate Shri Lalit Jain was murdered in broad day light near Mumbai in Maharashtra. He was the president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang Dal in Bhivandi district. He was going to argue the case pertaining to the campaign against cow slaughter. He was shot dead outside the court at 11 AM. Before 7 days of this incident, an activist of Bajrang Dal and Vishwa Hindu Parishad was killed in the same manner in Kalyan district. Riots were engineered in Akola four days ago also on a similar issue. Hence, for the last 12 days, leading activities of Bajrang Dal, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Shiv Sena are being killed selectively in Kalyan, Bhivandi and Akola. People of these areas are questioning whether Afroz who was charged in the attack on Parliament was released for this purpose only. The Maharashtra Government had imposed POTO against him but later it was withdrawn. Additional A.G. of Maharashtra Government did not present the Government's stand in the court. Thereafter, he was released. Since then the killings are taking place one after the another. Traitors are being freed and social activists of Bajrang Dal, Shiv Sena and Vishwa Hindu Parishad are being killed. Hon'ble Home Minister should assess the situation and call for a report from the State Government. Today Bhivandi is closed as a protest against the killings, two days ago Akola and Kalyan were closed. The Congress Party is in power in Maharashtra. Does the Congress Party not like to discuss this issue? We demand that Maharashtra should be discussed under Rule 184. Will the Congress Party and the State Government be ready for it? Did the Members of Congress Party not give any notice in this regard? Were those who have been killed there not human beings? Did they not have families? I would like to ask the opposition as to what type of this secularism is? No one charged under this case has been arrested so far.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point in detail, now please resume your seat.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: The State Government, the Police Commissioner and the Home Minister should be asked as to why Afroz was released. We paid tributes to people who were killed in Parliament attack but we are releasing the person who was involved in this attack.

Therefore, we want the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to ask the Home Minister for holding a discussion on it in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here. If he likes to meet he can do so. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Kirit Somaiya, he will start only when you sit.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I would like to make it clear that I did not say anything to raise the Agra issue in Parliament. I only said that I will convey the feelings expressed on the issue raised here to the Defence Minister. I will also convey the feelings of the members over the issues that were raised just now to the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs.

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Sir, a squadron leader of Tejpur in Assam Shri T.J. Khan with a Jawan are missing since 20.4.2002 while flying a MIG 29. Till now their whereabouts are not known. However, Defence department is not making serious efforts to locate the aircraft and trace them out even after a week of the incident.

Whereabouts of Shri Khan are still unknown. Two Jawans and an aircraft are missing. In this regard, no information is being given to the family members. Through you I would like to know from the Government, the efforts being made by them to trace out Shri Khan and by when the Government will make available full information in this regard to the House and his family members?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): The very serious issue has been raised and I expect from the Government to furnish complete information in this regard to the House.

[*English*]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I am raising a very important issue that has been mentioned in this House long ago.

The important question is that the Central Government has already declared the minimum support prices for two or three agricultural products in Kerala. The first one is with regard to copra procurement. The procurement of copra is completely stopped in the State of Kerala. No procurement is taking place for the last three or four

months. Also, with regard to rubber, there is no procurement on the part of the Central Government. The authorities concerned have dragged out from the scene. So, the condition is very precarious.

The coconut farmers as well as the rubber growers are facing a very grave crisis. Moreover, the prices are quite unstable. Today, in Kerala, almost all *kisan* organisations have started an agitation. There is a huge rally in Trivandrum before the Government's Secretariat. I understand that thousands and thousands of farmers are participating in that mass rally now staged before the Government's Secretariat at Trivandrum. The position is very serious. The entire Secretariat is encircled by lakhs of farmers gathered from almost all the districts of Kerala. It is a very serious situation, which we cannot ignore.

The prices have come down for almost all agricultural products. The prices have come down to a considerable extent. People are more or less starving. Some farmers have committed suicide. This is the grave situation, which I would like to bring before this House. Until and unless we take some preventive or urgent steps in this matter, the State would be facing a very huge crisis. I request the Central Government to review the situation with all seriousness and to understand that the farmers, who are normally very calm and cool, are now on the warpath. So, the Government should take the problems of the farmers into account and do all that is possible without delay.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell about the carelessness of the AIIMS hospital of Delhi. An infant of 18 days from a village Kaundurd of my parliamentary constituency Bilaspur was admitted for the treatment of heart. Earlier, he was admitted for operation in Chhattisgarh Bilaspur Apollo Hospital, but he was not provided proper treatment in the Apollo Hospital. He died here after 18 days. In AIIMS, first he was infected by malaria and then by Jaundice and then he was transferred to Gangaram Hospital. But he could not recover. Eight children died in AIIMS after the outbreak of a communicable disease. I urge that strict action be taken against the AIIMS doctors responsible for it.

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK: Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the House towards an issue. It would have been better if the hon'ble Members of both the sides would have raised this issue. You are aware, that militancy is prevailing in Jammu & Kashmir, security

[Shri Ali Mohd. Naik]

forces have been sent there to counter militancy. All people of security forces are not bad; there are some good people also, who are working there. But there are some people, who misuse their position. In my constituency, Anantnag, when you travel towards Amarnath, the first halt comes at Pahalgam. A party of BSF went to that village and they raped a 17-18 year old girl in front of her family members. This is one allegation. Demonstrations are continuously being held in my constituency, Anantnag. People are saying, culprits are employees of Delhi Government, and no action would be taken against them. Through the august House, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that a stringent action should be taken against the officers, who are guilty of this crime and instructions to behave properly with innocent people should also be given to the security forces.

[English]

The mainstream parties and those who support militants, they use it against India, against us, and against everything. So, the Government of India should come strongly with a heavy hand against such elements, which create difficulties for the Government of India, for the local administration and violate the human rights. That should never happen in India.

SHRI SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Sir, I also associate with this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Panchayat elections have been held in Bihar after 22 years. I want that in the country wherever Panchayat elections have been held, all representatives of Panchayat, whether they are Mukhiyas, Member of Panchayat Samiti or District Council should be given allowances.

[English]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in this year's Budget, the hon. Finance Minister has declared that six circuits of tourist importance will be declared in India to be developed on international standard, and very promptly the hon. Tourism Minister has declared those six circuits. But most surprisingly, Orissa has not been included in those circuits. With regard to tourist attraction, Orissa is second to none and because of this, we expected that Orissa would be included. If it is included and if it is developed on international standard, then the infrastructure in Orissa will develop and it will

give boost to economic growth and employment generation. So, I would appeal to the hon. Tourism Minister, through the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is present here, that Orissa should also be included to give boost to tourism.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, I would like to demand from the Union Government that the Pink City, Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan should be declared as 'A' class city. Today, the population of Jaipur has crossed 25 lakh and the work of Sawai Mansingh International Airodrome is near completion and this city is connected by rail with all main cities of the country. Jaipur is the capital of the biggest state of the country, Rajasthan, and all former and existing Chief Ministers of the State live there. Foreign and domestic tourists also visit Jaipur it being the historic tourist place of India. If it is declared 'A' class city, the employees living over there will get more house-rent, daily allowances, transport allowances, city compensatory allowance, dearness allowance and it will contribute to the development of the Jaipur city. Jaipur city should be brought at par to Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. President, Shri K.R. Narayanan has expressed his opinion about giving reservation facility to the SC/ST in private sector also. He said reservation should be given to SC/ST in High Court and Supreme Court also. But the Government of India is ignoring his views. I would like to urge upon the Government of India that it is Government's responsibility to give respect to the opinion of hon. President. When Government too say that SC/ST should get reservation in private sector also, then I would like to request the Government of India that since privatisation is increasing and reservation for SC/ST is continuously reducing, the Government should introduce a bill in the House to provide reservation in private sector. The hon. Minister Shri Pramod Mahajan and hon. Shri Yashwant Sinha are present here. I request that a decision to implement reservation for SC/ST in the private sector should be taken at the earliest and the opinion of hon. President should be respected.

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA (Etawah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the problem related to telephones in my parliamentary constituency, Etawah. Telephone connections have not been provided in most of the areas of my parliamentary constituency although people applied for which as back as two years ago. Along with it, telephone exchanges have not been set up in the

areas, for which permission has already been given. Setting up of telephone exchanges in Sayal area Orariya has already been approved. It is approved for Balari also, but I have given in writing to the hon. Minister to set it up in Gram Dholpur in place of Balrai exchange, which is also my permanent residence. W.L.L. is being made operational. The telephone exchanges have been approved in Etawah, Viduna, Orariya, Bharthana, but the distance to Jaswant Nagar is also too much. Therefore, W.L.L. should also be set up in Jaswant Nagar, so that the problem of common people should be redressed.

[English]

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I wish to raise one point in regard to the communal harmony. In my constituency, one Jai Singh Pathan had also been awarded *Kabir Samman* by the hon. President in the year 1995. He is the restorer of 35 Hindu temples. One archaeological society has been constituted under his leadership. The Archaeological Survey of India, the Planning Commission and the Indian Institute of Technology have contributed a lot of money for communal harmony and for restoration of the temples.

But, in the present scenario, the Gujarat situation has created such an atmosphere that he is getting threats from different corners and also a threat to his life. The situation is very grave and very alarming. A complaint was already lodged in the local police station. The Government of West Bengal and the local Administration have assured security to this person and to this area. In spite of that, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government to this matter.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing Congress Government of Rajasthan is meting out step-motherly treatment to the majority community. When 'Bharat Bandh' happened after Godhra incident, Rajasthan too got affected. Due to success of 'Bandh' in Rajasthan, the Congress Government did not handle the situation properly in order to create communal tension at some places. As a result of it, in Kishangarh of Ajmer district one person was killed in the police firing and another person was seriously injured, and he was admitted to Sawai Mansingh Hospital of Jaipur. Police mercilessly beat the hundreds of people over there. In Seemavada area of Dungarpur district, a tribal was killed on the spot in Police firing, and two people were seriously injured. To attract the vote bank of minorities, the State Government killed people of majority community by bullets.

Similarly on the occasion of Moharram, 25th March, in Gangapur city of Sawai Madhopur district three people were killed in police firing. The people over there are agitated over it. Day before yesterday, 50 people gathered on that day, Gangapur city remained closed. Hundreds of people were arrested in Lambla and Kushalpura area of Pali district and in Peepar area of Jodhpur district. Before this also, the communal incidents have taken place in Bayavar, Sarvad, Udaipur and other places.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is a local area.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The State Government should be told not to do injustice with any community. Alongwith it I would also like to say that the present condition of Rajasthan should be discussed under Rule 184.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, '184' has become a virus to them. What can I do? ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH (Farrukhabad): Mr Chairman, Sir, I would like to say that my views should be conveyed to the Defence Minister. In Fatehgarh Cantonment area, whose President is the Brigadier, and the Superintendent of that area had constructed a wall in front of a Nallah under construction. The 2/3rd 'Nallah' had been constructed by M.P. Local Area Development Fund. Water logging has been there in the entire colony, and there are chances of diseases coming up. The rainy season is about to start. If the arrangement for water out let is not made, the entire colony will get submerged in water. There is no other water-outlets in cantonment area. My request is that water-outlets should be produced by the construction of 'Nallah'.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we are going to take up another item.

Hon. Members, as already decided by the House on the recommendations of the Business Advisory Committee that the discussion on the Finance Bill, 2002 may be taken up on 26th and 29th of April, 2002, if the House agrees out of the eight hours available on 26th and 29th April, 2002 for discussion of all the three stages of the Finance bill, 2002 we may allot six-and-a-half hours for the general discussion, one hour for Clause by Clause consideration and half-an-hour for the third reading.

I hope the House agrees.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. I hope the House also agrees for dispensing with the lunch break today.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, both the days on 26th and 29th are available. If necessary we can cooperate and sit late. We are here to help you. We will cooperate.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I hope the House agrees for not having lunch break.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: That is one matter which the hon. Minister of Finance will not obstruct. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Sir, earlier also we have cooperated. The entire Budget was passed even without discussion. You cannot expect much more cooperation. ...*(Interruptions)* Do you want that the Bill be passed without discussion? ...*(Interruptions)* If you are avoiding a discussion we will consider it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister of Finance is here.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The entire Budget was passed earlier without discussion.

13.00 hrs.

Even without holding the Session, we can finish it. Why should we hold the Session here? Are we holding the Session to merely pass the Finance Bill? That has become the order of the day. You have created such a situation in the country that the Parliament will have to pass the Budget without any discussion. It is very unfortunate that we will have to pass it without any discussion. The country has been led to such a situation that the entire Budget as to be passed without any discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Can you imagine such a situation anywhere in the world?

13.01 hrs.

FINANCE BILL, 2002

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2002-2003, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the presentation of the Finance Bill on 28th February, 2002, I have received, as in earlier years, a large number of representations from Members of Parliament, representatives of trade and industry, and other interested parties. I have carefully considered all the representations, and I am convinced of the merit of some of them.

I wish to reiterate, Sir, that a moderate tax regime and a large number of exemptions go ill together. I do recognise that those who are accustomed to enjoying the benefits of exemptions would like to resist the withdrawal of such exemptions. While this cannot be accepted as a matter of rule, in some specific areas, I am inclined to make some changes.

Many industry associations have argued that the four per cent excise duty at different stages of production would lead to a cascading effect which is not desirable. I accept the logic of their argument. I therefore, propose to exempt from excise duty the specified parts and accessories of those items that have been subjected to four per cent excise duty. These include parts and accessories of bicycles, parts of hand-pumps, parts of toys, and parts of umbrellas.

I also propose to allow exemption on waste and scrap arising in the course of manufacture of items that attract the new levy of four per cent.

Roofing Tiles have been subjected to four per cent excise duty. Since the industry is labour-intensive and such tiles are used extensively by poor people, I propose to withdraw the excise levied on roofing tiles.

I am informed that excise duty on pre-recorded audio cassettes would accentuate piracy to the further disadvantage of genuine cassette producers. Keeping this in view, I propose to restore exemption from four per cent excise duty on such cassettes.

