

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Seventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 27, 2001/Sravana 5, 1923 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Two minutes
past Eleven of the Clock*

(MR. SPEAKER in the chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Q.No. 81—Shri Nawal Kishore Rai.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Sir, the way Shrimati Phoolan Devi was killed in broad day light on 25.7.2001 is really very shameful....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhilesh Singh ji, not now. Please speak after the Question Hour, in Zero Hour.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHYAM BIHARI MISHRA (Bilhaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, these people themselves are responsible for such killings and now they are creating interruptions in the proceedings of the House here...(Interruptions)

11.02¹/₂ hrs.

(At this stage Kunwar Akhilesh Singh and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

11.03 hrs.

(At this stage Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

MR. SPEAKER: Please go back to your respective seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? There is no such rule and even then you come to the well. How are you behaving here. This is not right. Please go back to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put the Television off.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you people wish, you can raise this issue in the Zero Hour, but this is not the procedure. This august House is meant for discussion. It is not right to stall the proceedings like this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How are you behaving?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please go and resume your seats. What are you doing here?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask the Members of your Party to resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Proceedings of the House were stalled for two days and even today you are doing the same thing. What you people are doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not good to stall the proceedings of the House like this.

...(Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I appeal to you Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, please ask the Members of your party to resume their seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): What are these people doing?...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you want to discuss this issue then discuss it in the House. How can you stall the proceedings like this? This is not right.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This can not continues. You please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am appealing to you, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Are you interested in discussing the matter or only in stalling the proceedings of the House? What is your intention?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to discuss the matter or stall the proceedings?

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want? Don't you want discussion? What are you saying?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing. Please sit down. Is this the way of discussion. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji this is not right. Please convince your Members. What are these people doing. They are stalling the proceedings of the House, which is not right. You please ask them not to do so.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Suspension of Sale and Repurchase of US-64 of UTI

*81. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small investors who have invested in UTI-US-64 alongwith the amount involved therein;

(b) whether the UTI has suspended the sale and repurchase of its popular scheme US-64 for six months;

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

(d) whether the Government have ordered an investigation into the alleged collusion of UTI officials with a section of dishonest businessmen leading to UTI pumping huge funds into 'dud' companies with dishonest motive;

(e) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to UTI to restore the sale and repurchase of US-64 scheme keeping in view the interest of the small investors;

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

(h) the other steps taken/to be taken by the Government to restore the sale and repurchase of US-64?

* Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) According to information provided by UTI, under the US-64 Scheme, there were 1.85 crore unit holding accounts with upto 3000 units, amounting to Rs. 5326.13 crore (at face value) as on 30.06.01.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. UTI announced on 2nd July its decision to suspend both sales and repurchases of US-64 units for a period of six months upto December, 2001. The decision was taken with a view to arresting redemptions and restructuring the scheme.

(d) and (e) Government has constituted a three member High Level Committee to conduct an independent enquiry into, *inter-alia*, the investment decisions taken by UTI. Separately, the Central Bureau of Investigation is investigating certain investment decisions taken by the former Chairman, UTI and Senior UTI officials.

(f) and (g) The Government has agreed to stand behind UTI to support implementation of the scheme announced by UTI on 15th July 2001 for small investors.

(h) In addition to the steps mentioned at (d) & (e) above, UTI has announced that all unit holders holding units as on 30th June, 2001 may offer for repurchase upto 3000 units per unitholder at any time during the period from 1st August, 2001 to 31st May, 2003 at the price of Rs. 10 per unit effective from 1st August, 2001, which will increase by 10 paise per month. US-64 will fully reopen for repurchases at NAV based prices in January 2002.

Export of Wheat

*82. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI:

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

(a) the details of wheat, rice and other food products exported during last year against the target fixed, country-wise;

(b) whether Iraq has rejected several shipments of wheat under food for oil scheme;

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

(d) the other countries who have also rejected the import of wheat on similar grounds;

(e) the amount of loss suffered by FCI/Government in this deal;

(f) the steps taken to resume export of wheat to Iraq;

(g) the action taken against the exporters and officials responsible for these exports; and

(h) the corrective steps taken by the Government to check recurrence of such exports in the future?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) According to information received from the Ministry of Commerce, agro exports including tea, coffee and marine products during the year 2000-01 were Rs. 27422.98 crores. 848919 MTs of Basmati rice valued at Rs. 2141.94 crores and 683194 MTs of non-Basmati rice valued at Rs. 784.16 crores were exported last year. Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Information about the export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool during the year 2000-01 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b), (c), (f) to (h) Iraq has recently rejected four consignments of wheat shipped by three private parties from India insisting that the cargo should be totally free from inorganic matter, such as, sand, silica, dust and asphalt, and also live insects.

As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2%, out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust, etc. Quality specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. The inspection agency agreed by the Grain Board of Iraq had inspected the cargo prior to shipment and declared the wheat consignments fit for human consumption and conforming to the quality specifications of the Iraqi order. However, on arrival of the consignments at Iraqi ports, the Grain Board of Iraq insisted on 'nil' tolerance for inorganic foreign matter.

The Indian delegation that visited Iraq in May 2001 was informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter, like sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles, etc., are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other

edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. This position was not known to the exporters. They presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was told that the Iraqi authorities had accordingly taken a decision to reject any wheat stocks found with inorganic matter like sand, stones, etc. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same grounds.

The exports have been given the freedom to identify wheat stocks available in the Central Pool for the purpose of export. However, on receipt of reports of rejection of wheat consignments from India, it was decided that no further consignment of wheat would be sent to Iraq, unless it was cleaned to meet the specifications of the Grain Board of Iraq.

(d) According to available information, no other country has rejected any wheat consignment from India.

(e) Government or FCI has not incurred any financial loss on account of the rejection of wheat consignment by Iraq.

Statement

Export of Wheat & Rice from the Central Pool During the year 2000-01

A. Export of Wheat

Country	Quantity exported (in MTs)
1	2
Bangladesh	422935.678
Indonesia	29044
Iraq @ @ @	46364
Malaysia	46800
Myanmar	2923.746
Oman/Dubai	61510.398
Philippines	163607.201

1	2
Qatar	5500
Russia	17383
South Korea	305007.716
Sudan	52000
Thailand	13000
UAE/Sharjah	184907.261
Vietnam	60573
Yemen	192161
Total	1603717

@ @ @ Diverted to other destinations in the Middle East.

FCI was initially permitted to offer 20 lakh MTs. of wheat for export purposes. This quantity was subsequently increased to 50 lakh tonnes.

B. Export of Rice

The export of rice from the Central started with effect from March, 2001. FCI was permitted to offer 20 lakh tonnes of rice during 2000-01. FCI has delivered (upto 18.7.2001) 1.53 lakh MTs of rice for export purposes.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Racket

*83. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has recently unearthed a foreign exchange racket worth millions of US Dollars and have arrested some businessmen in this connection;

(b) if so, the modus-operandi of the racket and the details of businessmen involved;

(c) whether the Government are aware that the officials of customs and postal departments are also involved in the racket; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps initiated by the Government to check such foreign exchange racket in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) On 9-6-2001 CBI has intercepted two parcels containing US Dollars 25,000/- each booked for Hong King. Four persons viz. S/shri Sujeet Singh Chopra, Harpal Singh Chopra, Ravel Sigh Chopra and Daljit Singh have been arrested. It is suspected that these parcels were being sent in connivance with Customs officials and officers of Postal Department, through speed post to Hong Kong in the guise of documents.

(c) and (d) It is suspected that three custom officials and some officials of Postal Department are involved in this operation. The anti-smuggling machinery has been geared up and the officers posted have been alerted. Institutionalized arrangements have been made with the Postal department. A detailed procedure for examination and clearance of parcels has since been worked out which is reviewed regularly by Commissioner Customs, Tuglakabad alongwith Director, Foreign Post Office.

Fall in Value of Rupees

*84. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the value of rupee has fallen against the major foreign currencies recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the extent to which the value of rupee has fallen against the major foreign currencies during each of the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the fall in the value of Indian rupee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) The rupees had appreciated by 4.3 percent against the Euro, by 3.6 percent against the Pound Sterling and by 8.6 percent against the Japanese Yen during January 2001 to June 2001, while it had depreciated by 0.5 percent against the US dollar during the same period. The extent of appreciation/depreciation (-) of rupee against each of these currencies in each of the months from January 2001 to June 2001 is given below:

Month	Rs./US dollar (Period Avg.)	App/Dep(-) of rupee (%)	Rs./Yen* (Period Avg.)	App/Dep(-) of rupee (%)	Rs./Euro (Period Avg.)	App/Dep(-) of rupee (%)	Rs./Pound Stg. (Period Avg.)	App/Dep(-) of rupee (%)
Dec. 00	46.75	—	41.73	—	41.87	—	68.28	—
Jan. 01	46.54	0.45	39.91	4.56	43.75	-4.30	68.93	-0.94
Feb. 01	46.52	0.04	40.05	-0.35	42.96	1.84	67.68	1.85
Mar. 01	46.62	-0.21	38.46	4.13	42.44	1.23	67.39	0.43
Apr. 01	46.78	-0.34	37.89	1.50	41.80	1.53	67.22	0.25
May 01	46.92	-0.30	38.53	-1.66	41.05	1.83	66.92	0.45
Jun. 01	47.00	-0.17	38.42	0.29	40.16	2.22	65.89	1.56

*Rupees per 100 Yen.

(d) The day-to-day movements in exchange rates are largely determined by demand and supply conditions in the foreign exchange market in India. The developments in the financial markets in India and abroad are monitored closely both by the Government and the Reserve Bank

of India and appropriate measures are taken, when necessary, to reduce excessive volatility in the exchange rate, prevent the emergence of destabilizing speculative activities, develop orderly foreign exchange market conditions and to help maintain adequate level of foreign exchange reserves.

Anti-Dumping Cases Against China

*85. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

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

(a) whether Chinese Government have expressed concern over the growing number of anti-dumping cases initiated by Government of India against their manufacturers;

(b) if so, whether a high level Chinese trade delegation visited India in the month of the June this year and has warned that such steps initiated by the Government of India will hamper healthy bilateral trade between both the countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Indian Government to counter such warnings?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) A Chinese delegation led by Mr. Shang Ming, Deputy Director General of Department of Treaty & Law, Ministry of Foreign Trade & Economic Co-operation met Designated Authority of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties on 18th June, 2001 primarily to discuss the legal framework of Anti-Dumping measures in the WTO context. The meeting was held in a cordial atmosphere and both the sides reiterated the need to encourage and increase the bilateral trade between the two countries.

Among other issues discussed in the meeting, the Chinese delegation also expressed concern over the Anti-Dumping cases initiated by India against Chinese exports and the prompt and speedy investigations conducted by India.

It was clarified to the Chinese delegation that the anti-dumping investigations in India are conducted under the national law as enshrined in the Customs Tariff Amendment Act, 1975, as amended in 1995, which is in consonance with the provisions of WTO. It was further clarified that these measures are country-neutral and the rules apply uniformly to China as also to any other country, and there is no intention on the part of the Government of India to specifically target China for application of anti-dumping measures. It was also explained that whenever a fully documented petition is filed by the domestic industry and the essential elements of dumping, injury and a causal link are established, the cases are initiated irrespective of the country involved.

Disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines

*86. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI J.S. BRAR:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the process of disinvestment of Air India and Indian Airlines has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the bids/offers received in this regard;

(d) whether any bid/offer has been rejected and if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which the disinvestment process is likely to be finalised; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure transparency in the disinvestment process and also to protect the jobs of the employees/workers of Air India and Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) The details regarding disinvestment in Air India (AI) and Indian Airlines (IA) are as under:-

Air India**1. Government Decision:-**

- (i) Government equity to be brought down to 40%.
- (ii) 40% of the equity to be disinvestment in favour of Strategic Partner (SP).
- (iii) Upto 10% of the equity to be offered to employees and the balance by sale to financial institutions and/or on the share market.
- (iv) Foreign holding in case of Strategic Partner not to exceed 26% of the total equity.

2. 9 offers from prospective bidders were received against advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest. 6 out of these parties met pre-qualification criteria of minimum net worth and all these parties were given Bid Packs. 4 out of these 6 parties did not submit the Initial Technical Proposal in response to the Request for Proposal. Thus, only 2 parties who remained in the process carried out due diligence/data room study and submitted comments on the draft Share Purchase Agreement and Shareholders Agreements. The bids of these remaining two parties are under scrutiny as per approved guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment. It is not possible at this stage to determine the time by which this disinvestment process is likely to be finalized.

3. The provisions in the Agreements for safeguarding the interest of the workers are:-

Recital — All employees on the Closing Date to continue in employment of the Company, SP to use best efforts to provide adequate job opportunities for SC/ST, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged sections of society.

SP and AI to ensure that employees have option for voluntary retirement on terms not less favourable than the voluntary retirement scheme of Department of Public Enterprises.

Indian Airlines

1. Government Decision:-

- (i) Government equity to be brought down to 49%.
- (ii) 26% equity to be sold to a Strategic Partner.
- (iii) 25% equity to be sold to Domestic Financial Institutions, employees and other investors.
- (iv) Limit of Foreign holding would be 40% of SP's equity.

2. 6 offers from prospective bidders were received against advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest. 4 out of these parties met pre-qualification criteria of minimum net worth and all these parties were given Bid packs. 2 out of these 4 parties did not submit the Initial Technical Proposal in response to the Request for Proposal. Thus, only 2 parties who remained in the process carried out due diligence/data room study. The bids of these remaining two parties are under scrutiny as per approved guidelines of the Department of Disinvestment. It is not possible at this stage to determine the time by which this disinvestment process is likely to be finalized.

3. The Agreements have not yet been firmed up. However, necessary provisions in the Agreements for safeguarding the interest of the workers will be kept on the lines as have been stated above in the case of Air India.

The Government has taken steps to ensure complete transparency in all disinvestment transactions, including Air India and Indian Airlines, where strategic sale is contemplated. Offers for appointment of Advisor and thereafter the offers for inviting the Expression of Interest, is through an open competitive bidding process by giving advertisements through leading newspapers (national & international). Apart from the exhaustive examination in the Department of Disinvestment, there exists a multi-layer scrutiny mechanism in the form of Inter Ministerial Group, Core Group of Secretaries on Disinvestment and Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment. After the conclusion of the transaction, the Comptroller & Auditor General of India will be carrying out a thorough audit and evaluation where after the report will be placed before the Parliament and also made public.

[Translation]

Disclosure of Names of Bank Loan Defaulters

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

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from RBI to amend RBI Act 1934 which includes provision to disclose the names of wilful Bank Loan defaulters;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon so far; and

(c) if no action has been taken so far, the time by which it is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has submitted a proposal for amendment to Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 which *inter alia*, includes provision to enable RBI to disclose the names of such borrowers who have defaulted in payment of interest or repayment of principal amount for not less than one year to the credit institutions as may be specified by RBI.

(b) and (c) The matter is under examination of the Government and decision is likely to be taken soon.

*[English]***Bank Loans for Weaker Sections of Society**

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

(a) whether the Government have shifted its focus on lending by nationalized banks to weaker sections of the society;

(b) if so, the details of guidelines regarding lending by banks to different sectors of economy and weaker sections of society; and

(c) the total non-performing assets of each public sector bank resulting from default by borrowers of money

more than one lakh, ten lakhs and below Rupees on lakh, respectively?

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

(b) At present, a target of 40 per cent of Net Bank Credit (NBC) has been stipulated for lending to the priority sector by public sector banks. Within this, sub-targets of 18 per cent and 10 per cent of NBC have been stipulated for agriculture and weaker sections respectively. Further, banks cannot charge interest of more than Prime Lending Rates on loans upto Rs. 2.0 lakhs.

(c) The category-wise amount of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks as on March 31, 2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Public Sector Banks**Category-wise NPAs—Positions as on 31.3.2000*

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Bank	Upto 1 lakh		Between 1 lakh to 10 lakh		Rs. 10 lakh and above		Total NPAs	
	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount	No. of Accounts	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
State Bank of India	2705433	2352.96	97840	1801.57	6394	10091.76	2809667	15246.29
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	150088	164.56	3247	71.88	428	537.03	153763	773.47
State Bank of Hyderabad	90602	157.67	3341	88.00	483	690.05	94426	935.72
State Bank of Indore	59064	68.98	2561	54.79	145	194.24	61770	318.01
State Bank of Mysore	99598	106.96	10118	93.25	345	349.60	110061	549.81
State Bank of Patiala	45655	78.98	5278	112.45	401	478.10	51334	669.53
State Bank of Saurashtra	33699	79.56	649	31.05	321	358.78	34669	469.39
State Bank of Travancore	148964	100.66	2686	75.40	480	635.02	152130	811.08
Total of SBI Group	3333103	4110.33	125720	2328.39	8997	13334.58	3467820	19773.30
Allahabad Bank	281187	276.82	8293	197.00	1037	1220.34	290527	1694.16
Andhra Bank	129250	155.28	2672	72.36	474	229.14	132396	456.78
Bank of Baroda	523320	604.5	1760	384.83	3169	2907.89	528249	3897.22
Bank of India (*)	474127	513	18920	276.00	3536	2675.00	496583	3464.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Bank of Maharashtra	129807	146.34	5722	106.07	636	464.38	136165	716.79
Canara Bank	382824	326.43	63586	140.84	2614	2128.81	449024	2596.08
Central Bank of India	424751	587.33	14514	387.61	1761	1867.73	441026	2842.67
Corporation Bank	80451	90.75	2053	56.17	339	286.11	82843	433.03
Dena Bank	100133	111.28	3614	88.53	682	1199.79	104429	1399.60
Indian Bank	466728	426.33	2842	133.27	2866	2794.97	472436	3354.57
Indian Overseas Bank	511663	275.79	6629	138.00	1024	1209.00	518316	1622.79
Oriental Bank of Commerce	121975	59.02	2972	76.21	603	392.98	125550	527.51
Punjab & Sind Bank	62457	104.85	5969	151.70	647	520.25	69073	776.80
Punjab National Bank	505333	430.91	22635	462.41	2280	2233.45	530248	3126.77
Syndicate Bank	231549	264.54	4050	147.63	909	579.98	236508	992.15
UCO Bank	456747	380.85	9340	241.58	1021	1028.98	467108	1651.41
Union Bank of India	346898	407.16	10301	256.93	247	1217.11	357446	1881.20
United Bank of India	590220	538.65	8645	190.31	730	791.04	599595	1520.00
Vijaya Bank	96093	120.67	3576	79.58	710	366.94	100379	567.19
Total for Nationalised Banks	5915523	5820.50	198093	3587.03	25285	24113.19	6138901	33520.72
Total for PSBs	9248626	9930.83	323813	5915.42	34282	37447.77	9606721	53294.02
% of total	96.27	18.63	3.37	11.10	0.36	70.27	—	—

Cut in Bank Interest Rates

*89. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reduction made by RBI in the bank interest rates during the last one year;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for effecting further cut in interest rates;

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

(d) whether this reduction in interest rate is likely to have any impact on the Indian Economy; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The interest rate structure of the commercial banks has been deregulated, with banks having been given freedom to determine their deposit as well as lending rates, except the interest rates on export credit and Saving Bank deposit rates, which are currently prescribed by the RBI. Bank Rate, i.e. the rate of lending by Reserve Bank of India to banks, is set by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time to influence the general interest rate structure in the economy. The Reserve Bank had reduced the Bank Rate by one percentage point 8.0 per cent to 7.0 per cent in two stages of 0.5 per cent each with effect from February 16 and March 2, 2001 respectively.

(b) and (c) Interest rates policy in the context of Monetary Policy is decided by the Reserve Bank of India.

The Reserve Bank in its Monetary and Credit Policy announced on April 19, 2001 has indicated that the overall stance of monetary policy for 2001-02 will be:

- Provision of adequate liquidity to meet credit growth and support revival of investment demand while continuing a vigil on movement in the price level.
- Within the overall framework of imparting greater flexibility to the interest rate regime in the medium-term, to continue the present stable interest rate environment with a preference for softening to the extent the evolving situation warrants.

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India have stated that the demand for industrial credit is usually buoyant in the second half of the year while demand for food credit is strong in the first half due to the procurement season. Further credit pick-up depends on the overall growth and business confidence. Lower interest rates help in bringing down prices and making Indian Industry and Business more competitive in global context.

Mitra Committee Report

*90. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to enact legislation on investor protection to safeguard the interests of small investors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received the Mitra Committee Report on the subject;

(d) if so, the main recommendations of the report;

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government have dropped the idea of enacting separate legislation to protect small investors; and

(g) if so, the reasons thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) and (b) Government intends to propose legislative changes in the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 to, *inter-alia* safeguard the interest of investors.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendations include, *inter-alia*, empowerment of SEBI to conduct inquiry and investigation, search, seize and attach properties and for prosecution; establishment of Special Courts to try financial fraud.

(e) The report has been sent to other Ministries/ Departments for comments.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Appropriate amendments are being considered in the SEBI Act.

Import of Printing Press

*91. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Massive fraud in import of printing presses" appearing in the *Indian Express* dated May 17, 2001;

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

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the Government by way of customs duty due to this scam; and

(d) the remedial steps taken by the Government to check such practices in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The newspaper report highlights violations of the EXIM Policy provisions and, in certain cases, undervaluation indulged in by various importers of second-hand printing presses detected by Directorate of Revenue intelligence and some Customs Commissionerates in recent years. The violations were detected by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in 1999 for second-hand printing presses mostly imported through Chennai, Hyderabad and Delhi Customs. Several such machines were seized at different centers and appropriate penal proceedings initiated under the Customs Act, 1962. Restrictions on imports of the second-hand printing machines/presses imposed in 1999-2000 EXIM Policy were removed in EXIM Policy for 2000-2001 and second-hand machines which are not more than ten years old allowed to be imported subject to two years' actual user condition. A number of cases of violation of these policy

provisions by manipulation of the year of manufacture and in some cases, attempted under-valuation, have been detected by Customs in the years 2000 and 2001 mainly at Chennai and Delhi.

(c) Where invoice values declared were not fair and under-valuation suspected, these were questioned before Customs clearance and duty collected at enhanced values after appropriate adjudication. In two post-Customs clearance cases investigated by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, show cause notices demanding differential duty of Rs. 61.10 lakhs for alleged attempted under-valuation are pending adjudication.

(d) Apart from instructions for beefing up intelligence machinery, alerts have been issued to field formations to be vigilant and guard against any such abuse in future. Custom Houses are taking special care to check the year of manufacture and declared value by critical physical examination of the machinery by expert Appraisers keeping note of the various valuation guidelines issued by the Board.

Export-Import Performance

*92. SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

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

(a) the export-import targets fixed by the Government for the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, separately;

(b) the extent to which export-import targets have been achieved during the above period till date, year-wise;

(c) whether the exports which increased at the rate of 20.70% during April-January, 2000-2001 has come down to just half during February-March, 2001;

(d) if so, the average rate of growth registered during 2000-2001 indicating the reasons for the decline and the major areas of exports which have been affected adversely;

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to strengthen the exports in those areas which shows declining trend;

(f) whether due to huge import, balance of trade has been widening alarmingly during the last two years;

(g) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor, and

(h) the concrete steps taken/being taken to narrow down the gap between import and export growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The export targets fixed for the year 2000-01 and 2001-02 and their achievements so far in US\$ terms as per the DGCI&S provisional estimates are as under:-

Year	Target growth	Achievement
2000-01	18%	19.83%
2001-02	12%	—

No import targets are fixed by the Government.

(c) to (e) The export growth rate achieved during February-March 2001 has not come down to half of the export growth rate in April-January 2000-01. As per the provisional DGCI&S data, growth in exports during February-March 2001 was 16.37% compared to the growth rate of 20.7% during April-January 2000-2001. The overall growth rate for April-March 2000-01, in US\$ terms is 19.83%.

Export performance *inter alia* is influenced by international market conditions, export competitiveness of the domestic industry etc. Exports in last few months have been affected due to general slow down in world trade in major import countries. Areas where sluggish export growth has been noticed during 2000-01 are gems and jewellery, sports goods, project goods, handicraft and carpets, etc.

A number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, setting up Special Economic Zones, simplification of procedures, extending the Export Promotion Capital Goods schemes to all sectors and all capital goods without any threshold limit on payment of 5% of duties and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions.

(f) to (h) No Sir, balance of trade has not been widening. Instead it has been narrowing down. As per the provision estimates trade deficit during 2000-01 decreased to US \$ 5739 million from US \$ 12904 million during 1999-2000. Trade deficit during April-May 2001-02

is less at US \$ 1195 million as compared to US \$ 1874 million during the same period last year. The value of imports during April-May 2001-02 in dollar terms has declined by 3.74% as compared to corresponding period of the previous year. The Government is constantly monitoring imports and promoting exports as mentioned above.

Badla Transaction in Share Market

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

(a) whether with a view to regulate the working of share market, SEBI have decided to ban the badla transactions w.e.f. July, 2001;

(b) whether the investors have been diverting funds out of badla into greener pastures like debt funds and bank fixed deposits after returns on badla started to plummet; and

(c) if so, how far the proposed decision of banning badla transactions will boost transparency in the functioning of stock exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Based on the recommendations of the J.R. Varma Group constituted by SEBI to review the need for having deferral products in rolling settlement, the SEBI Board in its meeting held on May 14, 2001 decided that all deferral products including Badla would cease to be available with effect from July 02, 2001, except for transitional measures for liquidation of existing positions.

(b) There has been a decline in outstanding positions in the deferral products on all the exchanges after SEBI decided to ban all the deferral products with effect from July 02, 2001. RBI has intimated that since restriction on badla transactions have been introduced only in July, 2001, the time that has elapsed is too short for this to be reflected in the reports that are submitted by banks to RBI.

(c) From July 2, 2001, rolling settlement on T+5 basis has been introduced in additional 251 scrips which includes all scrips which had the facility of Carry Forward. All deferral products have been discontinued. The remaining scrips will be traded on account period basis with uniform settlement cycle (Monday to Friday) on all stock exchanges and will be moved to rolling settlement to January 2, 2002. A Value at Risk (VAR) based margin system has been introduced which is based on a universally accepted statistical model. The system of

unique client code is also to be introduced by the exchanges from September 3, 2001 and margin will be calculated on gross basis. With the discontinuation of deferral products, stock options on selected 31 stocks has been permitted on the exchanges. Market wide index based circuit breakers, as is available in other markets, have been introduced w.e.f. July 2, 2001. Excluding the stocks which are in the BSE Sensex and S&P CNX NIFTY and on 31 stocks on which options have been permitted, the remaining stocks will have a 20% price band. These measures are expected to enhance safety and transparency in the functioning of stock exchanges.

[Translation]

Profit of Multinational Companies

*94. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism with the Government to ascertain the extent of profit earned by the multinational companies operating in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons for the same;

(d) whether the Government are losing revenue due to non-maintenance of details in regard to profit earned by the said companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (c) Income from business activity of a person including those having cross-border business activity, business connection and/or permanent establishment in India is computed under the Indian Income Tax Act with specific reference to the provisions of sections 28 to 44D of the Income Tax Act, 1961. There are certain special provisions in Chapters XII, XIIA, XIIB which may also be applicable in respect of these companies.

(d) and (e) The provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 are considered adequate for determining the income for the purpose of levy of tax in India. With a view to providing a statutory framework empowering the tax authorities to determine reasonable, fair and equitable profits and tax in respect of cross border transactions, new sections 92, 92A, 92B, 92C, 92D, 92E and 92F have been inserted in the Income Tax Act, 1961 through

the Finance Act, 2001 providing for the transfer pricing mechanism relating to computation of income from cross border transactions.

Impact of Globalisation

*95. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that due to globalisation and OGL policy of the Government, many Indian industries including small-scale industries have been closed down or are on the verge of closure, leaving hundreds of labourers, traders and farmers jobless in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether this policy has compelled the small farmers, labourers and traders to commit suicide in various parts of the country particularly in Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu as reported in the "Rashtriya Sahara" of May 2, 2001;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken several effective step to compensate/rehabilitate these small farmers, labourers and traders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the further action proposed to be taken to save the small farmers, traders and labourers from the adverse effect of globalisation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) Import restrictions are continuously removed since 1991, as part of economic liberalization programme. However, the removal of restrictions has not altered the overall rate of growth of imports. The growth rate of imports was 15.3% in 1993-94, 23.1% in 1994-95, 36.4% in 1995-96, 13.2% in 1996-97, 11% in 1997-98, 14.2% in 1998-99, 13.6% in 1999-2000 and 0.27% in 2000-2001. The import growth during first two months of this financial year is 3.74%. If non-oil imports are taken into consideration the picture of imports is further reassuring. Such non-oil imports, have infact, registered a negative growth rate of 14.66% during 2000-2001.

Even at the micro level the growth in imports has not been of alarming nature. The import data for 714 items, QRs on which were removed on 31.03.2000, for the year 2000-2001, indicates a growth in import of these items by less than 3%. Similarly, the import of 300 sensitive items, which is being monitored by a Standing Group of Secretaries, indicates a decline of 11% during the first two months of this financial year.

As can be seen from above, the fears of domestic market being swamped by imports have not come true. There is nothing to indicate that any suicide is attributable to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports.

However, the imports are being constantly monitored and the Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other available mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

[English]

Provision of Funds to FCI for Procurement in States

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

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

(a) whether number of States have urged the Union Government to make available funds to the Food Corporation of India to ensure the ongoing rabi rice procurement in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether in view of the bumper crops, the Union Government have asked the FCI to continue to procure the crops of wheat and rice without any limitations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether FCI has not been able to procure sufficient quantity of foodgrains in the States;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith quantity of wheat and rice procured during current rabi season;

(g) the reasons for rice failure of FCI in procuring rice from Orissa; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to help the farmers by procuring more and more stock of wheat and rice?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHANTA KUMAR): (a) and (b) A request was received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh only to place funds at the disposal of the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in order to ensure smooth procurement of Rabi rice.

(c) and (d) Under the present system of procurement, farmers are free to sell their produce to FCI/State procuring agencies or in the open market as is advantageous to them. Hence, no targets are fixed for procurement of paddy/wheat. As regards levy rice, the percentage of rice to be delivered by millers is fixed under the Levy Orders issued by the State Governments after obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India.

(e) and (f) The procurement of wheat and rice (including paddy in terms of rice) has reached record levels. During Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02, the procurement of wheat was 206.15 lakh tonnes as compared to 163.56 lakh tonnes during the previous year. The procurement of rice during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01 was 202.44 lakh tonnes as compared to 182.06 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

(g) It is not correct to say that FCI has failed to procure rice from Orissa. As on 23.7.2001, FCI had procured a quantity of 7.63 lakh tonnes of levy rice in Orissa as against 7.15 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period last year.

(h) In order to facilitate procurement, purchase centres are opened in different States to avoid distress sale. Quick payment is made to the farmers for their produce. Foodgrains are procured at Minimum Support Prices without any quantitative restrictions. Adequate publicity is given about the procurement prices, FAQ specifications and purchase centres. The Government of India is also encouraging the State Governments to adopt the Scheme of Decentralised Procurement with the objective to provide, *inter alia*, Minimum Support Prices to farmers to cover the country instead of restricting this facility to those areas where procurement is currently taking place.

Central Assistance to States for Exports

*97. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to link central assistance for exports to a State's quantum of exports and growth rate from current fiscal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of weightage proposed to be given to exports level and growth rate;

(d) whether the Government have also decided to compile State-wise data of export;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the likely effect of said decision on the States which have a considerable vender base and do intermediary jobs?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) A new central sector scheme for providing central assistance to States for development of export infrastructure and allied activities has been taken up for implementation from the current year 2001-2002. The Central Government will provide grants to the State Governments on the basis of their export performance and the incremental annual growth in their exports. In the current year, an outlay of Rs. 97 crore has been provided for the scheme.

(c) 50% of the total outlay earmarked for the States will be allocated on the basis of their total export and balance of 50% will be allocated on the basis of the annual growth in their exports.

(d) and (e) Shipping Bill has been amended with effect from 31.5.2001 to collect information in respect of the State of origin of the goods exported.

(f) All States will benefit from the Scheme to the extent that the goods originating from the State contribute to exports.

Import of Natural Rubber

*98. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have permitted the tyre manufacturers to import 30,000 tonnes of natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its likely impact on the prices of indigenous natural rubber;

(d) whether rubber growers of various States including Kerala have urged the Government to ban the import of natural rubber;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) whether rubber growers have also urged the Union Government to fix/increase the floor price of rubber and to lift the stock of rubber from market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No, Sir. After the Quantitative Restrictions have been removed since April, 2001, anybody can import natural rubber after paying the normal applicable customs duties. Permission for import has neither been given, nor is it necessary.

(d) and (e) There have been requests from the rubber growers and Government of Kerala to ban the import of Natural Rubber. The ban on import of Natural Rubber against Advance Licences imposed by the Government on 20th February, 1999 is continuing.

(f) and (g) The demand of rubber growers for fixing a minimum price for rubber has been examined and necessary action in this regard has been initiated.

Vacancy of Top Posts in PSUs

*99. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item captioned "For 29 PSUs tale's about missing heads" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated May 19, 2001;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government with regard to the filling of 70 posts which were lying vacant for the several months in 29 Public Sector Undertakings;

(c) whether out of these above 29 Public Sector Undertakings, some of them are in various stages of disinvestment and require a full time board to improve their functioning; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The 29 posts of Chief Executives which were lying vacant on 31.3.2001 included the posts in Petrofils Cooperatives Limited and Lubrizol India Limited which are not PSUs. Of the remaining 27, 6 have since been filled up, appointee is to join in one case, selection

has been made by Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) in 8 cases, deputation is considered in 3 cases, 5 posts are kept in abeyance and in the remaining 4 cases selection process has been initiated. There were 59 posts of Functional Directors lying vacant on 31.3.2001 out of which 1 post is in Maruti Udyog Ltd. which is not a PSU. In respect of the remaining vacancies, 7 have since been filled up, PSEB has made selection in 26 cases, appointees are to join in 3 cases and 7 posts are kept in abeyance. Two posts are to be operated at below Board level, in 2 cases deputation is considered and in the remaining 11 cases recruitment action is initiated. Out of the 27 PSUs, the process of disinvestment is currently in progress in 6 PSUs, namely, Bharat Brakes & Valves Ltd., Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd., Hindustan Salts Ltd., Indian Airlines Ltd., Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. and India Tourism Development Corporation. Of these, in 2 cases the post of CMDs have been filled up, in one selection made, in 2 Search Committee set up and in one deputation is being considered.

Functioning of Prasar Bharati

*100. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Prasar Bharati have taken a decision to auction five and half hours a day on DD metro for three years to private producers by violating the recommendations of the expert Committee set up by her Ministry;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to bring transparency in the functioning of Prasar Bharati; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati had taken a decision to allot bulk airtime on auction basis to bring the DD-Metro channel in line with the prevailing market situation. Prasar Bharati has informed that the time slots between 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. were allotted to M/s Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd., through an open bid process, for a period of one year, expiring on 10.9.2001 and 15.10.2001 respectively. The time slots from 10 p.m. to

0030 a.m. were already vacant. Therefore, open bids were invited for the airtime from 7 p.m. to 0030 a.m. with a floor price of Rs. 115 crores, for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m., and without any floor price for the slots from 11 p.m. to 0030 a.m. In response only, one bid was received for the 11 p.m. to 00 hours slots, from M/s Moving Pictures Company India Private Limited with an offer of Rs. 50 lakhs net. Prasar Bharati then took a decision to invite fresh bids for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. slots without fixing any floor price. Even though three bids were received, these were considered too low and rejected.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati is a statutory organisation and it is fully empowered to take decisions relating to its programme management. The scheme of bulk airtime sale of slots over DD Metro is part of such programme management, and is, therefore, within the competence of Prasar Bharati. Government had not issued any instructions in this regard. For better transparency and objectivity in procurement of programmes on sponsored or commissioned basis, as well as co-production and acquisition of programmes in Doordarshan, revised guidelines have been issued and publicized by Prasar Bharati.

[Translation]

Smuggling Activities along Indo-Pak Border

827. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been a drastic increase in smuggling activities along the Indo-Pak Border;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested along the Rajasthan border for smuggling activities;

(d) the action taken by the Government against them; and

(e) the action being taken by the Government to check smuggling activities along Indo-Pak Border?

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

(c) and (d) 17 persons have been arrested for smuggling activities along the Rajasthan border during the last 3 years, i.e., from 1998-99 to 2001-2002 (upto June, 2001). Action has been initiated to prosecute them under the provisions of Customs Act, 1962.

(e) All the field formations under the Customs Department including DRI are vigilant and alert to prevent smuggling of contraband goods all over the country including along Indo-Pak border.

[English]

Committee of Radio Frequency Allocation

828. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Committee to finalise a new radio frequency allocation plan after studying proposals from Government and private users;

(b) if so, the details regarding the issues to be examined before the committee;

(c) whether any necessity is being felt for a review of the national frequency allocation plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Department of Telecommunications has set up a Committee to review the National Frequency Allocation Plan 2000.

(b) to (d) The emergence of new technologies and the rapid changes taking place in Telecom, Information Technology and Broadcasting sectors necessitate a periodic review to ensure optimum and efficient utilization of the spectrum.

Completion of Simhadri Power Unit to BHEL

829. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are expecting the completion of Simhadri Power Unit of Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in Andhra Pradesh by the current financial year;

(b) if so, whether the second unit of the mega project funded by the Japan Bank of International Co-operation is likely to be commissioned before schedule;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which it will be helpful in meeting the power requirement of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) First Unit (500 MW) of Simhadri Power Project of NTPC, being executed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited in the State of Andhra Pradesh, is expected to be commissioned before March, 2002 as per schedule.

(b) and (c) Second Unit (500 MW) of the project is expected to be commissioned by December 2002 as per schedule.

(d) As per available information, 100% power (1000 MW) from this project shall be supplied to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

'Drug Addiction'

830. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to National Master Plan for drug control, the menace of drugs has posed a serious threat to the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether in spite of the operation of the NDPS Act, drug addictions is on the increase in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to make any amendments to the said Act;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) In the National Master Plan (Draft) on Drug Abuse Control in India (1994-2000) it has been suggested that in order to control the drug menace, the main efforts should be concentrated on demand reduction measures amongst the vulnerable population groups and in counter-measures against in-smuggling of drugs alongwith arms and explosives that foster subversive activities and indigenous illicit production of drugs

(c) Different studies and reports indicate to a rising trend in drug abuse in certain vulnerable sections of the society, such as street children, commercial sex workers, urban slums dwellers, unemployed youth etc.

(d) Yes, Sir. Recently Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001 has been passed by both the Houses of Parliament.

(e) The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (Amendment) Act, 2001 seeks to (a) rationalize the existing sentence structure so as to ensure that drug traffickers who traffic in significant quantities of drugs are punished with deterrent sentences, the addict and others who commit less serious offences are awarded less serious punishment (b) restrict the application of strict bail provisions to those offenders who indulged in serious offences (c) remove the inadequacies relating to power of entry, search, seizure, forfeiture of illegally acquired property etc. and (d) address certain obligations specially in respect of the concept of controlled delivery arising from the UN Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, 1988 to which India is a party.