Sir, I am convinced about the removal of four per cent excise duty on any other item. I wish to emphasise that a small unit producing all these items is already eligible to exemption on clearances up to one crore rupees, in a financial year. This is a very important point, Sir, that all the new items which have been brought into excise net at four per cent will be entitled to a small-scale industry concession.

Sir, my Budget proposals included a special package for the textiles industry. While I had reduced the overall burden of excise duty on the textile fabrics, I had proposed withdrawal of certain exemptions relating to yarn and processed fabrics. I had proposed that the exemption applicable to hand-processing of textile fabrics by independent processors shall be confined to only three processes, namely, scouring, hydro-extraction and calendaring. I have received representations for extending the exemption to some other processes also. On a careful consideration of these representations, I propose to include padding (including backfilling), damping and flannelette raising in the list of exempted processes, even if carried on with the aid of power.

Sir, I also propose to reduce the rate of Excise Duty on hand processed cotton fabrics processed by independent processors using open air stenters from 12 per cent to eight per cent. With the availability of deemed credit to such processors, the net incidence of Duty will be only four per cent. I also propose to exempt cotton waste yarn up to two counts cleared in hank form from this Duty.

Sir, the House may recall that I have withdrawn the exemption from Excise Duty on granite manufactured in the small scale sector. I had proposed this to bring parity with marble. Many hon. Members have suggested to me that there could be another manner of achieving parity. In deference to their wishes, I propose to extend the benefit of small scale sector Excise Duty exemption scheme to both granite as well as marble. I also propose to extend the benefit of SSI Duty exemption scheme to Bengal Lights.

I also propose to exempt aviation gas from the special Excise Duty. This would reduce the cost of training of pilots in the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had extended the exemption from Inland Air Travel tax in respect of flights to and from the North-Eastern States.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, thank you.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: This was already done. I propose to extend similar exemption to Andaman & Nicobar Islands, to Lakshadweep and to Leh.

Sir, I have received representations that any surge in the import of dairy products like butter oil would affect domestic producers of dairy products and the milk farmers. In order to allay any such fears, I propose to increase the Customs Duty on dairy products, including butter and butter oil, from 30 per cent to the WTO bound rate of 40 per cent.

Sir, the House may recall that I had proposed imposition of service tax on several new services including Life Insurance. I have received representations that service tax proposed on life insurance services should be confined only to the risk premium part only. I accept this demand and notification on service tax would be issued accordingly.

Sir, in my Budget speech I had announced that Special Economic Zones would be entitled to procure Duty free equipment, raw materials, components etc. whether imported or purchased locally. It is also the policy that supplies to the Special Economic Zones should be considered as physical exports for the purpose of Duties, tariffs and Central Sales Tax. I propose to move amendments in the Finance Bill to make appropriate changes in the Customs Act, in the Central Excise Act and in the Central Sales Tax Act to implement this policy.

Sir, now I come to the Direct taxes. After considering the various representations received from different quarters and specially from Members of Parliament. I also propose to make some changes in my proposals relating to Direct Taxes. While introducing the Finance Bill I proposed that the tax rebate under section 88 of the Income Tax Act shall be allowed at the existing rate of 20 per cent only to persons having taxable income up to Rs. 1.50 lakh. The rebate was proposed to be reduced to ten per cent for persons having taxable income between Rs. 1.50 lakh and Rs. five lakh. Now, to mitigate the additional tax burden of this proposal on the middle income group, I now propose to allow the rebate at the rate of 15 per cent to persons having taxable income between Rs. 1.50 lakh to Rs. five lakh. I also propose to enhance the maximum amount of investment eligible for rebate from Rs. 80,000 to rupees one lakh which will include Rs. 30,000 specifically for investment in infrastructure bonds as against Rs. 20,000 at present. These two concessions will, I am sure, be satisfying the taxpayer.

[Shri Yashwant Sinha]

In the Finance Bill I have proposed tax dividends and incomes from mutual funds, except equity-oriented funds, in the hands of the recipients at the rates applicable to them. Such income will be subject to tax deduction at source at the rate of 10 per cent. Keeping in view the difficulties which may be faced by small taxpayers, particularly senior citizens, I propose to allow a deduction in respect of this income under Section 80L of the Income Tax Act within the overall ceiling of Rs. 9000 provided for in that section. I also propose to provide that tax will be deducted at source only if the amount received from the company or mutual fund exceeds Rs. 1000.

The 100 per cent deduction of export profits under Section 10A of the Income Tax Act is available to units set up in Special Economic Zones only till the assessment year commencing 1.4.2009. In consonance with the Exim Policy announced recently by the Government which seeks to give a prominent role to undertakings set up in the Special Economic Zones, I propose to allow the 100 per cent deduction to all SEZ units commencing production on or after 1st April, 2002 for a period of five years and thereafter at 50 per cent for the next two years.

Under the existing provisions the tax holiday provided to Export Oriented Units under Sections 10A and 10B of the Income Tax Act is withdrawn if there is a change in beneficial ownership of the undertaking. I propose to provide that this restriction will not apply in cases where the undertaking owned by a firm or a sole proprietary concern is transferred to a company by way of succession to a business, subject to certain conditions.

I would also like to mention here that we had imposed a very small burden on companies covered by Sections 10A and 10B, specially the information technology companies. The security surcharge was sought to be levied by taxing 10 per cent of their income and imposing a surcharge on them. I would like to reiterate that this is just a very temporary surcharge only for this year and I hope that my friends in the information technology industry will bear with this.

The tax incentives provided under Section 80-IB to undertakings set up in industrially backward States and Districts was available only to units set up before 31.3.2002. I propose to extend this benefit to new units set up in such areas during a further period of two years ending on 31.3.2004.

In the Finance Bill I have proposed that no part of the income of religious and charitable trusts and institutions can be accumulated for a period exceeding

five years. Considering the difficulties pointed out by various trusts and institutions, I now propose to allow accumulation of 15 per cent of their income for an unlimited period. However, any amount exceeding 15 per cent of the income can be accumulated only up to a period of five years.

All subscribers to a telephone are presently required to file an income tax return under the 1/6 scheme which is now in force in all urban areas of the country. Several representations have been received requesting deletion of this criteria from the scheme as telephones are now easily available even in smaller towns at low cost and owning a telephone may no longer be indicative of a potential taxpayer. Considering these representations I propose to remove the criterion of subscription to a telephone under 1/6 scheme and limit it only to cellular telephones. I hope we will hear less of cellular telephones in this House now.

There are also other amendments proposed resulting in minor modifications of the provisions of the Bill for which I do not want to take the time of the House at this time. Copies of notifications regarding excise duty changes shall be laid on the Table of the House in due course.

The modifications in my proposals are estimated to involve a revenue loss of Rs. 1450 crore in respect of indirect taxes including service tax and Rs. 700 crore in respect of direct taxes.

Together, this adds upto Rs. 2,150 crore. If we add to this, Rs. 700 crore that the Government will not now get as a result of the reduction in the price of LPG, the total change after the presentation of the Budget is Rs. 2,850 crore.

The point which I would like to submit to the House, through you, Sir, is that in a Budget where the Expenditure Budget is Rs. 4,10,000 crores this Rs. 2,850 crore is not a very significant sum of money and we will be able to take care of it in the course of the year as we go along by compression of expenditure on non essentials and also by increased tax collection. So, the integrity of the Budget remains intact.

Sir, I had announced on the floor of the House that the maximum limit of Rs. 2 lakh per annum per person for investment in the Government of India Relief Bonds will be removed in respect of retiring/retired employees including those in the private sector to enable them to put their entire terminal benefits in these bonds. I am glad to inform the House that this scheme is being further

liberalised to cover retired employees for re-investment of any other savings attributable to employment in Relief Bonds without any monetary ceiling. So, the employees who will retire in future as well as the employees who have retired and who have put their money in Relief Bonds, are now protected from the limit of Rs. 2 lakh.

Sir, I have also been authorised by my colleague, the Communications Minister, to inform the House, through you, Sir, about some changes in the postal rates. We are observing this year as the 'Year of the Books', and in this context, the publishing industry has represented that the proposed increase in postal rates for booked package containing printed books may be dropped. This would mean a reduction of about Rs. 7 crore in the expected additional revenue of the Department of Posts which bears the heavy burden of deficit. However, with the willing cooperation of the Department, I am quite sure that this loss of Rs. 7 crore which is going as a concession to the publishing industry will be made up elsewhere and the overall loss will be limited.

Sir, with these words, I commend the Bill for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2002-03, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the pending remarks of his Budget Speech this year, the Minister of Finance Shri Yashwant Sinha—lacking, of course, the exuberance of the past—admitted that the year 2001 had been a difficult year, though he attributed the failures of this Government to the general slow down in the world economic growth.

Sir, he concluded his speech by calling the budget a Budget of consolidating, widening and deepening the economic reforms process. Going by the effect the proposal are likely to have on the common man, one wonders what consolidation does he really talk of.

Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister that when he reported the shortfall of Rs. 20,683 crore in the net tax revenue, with a virtual admission of miserable failure in fiscal consolidation and discipline, does he feel that it sounds convincing about the Government's efforts and capacity of consolidating reforms and not fritter away possible gains?

Sir, meet the man on the street, and you will be convinced that notwithstanding some minor rollbacks announced now, the proposals of the Budget reflected in the Finance Bill will only compound his miseries and difficulties. The proposals hurt everyone other than a non-resident and a foreign company. The budgetary proposals are an attack, an attack on the middle class—really nothing short of an attack—an attack, pure and simple.

Sometimes, I agree that one has to suffer and bear pain for the ultimate gain. But here, you find no cause for such a hope. The salaried class is the worst hit. During the General Elections in 1999, an assurance was held out by the BJP that the exemption limit of income tax would be raised to Rs. 1 lakh. Three years later, it remains at Rs. 50,000 only, though the value of rupee has considerably eroded. The limit regarding exemption is not raised in order to maintain tax base. I can understand that, but not the obstinacy in not really bringing the persons in the income group of up to Rs. 1 lakh in the slab of 10 per cent. That is what the people in that income group deserve. To further compound the ordinary tax payers' difficulties, a five per cent surcharge has been levied in the name of national security, which is today precariously placed in the hands of Shri George Fernandes, when influence peddling in defence deals has increased. That is the time when people are being penalised to pay an additional five per cent tax.

The financial proposals reflected in the Finance Bill hit savings in a big way. For the retired senior citizens, the interest on their lifetime savings—which they invest in small savings—is perhaps the only income and they cannot really stand up against the might of the Government's arbitrariness. As in the past, even now, not only has the rate of interest on small savings been reduced but also the tax rebate allowed on savings under Section 88 of the Income Tax Act have been severely curtailed. This simply amounts to penalising those people who are financially prudent and who rather go by the sane advice of the Government to save.

Even after the announcement of a small concession made by the Finance Minister now, a person with an income of above Rs. 5 lakh will not get any benefit of rebate. So far, an investment of Rs. 80,000 in such saving schemes would earn a rebate of Rs. 16,000. But no more! Persons with an income between Rs. 1.5 lakh and Rs. 5 lakh—after the concession announced now—would at the most get a tax rebate of Rs. 12,000 against the earlier rebate of Rs. 16,000. This provision will create an

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

anomalous situation, where a person who earns just a little more than the limit fixed—even a rupee more than that—will lose Rs. 4,000, even after the rollback.

The net result of the provision is that a person who has an income out of which he can invest a small part in savings, will have no incentive to save. And those who earn above Rs. 5 lakh need not really save, perhaps this is the philosophy of the Government. For a person whose income is below Rs. 1.5 lakh, this incentive is illusory. Take the example of a person whose monthly income is, say Rs. 12,000. According to the rates prevalent, he has to pay an income tax of Rs 13,800 and to save Rs. 10,000, a person who is earning Rs. 1,44,000 in a year—not such of an income—he will have to invest Rs. 50,000 and still pay an income tax of Rs. 4,000. Can he afford it? Is it really possible? So, what benefit is the Finance Minister really talking about for the poor men? It is that section of society whose concerns have to be addressed and I am afraid the hon. Finance Minister has ignored them.

Further, the benefit of these additional rebates which was so far allowed to authors, artists, musicians, sports persons, etc. has been withdrawn. They do not come within his scheme of things now. This all is in the name of perhaps some rationalisation that the Minister talks of.

I certainly do welcome announcement about exempting the people whose income from dividend is Rs. 1,000 from having to get tax deducted at source but that is not enough. Firstly, the basic change that has been effected here and is to the detriment of the people is that whereas so far it was the company paying the dividend which was subjected to tax, now it is the people who earn some dividend from their investment will have to pay the tax according to the slab they are covered by. This could mean an additional burden of 10 to 20 per cent. Is this the incentive that he wants to offer to the people to go in for saving?

Coming back to the deduction of tax at source, is that concession of Rs. 1000 is not really a concession to those people with income from dividend but in a way fixation of a threshold of Rs. 1000. Is that enough? You have to make a distinction between a person who earns a modest amount and a person who earns Rs. 5 lakh and that is not done. The result would be, still there will be lot many hassles that a person will have to go through in the form of collecting the certificates about deduction, going to the authorities to present his case. Though he is given a period of two years to file certificates, but given the bureaucracy that we have, given the system

that we have, the paper work would not be lessened in any way and there could be a case where an income derived from dividends could be nothing as compared to the problem that the man really faces and in a way by investing in a scheme like this, a person could in fact be only courting some trouble.

In his anxiety to collect more revenue, the Finance Minister has brought within the tax net, ten additional new services like the Life insurance—on which a clarification has now been issued—rail travel agents, beauty parlours, health clubs, fitness centres, fashion designers, cable operators, dry cleaners, inland cargo handling, storage and warehousing and event management. In all these cases the service providers will certainly pass on this five per cent tax burden to the consumers though they themselves will be added in that long list of people in our country who suffer at the hands of petty officials in the excise department. This was the point made earlier also when the concept of service tax was introduced for the first time that it is better that this tax is not put within the jurisdiction of excise department. But that representation has, perhaps, not found favour with the hon. Minister.