(f) Does not arise.

Short-Term Loans to Coffee Growers

831. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has been urged to issue necessary instructions to NABARD and commercial banks for rescheduling the short-term loans outstanding against the coffee growers especially in Kerala, so that their normal operations are not hit by falling prices; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to help the poor coffee growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the issue of rescheduling of the existing short-term loans to enable the coffee growers to tide over the problems faced by them on account of fall in international prices of coffee was examined by them and banks were specifically advised that they may restructure the borrowal accounts of coffee growers as per RBI guidelines for restructuring of bank dues of industrial manufacturers so that the coffee

growers can get relief in the form of reschedulement and also avail of fresh loans for current season. In addition, a special State Level Bankers' Committee meeting was held in May, 2001 at Bangalore for impressing the urgent need for completing the exercise by the financing banks.

[Translation]

Base Depots of FCI in Bihar

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

(a) the number of base depots of Food Corporation of India, State-wise particularly in Bihar for the supply of Foodgrains under targetted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the said base depots are sufficient to fulfil the requirements of the States;

(c) the name of the districts where base depots of Food Corporation of India does not exist, State-wise; and

(d) the action being taken by the Government to open base depots in such districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Setting up of Wheat Cleaning Facilities at Kandla Port

833. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India propose to set up wheat cleaning facilities at various ports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith estimated expenditure on such facility particularly at Kandla Port; and

(c) the fresh steps taken to ensure proper cleaning of wheat consignment before its export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Government has directed the Food Corporation of India to set up cleaning facilities at Kandla port or any other

port from which export takes place. FCI was also directed to ensure that consignment of wheat is sent to Iraq unless the wheat is cleaned to meet the requirements of the Grain Board of Iraq.

Paddy Procurement by FCI in Karnataka

834. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether in a bid to help farmers hit by a sharp fall in rice prices owing to a bumper paddy crop, the Government of Karnataka has urged the Union Government to lift levy rice from the State on credit basis as has been done in Punjab and Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) to what extent the FCI has been able to lift the rice from the State of Karnataka on credit basis?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) FCI has not lifted any rice on credit basis from the State of Karnataka. However, a quantity of 2.07 lakh tonnes has been received by FCI up to 23.7.2001 as levy rice on payment basis.

Restructuring of UTI

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

(a) whether the Government have appointed a committee for restructuring of UTI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this committee has given its recommendations;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the time by which these recommendations are likely to be submitted;

(f) whether UTI-64 is likely to be made NAV based as recommended by Deepak Parekh Committee; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) On the suggestion of the Government, UTI set up a Committee on Corporate Positioning to review its competitive and commercial positioning in the light of financial sector reforms and developments in the mutual fund industry.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) UTI has intimated that the report of the Committee is expected to be finalised soon and submitted to the Board of Trustees of UTI. Thereafter, the same will be furnished to Government with such recommendations as the Board may make.

(f) and (g) UTI has announced that the US-64 scheme will reopen for repurchases at NAV based prices in January, 2002.

Raids for Recovery of Income Tax

836. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since withdrawn the powers of the Directors (Investigations) in the Income-Tax Department to raid premises even if there are reports and surveys conducted with respect to the business house or individual;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it would not be a step backward to fight corruption, decentralization and transparency in functioning of Income Tax Department; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The power of Director General of Income Tax (Inv.) or Director of Income Tax (inv.) to authorize searches in appropriate cases is provided in the statute i.e. Income Tax Act, 1961. This power has not been withdrawn from the Director of Income Tax (Inv.). Instead for exercising this power, which encroaches upon the privacy of an individual or group, with circumspection and due application of mind, administrative instruction has been issued so that the concurrence of the senior-most functionary of the Investigation Wing of the Department viz. Director General of Income Tax (Inv.) is taken before authorizing searches by the Director of Income Tax (Inv.). This would facilitate search action being used as more effective tool for curbing tax evasion without causing undue harassment to the taxpayers.

[Translation]

World Bank Aided Projects in Bihar

837. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes being undertaken in Bihar with the World Bank assistance;

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

(c) the targets achieved so far under these schemes?

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

S. No.	Name of the Project	Name of participating States	Amount of assistance (US \$ million)	Disbursement as on 31.5.01 (US \$ million)	Undrawn balance as on 31.5.01 (US \$ million)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	2nd Integrated Child Development Project	M.P., Bihar	194	140.948	53.052
2.	3rd District Primary Education Project	Bihar	152	28.565	123.435
3.	Leprosy Elimination Project	U.P., Bihar, M.P., Orissa, West Bengal	30	0	30

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Tuberculosis Control Project	Nationwide	142.4	26.139	116.261
5.	Malaria Control Project	Nationwide	164.800	35.421	129.379
6.	Second National HIV/AIDS Control Project	Nationwide	194.754	41.364	153.390
7.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Nationwide	142.600	29.639	112.961
8.	Reproductive & Child Health Project	Nationwide	248.30	84.648	163.652
9.	National Agriculture Technology Project	A.P., H.P., Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab	196.8	41.555	158.445
10.	Rural Women Development and Empowerment Project	Bihar, M.P., U.P., Gujarat, Karnataka	19.5	2.096	17.404
11.	Third National Highway Project	U.P. and Bihar	516	30.160	485.84

[English]

Corruption in New India Assurance Co. Ltd.

838. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6060 on 27th April, 2001 regarding corruption in GIC and state:

(a) whether the Government have received any report from New India Assurance Co. Ltd. after prolonged investigations by its Vigilance Department on several complaints of large scale corruption in DO-310900, New Delhi;

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

(c) whether complaints have also been received against the Vigilance Department of the Company for not taking any action against officials for years together even after prima-facie corruption cases are made out by the Regional Vigilance Officers or operation cover up in proved corruption cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of cases pending for action by CVO of the Company as on date and reasons therefor in each case; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for fair and prompt action by the Vigilance Department of the Company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Investigation Report has highlighted certain irregularities on the part of some officials of DO-310900. The report has been examined by the Vigilance Department of the Insurance Company and the matter stands referred to Central Vigilance Commission for its First Stage Advice.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir. Such complaints have been received. However, it is not true that the Investigation Reports of Vigilance Officers are kept pending for years at Head Office, Vigilance Department. All complaints, as and when received, are investigated for appropriate action and there is no covering up of proven cases of corruption. No Investigation report is pending with Chief Vigilance Officer as on date.

(e) On receipt of the Investigation reports from Vigilance Officers, the same are scrutinised by the Vigilance Department at Head Office and appropriate action is taken promptly. Whenever irregularities are found substantiated, suitable action is initiated against the officials concerned.

[Translation]

Report of Saptarishi Working Group

839. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the report/ recommendations from the Saptarishi Working Group constituted to give recommendations to amend the various anti-dumping provisions under the WTO regime;

(b) if so, the salient features of the report submitted by the working group;

(c) the extent to which the Government have accepted the recommendations of the said group; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Schemes for NRIs

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a task force to study the various schemes and incentives meant for the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the recommendations are likely to be submitted by the task force?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Purchase of rice by Exporters from FCI

841. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:
SHRI SURENDRA SINGH BARWALA:

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

(a) whether Food Corporation of India has introduced a scheme through which exporter of rice can purchase rice from FCI for export;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the details of the exporters who have purchased rice from FCI;

(d) the details of the rice exported by the exporters to various countries; and

(e) the countries which have placed order with exporters alongwith their quantity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SURESH CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The salient features of the scheme are:-

(i) Uniform export price @ Rs. 600/- per MT and Rs. 565/- per MT for parboiled rice and raw rice, respectively.

(ii) Deposit of Bank Guarantee for the differential amount i.e. between the export price and the open sale price in the domestic market.

(iii) The minimum quantity for sale under the scheme is 2,000 MT.

(c) The details of the parties, who have purchase rice from FCI is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) Information in this respect is being collected.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Party
1	2
1.	Arghodeep Const. (P) Ltd., Calcutta
2.	Brij Kishore, Siliguri
3.	Bangsi Badam SAM, Burdwan

1	2
4.	V.K. Udyog, West Bengal
5.	KPS Enterprises, West Bengal
6.	AAR DEE International, West Bengal
7.	L.N.C. Burdwan, West Bengal
8.	P.K.S. Calcutta
9.	R. Piyaralal International, West Bengal
10.	P.K.S. Ltd., Calcutta
11.	K.R.B.L. Ltd., Delhi
12.	L.M.J., Calcutta
13.	EMMSONS International Ltd., Delhi
14.	Bishan Saroop Ram Kishan Agro. (P) Ltd., Delhi
15.	Priyanka Overseas Ltd., Delhi
16.	Amira Food (India) Ltd., Delhi
17.	Padam Shree International, Delhi
18.	Amitr Chand Jaydish Kumar, Delhi
19.	Shah Nanji Nagasi Exports Ltd., Nagpur
20.	GRM Overseas Ltd.
21.	NAV Bharat Export, Delhi
22.	D.D. International, Amritsar

Sale of Rice in Non-Rice Procuring States

842. SHRI ABUL HASNAT KHAN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

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

(a) whether the Government had decided to sell the 6.5 lakh tonnes of rice to traders in non-rice procuring States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Bihar, Kerala and the North-East;

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

(c) whether the Food Corporation of India after sending around 60,000 tonnes of rice had abruptly cut off the supplies;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the action taken against the persons responsible for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The Government during September, 2000 authorised the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to dispose of upto 30 lakh tonnes of rice in open market subject to the following conditions:

- (i) The open sale of rice will be undertaken by the FCI in the consuming States only i.e. where there is no/negligible procurement of rice for the Central Pool;
- (ii) While FCI will attempt to dispose of rice procured under relaxed specifications (URS) to the maximum extent possible, it is also authorized to sell other stocks of rice in view of the constraints of covered storage space;
- (iii) The sale prices of URS rice of 1998-99 crop and other stocks of rice will be fixed separately by the High Level Committee (HLC) of FCI through a transparent mechanism.

Subsequently, during December, 2000, the FCI has been authorized to undertake open sale of rice in those States also where rice is procured for Central Pool, subject to the condition that the price of open sale of rice will not be less than the levy price of rice in those States.

(c) to (e) The sale of URS rice was suspended by the FCI on receipt of certain complaints which have been investigated and action is being initiated against the erring officials.

Overseas Corporate Bodies in Stock Market

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

(a) whether the overseas corporate bodies (OCBs) are used by Indian stock brokers with manipulative intentions;

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to stop the misuse of OCBs;

(c) whether it is further a fact that OCB, namely, Brentfield played role in the transaction of GTB shares in November, 2000; and

(d) if so, the action taken therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) SEBI has intimated that during the course of preliminary investigations by SEBI, into recent market manipulations, indications of use of certain OCBs for circular trading, concentration of holding, parking of shares by a few stock brokers were noticed. Further investigations into the role of OCBs in possible price manipulation, violation of SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of shares and Takeover) Regulations etc. are in progress.

SEBI has intimated that Brentfield has transacted in the shares of Global Trust Bank. Investigations into possible manipulation in the share price of Global Trust Bank are in progress. The role of OCBs including Brentfield in market manipulation, if any, is being examined and appropriate action under the SEBI Act and its Regulations would be taken on the findings of the investigations, after following the due process of law.

Income Tax Demand Against Cricket Board

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

(a) whether the Income-Tax Department has withdrawn the tax exemption for the Cricket Board and has slapped Rs. 10 crore demand notice on it;

(b) if so, whether the Board was exempted from Income-Tax under provisions 10(23) of the IT Act since 1992-93;

(c) if so, the circumstances under which the Government imposed tax on Cricket Board;

(d) whether this step of the Government is likely to affect the sports activities in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and steps being taken to maintain status quo in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A demand of Rs. 10.17 crores was raised for the violation of conditions stipulated in the notification granting exemption to Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) by the Assessing Officer for the Assessment year 1998-99.

(b) Yes, exemption from tax u/s 10(23) was granted to BCCI from A.Ys. 90-91 to 98-99 subject to certain conditions.

(c) The tax was levied after survey u/s 133A of the IT Act at the office premises of the Treasurer of BCCI at Jaipur.

(d) This step is not likely to affect the sports activities in the country as the demand has been raised in accordance with the provisions of law in this regard.

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

Decline in Export to USA

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

(a) whether the share of Indian Exports to the United States of America has declined during the last one year;

(b) if so, the figure of Indian exports to USA during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for decline in the volume of exports to the U.S.A; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the exports to USA?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) India's exports to the US have been rising steadily over the last year. India's exports to the US was Rs. 42,403 crores in 2000-2001, as against Rs. 36,979 crores in 1999-2000. The figures of Indian exports to US during the last three years are given below in a tabular form:-

	Value in Rs. crores		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
India's Export to USA	30289.30	36979.63	42403.73

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Ban on Import of Indian Goods by Foreign Countries

846. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some foreign countries have banned import of certain goods from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of countries, items banned by them and reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated loss to the Indian Government and domestic industries as a result thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken up the matter with these countries; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps being taken by the Government to make up the loss?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Demand of Edible Oil in U.P. and Bihar

847. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the States of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have made additional demands of edible oils;

(b) if so, the details of the quantity of edible oil provided to these States during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any quota in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the quota fixed of edible oil for these States are sufficient to meet their demands;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the remedial measures initiated/proposed to be initiated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (g) The State of Uttar Pradesh placed demand of 15,000 MTs and 5000 MTs for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. For 2000-2001 no demand was

placed by the State of Uttar Pradesh. The State of Bihar did not place any demand during the last three years. No quota has been fixed by the Central Government. Against the demand of 15,000 MTs & 5000 MTs for the years 1998-99 and 1999-2001 of the State of Uttar Pradesh, a quantity of 5000 MT for each year was allocated respectively. The State of U.P. lifted only 1747 MTs during 1998-99. No quantity was lifted during 1999-2001.

[English]

World Bank Aid for Jharkhand

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

(a) the details of World Bank aided projects undertaken in Jharkhand;

(b) the funds provided by the World Bank as aid; and

(c) the area-wise details of the work done so far with the World Bank assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) There are no World Bank aided projects being exclusively undertaken in Jharkhand.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Part-Time Non-Official Directors

849. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the autonomy status to the Board of Directors of some PSEs were enhanced in 1997;

(b) if so, the details of such PSE and the Board of Directors, which includes part-time non-official directors; and

(c) the performance of these PSEs after the enhanced autonomy to the Board of Directors of PSEs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The details of such PSEs which are known as Navratna and Miniratna PSEs, and the Board of Directors where

non-official Directors are appointed along with the turnover and net profit during the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000 are given in the enclosed statement I and II.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	Name of PSU	Full time Directors	Part time official Directors	Part time non-official directors
1	2	3	4	5
1.	BHEL	1. K.G. Ramachandran 2. Ishan Shankar 3. M.K. Mittal 4. H.W. Bhatnagar 5. C. Aggarwal 6. C. Srinivasan	1. K.K. Jaswal, AS&FA 2. S.V. Bhawe, JS	1. Anand Patkar 2. A.C. Wadhawan
2.	BPCL	1. U. Sundrarajan 2. M.B. Lal 3. Ashok Sinha 4. S.A. Narayan 5. S Behuria	1. Naresh Narad 2. Dr B. Mohanty 3. K.V. Rao	1. P.N. Khandwala 2. Prof. K. Vasudeva 3. P.P. Kaliaperumal 4. Prof. K. Vasudeva* * Resigned w.e.f. 27.1.2000
3.	GAIL	1. J.K. Jain 2. S. Neogi 3. H.P. Chandna 4. S.P. Rao	1. Ravi Saxena 2. Vijayaraghavan	1. Dr. Amit Mitra 2. M.C. Bagrodia 3. K.S. Govinarajan 4. Ashwin Muthiah* *Since resigned
4.	HPCL	1. H.J. Zuthsi 2. D.S. Mathur 3. S.D. Gupta 4. S.K. Kapoor 5. S.K. Kerr	1. Naresh Narad 2. S. Vijayaraghavan 3. Dr. B. Mohanty	1. T.L. Shankar 2. Raja G. Kulkarni 3. Rajesh V. Shah 4. M. Nandagopal
5.	IOC	1. M.A. Pathan 2. A.K. Arora 3. S.N. Jha 4. O.N. Marwaha 5. Dr. A.K. Bhatnagar 6. P. Sugavanam 7. M.S. Ramachandran	1. Naresh Narad 2. Ravi Saxena 3. Shivraj Singh	1. Dr. R.K. Pachauri 2. M. Kalyanasundaram 3. Prof. S.K. Barua 4. Vineet Nayyar 5. L. Sabarathinam 6. I.N. Chatterjee
6.	IPCL	1. Ashok Chawla, CMD (Offng.) 2. S.K. Anand 3. Dr. C.M. Iamba	1. Vijay Ranchan	1. D. Basu 2. S.M. Dutta 3. Rajinder Gupta 4. Dr. J.S. Juneja

1	2	3	4	5
7.	MTNL	1. Narendra Sharma 2. G.D. Gaiha 3. S. Sundaresan 4. K.H. Khan 5. S. Ramani Iyer	1. A.C. Padhi 2. K.N. Singh	1. Jai Prakash 2. R.V. Gupta 3. M.P. Khosla 4. S.N. Malik
8.	NTPC	1. C.P. Jain 2. P.Narasimharamulu 3. B.N. Ojha 4. Dr. A. Palit 5. K.K. Sinha 6. H.L. Bajaj	1. Ramanujam 2. J. Vasudeva 3. V.D. Lulla	All the 4 Directors have completed their tenure and fresh selection made.
9.	ONGC	1. Naresh Narad 2. Jauhari Lal 3. I.N. Chatterjee 4. R.C. Grouth 5. Y.B. Sinha 6. Nathu Lal 7. V.K. Sharma	1. G.S. Dutt 2. J.M. Mauskar 3. Ravi Saxena	1. Dr. K.R.S. Murthy 2. Mrs. R.D. Barkataki 3. Jawahar Vaidvelu 4. J. Jayaraman 5. Atul Chandra
10.	SAIL	1. Arvind Pande 2. V.S. Jain 3. M.K. Moltra 4. S.C.K. Patni 5. A.K. Singh 6. S. Pandey 7. S.K. Bhattacharya 8. R.C. Jha 9. B.K. Singh	1. D.V. Singh 2. C.S. Rao	1. Dr. Atul Sarma 2. D. Basu 3. Dr. Y.R.K. Reddy 4. R.V. Gupta 5. Deepak Parekh 6. Prof. R.P. Sengupta 7. Pyarimohan Mohapatra 8. Dr. Ishar Ahluwalia
11.	VSNL	1. S.K. Gupta 2. Ranjneesh Gupta 3. R.S.P. Sinha	1. C.V. Rajan 2. Smt. Sadhana Dikshit	1. S.K. Bhargava 2. Ashok Wadhwa 3. N.R. Narayanamurthy 4. H.P. Wagle
12.	CONCOR	1. A.K. Kohli 2. Virke Ram	1. P.N. Shukla 2. P.C. Jha	1. Prof. M.R. Dixit 2. Dr. P.S. Sarma 3. R.K. Narang
13.	FACT	1. T.T. Thomas 2. S. Balan	1. Sudhir Krishna 2. Manish Gupta 3. Radhakrishnan	1. A.N. Aggarwal 2. R.S. Venkataramanan 3. R. Arockiasamy
14.	HOCL	1. Sh. Y.G. Bhatt	1. Suresh Chandra 2. S.C. Gupta	1. Satish Ajmera 2. Dr. P. Ratnaswamy 3. B.N. Makhija
15.	HZL	1. K.V.K. Seshavaram 2. B.K.P. Sinha 3. B.N. Mittal	1. Dr. Sautanu Behuria 2. S.P. Gupta	1. Dr. Vinay Sheel Gautam 2. A.N. Mishra 3. Dr. Saibal Kanti Gupta

1	2	3	4	5
16.	ITDC	1. CMD 2. Dir(F) vacant 3. Dir (C&M) vacant	1. Mrs. Asha Murthy 2. V. Subramanian	1. K.K. Sood
17.	IRCON	1. Arun Prasada 2. K.B. Verma 3. B.S. Kapur 4. A.K. Tandon	1. R.N. Malhotra 2. Sudhir Mathur 3. Kanwarjit Singh	1. S.A. Dave 2. P.K. Choudhury 3. N.C. Nigam 4. S.S. Shroff
18.	KIOCL	1. S. Murari 2. B.S. Kotwal 3. R.K. Ghosh 4. K. Gurumurthy	1. C.S. Rao 2. K.S. Rajendra Kumar	1. Ms. Kalyani Gandhi 2. G.L. Tandon 3. Vikram V. Desai
19.	NALCO	1. P. Parvathisem 2. S.B. Nayak 3. S.K. Banerjee	1. S.K. Tripathi 2. S.P. Gupta	1. S.N. Malik 2. P.M. Mohapatra 3. P.G. Kakodhar* * Since resigned
20.	NFL	1. P.S. Grewal 2. A.C. Saini	1. Suresh Chandra 2. A.V. Singh 3. H.S. Kamath	1. K.S. Subbiah 2. S. Gopalan 3. Dr. O.P. Sahani 4. K. Muthukumar
21.	NMDC	1. P.R. Tripathi 2. V. Styannarayan 3. S.K. Agrawal 4. V. Rajgopal	1. K.S. Rajendra Kumar 2. U.S. Pant	1. S.D. Kapoor 2. Prof. S.K. Barua
22.	Power Grid Corpn.	1. R.P. Singh 2. R.K. Madan 3. Dr. V.K. Garg 4. Bhanu Bhushan	1. J. Vasudevan 2. R. Ramanujam	1. Ramesh Gupta 2. R.V. Shahi
23.	SCI	1. P.K. Srivastava 2. K.K. Kothari 3. S. Hajara 4. K.K. Palit 5. S.S. Rangnekar 6. K.M. Joseph	1. K.R. Bhati 2. M. Ramachandran	1. N.C. Singhal 2. S.H. Khan 3. M.G. Bhide 4. Dr. Pritham Singh 5. O.N. Marwah
24.	TCIL	1. A.S. Bansal 2. A.K. Chandrasekhar 3. S.K. Tandon 4. Dir(Pro) vacant	1. S. Satagopan 2. Smt. Anuradha Mitra	1. Dr. Sengupta 2. Prof. Abad Ahmad 3. Ramalinga Raju
25.	Ed. CIL	1. Dr. Y. Medury	1. K.S. Sarma 2. Vidya Sagar Verma	The non-official directors have completed tenure and fresh selections have been made.
26.	HSC(I)	1. Ashok Kumar 2. J. Sarup	1. Vijay Singh 2. Ashwini Kumar	The non-official directors have completed tenure and fresh selections have been made.

1	2	3	4	5
27.	IMPCL	Pt. time Chairman Managing Director	Four	1. Dr. Sanjeeva Rao 2. Dr. C.H.S. Shastri 3. Hakeem Jamil Ahmad
28.	MSTC	1. Malaya Sengupta	1. B.L. Meena	1. A.K. Dutta 2. B.N. Rath
29.	MOIL	1. D.K. Sahni 2. P.M. Reddy 3. S.C. Jain	1. S. Manoharan 2. B.K. Saha 3. J.P. Dange	1. S.M. Palia 2. J.N. Kaul 3. B.N. Rath 4. V.R. Mehta 5. A.K. Goyal
30.	MECON	1. Dr. L.K. Singhal 2. A. Venugopal 3. R.L. Trikha 4. R.K. Zaroo 5. Dir(Tech) Vacant	1. S. Manoharan	1. Sudas Roy 2. Thomas Mathew 3. Abad Ahmad
31.	WAPCOS	1. P.L. Diwan, CMD	1. Shailendra Pandey 2. A. Shekar 3. Smt. Nirupma Rao 4. M. Gopalkrishnan	The non-official directors have completed tenure and fresh selections have been made.

Statement-II

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the PSEs and Year	Turnover	Net Profit
1	2	3	4

A. Navratna PSEs

1. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

1999-00	6634	599
1998-99	6795	545
1997-98	6471	720
1996-97	5755	463

2. Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.

1999-00	33385	702
1998-99	21600	706
1997-98	11833	521
1996-97	10565	408

1	2	3	4
3.	Gas Authority of India Ltd.		
	1999-00	8415	861
	1998-99	6643	1060
	1997-98	5731	1020
	1996-97	4541	620
4.	Hindustan Petrolueum Corpn. Ltd.		
	1999-00	33831	1057
	1998-99	23910	901
	1997-98	14383	701
	1996-97	13941	612
5.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.		
	1999-00	94141	2443
	1998-99	63581	2214
	1997-98	59744	1707
	1996-97	62074	1408
6.	Indian Petrochemicals Corpn. Ltd.		
	1999-00	4920	189
	1998-99	3850	29
	1997-98	3692	244
	1996-97	3430	510
7.	Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.		
	1999-00	5182	1088
	1998-99	5032	1297
	1997-98	4655	1130
	1996-97	4031	933
8.	National Thermal Power Corpn. Ltd.		
	1999-00	16123	3425
	1998-99	14081	2816
	1997-98	12429	2153
	1996-97	9857	1679

1	2	3	4
9.	Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.		
	1999-00	20094	3629
	1998-99	14963	2755
	1997-98	15224	2678
	1996-97	13235	2034
10.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.		
	1999-00	16388	- 1720
	1998-99	15156	- 1574
	1997-98	14855	133
	1996-97	14301	515
11.	Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd.		
	1999-00	6968	840
	1998-99	6831	1325
	1997-98	6125	968
	1996-97	5209	505
B.	Miniratna PSEs—Category-I.		
1.	Container Corporation of India Ltd.		
	1999-00	831	178
	1998-99	685	141
	1997-98	606	116
	1996-97	534	95
2.	Fertilizers & Chemicals Travancore Ltd.		
	1999-00	1548	- 48
	1998-99	1271	- 48
	1997-98	1263	54
	1996-97	1081	62
3.	Hindustan Organics Chemicals Ltd.		
	1999-00	421	- 105
	1998-99	417	- 23
	1997-98	476	- 1
	1996-97	429	16

1	2	3	4
4.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.		
	1999-00	1516	90
	1998-99	1309	76
	1997-98	1263	74
	1996-97	972	30
5.	India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.		
	1999-00	274	- 27
	1998-99	279	10
	1997-98	297	43
	1996-97	298	56
6.	IRCON International Ltd.		
	1999-00	503	46
	1998-99	380	56
	1997-98	420	43
	1996-97	411	24
7.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.		
	1999-00	621	59
	1998-99	548	19
	1997-98	594	82
	1996-97	493	72
8.	National Aluminium Co. Ltd.		
	1999-00	2142	512
	1998-99	1507	248
	1997-98	1854	547
	1996-97	1769	492
9.	National Fertilizers Ltd.		
	1999-00	2453	35
	1998-99	2302	41
	1997-98	2222	189
	1996-97	1435	11

1	2	3	4
10.	National Mineral Dev. Corporation Ltd.		
	1999-00	790	160
	1998-99	728	140
	1997-98	760	175
	1996-97	651	130
11.	Power Grid Corpn. of India Ltd.		
	1999-00	1967	601
	1998-99	1710	444
	1997-98	1412	337
	1996-97	1035	306
12.	Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.		
	1999-00	2543	162
	1998-99	2521	201
	1997-98	2414	246
	1996-97	2270	233
13.	Telecommunications Consultants (I) Ltd.		
	1999-00	705	49
	1998-99	624	54
	1997-98	575	42
	1996-97	433	32
C.	Miniratna PSEs - Category-II		
1.	Education Consultants (I) Ltd.		
	1999-00	54.09	0.84
	1998-99	52.34	1.51
	1997-98	31.08	1.02
	1996-97	21.55	0.70
2.	Hospital Services Consol. Corpn. (I) Ltd.		
	1999-00	8.21	4.33
	1998-99	5.08	2.63
	1997-98	2.84	0.78
	1996-97	2.87	0.46

1	2	3	4
3.	Indian Medicines Pharm. Corpn. Ltd.		
	1999-00	3.31	0.23
	1998-99	3.02	0.21
	1997-98	2.94	0.17
	1996-97	2.09	0.26
4.	M S T C Ltd.		
	1999-00	215.07	3.53
	1998-99	84.60	2.16
	1997-98	21.79	1.83
	1996-97	104.86	2.30
5.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.		
	1999-00	134.11	11.73
	1998-99	118.27	13.71
	1997-98	112.80	14.21
	1996-97	108.39	13.31
6.	Mecon Ltd.		
	1999-00	283.41	- 17.85
	1998-99	207.93	- 11.17
	1997-98	185.81	1.67
	1996-97	211.82	8.40
7.	Water & Power Consul. Service (I) Ltd.		
	1999-00	36.58	4.04
	1998-99	33.36	3.14
	1997-98	25.82	2.24
	1996-97	19.63	2.30

[Translation]

Funding through NABARD

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

(a) the number of schemes undertaken under RIDF of NABARD in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the funds allocated to Jammu and Kashmir under these schemes during the last two years; and

(c) the details of work carried out in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that a total number of 2436 schemes have been undertaken under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) NABARD has further reported that it has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 110.88 crore and Rs. 161.52 crore to Jammu and Kashmir under RIDF-V (1999-2000) and RIDF-VI (2000-2001) respectively covering various projects in the State.

(c) The details of work carried out in Jammu and Kashmir during the last two years are as under:

S.No.	Projects Covered	RIDF-V (1999-2000)	RIDF-VI (2000-2001)
		No. of schemes sanctioned	No. of schemes sanctioned
1.	Minor Irrigation	3	13
2.	Rural Bridges	10	25
3.	Watershed Management	3	—
4.	Flood Protection	—	5
5.	Rural Roads	116	131
6.	Farm	—	2
Total		132	176

[English]

Seizure of Goods and Foreign Currency

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

(a) the quantity and amount of smuggled goods and foreign currency seized by customs officials and other agencies during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of arrests made in each case as on March 31, 2001; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the entry of smuggled goods and foreign currency in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The details of smuggled goods & foreign currency seized by the officials of Customs and Enforcement Directorate during last three years *i.e.* 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 & 2001-2002 (upto June, 2001) and the number of persons arrested in connection thereto, are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) All the field formations under the Customs Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) are vigilant and alert to prevent smuggling of contraband goods all over the country.

Statement

Details of Seizures of Smuggled Goods & Foreign Currency by Officials of Customs & Enforcement Directorate

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Seizures by Customs Officials			Seizure of Foreign currency by Enforcement Directorate	
	Value of smuggled goods seized	Value of foreign currency seized	No. of Persons arrested	Value of Foreign Currency seized	No. of persons arrested
1998-99	628.14	21.71	952	1.02	70
1999-2000	1281.74	16.97	712	0.30	45
2000-2001	416.99	20.55	669	2.72	19
2001-2002 (upto June, 2001)	138.06	6.82	173	2.05	1

Separate Export Zone for Export of Agricultural Products

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

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

(a) whether the Government are considering to establish separate export zone for export of agricultural products on the lines of export processing zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these zones would be provided all the facilities and assistance at par with export processing zones; and

(d) if so, the extent to which the share of agricultural products likely to increase in the total export for the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) The Government is considering to establish Agri Export Zones which will be different from the existing export processing zones. The concept of Agri Export Zone takes a comprehensive view of a particular produce/product located in a geographically contiguous area for the purpose of developing and sourcing raw materials, their processing/packaging, leading to final exports. The entire effort is centered around a cluster approach of identifying the potential products, geographical region in which these products are grown and adopting an end to end approach of integrating the entire process, right from the stage of production till it reaches the consumption stage.

The idea behind Agri Export Zones is to dovetail all the incentive schemes of the State and Central Governments and evolve a comprehensive package of services provided by all State Government Agencies and Agricultural universities and all institutions and agencies of the Central Government for intensive delivery in these zones. Such services would be managed and coordinated by the State Government. The State Governments will identify the produce which would be developed for exports having comparative advantage and potential in the markets abroad and the regular supply of which could be ensured and submit the proposal to the Government of India for clearance. It will, thereafter, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with APEDA for implementation of the proposal.

The facilities provided in Agri Export Zones are not same as in export processing zones and hence they are dealt with in separate chapters of the Exim Policy. The extent to which the share of export of agricultural products in the total exports of the country will increase as a result of the proposed establishment of Agri Export Zones cannot be exactly quantified.

Export of Sandalwood and Sandalwood Oil

853. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign countries to whom sandalwood and sandalwood oil was exported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned during each year, country-wise and commodity-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to take some measures to boost export of these commodities to existing foreign buyers and also to other new buyers during current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per latest DGCI&S data available, the value of sandalwood & sandalwood oil exported are as under:

(Rs./Crores)

Year	Sandalwood	Sandalwood Oil
1998-99	Nil	8.69
1999-2000	Nil	7.91
April 2000-Feb. 2001	1.14	11.34

Country-wise export data is available in the DGCI&S publication, viz., "Monthly statistics of the Foreign Trade of India".

(c) and (d) Normal incentives applicable to all exporters are also available for exports of sandalwood oil and sandalwood products. Moreover, Government is extending Market Development Assistance to exporters through the Export Promotion Councils for competing in foreign markets through participation in overseas fairs, exhibitions and for mounting trade delegations.

Business Channel on Stock Market

854. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start a Business Channel on stock market on the lines of existing CNBC Channel;

(b) if so, the time by which the said channel is likely to start; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Channels/programmes are started/telecast as per programme requirements/availability of resources. A programme 'Business Day' is already being telecast five days a week from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 on DD-News Channel.

Properties of Daud Ibrahim

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

(a) the properties owned by Daud Ibrahim in the country.

(b) the number out of them auctioned and the details of auction proceeds;

(c) whether other properties of Daud Ibrahim are also proposed to be auctioned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 110 properties purportedly belonging to Daud Ibrahim Group have been identified.

(b) 11 of the properties were put up for auction on 28.2.2001. Out of these, only one property could be sold for Rs. 2.50 lakhs.

(c) and (d) Out of 23 properties attached by the Tax Recovery Officer, 5 properties have been excluded from

auction as they stand attached by the TADA Court. Miscellaneous Application has been filed in TADA Court for claiming apportionment of tax arrears out of sale proceeds of these properties. One of the properties has not been traceable and attachment on 2 properties has been released by the Tax Recovery Officer. 15 properties were proclaimed by the Tax Recovery Officer for sale on 26.2.2001. Auction of 4 of these properties was stayed by the Bombay High Court. The remaining attached properties will be put up for auction again.

Removal of Quantitative Restriction on Export of Maize

856. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal):
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

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

(a) whether the Government are planning to remove the quantitative restriction on export of maize;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government of Karnataka as well as from maize farmers in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government are also planning to increase import duty on maize; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per EXIM Policy, exports of coarse grains (including maize) are allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation Certificates (RCACs) by Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). The policy regarding exports of agricultural products is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximizing farm incomes and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process, and accordingly, policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary, with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable.

(c) and (d) Requests from Government of Karnataka for permitting exports of maize/grant of quota for export of maize had been received and accordingly ceilings for export of maize from Karnataka were released.

(e) No Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Industries not set up by Foreign Investors

857. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign investors permitted to set up industries in India have not set up the same so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals amounting to US\$ 71.14 billion have been approved from January 1991 to May 2001. Against this, the cumulative inflows have been of the order of US\$ 25.20 billion, giving a realisation rate (ratio of inflows to approval) of 37%. The realisation rate has shown consistent improvement from 1992 onwards, increasing from 17.37% in 1992 to 52.93% in 2001 (January to May 2001). The FDI approvals are only indicative of the intent to invest, and its translation into FDI inflows is determined by several factors such as the FDI policy framework, domestic economic conditions, world economic growth, global FDI trends and strategies of global investors. Apart from these factors, the gap between approvals and inflows is partly due to the fact that around 50% of the FDI amount approved pertains to the infrastructure sector, which has a long gestation period. In addition, Government with a view to facilitating speedy implementation of FDI approvals, has set up the Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) that acts as a single-point interface between foreign investors and the various authorities at Central and State level. The FIIA, among other things, assists investors to overcome post-approval impediments by interacting with the concerned agencies and by making policy interventions wherever necessary.

[English]

Visit of Romanian Delegation to India

858. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high level Romanian delegation which visited India in the month of March, 2001 had discussions with the Indian Government for export of raw sugar to Romania;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Romanian Government have expressed satisfaction over the quality of Indian sugar;

(d) whether the Romanian business delegates which accompanied the Delegation had also participated in the Food Festival "AHAAR";

(e) whether any tie up with India counterparts have been signed by the Romanians for export of raw sugar to Romania;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (g) Yes Sir. A Romanian delegation visited India during March, 2001 and has shown interest in buying raw sugar from India. Romanian Delegation visited the Aahar-2001 held in Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 17-21 March 2001. The members of delegation had shown keen interest in various kinds of food products displayed by Indian exporters in Aahar exhibition. Government has no information regarding any tie-up with Indian sugar factories/exporters for export of raw sugar to Romania. The Directorate of Sugar has not so far received any request from any sugar factory/exporter for release of raw sugar for export to Romania.

Capacity of FCI Godowns

859. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any proposals to increase the warehousing capacity in the country;

(b) whether the private sector is ready to collaborate with FCI to expand the warehousing capacity;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any proposals have been mooted for this purpose and discussions held between FCI and the private sector;

(e) if so, the details of a policy which has been worked out;

(f) whether any schedule has been set up for this purpose;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the number of Warehouses set up by Central Warehousing Corporation during last two years, State-wise?

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

(b) to (g) The Government has announced a National Policy on storage, handling and transportation of foodgrains. The policy aims at harnessing the resources of private sector, both domestic and foreign, for augmentation of infrastructure to handle foodgrains including construction of bulk storage facilities and also for conventional godowns under 'Build-Own-Operate' scheme.

The draft terms & conditions of this scheme have been sent to the interested parties for furnishing their comments/views, for the conventional godowns. For Bulk facility, Rail India Technical & Economical Services (RITES), the Consultants are preparing necessary documents for inviting "Expression of Interest".

(h) The information is given in the statement attached.

Statement

1. Number of Warehouses set up by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) during the year 1999-2000.

Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Warehouses set up by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
Haryana	2
Rajasthan	4
Punjab	2
Jammu & Kashmir	1
Gujarat	2
Orissa	1
Karnataka	2

2. Number of warehouses set up by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) during the year 2000-2001.

Name of the State/Union Territory	No. of Warehouses set up by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
Haryana	1
Bihar	1
Karnataka	3
Rajasthan	3
Uttar Pradesh	3
Orissa	1
Madhya Pradesh	1
Delhi	2
Kerala	1

Covered and Plinth (CAP)

Name of the State/Union Territory	Warehouses set up No. of up by Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC)
Gujarat	1
Karnataka	3
Madhya Pradesh	4
Chhattisgarh	3
Punjab	9
Tami Nadu	1
Andhra Pradesh	3
Rajasthan	1
Uttar Pradesh	4

Production and Storage of Wheat

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

(a) the total estimated production of wheat during the current year;

(b) the arrangements made for storage of wheat so that the surplus production does not become a problem;

(c) the steps being taken to export surplus wheat to other countries; and

(d) the steps being taken to pay remunerative prices for wheat to farmers to ensure that they are not put to loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The provisionally estimated production of wheat during 2000-2001 is 68.46 million tonnes.