Sir, one peculiar thing that I find in the proposals now is that the official authorities supplying water and electricity to the citizens, the housing boards and other statutory authorities established for satisfying the need—I am quoting from that—of housing accommodation or for the purpose of planning development or improvement of cities, towns, and villages, sports bodies, market committees, National Dairy Development Board, Prasar Bharati, and Oil Industry Development Board will now have to pay income tax. Once they are required to do so, they will, in future, certainly jack up their charges which the helpless citizens will just have to cough up.

Similarly, warehouses established by the Government for storage of foodgrains etc. were so far exempted from the payment of income tax under Section 10 Clause 29, but no more so. Sir, on the one hand, the Government is at pains to emphasise that it wants to pay special attention to increasing storage capacity of foodgrains. Now, when the Government taxes the warehouses on the rents received by it for storage of foodgrains etc., is it not only paying the lip service to that? Will this not deter addition of more warehouses? Will this not adversely affect the warehousing and storage activity in the country?

Sir, it seems that the Government has taken care to spare no one in the country. So far casual and non-recurring receipts below Rs. 5000 on account of say

contributing an article in a newspaper or delivering a talk somewhere—this is not so specified but I presume so—such people were exempted from payment of income tax. Now, in the name of rationalisation, this exemption is withdrawn. Also, the Finance Bill has a sun-set clause putting an end to exemption in respect of income by way of interest or premium on redemption of certain notified bonds.

Sir, in increasing the tax burden of a common man, sight is lost of his diminishing capacity to pay because of inflation. No concession—whatever has been granted anywhere accounts for the erosion of the value of rupee. But surprisingly 'inflation' is invoked as the justification for enhancing by 75 per cent the presumptive income of ordinary truck operator. The presumptive income of truck operators running two-three trucks, has been raised by 75 per cent in the name of inflation. Is there a justification for that?

We have heard the Finance Minister talk of extending benefits, he referred to that now again, to Special Economic Zones and Software Parks. But in the Finance Bill, he has knocked off '10 per cent of the deduction permissible so far on profits and gains from export earnings of new undertakings established in Trade Free Zone'. So, what you are giving on the one hand, you are taking away on the other. Perhaps the provision which has gone unnoticed is 10 per cent which they saved earlier has now been knocked off.

Same is the position of new undertakings established in Software Technology Parks, Electronic Hardware Technology parks about which much was talked of earlier and the Special Economic Zones. While, despite I would again say—the concessions announced now, tax concessions have been withdrawn and interest on savings have been cut, we find that there are a large number of provisions which really go to hurt the common man. I know the sermon that the countrymen get in this regard is that hard decisions have to be taken. But, what do you give the common man in return?

I would like to emphasise that the most inexplicable stance, rather the double-crossing—I am constrained to use that word for the Government—of the gullible public by the Government is the denial to honour on maturity the National Saving Certificate issued in the name of HUFs. A large number of people who have bought the National Saving Certificates waited for five to six years for their maturity. Now, when they go to the Post Offices and other authorities for encashing them, they are being turned away. Have you ever heard of such a thing being

done by the Government? A private person could find himself behind prison bars for such an act. And you, Mr. Finance Minister, consider this to be your sovereign right!

There is nothing in this Finance Bill to cheer about, reduction of Excise Duty on tea notwithstanding. Imported liquor, I would humbly like to remind the hon. Finance Minister, on which he has reduced the Customs Duty from 210 per cent to 182 per cent, is not everybody's cup of tea.

There is a lot of self-adulatory talk by the hon. Finance Minister from time to time. We are told that tax administration is strengthened, evasions are checked and procedures are made hassle-free. All this sounds fine. But such claims fall on the ground when stereo-type notices are issued to persons—I think this must have come to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister—who are not liable to pay tax while tax evaders flaunt their unaccounted for riches with impunity.

I welcome the announcement made by the Finance Minister to take out telephone connections from the one-by-six scheme. But has it ever occurred to him that bank lockers need to be included in the list? The recent unearthing of crores and crores of rupees in the bank locker standing in the names of various relatives of the scam-tainted Chairman of the Punjab Public Service Commission has brought out this fact quite prominently. I would like to ask him whether he would take note of this and make it mandatory for the banks to convey information about hiring of lockers along with the PAN to the Income Tax authorities.

It is because the bank locker is one surest and so far considered to be the safest mode of stashing ill-gotten money.

Coming back to the tax proposals and the Finance Bill, the Finance Minister expects to mop up an additional amount of about Rs. 6000 crore from direct taxes. Since it is now Rs. 700 crore less, it is Rs. 5300 crore. But I do not know whether he has given anything to the tax payers other than dreams and false hopes. Last year's Budget was hailed as a dream budget but ultimately it turned out to be a nightmare for the people. The portents are no better this time. It is still worse.

The Finance Minister talks of economic growth. It is the most important target. It is what you have to really work for to raise the living standard of every ordinary citizen of the country. But does he expect to raise the economic growth without generating employment? Where

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

are the "one crore jobs every year". The Prime Minister assured to the people from the ramparts of the Red Fort?

Let me say that we do not oppose, in principle, the policy of privatisation and globalisation of economy. But we certainly feel concerned about their handling thereof. Sir, the Government's failure on many fronts has not accelerated but rather decelerated investment and the hope of enhancing job opportunities has not fructified at all. Rather, job securities have shrunk all the more with the blow that you are inflicting on the small scale industry. You said that the manufacturers of items which are covered by the 4 per cent excise duty shall be treated as small scale industry. It is fine. But what are you doing for the small scale industry? You are bleeding them. With the wounds inflicting on the small scale industries, more and more people are losing jobs as the small scale industries are getting sick and going out of the market. You seem to have imported even the growth process. I have no objection, if you could learn something from others. But where is that growth? I would like to know that. Perhaps, this complacent Government is not aware of large scale retrenchments, lay-offs and lock-outs with the workers forced to look for work at low and subsistence levels of earning. People are being thrown out. They are at the mercy of wolves. A person who was earning Rs. 7000 is not getting a job of even Rs. 2000 today. You may justify it saying that these are the market forces at work. But you have got to see as to what are the conditions in our country, what are the expectations of people here and how do you really meet them.

I may have missed the fine print of his proposals. But I would urge the Finance Minister to kindly point out anything which has spurred or will spur employment. Today, even engineers, qualified IT professionals and MBAs are desperately looking for jobs.

Sir, there is no provision at all in the Finance Bill which one can relate to a desire to provide a revival package to our industry. Compete or perish is your buzz word. But no tangible and worthwhile conditions are created to encourage our entrepreneurs. Rather it seems that the Government is content with reducing all our young men and women to sales persons for foreign goods. Imports have been allowed to an extent that our own industry has been totally displaced by the proponents of *Swadeshi*. Sir, It is perhaps not their ideology but only a ploy.

In the name of strengthening the tax administration, the provision that allows deduction in computation of

taxable income, of sums paid to approved associations and institutions for carrying out programmes of conservation of natural resources and afforestation is being withdrawn. The reason: failure of the Government to monitor the same properly. So, the prescription is to do away with it.

According to the Finance Minister's proposals, excise duty is expected to bring in an additional amount of Rs. 6,700 crore, while measures relating to customs duty would result in the revenue loss of Rs. 2,200 crore. He calls that also as duty rationalisation. But certainly this will push up prices at a time when the demand is already sluggish. For the poor man, the cooking gas will certainly go out of reach.

There have been announcements of certain roll backs immediately after the presentation of the Budget, particularly relating to the price of LPG then and certain other things now. But this, though I welcome, is not a very healthy trend. This shows the muddled thinking of the Government not really being responsive to the people's needs. It is the pressure exerted from within the party, which made the Finance Minister to succumb. Taking the example and alluding to a reference made by Shri L.K. Advani earlier in a different context, relating to the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, he said the Government is in a 'win-win' situation. Let me tell the Government that it is now in a 'lose-lose' situation. You may have announced the concessions. But the people who voted you to power are now convinced that they were mistaken in doing so, that their future is not safe in your hands and that in your scheme of things they stand nowhere. You have given that message clear to them, whatever you may do now.

I was talking of the LPG. This Government says that it wants even the rural households to give up the use of bio-mass fuel. Statements are made about the large number of distributorships opened in the rural areas but you dangle this LPG cylinder at them tantalisingly. It is not within their reach. That is what the hon. Finance Minister has to take care of. So, these proposals will certainly price out the poor. In this connection, I would also like to refer to the hike in the PDS kerosene price.

Since the industrial growth hit a ten-year low last year, it was expected that steps would be taken to encourage investment, to reduce corporate tax and to abolish Minimum Alternate Tax. But nothing has been done. Only the foreign companies have been obliged. Their tax has been reduced from 48 per cent to 40 per cent, and not for the domestic companies who are

clamouring for this, who want to invest but find no incentive for doing so.

I would like to know what is the strategy to reverse the economic slow down. The Finance Minister, permit me to say, sounds unconvincing and non-seriousness when he talks of implementing a comprehensive agenda for second generation reforms. What is that agenda? Where is it visible? Where are the tangible effects thereof?

In all fairness, I would like to say that I find two welcome provisions in the Bill relating to Information Technology and Telecommunication sector. The reduction in customs duty on import of components will certainly help the so-far ignored IT hardware sector. We have made a recommendation to that effect in the Standing Committee. The manufacturers of hardware were really pressing for that, they were pleading for that very desperately. That has been accepted. But we did expect one more further step. That was to provide for some legislative measure to encourage setting up of a world-class foundry, the need of which is desperately felt in this country. In the absence of it, our hardware industry in the IT sector is not doing what we really can do in that sector.

Then, I come to the decision to allow an industrial undertaking engaged in the business of providing telecommunication services related to infrastructure. He will have to check up about the definition because the other Ministry at times, talks differently. I would like to know whether it is the 'telecommunication services related to infrastructure' or the 'telecommunication services-related infrastructure'. In any case, these companies will now have the benefit of carry forward of losses and unabsorbed depreciation in case of a merger of the company. I would certainly have no hesitation in welcoming that. But this benefit really needs to be extended not to a particular segment of the sector but to the entire sector; subject of course, to one rider that all the private companies would honour their commitment to provide a specified number of Village Public Telephones. So far, they have failed to honour this commitment and the Government has failed to enforce it.

Under Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act, exemption is available to an undertaking which has started or which starts providing telecommunication services in the period from 1st of April 1995 to 31st March, 2003. This was done to attract more investment in the sector which is necessary for expansion and development. But in today's competitive environment, the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and the MTNL have not been extended

this benefit on the ground that they are the successors of an Authority, that is, the Department of Telecommunication Services which had come into business much before this date of 1st April 1995. This does not stand to logic. The BSNL and the MTNL have been making heavy investments over all this period to expand telecommunication services in this country. Where the private companies have failed to honour their commitment that I was referring to, the Government is casting that responsibility on the BSNL to provide VPTs in those places also. When that is the situation, when the BSNL, I have found, is really working hard to expand the services in the country and achieve the tele-density that we have targeted for, it is necessary to extend this benefit to the BSNL and the MTNL by amending Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act.

The performance or the goal of any Government has to be to raise the living standards of the people, in providing for the social welfare measures and taking care to ensure that we do not continue to suffer from the scourge of illiteracy. But here, besides the Ninety-third amendment to the Constitution which makes the school education a fundamental right of the children, nothing much has been done. There has been some increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Education but that is not really enough. The year 2002, I hope the hon. Minister acknowledges, is the year of quality education. He seems to have been oblivious of this when provisions were not incorporated to promote quality education in the country.

I would now come very briefly to the postal tariff. There is one small amendment announced now. But the basic thing remains and that is beyond comprehension and logic as to why the tariff on the printed postcard has been raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 6 while that of the envelop has been raised only from Rs. 4 to Rs. 5. I am only using this in comparison, otherwise it is quite a high hike. In the case of competition cards, it has been raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10. The printed postcard is mostly used by people to convey messages about obituaries, memorial service, *kriyas*, etc. But in all those cases, people do not use the cards which you supply. You cannot really say that you have to spend a lot in the production of the cards. They use their own cards, but affix only the stamp. Perhaps you do not want them to do that.

Similarly, who will suffer the most in the case of enhancement from Rs. 5 to Rs. 10 in the case of competition cards? It is the students. Students respond to various quiz competitions and other competitions organised by television, radio, magazines and other media.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

I would really like to know as to what really went into this. I could understand that if that card produced by the department is used. They use their own cards. Will it not really lead to a situation where people will not like to use those cards and go in for envelopes? Will that be cheaper for the Government, envelopes which they provide, on which you have embossed stamp of Rs. four or five now?

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Bansalji, I am not stopping you, but you have taken 40 minutes. Please see the time allotted to your party.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Banks have been allowed to deduct up to 7.5 per cent of the total income as against the present deduction of five per cent of the total income against the provisions made by them for bad and doubtful debts, ostensibly to strengthen the financial position of the banks. This sounds all right. But I have a fear that this may not really give rise to more NPAs. That is what I would want the hon. Minister to take care of.

13.59 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the chair*]

The NDA assumed office amidst hope and expectation. The BJP had projected itself as a party with a difference. During the campaign it had led the people up the path of milk and honey. It had known that the vision of Rajiv Gandhi and concrete steps taken by him to promote information technology, telecommunications, space development and technology missions would yield results. The BJP had also seem the potential benefits flowing out of the policy followed by the Congress Government, in liberalising the economy. But the latest elections gave a clear message to BJP for its failure to deliver and the newspapers carried bold captions—"People disinvest in BJP."

14.00 hrs.

'For CEO Vajpayee, the bottomline is, 'stocks are falling', 'State Polls handcuff PM', 'Vote of No-Confidence in PM'. This is the situation today.

Madam, I do not want to be termed as a prophet of doom, but realising that this Government has proved itself unequal to the challenges of a vast and diverse nation, unequal to the challenges of managing the economy, I

can only say that if people expected any improvement in their lives during the regime of BJP led NDA, they are sadly mistaken.