(b) As on 1.6.2001, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) had a total storage capacity of 34.36 million tonnes as against the total stocks of 32.90 million tonnes held by it.

The storage capacity of the FCI increases or decreases depending upon the trend of procurement and offtake/sale of foodgrains in the procuring/consuming States. The FCI creates additional storage capacity by construction of its own godowns as well as plinths besides hiring storage capacity available with the agencies. The field officers of FCI have also been delegated full powers for hiring/dehiring of storage capacity as and when considered necessary.

(c) The Government has decided to export upto 50 lakh tonnes of wheat through Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Agencies for the year 2001-2002. It has also been decided to allow private parties to undertake export of wheat at par with PSUs/Agencies with effect from 1.6.2001.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to help the farmers are as follows:—

- (i) Adequate number of purchase centres have been opened in different States to avoid distress sale by the farmers.
- (ii) Quick payment is being made to the farmers for their produce.
- (iii) Government accepts foodgrains stocks at Minimum Support Price without any quantitative restrictions.
- (iv) Adequate publicity is given by the Government about the procurement prices, FAQ specifications and purchase centres.

Pension Scheme

861. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 5075 on April 20, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the said High Level Expert Group to review the existing pension scheme has been constituted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) As a follow-up action to the Finance Minister's Budget Speech for 2001-2002, Department of Pension has set up a High level Expert Group on 25th June, 2001

comprising of a Chairman and three Members with one Member Secretary to provide a road map for introducing the new pension system for Central Government employees entering service after 1st October, 2001 based on defined contributions.

Revival of BOGL

862. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Limited is under consideration of the Government for its revival;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) whether the wage revisions for the employees will be negotiated; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (e) Based on the revival plan as recommended by the expert group, the operating agency viz. IDBI has prepared a report for revival of BOGL providing for, *inter-alia*, cash infusion and financial restructuring of the company by the Government of India.

The viability report prepared by the operating agency also takes into account various costs including impact of the revised wage structure of the employees of the company.

The final decision regarding revival of the company rests with the BIFR.

Loan to State Governments

863. SHRI SAVSHIBHAI MAKWANA:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Central loans alongwith interest, outstanding against each State Government as on March 31, 2000 and March 31, 2001;

(b) the loans and advances made available to each State Government during the year 2000-2001;

(c) whether there are some provisions to write-off the loans in case of States whose financial condition is miserable; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Outstanding loans against each State as on 31st March, 2000 and 31st March, 2001 in respect of Ministry of Finance and State plan block loans and ways & means advances released to the States during 2000-01 are indicated in the enclosed statement. Information in respect of loans forming part of plan schemes of different Ministries is not centrally maintained.

(c) and (d) Finance Commission within its terms of reference reviews the debt position of the States. Repayment liability of the States has been captured in the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendation on devolution from Centre to States. There is no provision for selective reopening of debt relief.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	State	Loans outstanding as on 31.3.2000	Loans outstanding as on 31.3.2001	Block loans released during 2000-01	Ways & Means advance released during 2000-01
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15056.29	16162.39	1772.71	75.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	347.11	392.29	61.09	—
3.	Assam	3783.98	3712.64	168.85	200.00

1	2	3	4	5	6
4.	Bihar	14177.70	11123.46	1031.50	—
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	2835.16	296.73	—
6.	Goa	727.63	793.35	104.88	—
7.	Gujarat	14863.32	15790.42	1465.79	550.00
8.	Haryana	5040.15	5238.71	387.21	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2671.27	2697.56	104.93	110.00
10.	Jharkhand	0.00	3783.34	356.27	—
11.	J&K	3433.59	3398.21	170.03	—
12.	Karnataka	9380.99	10011.54	1029.40	—
13.	Kerala	5837.42	6017.80	463.92	185.00
14.	Madhya Pradesh	9978.99	7759.08	785.57	—
15.	Maharashtra	23121.28	23040.53	771.90	—
16.	Manipur	361.14	383.59	38.02	296.00
17.	Meghalaya	315.46	340.93	41.47	—
18.	Mizoram	226.36	254.16	38.04	—
19.	Nagaland	330.12	356.59	44.38	—
20.	Orissa	7154.13	7707.84	938.52	250.00
21.	Punjab	12381.46	12463.84	367.26	250.00
22.	Rajasthan	10129.42	10436.25	706.94	50.00
23.	Sikkim	196.89	211.92	24.66	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	11122.17	11746.47	1140.04	—
25.	Tripura	584.75	634.37	74.68	—
26.	Uttaranchal	0.00	1661.91	214.83	—
27.	Uttar Pradesh	30029.23	30412.98	3120.45	256.00
28.	West Bengal	22195.31	22809.40	1303.71	200.00
Total		203446.16	212176.73	17023.78	2422.00

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

[Translation]

Rectification of BPL List

864. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work for identification of BPL family in the country has since been completed;

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

(c) whether some cases of such families whose names have not been included in BPL list despite being eligible for it has come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise particularly with reference to the State of Chhattisgarh;

(e) the corrective steps taken by the Government to include the names of such families now; and

(f) the details of the quantum of ration being provided to such families every month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) All the State Governments/UT Administrations except Lakshadweep have identified BPL families with varying degree of efficiency. A statement indicating the estimates and the actual number of BPL families identified by the States/UTs is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) Correct Identification of the target families by the States/UTs is the most critical element for the effective implementation of TPDS. Guidelines on TPDS lay emphasis that the thrust should be to include only the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society while identifying the BPL families under TPDS. Whenever

any complaint regarding non-issue of ration cards to a BPL family is received in the Ministry, State Governments are requested to take suitable action on the complaints and apprise the Ministry of the action taken. No specific complaint regarding non-issue of ration cards by the State Government of Chhattisgarh to the eligible families in the BPL category has been received.

Identification of BPL families is required to be reviewed at regular intervals to take into account the mobility of the households across the poverty line and migration of population. States/UTs have been instructed to actively involve the PRIs in identification of BPL families in the rural areas and the local bodies in the urban areas.

(f) The BPL families are being provided foodgrains @25 kg. per family per month from July 2001. Levy sugar is being distributed @500 gms per persons per month to BPL population except in special category States/hill States/Island territories where sugar is distributed @ 700 gms per person per month to all population projected as on 1.3.2000 from February, 2001.

Statement

Statewise Estimate of BPL Families and Number of BPL Families Actually Identified BPL Families by the State Governments

(As on 10.7.2001)

Sl. No.	States	No. of BPL Households estimated as on 1.3.2000	No. of BPL Households identified by the State Govt. (in lakhs)	Reported as on
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	40.63	113.2 Limited to 40.63 and balance to be financed from State resources	June 2000
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.99	1.20	June 2000
3.	Assam	18.36	19.06	30.1.2001
4.	Bihar	89.17	84.26	21.5.97
5.	Goa	0.48	0.07	—
6.	Gujarat	21.20	33.91	1.7.2000
7.	Haryana	7.89	5.93	28.2.2001
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.14	2.89	Sept., 2000

1	2	3	4	5
9.	J&K	7.36	4.96	19.2.99
10.	Karnataka	31.29	66.50	Sept., 2000
			Limited to 31.29 and balance to be financed from State resources	
11.	Kerala	15.54	20.58	31.3.2000
12.	Madhya Pradesh	60.01	43.65	March 2000
13.	Maharashtra	65.34	77.00	2.3.2000
14.	Manipur	1.66	1.29	Feb. 1999
15.	Meghalaya	1.83	1.72	15.1.2001
16.	Mizoram	0.68	0.90	31.3.2000
17.	Nagaland	1.24	1.24	15.6.2001
18.	Orissa	32.98	42.85	Aug., 2000
19.	Punjab	4.68	4.90	1.4.2000
20.	Rajasthan	24.31	23.82	6.12.2000
21.	Sikkim	0.43	0.48	4.4.97
22.	Tamil Nadu	48.63	65.51	31.8.2000
23.	Tripura	2.95	2.31	1.4.98
24.	Uttar Pradesh	111.77	95.48	1.7.98
25.	West Bengal	51.79	47.87	31.7.97
26.	A&N Islands	0.28	0.17	23.5.97
27.	Chandigarh	0.23	0.23	12.2.2001
28.	D&N Haveli	0.18	0.16	Sept., 2000
29.	Daman & Diu	0.04	0.04	25.6.97
30.	Delhi	4.09	4.11	25.1.2001
31.	Lakshadweep	TPDS not Launched		
32.	Pondicherry	0.84	0.90	28.2.2001

Import of Marble

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) whether the Government propose to import marble;

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

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote the domestic marble industry; and

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) As per Exim Policy in force, import of polished marble blocks, slabs and tiles is free. Import of rough marble blocks/slabs, which was under SIL List till 31.3.2001 is under the Restricted List at present and its import can only be made against an import licence to be issued in this

regard. These licences are issued to the eligible applicants by the EXIM Facilitation Committee (EFC) which is an inter-ministerial Committee designated for this purpose.

(c) and (d) The development of domestic Marble Industry is primarily the concern of respective State Governments. However, a Group on marble development (GMD) has been constituted in the Ministry of Mines which works under the overall supervision of the Granite Development Council primarily to assess and review the status of marble quarries and recommend measures for speedy development of this mineral. This group also assesses the technology employed in this sector and suggests measures for upgradation of technology and for increasing value addition in marble, marble products and exports. The central excise duty structure is also designed to promote the industry.

Marble Industry has also been extended all the facilities availed by the small sector in general. Government has also extended 12% back ended capital subsidy to marble SSI units if these units go for technology upgradation under the Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme. Moreover, a national programme for development of Stone Industry including Marble Industry has also been promoted by the Government in association with the State Governments of Rajasthan & Gujarat in collaboration with the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO).

VRS in Banks

866. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ:
SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of officers/staff who sought voluntary retirement under the voluntary retirement scheme in each public sector banks;

(b) the amount paid by each banks as retirement benefits;

(c) the bank-wise, number of applications from staff/officers seeking VRS pending at present;

(d) the reasons for their pendency and by when these are likely to be considered;

(e) whether the VRS has in any way adversely affected the smooth functioning of some of the banks because of the shortage of staff resulting in complaints from the general public;

(f) if so, the total number of complaints in respect of each bank and action taken thereon; and

(g) the optimum number of officers/staff required by each bank consequent upon the completion of the VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A statement indicating the number of applications received by each bank and pending out of it is enclosed. The expenditure incurred under Voluntary Retirement Scheme in each bank is given in statement-II enclosed.

(d) With a view to ensure smooth functioning of the branches and to avoid inconvenience to the customers, the banks, wherever considered necessary, relieved the employees in phases. Some of the applications under Voluntary Retirement Scheme are pending mainly due to court cases and disciplinary proceedings against the applicants. The decision in such cases depends on outcome of judicial and disciplinary proceedings.

(e) and (f) It was a pre-requirement for introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme that the functioning of the branches should not be affected adversely due to shortage of staff. The banks have taken steps to optimise the manpower in the post-VRS scenario by re-structuring the administrative tiers, redeployment of officers and staff from surplus pockets to deficit pockets, internal promotions, accelerated computerisation, etc.

(g) The banks were expected to offer VRS after formulating a manpower plan based on optimum requirements and with the approval of their boards.

Statement-I***Status of Implementation of VRS in Public Sector Banks***

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Applications for VRS from Officers/Staff	
		Received	Pending for consideration/relieving
1.	Allahabad Bank	1585	81
2.	Andhra Bank	1797	1
3.	Bank of Baroda	6729	Nil
4.	Bank of India	7595	47
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	2643	Nil
6.	Canara Bank	7860	Nil
7.	Central Bank of India	7790	328
8.	Corporation Bank	Scheme not Introduced	
9.	Dena Bank	3534	10
10.	Indian Bank	4005	Nil
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	3992	Nil
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	803	6
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	2073	Nil
14.	Punjab National Bank	6095	6
15.	Syndicate Bank	7167	19
16.	UCO Bank	5526	Nil
17.	Union Bank of India	4303	83
18.	United Bank of India	2546	274
19.	Vijaya Bank	2582	100
20.	State Bank of India	30533	Nil
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	2044	Nil
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	2302	Nil
23.	State Bank of Indore	818	Nil
24.	State Bank of Mysore	1600	Nil
25.	State Bank of Patiala	1196	26
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1073	Nil
27.	State Bank of Travancore	955	Nil

Data Provisional

Statement-II**Expenditure under VRS in respect of 26 Public Sector Banks up to 31.3.2001**

(Rupees in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Cost of Ex-Gratia upto 31.3.2001	Other Expenditure under VRS upto 31.3.2001	Total VRS Cost upto 31.3.2001	Out of amount in (5) Expenditure charged to P&L Account as at 31.3.2001	Out of amount in (5) Expenditure amortised as at 31.3.2001
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Allahabad Bank	39	18	57	11	46
2.	Andhra Bank	121	64	185	60	125
3.	Bank of Baroda	502	373	875	175	700
4.	Bank of India	524	331	855	330	525
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	146	86	232	80	152
6.	Canara Bank	581	356	937	239	698
7.	Central Bank of India	315	216	531	139	392
8.	Dena Bank	241	218	459	108	351
9.	Indian Bank	223	172	395	96	299
10.	Indian Overseas Bank	154	50	204	52	152
11.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	51	38	89	26	63
12.	Punjab and Sind Bank	146	131	277	55	222
13.	Punjab National Bank	408	319	727	271	456
14.	Syndicate Bank	189	194	383	91	292
15.	UCO Bank	127	126	253	51	202
16.	Union Bank of India	182	148	330	119	211
17.	United Bank of India	53	41	94	24	70
18.	Vijaya Bank	185	85	270	60	210
19.	State Bank of India	1321	950	2271	853	1418
20.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	88	56	144	37	107
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	116	55	171	46	125
22.	State Bank of Indore	23	22	45	11	34
23.	State Bank of Mysore	111	58	169	44	125

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24.	State Bank of Patiala	64	45	109	36	73
25.	State Bank of Saurashtra	75	30	105	21	84
26.	State Bank of Travancore	75	51	126	44	82
Total		6060	** 4233	** 10293	** 3079	7214

* VRS Cost indicated excluding expenses under Leave Encashment on account of VRS

** Amount includes expenditure of around Rs. 700 crores on Leave Encashment.

World Bank Loan

[English]

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

(a) whether India is likely to get four categories of loans from the World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes on which the Government intend to utilize the said loans;

(d) whether a portion of the said loans is likely to be provided to the World Bank during the current financial year; and

(e) if so, the States in which the said loan is likely to be utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) No, Sir. The World Bank has been providing loans under three categories namely, (i) Currency Pool Loans, (ii) LIBOR Based Single Currency Loans, and (iii) Fixed Rate Single Currency Loans. India is availing loans under LIBOR Based Single Currency Loan category (in US\$). These loans are being provided for various developmental projects in various sectors. During the current financial year (2001-02), so far, 4 projects with loans amounting to US\$ 1474 million have been approved. These projects relate to economic restructuring, roads, and power sectors. The beneficiary States include Rajasthan, Karnataka, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and various other States.

Import of Copra and Coconut

868. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) the quantity of copra, dessicated copra, coconut and their products imported into the country during the last three years, till date, year-wise;

(b) the countries from which these imports were made;

(c) the reasons for importing these items;

(d) whether the Government are aware that the import of these products has affected the coconut growers adversely as the prices of coconut and copra have fallen very sharply;

(e) whether the present Exim Policy relating to coconut and its product is not favourable for coconut growers;

(f) whether there is a demand to put a ban on import of copra, coconut and their products; and

(g) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Desiccated coconut is classified under Exim Code No. 08011100, fresh coconut under Exim Code No. 08011901, dried coconut under

Exim Code No. 08011902, Copra under Exim Code No. 12030000 Crude coconut (copra) oil under Exim Code No. 15131100 and other coconut (copra) oil under Exim Code No. 15131900 of ITC (HS) classification of export and import items. The import figures of these items are given in the statement attached to this reply.

(b) The imports were made mainly from the countries viz. Sri Lanka, Thailand, Ghana, Nepal, Indonesia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Philippines.

(c) to (g) Import of desiccated, fresh and dried coconut is free while that of copra and coconut (copra) oil is allowed under State trading Regime to be operated by State Trading Corporation (STC) and Hindustan Vegetable Oil Corporation (HVOC). Representations have been received arguing for restricting the import of these items fearing adverse impact on the domestic producers.

As can be seen, the present level of imports may not adversely affect the domestic products. However in response to the representations, the Government has increased the import duty on coconut and copra from 35% to 70% and that on coconut oil from 45% to 75% in the budget this year, to provide protection to the domestic producers.

Statement

Import of Copra, Desiccated Copra & Coconut Product

	Qty. in Tons		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001 (upto Feb.)
	1	2	3
	4		
Coconut Desiccated (08011100)	19	1	1
Fresh Coconut (08011901)	1	1	1
Coconut Dried (08011902)	40	18	1
Copra (12030000)	1	1	1
Coconut (Copra) Crude Oil and fractions (15131100)	18	184	18

1	2	3	4
Coconut (copra) refined oil and fractions (15131900)	1373	3754	5539

-*Nil

Revenue Earned by Doordarshan

869. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed and actual revenue earned by different AIR/Doordarshan Kendra during 2000-2001,

(b) whether there was any decrease in the revenue in some major Kendra, in comparison to 1999-2000;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the income of these Kendras?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The details of target fixed and revenue earned by AIR stations and Doordarshan Kendra during 2000-01 are enclosed in Statement I & II, respectively.

(c) While the total revenue earned by Doordarshan has increased from Rs. 597.19 crore in 1999-2000 to Rs. 637.51 crores in 2000-01, the revenue earned by AIR decreased from Rs. 80.84 crores to Rs. 73.90 crores during the corresponding period. Prasar Bharati has informed that this shortfall/decrease in revenue of AIR is mainly attributed to increase in competition from TV Channels.

(d) Prasar Bharati has informed that they have initiated a number of steps, within the parameters of Public Broadcaster, to increase its revenue generation. The steps include adopting a proactive and market friendly approach towards producer, advertiser, advertising agencies and sponsoring bodies, functional autonomy to regional centers with regard to commercial matters, establishment of an in-house Marketing Wing in Mumbai to ensure effective marketing of programmes, etc.

Statement-I*Details of Revenue Figures of All India Radio*

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Name of Station	Revenue for 2000-01		Revenue earned during 1999-2000
		Target fixed	Achieved	
1.	Ahmedabad	1.40	0.95	2.60
2.	Bangalore	3.00	1.61	2.69
3.	Bhopal	2.50	1.92	2.49
4.	Chandigarh	1.20	0.76	0.35
5.	Chennai	6.50	4.95	8.11
6.	Cuttack	0.75	0.42	0.77
7.	Delhi	8.75	10.72	13.84
8.	Hyderabad	5.50	1.97	5.98
9.	Jaipur	1.50	0.98	1.62
10.	Kolkata	3.30	3.71	5.13
11.	Kanpur	4.50	3.17	5.20
12.	Mumbai	7.00	7.36	10.45
13.	Patna	2.30	1.64	1.95
14.	Srinagar	0.40	0.33	0.35
15.	Trivandrum	5.00	3.69	4.68
16.	Central Sales Unit	55.24	29.72	14.03
Total		108.84	73.90	80.84

Statement-II*Details of Revenue Earned by Doordarshan*

(Rupees in crores)

S.No.	Revenue earning Kendras	Revenue for 2000-01		Revenue earned during 1999-2000
		Target fixed	Achieved	
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central Sales (National Network, DD-II/Metro, DD-Sports, DD-International)	346.00	519.59	454.82
2.	Delhi	15.00	6.72	8.11

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Ahmedabad	10.00	3.80	2.89
4.	Bangalore	40.00	8.43	16.76
5.	Bhopal, Raipur	4.00	1.70	1.49
6.	Bhubaneswar	2.10	2.73	1.83
7.	Kolkata	40.00	29.92	25.84
8.	Guwahati	2.00	1.58	1.07
9.	Hyderabad	25.00	12.87	19.44
10.	Jaipur	3.00	1.93	1.70
11.	Jalandhar	7.00	4.73	4.30
12.	Lucknow, Gorakhpur	6.00	3.40	4.29
13.	Mumbai, Nagpur	50.00	14.35	14.76
14.	Patna, Muzaffarpur	0.00	1.84	0.86
15.	Chennai	50.00	7.20	18.52
16.	Trivandrum	25.00	16.24	20.17
17.	Srinagar, Jammu	0.00	0.43	0.33
18.	Goa	0.0	0.03	0.01
19.	Pondicherry	0.0	0.02	0.00
Total		625.10	637.51	597.19

[Translation]

Investment Schemes of UTI

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India have launched several schemes to attract investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of money collected as investment from small investors under these schemes;

(d) the amount of investment made by the Government under these schemes so far; and

(e) the dividend paid by the UTI during each of the last three years to its investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At present, UTI operates 87 Schemes of which 28 are open ended, i.e. open for sale and repurchase during the year.

(c) UTI has mobilised about Rupees 6500 crores from individual investors under various schemes during the year 2000-2001.

(d) The Special Unit Scheme 99 (SUS-99) was launched in June, 1999 with the Government of India subscribing to the entire capital of Rs. 3300 crores of the Scheme against issuance of Government of India securities in favour of UTI. The PSU holding of US-64 of equivalent amount was transferred to the Scheme at book value.

(e) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Role of States in Exports

871. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to give place to "States" to participate in the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued to State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the special facilities likely to be provided to State Governments;

(e) whether the Government are also considering to compile State-wise data of exports; and

(f) if so, the time by which final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (f) A new Central scheme for providing central assistance to States for development of export infrastructure and allied activities is to be implemented from the current year 2001-2002. The Central Government will provide grants to the State Governments on the basis of their export performance and the incremental annual growth in their exports. In the current year, an outlay of Rs. 97 crores has been provided for the scheme. The guidelines of the scheme are under formulation. It is proposed that 50% of the total outlay earmarked for the States will be allocated on the basis of their total exports and the balance 50% will be allocated on the basis of the annual growth in their exports. Shipping Bill format has been amended with effect from 1.4.2001 to collect information in respect of the State of origin of the goods exported.

Unutilised Amount of Ministries

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

(a) whether the amount of funds lying unutilised with the Ministries is believed to be in excess of Rs. 50,000 crore;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor with the details of Ministries:

(c) whether any directive has been issued to the Ministries concerned to spend the unutilised amount; and

(d) if so, the response of the Ministries concerned in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) As per provisional accounts for 2000-2001, 97 percent of the allocated plan funds were spent by the administrative Ministries and Departments. The unutilised allocations lapsed at the end of the financial year. In the current year upto 31st May, 2001, 11 percent of plan allocations had been spent.

(c) Utilisation of allocated amounts is monitored by the concerned administrative Ministries. However, General Financial Rules provide that there should be no rush of expenditure towards the end of the financial year.

(d) Does not arise.

Poor Off-Take Under PDS

873. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:
SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:

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

(a) the reasons for the poor off-take of foodgrains allotted to States under Public Distribution System;

(b) the steps contemplated or are being taken to ensure that State lift their full allotment and that the benefits of the system reach the targetted sections of the people fully; and

(c) the details regarding effect of poor off-take by States on people below poverty line and also on Anyodaya Anna Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Offtake of foodgrains from the Public Distribution System is dependent, among other factors, on the difference between the open market prices and the PDS end retail prices. Under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) the Central Issue Prices of foodgrains meant for distribution to the families living below poverty line have been kept at levels which are lower than the market prices to ensure higher offtake. The offtake for BPL

families has been about 80% of the allotment during 1999-2000. The offtake of foodgrains under BPL category has been about 66.3% of the allotments during 2000-2001.

The allotment for BPL families was increased from 10 kg. to 20 kg. of foodgrains per family per month at 50% of economic cost from 1.4.2000. Since then the offtake for the year 2000-2001 was 5874.682 tonnes in rice and 3645.828 tonnes in wheat as compared 3976.380 tonnes in rice and 3018.309 tonnes in wheat during 1999-2000 under BPL category. Although the increase in offtake during 2000-2001 has not been proportionate to the doubling of allotments made during the year there has been an increase in offtake under this category during 2000-2001 as compared to 1999-2000. Hence the offtake under the BPL category should not be regarded as poor.

The Antyodaya Anna Yojana was launched for the poorest of the poor who are not in a position to buy foodgrains round the year even at BPL rates. Foodgrains @ 25 kg. per family per month are being provided to them at highly subsidised rates of Rs. 2 a kg. for wheat and Rs. 3 a kg. for rice since March 2001. Provisional offtake figures during the first quarter of 2001-2002 indicate that offtake of rice has been approximately 96% and that of wheat approximately 73% of the allotments made under the scheme.

The offtake of foodgrains under the APL category is reduced after the increase in Central Issue Price (CIP) w.e.f. 1.4.2000 and withdrawal of subsidy. Keeping in view the low offtake of foodgrains in respect of APL families, the Government has decided to allot foodgrains for APL families at the discounted rate of 70% of the economic cost and increase the allotment for BPL families from 20 kg. to 25 kg. per family per month w.e.f. 12.7.2001.

[Translation]

Demonstration Against Film

874. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were several demonstrations against the recently released film "Gadar";

(b) if so, the main demands of the protestors; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) There have been reports in the press about some incidents of protests in some parts of the country, against some scenes and dialogues in the recently released Hindi film "Gadar-Ek Prem Katha".

(c) Maintenance of law and public order are State subjects and, as such, the responsibility to deal with incidents of violence lies with the State Governments.

[English]

Wheat Exports to Iraq

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

(a) whether it is a fact that two Indian wheat shipments that were rejected by Iraq were later certified to be fit for an International agency in Dubai and sold there;

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

(c) whether a high level delegation from India met Iraqi officials to find the reasons behind the rejection of the shipment;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether subsequent shipments were accepted by Iraqi authorities; and

(f) if so, the total shipment made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) As per the report of the Indian delegation to Iraq (May 17-22, 2001), the first two consignments of Indian wheat (total quantity 0.23 lakhs tons) rejected by Iraq, have been reportedly sold by the exporter, M/s. Vishal Exports, to National Flour Mills Company, Dubai.

(c) and (d) An official delegation visited Iraq for an on the spot assessment from 17th to 22nd May, 2001 and held discussions with the Iraqi authorities at various

levels. The delegation has reported that Iraq wants to have wheat that should be totally free from inorganic matter *i.e.* sand, dust and also live insects. As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust, etc. Quality Specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto maximum 2%. The Inspection Agency agreed by the Grain Board of Iraq had inspected the Cargo prior to shipment and declared the wheat consignment fit for human consumption and conforming to the quality specifications of Iraqi order. However, on arrival of the consignments at Iraqi ports, the Grain Board of Iraq insisted on 'nil' tolerance for inorganic foreign matter. The Indian delegation that visited Iraq in May, 2001 was informed by Iraqi Authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, only organic foreign matter (like chaff glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken in this category. The Exporters were not aware of this stipulation. They presumed that, as in the CODEX Standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% inorganic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was told that the Iraqi authorities had accordingly taken a decision to reject any wheat stocks found with inorganic matter like sand, stones, etc. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat sourced from various other countries on the same ground.

(e) and (f) No, Sir. Iraq has rejected four shipments made by three exporters from India.

[Translation]

Fiscal Position

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

(a) whether the Government has been unsuccessful in maintaining stable fiscal position;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for the constant increase in the fiscal deficit during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the steps taken and schemes formulated by the Government to reduce the fiscal deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Inadequate fiscal adjustment has remained the most intractable problem over the past decade owing to a combination of factors which among others include interest payments which constitute over 69 percent of the Centre's tax revenues, increase in subsidies to unaffordable levels and rising pension liability. With a view to achieve fiscal consolidation, the Budget for 2001-2002 emphasises expenditure management through the process of bringing about structural changes in the composition of Central Government expenditure, economy in non plan revenue expenditure while improving the quality of expenditure. To this end, the Budget contains a number of initiatives which among others include restricting fresh recruitment to one per cent of total civilian staff strength, user charges for services provided by the Government and its agencies to be revised keeping in view the increased cost of these services etc. Further, with a view to reduce interest burden, most administered interest rates were reduced by 1.5 per cent as of March 1, 2001. Besides, the Fiscal Responsibility of Budget Management Bill, 2000 was introduced in Parliament in December 2000. This bill includes provisions relating to ceilings on debt, deficit and borrowing.

Plantation Companies

877. SHRI TARACHAND BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of so called plantation companies which have duped small investors of their money;

(b) the amount invested by investors in these companies and the number of companies which have disappeared and the amount of money duped by them, company-wise;

(c) whether the Government is reported to have said that total investment in plantation companies is worth Rs. 25 thousand crore, whereas the SEBI has put it to only Rs. 2,689 crore; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The names of 13 Collective Investment Schemes (CISs) entities against which 500 or more complaints are pending

are given in the enclosed statement. As per information filed by these entities with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) earlier, these entities had raised an amount of Rs. 1517.75 crores from investors.

(b) SEBI has intimated that the data regarding the amount of money received by the companies is not readily available.

(c) and (d) SEBI, vide its Press Release dated November 26, 1997 and its Public Notice dated December 18, 1997 directed existing schemes to file details of the schemes with it. SEBI had received information from 660 entities which have reportedly raised Rs. 2689.86 crores.

Statement

List of CIS entities against which 500 or more investor complaints are pending as on 30.6.2001

Sl.No.	Name of the CIS Entity
1.	Swarnbhumi Forests (India) Ltd.
2.	Golden Forest India Ltd.
3.	Kuber Planters Ltd.
4.	Neelgiri Forests Ltd.
5.	Okara Agro Industries Ltd.
6.	Enbee Plantations Ltd.
7.	Sterling Tree Magnum India Ltd.
8.	Growgreen Forest (India) Ltd.
9.	Versatile Plantations Ltd.
10.	Kisley Plantation Ltd.
11.	Perutek Services Ltd.
12.	United Agrogrowth and Resorts Ltd.
13.	Nisarga Forests (I) Ltd.

[English]

National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology

878. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5030 on April 20, 2001 regarding setting up of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology in Uttar Pradesh:

(a) whether a decision has been taken regarding transfer of assets of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology and as regards employees already in position in NISST to ICAR;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in taking the decision and the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The matter regarding transfer of assets and infrastructure has been taken up with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). The ICAR has informed that it is in the process of assessing the location and infrastructure of National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology (NISST) and the feasibility of its utilisation by the ICAR. A final decision can be taken by Government after the ICAR indicates its decision.

[Translation]

Amendment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986

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

(a) whether the Delhi Medical Council has given some suggestions to the Union Government regarding proposed amendment of Consumer Protection Act, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent the suggestions of the Council are likely to be incorporated in the said amendment?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

*[English]***Setting up of Super Bazar**

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up Super Bazars in various States;

(b) if so, the steps taken in that regard in various States and particularly in Madhya Pradesh during last three years;

(c) whether any plan has been formulated by the Union Government for providing essential commodities to the people at a reasonable price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However the Government of Madhya Pradesh has reported that in the year 2000-2001, NCDC's assistance of Rs. 19.34 lakhs has been released to one Primary Consumer Cooperative Store in Bhopal for setting up Super Bazar. No assistance was released in the year 1998-99 and 1999-2000.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, (Department of Food & Public Distribution) have issued revised central issue price of wheat and Rice distributed under Targeted Public Distribution Systems to all State Govts. on 12.7.2001.

Print Media Policy

881. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the print media policy of the Government is in accordance with the Cabinet Resolution of September 13, 1955;

(b) if so, the details of this print media policy which is at present in existence;

(c) whether any changes have been incorporated in the print media policy after the Cabinet Resolution of 1955;

(d) if so, when; and

(e) the details of these changes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955 which inter-alia prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and current affairs.

(c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Writing Off Loan on Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) the criteria laid down by the Government for writing-off loan repayment by Public Sector Undertakings; and

(b) the details of Public Sector Undertakings whose loan repayment has been written-off during the last three years along with the reasons in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) As part of revival package of capital restructuring, Government normally considers conversion of principal amount of loan to equity, moratorium on payment of loan and interest, waiver of interest and penal interest etc. It is not the practice to generally waive repayment of principal amount of loan. Such information in case of individual PSUs is not centrally maintained.

Slow Down of Indian Economy

883. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian economy is currently witnessing a slow-down;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to arrest the slow down?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The likely trends in the overall growth in the gross domestic product (GDP) during the current year would be available with the release of Quarterly GDP Estimates for the first quarter (April-June 2001) by end September, 2001. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate decisions taken in the light of the emerging trends. The measures to promote and achieve higher growth *inter alia* includes speeding up of agricultural reforms; intensification of infrastructure investment, continued reform in the financial sector and capital markets, and deepening of structural reforms; human development through better educational opportunities and programmes of social security; improvement in the quality of Government expenditure; acceleration of privatisation process and restructuring of public enterprises etc. Policy initiatives announced in the Budget are expected to have a favourable impact on growth during the current year.

Declaration of Rubber and Coir as Agricultural Products

884. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Natural Rubber and Coir has been classified as industrial products as per the WTO agreement;

(b) if so, whether the Kerala Government had requested the Union Government to declare the Rubber and Coir as agricultural products; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Government have already filed its negotiating proposals with WTO for including rubber and coir in the rationalisation of product coverage in the Agreement on Agriculture.

Outflow of UTI Funds

885. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether outflow of funds of the UTI have grossly overtaken the inflow thereby eroding the capital;

(b) if so, the net fund outflow as against the inflow since April, 2001;

(c) whether any analysis of its various schemes have been made to identify the causes as also the impact of the equity market crash sometime back;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to reverse the situation?

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

Loans for Construction of Godowns

886. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD has drawn up a programme for providing funds for construction of godowns in various States and Union Territories;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the State-wise details of the funds provided so far under this scheme; and

(d) the State-wise details of the districts where these godowns have been constructed or proposed to be constructed under this programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it extends refinance facilities to banks for financing the construction of godowns by State Warehousing Corporation in the country on a selective basis. In addition, to augment the storage capacity for fruits and vegetables, NABARD is implementing a capital investment subsidy scheme for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce with subsidy to the extent of 25% of the project cost subject to a maximum of Rs. 50 lakh (33%) or maximum of Rs. 60 lakh in North-Eastern Region. Under the scheme, the finance is

provided at concessional rate of interest of prime lending rate + 1% to the ultimate borrowers and refinance at a uniform rate of 8.5% per annum to the financing banks. NABARD is also formulating a scheme for construction of godowns by private parties, corporations, etc. with subsidy from Government. The scheme is, however, under examination.

(c) The State-wise details of the refinance provided by NABARD for storages and market yards as also cold

storage units covered by Government scheme to the banks during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement-I. The State-wise details of the sanction of cold storage units under Government scheme and disbursement of refinance and subsidy thereagainst are given in the enclosed statement-II.

(d) The details of the location of cold storage scheme are given in the enclosed statement III.

Statement-I

State-wise details of refinance provided by NABARD for storages and market yards to all agencies during the years 1998-99 to 2000-2001

				(Rs. in lakhs)
Sl.No.	State/Union Territory	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A&N Islands	0	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	21	14	1516
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
4.	Assam	0	0	90
5.	Bihar	20	0	333
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0
7.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
8.	Goa	1	0	0
9.	Gujarat	635	527	1366
10.	Haryana	0	0	798
11.	Himachal Pradesh	45	68	347
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0
13.	Karnataka	0	59	582
14.	Kerala	0	0	0
15.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
16.	Madhya Pradesh	0	109	456
17.	Maharashtra	57	76	300
18.	Manipur	0	0	0
19.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
20.	Mizoram	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Nagaland	0	0	0
22.	NCT of Delhi	0	0	0
23.	Orissa	0	0	127
24.	Pondicherry	0	0	0
25.	Punjab	44	0	814
26.	Rajasthan	583	427	1045
27.	Sikkim	0	0	0
28.	Tamil Nadu	1	54	674
29.	Tripura	0	0	0
30.	Uttar Pradesh	0	0	1084
31.	West Bengal	239	206	610
Total:		1645	1540	10141

Statement-II

State-wise details of the sanction of cold storage units under Government scheme and disbursement of refinance and subsidy by NABARD during the year 2000-2001

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	State	No. of Schemes	Capacity (Tonnes)	Subsidy Released	Refinance Disbursed
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15	91480	245.752	1117.058
2.	Assam	1	5000	22.910	0.000
3.	Gujarat	24	64963	225.235	1055.542
4.	Haryana	6	22583	104.105	480.078
5.	Karnataka	7	25900	234.924	523.363
6.	Madhya Pradesh	22	122131	173.881	458.890
7.	Maharashtra	9	43207	64.155	236.520
8.	Orissa	1	5000	0.000	0.000
9.	Punjab	24	78185	127.276	1132.578
10.	Rajasthan	20	92815	246.672	914.224
11.	Tamil Nadu	12	37700	12.765	583.315
12.	Uttar Pradesh	86	611632.66	757.398	622.217
Total		227	1200596.66	2215.073	7123.785

Statement-III*State-wise Details of Locations of Cold Storages*

Sl.No.	State	Districts	No. of Cold Storages
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur, Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Warangal, Vizianagaram, Srikakulam, Kurnool, Mehboobnagar, Ranga Reddy, Chittoor, East Godavari, Anantpur and Vishakapatnam	21
2.	Assam	Cachar	1
3.	Bihar	Gaya	2
4.	Gujarat	Kutch, Ranakpur, Rajkot, Patan, Navsari, Naroda, Mehsana, Junagarh, Banaskantha, Ahmedabad, Anand, Baroda, Gandhinagar, Deesa	32
5.	Haryana	Sonepat, Ambala, Rohtak, Kurukshetra	12
6.	Karnataka	Hubli, Bijapur, Bellary	8
7.	Madhya Pradesh	Indore, Shahjapur, Raipur, Morena, Jagdalpur, Gwalior, Dhamtari, Bhopal, Durg, Dewas, Dantewara	29
8.	Maharashtra	Gondia, Pune, Nagpur, Aurangabad, Ahmednagar	9
9.	Orissa	Pitapalli, Mayurbhanj, Khura	4
10.	Punjab	Sangrur, Rajpura, Patiala, Mansa, Ludhiana, Kapurthala, Jalandhar, Faridkot, Bhatinda, Patiala, Fatehgarh Sahib	24
11.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Kota, Jodhpur, Bharatpur, Bikaner, Barmer	25
12.	Tamil Nadu	Madurai, Virudunagar, Thiruvellur, Salem, Mettupalayam, Krishnagiri, Dharampuri, Coimbatore, Chennai	15
13.	Uttar Pradesh	Ghaziipur, Kannauj, Lakhnau, Kanpur, Gonda, Jaunpur, Hathras, Lucknow, Hardoi, Mathura, Mainpuri, Shahjahnpur, Firozabad, Udham Singh, Shikohabad, Rai Bareilly, Meerut, Ghaziabad Bareilly, Farrukhabad, Badaun, Ballia, Bahraich, Basti, Ambedkar Nagar, Allahabad, Agra, Barabanki, Bazzpur, Faizabad, Fatehabad, Etawah, Etah, Bulundshahar, Unnao	110
Total			292

Illegal Import of Edible Oil

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

(a) whether the Government have received representations from the edible oil trade that specific duties be levied rather than ad-valorem duties to check under-invoicing, etc.;

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

(c) whether huge quantities of edible oil imports get into the country without payment of customs duty;

(d) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to plug such leakages; and

(e) the steps proposed in this regard to control illegal entry of edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government have received a representation from the Vanaspati Manufacturers Association of India suggesting a switch over from ad valorem to specific duties on edible oils.