To conclude, when I express my inability to support the budgetary and financial proposals reflected in the Finance Bill, 2002, I humbly seek to represent the common man on the street.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): Madam, first of all I would like to point out the background of this Budget. The background as shown in the *Economic Survey* is, the industrial production registered a significantly lower growth of 5 per cent in 2000-01 compared to a growth rate of 6.7 per cent in 1999-2000. It has come down gradually. It was 5.3 per cent and 4 per cent respectively in 1999-2000 and 2000-01 both in manufacturing and electricity sectors.

The manufacturing sector, electricity sector, small scale sector, cooperative sector and public sector—which has been thrown away, not to speak of the public sector in entirety—in all these sectors there has been a gradual slow down, and that has attained the highest proportion last year. This is the acme of the story which forms the background before presenting this Budget.

The growth in the manufacturing sector fell further to 2.4 per cent which was significantly lower than 6 per cent recorded during the corresponding period of last year. From 6 per cent in last year, it has come down to 2.4 per cent now. The growth rate in the manufacturing sector during the first 9 months in the current year was the lowest during the last 10 years.

Similarly, electricity generation growth rate 2.7 per cent was also significantly lower than 4.8 per cent recorded during the corresponding period of last year and also the lowest during the last 10 years. This is the background where we stand now. I will not elaborate much. But there are other figures also.

I now go on to infrastructure sector which has been much talked about during the Budget speech and various other deliberations. What do we see there? The performance of infrastructure is largely a reflection of the performance of the economy. This is what the *Economic Survey* says. The infrastructure investment is measured by six key infrastructure industries, the coal industry, electricity, crude oil, petroleum refinery products, sale of steel and cement. Having a figure of 26.7 per cent as the overall industrial production in 1993-94, taking the base as 100, the overall industrial production recorded a

growth of 2 per cent during 2001-02 as compared to 6.8 per cent during the corresponding period of last year.

Among the six core infrastructure industries, the performance of the cement industry is improved expecting a growth of 6.4 per cent compared to 2.1 per cent in the corresponding period. This is the only growth there. There has been a deceleration in the growth rates of power, steel, refinery, etc. Crude petroleum has shown a negative growth during April-December 2001-02. This is attributable to the socio-economic management programme, etc. This is the economic scenario when the Budget was placed. The Budget could not give any direction to the improvement towards a positive gain in this economic growth or stopping the slow down and the growth further.

In this background, when the economy was reeling, social tension mounted to an extreme height on *mandir shiladhar* and so on and so forth and the Government deliberately participated in constructing temples, mosques or other shrines. As it has been done in the case of temples, it must be done in the case of other shrines also. A huge tension was mounted throughout the country. Kindly see *The Times of India* on the day when the Budget was being placed. Budget is the second item. The first item is, "Gujarat burns, towns under siege." Kindly see the newspaper of 2nd March, that is one day after the Budget was placed. After that, there was no mention about the Budget. Usually, on the Budget day and on the next two or three days, the media people dedicate themselves in discussing the Budget. This time it could not be done because of the background. I have explained. It should take the front seat for discussion, but it could not be done this year. Never this has happened in our country after Independence. And in this *melee*, the Budget was placed. The General Budget and the Railway Budget sought to address only one side of the economy by conferring give-always to the capitalists and landlords' lobby. Each and every measure of the revenue front announced in the Budget was for imposing more and more burden on the already poor masses and concessions to the capitalists and big landowners.

This has been done systematically for the last few years in the name of first generation reforms and, now in the garb of tall talks of second generation reforms. What is the balance sheet of the first generation reforms? The balance sheet of the first generation reforms has been explained in the *Economic Survey*. Some of the features have been explained in the *Economic Survey* of the Government of India. Some features have been explained by the mass movements which are taking place

throughout the country against the harsh economic measures taken by the Government against the people.

There is a cruel attack on the people. What did the Budget proposals say? It said hike in excise duties totalling an amount of Rs. 6,700 crore. Duties to the tune of Rs. 2,200 crore have been reduced. It said of hiking of LPG prices by Rs. 20 per cylinder. It increased PDS kerosene by Rs. 1.50 per litre. It hiked the postal tariff by 20 per cent to 100 per cent. It reduced the subsidy on fertilizers. There was a hike in the railway fare. It imposed five per cent surcharge on income tax in the name of national security. Moreover, the reduction of interest rate on PF and small savings adds fuel to the fire. These are the Budget proposals which had been placed in the background of a huge social tension that was mounted within the country.

Now when we are discussing the Finance Bill, the fire in Gujarat has not yet abated. It is still burning.

The most important aspect of the country is this. It concerns our present and future. It concerns our conscience to discuss, that is, whether we are going to be caught in a debt trap or not. The Finance Minister in his Budget Speech assured us that although there is a danger of such a thing, the measures the Government had taken have averted the apprehension of being caught into a debt trap.

It is a governance which is dictatorial and where consensus-based decisions have no role to play. We have little time to go into an in-depth analysis of the most vital issues of the country-misplacing the targets, misplacing the issues and confusing the issues by different statements that sound like nigmroles of effervescent Ministers.

We find in this tumult, on the one hand, a fresh series of concessions that have been granted to the private corporates and foreign capital. Just a few minutes ago, my colleague said that despite their dismal performance, a liberal approach has been taken. In the last year's Budget, concessions worth Rs. 16,000 crore were granted to them. This time also, they are enjoying further concessions of 40 per cent to 48 per cent. They have also been allowed 15 per cent depreciation for new plants and machinery. There is complete freedom and total *azadi* for NRIs. Whoever be the NRI, when Indian money is taken to the Gulf and brought back, it becomes an NRI investment. So, all that one has to do is to take money from India to the Gulf countries and come back again to get concessions as an NRI. This is what has been happening. I find that no check has been placed in

[Shri Tarit Baran Topdar]

the Budget speech or in the Budget proposals on this dubious method of some of the NRI investments. Added to this and of great concern is the fact that 50 more items have been de-reserved from the domain of the small-scale sector. This would only marginalise the small-scale sector in favour of the monopoly houses including foreign multinationals.

I would like to know something about reforms.

[Translation]

Whether reforms are there for finishing the values.

[English]

Reforms have to be carried out in the interest of the country and of the people of the country. This has not to be done to squander away the assets that we have accumulated when the private sector was not entering the core industries because of economic constraints that I do not want to elaborate now. Now, when things are ready, whether it is the manufacturing sector or the infrastructure sector, these are all being given back to the capitalists who were reluctant at one point of time at throwaway prices. We have been pointing out since the beginning that the pricing mechanism has been very faulty.

Madam, I will conclude within a few minutes.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have only two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR: Madam, the outstanding account of the corporate houses, income tax, Central Excise and Customs Duty as on 2000 was more than Rs. 62,000 crore. Most of these were from the big corporate houses. The same corporate lobby also usurped Rs. 80,000 crore from the nationalised banks in the form of non-performing assets and it is lying with them, which along with interest comes to Rs. 1,20,000 crore. So, the total becomes Rs. 1,82,000 crore. On the one hand, the Government is bringing poor workers—skilled and unskilled—of the organised sector in the tax net, and on the other hand, the Government is not taking step to realise all these moneys from these tax evaders. So, the common man is being taxed and tax evaders are not caught.(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : In this context, I would like to conclude by saying that the hon. Minister of Finance has told the House just now in the course of placing some of the amendments to the Finance Bill, that around Rs. 2,000 crores is nothing as compared to Expenditure Budget of Rs. 4,10,000 crore. I want to implore upon the hon. Minister of Finance that compared to Rs. 4,10,000 crore Expenditure Budget, Rs. 6,000 crore is also a small amount. So, I would request the hon. Minister to concede to the demands and roll back the extra taxation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Tarit Baran Topdar, you have to roll up your speech. Your Party has got only 29 minutes. You have already taken 25 minutes. The next speaker will not get the time. It is not fair to him. There are two speakers from your party.(Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Madam, I would like to conclude with an appeal to the hon. Minister that he may roll back the proposal of direct and indirect taxation which is affecting the common man and try to tax the corporates and catch the tax evaders and bring them to book.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The country is passing through a crisis. A tough decision should be taken in the interest of the country. In the present era, some tough decisions may hurt a particular class, but sincere efforts are being made by this Government to improve the economy of the country. This Government is doing this with full honesty, the hon'ble Finance Minister is making efforts. There is no doubt that we are proud of him but despite this a particular class is agitated due to the steps taken by him. But when they understand that what is the need of the country, how poor the economic condition of the country is, there is a need to reform it, then it appears that these decisions are essential. These decisions may appear tough, but these will benefit the country in the long run. Therefore, all of us would go to the people and tell them that the short-term results of these decisions may not be beneficial, but these are not panicking, and in fact encouraging. Today, our country has joined the four biggest economies of the world after America, Japan and China, India is developing as the biggest economy. This is an achievement of this Government. It is a very positive sign, particularly for the hon. Finance Minister. We should be proud of it.

There are some basic things in the country, which are essential for everybody. We studied in our Childhood that basic human needs are food, clothing and housing. Today, we have surplus food stocks. The hon. Minister for Textiles is present here. Today cheap and good cloth is easily available to us. The problem of housing is definitely there. But for the last three years, this Government has taken encouraging steps in this direction and has boost up this sector. Due to the financial aid being given for housing, the poor and the people living in rural areas have become conscious about the house construction. Now, people are easily getting loans and loans are available on cheaper interest rates. I feel that we will definitely become self-reliant in the housing sector. Everybody will get house and shelter. When we go to our constituency, villages, people tell us about their housing problems. It has sent a good message among the people. But I can definitely claim that hon. Finance Minister has been very liberal in this case. People are experiencing that the housing problem would also be ruled out. Our first target was to construct 20 lakh houses in one year. But it is very good that it has been increased up to 28 lakh houses. The credit goes to the hon. Finance Minister and the Housing Minister. Above all, hon. Prime Minister deserves applaud, who had promised to provide 20 lakh houses per year and now it has been extended to 28 lakh houses per year. 30 per cent growth has been registered in it. Similarly, the target fixed for Indira Awas Yojna has also been increased and the amount allocated for it also has been increased. After the food, clothing, now the poor people of the country, who were shelterless, will be able to get houses also.

The efforts are being made to reduce fiscal deficit by economic process. This is a very big crisis. I would like to present these figures before the House. Under non-plan expenditure head interest payment was 28 percent in 1990-91. In 1995-96, it became 38 percent. In 1996, it increased by 10 percent. All of us are aware, on that time whose Government was in power. This Government and hon. Finance Minister are not Santa Claus, who will bring gift for everybody. This is a country of Kautilya, Chanakya. The economics of Kautilya is recognized all over the world, the entire world is adopting the economic theories of Kautilya. We want that our Finance Minister and Prime Minister should not act like Santa Claus, who gives gift to everybody, and get their house and country ruined. This is not going to happen because this country is of Kautilya. The country is going to be run according to the policies of Kautilya and Chanakya, because it is going to have a long-term effect. Along with it, I would also like to say as interest payment got increased from 28 percent in 1991 to 38 percent in

1996, it is a matter of concern. Our Government has stabilized it on 40 per cent, even after the way it is being spent only 2 percent growth has been registered. It is a very big issue, we are aware how much efforts are to be made by him. All MPs spent 2 crore rupees and they have to face lot of problems, many people of our area get annoyed from us. Hence we can understand, that how much problem does he face. I would like to raise a basic question about subsidy, whether subsidy reaches the people for whom it is given? This is a very important question because, subsidy do not reach the deserving people and middleman takes away a big part of it. Therefore, rethinking is definitely needed in this direction, some measures should be taken so that subsidy should reach the deserving people, something of that kind should be done.

Hence the subsidy system is once again in jeopardy over the issue of how the subsidise items could reach the poor, the farmers and the workers. The minimum support price is meant for agricultural produces and agriculture is a state subject. It is for the first time that a Minister of Finance has expressed his concern on how to market agriculture produces. The states which are doing a good job in this regard will be given incentives. It is also very big thing. Hence for the first time a Finance Minister has expressed his concern not only for agriculture but for the basic infrastructure and power sector also.

Hence I would like that the steps being taken should certainly be applauded and alongwith it the hon. Minister should leave this apprehension aside as to what the people having vested interests in States want.

The middle class people are an aggrieved lot, what is the number of people in percentage terms? I would like to know as to who are these people comprising this middle class? Are they those people whose annual income is Rs. 5 lakh? After all who are these middle class people. Today India is to survive in the world. India is also to attain the number one position in terms of economic growth. Hence there is a need to define who are this middle class? The salaried class people make a lot of hue and cry. I know that a big lobby is behind them but who will bother for the agriculture workers and farmers no matter whether they have jobs or are jobless. Hence the government as well as the bureaucrats will have to change their mindset and thinking. The Government will have to take steps in this direction. This could be a problem in the beginning but the efforts being made by the Government will have far-reaching effects. I support this effort of the Government.

[Dr. Sanjay Paswan]

Sir, there is a mention about manufacturing process in clause 126 of the Financial Bill. There is a proposal to make it comprehensive. I commend the Government for this. Now the situation is that power has been given to the executive so that the confusion is set at rest. I also support this endeavor of the Government. Similarly clause 128 deals with exemption. In this clause transparency has certainly been talked about in this matter of rebate. The executive has been made accountable for it also. I also support this step of the Government and the House should also support it. It provides for early disposal of the cases questioning the need to move the judiciary. It has been stated in clause 134 that there are cases which are pending in the court and a decision on them cannot be taken for 5-10 years. In such a matter order will be given if it is not decided within 180 days. Hence it will not result infringement of rights. I can definitely say that the steps being taken by the Government will have for reaching benefits for the country and will be in the interest of the country.