(c) During the year 2000-2001, the customs formations detected five cases of illegal imports of edible oils and seized 7129 Kgs. of edible oils having a value of Rs. 2.59 lakh.

(d) and (e) All the field formations of the Customs Department including the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence are vigilant and alert to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband goods including edible oils.

Pension Scheme for Government Servant

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

(a) whether the working group on pension liabilities headed by the Controller General of Accounts has submitted its report to him on June 25, 2001 wherein it has suggested a switch over to a funded pension scheme for Government servants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Working Group on "Assessment of Government of India's Pensionary Liability" headed by Controller General of Accounts has submitted its report on June 25, 2001. The Working Group has *inter-alia*, recommended a transition to a funded system of pension for new Government employees and system of incentives to encourage migration of existing employees to a funded system.

Pursuant to Government's announcement in the Budget for 2001-2002 that the Civil Services Pension System would be replaced by the a new pension programme based on defined contributions, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare has constituted a High Level Expert Group to prepare a road map for such a transition.

[Translation]

Rules for FDI

889. SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the rules laid down for allowing foreign investment in the country;

(b) whether the Government are aware that such rules are not being enforced properly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) The detailed guidelines, including terms and conditions of foreign direct investment (FDI), are duly notified by the Government from time to time. Based on these notifications the FDI policy and procedures are also published in the form of a Manual for the convenience of investors. The Reserve Bank of India in exercise of powers conferred on it by Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA) has framed and notified the rules and regulations governing foreign direct investment. As part of the progressive liberalisation of the FDI regime, most activities have been placed on the automatic route under which the investing company only has to notify RBI within 30 days of inward remittance of funds as also issuance of shares. The automatic route is backed by general permission granted by RBI under FEMA provisions based on self-declaration of foreign investors. The proposals involving transfer of existing shares in an Indian company and those attracting industrial licensing, sector specific guidelines, including equity cap, multiple ventures in the same/allied field require prior Government approval. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) considers such proposals on the basis of the broad guidelines and principles notified for this purpose by the Government. A monitoring mechanism is in place for ensuring compliance with the terms and conditions of FDI and taking appropriate action in case of any deviation.

*[English]***Foreign Banks**

890. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign banks functioning at present in the country;

(b) the details of these banks in Gujarat; and

(c) the annual turnover of these banks in Gujarat during last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The names of foreign banks operating branches in India as on 31st March, 2001 are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(b) and (c) The details of the branches of foreign banks in Gujarat and their deposits and advances, as on 31st March, 2001 are given in the enclosed statement-II.

Statement-I

Names of foreign banks operating in India as on 31st March 2001

Sl. No.	Name of the foreign bank
1	2
1.	ABN Amro Bank
2.	Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank
3.	American Express Bank
4.	Arab Bangladesh Bank
5.	Bank International Indonesia
6.	Bank Muscat SAOG
7.	Bank of America
8.	Bank of Bahrain & Kuwait
9.	Bank of Ceylon
10.	Bank of Nova Scotia
11.	Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi
12.	Barclays Bank

1	2
13.	BNP Paribas
14.	Chase Manhattan Bank
15.	China Trust Commercial Bank
16.	Cho Hung Bank
17.	Citibank
18.	Commerzbank
19.	Credit Agricole Indosuez
20.	Credit Lyonnais
21.	Deutsche Bank
22.	Development Bank of Singapore
23.	Dresdner Bank
24.	Fuji Bank
25.	Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corpn.
26.	ING Bank
27.	KBC Bank
28.	Krung Thai Bank
29.	Mashreq Bank
30.	Morgan Guaranty Trust Co. of New York
31.	Oman International Bank
32.	Oversea-Chinese Banking Corpn.
33.	Sanwa Bank
34.	Siam Commercial Bank
35.	Societe Generale
36.	Sonali Bank
37.	Standard Chartered Bank
38.	Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank
39.	State Bank of Mauritius
40.	Sumitomo Bank Ltd.
41.	Sakura Bank Ltd.
42.	Toronto Dominion Bank

Statement-II

(Rs. in lakhs)

	Name of the Bank	No. of Branches	Deposits	Advances
1.	ABN Amro Bank	1 (Baroda)	4702.41	4805.27
2.	BNP Paribas	1 (Ahmedabad)	13978.45	6821.03
3.	Credit Lyonnais	1 (Ahmedabad)	522.31	16700.32
4.	Citibank	1 (Ahmedabad)	2029.00	2295.00
		1 (Baroda)	51.00	—
5.	HongKong & Shanghai Banking Corporation	1 (Ahmedabad)	1660.73	459.64
6.	Standard Chartered Grindlays Bank	1 (Ahmedabad)	3322.00	1717.00
7.	Standard Chartered Bank	1 (Ahmedabad)	2055.00	9057.00

Import of Motorcycles and Scooters

891. SHRI MANJAY LAL: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of fake motorcycles and scooters are being imported from China with brand-names of two major Japanese automobile companies;

(b) whether those automobile companies have approached the Government to take measures to stop the import and marketing of these fake motorcycles and scooters;

(c) if so, the details of steps taken/being taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) the total number of motorcycles and scooters imported from China in past three months;

(e) whether the large imports of motorcycles and scooters from China have adversely affected the Indian manufacturers of these items; and

(f) if so, the action taken/being taken to protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Motorcycles and Scooters are freely importable w.e.f. 1.4.2001 vide DGFT,

Department of Commerce Notification No. 2 (RE-2001)/1997-2001 dated 31.3.2001. As per records, neither has any complaint about import of fake motorcycles and scooters from China with brand-names of two major Japanese automobile companies been received, nor has any automobile company approached the Government to take measures to stop the import and marketing of fake motorcycles and scooters.

(d) As per provisional data available for the month of April and May 2001, only 7 (seven) motorcycles, including Mopeds, have been imported from China with a total value of Rs. 1.57 lakh (approx).

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Impact of Removal of Quantitative Restrictions

892. SHRI SUBODH ROY:
SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN:
DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

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

(a) whether Indian markets have been flooded with cheap foreign goods after the announcement of New Exim Policy and removal of quantitative restrictions on import as on March 31, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Government have assessed the losses suffered by domestic traders/manufacturers as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have constituted an inter-ministerial group to assess the impact of New Exim Policy and removal of quantitative restrictions on imports;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the said group has started its functions;

(g) if so, the assessment made by the group;

(h) the countries from which the import/dumping of consumer goods, electric goods, agricultural goods etc. has increased after the removal of quantitative restriction as on March 31, 2001 and upto what extent;

(i) whether the State Governments, Associations of traders, manufacturers, farmers and labourers have requested the Government to reconsider its decision and take immediate effective measures to stop flooding of cheap foreign goods in the Indian market; and

(j) if so, the response of the Union Government in this regard and the strategy being formulated by the Government to ensure that domestic small scale manufacturers may become competitive in the global market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Import restrictions on 714 items were removed on 31.3.2000. The import data of these 714 items for the year 2000-2001 have now been compiled. The import of these items during this period compared to the earlier year has shown a growth of less than 3%. The import restrictions on 715 items have been removed only on 31.3.2001. Thus, it is too early to assess the impact of this measure on domestic producers. However, the non-oil imports during the period April-May 2001 have shown a negative growth of 14.66%.

(d) to (h) The Government has constituted an Inter Ministerial Standing Group consisting of Commerce Secretary, Revenue Secretary, Secretary (SSI and ARI), Secretary (Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying), Secretary (Department of Agriculture and Cooperation) and Director General of Foreign Trade for tracking, collating and analyzing import data of 300 sensitive items. The group has already started functioning and

analysed the import data of these 300 items for the months of April and May, 2001. As per the analysis of the data conducted by the group it is seen that the total import of 300 sensitive items for the period April-May 2001 has shown a negative growth rate of 11% compared to the same period last year. At the micro level, imports indicate increase in respect of tea, coffee, spices, cotton etc. Based on the import data, the group has concluded that the overall picture that emerges from these quick estimates is one of normal trading activity in response to demand and supply factors. Import of these sensitive items do not show any unusual trend on the basis of country of origin. The data reveals increase in imports from Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Tanzania, Vietnam and Pakistan. Import of these sensitive items from China have registered a decline of 28%.

(i) and (j) Representations have been received from some State Governments and Associations of Traders, Farmers etc. regarding the likely adverse impact of QR removal on them. However, the Government is aware of the emerging scenario for the SSI Units and has taken several steps to help them become globally competitive. These include special focus on areas such as technology up-gradation, infrastructure assistance through the cluster approach, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management practices, use of electronic infrastructure, marketing and timely information dissemination including sensitization of small industries to the emerging challenges of trade liberalization.

Formation of State Advisory Committee

893. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to form a State Advisory Committee in each State chaired by a Member of Parliament to look after the distribution of foodgrains under Public Distribution System and Antodaya Scheme and also to hold consumer awareness camps in 100 districts in first phase with the help of States Advisory Committees and NGOs; and

(b) if so, the latest status of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Central Issue Price of Foodgrains

894. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are considering to reduce the central issue price of food-grains distributed under the Public Distribution System (PDS) and the Food-for-work Scheme to increase the off-take and reduce stocks in preparation for the kharif season;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Plan Panel suggesting some changes in the overall PDS system considering negligible off-take of foodgrains from the PDS at above poverty line prices and blackmarketing of grains meant for below poverty line population; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) In order to increase the off-take of foodgrains, Government has reduced the Central Issues Price of wheat from Rs. 830/- per quintal to Rs. 610/- per quintal and for rice from Rs. 1130/- per quintal to Rs. 830/- per quintal for APL families with effect from 12.7.2001 till 31.3.2002 or till surplus stocks last, whichever is earlier.

As regards Food for Work Programme, foodgrains are available for allotment to States/UTs at BPL rates which are Rs. 415/- per quintal for wheat and Rs. 585/- per quintal for rice. Foodgrains are also allotted free of cost to drought affected States/UTs as an additionality under the Food-for-Work Programme launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in the drought affected areas.

(c) and (d) In their Note on 'PDS and Food Security', Planning Commission has suggested that a separate Central Issue Price be fixed for 25% of the population which is in between the APL and the BPL category to discourage black-marketing and to reduce the burden of

subsidy. The Government has, however, not found the suggestion feasible.

Kisan Credit Cards

895. SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many banks are refusing to give credit to farmers on the kisan credit cards;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received from each State Government during last two years; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against erring banks?

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

(b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), no such complaints have been received.

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

Loans to Small Farmers

896. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, number of farmers living below the poverty line and considered marginal and small farmers during the year 2000;

(b) whether the Government propose to introduce any scheme to allot easy loans to such small or marginal farmers;

(c) if so, the details of the scheme and the time by which it is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) and (c) As per the standing guidelines issued by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks, small and marginal farmers are already included for lending under direct finance to agriculture, which is included in the

priority sector lending. However, with a view to strengthening the flow of credit to small and marginal farmers, certain relaxation in regard to margin money requirements, security norms, etc. have been extended to such borrowers under the priority sector. These include:

- (i) Banks should not insist on margin money for crop loans/term loans granted to farmers upto Rs. 10,000/-;
 - (ii) Banks should not insist upon collateral security/ third party guarantee for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000/-. Hypothecation of crops can be taken as security;
 - (iii) As regards loans above Rs. 10,000/- banks have the discretion in the matter relating to margin security;
 - (iv) Payment of interest should be insisted upon only at the time of repayment of loan/instalments fixed;
 - (v) Banks should not compound interest on current dues in respect of long duration crop loans and instalments not falling due in respect of term loans;
 - (vi) Total interest debited to the account of small and marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount in respect of short-term advances.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (b) and (c) above.

Prices of Cement

897. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the price of cement varies from State to State:

(b) if so, the prevailing prices in various States and the reasons for variation;

(c) whether the Government propose to fix uniform prices of cement for all the States to boost the construction sector of the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prices of cement vary from State to State depending upon its distance from production centres. Statement on the prices of cement in major consumption centres as on 13th July, 2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Cement is a decentralised commodity and prices are determined according to market forces of demand and supply.

Statement

	Nov. 2000 min. max	Jan. 2001 min. max.	13th July, 01 min. max.	%age increase/decrease over November, 2000	
				In Jan. 2001	On 13th July, 2001
1	2	3	4	5	6
Northern Region					
Delhi	133-136	152-155	140-142	13.97	4.41
Karnal	142-144	152-155	148-150	7.64	4.17
Chandigarh	138-140	158-160	147-149	14.29	6.43
Jaipur	123-125	143-145	128-130	16	4
Rohtak	132-134	148-150	143-145	11.94	8.21
Bhatinda	136-138	163-165	139-141	19.57	2.17
Ludhiana	140-142	168-170	148-150	19.72	5.63
Jammu	180-185	195-200	190-193	8.11	4.32

1	2	3	4	5	6
Shimla	145-170	165-170	162-168	14.86	13.51
Eastern Region					
Calcutta	128-135	160-165	145-150	22	11.11
Patna	114-132	135-160	144-165	21.21	25
Bhubaneshwar	120-128	147-161	126-145	25.78	13.28
Guwahati	155-165	182-184	182-184	11.52	11.52
Muzaffarpur	122-134	131-163	147-167	21.64	24.63
Silchar					
Western Region					
Bombay	130-138	181-185	175-180	34.06	30.43
Ahmedabad	125-130	163-165	152-157	26.92	20.77
Nagpur	115-122	153-158	144-148	29.51	21.32
Pune	144-150	166-168	150-155	12	3.33
Rajkot	124-129	160-161	152-157	24.81	21.71
Baroda	125-130	158-165	152-157	26.92	20.77
Surat	125-130	161-163	152-157	25.38	20.77
Southern Region					
Chennai	170-185	175-190	160-170	2.7	(-) 8.11
Thiruvananthapuram	180-190	185-195	180-190	2.63	0
Bangalore	160-175	160-175	160-170	0	(-) 2.86
Hyderabad	140-155	145-160	150-160	3.23	3.23
Calicut	180-190	180-195	180-190	2.63	0
Visakhapatnam	155-160	160-170	155-165	6.25	3.13
Goa	133-147	148-152	145-150	3.4	2.04
Central Region					
Lucknow	118-123	142-148	140-148	20.33	20.33
Meerut	125-130	145-152	138-142	16.92	9.23
Faizabad	110-115	138-142	140-145	23.48	26.09
Bareilly	122-128	145-152	140-145	18.75	13.28
Bhopal	110-115	153-160	132-142	39	23.48

Source: Cement Manufacturers' Association

Eleventh Finance Commission

898. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the post-tax devolution of non-plan revenue surplus/deficit of each of the non-special category States during 2000-05 as assessed by the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(b) the per capita non-plan revenue surplus/deficit of each of the non-special category States after the devolution of taxes by the EFC taking the causes figures for 2001;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the high disparity of per capita non-plan revenue surplus/deficit among the non-special category States;

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to remove or reduce the disparities through assistance under Article 282 of the Constitution; and

(e) if not, the reasons for the same after non-revenue grants awarded by the EFC, the per capita non-plan

revenue surplus/deficit of each of the non-special category States during 2000-05?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) A Statement is enclosed.

(c) to (e) Recommendations of Finance Commissions are not aimed at equalizing post-Tax devolution of revenue surplus or deficits of States. It is for the respective State Governments to undertake improvement in State finances by reducing non-plan revenue expenditure and achieving a better balance between their resources and expenditure commitment. The Finance Commission holistically assesses the finances of the Center and States, and recommends devolution as well as grants, keeping the broad objectives of vertical and horizontal equity. The Criteria & Relative Weights for determining *inter-se* share of States in tax devolution and the criteria for Revenue deficit grants have been spelt out in the Report of the Eleventh Finance Commission. The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Statement

State	Post Tax Devolution Non-Plan Revenue Surplus/Deficit During 2000-05 as assessed by 11th Finance Commission	Non-Plan Revenue accounts after devolution of Taxes & duties and non-plan deficit grants during 2000-05 as per 11th Fin. Commission	Provisional Population	Per capita	
			2001*	of col. 2	of col. 3
1	2	3	4	5	6
1. Andhra Pradesh	34763.07	34763.07	757.28	4591	4591
2. Bihar**	17295.76	17295.76	1097.88	1575	1575
3. Goa	847.86	847.86	13.44	6308	6308
4. Gujarat	27596.69	27596.69	505.97	5454	5454
5. Haryana	11099.08	11099.08	210.83	5264	5264
6. Karnataka	26427.70	26427.70	527.34	5012	5012
7. Kerala	7130.67	7130.67	318.39	2240	2240

	1	2	3	4	5	6
8.	Madhya Pradesh**	21896.83	21896.83	811.81	2697	2697
9.	Maharashtra	53579.29	53579.29	967.52	5538	5538
10.	Orissa	149.18	822.78	367.07	41	224
11.	Punjab	2658.18	2942.39	242.89	1094	1211
12.	Rajasthan	2388.29	3632.97	564.73	423	643
13.	Tamil Nadu	18167.15	18167.15	621.11	2925	2925
14.	Uttar Pradesh**	13722.36	14749.10	1745.32	786	845
15.	West Bengal	-457.24	2788.85	802.21	-57	348

* Source: Provisional Population totals: India Census of India 2001, Paper 1 of 2001.

** Undivided States.

[Translation]

[English]

Ban on Recruitment in Banks

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

- (a) whether there is a ban on recruitment in Banks;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether this ban is likely to be lifted;
- (d) if so, the manner in which it is likely be lifted;
- (e) whether the employees, the unions and associations of various banks have urged to lift this ban and have submitted memoranda to the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

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

(b) to (f) Not applicable.

External and Internal Debt

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

- (a) the external and internal debt of the Government as on date separately;
- (b) the amount of internal and external debts to be paid by the Government during the current financial year; and
- (c) the steps taken to clear the external and internal debts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The external debt and internal debt, excluding ways and means advances, have been estimated at Rs. 58,428 crore and Rs. 8,03,546 crore, respectively as on 31.03.2001.

(b) The repayment under external and internal debts, excluding ways and means advances, have been estimated at Rs. 9,598 crore and Rs. 1,34,552 crore, respectively for 2001-02.

(c) The external and internal debts are paid as per repayment schedule.

[*Translation*]

National Rural Bank of India

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

(a) whether keeping in view the satisfactory functioning of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) the Dantwala Committee set up in 1978 and the Kelkar Committee set up in 1984 had recommended, that the branches of these banks should be expanded as these banks are effectively and proficiently working as per the requirements of the rural areas and the farmers as compared with the commercial banks and cooperative banks;

(b) whether the All India Rural Bank Workers Organisation has requested to set up "Bharat Ka Rashtriya Gramin Bank" (National Rural Bank of India) by merging all the 196 regional rural banks instead of their expansion;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon; and

(d) if not action is taken so far, the reasons for delay?

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

(c) and (d) After considering a number of alternative models including creation of National Rural Bank of India (NRBI), it was decided to revamp RRBs on a "Stand alone" basis by way of infusion of additional capital for cleansing of balance sheets of selected RRBs. Further several other policy changes have been initiated to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs. These changes include:—

- (i) Introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding (DAPs/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the

performance of the RRBs in a planned way and introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, assets classification and provisioning norms;

- (ii) diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- (iii) increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- (iv) rationalisation of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- (v) deregulation of interest rate structure;
- (vi) providing greater role to the sponsor banks in management of the affairs of RRBs.

[*English*]

Export of Wheat and Rice

902. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

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

(a) the countries to which rice and wheat are being exported at present;

(b) the total quantum and value of wheat and rice exported during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the export quota of rice and wheat from the current financial year;

(d) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice proposed to be exported during the current year and to which countries alongwith their rates;

(e) the steps being taken to further increase the export of rice and wheat from the country; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to ensure that Indian exports to these countries are not rejected by the importers?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The total quantity

and value of rice and wheat exported during the last three years is as under:—

Qty: MT

Value : Rs. crores

Item	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-01	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
Basmati rice	597793	1876.91	638382	1780.34	848919	2141.94
Non basmati rice	4365888	4403.85	1257793	1345.58	683194	784.16
Wheat	1763	1.36	4	—	879480	444.23

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

Country-wise details of exports are given in the monthly/annual numbers of Foreign Trade Statistics of India published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Calcutta. Copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d) As per Exim Policy, the export of rice (both basmati and non-basmati) is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. For the year 2001-02, export of 3 million tonnes of rice has also been permitted out of the stocks of FCI. The export of wheat is allowed freely subject to quantitative ceilings announced by DGFT and issue of Registration-cum-Allocation-Certificates (RCACs) by APEDA. For the year 2001-02, an export ceiling of 5 million tonnes of wheat has been announced.

It is not possible to estimate the likely quantum of rice and wheat exports, their direction of exports, and the rates at which they would be exported, as the exports of rice and wheat would depend upon international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, international and domestic prices, consumer preference and varieties traded.

(e) Some of the steps taken to increase the export of rice and wheat, include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

(f) The pre-shipment inspection by the nominated surveyors of importers or by EIC (in case of basmati rice exports to Europe) is undertaken.

Guidelines for Detention Under COFEPOSA

903. SHRI VISHNUDEO SAI:
SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA:
DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have laid-down guidelines, which provide for arrest and detention under COFEPOSA for smugglers and tax evaders in cases, where the value of the goods or the amount of customs duty evaded is above Rs. five lakhs;

(b) if so, the details of the cases booked by the DRI in Delhi and West Zone during the last three years, where the arrests and detention under COFEPOSA have not been resorted to with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have satisfied itself, that the cases in which such action has not been taken by the DG, DRI fall within the guidelines referred to in part (a) above; and

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken against the officers who have acted contrary to the guidelines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) Information is being collected from the field formations and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Social Awareness by Film*[English]***Tax Collected from Service Sector**

904. DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

906. SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by her Ministry on the film "Daman" to create social awareness among masses;

(a) whether various State Governments have requested the Union Government to pay them share of taxes collected in the service sector as they were providing all infrastructure; and

(b) whether the film has created desired awareness among masses;

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

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Net proceeds of Service Tax are shareable with the States in terms of the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. However, State of Jammu & Kashmir is not entitled to a share in the Service Tax as this tax is not leviable in that State.

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The Ministry of I&B has not spent any amount on producing the film "Daman".

Disinvestment of MMTC

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

907. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

*[Translation]***Revival of HMT Unit, Pinjore**

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the disinvestment of Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC);

(a) whether the Government are seriously contemplating to close down the HMT unit at Pinjore in Panchkula district of Haryana;

(b) if so, the reasons for privatising MMTC;

(c) whether the process of disinvestment of MMTC has been completed; and

(d) if so, the progress made so far in this regard?

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to revive the HMT unit at Pinjore?

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

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

(b) The decision is as per the declared policy of the Government to bring down Government held equity to 26% or lower in the generality of the non-strategic Public Sector Enterprises.

(c) HMT is implementing a turnaround plan approved by the Government involving mainly financial, organizational and manpower restructuring which also covers the HMT unit at Pinjore. HMT have also taken action to widen the product range of the HMT unit at Pinjore.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) An Inter-Ministerial Committee has been constituted to examine and deal with the issues precedent to the disinvestment in MMTC.

Meeting with EU Delegation Over Agricultural Export

908. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI G. PUTTASWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether a meeting between the Representatives of India and the Chief Commissioner of European Union was held on agricultural export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the issues for retaining duty free quota of basmati rice imports and to restore the quota for duty free sugar exports were also raised by India;

(d) if so, the response of European Union;

(e) whether the European Union have made the quality assurance standards very high to make the agricultural products from third world countries including India unacceptable; and

(f) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to resolve the issues?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Mr. Franz Fischler, Commissioner for Agriculture of the European Union (EU) visited India in February 2001 and had discussions with the Government and trade/industry representatives on various multilateral as well as bilateral issues relating to agriculture including the issues relating to export of basmati rice and sugar. European Commission took note of India's concerns for appropriate consideration on issues relating to export of basmati rice and sugar.

(e) and (f) Exporters of agricultural products in India find it difficult to meet the very high sanitary and phyto sanitary (SPS) standards as have been prescribed in European Union member countries. This issue of very high sanitary and phyto sanitary standards and lack of harmonisation of standards within EU member countries and with the international standards has been raised by India with the European Commission several times in various fora including in the Indo-EC Joint Commission as well as in the WTO in the Committee on SPS measures and in the year 2000 Trade Policy Review of EU. Further, the Government agencies like Agricultural

and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) and Export Inspection Council (EIC) have been actively engaged in sensitising the exporters about the various SPS standards and have also been extending technical and other assistance to them so as to make them conform to the prescribed standards.

Cement Corporation of India

909. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to release an amount of Rs. 15 crores as seed money to the Cement Corporation of India for Tandur Cement Plant;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps taken for revival of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. It has been agreed to provide financial support of Rs. 12.5 crore to Cement Corporation of India Limited (CCI) for meeting the working capital needs of their Tandur unit, subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being signed between the Company (CCI) and the Department of Heavy Industry, indicating the milestones to be achieved for sustained operations of the Unit.

[Translation]

World Bank Loan to Chhattisgarh

910. SHRI P.K. KHUNTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State Governments with special reference to Chhattisgarh, to whom loan for water supply and Environment cleanliness projects has been given by the World Bank during the current financial year; and

(b) the amount of loan given to each of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) During the current financial year, 2001-2002, no agreement has been signed with the World Bank, so far, for funding of any water supply and environment cleanliness project in any of the States including Chhattisgarh.

(b) Question does not arise.

[English]

Film Festival at Bangalore

911. SHRI KOLUR BASAVANAGOUD: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to conduct International Film Festival in Bangalore during this year;

(b) if so, the number of delegates expected to visit Bangalore;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to conduct the above festival in Bangalore; and

(d) the amount proposed to be released to Karnataka for this festival?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About 3000 delegates are expected to participate in the festival.

(c) To conduct the festival successfully an organizing committee has been formed comprising representatives of the Central/State Government and important film personalities from different regions. Nine sub-committees have also been formed to decide upon the various issues concerning the festival. A festival coordination Committee of Central and State Governments has also been set up. Some meetings of these committees have already been organized.

(d) Expenditure on the film festival will be incurred by the Central Government through the Directorate of Film Festivals. The Karnataka Government as co-host will incur expenditure from its own budget.

[Translation]

Cut in Government Jobs

912. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to bring in drastic reduction in Government jobs;

(b) if so, the posts likely to be abolished;

(c) whether the Government decision was taken in the wake of liberalisation and globalisation; and

(d) if so, the justification for closing the opportunities of employment for the youth instead of creating employment avenues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) In view of the changing role of the Government and the imperative of reducing the non-plan administrative expenditure, the Government has taken some measures to rightsize its staff strength. These measures relate to a 10% reduction on the sanctioned strength as on 1.1.92 and restricting direct recruitment to 1/3rd of the direct recruitment vacancies arising in a year. An Expenditure Reforms Commission has also been set up to review, *inter-alia*, the adequacy of staffing under Central Government Ministries, attached offices and institutions keeping in view the functions required to be performed by them and suggest measures for rationalising staff and cadres of different services. The details of posts to be abolished based on the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission will be known after all the recommendations are made and appropriate decisions of the Government thereon are announced. The reduction in non-plan administrative expenditure of the Government will make available valuable resources for more productive and efficient uses. This improvement in the quality of expenditure will help in the overall growth of the economy and creation of employment opportunities.

FDI in Airport, Township and Tourism Sector

913. SHRI RAMPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to accord its approval for cent percent foreign investment in airport, township, courier service and tourism sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the above decision is likely to come into effect?

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

(b) and (c) Government, vide Press Note No. 4 (2001 Series) dated 21.5.2001, has permitted the following:

- (i) FDI up to 100% in airports, with FDI above 74% requiring prior approval of the Government.
- (ii) FDI up to 100% for development of integrated townships, including housing, commercial premises, hotels, resorts, city and regional level urban infrastructure facilities such as roads and bridges, mass rapid transit systems; and manufacture of building materials. Development of land and providing allied infrastructure will form an integral part of township's development, for which necessary guidelines/norms relating to minimum capitalisation, minimum land area, etc., will be notified separately by the Government. FDI in this sector would be permissible with prior Government approval.
- (iii) FDI up to 100% in courier service subject to existing laws and exclusion of activity relating to distribution of letters. FDI in this sector would be permissible with prior Government approval.
- (iv) FDI up to 100% on the automatic route in hotel and tourism sector.

The above policy has come into force with effect from 21.5.2001, the date of issue of Press Note No. 4 (2001 Series).

[English]

Dearness Allowance

914. DR. V. SAROJA:
SHRI BHIM DAHAL:
SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the dearness allowance admissible to Central Government employees as on January 1, 2001;
- (b) whether an another instalment of Dearness Allowance has become due to the Government employees w.e.f. July 1, 2001 as per the recommendation of Fifth Pay Commission;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the method adopted for the calculation of Dearness Allowance; and
- (e) the time by which it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Dearness Allowance admissible to Central Government employees w.e.f. 1.1.2001 is 43% of basic pay.

(b) (c) and (e) Dearness Allowance to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January & 1st July payable with the salary for the month of March and September respectively. The instalment due from 1st July, 2001 will become payable with the salary for the month of September, 2001. The decision to this effect will be taken well before it becomes payable.

(d) The All India Consumer Price Index (Industrial Workers) (AICPI) (IW) series with 1982 as the base year is used for calculating Dearness allowance payable to Central Government employees. Dearness Allowance is a compensatory payment. Compensation is paid for the percentage increase above the 12 monthly average of AICPI of 306.33 obtaining on 1.1.1996.

Permission for Export of Rice

915. SHRI E.M. SUDARASANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the State Governments which have sought the permission of the Union Government to export rice;
- (b) whether any guidelines have been evolved by granting the aforesaid permission; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per EXIM policy, export of rice is allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. In view of the EXIM policy, no specific permission is required for export of rice by the exporters or the State Governments.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Regularisation of Temporary Staff

916. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has implemented the scheme of DOPT dated September 10, 1993 which was formulated in the light of the judgement of CAT, Principal Bench, New Delhi given on February 16, 1990 in the case of Shri Raj Kamal and others Vs. Uoi;

(b) if so, whether all the temporary status employees of the Ministry and its units have been regularized;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Ministry has been taking action to regularize the casual labourers with temporary status (CLTS) within the broad framework of Department of Personnel & Training's scheme on vacancies becoming available, as envisaged in the scheme and further subject to directions by Courts in the matter.

[Translation]

Exclusive Channel for Farmers

917. SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start an exclusive channel for the welfare of farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that at present there is no proposal under consideration for starting an exclusive channel for farmers. However, programmes to meet the information needs of farmers and rural audiences are telecast from various Kendras of Doordarshan in the respective regional languages on a regular basis.

Austerity Measures

918. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Nivesh Badhane Va Kharchon Mein Kamee Ke Upay Karne Ke Sujhaw" appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated July 4, 2001;

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

(c) the details of funds lying with the various Government agencies for the welfare of people, State-wise?

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

(b) The Financial Advisers have been advised to give attention to expenditure management and investment in infrastructure sectors.

(c) Welfare Schemes are implemented by concerned Ministries of Central Government and the allocations are reflected in the grants of these Ministries presented to Parliament.

[English]

Loans to Sugar Mills in Bihar

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

(a) whether the Union Government have sanctioned loans for rehabilitation/modernization of sugar mills in Bihar during last three financial years;

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

(c) whether the Union Government have any proposal to provide loans to sugar mills for their rehabilitation/modernization in Bihar during the current financial year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Loans have been sanctioned from the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) for modernisation/rehabilitation of sugar mills in Bihar during the last three financial years as indicated below:

Year	Amount (Rs./lakhs)	No. of Mills
1998-1999	5856.79	5
1999-2000	1337.00	1
2000-2001	969.09	1

(c) and (d) Loan applications for rehabilitation/modernisation of plant & machinery of sugar mills which are duly approved by a specified financial institution for assistance under their relevant scheme for rehabilitation/modernisation are considered by Government for sanction of loan. Further, projects of sugar mills for upgradation of technologies which are sponsored by the Technology Information Forecasting and Assessment Council in respect of the scheme Mission Mode Project on Sugar Production Technologies are also eligible for loan subject to financial appraisal by financial institution. During the current financial year so far no application has been received from any sugar mill in Bihar for grant of loan for rehabilitation/modernisation.

Floor Rate of Sales Tax

920 VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a meeting of State Chief Ministers held on November 16, 1999, a consensus was arrived at by all the Chief Ministers to implement floor rates of sales tax and to abolish sales tax based incentive schemes with effect from 1st January, 2000;

(b) if so, the States and Union Territories which have not implemented this decision alongwith the reasons; and

(c) the steps the Government are contemplating to bring about for compliance by these States/Union Territories?

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

(b) and (c) Most of the States/Union Territories have implemented these decisions. To ensure full compliance of these decisions, it has been decided in the Conference of Chief Ministers/State Finance Ministers held on 5.7.2001 that there should be no further delay in the implementation of these decisions and all the States/Union Territories should comply fully by 31.7.2001. Otherwise, the Conference resolved, that the Government of India would be taking steps to withhold Central assistance and grants to such non-complying States/Union Territories.

Leave Travel Concession

921. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to withdraw the suspension of Leave Travel Concession granted to the Central Government Employees in view of representations received in this regard;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the continuance of at least the Home Town concession at the first phase since it was being given to the Central Government Employees since the pre-Independence days; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

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

(b) The decision to keep the facility in abeyance for two years has been taken as part of management of non-plan expenditure.

(c) and (d) Home Town Travel Concession is admissible to members of Armed Forces, Central Para Military Forces and Central Government Employees posted in North-Eastern Regions.

Loans to Small Entrepreneurs

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the banks including cooperative and private are exploiting the small entrepreneurs for advancing them loans;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government/RBI to facilitate easy loan to these small entrepreneurs; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the monitoring system evolved to evaluate the execution of these guidelines by the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks to follow the procedure of sanctioning working capital limits computed on the basis of minimum of 20% of the projected annual turnover to all SSI Units requiring aggregate fund based working capital limits upto Rs. 5 crores from the banking system. The above instructions are being followed by Banks. A recent study of the

specialized SSI Branches by the RBI revealed that the borrower accounts are receiving adequate credit computed on the basis of minimum 20% projected annual turnover. The outstanding credit to SSI Sector to Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Banks and Foreign Banks have increased considerably from Rs. 29,152 crore at the end of March, 1995 to Rs. 55,973 crore at the end of March, 2000. Besides, Government/RBI has also announced several policy measures to improve the flow of credit to SSI Sector which include:

- (i) Setting up specialized SSI Branches by public sector banks and special emphasis to be laid for obtaining ISO certification by these branches.
- (ii) Delegation of greater powers to Branch Managers to grant limits, to simplify application forms and to fix own norms for assessment of credit requirement.
- (iii) Enhancement of loan limit under Composite Loans Scheme from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh (Union Budget 1999-2000), further to Rs. 10 lakh (Union Budget 2000-2001). The limit was further raised to Rs. 25 lakh following the announcement made by Hon'ble Prime Minister.
- (iv) Increase in Project Cost Limit under National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh (Union Budget 2000-2001) and further to Rs. 50 lakh. Likewise soft loan component has also been increased to Rs. 10 lakh.
- (v) Increase in limit for non-insistence on collateral security from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh (Union Budget 2000-2001)
- (vi) Launching of Credit Guarantee Fund Scheme for Small Industries to cover collateral free and third party guarantee free loans of commercial banks to SSI Sector including IT and software sector upto a limit of Rs. 10 lakh (since enhanced to Rs. 25 lakh). A separate Trust viz., Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for the purpose has been set up and the Scheme has already become operational.

Reserve Bank of India has recently issued instructions to all Banks for easy flow of credit to SSI Sector and effective monitoring of the process of sanction loans to SSI Units.

World Bank Report on Pension Sector

923. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have since received the World Bank Report on India's pension liability and arrears,

its financial implications and address the concerns arising out of this growing unfunded liability;

(b) if so, Government's reaction to the magnitude of the long term fiscal burden; and

(c) the steps contemplated to launch pension reform as suggested in the Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Government of India has received the World Bank Report on "India—The Challenge of Old Age Income Security". The report suggests that fundamental reform is advisable in order to provide sustainable and effective instruments for old age savings for Indian workers. The report supports recent reforms proposals in terms of increased pre-funding of pension obligations and a better balance between public and private sector provisions. Changes in this direction will also facilitate parallel reform efforts including those in the insurance and enterprise sector.

As mentioned in the Budget for 2001-2002, the Central Government pension liability has been increasing. As a percentage of GDP, it has risen from about 0.5% in 1993-94 to around 1% in 2000-2001.

(c) Pursuant to Government's announcement in the Budget for 2001-2002 that the Civil Services Pension System would be replaced by a new pension programme based on defined contributions, the Department of Pensions and Pensioners' Welfare has constituted a High Level Expert Group to prepare a road map for such a transition. Similarly, a Committee has been constituted by the Insurance Regulatory Development Authority to prepare a blueprint for implementing pension reforms in the unorganised sector.

'Smuggling of Drugs'

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

(a) whether Delhi is becoming a transit route for the international drug syndicates through durg peddlers for drugs smuggled from Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) if so, the reasons attributed for failure of the measures taken so far to check the growing illegal drug trade; and

(c) the action has been taken by the Government to strengthen the machinery and to identify city's drug peddlers and agents for the international drug syndicates to effectively deal with the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The proximity to the international border and good air linkage with other countries make Delhi vulnerable to drug trafficking from Afghanistan and Pakistan. All efforts are being taken by the agencies to check illegal drug trafficking in the country.

(c) Drug operators engaged in drug trafficking activities are identified regularly by various drug enforcement agencies and their activities are closely monitored and the drug offenders are apprehended under the NDPS Act. Besides this the Government has also taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective checks on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training of officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border, providing with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB and holding of quarterly border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak rangers.

Disinvestment of Oil Companies

925. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest some Public Sector Oil Companies of the country;

(b) if so, the details of Oil Companies identified for the purpose;

(c) whether such disinvestment is in the interest of country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME, IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The consideration of proposals for disinvestment in Central Public Sector Undertakings including Public Sector Oil Companies is a continuous process. As of now the Government has decided to retain 26% equity in IBP Co. Ltd. and to disinvest 33.6% through international competitive bidding.

The Government has also accorded approval for disinvestment of 10% equity capital of Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. through GDR/domestic issue. In view of the prevailing market conditions, the GDR/domestic issue has not taken place.

(c) and (d) The declared policy of the Government is that the Government will, in generality of cases, reduce its equity to 26% or below in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) operating in non-strategic areas. The Public Sector Undertakings in the Oil Sector are operating in non-strategic areas. The objectives of disinvestment policy *inter-alia* include releasing of resources locked up in non-strategic PSUs for re-deployment in areas that are much higher on the social priority such as basic health, family welfare, primary education and essential infrastructure.