It is being said that the prices of liquor have come down. I am the one who seeks knowledge. This is being more talked of in the circle of those who drink. They are feeling very happy inside. The hon. Minister has also withdrawn the LPG hike. It is good. I would like to assure the hon. Minister that the people of the country are with him if he takes tougher decisions. Country is greater than the party and if hard decisions are required to be taken in the interest of the country then we are with him. The people will be with him, we will enable them to do so and appeal to them to support his decisions. Today the inflation rate has come down. It is directly related to the interest rate. Rate of interest can not be increased when the rate of inflation is decreasing, rate of interest was increased earlier in view of increasing inflation. Now when the inflation rate is coming down it is certainly not a matter of worry for the rate of interest is also reducing whether it is on domestic savings, bank savings, PF savings. It will be realised by the people later. These people who have enjoyed higher rate of interest on account of increased inflation will observe that the inflation rate is decreasing and it will keep on decreasing in future also.

I appreciate the steps taken by the hon. Minister. He is marching in the interest of the country. I alongwith the entire people of the country are with him in his efforts. I support this Finance Bill and hope that it will definitely benefit the country.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai):
Madam, Chairperson, in view of the fact that I had also forwarded to the hon. Finance Minister requests for the roll back of his proposals in respect of certain areas, I welcome his rolling back his proposals with respect to parts and accessories of bicycles, parts and accessories of umbrellas, his withdrawal of Excise levy on roofing tiles and his withdrawal of the service tax on matters relating to life insurance. These are all welcome steps. It should never have been proposed in the first place but I am glad that late wisdom has dawned on Shri Yashwant Sinha. In regard to the textile sector there was a very-misplaced proposal on his part to impose Excise Duty on hank yarn. Although the language in which he has withdrawn it is somewhat complicated as he limits it to cotton waste yarn up to two counts, yet I would imagine that substantially the concerns of the hank yarn people have been met and, therefore, we welcome this.

Madam Chairperson, however, he has done nothing about the Excise Duty on cone yarn. Given the condition of the extile industry, and in particular the doldrums in which the decentralised sector finds itself, I think the Government needs to completely review once again its entire policy with regard to the cotton textile industry. The special package that he has mentioned takes a number of the present parameters for granted and does not recognise that we are (a) in a position of deep depression with regard to the cotton textile industry as a whole, whether it is the mill sector or the decentralised sector; (b) nor does it recognise that there are immense opportunities as well as challenges opening up on account of changes in the WTO regime relating to international trade in textiles. I would, therefore, urge very-very strongly that in the year that is before us, that is 2002-03, the Government undertake a very comprehensive review of everything related to the cotton textile industry, both the mill sector and the decentralised sector in which these fiscal matters will constitute a part and not the whole, and place us in a position by the next Budget where we can, instead of being overwhelmed by the challenges of WTO, take advantages of the opportunities that will be opened up effective from the year 2004. It is already too late but not beyond redemption. It is possible to do it now. By a very happy coincidence the Minister of Textiles is present in the House just now and even though the Minister of Finance himself is absent, his able deputies are present here and perhaps between the two one can get the concentrated attention that the cotton textile sector, specifically the decentralised cotton cloth sector, deserves to receive. In this connection, I am afraid what has been

proposed with regard to processed cotton fabrics in the Finance Minister's latest statement this morning is simply not adequate. We need to have excise duty reductions which are much greater than the ones we have now in order to be able to bring this industry out of the doldrums and take it forward.

The Finance Minister has proposed nothing with regard to made-ups and garments which constitute an important element of our exports of these items. What he has proposed with regard to processed fabrics is hedged in with so many conditions—that it is available only for certain processes like padding, damping, and flannelette raising; it is not for other processes; it only relates to hand-processed cotton fabrics, that too only for independent producers, and that too only for those using open-air stentors, etc. With all these conditions the proposal has been so hedged in that it will benefit some, it will not benefit the industry as a whole. There is a much greater need to attend to this because the entire synthetics industry has completely overtaken the cotton textiles industry.

In my intervention in the General Debate on the Budget I had pointed to the disaster that has overtaken cotton textiles sector in the 1990s compared to the growth which it had recorded in the 1980s. I would, therefore, stress in general that while the every tentative steps taken by the Union Finance Minister in this regard are to be welcomed, there is so much more to be done that I would really place a request that it be confirmed to us before the end of this debate that the hon. Finance Minister and the hon. Textiles Minister will put their heads together to come up with a package that is much more than merely a fiscal package, by the time we come to Budget 2003.

I turn, Madam, to a sector which for some reason has completely evaded the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, which is tea. The tea industry is in the doldrums. It is an industry that extends from Sontosh Mohan Deb's Assam down to Tamil Nadu. This is an industry which had moved very fast forward earlier in our economic history and is now in very-very serious trouble largely on account of the domestic measures not having come up to the expectations of the international imperatives. Here I have certain specific proposals to make to the hon. Finance Minister which I hope he will be able to take into consideration before Monday, but if not, keep under review so that later on during the course of this year we might get some decent attention given to the tea industry. My suggestions are as follows.

In Section 33AB, that is the one that relates to the Tea Development Account, there is a distinction between withdrawals for revenue expenditure and capital expenditure. But the fact is that if you look behind these two big words, you find that both the items involving revenue expenditure as well as those items involved in capital expenditure are essential for the rejuvenation of the tea industry. Thus replanting, rejuvenation pruning, infilling, and the upkeep of immature bushes which falls in the revenue account is at least as important to the revival of the tea industry as capital expenditure on extension planting, plant and machinery and labour quarters. So, please remove this completely artificial distinction between the two and allow the Tea Development account to fully play its part in meeting the requirements of the tea industry.

Then, Madam, there is a provision in sub-section (1) of Section 33AB regarding the time restriction on deposits and withdrawals from the Tea Development Account. All this relates to a previous era when tea was moving forward. We are now into an era where tea is in steep decline. Therefore, I would request the Finance Minister, in consultation with the Commerce Minister and the agriculture Minister, to get the Tea Board or the Government of India to prepare a scheme under which there is fresh planting, and bearing in mind the long gestation period involved in fresh plants growing to maturity, to work out a scheme which removes the present onerous time restrictions on deposits and withdrawals under subsection (1) of Section 33AB.

Then, Madam, again I am still in the area of tea, if you look at section 88HC read with Rule 8(1) of the Income Tax Rules, we find that until and unless the benefits under Section 88HC are de-linked from the provisions of Rule (1) in actual practice, the tea exporters and tea producers are unable to secure the full benefits of the concessions which the hon. Finance Minister himself wishes to give this industry. And we must get a restoration of 100 per cent exemption on export income because this industry, which used to be our leading export industry, is now facing severe challenges not only in the global market from other competitors but even in the domestic market from global competitors who have been allowed to come into our economy.

In other words, the challenge is both from global exports of tea as well as SAARC imports of tea. And we need to have a completely fresh look given so that this extraordinarily important industry—which as I said a minute earlier, extends from Tamil Nadu and Kerala all the way up to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh—is given the kind

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of importance which it deserves but has not been receiving in the recent past.

Madam, there is also a need, for reduction in corporate income tax rates for tea producers and exporters after fully taking into account matters that do not strictly fall within the purview of the Union Finance Minister. Take, for example, the State Agricultural Income Tax on tea producers. This is as high as 45 per cent in Assam and West Bengal and 65 per cent in Tripura. Now, obviously, our job is not to ask the State Governments to reduce their taxes but our job here, in this Parliament, is to ensure that the Central tax burden on what the State is already taking away is not so much as to kill this particular industry.

Then, there are cesses. There is a State Green Leaf Cess and there is the Central Cess Tea Act of 1953. What I would like to request is that because we in this House can do nothing about the State Green Leaf Cess, at least, we give total exemption from the Central cess that we levy under the Tea Act of 1953. For example, let us remember that 1953 was nearly 50 years ago and the boom conditions of the tea industry half a century ago are almost the direct opposite of the depressed conditions that obtain now in this industry at the turn of the century. Moreover, Madam, the Central cess is concessionary with regard to Darjeeling but not with regard to other teas and low-yielding teas grown in the Barak Valley in Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev's constituency and the adjoining areas of Tripura. There, it is unfair that the cess should be higher on them than it is in Darjeeling. Equally, for sales tax purposes, I think, tea should be treated as an essential commodity. After all, even the Finance Minister is unable to get his eyes to open without a cup of tea. It is an essential commodity. In every village, we see people sitting in tea houses drinking tea. If you treat it as an essential commodity, then you will see that the floor rate of the sales tax on tea can be fixed as it is for other essential commodities.

In regard to customs duty, there is an absolute imperative for lowering the import duty on tea bagging machines and removing the customs duty on imported filter paper. We have to have value additions and merely bagging that tea as distinct from exporting it in bulk, increase our export income so enormously that I think the Finance Minister should really put on Shri Maran's cap or both of them should put their caps on together to see to it that we become a leading exporter of bagged tea and do not remain as hewers of wood and drawers of water, exporters of just tea in bulk. In this context, I think we ought to recognise that while economic

integration among SAARC countries is a desirable thing in itself, there must not be a disproportionate burden upon our tea producers, and the imports that are coming in from Nepal are of a quantity that bears very little relationship to the production of tea inside Nepal. Therefore, there is need for a fresh look at the quantitative restrictions that you have on imports from Nepal. I think it should be reduced; and we also need to look at how we have been adversely affected by imports from Sri Lanka. I do not want us to stop the process of South Asian economic integration, but at the same time, I think there is need for us to be careful that it is calibrated in such a way that it benefits everybody, and does not merely benefit some countries at our own expense. May be the answer to it lies in looking at the PFA standards of imported tea. Let us start becoming as sophisticated as the developed countries are. This is my plea to the hon. Finance Minister. obviously this is something he will have to do in consultation with the Ministries of External Affairs and Commerce.

I will now come to a matter which is very close to my constituency's heart—this is about gold jewellery. I trust it is very close to your heart also, madam, in every sense of the term.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are always interested in what the women are interested!

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Unfortunately, machine-produced gold jewellery is completely displacing hand-made gold jewellery. Hand-made gold jewellery is not only superior in artistic terms and aesthetic terms, but it is also a huge employer of poor people. The machine-made gold jewellery is being given a free run while the poor producer of hand-made gold jewellery is being subjected to all kinds of disabilities. We, therefore, suggest that machine-produced gold jewellery must have an excise duty of, at least, 16 per cent on it. If you do it, our calculations in my constituency shows that the additional revenue which Shri Yashwant Sinha can earn is of the order of Rs. 2,500 crore a year, exactly equal to the expenditure on the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*. He can impose excise duty on machine-made gold jewellery, collect that money of Rs. 2,500 crore from them and allow the hand-made gold jewellers an opportunity to continue to have their survival.

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): How can you distinguish between the two?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You can distinguish at the level of the unit which is manufacturing it and the

place at which it is being done. It is quite clear that in Mayiladuturai, there is no machine-made gold jewellery, whereas it is completely there in Surat or in Mumbai. There are such units in such places. There are, I am sure, ways of distinguishing them. What is important for the Finance Minister is to concentrate on this point. I am sure that he has the wit and wisdom to come up with the right answers. He can add to this heavy import duties on imported gold jewellery and imported finished diamonds. Along with this, if he were to supervise and regulate gold stocks, he could ensure that there is no cornering of the market which is currently taking place with respect to the basics.

There is an extraordinary proposal that has been made by the Finance Minister with a view to promoting the use of gasohol in this country. It is an extraordinary proposal. What he has done is this. He has one surcharge on petrol and another surcharge on petrol that is doped with ethanol. The difference between the two is about 75 paise a litre.

Madam, the way you are looking at me—extremely sharply—I presume that I have to reduce the time that I have to take.

The consequences of the Finance Minister having a discrimination in the surcharge on petrol *vis-a-vis* the surcharge on petrol doped with ethanol is to the benefit of the distillers to the extent of Rs. 750 crore a year. I have all the details with me. I will be sending them in any case to the Finance Minister. I cannot believe that a noble man, the noblest Roman of them all, Shri Yashwant Sinha actually wants to make booze producers have a great advantage at the expense of the chemical industries which are based upon alcohol. The chemical industries based on alcohol are producing something like Rs. 3,000 crore of output every year, employing more than 15,000 persons and are involved in key industries such as drugs and pharmaceuticals, textiles, dyes, tyre cord, adhesives, and even bangles. Somehow what he has done is this. The distillers are going to get a great advantage. I think, they slipped one over the government because I know that the distillers spend all their time wandering from one political party to another, asking as to whether we need their support. So, somebody has slipped this trick in; I cannot believe that Shri Yashwant Sinha really wanted this to happen. I urge him to please look into this very-very carefully.

There are several other things to say. Madam, if you permit me, I will mention one or two very quickly.

15.00 hrs.

One is the disabled. Back in 1995, under section 41 of the Disabilities Act, we made a promise that incentives would be given to any employer whose work force included more than five per cent disabled persons. Although this was notified in 1995, seven years later nobody has spelt out what these incentives are and so nobody is being given any incentive. I think we owe it to our disabled people, particularly since Parliament passed this Act seven years ago, that within the next few days we get a notification from the Finance Ministry which tells us what are the incentives for employing people who are disabled. We also need the Finance Minister to focus on increasing the income tax exemption limit for incomes of disabled people. It was fixed at Rs. 40,000 in 1996. Six years later, I think it is only just that it should be increased to at least Rs. 1 lakh because the salaries of all the attendants that a disabled person is to engage have gone up at least twice since 1996. They need these attendants not because they wish to live in style but simply because their disability makes it necessary that they have such attendants dealing with them.

Finally, there was a *dharna* outside the Finance Minister's house by the Disabled Rights Group in early March, in order to bring to his attention that while he has no customs duty on computer chips, he is imposing heavy customs duties on what are called the assistive devices like wheel chairs, Brailers, hearing aids, etc. At that time the Finance Minister apparently told the demonstrators that they were wrong and that they could import these duty free. But now it has become clear that it is only a disabled person returning himself or herself from abroad who can bring these assistive devices free of duty. It cannot be imported in this country, not even by NGOs, not even for free distribution. Since I am sure the Home Minister, sorry the Finance Minister's heart—I made a mistake in suggesting the Home Minister has a heart, I have my doubts about that existence—but the Finance Minister's heart is in the right place is with the disabled people. I would be very grateful if he could kindly give customs duty exemption for these assistive devices which they are in need of.