Recommendations of Advisory Group on Insurance Regulations

926. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have implemented all recommendations made by Advisory Group on Insurance Regulation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Government has not appointed any Advisory Group on Insurance Regulation. However, Reserve Bank of India constituted a Standing Committee on International Financial Standards and Codes with a view to encompassing, identifying and monitoring development in global standards and codes and their applicabilities to Indian Financial System. The Committee constituted number of advisory groups including a Group on Insurance Regulations. Its mandate was "...to chalk out a course of action to achieve the best practice..." In the field of insurance regulations in India. The Advisory Group has reported that the Regulations framed by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) are, by and large, in consonance with international standards. The recommendations which are advisory in nature would be kept in view by the IRDA for framing further regulations under the IRDA Act, 1999.

Lifting the Ban on Export of Onion

927. SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to lift the ban on export of onion completely;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that non-lifting of ban on export of onion is leading to recession in onion prices which in turn is causing a lot of harm to the interests of the farmers; and

(d) if so, the justification behind the Government's decision for not lifting the ban on export of onion?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Review Committee comprising of representatives from the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Consumer Affairs, Department of Commerce and NAFED which reviews periodically the seasonal availability of onion taking into consideration the stock position, market arrivals, crop situation and domestic and international price and recommends release of quantities of onion for export. The prices of onion in the major Mandis in Maharashtra during the first half of this year has been in the range of Rs. 171 and Rs. 700 per quintal as compared to Rs. 121 and Rs. 350 per quintal during the same period last year. The policy of the Government to permit exports of agricultural products and farm goods is governed principally by the concerns of India's food security, maximising farm income and earning foreign exchange. Review of export performance of agricultural products is an on-going process and accordingly policy interventions are made, as and when considered necessary with a view to making agricultural exports increasingly viable. The present export policy of onion has helped the farmers by way of stabilisation in prices ensuring increased off-take from the farm and higher returns for their produce while keeping the interests of consumers in balance.

Stoppage of Rice Sale by FCI

928. SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:

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

(a) whether after accepting the bids from traders in the non-rice procuring State for selling the overflowing rice stock in godowns of Punjab the supply of rice to the traders was abruptly discontinued by the FCI;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor stating the quantity of rice supplied by the FCI to each of the traders, whose bid were accepted as against the committed supply; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the commitment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Admission of SC/ST Students in IIFT

929. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister recommended for ensuring admission of students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent to the quota of seats reserved for this community in all the educational/academic institutions in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the total number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade in Pre-Graduation, Graduation and Post-Graduation level courses during each of the last three years;

(c) the total number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above referred courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the above period; and

(d) the reasons, if the above recommendation is not implemented satisfactorily?

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

(b) and (c) The total number of seats and the number of candidates admitted in the courses by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) during the last three years is given below:

Year	Total Number of Students admitted	Total Number of SC/ST Students admitted	Percentage
(i) Masters Programme in International Business (MPIB)			
1999-2001	91	14	15.38
2000-2002	92	11	11.95
2001-2003	98	07	7.14
(ii) Executive Masters in International Trade (EMIT)			
1999	45	—	—
2000	33	—	—
2001	54	—	—

(d) IIFT follows the norms laid down by Government of India in regard to reservation of seats for admission to its post graduate level foundational programmes i.e., 15% seats for SC candidates and 7.5% for ST candidates. However, being a professional institution, certain minimum standards are prescribed for admission to the courses. Admissions are made on the basis of merit through entrance examinations followed by Group Discussion and Interview in the case of Masters Programme in International Business and on the basis of interviews in other programmes. In the admission process, the cut-off percentage for SC/ST candidates is kept at 10% lower than that of general candidates.

For the selection of candidates for EMIT the Institute normally constitutes a Selection Board comprising at least two Senior Faculty Members from the Institute and associates one/two members from the Trade & Industry. All members of the Selection Board grade the candidates independently. The final grade for each candidates is arrived at by averaging the marks given by each members of the Selection Board.

Based on the performance in the interview, admission to candidates in the general category is offered to those who secure a minimum of 60/65% marks. As per norms of the Institute, the cut-off is lowered by 10% marks for SC/ST candidates. One SC/ST candidate in 1999 and three SC/ST candidates had applied for this course in 2001. However, only two SC/ST candidates appeared in the interview and none of them qualified for admission. No SC/ST candidate applied for this course in 2000.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in Prasar Bharati

930. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 6177 on the April 27, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati has informed that the requisite information to fulfill the assurance is still being collected from various All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan Kendras located in different parts of the country. No time frame for collection of the information can be indicated.

[English]

Unfair Levy Sugar Prices

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

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation Limited regarding unfair levy sugar prices allotted to Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the action initiated 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) In the Memorandum it has been stated that the levy sugar prices given to Maharashtra for current sugar season 2000-2001 are not fair. The levy prices have not considered the legitimate conversion cost and also have not considered cane transportation cost from field to the factory.

The zonal ex-factory levy sugar prices are fixed for each sugar season as per the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 on the basis of the parameters recommended by an expert body. The expert body determines the basic conversion cost schedules and escalation formula after thorough study of the cost structure of the sugar industry. The zonal ex-factory levy sugar prices are calculated after taking into consideration:

- (a) cane cost (including cane transportation cost)
- (b) Taxes and duties on sugar cane
- (c) conversion cost and
- (d) return on capital

The ex-factory levy sugar prices vary from zone to zone depending upon various factors like cane cost, recovery percentage, duration, conversion cost etc. For the purpose of levy sugar price fixation, Maharashtra has been divided into three zones. The ex-factory levy sugar prices worked out for all the three zones of Maharashtra for the sugar season 2000-2001 after taking into account the above said factors are given below:

Maharashtra (South)	Rs. 1169.54 per qtl.
Maharashtra (Central)	Rs. 1119.42 per qtl.
Maharashtra (North)	Rs. 1186.40 per qtl.

In the computation of ex-factory levy sugar prices for the three zones of Maharashtra for 2000-2001 sugar season, the average cane cost (including cane transportation cost) per quintal varies between Rs. 79.69 to Rs. 87.22, the average recovery between 10.59% to 11.00% average duration between 118 days to 180 days, conversion cost per quintal of sugar between Rs. 251.61 to Rs. 318.94 etc. and the negative adjustment on account of sale realization from molasses between Rs. 18.42 to Rs. 26.13 per quintal of sugar. The ex-factory levy prices for the three zones of Maharashtra have been worked out based on the above factors and there is no anomaly in the ex-factory levy sugar prices of the Maharashtra State.

As regards cane transportation cost, the expert body in their report of February, 2000 have mentioned that if the sugar mills incur some extra cost on cane transportation, it is with a view to enhance their cane availability and sugar production and it results in enriching higher benefits through better free market sale of sugar. The Government after considering the recommendations of the expert body and other relevant factors decided not to consider the cane transportation cost over and above the cane transportation cost already included in Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of cane.

FDI Projects in Karnataka

932. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some major projects are being implemented with Foreign Direct Investment in the State of Karnataka after last year's Global Investors Meet at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the total amount of Foreign Direct Investment involved in each of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) During the period from 01.01.2000 to 31.5.2001, a total No. of 410 project proposals, involving FDI amounting to Rs. 4906.07 crore, have been approved for the State of Karnataka. The details of these projects are published in the monthly SIA Newsletter brought out by Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, which is widely circulated, including Parliament Library. Disaggregated data on project-wise implementation are not maintained centrally.

[Translation]

Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

933. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loan provided by various banks in Palamu and Gadwa districts in Jharkhand State under the Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana during 2000-2001;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding taking bribes by the managers of these banks while providing loans;

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As per the information furnished by the Allahabad Bank, the convenor bank of the State Level Banker's Committee (SLBC) for the State of Jharkhand, the loans provided by various banks under Prime Ministers Rozgar Yojana in the two districts of Palamu and Gadwa during 2000-2001 is as under:

(Amount Rupees in lakhs)

District	Sanctions		Disbursement	
	No. of cases	Amt.	No. of cases	Amt.
Palamu	229	217.85	158	141.41
Gadwa	91	84.65	61	52.26
Total	320	302.50	219	193.67

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

World Bank Loan for Karnataka

934. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has agreed to release a loan of Rs. 1,635 crore out of a total project cost of Rs. 2,030 crore for upgrading and improving 2,300 kms of State Highways in Karnataka;

(b) if so, when was the first instalment released;

(c) whether the negotiations have been concluded in 20 months against the usual 24 months period;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the time by which it is likely to be repaid;

(f) whether the Karnataka Government has fully utilized the loan provided by the World Bank; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The funds would be released after the project becomes effective, which is likely to be by October, 2001.

(c) and (d) There is no standard time frame for project preparation leading to negotiations and varies from project to project. The project was negotiated in 22 months after the Bank's identification mission.

(e) The loan has a 20 year maturity period of which five year is the grace period.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. The loan is yet to become effective.

'Seizure of Drugs'

935. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantities of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances has been seized by various security and enforcement agencies during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of persons, Indians and foreigners separately apprehended during the above period involved in drug trafficking, State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken to control the drug menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Sir. The detailed State-wise list of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances seized in the country during the last three years as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies is given in the statement-I enclosed.

(c) The detailed State-wise list of number of persons, Indian and foreigners separately apprehended during the last three years involved in drug trafficking is given in the Statement-II enclosed.

(d) Government of India has already taken a number of significant steps to prevent and put effective check on drug trafficking. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, training to officers, fencing of Indo-Pak border provided with flood lighting, vesting of powers in BSF and Coast Guards under the Customs Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, holding of quarterly cross-border meetings of Indian and Pakistani anti-narcotics agencies as a part of the border meetings of BSF and Pak Rangers, holding of operational level meetings with Myanmar officials and providing two sniffer dogs and also training dog handlers of Myanmar.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Drugs (Opium, Morphine, Heroin, Ganja, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone, Phenobarbital and LSD) seized during the last three years

As reported by various drug law enforcement agencies as on 30.6.2001.

(in kgs.)

Sl.No.	Name of States	Years		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0.06	3.55	5.95

1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh	4926.00	1716.55	32699.80
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	68.67	9.11	331.24
4.	Assam	13526.40	5244.54	11971.96
5.	Bihar	5861.39	924.17	1489.43
6.	Chandigarh	19.17	22.43	19.94
7.	Delhi	6271.56	6396.70	4472.69
8.	Gujarat	7111.02	751.70	988.44
9.	Goa	96.71	250.47	85.21
10.	Himachal Pradesh	94.79	137.99	307.43
11.	Haryana	887.58	420.65	4096.69
12.	Jammu & Kashmir	151.20	192.66	470.16
13.	Karnataka	1.49	0.00	6.68
14.	Kerala	116.71	46.32	15.30
15.	Meghalaya	382	21.602	768.61
16.	Maharashtra	7789.09	7190.49	8758.13
17.	Manipur	2431.98	4600.92	6074.42
18.	Madhya Pradesh	3134.27	667.83	800.84
19.	Mizoram	67.04	32.97	55.06
20.	Nagaland	4891	2998.05	13010.52
21.	Orissa	707.80	15.54	1791.3
22.	Punjab	620.82	429.98	995.91
23.	Pondicherry	0.00	1.07	0.93
24.	Rajasthan	847.45	1163.93	1348.39
25.	Tamil nadu	5006.13	6133.68	2671.51
26.	Tripura	148.25	17.01	452.90
27.	Uttar Pradesh	7827.35	6589.51	11289.48
28.	West Bengal	10348.62	749.24	5602.48
29.	Daman & Diu	0.00	22.2	0.00

Statement-II

State-wise Details of Number of Persons, Indians and Foreigners Separately Apprehended During the last three years involved in Drug Trafficking as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies as on 30.6.2001

State	Number of Persons Arrested 1998		Number of Persons Arrested 1999		Number of Persons Arrested 2000	
	Indian	Foreigner	Indian	Foreigner	Indian	Foreigner
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	187	0	111	0	163	0
Andhra Pradesh	309	0	214	0	964	0
Arunachal Pradesh	18	0	4	0	19	3
Andaman & Nicobar	1	0	4	0	6	0
Bihar	107	3	116	0	172	0
Chandigarh	24	7	12	4	21	1
Delhi	501	23	744	30	650	33
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0
Goa	19	16	21	3	40	9
Gujarat	308	0	209	0	218	1
Haryana	268	2	160	0	319	0
Himachal Pradesh	111	12	83	19	134	3
Jammu & Kashmir	82	0	85	0	82	3
Kerala	280	2	204	1	50	1
Karnataka	0	0	0	0	9	0
Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	407	2	135	0	201	0
Manipur	89	0	70	0	113	2
Mizoram	66	0	29	4	52	3
Maharashtra	884	29	710	13	602	7
Meghalaya	18	0	11	0	18	0
Nagaland	41	0	58	0	102	0
Orissa	0	0	2	0	127	0
Pondicherry	0	0	3	0	2	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Punjab	311	1	343	0	755	6
Rajasthan	344	0	489	4	601	1
Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tamil Nadu	2919	7	3412	14	2165	11
Uttar Pradesh	5651	12	6128	0	5817	8
West Bengal	177	1	36	0	1554	0
Tripura	4	0	5	0	17	0

[Translation]

Private Banks in Bihar

936. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- the number of private banks in Bihar;
- the details of the Scheduled Cooperative banks out of them;
- the details of proposals pending for opening a private bank in the State; and
- the norms followed for granting permission in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as on 31st March, 2001, six private sector banks are functioning in the State of Bihar.

(b) RBI has reported that one scheduled co-operative bank is functioning in the State of Bihar.

(c) RBI has reported that no proposal for opening a private bank in the State of Bihar is pending.

(d) RBI have issued revised guidelines in January, 2001 on the entry of new banks in the private sector. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, prescribe that the initial minimum paid up capital of new bank shall be Rs. 200 crores, which shall be increased to Rs. 300 crore in the subsequent three years after commencement of business. These guidelines however, stipulate that the new bank should not be promoted by a large industrial house.

However, individual companies, directly or indirectly connected with large industrial houses, may be permitted to participate in the equity of new private sector bank up to a maximum of 10 percent of the paid up capital, but will not have controlling interest in the bank. These guidelines also stipulate the criteria for conversion of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) into private sector banks.

[English]

Hoarding of Essential Goods

937. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

- the number of cases registered under Essential Commodities Act, State-wise particularly in Rajasthan as on date;
- the action taken by the Government thereon;
- whether the Government have reviewed the action taken by the State Governments against the guilty persons particularly by the Government of Rajasthan; and
- if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The number of cases (First Information Report) registered under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 as reported by the Government of Rajasthan during the period 1st

January, 2001 to 30th June, 2001 is 10. The information as reported by the other State Governments/UT Administrations is given in the Statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Action is to be taken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. The action taken by them is not reviewed by the Central Government.

Statement

Sl.No.	State/UT	No. of persons prosecuted	During the year 2001
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9	Upto March
2.	Assam		Not reported
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Upto April
4.	Bihar		Not reported
5.	Chhattisgarh		Not reported
6.	Delhi	Nil	Upto May
7.	Gujarat	8	Upto April
8.	Goa	Nil	Upto May
9.	Haryana	Nil	Upto May
10.	Himachal Pradesh	Nil	Upto April
11.	Jammu & Kashmir		Not reported
12.	Jharkhand		Not reported
13.	Karnataka	69	Upto April
14.	Kerala	Nil	Upto May*
15.	Madhya Pradesh		Not reported
16.	Maharashtra	55	Upto April
17.	Manipur	Nil	Upto April
18.	Meghalaya	Nil	Upto May
19.	Mizoram	Nil	Upto April
20.	Nagaland	Nil	Upto May*
21.	Orissa	49	Upto May
22.	Punjab	Nil	Upto May
23.	Sikkim	Nil	Upto April
24.	Tamil Nadu	996	Upto March
25.	Tripura	26	Upto April
26.	Uttaranchal		Not reported
27.	Uttar Pradesh	38	Upto May

1	2	3	4
28.	West Bengal	39	Upto April
29.	A&N Islands	Nil	Upto March
30.	Chandigarh	Nil	Upto January
31.	D&N Haveli	4	Upto March
32.	Daman & Diu	Nil	Upto April
33.	Lakshadweep	Nil	Upto May
34.	Pondicherry	7	Upto May

*-Except March.

Release of Funds to FCI for Procurement

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

(a) whether to procure rice from the millers in Andhra Pradesh, Union Government had released Rs. 150 crore to Food Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the total rice procured by FCI from Andhra Pradesh alongwith price details;

(c) whether this excess procurement of rice has been earmarked for exports; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) As on 23.7.2001, FCI has procured a quantity of 65.88 lakh tonnes of rice (including paddy in terms of rice) in Andhra Pradesh as compared to 51.30 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year. The levy prices of rice in Andhra Pradesh are as follows:—

(In Rs. per quintal)

Common		Grade 'A'	
Raw	Parboiled	Raw	Parboiled
899.80	900.90	949.60	950.00

(c) and (d) The Government has decided to export up to 30 lakh tonnes of rice during the current year from the Central Pool.

Release of Outstanding Amount by FCI

939. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:

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

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has urged the Union Government to release Rs. 85 crore, which is outstanding from Food Corporation of India which procured maize from farmers in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith reaction of Union Government;

(c) whether the FCI is facing problems in the release of the outstanding amount; and

(d) if so, the main reasons for delay and the time by which amount is likely to be released?

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

(b) Food Corporation of India has made full payment for the maize procured by it directly from the farmers during Kharif Marketing Season 2000-01. For the maize procured by the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation upto 28.2.2001 as sub-agent of the Food Corporation of India, entire payment has been made except Rupees 1.98 crores which would be released as soon as correct final stock statement is received from the Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation.

The Karnataka Food and Civil Supplies Corporation has also procured 1,26,015 tonnes of maize during 1.3.2001 to 31.3.2001 as sub-agent of the Food Corporation of India, and the cost of this works out to around Rupees 56 crores. The FCI will release this amount as soon as the stock of 1,26,015 tonnes of maize is disposed off.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Funding through NABARD

940. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds provided through NABARD to each State under the Watershed Development Programme so far; and

(b) the districts in each State covered under this programme till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the tentative State-wise allocation of funds under Watershed Development Fund (WDF) is as under:

S.No.	State	Amount (Rs. Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	20
2.	Gujarat	20
3.	Karnataka	20
4.	Maharashtra	20
5.	Uttar Pradesh	20
6.	Orissa	10
7.	Tamil Nadu	10
8.	Rajasthan	10
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10
10.	West Bengal	10
11.	Jharkhand	10

(b) The State-wise names of districts covered under WDF are as under:—

S.No.	Name of State	Districts Covered
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor, Medak, Warangal, Ranga Reddy, Srikakulam, Karimnagar, Vizianagaram, Adilabad, Cuddappah, Nizamabad (10)
2.	Gujarat	Amreli, Banaskantha, Bharuch, Dangs, Dahod, Kutch, Narmada, Rajkot & Surendranagar (9)
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Bilaspur, Chamba, Hamirpur, Kulu, Kangra, Mandi, Shimla, Sirmour, Solan (9).
4.	Karnataka	Bidar, Chitradurga, Dharwad, Kolar, Gulbarga, Mysore, Raichur, Tumkur, Bellary, Bijapur, Bangalore (R), Hassan, Koppal, Gadag, Davangere, Chamrajnagar, Haveri (17).
5.	Maharashtra	Ahmednagar, Beed, Dhule, Nandurbar, Osmanabad, Thane, Wardha, Yeotmal (8).
6.	Orissa	Bolangir, Kalahandi, Koraput, Malkangiri, Naupada, Roygada, Navrangpur, Phulbani (8).
7.	Rajasthan	Alwar, Banswara, Bharatpur, Dungarpur, Jhalawar, Jalore, Pali, Sawai Madhopur, Tonk, Udaipur (10).
8.	Tamil Nadu	Dindigul, Pudukottai, Ramnathpuram, Sivaganga, Tirunelveli, Tuticorin (6).
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot Dham, Fatehpur, Hamirpur, Jalaun, Jhansi, Bahraich, Balarampur and Sonbhadra (8).
10.	West Bengal	Bankura, Purulia, Birbhum, Burdwan, Midnapur, Darjeeling (6)
11.	Jharkhand	Dhanbad, Deogarh, Giridih, Gumla, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Sahibganj, Goddah, Singhbhum (East), Singhbhum (West) (10).

Revival of Super Bazar

941. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to revive Super Bazar in Delhi;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to handover Super Bazar to Delhi Government; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Delhi 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) Super Bazar is a Multi-State Cooperative Society having its own Board of Directors to formulate the policies and procedures for its development. Government of India in June, 1997 decided to transfer its' share holding in Super Bazar to Government of NCT of Delhi. However, due to cases pending in Delhi High Court and legal difficulties, formalities for the proposed transfer could not be completed meantime. The Central Government has however been informed on June 29, 2001 that the proposal for transfer of Super Bazar has not been approved by the Government of NCT of Delhi. Central Government continues to assist Super Bazar through loan assistance for improving its' overall performance.

[English]

World Bank Loans

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

(a) whether many States in the country are defaulter of the World Bank as per recent report of Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States and the amount of default; and

(c) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No Sir. States are not allowed to take loans directly from the external agencies including the World Bank and as such

default by States to World Bank does not arise. All loans are extended to the GOI and debt service payments are also made by the GOI to the external donors. No case of default has occurred in debt service payments by GOI to external agencies.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Income Tax Clearance Certificate

943. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons applied for Income Tax Clearance Certificate (ITCC) in Delhi during the last two years and the number of them are still awaiting clearance;

(b) the reasons for non-issuing the ITCC to them; and

(c) the time by which these persons are likely to be issued ITCC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) 24967 persons have applied for Tax Clearance Certificates (ITCC) during the last two years for the purpose of going abroad under the provisions of section 230 of the Income tax Act, 1961. All of them have been issued the certificates. No centralized statistics in respect of applications for ITCC for registration of documents in cases coming under section 230A of the Income tax Act, 1961 are maintained in Delhi region.

(b) and (c) ITCC is not issued in cases where taxes are either outstanding or satisfactory arrangements are not made for its payment. In case of ITCC under the provisions of section 230A, a time limit of 60 days was available for issue thereof and the Assessing Officer was required to pass an order in writing after recording of reason in cases where ITCC were refused. However, the requirement of issue of ITCC under the provisions of section 230A has been done away with w.e.f. 1.6.2001 with the omission of that provision.

[Translation]

Procurement of Foodgrains from Rajasthan

944. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have procured lesser quantity of foodgrains from Rajasthan during current year as compared to the previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains procured by the Union Government from Rajasthan during 2001-2002, till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) During the current Rabi Marketing Season 2001-02, as on 23.7.2001, a quantity of 676283 tonnes of wheat has been procured as against total procurement of 538679 tonnes during the Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001.

During the current Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) 2000-2001, as on 23.7.2001, a quantity of 26353 tonnes of rice has been procured as against total procurement of 32399 tonnes during the KMS 1999-2000.

[English]

Mid Term Exim Policy

945. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are preparing a Mid Term Export-Import (Exim) Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the draft of the said Exim Policy has already been prepared and sent to Agriculture Ministry and Commercial and Industrial Association for their consideration;

(d) if so, the time by which the comments of these bodies are likely to be received; and

(e) the time by which this is likely to be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (e) As export promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government, strategies and policies are continuously evaluated and changes announced from time to time. The Medium term export strategy which is being prepared by the Department of Commerce would examine the import baskets of major trading partners of India to arrive at potential items of exports based on India's competitiveness *vis-a-vis* other competitors in general, examine the country and commodity specificities of our major exports along with macro issues affecting India's exports, and sector specific strategies.

The strategy is being prepared in consultation with export promotion bodies and all concerned would be consulted before finalisation.

World Bank Aid to Projects of Maharashtra

946. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the projects submitted by Government of Maharashtra for financial assistance from World Bank;

(b) the date since when these projects are pending with the Union Government for clearance;

(c) the present position of these proposals; and

(d) the time by which the process for obtaining the assistance from the World Bank for these projects are likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) A statement is attached. Action has been initiated on all such project proposals submitted by the State Government of Maharashtra by the Ministry of Finance.

(d) There is no definite time frame for obtaining the assistance from the World Bank for these projects, as it could differ from project to project.

Statement

World Bank Aid to Projects of Maharashtra

S.No.	Name of the Project Proposal	Present Position
1	2	3
1.	Maharashtra Water Supply and Sewerage Project Phase-II	Revised proposal submitted by the Government of Maharashtra to Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation in August, 1998. Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation requested Government of Maharashtra on 28.5.2001 to furnish Project Feasibility Report which is still awaited.

1	2	3
2.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply & Environmental Sanitation Project	Original Project Proposal received in Department of Economic Affairs on 3.6.99. Revised concept document submitted by Government of Maharashtra to Ministry of Rural Development on 18.5.2001. Ministry of Rural Development wanted a detailed Project Report from State Government. Department of Economic Affairs advised the State Government on 28.6.2001 to furnish a detailed Project Report.
3.	Maharashtra Forestry Project Phase-II	Posed to the World Bank on 19.8.1999 for their consideration. The Bank's response is awaited.
4.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	Posed to the World Bank on 31.07.1998. The project is under preparation with the assistance from the World Bank.
5.	Strengthening and Black Topping of Roads	Department of Economic Affairs advised Government of Maharashtra on 2.12.1999 to revise the proposal. The Response of the State Government is awaited.
6.	Middle Vaitarna (IV Mumbai Water Supply Project)	On the advice of the World Bank, Department of Economic Affairs, on 27.9.2000 suggested to the State Government to reformulate the Project. The Response of Government of Maharashtra is still awaited.

Proforma Accounts of Public Sector Undertakings

947. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the Answer given to Unstarred Question No. 5021 dated August 25, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the said information has since been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken against the said undertakings that did not follow Government rules/norms?

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

(b) The Question No. 5021 was converted into an Assurance on 25.8.2000. The Assurance has since been fulfilled on 25.5.2001 alongwith all relevant details.

(c) The concerned Ministries/Departments have been making efforts to update proforma accounts. The Secretaries of the concerned Ministries/Departments have also been advised to closely monitor progress in this regard.

Group Micro Financing Scheme

948. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are evolving a group micro financing scheme to help the 1.55 crore street vendors and hawkers in the country to access credit facilities;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also decided to evolve a national policy on the informal sector, comprising such sections as shop workers, household servants, street children, destitutes and the old, besides street vendors and hawkers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this scheme will be funded by the Planning Commission;

(e) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to be implemented;

(f) the details of States which have already started implementing this scheme; and

(g) the extent to which this scheme is likely to be helpful in improving their living conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (g) No, Sir. At present there is no proposal for evolving specific group micro financing scheme to help the vendors and hawkers in the country. However, under the Swarn Jayanti Shahri Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY) there is a provision for loans to urban poor including categories of street vendors and hawkers etc. and for group loans to poor women.

According to the information furnished by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, at present there is no National Policy on street vendors and hawkers as they are regulated by the Municipal Bodies as per the relevant provision of the Municipal Laws.

[Translation]

FM Broadcasting Stations

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

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether FM Broadcasting licences were issued to forty selected cities in the country as on March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number and details of FM stations started so far;

(d) whether several of these FM stations have not commenced their Broadcast;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the final time limit given for the licence holders?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) In the first phase, Tenders for FM Broadcasting through Private Agencies was invited for 40 selected cities. License Agreements have been signed with 16 companies for 19 centres, as per details given in the statement enclosed.

(c) M/s. Music Broadcast Private Limited has informed that they have operationalised their FM Station at Bangalore on 3rd July, 2001.

(d) to (f) According to License Agreement, the licensees are required to complete the installation of the broadcast facility and commission the service within 12 months from the date of frequency ear-marking by Wireless Planning and Coordination Wing, Ministry of Communications.

Statement

Name of Companies with Number of Channels and name of Centres

S.No.	Name of Company	No. of Channels with name of Centres
1	2	3
1.	Entertainment Network (India) Ltd.	Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Calcutta, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Indore, Jabalpur, Lucknow, Mumbai, Pune 12
2.	Vertex B' Casting Co. Pvt. Ltd.	Bhopal, Calcutta, Indore, Visakhapatnam 4
3.	India FM Radio Pvt. Ltd. N. Delhi	Calcutta 1
4,5,6.	Radio Today (Delhi, Mumbai, Calcutta)	Calcutta, Delhi, Mumbai 3
7.	Music B' cast Pvt. Ltd.	Delhi, Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna 6
8.	M/s. Sun TV	Chennai, Coimbatore, Tirunelveli 3

1	2	3	
9,10.	Millenium Delhi/Chennai/	Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai	3
& 11	Mumbai/B' Cast (Pvt.) Ltd.		
12.	M/s. Udaya TV Limited	Visakhapatnam	1
13.	Hitz FM Radio India Pvt. Ltd.	Calcutta	1
14.	Radio Mid-day West (India) Ltd. Mumbai	Mumbai	1
15.	Mid-day Radio North (India) Ltd. Mumbai	Delhi	1
16.	Mid-day B' Casting South (India) Ltd. Mumbai	Chennai	1
Total			37

Transfer Policy In Income-Tax Department

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

(a) whether the guidelines issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes vide circular No. A-35015/68/95-AD-6 dated 9.11.1999 in regard to transfer policy are not being complied with in the cases of transfer of Deputy Director (Official Language) working in Income-Tax Department;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of Deputy Director (Official Language) and Assistant Director (Official Language) in Income-Tax Department especially in Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Maharashtra and West Bengal who have been working at the same station for more than fifteen years;

(d) whether the Government and senior officers of Income-Tax Department have received complaints against these officers from honourable Members of Parliament and member offices of the Town Official Language Implementation Committee (Narakas);

(e) if so, the date-wise, year-wise and office-wise details thereof; and

(f) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

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

(c) No Deputy Director (Official Language) is at present working at the same place for the last 15 years. However, 4 Assistant Directors (Official Language) are continuously working for more than 15 years in the Income Tax Department at Bhopal, Pune, Ahmedabad and Amritsar. They are Group 'B' officers and they cannot be transferred outside region under the said guidelines. There is no other place in their respective region to which their intra-region transfer could be ordered.

(d) and (e) Complaints have been received against Assistant Director (Official Language) Office of Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad. These complaints were about mis-appropriation and irregularities in implementation of incentive scheme and publication of magazine etc.

(f) This matter was inquired into and it was found that there is no substance in the complaint.

[English]

Shifting of Indian Companies to Foreign Countries

951. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that approximately one thousand Indian companies have shifted or are planning to shift their business establishments to some foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have identified the reasons for their shifting;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the step taken or being taken by the Government to discourage such a move which is detrimental to the Indian Economy and rather persuade them to continue their business establishments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) to (d) Onward investment is a means for Indian companies to establish their presence in other parts of the world. It gives them an opportunity to expand their market overseas. The Government has put in place a liberal policy for outward investment under which companies can access the automatic route up to US\$50 million subject to core activity and networth criteria.

Companies are also allowed to make outward investment against GDR/ADR receipts and export earnings, and by way of equity swap wherein an Indian company acquires equity stake in an overseas company by swapping its own equity with that of the overseas company at an approved ratio determined by RBI. The cases falling outside automatic route are considered by RBI as per FEMA Regulations.

Capital of Banks

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

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Andhra Bank to return part of its capital to the Government;

(b) if so, the extent of such return;

(c) the objectives of returning the capital;

(d) whether other banks have also made such offers; and

(e) if so, the impact of such return of capital on control of the Government over banks and their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) In terms of the provisions of the Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1970 and 1980, the paid-up capital of a nationalised bank may from time to time and before any paid-up capital raised by public issue, be reduced by the Board of Directors, after consultation with Reserve Bank of India and with

the previous sanction of the Central Government, by paying off any paid-up capital which is in excess of the wants of the bank, subject to certain conditions stipulated in the said Act. Andhra Bank had submitted a proposal to the Central Government to return equity capital amounting to Rs. 47,95,04,536.05 to the Government during the financial year 2000-2001, with the objective of restructuring its capital before raising capital by public issue.

(d) Bank of India, Bank of Baroda, Corporation Bank and Punjab National Bank have returned equity capital to the Central Government in the past.

(e) The Banking Companies (Acquisition & Transfer of Undertaking) Act, 1970 and 1980, stipulate that not less than 51 per cent of the share capital of a nationalised bank shall be vested with the Central Government, whereby the Central Government shall continue to hold the majority stake as also control of management of these banks.

Gross Domestic Product

953. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate projected by the Government for the year 2001-2002;

(b) the achievement made in regard to above during the first half of the current year *i.e.* up to June 30, 2001;

(c) the reasons, if any, for slowing down in the growth rate; and

(d) the measures the Government taken so far or propose to take during the second half of the year to achieve the targeted rate of growth in the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) The target growth rate of gross domestic product for the Ninth Plan (1997-2002) is 6.5 per cent per annum. As per the latest available Quarterly Estimates of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in GDP at factor cost at constant prices (1993-94) for the quarter, January-March, 2001 is

estimated at 3.8 per cent compared with a growth of 6 per cent for the same quarter of 2000. This slowdown in the overall GDP growth originating in mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply, construction, trade, hotels, transport and communications in particular. The estimates of GDP for the quarter April-June, 2001 would be available by end September, 2001. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate decisions taken in the light of the emerging trends. The measures to promote and achieve higher growth *inter alia* includes speeding up of agricultural reforms; intensification of infrastructure investment, continued reform in the financial sector and capital markets, and deepening of structural reforms; human development through better educational opportunities and programmes of social security; improvement in the quality of Government expenditure; acceleration of privatisation process and restructuring of public enterprises etc. Policy initiatives announced in the Budget are expected to have a favourable impact on growth during the current year.

[Translation]

Higher Interest Rates on Bank Deposits

954. DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded its approval to the banks to offer higher interest rates on the deposits of the senior citizens as compared to the normal depositors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the enhanced interest rates are likely to be made effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has permitted banks to formulate, with the approval of their Board of Directors, fixed deposit schemes specifically for senior citizens offering higher and fixed rates of interest as compared to normal deposits of any size.

(c) Banks have already started offering additional interest over their normal rates of interest on fixed deposits under their special fixed deposit schemes for senior citizens.

[English]

Replacement Press Council of India

955. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to replace the Press Council by a new Media Council;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the salient features of the proposal; and

(c) the time by which such Council is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

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

Reduction of Staff

956. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether her Ministry has followed the instruction of the Government to adhere to the downsizing the staff strength;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of subsidiaries decided to be closed and the number of staff strength employed in it;

(d) whether scheme for deployment of surplus staff has been prepared; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No such decision has been taken.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Revival of Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd.

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to revive the sick Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd.;

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

(c) the number of other sick cooperative institutions which were given similar package deals during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Revival proposal is under consideration.

(c) During the last one year no such revival plan has been prepared for any cooperative bank.

Bids for DD Metro

958. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited bids for DD Metro three hour slot;

(b) if so, the number of bids received and the names of the parties interested in DD Metro time slot; and

(c) the time slot available on DD metro, the period for which these slots are to be given and the revenue likely to be earned from such time slots?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati had invited bids for DD Metro airtime from 7 p.m. to 0030 a.m.

(b) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that the time slots between 7 p.m. — 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. were allotted to M/s. Nine Network Australia Pty. Ltd., through an open bid process, for a period of one year expiring on 10.9.2001 and 15.10.2001 respectively. The time slots from 10 p.m. to 0030 a.m. were already vacant. Therefore, open bids were invited for the airtime from 7 p.m. to 0030 a.m., with a floor price of Rs. 115 crores for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. and without any floor price for the slots from 11 p.m. to 0030 a.m. In response, one bid for the 11 p.m. to 12.00 (midnight) slots was received from M/s. Moving Pictures Company India Private Limited, with an offer of Rs. 50 lakhs net only. Prasar Bharati then took a decision to invite fresh bids for 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. slots, without fixing any floor price. The time slot, the names of the bidders and their offers are as under:

Time slot	Name of the bidders	Bid Amount in Rs.
7.00 to 8.00 PM	M/s. Prachar Communications	1,00,53,158/-
8.00 to 9.00 PM	M/s. Prithvi Nandy Communications	1,01,00,000/-
	M/s. Prachar Communications	4,60,34,921/-
	M/s. Sri Adhikari Brothers	9,00,00,000/-
9.00 to 10.00 PM	M/s. Prachar Communications	6,38,00,921/-
	M/s. Sri Adhikari Brothers	9,00,00,000/-
10.00 to 11.00 PM	M/s. Prachar Communications	4,00,67,921/-
Sum total of highest bids		23,01,21,079 (Net)

The bid offers received were too low and Prasar Bharati, after due consideration, has rejected the offers.

[Translation]

FM News Channel

959. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to refer to the reply given to the unstarred Question No. 1082 on November 24, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the Government has received the proposal from Prasar Bharati for the launch of round the clock FM News Channels in selected cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has given clearance to the proposal; and

(d) the places where the FM News Channels are likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have referred a proposal for setting up 24 hours FM hours News Channels at 12 centres in the country including four Metros.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Urban Cooperative Banks

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FICCI have sought introduction of reforms in Urban Cooperative Banks such as those adopted for commercial banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether State Government frames the policy for these banks and monitoring and supervision is done by RBI; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove dual control on Urban Cooperative Banks and to fix the responsibility of regulation on the Board for financial supervisions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no such specific request has been received from FICCI in this regard;

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

(c) The Urban Co-operative banks (UCBs) primarily being Co-operative societies are governed under various provisions of the State Co-operative Societies Act apart from the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies (AACS)). The powers in regard to incorporation, registration, management, amalgamation, reconstruction or liquidation are exercised by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the State concerned under the respective Co-operative Societies Act of the State. In case of banks coming under the purview of multi-state cooperative societies Act, such powers are exercised by the Central

Registrar of Co-operative Societies. The banking related functions such as issue of licence, issues relating to interest rates, loan policies, investments, prudential exposure norms etc. are regulated and supervised by the RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (AACS).

(d) As per the existing constitutional provisions the subject "Banking" and "Co-operative Societies" come under the Union List and State List respectively and therefore the "duality of control" over the Co-operative banks is inevitable. Various experts' bodies like Task Force on Co-operatives headed by Shri Jagdish Capoor, Ex-Deputy Governor, RBI and Madhava Rao Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks have made several recommendations on removal of quality of control over the Co-operative Banks. RBI has also suggested for establishment of an Apex Supervisory Body for UCBs. These recommendations are under examination of Government and RBI.

Merger of Instrumentation Limited with BHEL

961. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from the Instrumentation Limited, Palghat to merge it with the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited; and

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

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

(b) Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has not responded to the Expression of Interest (EOI) invited for Joint Venture formation in respect of the three Units of Instrumentation Limited, Kota (ILK) including Palghat as part of the corporate restructuring envisaged in the rehabilitation plan sanctioned by Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

WTO Ministerial Conference

962. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference is proposed to be held later this year at Doha;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to hold formal discussion with political parties and State Governments as to what stand has to be taken in the proposed conference; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The 4th WTO Ministerial Conference is scheduled to be held from 9th — 13th November 2001 at Doha, Qatar.