With regard to one or two other matters, since obviously you are not going to give me any more time, I am not going to make them. May I request the Finance Minister to give me the permission to write to him about matters relating to the charitable institutions?

With regard to the indexing of the memorandum that he provides explaining the Finance Bill and making

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explanations more transparent, because there is a classic example with which I wish to end. If he looks at page 16 of his Memorandum explaining the Finance Bill, he will find that in order to explain what he propose to do on section 10(29), he says: "It is proposed that the exemption be withdrawn". His explanation for proposing to withdraw it is that it is proposed that the exemption be withdrawn. How can this be an explanation? I am aware of the fact that the Finance Minister does not actually write every word of the memorandum but perhaps there is some officer in his Ministry whose ear requires tweaking. It is essential that you index number your memorandum so that it can be easily read. This kind of a bogus explanation should not be permitted to get into the memorandum. With these words I thank you, Madam, for your indulgence.

[Translation]

SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI (Jaunpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Finance Bill. I was listening to my friends. Probably many of my friends expressed their concern over the circumstances in which this budget has been brought. Especially my reverend colleague from the Congress party expressed his views realising the seriousness of the circumstances. The economic reforms began in 1991. There were many difficulties before the country and BJP led NDA Government inherited difficult economic condition. Finance Minister would have been forced to go through and adopt the some measures. It was also a compulsion for hon. Shri Yashwant Sinha Sahab. Even under these trying circumstances he paid minimum attention to villages and of the first time the villages were included in the realm of reforms and targets were set for the same. I think this step was a move in the direction of realising those dreams of Mahatma Gandhi for which the country was waiting for last several years. All our perspective plans only talked about figures and figures after figures were given without realising those needs of the villages, the non-fulfilment of whose the gap between the villages and the cities. Consequently we lagged behind in terms of Human Resources. It is difficult to say as to where we stand today because all the plans and provisions were made keeping in view only a handful of persons. The concerns about the needs of crores of people living in villages like making available drinking water to them, construction of roads, generation of power to light their homes and also for irrigation and need to increase productivity and give good remunerative prices for their produce etc. was totally absent. Now the country has witnessed that today the Government has

started paying attention towards the villages and mobilising resources for them. Recently last month I visited a village in Guntur district in Andhra Pradesh. At that time the Minister of Rural Development was also with us. We had gone there with the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Rural development. We listened to the view of common man on the general budget in the same way we are listening to the views of our colleagues especially from the opposition.

Sir, I would like to bring to your notice that the self help group is a revolutionary scheme. I think that it is a revolutionary step and a new thinking in the banking and financial system which have been made. It was a new thinking to implement it effectively.

Had the revolutionary step been appreciated by or supported by even one of opposition colleague. With a view to generate self-confidence among the women and make them self-reliant, making them aware of their social responsibilities and to bring them to the mainstream of the economic reforms then I would have believed that they have paid some attention about the village but they did not do so.

Second thing is that it is a good thing that the connectivity among the cities and villages may improve but in the constituency from which I hail there are 357 villages as on date which are not connected by either kind of road. This is not the situation of a particular constituency but of the entire country and when the people will not have even the roads to walk on then how can the villages and the country make progress, this will be wrong to assume the country's progress in such a situation.

Sir, Shri Mani Shankarji was expressing his concern about the villages, he was saying a good thing and he had in his mind the benefit that will accrue from the Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana. I would like to thank him for it. The State will have to improve for Pradhanmantri Gram Sarak Yojana to be implemented effectively. I think that the Centre should be given that cooperation by States in this regard which it is expecting from them. Then it is not an issue related to the villages alone. It is after the completion of the Golden Quadrilateral Highways Scheme to be completed in the coming few years that we would realise at the international level that we are a democratic country. Earlier when we used to travel abroad and see the shining express ways therein we could dream only about the existence of such roads in India. However, we should thank the hon. Prime Minister and his Finance Minister for starting an ambitious

project even under such difficult circumstances which is a big step for connecting Kashmir to Kanya Kumari and Guwahati to Gujarat whose benefit is being reaped by the people in the form of employment.

Sir, I would like to say that the complaint of the people about the lack of employment opportunity is not justified. I think that the employment does not mean the Government job alone. If only a Government job is considered as the employment then I think that we will be able neither to come out of our indebtedness nor make it self-reliant. Unless we create the employment opportunities in the private sector we can not create a feeling of self-reliance among the masses and in the country. Today lakhs of workers are engaged in constructing new roads and are earning their livelihood.

Sir, along with it the issue of rural electrification is also there. The availability and generation of the power in adequate quality is a challenge for the country today. We are expecting the foreign as well as domestic investment and are striving to make our country self-reliant in the field of power because we are not producing power in adequate quantity. The resolution to provide electricity to each village is evident in this budget. It is an important achievement and our ambitious message for the country.

Sir, the message delivered by the Finance Minister in his speech has reached across the villages. One of the shortcoming and peculiarity attached. With the food grain distribution being done under the PDS is that the foodgrain is firstly procured and sent to the Central headquarters and then to the district or state headquarters and then again sent to that place for distribution under PDS where it was procured. This process involves an undue spending of the Government as freight carriage besides sending in a wastage of the foodgrains. Hence the panchayats in villages have been given the right to create foodgrain banks wherefrom the foodgrains could be taken as credit by the farmers and could be returned back after his having reaped his crop. This will avoid the unnecessary circulation of the foodgrains and prevent its wastage and also result in timely availability of foodgrains in the village itself at the time of need. Today the situation is such that the prices of foodgrains are less when the crop comes to the market but when there is a scarcity of foodgrains in the market the farmers has to purchase the same foodgrain at a much higher price because owing to the lack of storage facility of foodgrains produce the farmer has to sell it and then purchase it. These steps taken by the Government to the effect of setting up of foodgrains bank will benefit the common man. Today this thing is being realised by the villagers.

Sir, the initiative taken in form of setting up the foodgrain bank is extended further and arrangement is made in the villages itself for the storage of the fruits and vegetable produce of the villages for which no transportation facility is not available and fruits and vegetable banks are also set up on the lines of the foodgrain banks at the panchayat or block level then the fruits and vegetable producers most of whom are small and marginal farmers could produce more in their small field and earn their livelihood.

I think that the setting up of foodgrain bank will result in the availability of storage and transportation gradually. In future we can also encourage the participation of the private sector by giving them some concessions and by doing so we can maintain the storage of our fruits and vegetables.

Sir, Shri Mani Shankarji has rightly said and I thank him for it. He said two-three very good things in his speech. I welcome what he said in regard to tea. The export of tea earns a lot of foreign exchange. The tea export should continue to take place but that region is a violence prone area. The workers of this industry are heavily dependent on tea to earn their livelihood. Hence, the hon. Finance Minister should make efforts to improve the quantity and ensure the export of tea.

Sir, mention has been made about the goldsmiths who deal in the gold and silver ornaments. They are the poor people and need protection.

We are aware that India had a prominent place among the carpet makers country of the world but on pretext of the involvement of the child labour, foreign countries declined to import our carpets which resulted in huge losses as far as the carpet export is concerned even though our handmade carpet are still among the best of the world. We can develop a better market for it provided we create a better atmosphere for its marketing by convincing the other countries that the child labourer involved in this industry are not exploited but proper arrangement is made for their education, upbringing and nutrition and also for providing them the better working condition. If we are able to convince them on it then certainly our carpet export will increase.

Similarly, the handicraft industry whether it is carpet, gold ornaments or the bangles industry, if the labourer involved in it is given due respect, wages and protection from the Government then it will not only benefit the country in achieving self-reliance and removal of employment but also in earning us the foreign exchange.

[Shri Chinmayanand Swami]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Finance Minister deserves lots of thanks. Today, we have record foreign exchange reserve in terms of US dollar. It has never been so in India's history. The Government should be thanked for this. Similarly, we have record stock of foodgrains in our godowns. Money is of two kinds—one is gold, 'kanak-kanak te sau guni'. Both are known as 'Kanak', one is gold and the other one is wheat, produced in fields. Both these things are a plenty with us. We have record stock of both these things. All this became possible under a policy. I remember that in 1991, it was said that if their Government comes to power they would control prices within 100 days. But in 1996, during these five years, it has increased by 100 times. It could not be contained within 100 days. During four years of the present regime the Government have been making efforts to control prices, be it in any field.

Now, the Government are forced to increase the prices. The Government are compelled to increase support price for wheat. People captured power through 'onion politics' but today onion price is stable. Whatever may be its production but the Government are able to control its price in the open market. Price rise, which used to be a matter of common concern, is no more being reflected in anyone's speech. It has no more remained a political problem and an attraction of any party's election manifesto which used to affect common men's life.

Just now, our communist friend was saying that non-resident Indian have been given concession. I know that when we conducted nuclear tests, all kinds of sanctions were imposed on us which created economic crisis for the country. It became difficult for us to maintain our economy during the sanctions. The Government floated Insurgent Bond of India wherein NRIs invested huge money resulting total mobilisation of Rs. 4 billion and 34 crore which not only made us economically self independent, it also made us hold our heads high. It was NRIs' money. I would like to say that mistakes may have occurred in course of on-going reforms.

I would like to say how far the villages are taken care of? Every village has been provided telephone connectivity. During 1998, when I went to Macchilipattanam for contesting elections there used to be no dial tone in the phone. Those days it was easy to meet God but very difficult to get dial tone. We were provided 100 telephones each under the discretionary quota and it was said that we could allot these to anyone in our constituency. When we asked villagers to have telephone connection out of the quota, they said that phone is of no use to them and thus they do not need a telephone.

Today, same villagers are realising the need for telephone and it is reaching every village.

Just now the issue of post card and postal stamps was raised. I would like to say that it is about printed post card and not simple post card. Shri Pawan ji himself had said that he does not want to use their postcard. He himself gets it printed. Today we are having several kinds of cards—that is marriage cards and new year cards. When I went to market to find out price of a card, I came to know it was Rs. 25. If people can afford buying a card for Rs. 25 for the benefit of publishers then what is harm in applying a ticket of Rs. 6-8. It strengthens the country and its economy and helps reduce country's debt burden. We send messages through cards for business purpose and also to our relatives and the money spent on purchasing these cards goes to the national exchequer. Then the people should have no objection to it. Since telephone has become cheaper, people use telephone for conveying messages and who buys card now. I want to say, that telephone connectivity in every village has brought IT revolution and if the Government lowers import duty on telephone equipments, it would be a good step in the direction of improving information technology, then there is no logic for its criticism.

Agriculture policy came into being during same period. Today we should welcome the new agriculture policy wherein taxes on all agro-products and agriculture implements have been lowered. It will boost agriculture. Decontrol of sugar has made sugar industry buoyant. I am talking of Uttar Pradesh. When a farmer sold sugarcane in 1992 in U.P. he got payment in 1996. He had to wait for four years. Today, he does not have to wait for days, months or years, he gets payment within a week. It is because of liberalised sugar policy adopted by the Government.

I would like to make my last point for the kind attention of hon. Finance Minister. These days religious trusts are in trouble. They used to run on interest earned on deposits. Sometimes, what happens, a person without any successor signs a will in the name of a trust, entire property earned by him during his life time becomes the property of the trust after his death. The property or interest on funds thus transferred to these trusts be it a school, a hospital, any public service, welfare work for small or disabled children serves as resource for smooth running of the trust. Now, since the interest rates have been drastically cut, these trusts are being affected adversely. It is reducing or diminishing the scope of services rendered by charitable trusts, even all religions

trusts have been affected. Representatives from Ramakrishna Mission met me recently. They said that since their income earned as interest on deposits has come down, they are forced to reduce the number of services provided by them. Similar is the case with educational institutes. My submission is that some way out should be found so that they can maintain the services run by these trusts in the same manner as it used to be earlier and these trusts face no financial crisis.

15.24 hrs.

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

Two days back, I had been to Europe. My friends in Europe told me a very good thing. Many Indian are living in Europe. It includes the people of Gujarat, the same much talked about Gujarat. The point of five percent surcharge also came up during the talks. When one person raised objection over it, there were ten others to say that why objection on a matter of national defence? Is it not the country of Bhama Shah? People can sacrifice their life for country's sake. If one cannot spare just five percent of his income for national security then his patriotism is doubtful. I request the people not to treat it as surcharge but a gift given to the Government. It should be used as an opportunity. We should not mind sacrificing everything for the security of the country in this hour of need. Five percent surcharge is not too much, we should happily accept it and not criticise it.

With these words, I would like to say that the Budget presented by the Finance Minister under difficult conditions, when India is facing not only economic challenges but threats from across the border and forty percent of the total revenue earned by the Government is spent on debt payment, the fiscal management by the Finance Minister through the Budget reflects the will-power of the Government and it would enable India face the challenges boldly. We should prune our expenses and increase production, reduce our dependence on Government and become self reliant. It can be a matter of pride for any country and its citizens.

The State Governments should properly appreciate the Central schemes and make efforts to implement them. I would like to cite an example. A state was provided relief by the Central Government to tackle drought. That State spent the relief amount on construction of an airfield. One can judge, if the funds are diverted in this way how the people will get relief. Therefore, the State Governments should realise their responsibility. The States should see the crisis faced by the country and they should

cooperate with the Central Government to overcome economic crisis.

I conclude with these words and extend many-many thanks to the hon'ble Finance Minister.

[*English*]

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the very outset, I would like to say that I feel very happy that the burden of my speaking has been brought down to a great extent. It is so because of the relief that has been given by the hon. Finance Minister in respect of the various demands made by the hon. Members of Parliament and other organisations. It is only possible when there is a sportsmanlike Finance Minister, and it is not possible when there is anybody else. I must say this. Mr. Finance Minister, you need not feel sorry when people say that you are a roll-back Minister. Only one who rises to the occasion for the country's need can roll-back things and not others. You have not made it a prestige issue. What you have done, you have done for the cause of the country. I heartily congratulate you for that.