(b) and (c) The Government have continuously been engaged in active consultations on WTO issues with all stakeholders including Political Parties and the State Governments. Various initiatives of the Government in this regard include national level consultations with the representatives of all Political Parties and with the State Food and Agriculture Ministers in September 2000, discussions with the Hon'ble Members in the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee related to Department of Commerce held in February 2001, Workshop on WTO issues for all Chief Secretaries/Administrators of States and Union Territories in March 2001, Conference of the Chief Ministers on WTO Agreement on Agriculture and Food Management held on 21.5.2001, and specific presentations by Government officials on WTO issues in the various Seminars and Workshops at various places in the country. Another workshop on WTO issues with the participation of Chief Secretaries/Administrators of Governments of all States & Union Territories has been organised on 26th July, 2001. The Department has also offered to send resource person(s) for any Seminar/Workshop on WTO related issues as may be organised by the Governments of the States/Union Territories.

Rejection of Indian Wheat

963. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:

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

(a) whether the Government have allocated the task of cleaning up of wheat, which was rejected by the Government of Iraq to a private company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for exporting Indian wheat to Government of Iraq at the initial stage;

(d) the losses suffered by the Government on the allocation of clean up task to a private company;

(e) whether the Government have fixed responsibility for export of this wheat;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereto?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to liquidate surplus stocks of wheat lying in the Central Pool of FCI, which was adding to their carrying costs, Government decided to offer wheat for export. The State Trading Corporation (STC) and seven parties had entered into a contract with the Grain Board of Iraq for supply of 3.5 lakh MTs of wheat under the UN "Food for Oil" Programme.

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

(e) to (g) The export of wheat has not been directly undertaken by the Food Corporation of India. The exporters have been given the freedom to identify wheat stocks for export. However on receipt of reports of rejection of wheat consignments from India, it was decided that no further consignment of wheat would be sent to Iraq, unless it was cleaned to meet the specifications of the Grain Board of Iraq.

Disinvestment of VSNL

964. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any decision to sell Government's 25 per cent stake in VSNL to the strategic partner with the approval of Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any step to protect the worker's interest and specific clauses for retirement/retrenchment; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The Government has decided to retain 26% equity in VSNL and to disinvest 25% equity capital through strategic sale and issue of 1.97% of equity capital in favour of employees of the company.

(c) and (d) According to the declared policy of disinvestment, the Government is committed to protect the interest of the employees. The terms and conditions of strategic sale are stipulated in the shareholders Agreement and Share Purchase Agreement. The Shareholders Agreement and the Share Purchase Agreement for disinvestment in VSNL have not yet been finalized.

[Translation]

Recovery of Loans

965. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has asked the banks to evolve their own systems for recovering bad debt because the RBI scheme for a one-time settlement of non-performing assets (NPAs) had failed and wants major wilful defaulters of bank loans to be sent to jail;

(b) if so, the details of the policy formulated by the banks to recover bad debts;

(c) the NPA position of the public sector, private sector and cooperative banks as on date; and

(d) the quantum of loan recovered during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 had issued non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of non-performing assets (NPAs) upto Rs. 5 crore and advised banks to

evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs. 5 crore. This scheme was initially up to 31st March, 2001 and was subsequently extended up to 30th June, 2001. The recovery in terms of these guidelines as on 31st May, 2001, was Rs. 1914 crores in respect of 5,27,119 accounts. Government of India and RBI have advised the banks to take several steps for recovery of their dues including evolving and implementation of recovery policy since RBI scheme has come to an end. The banks have also been advised to take deterrent action, including legal action, against the defaulting borrowers.

(c) The gross NPAs of public sector banks as on 31st March, 2001 stood at Rs. 54773.15 crores. The gross NPAs of private sector banks as on 31st March, 2001 was Rs. 6490.38 crores. As regards NPAs of co-operative banks, according to the available information, the gross NPAs of co-operative banks (primary co-operative banks, state co-operative banks, central co-operative banks, state co-operative agriculture & rural development banks and primary co-operative agriculture & rural development banks) was Rs. 16616.60 crores as on 31st March, 1999.

(d) According to the information furnished by RBI, the reduction of NPAs of public sector banks through upgradation, compromise/negotiated settlement and recovery, during the last three years, is as under:

1998-1999	Rs. 8721 crores
1999-2000	Rs. 12220 crores
2000-2001	Rs. 13905.4 crores

[English]

Turn Over Fee Evasion by Brokers of Kolkata Stock Exchange

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

(a) whether the Kolkata Stock Exchange is facing a problem of turn over fee evasion by its brokers;

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

(c) the remedial measure taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Registration fees are imposed by SEBI on stock brokers as per Regulation 10 of the SEBI (Stock Brokers

and Sub-brokers) Regulations, 1992. Brokers of the Calcutta Stock Exchange had obtained a stay from Calcutta High Court in the year 1993, directing that SEBI should not enforce payment as far as the petitioners are concerned. The Supreme Court, vide order dated February 01, 2001, upheld SEBI's powers to levy fees for carrying out the purposes of the Act. Subsequent to the judgement of the Supreme Court, SEBI, vide letter dated March 19, 2001 advised all the exchanges to inform their members to pay fees in conformity with the judgement.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of PSUs

967. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a target of collecting Rs. 12,000 crore from disinvestment of Public Sector Undertakings during the year 2001-2002;

(b) if so, how much of this estimate has thus so far been collected in this current fiscal year;

(c) whether the Government have abandoned "strategic sale" as the preferred mode of disinvestment;

(d) if so, the new system of public sector disinvestment is likely to be adopted to achieve the targets; and

(e) the details of such a new strategy and the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) During the current financial year no disinvestment in any public sector undertaking has taken place so far.

(c) No, Sir, no such decision has been taken.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Strike by BALCO Employees

968. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the management and the workers Union of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited for calling off their two months old strike;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement; and

(c) the steps being taken in pursuance thereof including the steps if any, taken to protect the interests of the workers and the State Government?

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

(b) The salient details of the Memorandum of Understanding are as follows:—

- (i) Withdrawal of disciplinary action against employees agitating in connection with disinvestment in BALCO.
- (ii) Advance payment of amount equal to two months "take home" salary to the employees, which will be considered for adjustment on receipt of subsequent orders from Supreme Court in this matter.
- (iii) Agreement for the pay review of workers to be finalised in consultations with the representative union.
- (iv) The present service conditions will remain as they are till the service period of the workers. The workers will not be retrenched.

- (v) The welfare facilities like medical, LTC, canteen, conveyance allowance would be continued as before.
- (vi) The present voluntary retirement scheme will continue as it is.
- (vii) In the event of demise of any worker during the service period, the present scheme of providing employment to the dependants on compassionate grounds, keeping in view the qualifications, will continue.
- (viii) The contract labourers will be engaged for the work being given on contract as per the requirements and Government rules/regulations.
- (ix) No inter-unit transfer of any employee/officer will be done for one year. Thereafter, as per the present arrangement, such transfers can be done in BALCO units on the basis of work requirement.
- (x) The present promotion policy of the employees will remain as it is.
- (xi) The applicability of the Bonus Act and the present system of the performance award would continue.
- (xii) The law applicable to the reserved/protected workers will be fully complied with.
- (xiii) The matter of providing 'Hazard Allowance' to employees working in heat and dust areas, will be considered at the time of review of pay and other benefits.
- (xiv) The retirement age of employees will remain as 60 years, etc.

(c) The Memorandum of Understanding is being implemented by the company. The list of provisions related to employees interest made in the Share Holders Agreement signed for disinvestment in BALCO is enclosed as statement. As may be noted, the interest of workers is fully protected. Efficient functioning of the Plant and creation of an atmosphere conducive to the growth of the company would serve public interest, the interest of the State, as well as constitute the best protection of the workers' well being.

Statement

Provisions related to Employees Interest in the Shareholders Agreement signed for disinvestment in BALCO

Recitals:

H. Subject to Clause 7.2, the Parties envision that all employees of the Company on the date hereof shall continue in the employment of the Company.

J. The SP recognises that the Government in relation to its employment policies follows certain principles for the benefit of the members of the Scheduled Caste/ Scheduled Tribes, physically handicapped persons and other socially disadvantaged categories of the society. The SP shall use its best efforts to cause the Company to provide adequate job opportunities for such persons. Further, in the event of any reduction in the strength of the employees of the Company, the SP shall use its best efforts to ensure that the physically handicapped persons are retrenched at the end.

Article 5.3

(m) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Article 5, the Government, shall at its sole discretion, have the option of selling from its shares representing not more than 5% (five percent) of the equity share capital existing as of date of this Agreement, to the employees of the Company. In the event that the Government exercises its option to sell part of its shares to the employees, the employees shall be issued fresh share certificates for the shares transferred to the employees, without the endorsement of the legend provided in Clause 5.2 (e). The Parties agree that, upon the completion of transfer, the shares transferred to the employees pursuant to this sub-clause (m) shall not be subject to any restrictions in this Agreement, whether by way of a voting arrangement or a right of first refusal.

Article 7.2

(e) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, it shall not retrench any part of the labour force of the Company for a period of one (1) year from the Closing Date other than any dismissal or termination of employees of the Company from their employment in accordance with the applicable staff regulations and standing orders of the Company or applicable Law.

(f) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to sub-clause (e) above, any

restructuring of the labour force of the Company shall be implemented in the manner recommended by the Board and in accordance with all applicable laws.

(g) Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Agreement, but subject to sub-clause (e) above, in the event of any reduction of the strength of the Company's employees the SP shall ensure that the Company offers its employees, an option to voluntarily retire on terms that are not, in any manner, less favourable than the voluntary retirement scheme offered by the Company which is referred to in Schedule 7.4 of the Share Purchase Agreement.

[Translation]

Filling up of Vacant Posts

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

(a) whether several posts in various departments under the Ministry are laying vacant;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Fraud Detected at IGI Airport

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

(a) whether a fraud of Rs. 8 crore has been detected at the IGI Airport (Cargo Division);

(b) if so, the details of the customs officials involved in the fraud with action taken against them;

(c) whether an information syndicate was working at the air cargo division in connivance with a few customs officials; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action taken against the guilty persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A case of attempted export related fraud has been detected in Air Cargo Unit of Delhi Customs wherein an exporter had misdeclared the true nature as well as value of the goods to get away with unwarranted benefits estimated at Rs. 8 crore.

(b) Roles of one Preventive Officer and one Supdt. of Customs working on export side who had handled the export documents are under investigation. Both the officers have been placed under suspension.

(c) and (d) Further investigation is in progress to unearth the detailed modus-operandi and persons associated with this fraud. One person suspected of involvement in the case has been arrested so far and was remanded to judicial custody on 16.7.2001. Role of other persons involved is also being examined and further investigations in the case are in progress.

Investment in Public Sector Undertakings

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

(a) whether the investment in equity capital of 87 companies under 19 Ministries/Departments of Government of India totalling Rs. 6,162.92 crore have been completely eroded as on March 31, 2000 as a result of accumulated losses by the companies;

(b) if so, whether the net worth of these companies at present is negative and recovery of all the loans given by the Government and other agencies has become doubtful;

(c) if so, whether the total Central Government loan outstanding against these companies as on March 31st, 2000 works out to a whopping Rs. 9,467.14 crores;

(d) if so, the action taken/contemplated by the Government against these companies for recovery of this huge amount; and

(e) the time by which the Government expects to recover this amount?

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 to the extent available.

UTI's Investment

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

(a) whether UTI was holding/purchasing shares of few companies while others were selling them;

(b) if so, the reasons for the UTI purchasing shares and not selling them and the names of the companies whose shares it retained while their prices were falling;

(c) whether the UTI was advised by the Government to avert payment crisis in the market during January - March, 2001;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of the officials who made such a request;

(e) whether there is any proposal to get the dealings of UTI investigated; and

(f) if so, the time by when it is likely to be done; and if not the reasons therefor?

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.

Classification of Cities

973. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the information regarding names of cities crossed over fifty lakhs population mark as per 2001 census has been collected,

(b) if so, the name of such cities; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to reclassify these cities in the countries for the purpose of granting enhanced HRA to the Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Final figures of population in respect of cities which crossed over 50 lakhs population mark as per 2001 Census have not yet become available.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Revenue Collection

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

(a) whether the downturn in the economy and low industrial production has had an effect on the revenues realisation in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the extent in which its effect on revenue collection in the months of April, May and June, 2001;

(c) whether any efforts have been made to reduce the expectations of revenues in the current fiscal year; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to consider lowering taxes to stimulate the economy for the remaining fiscal year?

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

(b) Total revenue collection during the months of April, May and June, 2001 was less by 26.88%, 14.61% & 9.84% respectively, as compared to the corresponding period last year.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Directorate for Financial Frauds and Investigation

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken a decision to set up a separate investigative authority—“Directorate for Financial Frauds and Investigation for Banking Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when the proposed Directorate is likely to start functioning?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Malpractices of Manufacturers

976. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the malpractices of manufacturers with regard to use of ISI marks;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to stop the violation of Bureau of Indian Standards Act (BIS) 1986?

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

(b) Following malpractices that have come to the notice of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS): (i) manufacturers using ISI mark on their product or in publicity material without holding a valid licence; (ii) manufacturers using a colourable imitation of ISI mark on their product; (iii) manufacturers marking a type and grade of product with ISI mark other than that for which they are holding valid licence.

(c) Whenever a violation comes to the notice of BIS, immediate action is taken to check the same. On receipt of a specific complaint or information gathered through market surveillance, detailed investigations are carried out by BIS with a view to collect documentary and material evidence. Search and seizure is also organized to seize the spuriously marked material, whenever necessary. If the information thus collected is found to be tenable, prosecution is launched in the Court of Law against the offending parties under BIS Act, 1986, and Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. Any person convicted under the Act is liable to be punished with fine upto Rs. 50,000/- or imprisonment extending upto one year or both.

FDI in Print Media

977. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have changed norms and have issued fresh guidelines for investing in Indian Print Media by foreign venture capitalist and NRIs; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) The Government continues to be guided by the Cabinet Decision of 1955, which *inter-alia* prohibits publication of foreign owned newspapers/periodicals in the country and Indian editions of foreign newspapers/periodicals dealing mainly with news and currents affairs.

Welfare Scheme for Part-Time Journalists

978. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of part-time journalists as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have specific welfare scheme including pensionary benefits for these journalists in the print media; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Such information is not maintained by the Government.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Part-time journalists are normally engaged in other economic pursuits/vocations simultaneously as their principal jobs.

Export of Onion

979. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) the variety-wise total quantity of onion exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is persistent demand particularly from rose onion growers to increase the export quota of onions;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(Rs. in crore)

(d) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Variety-wise export data of onion is not maintained by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata. Total Quantity of onion including Big/Bellary onion, Bangalore rose, Krishnapuram onion exported during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 is as follows:

Year	Quantity (Metric Tons)
1998-99	2,15,694
1999-2000	2,60,475
2000-01 (upto Feb. 2001)	2,98,041

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata

(b) Export of Rose Onion is allowed freely without any quantitative restrictions and hence question of demand for increasing the export quota for Rose Onion does not arise.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Loans for Higher Studies Abroad

980. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether loan facility is made available to students by the nationalized banks in the country for pursuing higher education abroad;

(b) if so, the details of amounts given as loan to students during the last three years; and

(c) the details alongwith the terms and conditions of the loan?

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

(b) As per the information furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the educational loans outstanding in the books of scheduled commercial banks during the last three years are as under:

Year (March ended)	Amount (Outstanding)
1998	339.99
1999	474.79
2000	542.01 (Provisional)

(c) Government has now framed a Comprehensive Educational Loan Scheme which will cover all types of courses in India and abroad. The scheme envisages loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh for studies in India and upto Rs. 15 lakh for studies abroad. For loans up to Rs. 4 lakh no collateral or margin is required and the interest rate is not to exceed the Prime Lending Rate (PLR). For loans above Rs. 4 lakh, the interest will not exceed PLR plus 1 percent. The loans are to be repaid over a period of 5 to 7 years with provision of grace period of one year. The scheme has been circulated by RBI to all Scheduled Commercial Banks vide circular dated 28.04.2001.

[English]

Ban on Import of Sugar

981. SHRI RAJIAH MALYALA:
SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY:

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

(a) the Price of sugar in India and Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan continues with ban on import of sugar from India;

(c) if so, the action taken to negotiate for revival of sugar trade with Pakistan; and

(d) if not, the likely quantity to be exported during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) As per available information, sugar prices in Lahore Akbari Market as on 20th July, 2001 were PRs. 2530/2570 per quintal. In India, the wholesale prices of S-30 grade of sugar were in the range of Rs. 1300-1490 per quintal in the four metropolitan cities during the week 14th to 20th July, 2001.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) During his talks with the President of Pakistan in Agra on 15.7.2001, the Prime Minister of India proposed that a group of experts of both countries be constituted to recommend measures to increase bilateral trade, economic and technical interaction between the two countries.

(d) As per available information, about 8.11 lakh tonnes (provisional) of sugar have been exported from India from October, 2000 till 23rd July, 2001. It is expected that the total export of sugar during the current sugar season 2000-2001 (October-September) would exceed 10 lakh tonnes.

Supply of Wheat and Rice

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

(a) the actual supply of wheat and rice to various States during each of the last two years;

(b) whether the Government have any monitoring agency to check the execution of PDS in the States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The quantity of wheat and rice supplied to various States/UT during each of the last 2 years i.e. 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) and (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities up to the central godowns and making them available to the States. The responsibility for distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations.

State Governments have been requested to closely monitor PDS at the Fair Price Shops (FPSs) and other levels by constituting vigilance committees in the States at State/District/Block/FPS levels and to make arrangements for distribution of the PDS commodities in a transparent and accountable manner by involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs). They have also been asked to eliminate bogus ration cards and initiate action against erring FPS owners under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

The Government of India have set up Public Grievances' Redressal cell in the Department of Food & Public Distribution to attend to the complaints relating to any aspect of the Department's functioning including the Public Distribution System. In order to attend to public complaints on priority, the Department has also designated senior officers of the Department as members of flying squad for conducting immediate and prompt enquiry whenever the need for it is felt. The Government of India has also appointed Area Officers to States/UTs to monitor the functioning of Public Distribution System including the complaints of diversion.

Statement

Quantities of Rice and Wheat Supplied to various States/UTs under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) During 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Quantity of Rice and Wheat Supplied for the year			
		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Rice	Wheat	Rice	Wheat
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2307.920	117.600	1927.292	3.295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	101.730	5.350	29.786	0.744

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Assam	528.130	219.170	379.911	0.396
4.	Bihar	236.570	659.010	132.477	429.732
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.000	0.000	88.204	2.638
6.	Delhi	74.470	53.940	1.980	10.585
7.	Goa	46.130	13.330	8.552	1.633
8.	Gujarat	169.050	294.420	116.596	287.133
9.	Haryana	0.000	84.150	1.640	47.763
10.	Himachal Pradesh	64.800	54.860	26.274	28.332
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	342.660	46.090	68.745	30.874
12.	Jharkhand	0.000	0.000	14.270	72.593
13.	Karnataka	823.000	215.600	948.458	199.486
14.	Kerala	1191.000	237.000	488.950	30.212
15.	Madhya Pradesh	318.941	316.120	283.098	289.088
16.	Maharashtra	680.890	1076.530	374.390	627.288
17.	Manipur	42.370	0.120	23.276	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	191.700	15.690	31.164	0.123
19.	Mizoram	90.890	14.800	41.060	2.602
20.	Nagaland	113.560	19.470	18.215	4.530
21.	Orissa	887.600	166.400	662.920	0.000
22.	Punjab	0.270	2.430	0.434	12.271
23.	Rajasthan	2.740	243.440	1.225	331.104
24.	Sikkim	70.020	1.420	9.159	0.350
25.	Tamil Nadu	1807.270	165.920	1209.710	0.759
26.	Tripura	152.130	7.640	59.792	0.000
27.	Uttaranchal	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
28.	Uttar Pradesh	488.060	844.371	321.004	889.270
29.	West Bengal	421.450	735.240	339.878	532.908
30.	A&N Islands	16.680	4.750	7.265	6.801
31.	Chandigarh	0.110	0.360	0.000	0.000
32.	D&N Haveli	1.380	0.358	2.634	0.484
33.	Daman & Diu	0.820	0.030	0.361	0.014
34.	Lakshadweep	5.000	0.030	5.288	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	11.890	2.110	9.904	0.827
	Total	11189.231	5617.749	7633.912	3843.835

Sale of ITDC Hotels

983. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
 SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
 SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN:
 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have invited private bidders for selling of ITDC hotels in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the terms and conditions laid down for selling/leasing of ITDC hotels;

(d) the details of ITDC hotels which have been sold/given on lease, and those for which proposals are pending; and

(e) the income likely to be generated by the Government therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Government has invited Expressions of Interest from bidders for sale of 14 hotels and lease-cum-management contract in respect of 3 hotels of ITDC.

(c) The terms and conditions for sale/lease of ITDC hotels are being finalized.

(d) So far, no hotel has been sold or given on lease. However, proposals are pending in respect of the following hotels:—

A. For Sale: Hotel Agra Ashok, Agra; Hotel Madurai Ashok, Madurai; Hotel Manali Ashok, Manali; Hotel Bodhgaya Ashok, Bodhgaya; Hotel Hassan Ashok,

Hassan; Temple Bay Ashok Beach Resort, Mamallapuram; Hotel Kanishka, New Delhi; Indraprastha Hotel (Ashok Yatri Niwas), New Delhi Qutab Hotel, New Delhi; Hotel Janpath, New Delhi; Hotel Ranjit, New Delhi; Lodhi Hotel, New Delhi; Laxmi Vilas Palace Hotel, Udaipur; Hotel Varanasi Ashok, Varanasi.

B. Lease-cum-management: Ashok Hotel, New Delhi; Bangalore Ashok, Bangalore and Hotel Samrat, New Delhi.

(e) The realization from the proposed disinvestment would depend on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the Company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the prospective investors etc. As such, it is not possible to estimate the expected return from the disinvestment.

[Translation]

Narsimhan Committee Report

984. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
 SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accepted the main recommendations of the Narsimhan Committee to bring about improvement in the banking sector;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations accepted and implemented so far; and

(c) the extent to which these recommendations proved helpful to bring about improvement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms under the Chairmanship of Shri M. Narasimham has submitted its report in 1998. The details of recommendations implemented so far is given in the statement enclosed. The implementation of the recommendation of the Narasimham Committee on Banking Sector Reforms has brought about improvement in operational efficiency and strengthened financial soundness of the banking system.

Statement***Status of implementation of the Important Recommendations of Narasimham Committee***

Sl.No.	Recommendation	Comments
1	2	3
1.	Making the entire Portfolio of Government securities to market.	75% of banks' investments in Govt./approved securities marked to market. Banks have option to hold 25% in permanent category i.e. till the maturity date.
2.	Capital for market risk	Implementation commenced.
3.	The risk weight for Government guaranteed advances to be the same as for the other advances.	Implemented with suitable modifications.
4.	A minimum target of 9% CRAR to be achieved in the year 2000 and 10% by 2002.	9% CRAR implemented.
5.	Those banks which are in a position to access the capital market at home or abroad should be encouraged to do so.	9 nationalised banks have already accessed capital market. Those banks which are in need of additional capital are allowed to access the market at their option.
6.	An asset be classified as doubtful if it is in the sub standard category for 18 months in the first instance and eventually for 12 months and loss if it has been so identified but not written off.	Timeframe reduced to 18 months and w.e.f. 31.3.2001. Further reduction in period will be reviewed at appropriate time.
7.	The Government Guaranteed advances which have turned sticky to be classified as NPAs.	Implemented with suitable modifications.
8.	A general provision of 1% on standard assets be introduced.	0.25% provisioning introduced.
9.	There is a need for disclosure in a phased manner of the maturity pattern of asset and liabilities, foreign currency assets and liabilities, movements in provision account and NPAs.	Implemented.
10.	Credit to agriculture and SSI to be extended on commercial considerations.	Implemented. Concessionality in interest rates applicable only to DRI advances.
11.	Banks should pay greater attention to Asset-Liability Management.	Comprehensive guidelines issued.
12.	There may be need to redefine the scope of external vigilance and Investigative agencies with	Implemented.

1	2	3
	regard to banking business — A separate Vigilance Manual capturing the special features of banking should be prepared.	
13.	With convergence of activities between banks and DFIs the DFI should over a period of time convert themselves to banks.	The policy for conversions announced in the Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2000-2001.
14.	The start up capital requirement of Rs. 100 crore for new private sector banks be reviewed.	As per revised guidelines, RBI has prescribed initial minimum paid up capital for a new bank to be Rs. 200 crore which has to be raised to Rs. 300 crore within 3 years of commencement of business.
15.	The minimum net-worth criteria for registration of NBFCs should be raised to Rs. 50 lakh in the first instance.	Minimum net owned funds raised to Rs. 2 crore in respect of new NBFC.
16.	To facilitate the evolution and growth of micro credit institutions including Local Area Banks.	In principle approval given for 9 Local Area Banks and 3 out of these have started functioning.
17.	To announce full accession and implement the core principles of supervision.	Core Principles for Effective Banking Supervision endorsed and most of the Principles complied with.
18.	The RBI to constitute a Group to go into the issues arising with the advent of computerization regarding authentication of payment instruments, etc.	The Group set up by the RBI has submitted its Report and the recommendations are under implementation.
19.	The inter-bank call and notice money market and inter-bank term money market should be strictly restricted to banks.	Implementation commenced.
20.	There must be clearly defined prudent limits beyond which banks would not be allowed to rely on the call money market.	Implemented.
21.	The RBI support to the market should be through a Liquidity Adjustment Facility under which the RBI would periodically, if necessary daily, reset its Repo and Reverse Repo rates which would in a sense provide a reasonable corridor for market play. There is merit in an inter-bank reference rate.	Implemented
22.	RBI to have presence in the inter-bank call money market through short term repos even for a short periods as one day.	Implementation commenced.
23.	The minimum period of Fixed Deposits and other money market Instruments to be reduced to 15 days.	Implemented.

1	2	3
24.	FIs be given access to Treasury Bill Market.	Implemented.
25.	To integrate forward exchange market with the spot forex market by allowing all participants in the spot forex market to participate in forward market.	Implementation commenced.
26.	Banks should be encouraged to adopt statistical risk management techniques like Value-at-risk	Implementation commenced.
27.	An integrated system of regulation and supervision be put in place to regulate and supervise the activities of banks, financial Institutions and non banking finance companies (NBFCs).	Supervision of banks, NBFCs and FIs has already been brought under the purview of BFS.
28.	No further recapitalisation of banks be undertaken from the Government budget.	9 nationalised Banks have already accessed the capital market. Those banks which are in need of additional capital are being encouraged to access the market.
29.	It is suggested that the minimum shareholding by Government/Reserve Bank of India in the equity of nationalized banks and SBI should be brought down to 33%.	Budget for 2000-2001 proposed to reduce Government's shareholding to 33% in Nationalised Banks. A draft bill to amend the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80 has been introduced in Lok Sabha and referred to Standing Committee.
30.	The appointment of Chairmen and Managing Directors should be left to the Boards of the banks and the Boards themselves left to be elected by shareholders.	To retain public sector character the appointment of CMD and few other Directors is to be done by Central Government. Wherever, the banks has raised capital from market the shareholders elect directors in proportion to their share holding as prescribed under the relevant Act.
31.	In today's increasingly challenging business environment, a large institution can only be led effectively by a Chief Executive who has a reasonable length of tenure. We suggest that on the first instance, the minimum tenure should be three years.	The recommendation has been implemented to the extent possible, while appointing the new Chairmen of Public Sector Banks. It has been decided that minimum tenure of CMD shall be two years.
32.	SIDBI should be delinked from IDBI.	SIDBI (Amendment) Act, 2000 has been brought into effect envisaging delinking of SIDBI from IDBI.

*[English]***Recommendations of Talwar Panel**

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

(a) whether the Government have examined the

recommendations made by S.P. Talwar Panel on weak public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) the amount of capital infusion suggested by the panel; and

(e) the decision of the Government on this suggestion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (e) The High Level Group under Shri S.P. Talwar, the then Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India, which examined the restructuring plans of three weak nationalized banks viz. Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India considered the various options and concluded that restructuring of the weak banks with requisite capital infusion by the Government of India is the best alternative for turn-around of the three weak nationalized banks.

The proposed comprehensive restructuring of three weak banks contain financial as well as non financial parameters including reduction in cost of deposits, acceleration of NPA recovery, reduction in overhead costs and operating expenses, rationalization of branch network, having off of unprofitable subsidiaries, closure of unviable overseas operations, growth of non-fund business, better cash management, optimum redeployment of staff, technology upgradation, image building and proper succession planning etc.

It has, *inter-alia*, recommended recapitalization assistance of Rs. 2300/- crores over two years for the three weak banks to enable them to achieve/maintain prescribed capital adequacy ratio.

The recommendations of the Group are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Advertisement Budget

986. DR. SANJAY PASWAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any guidelines for fixing advertisement budgets of major public sector undertakings and its utilization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to reduce the advertisement expenses of the above undertakings in the interest of the country and to rationalize their advertisement budgets; and

(d) the details of the advertisement budgets and expenses incurred by the major public undertakings during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Formulation of advertisement budget comes under the purview of Public Sector Undertakings and may largely depend upon the product profile, the competitive environment, marketing strategy of the PSU, etc. Details of advertisement budget and expenses incurred by the PSUs are not centrally maintained.

Consumer Confederation of India

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

(a) whether Consumer Confederation of India (CCI) has been set up for converting consumer protection movement into nation wide public movement on national level and shift its focus from haves to have notes so that the common man could be benefited from it;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Government have received no intimation about the setting up of such a Confederation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Grid Godown Plan

988. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought financial assistance for the construction of godowns under Grid Godown Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the said financial assistance would be given?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Negative Growth by Automobile Industries

989. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. 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 the news-item captioned "Automobile Industry records negative growth in 2000-01" appearing in *Financial Express* dated April 25, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein alongwith the reason for slow growth in automobile industry; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the growth rate of Automobile industry?

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

(b) As per the news-item as compared to the year 1999-2000, there is negative growth in almost every segment of the automobile industry during the Year 2000-01. It is a fact that automotive industry has experienced a negative growth of -2% during the previous year. The negative growth is mainly attributed to the general slowdown in the world economy and Indian economy in particular.

(c) Several measures like reduction in excise duty in respect of passenger cars and two wheelers, enhancement of depreciation rate in respect of commercial vehicles, increase in custom duty on imports on Completely Built Unit (CBU) and second hand vehicles etc. have been announced by the Government in the Budget 2001 and subsequently. These measures coupled with emphasis on infrastructural development are likely to boost the growth of the industry during the current financial year.

FM Radio Station

990. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria followed for giving licences to private parties to start FM Radio Station;

(b) whether the privatized FM Radio stations have started functioning in the country; and

(c) if so, the details of the company in each city?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The eligibility criteria for giving licence to Private Parties to start FM radio stations, has been laid down in the Tender Document which, *inter-alia*, provides that the Companies must be registered in India, under Indian Companies Act, 1956, with all the share holding in the company by Indians except for limited share holding by Foreign Institutional Investors, Non-Resident Indians, Persons of Indian Origin and Overseas Corporate Bodies, as decided by Ministry of Finance from time to time.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. M/s. Music Broadcast Private Limited has informed that they have operationalised their FM Station at Bangalore on 3rd July, 2001.

Lending by Banks Under Poverty Alleviation Schemes

991. VAIDYA VISHNU DATT SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints against the bank-branches located in Jammu & Kashmir State, especially in Jammu division for not providing funds under various poverty alleviation and rural development schemes of the Governments;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted an inquiry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken against those banks which have been found guilty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), no such complaints have been received.

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

Package for Small Tea Growers

992. SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a package for the small tea growers in a few States in the Southern region of the country in a bid to cushion them against the fluctuating tea market and other seasonal hardships;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to extend the package to the small tea growers in other States, too, particularly in the North-East; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) In order to protect the interests of the small tea growers particularly in South India who had been facing problem of un-remunerative price realization at the auctions, Government had implemented a Price Subsidy Scheme through the Tea Board with effect from 1.5.2000 wherein subsidy was provided to the small growers of tea (holding upto 10.12 hectares of tea plantation) for an amount equal to the shortfall between the auction price and Rs. 55 per kg. subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 per kg. The Scheme was in operation upto 31.10.2000.

(c) and (d) The Price Subsidy Scheme was available during this period of operation for all tea growing areas of the country including north east subject to the criteria of average prices prevailing in the respective tea auctions. The average prices during the period of operation of the Scheme in the auction centres of the country other than South India did not consistently remain below the cut off level of Rs. 55/- per kg. As such the Scheme did not come into force in these regions.

Production of Sugar in Maharashtra

993. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage contribution of Maharashtra in the production of sugar at the national level;

(b) whether the Government propose to take some steps to increase the production of sugar in Maharashtra during current and next financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The percentage contribution of Maharashtra in the production of sugar at the national level during the last season 1999-2000 was 35.65.

(b) and (c) The Government of India provides financial assistance from Sugar Development Fund (SDF) at concessional rate of interest for various cane development schemes. As on 31.03.2001, an amount of Rs. 187.10 crores has been sanctioned to 179 sugar factories for cane development in the State of Maharashtra, out of which, Rs. 138.09 crores has been disbursed. In addition, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBAC) is being implemented by the State Government of Maharashtra. Further, the State Government and concerned sugar factories are also implementing the crop development schemes on subsidy or loan basis.

Circulation of Soiled and Mutilated Currency Notes

994. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the large scale circulation of soiled and mutilated currency notes in the country;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to eliminate such soiled notes; and

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

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

(c) All Public Sector Banks (PSBs) have been instructed to accept the soiled notes and deposit the non-issuable soiled notes with any of the 4200 currency chests of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) maintained at Public Sector Banks all over the country. Further, all public and private sector banks are linked with the currency chests for retrieval of soiled notes. These soiled notes are ultimately disposed of at the Reserve Bank of India after due examination. Similarly, all currency chest bank branches of the Public Sector Banks have been delegated full powers for adjudication of mutilated notes presented by members of public. During the Fiscal Year 2000-2001, Reserve Bank of India received over 6.5 billion pieces of soiled notes out of which over 4.3 billion pieces were disposed of at the Reserve Bank of India. Similarly, over 40 million pieces of mutilated notes were adjudicated by Reserve Bank of India offices and Public Sector Banks during 2000-2001.

[Translation]

Hawala Operators in Delhi

995. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Delhi main sakriya 25 Hawala Vyapariyon Ki Pahchan" appearing in "Dainik Jagran", New Delhi dated July 3, 2001;

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

(c) the details of the action taken by Enforcement Directorate and Income tax Department in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The news-item has come to the notice of the Ministry of Finance.

(b) As per the news-item, Delhi Police has identified 25 Hawala operators, who are active in Delhi.

(c) Delhi Police has been asked to furnish the names and other details of these operators.

[English]

India's Share in World Trade

996. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present share of India in the World trade;

(b) whether the Government have obtained the opinions of the experts to increase country's share in the World market;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the strategy proposed to be adopted for the expansion of trade in the international market?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per the WTO report, share of India's merchandise exports in world trade is 0.67% during the year 2000.

(b) to (d) Export promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export progress is constantly monitored and export strategy and export policies are formulated. A number of steps have been taken to enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports. Besides these, the measures announced in the new Exim Policy 2001-2002 *inter-alia* include promotion of agricultural exports, market access initiative, setting up business cum trade facilitation centre and trade portal, strengthening of the Advance Licensing Scheme, Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC), Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme (DEPB), etc.

[Translation]

Repair of (DD-2) Transmitter

997. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a transmitter has been installed in Gadava district of Jharkhand for relay of DD-2 metro channel;

(b) if so, whether the said transmitter has developed some snags;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to repair it?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Prasar Bharati has reported that transmission from the Very Low Power TV transmitter at Garhwa (Gadava) had been affected in the past due to failure of certain equipment. The faults were attended to whenever these occurred, and the transmitter is now reported to be functioning satisfactorily. The Very Low Power TV transmitter at Garhwa is an unmanned installation and it takes some time for the faults to be attended to, as maintenance personnel have to be sent from the Doordarshan Maintenance Centre at Hazaribagh.

[English]

Decentralisation of Foodgrain Procurement

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

(a) whether the Union Government had approved decentralised procurement of maize during Kharif season, 2000 in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to procure maize in Rabi season under 'Decentralised Procurement Programme';

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the quantity of maize is likely to be procured by the Government in the Rabi season from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) In a meeting held on 31.10.2000 with the delegation of State Ministers and Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, it was decided that Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation would procure upto 1 lakh tonnes of Maize for distribution through Public Distribution System. Accordingly, a quantity of 42,919 MTs of maize has been procured in the State during the Kharif Marketing Season, 2000-2001. AP MARKFED was provided a loan of Rs. 3.00 crores by the Food Corporation of India for procurement of maize for Central Pool.

(b) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in his letter dated 10.4.2001 mentioned that an amount of Rs. 8.50 crores would be required for procurement of 15,000 MTs of maize and FCI may be requested to release an amount of Rs. 5.00 crores to AP MARKFED for the procurement operations.

As there was no demand for maize under the PDS, it was decided to dispose of the same in the open market. Hence, it was not found feasible to accede to the request of the State Government. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed accordingly.

EPIP in Mangalore

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

(a) whether a proposal for establishing Second Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) in Mangalore in Karnataka is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the main reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Proposal received from the Government of Karnataka, for setting up of a Second Export Promotion Industrial Park (EPIP) at Mangalore has been sanctioned on 22.6.2001.

Growth Reservation Fund

1000. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a fund called Growth Reservation Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main reasons for creation of this fund;

(d) whether this fund is put to use in the country; and

(e) the results achieved so far under this fund?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Export of Sugar

1001. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether India is currently holding export quota for sugar to European Union to the tune of 20,000 tonnes each year;

(b) whether the European Union has prepared a new sugar regime which attempts to reduce the quota for Indian sugar;

(c) if so, whether this will have an adverse effect on Indian sugar industry which is already passing through a crisis; and

(d) the steps being taken to face the challenge created by European Union for reduction in Indian sugar quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) European Union had allocated to India 20000 tonnes of sugar (10000 white and 10000 raw) for export to European Union under preferential quota annually. The quota for export of raw sugar was for six years from 1.7.1995 till 30.6.2001. Embassy of India Brussels has taken up the issue of renewal of quota of 10000 tonnes of raw sugar for export to European Union by India with European Commission. In bilateral talks Government has taken up the issue of increasing allocation of white sugar for India under preferential quota.

[Translation]

Investments with UTI

1002. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India (UTI) has raised a huge capital from small investors in the country;

(b) if so, whether any guidelines have also been laid down for the investment of this capital;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and the sectors in which this capital was invested by the UTI during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and

(d) the annual profits earned from each sector by this investment during the above period?

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

HPT for Pandharpur District Solapur, Maharashtra

1003. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request for converting T.V. tower located in Pandharpur in Solapur district of Maharashtra into a high power T.V. tower;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on this request?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A request for setting up of a high Power TV transmitter in Pandharpur parliamentary constituency has been received.

(c) Prasar Bharati has reported that at present, there is no approved scheme to set up a High Power Transmitter at Pandharpur. Expansion of TV coverage in Solapur district depends on inter-se priorities and availability of funds.

[English]

Import of Rough Diamond

1004. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs authorities at Mumbai have recently unearthed a racket in the import/export of rough diamonds to the tune of crores of rupees under forged replenishment licences;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to take further action against such importers/exporters who have violated the REP;

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

(e) whether it is also a fact that some highly placed customs officials have also been involved in this scam; and

(f) if so, the action taken against the accused officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a result of critical scrutiny of import documents including licences presented for clearances of rough diamonds in February, 2001 and detailed follow-up investigations, Mumbai Customs detected that four importing firms, namely M/s. Deepali Exports, M/s. Vijaybhav, M/s. Pushpak Impex and M/s. Vaibhav Exports had been indulging in tampering and forgery of import licences to get away with duty free imports of rough diamonds. Investigations have revealed that these firms have imported rough diamonds valued at Rs. 332 crores on the strength of 56 forged Replenishment Licences during the period January, 1999 to February, 2001. Rough Diamonds worth Rs. 5 crores have been seized and all the four Proprietors of the above said four firms have been arrested under the Customs Act, 1962.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Action against the four accused is being taken under the Customs Act, 1962 and allied laws.

(e) and (f) No customs officials have been found involved in this case.

Autonomy to Subsidiaries of SBI

1005. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India has decided to grant autonomy to its subsidiaries;

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

(c) whether the subsidiaries of SBI are not performing well; and

(d) if so, the names of such subsidiaries of the SBI and their role in implementation of priority sector banking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The seven associate banks of State Bank of India conduct business through Board of Directors in accordance with the provisions of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and General Regulations thereof. The associate banks enjoy functional autonomy and at present there is no proposal to amend the provisions of the State of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959.

(c) All the seven associate banks have earned a combined operating profit of Rs. 1772.83 crores and a net profit of Rs. 617.60 crores for the year ending 31.3.2001.

(d) Lending to priority sector by all the seven associate banks has been more than the stipulated norm of 40% as on 31.3.2001.

[Translation]

Plantation Companies

1006. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has finalised the process of attending to grievances of small investors or plantation companies;

(b) if so, whether the SEBI has got back the money of small investors;

(c) if so, the details;

(d) if not, the present status of the case;

(e) the time by which the money siphoned by the plantation companies will be acquired back;

(f) the status of Adventure Orchard a plantation company;

(g) whether several investors of Mumbai have lodged complaints with SEBI in this regard; and

(h) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has a mechanism for redressal of investor grievances received by it against listed companies and collective investment scheme.

(b) to (d) SEBI vide its Press Release dated November 26, 1997 and its public notice dated December 18, 1997 directed existing schemes to file the details of their schemes with it. SEBI received information from 660 entities, which had reportedly raised Rs. 2689.86 crore.

The SEBI (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations, 1999 were notified on October 15, 1999. Subsequently, a total of 50 entities which had reportedly mobilised about Rs. 492 crore applied for registration.

Orders have been passed under Section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 against 538 entities directing them to refund the money with returns due to investors within a period of one month from the date of the order.

46 entities which had mobilised about Rs. 17 crores have submitted reports intimating repayment of about Rs. 19 crore to their investors.

Courts have appointed an Administrator/Receiver/Liquidator in respect of 9 entities which had mobilised over Rs. 1211 crore.

(e) According to SEBI, it is difficult to indicate the time frame as it would depend upon the legal proceedings before various courts and the liquidation proceedings/other actions by the Department of Company Affairs/respective State Governments.

(f) to (h) As per information filed by M/s. Adventure Orchards Ltd. with SEBI earlier, it had mobilised Rs. 8.40 crore from investors. Since the entity did not apply for registration in terms of SEBI regulations and also failed to wind up its schemes to repay its investors, an order under Section 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992 was issued to it directing it to refund the money collected under the scheme (s) with returns due to investors as per the terms of the offer, within a period of one month from the date of the order. Since the entity failed to comply with the said order, SEBI has initiated prosecution proceedings against it in terms of the SEBI Act, 1992.

As on 30.06.2001 a total of 161 investor complaints, including those from Mumbai, are pending against the entity.

[English]

Service Tax on Photography

1007. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have levied service tax on photography;

(b) if so, whether there is any turnover threshold prescribed for incidence of such tax;

(c) if so, the amount thereof;

(d) if not, whether small, self employed photographers undertaking odd jobs are required to register themselves and maintain records and submit the same to the authorities; and

(e) if so, steps taken if any, to save them of avoidable bureaucratic hassles?

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

(b) and (c) No Sir.

(d) and (e) Government have exempted from the levy of service tax, the services provided in relation to still photography by any photography studio or agency including individual professional photographers, which are not registered under the law relating to Shops and Establishments or any other law of a State. In view of this exemption, small, self-employed photographers undertaking odd jobs may not come under the purview of service tax.

[Translation]

Share of Industrial Sector in Export

1008. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the share of the Indian industrial sector in the country's export during the last three years;

(b) the comparative figures of exports of Industrial sector during the above period; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the share of Indian Industrial sector in the overall exports from the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) The comparative value and share of manufacturing sector in the country's export, estimated in dollar terms, during the last three years as per Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion are as under:

India's Exports of Manufactured Products
(in US \$ millions)

Year* (April- February)	Value of Manufactured Products	Share to total exports (%)
1998-99	23511	78.72
1999-2000	26949	82.03
2000-2001	31792	79.92

(c) The Government has taken several policy measures to boost industrial exports in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to promote exports. These measures include reduction in transaction cost through decentralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy. Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports.

[English]

Performance of Banks

1009. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI VIJAY GOEL:
SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SUBODH ROY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the net profit/losses incurred by each public sector as well as private sector banks during the year 2000-01;

(b) whether some public sector banks have shown dismal results during 2000-01 as compared to previous year;

(c) if so, the names of such banks and reasons for their poor performance; and

(d) the steps taken to bring down their losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The net profits/losses of the public sector banks and private sector banks, bank-wise, for the year 2000-2001 is given in the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Two public sector banks viz. Dena Bank and Indian Bank, recorded losses during the year 2000-2001. While, in the case of Dena Bank it has reported net loss for the first time, in the case of Indian Bank, its net losses have reduced substantially compared to the previous two years. Their losses were due to high level of non-performing assets (NPAs), high operating costs and expenditure on account of voluntary retirement scheme (VRS). These banks have taken steps to improve their performance by closely monitoring the NPA accounts, settling maximum number of cases under one-time settlement scheme of Reserve Bank of India, reducing its expenses, mobilizing low cost deposits, stepping up recoveries in written off accounts, improvement in funds management system and increase in fee-based business. The performance of Dena Bank was reviewed by the Central Government and Reserve Bank of India in high level meetings and is being monitored closely.

Statement

		(Rs. in crores)
Sl.No.	Public Sector Banks	Profits/Losses- 2001 (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	State Bank of India	1604.25
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	105.37
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	150.22
4.	State Bank of Indore	63.99
5.	State Bank of Mysore	25.72
6.	State Bank of Patiala	161.10
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	13.71

1	2	3
8.	State Bank of Tavancore	97.49
9.	Allahabad Bank	39.91
10.	Andhra Bank	121.19
11.	Bank of Baroda	274.66
12.	Bank of India	251.88
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	45.19
14.	Canara Bank	285.10
15.	Central Bank of India	46.46
16.	Corporation Bank	261.84
17.	Dena Bank	-268.12
18.	Indian Bank	-274.00
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	115.93
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	202.88
21.	Punjab National Bank	463.64
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	13.26
23.	Syndicate Bank	234.94
24.	Union Bank of India	155.47
25.	United Bank of India	19.14
26.	UCO Bank	33.00
27.	Vijaya Bank	70.73
<hr/>		
Sl.No.	Private Sector Banks	Profits/Losses- 2001 (Rs.)
1	2	3
1.	Bank of Madura	Not available
2.	Bank of Rajasthan	32.22
3.	Benares State Bank	-13.39
4.	Bharat Overseas Bank	17.50
5.	Catholic Syrian Bank	11.25
6.	City Union Bank	21.30
7.	Dhanalakshmi Bank	6.77
8.	Federal Bank	61.04

1	2	3
9.	Jammu & Kashmir Bank	167.56
10.	Karnataka Bank	45.41
11.	Karur Vysya Bank	72.05
12.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank	26.74
13.	Lord Krishna Bank	No available
14.	Nainital Bank	5.05
15.	Nedungadi Bank	Not available
16.	Ratnakar Bank	4.02
17.	Sangli Bank	6.22
18.	South Indian Bank	41.50
19.	Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	50.40
20.	United Western Bank	-15.68
21.	Vysya Bank	38.55
22.	UTI Bank	86.12
23.	SBI Com. & International Bank	-42.00
24.	Ganesh Bank of Kurundwad	0.38
25.	Indus Ind. Bank	40.64
26.	ICICI Bank	161.10
27.	Global Trust Bank	80.33
28.	HDFC Bank	210.12
29.	Centurion Bank	57.81
30.	Bank of Punjab	34.82
31.	Development Credit Bank	30.03
32.	IDBI Bank	19.36

Export of Ready-made Garments

1010. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the imposition of 16 per cent excise duty on ready-made garments would lead to a sharp rise in prices thereby hampering exports; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to ensure that export of ready-made garments are not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir. Exports of ready-made garments do not attract any excise duty.

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

[Translation]

Doordarshan Bulletin on Nepal Events

1011. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a special bulletin on the sequence of events that took place in Nepal was produced and the same was not telecast on Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken against the official responsible for its non-telecast?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Slowdown in Industrial Growth

1012. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY:

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

(a) whether the Industrial Production growth rate has slowed down during 2000-2001 in comparison to previous fiscal year;

(b) if so, the factors responsible for slow progress in industrial production;

(c) whether any concrete action plan has been prepared to overcome the industrial slow down;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the industrialists have also suggested measures to overcome the crisis;

(f) if so, whether their views have been taken into consideration; and

(g) the extent to which the proposed action plan will help to overcome the industrial slowdown?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) The overall growth in industrial production during 2000-01 was 5.0% as compared to 6.7% growth rate achieved during 1999-00. The slow growth rate in industrial production during 2000-01 has been mainly due to following reasons:—

- Persistence of Infrastructure bottlenecks and failure to attract private sector investment in infrastructure projects.
- Slow down in general investment climate.
- Economic slowdown in U.S. and other economies of the world.
- Comparatively lower agricultural production in past two years resulting in lower aggregate demand.
- Poor stock market performance has weakened consumer and business confidence.

(c) and (d) The Government has taken several policy initiatives to boost industrial production in the country. These measures have been targeted to improve competitiveness of Indian industry in general and to boost aggregate demand, improve infrastructure base, upgrade technology, introduce labour flexibility and encourage FDI flows in particular. Some of the initiatives taken recently are briefly mentioned below:

- Basic custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- Excise duty has been rationalized, with one rate of Cenvat and one rate of Special Excise Duty (SED).
- Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile industry.

- Interest rate on small savings has been reduced.
- Public spending out of the current budgetary allocations has been stepped up.
- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.
- RBI has reduced Cash Reserve Ratio and Bank Rate to increase liquidity and reduce the lending cost.

(e) to (g) Organisations like FICCI, ASSOCHAM, and CII have suggested various measures to bring an upturn in the industrial slowdown such as speeding up second generation reforms, in particular labour reforms; increasing investment in infrastructure projects; and further reduction in interest rates.

The Government has taken cognizance of these suggestions and has initiated measures to bring in labour flexibility, improve infrastructure base, encourage FDI flows, and upgrade technology. All these measures will have positive impact in bringing an upturn in the industrial production provided the agriculture production registers a positive growth rate during the current fiscal year and the global economic situation improves.

Antyodaya Yojana

1013. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some complaints regarding non-availability of wheat and rice under the Antyodaya Yojana;

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

(c) the details of the steps initiated by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are actively considering to include more people in the Antyodaya Anna Yojana; and

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

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Life Insurance Corporation

1014. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India is considering to strengthen its overseas operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Life Insurance Corporation is also considering to set up joint venture companies abroad;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Life Insurance Corporation of India to cover the remaining insurable population in the country?

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

(b) At present the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have Branch Offices in United Kingdom, Mauritius & Fiji and an offshore subsidiary in Bahrain. The Corporation has decided to strengthen its overseas operation *inter-alia* to cater to the needs of the overseas Indian population of more than 20 million spread all over the globe and for greater market penetration.

(c) and (d) The LIC has recently registered a joint venture company in Nepal viz., LIC (Nepal) Ltd. in collaboration with M/s. Vishal Group Ltd. The LIC has registered an offshore life insurance company by the name of LIC (Mauritius) offshore Ltd. to tap the market of around 4.53 million ethnic Indian population in selected countries of African continent.

(e) The Corporation has been trying to cover larger number of new lives every year. 107.53 lakh policies were issued to new lives in 1998-1999. The coverage increased to 125.35 lakh policies during 1999-2000. During 2000-2001 it is more than 145 lakhs. Further, the LIC has spread its network for procuring life insurance policies from all areas of the country through 2,048 branch offices and 7.86 lakh Agents. 1,258 Branch Offices are in the rural areas to cover untapped potential. More than 400 centres have been established for pre-recruitment training so that new agents can represent vacant pockets and

provide insurance to new lives. The Corporation has planned to have 18% growth rate in new policies during the financial year 2001-2002 so that on year to year basis higher percentage of population can be covered.

The Total Insurable Population in the Age Group 15-69 as per LIC's estimate is 34.37 crore as on March, 2001. The LIC have estimated that a total of 8.63 crores lives were covered under Individual Assurance and Pension Plans as on 31.3.2001. This represents 25.11% coverage of insurable population.

Strengthening Debt Recovery Tribunals

1015. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken a decision to strengthen the Debt Recovery Tribunals to recover NPAs of banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the process of recovery of NPAs have been found to be very slow and ineffective; and

(d) if so, the time bound programme chalked out by the Government to recover NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) To implement the provisions of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 (DRT Act) initially 10 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRATs) and one Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal (DRAT) were set up in the country. At present 22 DRTs and 5 DRATs are functioning at various places in the country. To make the DRTs more effective, Government have taken various steps such as amending the DRT Act, raising the number of posts per DRT, increasing the area of office accommodation, delegating additional administrative and financial powers to Presiding Officers and making the DRTs and their officers and staff eligible for office/residential accommodation from general pool maintained by the Central Government at various places.

(c) and (d) The gross NPAs of public sector banks as percentage of their Gross advances has progressively been brought down from 15.9% in 1998-99 to 14% in 1999-2000 and to 12.8% in 2000-2001. Banks and financial institutions have, inter alia, been advised to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving

and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts and DRTs, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committee and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels in the banks.

[Translation]

Trade Performance of MMTC

1016. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of money involved in trade with various countries during the last three years, year-wise by Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India;

(b) whether the trading activities of MMTC have declined; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to expand its trading activities so that its halted activities could be resumed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) MMTC's trade with various countries during the last three years, year-wise is as follows:

	(Rs. crores)		
	2000-2001 (Provisional)	1999-2000	1998-1999
Exports	1619.3	1153.8	1040.1
Imports	3701.6	3526.8	3145.5
Total	5320.9	4680.6	4185.6

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Share of Service Sector in Export

1017. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

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

(a) whether the share of service sector in the exports has constantly increased in the nineties;

(b) if so, the share of service sector in the country's exports in the beginning and at the end of the decade;

(c) the reasons for the increase in the share of the service sector; and

(d) the ratio of the number of professionals to the non-professionals in this service sector?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The share of export of services to the total exports of merchandise goods and services has increased from a level of 20.05% in 1990-91 to 29.91% in 1999-2000. The increase in the export of services was mainly on account of the increase in the export of software services. The details regarding the number of professionals, non-professionals in the service sector are not available.

[English]

Sale of Shipping Corporation of India

1018. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are resorting to distress sale of Shipping Corporation of India while it is in the process of disinvestment;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sale of Surplus Stocks by FCI

1019. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
MOHD. SHAHABUDDIN:

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

(a) whether the Government have framed any policy to decongest the godowns of FCI by selling the surplus stock of foodgrains at cheaper/concessional rates lesser than the administered price of foodgrains being sold through PDS;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the organisations and others to which the concessional rates will apply?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Government has taken a number of measures to liquidate the excess stocks of foodgrains. These include, *inter-alia*, increase in the allocation of foodgrains for BPL families under TPDS, downward revision of Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of wheat and rice, open market sale of wheat and rice at reduced rates, allocation of foodgrains at BPL rates to the State Governments for undertaking "Food for work Programme", allotment of foodgrains at BPL rates for various welfare schemes of the Government and export of wheat and rice. However, no sale is being undertaken below BPL rates.

Apart from decongesting the godowns of FCI, the above measures would help different types of beneficiaries under the schemes mentioned above.

Declining Trend in Credit Off-Take

1020. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has reported a declining trend in credit off-take from banks in the months of May and June, 2001;

(b) if so, the reasons for this decline in off-take of bank credit;

(c) whether the RBI has made any analysis of this declining trend; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the steps taken to check such declining trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the monthly variations in bank credit (on last Reporting Friday basis) for the month of June, 2001 has declined as compared to May 2001 as indicated below:

Monthly Variations in Bank Credit: Scheduled Commercial Banks		
Financial Year 2001-02 (Rs. crore)		
Item	May 18, 2001 over April 20, 2001	June 29, 2001 over May 18, 2001
Bank Credit	+1056	-1672
(A+b) of which	(+0.2)	(-0.3)
(a) Food Credit	+10329	+3904
(b) Non-Food	-9272	-5576
Bank Credit	(-1.9)	(-1.2)

Figures in bracket indicate percentage variation over the previous month.

(b) RBI has stated that Non-food bank credit generally exhibits a seasonal pattern with the growth during the first quarter of the year being very low. Apart from the seasonal pattern, the deceleration in credit off-take in the current financial year partly reflects the sluggish industrial activity as revealed from the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), which recorded a lower growth of 2.6 per cent in April-May 2001. The conditions in the equity market and subdued investment demand have also affected credit off-take from banks.

(c) and (d) The Monetary and Credit Policy of April 2001 had indicated that the Reserve Bank of India would ensure that all legitimate requirements for credit are met consistent with price stability. Adequate flexibility has been given to banks in prescribing interest rate and facilitate credit flow. The interest rates have, in fact, softened in line with the expectations. Credit pick-up depends on the overall growth and business confidence and it would pick-up with changes in perceptions and increased investor confidence about the overall prospects of the economy.

Assessment of NPA

1021. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken a decision to initiate deterrent action, including imposition of monetary penalties against bank officials who willfully do not comply with prescribed norms for identifying divergence in assessment of non-performing assets (NPAs); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the commercial banks to establish appropriate internal systems to eliminate the tendency to delay or postpone the identification of non-performing assets (NPAs) and fix responsibility and validation levels for ensuring proper asset classification. RBI has also advised the banks that it would continue to identify the divergences in identification of NPAs arising due to non-compliance with RBI guidelines, for fixing accountability. In cases of willful non-compliance by bank officials responsible for classification, RBI would initiate deterrent action, including imposition of monetary penalties.

Social Security Scheme for Farmers

1022. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC has launched any social security scheme for farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the contribution of the Union Government in the said scheme; and

(d) the manner by which farmers are likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) A new scheme titled "Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001" has been finalised by the Ministry of Labour, which will be implemented through Life Insurance Corporation of India. Details are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement**Social Security Scheme for Farmers**

"Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana, 2001" was launched for agricultural labourer on hire on 1st July, 2001. The details of the scheme are as follows:

Eligibility: Persons between age 18 to 50 years are eligible who are following one or more of the agricultural occupations in the capacity of a labourer on hire, whether paid in cash or kind or partly in cash and partly in kind; (a) farming; (b) Dairy farming, (c) production, cultivation, growing and harvesting of any horticulture commodity, (d) raising of livestock, bee-keeping or poultry farming and (e) any practice performed on a farm as incidental to or in conjunction with the farm operation. The minimum membership should be 20. Gram Panchayat with the help of NGO/SHG or any other agency will identify the agricultural workers, organise them into groups of minimum 20 and submit the details to the nodal agency for submission to LIC.

Benefits: The following benefits are available:—

- (i) On death before age 60 (While the membership is in force)
 - (a) Payment of sum assured of Rs. 20,000/- alongwith return of accumulated amount with interest to the nominee.
 - (b) Payment of sum assured of Rs. 50,000/- in case of death due to accident alongwith return of accumulated amount with interest to the nominee.
- (ii) On disability due to accident before age 60 (while the membership is in force)
 - (a) Payment of sum assured of Rs. 50,000/- in case of total permanent disability i.e. loss of two eyes or two limbs or one eye and one limb.
 - (b) Payment of sum assured of Rs. 25,000/- in case of partial permanent disability i.e. loss of one eye or one limb.

(iii) On surviving upto age 60

- (a) In the event of survival after atleast 10 years, provided premium is paid regularly a lumpsum will be paid to the member depending upon his/her accumulation in his/her account.
- (b) A minimum pension of Rs. 100/- per month will be paid to the member during his/her life time, subject to atleast 10 years contributions having been received.

Premium: The member has to pay Rs. 90/- at the beginning of every quarter. Double the amount will be contributed by the Government. For the first year of the scheme the share of the Government would be met from the Social Security Fund. In case of withdrawal of member before reaching age 60 due to non-payment of premium, only accumulated amount of his/her own contributions with interest shall be paid to the member/nominee in the event of survival/death. The membership can be reinstated by payment of arrears of premium with interest thereon.

The benefits derived by the beneficiary under the scheme are the monthly payment of pension regularly, lumpsum survival benefit at the interval of 10 years before attaining age 60 and lumpsum payment in case of permanent disability due to accident. In case of death the family gets the lumpsum payment. These benefits would enable the agricultural labourers to eliminate/remove the element of uncertainty during his life time as well as on death and would provide a Social Security cover.

Financial Autonomy to FCI

1023. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to free the Food Corporation of India from the financial dependence of the Government of India; despite stiff resistance from the State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the likely impact of 'Financial Autonomy' on FCI and on the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) The issue of decentralization of procurement of foodgrains was discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food

Management and Agriculture Exports on 6.7.2001. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralised procurement due to various reasons such as, lack of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh expressed that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out. In the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. The scheme of decentralized procurement has already been adopted by UP for wheat and rice, by West Bengal for rice and by MP for wheat.

(c) The Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports in its meeting held on 6.7.2001 decided that further consultation could be held with the State Governments, and sharing of gains under the schemes could be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

"Small Savings"

1024. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection of small savings during each of last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount and percentage of small savings collection advanced as loans to each of the States during last three years and at what terms and conditions;

(c) whether there is any proposal to transfer 100% of small savings to States as loans;

(d) if so, from when and at what rate of interest; and

(e) the details of the procedure of capital repayment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Statement I containing the figures of gross & net collections in small savings schemes in post offices during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 (Preliminary) is enclosed.

(b) (i) Statement II containing the State-wise figures of amounts transferred to the State & U.T. (with Legislature) Governments during 1998-99 to 2000-2001 (Provisional) is enclosed.

(ii) In 1998-99 and 1999-2000, 75% of net small savings collection was transferred to the State/UT (with Legislature) Governments. With effect from 1.4.2000, 80 per cent. of net small savings collection is transferred to the State/U.T. (with Legislature) Governments.

(iii) These amounts are repayable in twenty equal, annual instalments starting from the 6th year from the date of release/transfer. Interest @ 14.5% p.a. is payable annually on the sums released against net small savings collection during 1998-99 upto 31.12.1998, 14% p.a. from 1.1.1999 to 31.3.1999, 13.50% p.a. from 1.4.99 to 31.3.2000, 12.50% p.a. from 1.4.2000 to 31.3.2001 and 11% p.a. from 1.4.2001 onwards.

(c) and (d) At present there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for transfer of 100% net small savings collections to State Governments.

(e) The transfers were in the form of loans for 25 years prior to 1.4.99 with a moratorium of 5 years and repayable in 20 annual instalments thereafter. With effect from 1.4.99, the transfers are in the form of investments in State Governments, special securities which are redeemable from the 6th year in 20 equal, annual instalments.

Statement-I

State-wise Gross and Net Small Savings Collections in Post Offices

(Rupees in Crore)

Sl. No.	State/UT	1998-99		1999-2000 (Provisional)		2000-01 (Preliminary)	
		Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2910.08	1204.37	3834.68	1629.62	4185.17	1732.58
2.	Bihar	3335.69	1717.41	4126.18	2026.53	4512.95	2121.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Jharkhand	(Included in the data shown against Bihar)					
4.	Base	109.22	15.44	116.39	22.66	129.41	18.40
5.	Delhi	2286.05	1477.58	2489.83	1096.92	3040.07	1426.80
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	483.43	259.45	602.20	280.91	620.91	277.89
7.	Karnataka	2541.03	1239.95	2880.04	1485.33	3459.30	1520.89
8.	Madhya Pradesh	2039.89	1058.61	2533.32	1244.41	2071.64	970.03
9.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	714.22	362.40
10.	Orissa	1009.84	452.52	1265.34	547.40	1502.57	540.25
11.	Rajasthan	3107.92	1717.60	3944.64	2286.12	4613.09	2515.52
12.	Uttar Pradesh	7481.33	3897.56	9273.44	4333.64	10298.49	4493.59
13.	Uttaranchal	(Included in the data shown against Uttar Pradesh)					
14.	Haryana	1714.93	948.12	2003.17	972.57	2181.95	978.19
15.	Tamil Nadu	2676.55	1016.05	3253.41	1409.11	3839.98	1486.62
16.	Pondicherry	24.27	8.60	39.18	20.57	84.25	61.07
17.	Maharashtra	6107.90	3228.10	7105.79	3224.35	8016.56	4005.88
18.	Goa	133.35	74.66	173.36	82.16	215.17	102.47
19.	Gujarat	4689.89	2762.59	5846.13	3248.54	7139.29	3906.39
20.	Daman	6.08	3.68	9.90	3.23	12.36	2.10
21.	Diu	3.35	1.76	4.58	2.50	5.28	2.16
22.	Kerala	1458.44	608.13	1875.45	730.44	2042.54	497.33
23.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.62	0.20	0.57	0.11
24.	Pondicherry (Mahe)	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.33	0.82	0.39
25.	Punjab	2848.15	1744.06	3482.79	1964.62	4088.30	2281.03
26.	Chandigarh	139.66	35.88	148.86	17.14	0.00	-149.31
27.	Himachal Pradesh	1961.13	75.00	862.39	-507.34	894.90	235.53
28.	West Bengal	7399.40	4607.36	9517.75	5291.79	10964.53	6054.74
29.	Sikkim	16.40	10.85	20.16	12.05	24.69	12.57
30.	A.N. Islands	12.11	5.15	11.80	1.72	13.40	-4.37
31.	Assam	1016.04	212.72	1339.23	595.17	1483.79	378.53
32.	Manipur	39.21	20.86	50.47	24.59	53.61	21.48

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
33.	Meghalaya	59.44	24.20	71.02	23.45	81.66	30.75
34.	Tripura	163.69	77.19	214.73	107.84	250.60	133.14
35.	Mizoram	24.60	9.45	31.49	13.45	38.00	15.24
36.	Nagaland	19.07	9.63	20.35	7.78	15.71	6.49
37.	Arunachal Pradesh	26.22	16.85	29.41	13.19	27.65	13.07
Total		55844.36	28541.38	67178.86	32212.98	76623.43	36051.93

Statement-II*Small Savings Transfers to State/UT Governments*

In Crores of Rupees

Sl. No.	Name of State	1998-1999	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-01 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	986.6	1141.07	1787.14
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	12.64	12.92	11.06
3.	Assam	131.97	300.27	527.58
4.	Bihar	1432.37	1463.93	1604.93
5.	Chhattisgarh*	—	—	116.59
6.	Goa	78.56	82.95	99.21
7.	Gujarat	2325.09	2594.93	3428.09
8.	Haryana	714.62	741.69	795.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	279.29	68.88	128.9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	207.86	194.65	317.46
11.	Jharkhand*	—	—	154.26
12.	Karnataka	799.74	1113.85	1179.54
13.	Kerala	392.77	571.37	440.15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	886.81	993.55	992.19
15.	Maharashtra	3694.1	4119.51	4659.53

1	2	3	4	5
16.	Manipur	13.79	18.86	22.83
17.	Meghalaya	15.54	12.93	24.02
18.	Mizoram	5.18	7.36	13.55
19.	Nagaland	8.15	10.56	5.56
20.	Orissa	378.31	384.74	602.85
21.	Punjab	1350.44	1711.63	2330.4
22.	Rajasthan	1130.13	1705.34	2203.82
23.	Sikkim	7.82	8.33	7.64
24.	Tamil Nadu	780.31	1013.56	1286.97
25.	Tripura	65.01	64.52	103.68
26.	Uttar Pradesh	3406.49	3255.69	3857.05
27.	Uttaranchal*	-	-	70.33
28.	West Bengal	3922.9	4160.4	4949.27
Total		23026.49	25753.22	31720.47
1.	Delhi	754.66	1164.81	1505.08
2.	Pondicherry	6.95	18.62	39.5
Total		761.61	1183.43	1544.58
Grand Total		23788.1	26936.65	33265.05

*These States are created during the year: 2000-2001.

Palm Oil Industry in Karnataka

1025. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that domestic palm oil industry of the country is facing crisis due to the adverse impact of new EXIM policy;

(b) if so, whether several State Governments including Karnataka have urged the Union Government to take urgent measures in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) Representations have been received from various quarters including the Government of Karnataka, regarding adverse impact of imports on the domestic producers of palm oil. In response to these representations, import duty on this item has been increased three times during the last one year. Presently the import duty on crude palm oil is 75% and that on refined palm oil is 85%.

Production of Commercial Feature Films

1026. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposal received by the Union Government with regard to the sanction of loans for the production of commercial feature films in various languages, language-wise from each State particularly from Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the status each of these proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Loan proposal for commercial feature films are not entertained by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Growth rate of Infrastructure Sector

1027. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether six infrastructure sectors recorded a virtually nil growth for 2000-01;

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

(c) the estimated growth rate and actual growth rate in coal, petroleum, cement, electricity and steel for above period; and

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the growth rate in infrastructure sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The six infrastructure sectors have recorded a growth rate of 5.3% during the fiscal year 2000-01.

(c) The annual targets and the actual production for six infrastructure sectors during the fiscal year 2000-01 are as under:

Sector	Unit	Target	Actual	% change over the target
Crude Petroleum	Th. Tonnes	32464	32477	0.04
Petroleum Refinery Products	Th. Tonnes	112823	96246	-14.69
Coal	MT	308.07	309.20	0.37
Electricity	BU	500.70	499.47	-0.25
Cement	Lakh Tonnes	1070	995.20	-6.99
Finished Steel	Th. Tonnes	34760	30205.30	-13.10

(d) The following measures have been initiated to improve the infrastructure sector:

- Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has been allowed to float capital gains tax exemption bonds.
- The budgetary provisions under Accelerated Power Development Programme (APDP) have been enhanced for the year 2001-02 towards:
 - 1) the Renovation and Modernisation / life extension of existing power stations,
 - 2) Upgradation of transmission & distribution networking including energy accounting and metering.
- The Government has signed MOU with six States, other States will follow, to reform SEBs and initiate steps which include time bound Programme for installation of 100% metering by December 2001, energy audit at all levels, specific programmes for reduction and eventual elimination of power theft.
- Government is providing infrastructure support to cement industry to maximize cement production. Rail wagons are provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.
- Customs duty on cement and clinker reduced from 35% to 25%.

- Tax holiday for infrastructure development. In case of ports, airports, inland ports and waterways, industrial parks, generation and distribution of power, tax holiday of ten years has been announced in the Union Budget 2001-02. Five-year tax holiday for the telecommunication sector has been extended till March 2003.
- A dedicated fund from cess on petrol and diesel has been created for road building.

[Translation]

Narcotics Seized by Customs Department

1028. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of gold and narcotics seized by Central Excise and Customs Department in six months prior to 30 June, 2001 and the estimated value thereof;

(b) the number of persons arrested in this connection; and

(c) the measures taken to check smuggling of gold and narcotics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Details of quantity of Gold & narcotics seized by the field-formations of Customs & Central Excise Department including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) during the period from 1.1.2001 to 30.6.2001 and the number of persons arrested in connection thereto are as under:

Description	No. of cases	Quantity seized (in Kgs.)	Value of goods seized (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Persons arrested
Gold	243	248.063	1148.85	32
Narcotic Drugs				
(i) Heroin	22	241	785.12	30
(ii) Hashish	36	497	147.76	6
(iii) Mandrax/Methaqualone	01	398	79.20	3
(iv) Ganja	126	15766	379.54	29

*Figures provisional

(c) All the field formations under the Customs Department including DRI are vigilant & alert to detect & prevent smuggling of contrabands including gold and narcotics.

(c) If so, the details therefor; and

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

[English]

Increase in prices of Oilseeds

1029. SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of cultivation of oilseeds are increasing due to removal of quantitative restrictions;

(b) whether the prices of oilseeds are decreasing in India rapidly, due to removal of quantitative restrictions;

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (d) Removal of Quantitative restrictions on imports has no adverse impact on the cost of cultivation. Import of all refined edible oils except coconut oil, Palm kernel oil, RBD palm oil and RBD palm stearin had been made free prior to 01.04.95. Import of various crude edible oils and Palm kernel oil, RBD palm oil and RBD palm stearin was made free on 31.3.99. Import of crude edible oils was made free to provide for proper utilisation of the local processing and refining capacities.

Representations have been received from some quarters regarding the adverse impact of import of edible oils on the domestic producers of oil seeds. In response to these representations, import duty on various edible oils has been increased from 16.5% to up to 85% (depending on type of edible oil) during the last one year. The present level of duty should provide necessary protection to the domestic producers.

Tax Collection

1030. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: WILL THE MINISTER OF FINANCE BE PLEASED TO STATE:

(a) whether the Government attention have been drawn to the news item captioned "Rs. 10,000 crore shortfall in tax collection" appeared in 'Business Standard' dated May 4, 2001;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for better tax realisation in the current financial year?

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

(b) The details of Budget Estimate, Revised Estimate and Collection of Revenue, in respect of direct and indirect taxes, during the year 2000-2001 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Major Head	B.E.	R.E.	Collection of revenue
Corporation-tax	40040.00	38721.00	35656.11
Income-tax	31590.00	35271.00	31597.73
Customs	53572.00	48781.00	47620.00
Central Excise	70967.00	70399.00	68242.00

The main reasons for shortfall in collection of corporation-tax, and Income-tax are on account of earthquake in Gujarat, slow-down in Capital market, VRS in public sector banks, claims of 100% deductions under the provisions of 80G of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in respect of donations for the victims of Gujarat earthquake and insurance claims due to earthquake. As regards Central Excise, the main reasons are lower growth of

certain sectors of economy, reduction in excise duty on HSD and Motor spirit and increase in the exemption limit of SSI. The main factors for shortfall in collection on the Customs side are sluggish growth in non-POL imports and reduction in duty on crude oil and Petroleum products.

(c) The steps being taken for better tax realisation include monitoring of outstanding demands and advance tax payments, extension of one-by-six scheme to urban areas, plugging leakage of revenue on account under valuation or commercial frauds, expediting disposal of uncleared cargo, expediting pending adjudication and appeals and simplification of administrative procedure in order to increase tax compliance.

Area Under Tea Cultivation in Orissa

1031. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total hectares of land brought under tea plantation in Orissa particularly in Keonjhar district;

(b) whether climatic condition and the land adjoining the existing tea gardens are suitable for tea plantation; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to encourage private sector as well as public sector participation in existing land?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) The total area of land brought under tea plantation in Keonjhar district of Orissa is estimated to be 213.00 hectares.

(b) The only tea plantation that has come up in Orissa is in Bhuyanpirth Tea Estate of Keonjhar district. The climatic condition adjoining the tea garden is suitable for tea cultivation though it is not as conducive as the traditional area. However, this disadvantage can be tackled by way of proper land development measures, artificial irrigations and adoption of modern agro-techniques.

(c) The Agriculture Deptt. of the State Government in consultation with Tea Board have decided to launch a 500.00 hectares tea plantation project for the small growers at the rate of 1.00 hectare per family in the vicinity of the existing tea project, over a span of five years at the rate of 100.00 hectares each year. The green leaves to be harvested would be sold to the tea factory of the existing project throughout the year at a pre-determined price. The fund is proposed to be mobilized from Tea Board's New Area Development Scheme and State Government Schemes. The artificial irrigation support is to be provided

from nearby Baitarani river. Further, TRIFED, a National level Apex Co-operative Federation under the administrative control of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Govt. of India has also proposed to take up tea plantation in 400.00 hectares in Tarmakant area of Keonjhar district.

Special Category Status to Orissa

1032. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a growing demand to provide special category status to Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to consider the demand; and

(c) the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Requests have been received regarding grant of special category status to Orissa.

(b) and (c) Planning Commission has intimated that according to the existing criteria of classifying a state as special category, Orissa is not eligible to be categorized as a Special Category State.

Losses Suffered by DD on Various Sport Events

1033. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Doordarshan awarded the telecast contract for 1997 French Open Tennis Tournament to Stracon without inviting bids;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Doordarshan suffered a huge loss on account of purchase of telecast rights;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(e) the action taken against the officials responsible for this losses?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan awarded the marketing rights of French Open 1997 to M/s. Stracon India Ltd. on the basis of offers received for marketing the event.

(c) and (d) Doordarshan had earned revenue from the marketing of the French Open Tennis tournament, details of which are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) Certain alleged irregularities regarding purchase of telecast rights and contract for marketing rights of some sports events, including 1997 French Open tennis tournament, shown on Doordarshan, & held in 1997-98, were investigated by CBI. CBI has registered 5 (five) cases against certain Doordarshan officials and investigations by Central Bureau of Investigations are going on. Further action will depend on the final outcome of CBI investigations.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of Agency	Rights Fee	Technical	Gross Amount
1.	1997:- M/s. Stracon	US \$ 90,000/-Rs.	4,11,050 Rs.	54,10,500/-
2.	1998:- M/s. Stracon	US\$ 2,00,000/-	Rs. 32,28,254/-	Rs. 34,11,765/-
3.	1999:- M/s. Stracon	US\$ 99,000/-	US\$ 30,000/-	Rs. 3,00,000/-
4.	2000:- M/s. Reasonable	US\$ 1,10,000/-	US\$ 33,000/-	Rs. 16,06,585/-

Insider Trading

1034. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is involvement of UTI in insider trading;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether UTI has lost 56 crores in Himachal Futuristic Communication Ltd. alone;

(d) if so, whether his ministry has asked the SEBI to probe the role played by UTI in insider trading; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

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

Procurement of Paddy and Rice by AP

1035. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of COSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought assistance from the Union Government regarding procurement of rice by the FCI in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(c) the details of the quantity of paddy procured by the FCI from the State during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) At the request of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, for 2001-2002 Kharif Marketing Season, a target of procurement of levy rice up to 70 lakh MT has been fixed by the Food Corporation of India, as against 55 lakh tonnes procured last year. Besides, it has also been decided that FCI will accept Custom Milled Rice to the extent of 70% of the target of 10 lakh tonnes of paddy to be procured in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) During the current season 2000-2001, till 23.7.2001, the Food Corporation of India has procured a quantity of 55078 MTs of paddy in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

Long-Term Grain Policy

1036. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

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

(a) whether the High Level Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to formulate long-term Grain Policy has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken by the Government on the report; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay and time by which the report is likely to be submitted to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The High Level Committee constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen to formulate the long term grain policy is yet to submit its final report. Since the Committee would like to consult the State Governments in order to get their views on various issues involved in framing the Food Grain Policy, the term of the Committee has been extended upto September, 2001.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO

1037. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of trade fairs organised by ITPO in Delhi during the last three years, year wise;

(b) the entry fee charged for these fairs during the above period, year-wise;

(c) whether the ITPO has increased the entry fee in the recent past;

(d) if so, the extent of increase made in each year;

(e) whether figure of the visitors in the fairs has been decreasing year-by-year as a result thereof;

(f) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the entry fee in the near future; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Details of fairs organized by ITPO for the last three years are given in the statement-I enclosed.