My good friend Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has raised certain points. You have heard them. I will not repeat them. I would like to say that I was born and brought up in a district where there are 110 tea gardens. Our basic industry is tea. Whether it is anything, even our institutions and other things are helped by the tea industry. The tea industry people patronise the local people's cause. For anything, at any time, they come forward to help people. But the important point is that this industry is in a very serious condition. More than 15 to 20 tea gardens have been closed down. There is a huge backlog of excise duty, sales tax, cess and other things. However, they are maintaining it and paying the labourers. The bank is also reluctant to help them. However, with our intervention, the bank has come forward to help this industry, of course, with certain conditions.

Why are we asking for this industry to be helped? The reason is that it is a labour-intensive industry—whether directly or indirectly. At least four million people are working in this industry in States like Assam, West Bengal, Kerala and in Tamil Nadu, especially in the Nilgiris they are working. Next, it is providing indirect employment to about ten million people, who are working in this industry. This is not my figure. This is the figure of the Tea Board. It is also interesting to note that it is the only industry in which 50 per cent of the workers working in it are women. Ladies work in this industry. Nowhere else

[Shri Santosh Mohan Dev]

do they work to this extent. In other industries, the percentage of women workers is a maximum of 15. But here it is 50 per cent. Then, in terms of revenue generation, it is good that the tea industry earns a very good foreign exchange to our Government. At the peak of the time, it earns about Rs. 2000 crore. Now, this industry is facing a challenge from Kenya and Sri Lanka as far as tea is concerned. They are making distress sale in the international market. Even, in our internal market also, they are doing this. Their Governments are giving them various benefits. It is very difficult for our Government to give such benefits to this industry here. At the same time, I do not ask you to give those benefits. But I would like to say that the present situation in the tea industry is very much serious that it needs some helping hand from the Government. If you remember, during the Janata Government's time, it imposed an excise duty of rupees five extra and the industry was in great difficulties.

The Government again withdrew that in 1980.

With regard to the withdrawal of Clause 17 of the Tea (Marketing) of Control Order, I would like to say that the entire auction has to be done in the Auction Market at Guwahati. This is not your cup of tea. This has to be looked after by the Commerce Ministry. I would also urge the Government to see that unless and until it looks into this problem very favorably, it would create labour unrest. If labour unrest is created, the provident fund and other things cannot be given. You know that his industry gives rice and paddy at a subsidised rate, which is less than what fair price shops sell rice and paddy, to the workers. This benefit was given at the instance of the Central Government. The Government has to look after the interests of the labourers. Concerted efforts should be launched and financial support should be extended to the industry and to the Tea Board. I would skip the details because Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has also mentioned this and about the different Acts, which needs to be changed. I do not want to say more on this.

I want to mention a few things of my area, Barak Valley—we have to pay high transportation cost of input materials and finished goods through a terrain, which is quite often inaccessible due to inclement weather—Silchar-Shillong-Guwahati Road. There is neither regular train service nor any water transport. Traditionally, Cachar has always had differential excise levy as it was in Zone-1 of the Excise Schedule. Recently, however, a standard rate of excise is payable on all manufactured tea, regardless of the location. Due to the above mentioned reasons, the

net effect has been an escalation or higher input costs and lower productivity. This is creating an unhealthy situation whereby the cost of production is on the higher side compared to other regions. As an immediate relief, I would earnestly urge upon the hon. Minister to waive the excise duty in totality or for a temporary period. I do not want to say to him to take it away for all time to come. The impact of such waiver on the Government Treasury would be minimal compared to the relief it would provide to the industry, which is the lifeline of millions of people. This is an industry which not only gives employment to millions but also fulfils various social obligations such as supplying rations of rice and *atta* at 75 paise a kg. even today, free medical aid, free protective clothing, free firewood and many such other facilities.

Sir, I would also like to take the liberty of mentioning here that between the years 1999 and 2002, the prices, on an average, have fallen by about Rs. 25 per kg., while the average cost of production has gone up by about Rs. 12 per kg. to Rs. 60 in Barak Valley. The average price realisation in sale is Sterling 8 of the Guwahati Auction was Rs. 37.60 per kg. The net impact of this development works to about a loss of Rs. 23 per kg., which I am sure, the hon. Minister would appreciate, cannot be sustained by any industry. I have had the occasion to address your goodness on these developments in the past. Even in the last Budget, I had raised these points. The situation in the Brahmaputra Valley is no better. I would urge upon the hon. Minister look into this matter very seriously. I have told you that you always look at the various problems. Of course, your kitty is limited. You also have the difficulties. You are not a magician. You cannot levy tax but you have to give relief. Kindly see in between as to what you can do. I do not know. But, what you do for other things, do the same for us also. This is the only request I could make.

I would like to inform you, which I told you during the lunch hour, that first of all, the present economic condition of the North-Eastern Region is very bad.

We are very sorry that in the recent Budget proposals income tax benefits which were available for setting up of new industry in North East are not extended. As I explained earlier, it was there, I was supposed to be extended, but it has not been extended. The time limit of income tax benefits for new industry in North East has thus expired on 31.3.2002, under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): I have extended it today.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Yes, you have extended it, but I owe an apology that some of the business houses have misused this benefit. But the Chief Ministers of all the North Eastern States, in their recent meeting in Guwahati, have condemned those big business houses who go there and try to utilise this benefit. Instead of generating employment and business, they try to siphon away the money and thereby deprive the Government of India and defeat the intention with which it has been given. So, I would like to thank the hon. Finance Minister for extending this benefit.

Last, but not least, I am very happy to inform that I have constructed a stadium in Silchar. We got help from the Government of India, we got help from the NEC and it has become another centre of sports in the North Eastern Region. It will be completed very soon and I would look forward to the Finance Minister—I will not ask for any grant, grant is all over—to come and take part in the inauguration of this stadium. He will be very happy to see the stadium specially because he is also not from a big town—he is from a very small town—and he can see as to how the help from various people can construct a sports stadium. He will be happy to know that we have started coaching centres both for cricket as well as for other sports disciplines. Now, 90 per cent of the sportsmen are coming from the rural areas. Talent is lying in the rural areas, not in cities. With this stadium we have proved that if talent is harnessed properly we can give a lot of good sportsmen to the nation.

I do not want to repeat what Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal or Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar have said. I have left out four or five pages from my speech. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal has covered almost all the points and Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar has also covered various points, including about tea. With these words, I think that when I come on 29th to listen to the reply of the Finance Minister, I will not go unhappy.

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to support the financial proposals contained in the Budget for 2002-03 and the relief announced by the Finance Minister today. For the last over 50 years, we have a Budget every year in the month of February. It has been seen that in the past people used to really listen to the Budget. It used to affect the industry so much that the Budget announcements and financial proposals could ruin an industry or a person and the whole financial system.

Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister for trying to rationalise the excise duty structure. Earlier, there used

to be excise duty on one item for one year, it used to be removed the next year and it used to be brought back the third year and we could not really have a long term planning. So, this rationalisation and streamlining of the excise duty structure is very good for the country.

I was in the United States of America and that was the time they had the Budget announcements. What I saw there was that there was no interest in the Budget, unlike we have in India.

It is a usual budget (announcement). There would be the ups and downs but they never used to affect the people. They are not used to look at it as the people in India do. This is because of some systems, which have been put into place. There is no volatility or erraticness in this.

Sir, I congratulate the Finance Minister that he has given some excise concessions that we have asked for in the textile industry. The textile industry is a very large industry, which affects hundreds and thousands of people. It also affects my constituency because I hail from Bhilwara, which is a textile city. The Finance Minister has given us a level playing field to counter the onslaught of the Chinese cloth and also stand up in the world on exports of cloth. I congratulate him for that.

Sir, I have a few suggestions also. There has been a hot debate whether the dividend tax should have been there or it is unnecessary. But there is some relief, which has been given by the Finance Minister in his announcement today. It is a very good relief to the extent that on any dividend of Rs. 1,000 or less, there would be no TDS. That is a very welcome step. Sir, you also know that the stock market is in doldrums for very many reasons. Although NASDAQ and NYSE have started on a different trend, the graph is going up. But the volatility in the Indian stock market, especially liquidity is not there. There are other reasons also. One of the main reasons is the dividend tax. When we had a word with the Finance Minister, he very rightly said that there are hundreds and thousands of people who are getting lakhs of rupees as dividend and they are paying zero tax on it, and that was the reason why he had put this tax. I would like to convey to him that the dividend tax has already been paid by the company and this is a double taxation especially for the people and also for the capital market and stock market which are in doldrums. A healthy capital market and stock market work on psychology. Even after this announcement, which has been heard by the whole country today, the index went down by about 30 points. So, I would like to say that you have some sort of capping

[Shri Vijayendra Pal Singh Badnore]

for the people who are getting dividend of about one lakh or two lakhs or rupees, and that is understandable. But for the small investor and to boost the stock market, you need to do something. It is very important that some sort of an announcement is made again so that this psychology is changed and people start investing in the stock market. I may also mention here that if the stock market goes up, the problem that we would face in UTI is this. Everyday we are reading in the newspapers about MIPs. When the redemption starts, they have to start making the payment, and you have to bail them out again.

You will have to bail them out again. So, if you have a healthy stock market, this problem of the UTI also will be reduced to a great extent.

Another suggestion that I have to make, through you, Sir, to the Finance Minister is that the housing industry is looking up. We need to boost it. In this budget, a new section, 50C, is being added. We all know that there used to be 371B which was a failure. There were a number of properties which the Income Tax Department thought that they were under-valued. When they bought themselves and when they went into the market with the same properties, they lost money on them. That is done away with. But we have the section 50C. Now, what is section 50C? Sir, section 50C is determining the full value of consideration in case of transfer of immovable property. The seller will have to pay now capital gains tax based on stamp duty value on Department's valuation, officer's valuation and not on the real transaction value. Now what it really means is that it will be another hardship to the seller since he has received the real values but will have to pay tax on imaginary sale values which he has not even received. The stamp duty usually is paid by the buyer and the seller is being punished. When the housing industry is looking up, I feel, this is going to be detrimental and something should be done on that.

The other point that I want to stress on is this. There is a section, 133A, in the Income Tax Act. The authorities have been empowered to impound the books and documents as per this Budget. This will prove a tool for blackmailing the people that they are surveying. They can ask for the Xerox copies. But if the books are taken away or the documents are taken away, I think, you are handing out some powers to the authorities, which should not be given.

I would also like to mention one thing regarding the assessment of income tax on limited issues under section 143. Under section 143, an assessing officer, if he has

reason to believe that an assessee has made a claim of any loss, exemption, deduction, allowance or relief which is inadmissible, will issue a notice under the proposed new clause 143(2) whereby the assessee would be asked to produce evidence and particulars in support of his claim and then the AO will pass an order. However, if the AO feels that the case requires further scrutiny on further issues, he will be free to issue a notice initiating comprehensive scrutiny to the return. This would mean again blackmailing to the assessee by the officers since every case would be subject to scrutiny and harassment. What I feel is that there should be some sort of check on the AOs, Income Tax Officers also.

Whatever proposals have been announced are welcome.

In the end, what I feel is that whatever suggestions I have made should be looked into.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, before delving into the contents of the Finance Bill, I would prefer to draw an analogy from the Old Testament image of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. The head of the image was made of fine gold, the arms and breast were made of silver, the belly and thighs were made of brass, the legs were made of iron and the feet were made of partly iron and partly clay. When a stone was thrown in the direction of the feet, it crumbled into pieces. I have discovered the feet of clay of our Minister of Finance in the inconsistencies of his policies. He has already earned the distinction of being a 'rollback' Finance Minister. He is well adept in playing somersault as and when exigencies warrant.

In the last financial year, he had proposed exemption of dividend tax and income from mutual funds but within a span of one year he has again changed his tack and proposed to make tax on dividend and mutual fund income payable in the hands of the recipients. He has also abolished the ten per cent distribution tax on companies and mutual funds dividend and mutual fund income distributed by the companies. Naturally, this kind of a measure would act as a disincentive to the common investor. He has discovered the common investor as his pocket borough to manage his finances but I would like to draw his attention to the fact that at present the Indian economy is suffering from low growth, low investment, fiscally challenged and household constraints due to lack of back up interest. In the meanwhile, if these measures are adopted, it will then create a problem for those common investors and they will develop an aversion in investing their funds in capital market or in share market.

Sir, in his Budget proposal, the hon. Minister of Finance has proposed tax revenue to the tune of Rs. 1,72,965 crore. May I ask the hon. Minister of Finance that, ever in his career, has he achieved the revenue target as was proposed by him? He has never succeeded in achieving his revenue target during the whole period of his career as the Minister of Finance of India. Therefore, I would suggest him to follow suit, to emulate former Finance Minister. Dr. Manmohan Singh, who never failed in achieving his target.

Sir, in the year 1994-95 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 62,742 crore and in the Revised Estimate, it was found that Rs. 64,988 crore had been achieved. In the year 1995-96 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 74,347 crore and in the Revised Estimate, Rs. 81,088 crore had been collected. Similarly, in the year 1996-97 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 97,310 crore and in the Revised Estimate, net tax revenue was achieved to the tune of Rs. 97,212 crore. In the year 1997-98 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 1,13,393 crore and in the Revised Estimate, net tax revenue was achieved to the tune of Rs. 99,158 crore. In the year 1998-99, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 1,16,857 crore and in the Revised Estimate, net tax revenue was achieved to the tune of Rs. 1,09,537 crore. In 1999-2000 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 1,32,365 crore, but the achievement was in the region of Rs. 1,26,465 crore. In the year 2000-01 Budget Estimate, net tax revenue was proposed at Rs. 1,46,209 crore and the achievement was Rs. 1,44,403 crore. Again, there was a shortfall.

16.00 hrs.

Again there is a shortfall. Similarly, in 2001-02, in the Budget Estimate, the net tax revenue proposed was Rs. 1,63,031 crore and in the Revised Estimate, Rs. 142,348 crore was achieved. In this year's Budget, that is, 2002-03, the net tax revenue has been proposed to the tune of Rs. 1,72,965 crore. From my account, it has been clear that our Finance Minister has never been able to collect the revenue as has been proposed by his Ministry. Therefore, to be a competent Finance Minister, one should be a competent collector also. Better follow the example of Todarmal. This year, the Finance Minister has unfurled umpteen tax measures which have already cast a distress shadow on the economic horizon of our country in general and for the common investors in particular.

In the year 2001-02 the revenue received has also recorded a shortfall of 13.22 per cent, compared to the Budget Estimate of 2001-02. The Customs and Excise Duties have missed the target by a margin of 21 per cent and 7 per cent. However, the Finance Minister has brought down the Customs Duty in compliance with WTO guidelines. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister how much revenue is being lost due to the exemptions he has proposed in this year's Budget?

There is one more disturbing aspect. As has been observed, the growth of economy is declining at an alarming pace. In the Ninth Plan, the growth was targeted at 6.5 per cent but we have achieved only 5.4 per cent. The Indian economy is passing through a difficult phase. The country's Gross Domestic product growth has slipped to four per cent in 2000-01 compared to 6.1 per cent a year ago. The real growth in GDP in 2001-02 is expected to be 5.4 per cent as estimated by the Central Statistical Organisation. The average annual growth rate during the Ninth Five Year Plan is now estimated at 5.4 per cent, which is lower than the Plan target of 6.5 per cent. In the Tenth Five Year Plan, the growth has been targeted at eight per cent. May I ask the hon. Finance Minister whether he holds any magic wand to catapult our growth to the desired level?

Sir, what is our domestic saving now? Our domestic saving is in the region of 23.4 per cent and the domestic investment is at 24 per cent. In recent years the growth in real gross domestic capital formation has shown instability. The growth rate of real gross domestic capital formation recorded, a significant deceleration from 15.7 per cent to two per cent in the year 2000-2001. There is a steep fall of minus 1.7 per cent in the public sector savings in the year 2001 due to an increase in the dis-savings. We all know that as per the formula of increased capital output ratio, India needs 32 per cent of domestic saving in order to reach the growth rate of 8 per cent. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Finance as to where does this money come from.

There is another area which is also an area of major concern and it is the Central Plan outlay. The Government is proposing the Central Plan outlay. But everytime it is found that the Central Plan outlay is being infected by serious shortage of fund allocation. I would like to refer to a few accounts. In the Budget Estimate of 1998-99 the Central Plan outlay was fixed at Rs. 1,05,187 crore; but in the Revised Estimate it came down to Rs. 88,482 crore. In the Budget Estimate of the year 1999-2000 the Central Plan outlay was fixed at Rs. 1,03,521 crore; but in the Revised Estimate it was brought down to

[Shri Adhir Chowdhary]

Rs. 96,310 crore. There is a huge slash in respect of the allocations. In the Budget Estimate of the year 2000-2001 the Central Plan outlay was targeted at Rs. 1,17,334 crore and in the Revised Estimate it has been slashed to Rs. 1,08,587 crore. Similarly in the year 2001-2002 the Central Plan outlay has been duly fixed at Rs. 1,30,181 crore in the Budget Estimate; but in the Revised Estimate it was again slashed at Rs. 1,27,856 crore. Therefore, I cannot understand how will this Government meet the target of eight per cent. It is really a conundrum.

This year, the fiscal deficit has been fixed at 5.3 per cent. In the Budget Estimate of the year 2001-2002 the fiscal deficit was targeted at 4.7 per cent but it was increased to 5.7 per cent.

Therefore, the Indian economy is suffering permanently under his tenure from low growth and high fiscal deficit. Sometimes, the Government invents a whipping boy to pass over the buck. When the Government cannot succeed in running its economy properly, suddenly, it shifts to some lame excuses. Sometimes, it is being attributed Orissa Cyclone, sometimes, it is being attributed to some exogenous factor like the Gujarat Earthquake and sometimes, the non-performance of this Government is being attributed to the terrorist attack in the U.S. May I ask whether these are the determining variables considered by this Government? If so, then why does it require to cut taxes, to impose customs duty or give exemptions with a view to unleash growth? This is a question from my side.

The Government has proposed to reduce customs peak rate from 35 per cent to 30 per cent. It has been proposed that within the year of 2004-05, it will be again reduced to 20 per cent. I cannot understand whether these are peak rates or mode because I know that there are so many peak rates, such as 210, 170, 115, 100, 80, 70, 55, 50, 45, 40, 25, 15, 10 and 5. Together, the total number of peak rates is 15, which in the year 1991-92 was 13. The peak rate on liquors, which was 210 per cent, has been reduced to 182 per cent following the dictates of WTO. So, Sir, there are still various kinds of distortions and litigations, insofar as customs rates are concerned. Therefore, I would request the Government to further rationalise and simplify the structure, which has already been recommended by Virmani Committee;

The Government has brought down taxes on aluminium, copper, tin etc., which has created a concern for the non-ferrous industry. Insofar as MODVAT is concerned, still it is prone to litigation. Here also, further rationalisation and simplification are required.

Sir, in the Ninth Plan document also, it has been considered that during the Ninth Plan period, a chronic unemployment situation could arise—six millions in absolute terms. We know that the Government has only invested merely 1.82 per cent in agriculture sector and in social and employment sector together.

Employment opportunities in our country has been declining sharply and is one of the reasons for our social tensions. The Ninth Plan document has raised an alarm on this issue. Lack of employment opportunities is not only because of shortage in working opportunities but is also due to mismatch of a spatial pattern of job creation opportunities and growth of labour force on one hand and because of labour mobility on the other hand.

Sir, the micro-fundamentals are also not performing well. To give an example, the regulatory mechanism has totally failed in respect of banks, co-operative banks and the stock market. Therefore, the negative factors are playing a predominant role in our economy where 65 per cent of the money of our public sector banks are being locked up in Government securities.

Sir, many of the hon. Members of the Treasury Benches were boasting of the performance of this Government in agriculture. This Government has coined a new slogan this year, namely, '*kisan ki azadi*'. I would like to advice this Government to re-christen this slogan as '*kisan ki barbadi*'. When about six million tonnes of foodgrains are rotting in the godowns, our farmers are committing suicide. This is a very shameful thing.

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister in his Budget speech has proposed amendment to the Milk and Dairy Products Act to remove restrictions on new milk processing capacity. We must recognise that it is by the sweat of the grower and by the toil of our farmers that we had been able to achieve Green Revolution. In the same way, it was because of the sweat and toil of our farmers only that we achieved White Revolution. By accomplishing Green Revolution our country was turned from being a food-deficit country into a food surplus country. Similarly, by accomplishing White Revolution, our country was turned from being a milk-deficit country into a milk-surplus country. Now, India is producing milk to the tune of 81 million tonnes. India is regarded as the single largest milk-producing country in the world. But we do not have enough surplus milk for export. Therefore, our position in export map in regard to milk is very poor.

about 80 million common people, most of them village women, got economic empowerment from this sector.

367 Districts have already been covered by milk cooperatives. The number of milk societies in India is more than 80,000. By this, you can easily assume the importance of milk Sector in our country. Live stock sector contributes 28 per cent of the total agricultural output in our economy.

After the amendment to Milk and Milk Products Control Order, the entire milk sector will be exposed to the vagaries of market forces, to the freak of multinationals. It will really pose a serious problem for those downtrodden people of our country who are earning their livelihood by selling precious milk. By a single stroke, this Government has demolished the milk-shed concept which has been built by our strenuous efforts for years together. You all are aware of Operation Flood. Due to Operation Flood and due to the replication of Operation Flood, now we are enjoying the status of milk-sufficient country in the world. That dream is being dashed by this amendment.

Milk-shed concept is unique in nature. It is a geographically demarcated area in which only the dairies that are registered will be entitled to collect milk and exploit the potential in that particular area in an exclusive way. Those milk cooperatives have, for years, been convincing the local people to produce milk. Those moderate and medium potential areas of milk have been transformed into the areas of milk surplus. But now if one is to obtain a licence to process milk of more than 10,000 litres, no restriction will be required. Now everybody is free to install a milk-processing unit without any restriction, without having any licence. So, you can easily assume that the entire sector will be exposed to the multinational companies.

Milk and milk derivatives are in surplus in other countries, especially in Canada and Australia. Now anyone can import milk and milk derivatives from those countries into India by virtue of WTO rules. Therefore, the entire milk sector is shuddering with fear. Therefore, I would urge upon the Finance Minister to reconsider specially this amendment and, if possible, try to hive off this amendment from your other proposals so as to save this sector from being ruined.

Sir, the Finance Minister has proposed crop-diversification and food economy. I must appreciate it. It is because only the food-processing industry, this time, can trigger a fresh wave of employment opportunities stemming from transport, storage, cooling, refrigeration and so on.

India is such a country where we produce fruits and vegetables in abundance. However, we cannot exploit these fruits and vegetables due to lack of proper infrastructure, proper marketing facilities, proper storage facilities and so on and so forth.

Sir, can you imagine that 40 per cent of our fruits and vegetables are being wasted away every year just merely due to non-availability and non-existence of proper marketing, proper processing and proper infrastructure, which is equivalent to the total consumption of United Kingdom? Can you imagine that 80 per cent of citrus fruits are being wasted away every year! By investing Rs. 10 million we can create 39,000 employment opportunities in this particular area. But as far as value addition is concerned, we are very much poor in this particular area. We can only be able to produce 7 per cent value addition to this food processing industry at this present stage, which is required to be hiked at 35 per cent so as to compete with the other food processing giants in the world. China is emerging as a food processing giant after their accession to the WTO.

Therefore, if we start with a new vigour and new initiative in this particular sector, we can achieve a huge growth as well as huge employment opportunities.

Therefore, Sir, this particular area requires a huge investment. I do not know how much sum our Finance Minister has earmarked in this particular sector of food processing industry.

There is no way now. We have to recognise that agri is a process and food is a product. We have to recognise that agri-business is an industry. Therefore, for food and agribusiness, agriculture and food initiative policy is required to be conceived as early as possible.

As far as agriculture is concerned, I would like to refer to a few lines from the Planning Commission's 'Highlights of the Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan 1997-2002' on Agriculture and Allied Sector. It has been stated there has been a deceleration in the growth rate of production of foodgrains and non-food crop during Nineties from 3.54 per cent to 1.8 per cent and from 4.02 per cent to 3.17 per cent per annum respectively. The growth rate of milk and fish production during Nineties was recorded at 4.78 per cent and 4.7 per cent respectively.

Just a few minutes earlier, I had raised the issue of milk production. We have, further, accomplished another revolution which may be called a Blue Revolution. We

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have been able to be sufficient in fish and marine production.

We must admit that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It provides employment; it provides food; it provides food security and furthermore, it provides raw materials to major industries like sugar, jute, textiles and so on. But it is disheartening to note that plan allocation to this sector has been gradually reducing. In the First Five Year Plan period, 37 per cent was allocated to this sector. Now, it has been the victim of apathy and neglect. Allocation of funds has been reduced to a margin of 20 per cent. On the other hand, agriculture which used to contribute more than 33 per cent to our GDP has been coming down only to 26.8 per cent. In the din and bustle of market forces, agriculture has been the victim of apathy. It has lost its pre-eminence. Under the impact of trilogy—privatisation, globalisation and liberalisation—agriculture has been gasping at its last. Therefore, this sector needs more attention because more than two-thirds of workforce still engaged in this sector.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to a few major areas of concern. We are all talking about agriculture. We know that without agriculture India cannot sustain and India cannot survive. But it has also to be observed and admitted that the fruit of Green Revolution has already been used up. So, we have to innovate something new. Our Finance Minister is in the habit of following the long hackneyed way. He has to discard all his hackneyed ways before driving his revenue-chariot.

What I intend to say is that we have already used up the fruit of Green Revolution. Now, DNA, fingerprinting, tissue culture, technologies of transgenic seeds or crops, etc. are holding key to agriculture production. But if we want to equip our country with this quality, then we have to step up allocation in research and development. What have we been observing? We have been observing that in India, in the area of research and development, the fund allocated is in the range of 0.16 per cent to 0.23 percent.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH (Rajgarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a few Members are present in the House. The discussion on Finance Bill is in progress and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on such an important Bill is in progress. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Finance Minister is present in the House.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Hon'ble Finance Minister is present in the House.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, it is a very sad situation. The country is debating the Finance Bill. I entirely understand that it is the duty of every Member but does it look nice that when the Finance Bill is being debated in the House and the Finance Minister is ready to give reply to all the questions, this is the size of the ruling party and its coalition? How seriously they are taking the discussion on the Finance Bill? I am not here to non-cooperate but does it present a good image? ...*(Interruptions)* It is very unfortunate. It is not an issue to fight. It is a sad state of affairs.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): You are also equally responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am helping by pouring in my speakers. ...*(Interruptions)* Is it not the responsibility of the Government? Is it not the responsibility of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to gear up his own Government and his Party Members to pass the Finance Bill? Our job is to cooperate and we are cooperating. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Four Minister are present in the House and the four members are from the BJP. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag): You are also equally responsible. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Are your leaders not responsible? If he insists, then I demand Quorum. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is for the first time that there is no discussion on the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: We are carrying out our responsibility because we have sympathy since it does not look good. It is not the proper way. Debate is a matter of dignity and is it not the responsibility of the Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If they want a discussion let the quorum be completed.

[*English*]

I insist on the quorum bell to be rung. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, we press for quorum bell. I initiated the debate. I was asked to conclude. I did not complete my speech. I wanted more time to speak but I was asked not to speak. Now, this is what is happening in the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Quorum bell is being rung. Nothing will go on record.

[*English*]

The bell is being rung. Quorum bell is being rung so nothing will go on record. In the absence of quorum the House stands adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 29, 2002.

16.49 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 29, 2002/Vaisakha 9, 1924 (Saka)

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