(b) Details of entry fee charged for different fairs from year to year during the last three years are given in the statement enclosed as statement-II. In respect of Fairs held concurrently, a single entry fee is charged.

(c) and (d) Entry fee was increased only for one fair viz. India International Trade Fair as per details given in the statement-II (S.No. 12).

(e) There has been a decrease in the sale of entry tickets for India International Trade Fair held in 1999-2000 and 2000-2001. The decrease in the sale of entry tickets cannot, however, be directly co-related to increase in the entry fee.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Current entry fee rates are considered reasonable.

Statement-I

Trade Fairs organised by ITPO

Sl.No.	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Consumexh	Consumexh	Consumexh
2.	Social Development Fair	Social Development Fair	Social Development Fair
3.	Delhi Book Fair	Delhi Book Fair	Delhi Book Fair
4.	Sajawat	Sajawat	Sajawat
5.	Stationery Fair	Stationery Fair	Stationery Fair
6.	Ujala	Mystique India	Tax Styles
7.	Mystique India	Winter Show	Shoe Fair
8.	Winter Show	National Children Fair	Krishi Expo
9.	National Children Fair	Tex Styles	Ahara (Food Expo)
10.	Tex Style	Shoe Fair	Print Pack
11.	Shoe Fair	Krishi Expo	India International Trade Fair
12.	Ahara (Food Expo)	Ahara (Food Expo)	
13.	Print Pack	Prakash	
14.	India International Trade Fair	International Security Exhibition	
15.		India International Trade Fair	
(Total No. : 14)		(Total No: 15)	(Total No.: 11)

Statement-II

Trade Fairs Organised by ITPO

Rates & No. of Visitors in Fairs

Sl.No.	Name of Fair(s)	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		Entry Fee Rs.	No. of Tickets Sold	Entry Fee Rs.	No. of Tickets Sold	Entry Fee Rs.	No. of Tickets Sold
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Consumexh/Social Development Fair*						
	Adult	5/-	45821	Entry Free		Entry Free	
	Child	2/-	3711				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2.	<i>Delhi Book Fair/Sajawat/Stationery fair/ Ujala (Ujala held only in 1998-99)*</i>						
	Adult	5/-	103591	5/-	125371	5/-	91099
	Child	2/-	8070	2/-	8412	2/-	5780
3.	<i>Mystique India</i>						
	Adult	5/-	46676	5/-	22973	Not held	
	Child	2/-	1555	2/-	830		
4.	<i>Winter Show/National Children Fair*</i>						
	Adult	5/-	63181	Entry Free		Not held	
	Child	2/-	11617				
5.	<i>Tex Styles</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	1500/-	10	1000/-	10	500/-	16
	Business (Single entry)	500/-	1023	300/-	1566	150/-	1892
6.	<i>Shoe Fair</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	**	**	250/-	15	250/-	14
	Business (Single entry)	100/-	1898	100/-	1847	100/-	2730
	Adult	—	—	—	—	5/-	5419
	Child	—	—	—	—	2/-	282
7.	<i>Krishi Expo</i>	Not held		Entry Free		Entry Free	
8.	<i>Ahara (Food Expo)</i>						
	Business (Single entry)	50/-	3338	50/-	2579	Entry by registration	
9.	<i>Prakash</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	Not held		250/-	7	Not held	
	Business (Single entry)			50/-	1604		
10.	<i>Print Pack</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	50/-	9783	Not held		Oly through invitation	
11.	<i>International Security Exhibition</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	Not held		250/-	6	Not held	
	Business (Single entry)			100/-	1369		
12.	<i>India International Trade Fair</i>						
	Business (Seasonal)	750/-	41	1000/-	33	1000/-	41
	Business (Single entry)	150/-	10986	200/-	8531	200/-	8576
	<i>Weekdays</i>						
	Adult	10/-	1294712	15/-	434640	15/-	425875
	Child	5/-	144966	8/-	4267	8/-	54462
	<i>Weekdays</i>						
	Adult	#	—	20/-	542992	25/-	478632
	Child	#	—	10/-	71074	10/-	120871

Note: * Fairs/events held concurrently. There is one entry ticket for concurrent fairs.

** No Business (Seasonal) Ticket

No separate rates for weekends

[English]

Export of Wheat

1038. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY:

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

(a) whether the Government has decanalised wheat/ rice exports and granted permission for export of 50 lakh tonnes of wheat and 30 lakh tonnes of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether wheat exports will be stimulated by this policy change;

(d) whether the FCI price of wheat is not competitive in relation to the international market price;

(e) if so, whether the Government have studied the competitiveness of wheat prices fixed by the FCI and the prevailing rates in the international market;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the manner in which the Government propose to make wheat exports competitive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) As per the EXIM Policy, export of wheat is freely allowed subject to quantitative ceilings as may be notified by the Government from time to time. Export of rice, basmati as well as nonbasmati, is free subject to registration of contracts with APEDA. For the year 2001-02, Government of India has permitted FCI to offer 50 lakh MTS of wheat for export @ Rs. 4300 per MT. With effect from 1.6.2001 wheat is being offered to all i.e. PSUs/agencies and private parties. Further, the Government has permitted FCI to offer a quantity of 30 lakh MTs of rice for the purpose of export during the year 2001-02 @ Rs. 6000 per MT and Rs. 5650 per MT for par boiled rice and raw rice respectively.

(c) to (g) The Government has exported 25.40 lakh MTs of wheat (till 22nd June, 2001). Approximately, 1.53 lakh MTs of rice has been lifted (till 18th July, 2001) for

export. International trade in agricultural commodities is dependent on domestic supply matched with international demand, world prices, prevailing consumer references and quality.

The price fixed is competitive when compared to other major suppliers like USA, Australia and Canada. However, when compared to the wheat of France/Turkey/Belgium origin, price is more or less equal. The impurities contained in Indian wheat is more as compared to those of USA, Australia and Canada origins and therefore the price of wheat of these origins can not be compared to that of FCI price.

Procurement of Foodgrains

1039. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:
SHRI SAHIB SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Union Government had decided to shift the responsibility of procuring foodgrains and distribution from the Food Corporation of India to the State Governments;

(b) if so, whether the number of Chief Ministers have opposed this move;

(c) if so, the main reasons mentioned by them;

(d) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide assistance to the States to develop infrastructure;

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

(f) whether the Union Government have agreed to provide special aid to those States facing the problem created by surplus production of foodgrains; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) The issue of decentralization of procurement of foodgrains was discussed in the Chief Ministers Conference on 21.5.2001 and in the meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports on 6.7.2001. The

States of Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, J&K, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat and Assam expressed their inability to adopt the scheme of decentralised procurement due to various reasons such as, lack, of funds, infrastructure, trained manpower etc. The States of Karnataka, Goa, Himachal Pradesh and Chhattisgarh expressed that the scheme could be adopted after suitable modalities are worked out. In the first meeting of the Standing Committee held on 6.7.2001, it was clarified that the scheme would not be imposed on any State Government. The scheme of decentralized procurement has already been adopted by UP for wheat and rice, by West Bengal for rice and by MP for wheat.

(d) No, Sir. However, Govt. proposes that existing godowns of FCI, CWC, SWC etc. can be made available to State Govts. for storage of foodgrains. Part of the manpower requirements can be met by taking persons on deputation from FCI. Training can be imparted to Quality Control Officers and other staff of the State Government by the officials of FCI and Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

(e) The Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers on Food Management and Agriculture Exports in its meeting held on 6.7.2001 decided that further consultation could be held with the State Governments, and sharing of grains under the schemes could be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. However, FCI will continue to procure wheat and paddy/rice under the price support scheme of the Government from the States having surplus production of foodgrains.

Directions Issued by RBI

1040. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RBI has asked all banks - public sector, private, foreign and cooperative banks not to deal with four more cooperative banks in addition to Madhavpura Bank and have also issued a circular in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other restrictions imposed by the RBI;

(c) to what extent the RBI has taken steps to check such type of misuse by the banks;

(d) whether the Madhavpura Bank and the other banks have been categorized as weak banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not asked banks (public sector, private, foreign and cooperative) not to deal with four other cooperative banks alongwith the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank. However, with a view to strengthen and streamline the operations/functioning of urban co-operative banks, RBI has announced certain measures which include, *inter-alia*, prohibition of keeping deposits with other urban co-operative banks; restricting borrowings from call money market to 2% of its deposits at the end of the previous financial year; increasing the component of investment in Government securities for SLR purposes; prohibition for lending directly or indirectly against security of shares either to individuals or any other entity; introduction of off-site surveillance system for scheduled urban co-operative banks, etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank and four other banks viz. Friends Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, Western Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai, First City Co-operative Bank Ltd., Hyderabad and Sitara Co-operative Bank Ltd., Hyderabad have been classified as 'weak banks' on account of high erosion in the value of their assets, irregularities on their operations/functioning as brought out in RBI inspection. Besides this, RBI has imposed certain restriction on the operations of banks which includes precluding them from incurring any further liabilities, granting/renewing any loan, acquisition/disposal of immovable property and making payment towards discharge of any liability except to the extent and in the manner provided in the Directives issued under Section 35A of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies). In the case of Western Co-operative Bank, Sitara Co-operative Bank and the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank the Board of Directors have been superseded.

Less Price of Imported Goods

1041. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import duties on several imported goods are less than the excise duty levied on domestic products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Generally speaking, the imported goods are subjected to basic customs duty, additional duty of customs and special additional duty. The rate of additional duty of customs is normally equivalent to the rate of excise duty levied on the like product manufactured in India. Therefore, in general, total import duties on imported goods are in excess of the excise duty levied on the domestic products.

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

Funds Borrowed by UP

1042. SHRI SAIDUZZAMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh is functioning borrowed funds;

(b) if so, the details of the present overdraft to UP and the corresponding position in other States in the country;

(c) whether the restrictions of RBI on overdrafts by the States are being followed;

(d) if not, the details thereof and the reasons for such laxity?

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

(b) and (c) The overdrafts of the States are regulated by the RBI in accordance with the Overdraft Regulation Scheme and may vary from day to day. The State of UP is not in overdraft since May 2, 2001.

(d) Does not arise.

Supply of Foodgrains

1043. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have in a bid to help the people living in drought hit areas, have decided to supply foodgrains to people above poverty line at BPL rates;

(b) if so, the States in which these areas have been identified till date; and

(c) the quantity of foodgrains supplied proposed to be supplied in the drought hit areas, State-wise, till date?

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

(b) and (c) The Government of India has decided that subsidised food grains will be allotted for distribution to the drought affected families belonging to both below and above the poverty line at BPL rates in drought affected districts in eight States viz., Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh & Uttaranchal @ 20 kg of foodgrains per family per month for a period of 3 months. The additional allocation at BPL rates will be in addition to the regular entitlement of foodgrains for BPL families under Target Public Distribution System (TPDS) in these areas. So far, special additional allocations have been made for a period of three months in favour of Orissa, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, as per details given below:—

S.No.	State	(in tonnes)	
		Total quantity allotted	
		Rice	Wheat
1.	Orissa	48,000	12,300
2.	Gujarat	81,765	2,45,292
3.	Rajasthan	—	3,70,665
4.	Maharashtra	1,64,456	3,28,912

[Translation]

Setting up of News Centre at Jodhpur, Rajasthan

1044. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date of launching DD-2 (Metro Channel), in Jodhpur, in Rajasthan;

(b) whether during inauguration of DD-2 channel, an assurance was given regarding creation of Doordarshan New Centre other related works; and

(c) if so, the progress made in implementing the assurance?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) The High Power TV transmitter of DD2 (Metro Channel) at Jodhpur was commissioned on 13.11.2000.

(b) and (c) Prasar Bharati has reported that at present there is no proposal for setting up of a Doordarshan News Centre at Jodhpur.

[English]

Audit of FCI

1045. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether during 1999-2000 audit of accounts of Food Corporation of India (FCI) for the year 1996-97 was conducted by Comptroller and Auditor General of India as sole auditor;

(b) if so, whether the working results of the FCI for 1996-97 indicated that the expenditure in excess of income was whopping Rs. 7,153.41 crores;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to order an inquiry to find out the causes for such huge excess expenditure by the FCI and to fix responsibility;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons therefor?

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

(b) Yes, Sir. The expenditure of Rs. 7,153.41 crores represents the carrying cost of buffer stocks of foodgrains, and consumer subsidy reimbursable by the Government as the issue price fixed by the Central Government do not cover the full cost incurred on procurement, storage movement and distribution by the Food Corporation of India.

(c) to (e) In view of (b) above the question does not arise.

[Translation]

Customs Official Nexus with Exporters

1046. DR. BALIRAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mitti Ko sona wa sona ko mitti banane ka custom vibhag ke kamama", "Do Niryatak Firmon se sathganth ker kroron ka chona lagaya" appearing in 'Dainik Jagran' New Delhi dated 2 July, 2001;

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

(c) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Delhi Customs have made out a case of wrong availment of DEPB credit to the tune of Rs. 1.69 crore by misdeclaring the true nature of export product by 2 firms, namely M/s. Mangli Impex Ltd. and M/s. J.K. Impex. Based on the investigations and retesting of some of the samples of export goods which had been drawn before export, it was found that the export goods declared as Calcium Stearate were actually Calcium Carbonate for which the DEPB benefit claimed was not admissible. The Director and proprietor of the firms was arrested by the Customs and later on remanded to judicial custody by the Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi with directions to get the matter investigated by the CBI including the involvement of officers of Customs as well as Central Revenue Control Laboratory. In pursuance to the Court directive the matter has been referred to CBI, who in turn have registered a case under Section 120 B of IPC read with Section 420 of IPC and Section 13(2) read with 13(1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act. Investigations are in progress and necessary further action against the offenders will be taken as per provisions of Law on completion of investigations.

[English]

Reward to Informers

1047. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the policy or guidelines to pay rewards to informers who inform the Government of smuggled goods/black money;

(b) the number of cases pending in the country as on date for payment of rewards to the informer; and

(c) the number of pending cases which relate to Gujarat and Saurashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The guidelines provide for grant of reward to informants who furnish specific information of undisclosed income, wealth, gift and estate duty. Rewards are also given to informers, if the information leads to seizure and/or detection of infringements/evasion of duty under the Custom Act, Central Excise Act and Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

(b) 2302 cases.

(c) 258 cases.

[Translation]

Documentaries Produced by Lucknow Doordarshan Kendra

1048. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the brief documentaries and regional plays produced by Lucknow Doordarshan Kendra that would not be telecast due to technical problems;

(b) whether their telecast is pending for last one year; and

(c) if so, the time by which the telecast of these brief documentaries and regional plays would be made at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Prasar Bharati has intimated that none of the brief documentaries and regional plays is held up for telecast, due to technical problem at Doordarshan Kendra, Lucknow.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Import of Palm Oil

1049. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government of India have signed any agreement for import of Palm Oil;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala have strongly protested against Palm Oil import; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Reservation of SCs/STs in Film Institute of Pune

1050. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to admit students from SC/ST community to the fullest extent of the quota of seats reserved for them as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee headed by the Prime Minister;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the number of seats offered in different faculties/disciplines in the Film and Television Institute of India, Pune in Diploma, pre-Graduation, Graduation and Post-Graduation Level courses during the last three years; and

(d) the number of students from SC/ST community admitted to the above mentioned courses in different faculties/courses including their percentage as compared to the total seats during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (d) Film and Television institute of India, Pune reserves 22.5 percent of total seats for candidates belonging to SC/ST community. The Institute offers only a three-year integrated Diploma Course at the post-graduation level. The admission for this course during the years 2001-2000 and 1999 are as follows:

Year	Total Seats Offer	Seats offered to SC/ST candidates with %age	No. of SC/ST students admitted
2001	40	8 (22.5%)	Admission process is in progress
2000	80	18 (22.5%)	7 (remaining seats kept vacant)
1999		No Admission	

Creation of Social Awareness

1051. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the details of films funded by her Ministry during the last two years to create social awareness among the masses;

(b) whether the desired objectives have been achieved; and

(c) the measures taken to give more publicity for success of such films?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Films Division has been provided funds by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting to produce various news magazines and films to create social awareness. During the year 1999-2000 Films Division has produced 16 films and 1 news magazine and during the year 2000-2001 the Division has produced 32 films and 10 news magazines on a wide range of subjects like environment, women's empowerment, communal harmony, music, culture, health etc. The films and news magazines produced by Films Division are dubbed in 15 regional languages and released through approximately 13,000 cinema houses throughout the country. Apart from this, these films are also exhibited in video format by the Directorate of Field Publicity in rural areas. They are also loaned to various institutions, societies, NGOs etc.

Films Division also holds film festivals in important cities and State capitals regularly to increase the reach of the films and news magazines for creating social awareness amongst the masses.

[Translation]

Revenue Earned through Serials

1052. SHRI MANSINH PATEL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the revenue earned by Doordarshan by telecast of popular serials in various channels during each of the last three years, State-wise?

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

Expenditure Reforms Commission

1053. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the Geeta Krishnan committee's report on Expenditure Reforms Commission;

(b) the main recommendations made by the committee;

(c) the recommendations which have been accepted by the Government;

(d) the recommendations which have not been accepted by the Government;

(e) the recommendations which are under consideration; and

(f) the recommendations which have been implemented and the time by which the remaining recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (f) Expenditure Reforms Commission have submitted seven reports concerning various Ministries/Departments so far. The recommendations contained in these reports have been forwarded to the concerned Ministries/

Departments and implementation is at various stages. The main thrust of these recommendations is rationalisation and restructuring of various Ministries/Departments with a view to downsizing of the Government machinery. The Commission has also made recommendations for rationalising and reducing expenditure on major subsidies.

Outstanding I.T. against Banks/Financial Institution

1054. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Income tax outstanding against each of the nationalised banks and financial institutions of the country as on 31 March, 2001;

(b) the reason for accumulation of the huge outstanding Income tax; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government for the recovery of outstanding amounts of Income-tax as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The details of outstanding Income Tax of over Rs. 1 crore against each of the nationalised banks and financial institutions as on 31.3.2001 are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) 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 having not fallen due, instalments and stay granted by departmental authorities and demands pending verification of payments, etc.

(c) High priority is given to the work of collection/ reduction of arrear demand and appropriate administrative, legal and other measures are taken to recover the same. Request is made to the concerned appellate authorities for early disposal of 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

Nationalised Banks/Financial Institutions with outstanding Income Tax demand of over Rs. 1 crore as on 31.3.2001

Sl.No.	Name	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Gujarat State Financial Corporation	260
2.	State Bank of Saurashtra	6304
3.	Canara Bank	7294
4.	Canbank Financial Services Ltd.	818
5.	Allahabad Bank	28430
6.	UCO Bank	360
7.	State Financial Institute (WBIDC)	540
8.	Kerala Financial Corporation	382
9.	Kerala State Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	140
10.	Punjab and Sind Bank	1759
11.	Andhra Bank (Intl. tax)	2071
12.	Andhra Bank Financial Service Ltd.	120
13.	State Bank of Hyderabad	758
14.	Tamil Nadu Industrial Inv. Corp. Ltd.	1350
15.	Indian Bank Ltd.	5519
16.	ICICI	2111
17.	Dena bank	4704
18.	Industrial Development Bank of India	28600
19.	Bihar State Financial Corporation	594
20.	Bank of Baroda	344
21.	ICICI Personal Financial Services Ltd.	123

[English]

Income-Tax Raids on Film Personalities

1055. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Income Tax Department carried out raids on film related personalities in Mumbai recently;

(b) if so, outcome of those raids;

(c) the action taken thereon;

(d) whether some portion of film stars, earnings were not being revealed for tax purposes;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether some film stars and film related personalities were involved in FERA violations; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and the action Government propose to take against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Searches were carried out on Film related personalities during the Financial Year 2000-2001.

(b) The searches resulted in seizure of assets worth Rs. 522.59 lakhs and Foreign Currency of US\$ 2367, UK Pound 740, French Franc 860 and UAE 360 DHM.

(c) Block assessment proceedings under the Income Tax Act have been initiated.

(d) and (e) Incriminating documents, revealing diversion of income in the name of family members and substantial investments in movable and immovable properties have been found and seized. Certain loose papers reveal lower profits/profit margin in books of accounts as compared to actual profits/profit margins.

(f) and (g) Directorate of Enforcement has recently taken up investigations against some film stars/film related personalities for alleged involvement in FERA/FEMA. Investigations are in progress and if found guilty they will be proceeded against in accordance with law.

Case Registered by CBI against Export Companies

1056. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the case registered by the CBI against two export companies, Customs and Central Revenue control laboratory officials on the directions of High Court of Delhi for causing revenue loss worth several crores of rupees to the Government;

(b) the present status of these cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Delhi Customs have made out a case of wrong availment of DEPB credit to the tune of Rs. 1.69 crore by misdeclaring the true nature of export product by 2 firms, namely M/s. Mangli Impex Ltd. and M/s. J.K. Impex. Based on the investigations and retesting of some of the samples of export goods which had been drawn before export, it was found that the export goods declared as Calcium Stearate were actually Calcium Carbonate for which the DEPB benefit claimed was not admissible. The Director and proprietor of the firms was arrested by the Customs and later on remanded to judicial custody by the Addl. Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi with directions to get the matter investigated by the CBI including the involvement of officers of Customs as well as Central Revenue Control Laboratory. In pursuance to the Court directive the matter has been referred to CBI, who in turn have registered a case under Section 120 B of IPC read with Section 420 of IPC and Section 13(2) read with 13(1) (d) of Prevention of Corruption Act. Further investigations are in progress.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

11.13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the clock.*

[Translation]

The Lok Sabha reassembled at fourteen of the clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: (Maharajanj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given the notice of Adjournment Motion regarding the murder of Shrimati Phoolan Devi. We want your ruling in this regard. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): This Government has been exposed over the question of Law and Order. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record, except hon. Minister's remarks.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I can understand the anger of the hon. Members on the unfortunate and brutal killing of the hon. Member of the House, Shrimati Phoolan Devi. If you please allow, then the hon. Minister of Home Affairs can make a statement after the Question Hour on Tuesday. And after that if you deem fit, you can allow the hon. Members to seek clarifications, we will not have any objection in this regard...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What happened to the notice of Adjournment Motion given in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh ji, what are you doing? Please sit down.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, please first listen to me.

MR. SPEAKER: What to listen to. Its already 2.00 o'clock. You please sit down.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Statement should be made on Monday instead of Tuesday...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What the Government are doing...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What are you doing in the House. You please sit down now.

* Not recorded.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): What action has been taken regarding the notice of Adjournment Motion give by me...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are crossing your limits, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You don't abide by the rules and you are asking about the rules. You are a Senior Member and you have also been a Minister.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

14.02 hrs.

[English]

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: MAKING OF STATEMENT ON THE ASSASSINATION OF MEMBER

MR. SPEAKER: As informed by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, the Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement in the House on Tuesday, 31st July, 2001 regarding the assassination of Shrimati Phoolan Devi. Though Rule 372 of the Rules of Procedure does not permit asking of questions at the time the statement is made, as an exceptional case and in view of the seriousness of the matter, I will allow the Members to seek clarifications after the Home Minister's statement. The Minister will respond after the Members have spoken.

Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

* Not recorded.

14.03 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Judicial Academy, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Judicial Academy, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3781/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): Sir I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3782/2001]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the Indian Oil Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3783/2001]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Engineers India Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3784/2001]

- (3) Memorandum of Understanding between the Kochi Refineries Limited and the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3785/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):—
 - (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry) for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3786/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Andrew Yule Company Limited and the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry) for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3787/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of 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:—

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3788/2001]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brushware Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1998-99.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Brushware Limited, Kanpur, for the year 1998-99, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3789/2001]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3790/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Dr. Raman, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—
 - (i) S.O. 227 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2001, notifying the Kalptaru Papers Limited, Village Karoli, Tehsil Kalol, in the State of Gujarat as a mill producing newsprint.
 - (ii) S.O. 298 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001, notifying the Cord Newsprints Limited, Gajraula, Tehsil Hasanpur, in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint.
 - (iii) S.O. 299 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001, notifying the Shiva Paper Mills Limited, Rampur, Tehsil Rampur, in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint.

- (iv) S.O. 357 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, notifying the V.G. Paper and Boards Limited, Unit I, Swaminathapuram, District Dindigul, Tamil Nadu, as a mill producing newsprint.

- (v) S.O. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, notifying the Ajanta Paper and General Products Limited, District Bharuch in the State of Gujarat as a mill producing newsprint.

- (vi) S.O. 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, notifying the Kaygaon Paper Mills Limited, District Aurangabad, in the State of Maharashtra as a mill producing newsprint.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3791/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 603 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001, making certain amendments in the Notification S.O. 477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991, sub-section (2H) of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3792/2001]

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 (2) of section 38 the Central Excise Act, 1944:—
 - (i) G.S.R. 294 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification 3/2001-CE, dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 307(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 395 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification 3/2001-CE, dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (iv) G.S.R. 359 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all excisable goods produced or manufactured in a hundred per cent export oriented undertaking or a free trade zone or a special economic zone and cleared to a person holding an advance release order issued against advance licence/Duty Free Replenishment Certificate or a back to back inland letter of credit subject to fulfillment of certain conditions as specified therein.
- (v) G.S.R. 378 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in six Notifications mentioned therein.
- (vi) G.S.R. 380 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt duty on single yarn classifiable under chapter 55 consumed captively for producing double multifold yarn during the period commencing of 1st March, 1986 and ending with 28th February, 1994.
- (vii) G.S.R. 309 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify the rate of excise duty leviable under the compounded levy scheme on specified processed textile fabrics manufactured by independent textile processors.
- (viii) G.S.R. 310 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt raincoats, undergarments and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted, from excise duty.
- (ix) G.S.R. 311 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 12/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001.
- (x) G.S.R. 312 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the General small scale excise duty exemption scheme to ready-made garments.
- (xi) G.S.R. 313 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from excise duty to small scale units manufacturing ball or roller bearings, whose aggregate value of clearances in the preceding financial year did not exceed rupees twenty five lakhs.
- (xii) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 314(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 315 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification No. 7/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 316 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt job workers who undertake job work in respect of goods falling under chapter 62 of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985 on behalf of the merchant manufacturer liable to pay the duty of excise leviable thereon from getting their factory premises registered.
- (xv) G.S.R. 317 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification No. 27/92-CE dated the 9th October, 1992.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 318 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe tariff value in respect of articles of apparel, not knitted or crocheted.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 319 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe deemed credit in respect of declared inputs used in the manufacturer of articles of apparel and clothing accessories, not knitted or crocheted.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 346 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the notification No. 4/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (xix) G.S.R. 347(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the existing excise duty exemption to specified products mentioned therein.
 - (xx) G.S.R. 348 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the existing excise duty exemption to specified products mentioned therein.
 - (xxi) The Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 349 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxii) G.S.R. 350 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the rate of interest consequent to the enactment of the Finance Act, 2001.
 - (xxiii) G.S.R. 408 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 67/95-CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.
 - (xxiv) The Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 423 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxv) G.S.R. 424 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the notification No. 7/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (xxvi) The Central Excise (No. 2) (First Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 493 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxvii) G.S.R. 500 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Central Excise Tariff Notifications so as to incorporate the provisions of Central Excise Rules and other Rules in these Notifications.
 - (xxviii) G.S.R. 511 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 108/95-CE, dated the 28th August, 1995.
 - (xxix) The Central Excise (No. 2) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 444(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxx) The CENVAT Credit Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 445 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxxi) The Central Excise (Appeals) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 446 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxxii) The Central Excise (Settlement of Cases) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 447(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xxxiii) The Central Excise (Removal of Goods at Confessional Rate of Duty for Manufacture of Excisable Goods) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 448(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- [Placed in Library See No. LT-3793/2001]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs and Tariff Act, 1975:—
- (i) G.S.R. 308 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of levy of anti dumping duty on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber originating in or exported from Japan and imported into India by a further period of six months upto 13th November, 2001.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 331 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on Phosphoric Acid (Technical Grade) originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China.

- (iii) G.S.R. 332 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on Polyester Films originating in or exported from the People's Republic of Korea and Indonesia at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (iv) G.S.R. 333 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 141/2000-Customs dated the 15th November, 2000.
- (v) G.S.R. 334 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on Sodium Ferrocyanide, originating in or exported from the European Union, at the rates recommended by Designated Authority.
- (vi) G.S.R. 335 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 8/2001-Cus., dated the 31st January, 2001.
- (vii) G.S.R. 435 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on white Portland cement, originating in or exported from the UAE or Iran and imported into India at the rates recommended by Designated Authority.
- (viii) G.S.R. 454 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Definitive anti dumping duty on Specified Grades/types of Alloy and Non-Alloy Steel Billets, Bars and Rounds or Sizes conforming to Indian Standards specifications or any other international specifications equivalent to Indian-standards specifications, originating in or exported from Russia and China and imported into India as recommended by Designated Authority.
- (ix) G.S.R. 455 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 151/2000-Customs, dated the 26th December, 2000.
- (x) G.S.R. 456 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose Definitive anti dumping duty on Ferro Silicon, originating in or exported from Russia and China and imported into India as recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (xi) G.S.R. 457 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind the Notification No. 152/2000-Customs, dated the 26th December, 2000.
- (xii) G.S.R. 461 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on Caustic Soda, originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan, USA and France, at the rates recommended by Designated Authority.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 462 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on Strontium Carbonate, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by Designated Authority.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 463 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti dumping duty on Aniline, originating in or exported from the European Union, at the rates recommended by Designated Authority.
- (xv) G.S.R. 487 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti dumping duty on acrylic fibre, originating in or exported from the USA, Korea RP and Thailand in US Dollar terms.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 488 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to continue safeguard duty on phenol for a further period of two years with effect from the 30th June, 2001.

- (xvii) G.S.R. 489 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on Hexamine, originating in or exported from Saudi Arabia and Russia.
 - (xviii) The Customs Tariff (Identification, Assessment and Collection of Anti-dumping Duty on Dumped Articles and for Determination of Injury) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 405 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xix) G.S.R. 521(E) published in Gazette of India date the 11th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti dumping duty on Vitamin AD500/100, originating in or exported from European Union and Singapore.
 - (xx) G.S.R. 352 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 19/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (xxi) G.S.R. 353 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe effective rates of additional duty on alcoholic liquors.
[Placed in Library See No. LT-3794/2001]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R. 231 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt raw pearls, natural or cultured, rough diamonds and other precious or semi-precious stones, unset and uncut, when Imported into India against a valid Replenishment Licence, Diamond Import Licence and Bulk Licence issued in terms of the specified Exim Policy from the whole of the duty of customs leviable thereon.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 295 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 299 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption from payment of customs duty to cut and polished diamonds; when re-imported after certification/grading by the specified laboratories/agencies abroad as detailed in the notification subject to fulfilment of conditions specified in this behalf.
 - (v) G.S.R. 377 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain Notification mentioned therein.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 412 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 35/2001-Cus., dated the 30th March, 2001.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 416 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 426 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 17/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (ix) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Amendment Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 184(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (x) G.S.R. 351 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 18/2001-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2001.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 354 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the rate of interest consequent to the enactment of Finance Act 2001.

- (xii) G.S.R. 394 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 18/99-Cus., dated the 11th February, 1999.
- (xiii) The Foreign Privileged Persons, (Regulation of Customs Privileges) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 479 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 510 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 84/97-Cus., dated the 11th November, 1997.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3796/2001]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 381 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd May, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint the 1st day of June, 2001 for purpose of section 106 of the Finance Act, 2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3796/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 265 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption from payment of inland air travel tax to the sky marshals performing inland journey by air on free tickets issued by Indian Airlines for the purpose of anti hijacking of aircrafts, under section 49 of the Finance Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3797/2001]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 3 of the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985:—

- (i) G.S.R. 490 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide for the compounded levy system for payment of excise duty by independent textile processors manufacturing specified processed textile fabrics.

- (ii) G.S.R. 491 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe lump sum duty and lay down special procedure to be followed in respect of the manufacturers of embroidery.
- (iii) G.S.R. 492 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe lump sum duty and lay down special procedure to be followed in respect of the manufacturers of Stainless Steel Patta/Pattis or Aluminium circles.
- (iv) G.S.R. 496 (E) to G.S.R. 499 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide deemed credit.

[Placed in Library See No. LT 3798/2001]

- (7) A copy of the General Insurance (Rationalization and Revision of Pay Scales and Other Conditions of Service of Supervisory, Clerical and Subordinate Staff) Amendment Scheme, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in notification No. S.O. 225 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 2001, under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act, 1972.

[Placed In Library See No. LT-3799/2001]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 503 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 5/96-Service Tax dated the 3rd April, 1996.
- (ii) G.S.R. 504 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the taxable service provided by a Security Agency to 83 specified diplomatic missions or members thereof holding diplomatic status of the concerned countries from whole of the service tax leviable hereon.

- (iii) G.S.R. 505 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend the Notification No. 48/98-Service Tax dated the 24th April, 1998.
- (iv) G.S.R. 514 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint the 16th July, 2001 as the date on which the Finance Act, 1994 shall be amended.
- (v) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 515 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vi) G.S.R. 516 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the whole of the service tax the taxable service provided in relation to still photography by any photography studio or agency which are not registered under the law relating to shops and establishment or any other law of the state for the time being in force.
- (vii) G.S.R. 517 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2001, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the whole of the service tax the taxable service provided in relation to video-tape production by any individual videographer.
- (viii) G.S.R. 518 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from the whole of the service tax the taxable service provided in relation to broadcasting service by any cable television operator.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3800/2001]

- (9) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) indicating the results of market borrowing during the year 2000-2001.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3801/2001]

- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under section 3, 4 and 8 of the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993:—

- (i) G.S.R. 258 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th April, 2001, notifying the rename

of the Establishment of the Chennai Debts Recovery Tribunal No. 2 set up at Chennai as Chennai Debts Recovery Tribunal No. 1 indicating the jurisdictions of the two Debts Recovery Tribunals.

- (ii) G.S.R. 269 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001, notifying the change in location of the Debts Recovery Appellate Tribunal Chennai.
- (iii) G.S.R. 270 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001, notifying the rename of the Establishment of the Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal No. 2 set up at Kolkata as Kolkata Debts Recovery Tribunal No. 1 indicating the jurisdiction of the two Debts Recovery Tribunals.
- (iv) G.S.R. 267 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 645 (E) dated the 2nd August, 2000.
- (v) G.S.R. 268 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2001 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 646 (E) dated the 2nd August, 2000.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3802/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Second Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 402 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2001, under section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3803/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Appointment, Terms and Conditions of Service of Director-General) Amendment Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 429 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th June, 2001, under section 39 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3804/2001]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955:—

- (i) G.S.R. 397 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2001 notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for 2000-2001 sugar season.
- (ii) G.S.R. 494 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th June, 2001 notifying the minimum sugarcane prices payable by sugar factories for 1997-98 sugar season.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3805/2001]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate-cum-Seafarer's Identity Document) Rules, 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 440(E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-3806/2001]

14.06 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Fourteenth and Fifteenth Reports

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto:—

- (1) Fourteenth Report (Eleventh Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 8th Report (11th Lok Sabha) on Ministry of Railways (Railway Board)—Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in South Central Railways.

- (2) Fifteenth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the 5th Report (13th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Finance (Banking Division)—Reservation for and employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in State Bank of Patiala and credit facilities provided by the Bank to them.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

14.07 hrs.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 30th July, 2001 will consist of:—

- 1. Discussion of Resolution regarding President's Rule in the State of Manipur.
- 2. Further consideration and passing of the following Bill:—

The Protection of Plants Varieties and Farmers Rights Bill, 2000 as reported by Joint Committee.

- 3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:—
 - (i) The General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2001.
 - (ii) The Energy Conservation Bill, 2000.
 - (iii) The Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 2000 as reported by Joint Committee.
 - (iv) The Hyderabad Export Duties (Validation) Repeal Bill, 2001.
- 4. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Food Corporation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Food Corporation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.
- 5. Discussion on Statutory Resolution seeking disapproval of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Ordinance, 2001 and consideration and passing of the Live-Stock Importation (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:—

The starvation deaths are taking place in many States frequently. Where there is plenty of foodstuffs, people have to starve. Food Corporation of India's godowns are filled with foodstuffs. The Government have taken a decision to dispose of these foodstuffs at a very low price.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to strengthen the Public Distribution System as per the direction of the Supreme Court.

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (Saharsa): Sir, the following items may be included in the list of business for next week:—

1. The construction work of H.D.T. Doordarshan Kendra approved for Saharsa, a missionary headquarter of Bihar State may be immediately started.
2. An F.M. Band Radio Station may be commissioned in Saharsa.

THE PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the list of business for the next week:—

1. Shri Kotoshwar Temple, located in Lanji area of district Balaghat under the Protection and Conservation of the Archaeological Survey of India, is in a dilapidated condition presently and the devotees visiting this temple face lots of difficulties due to restrictions imposed over there. The maintenance and upkeep of the old temple of Mata Lanjkai Devi in Lanji may also be ensured. The Archaeological Survey of India should take immediate action in this regard.
2. There is a need for allocation of funds by the Ministry of Rural Development for the construction of bridges on River Sone and River Vanja in the area affected by naxalite activities in district Balaghat.

[English]

SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO (Jagatsinghpur): The following matter may please be included in the list of business for the following week:

Devastation caused by the recent floods in Orissa and the immediate need for the rehabilitation and reconstruction programme in the flood-hit areas of Orissa.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly include the following items in the list of business for the next week:

1. There is a need to construct an airport immediately in Ajmer, so as to connect the city of religious and communal amity and important from cultural and historical point of view, with the air-route.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: So that Musharraf Saheb could visit this place.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: He did not deserve this, so he was not invited.

2. There is also a need to continuously and regularly run the Mahalakshmi and Edward Mills located in Byawar in district Ajmer and run by the NTC and the Cotton Mill, located in Vijaynagar, in district, Ajmer which are the only source of livelihood for thousands of families fighting severe famine for the last three years.

14.12 hrs.

[English]

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) National Shipping Board

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(2)(a) of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 4(1) of the National Shipping Board Rules, 1960, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from among themselves to serve as members of the National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Tobacco Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): On behalf of Shri Murasoli Maran, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of Section 4(4)(b) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rule 4(1) of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in prsuance of Section 4(4)(b) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rule 4(1) of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

14.13 hrs.

**MOTION RE: TWENTY-FIRST REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sr, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th July, 2001."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-first Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th July, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

14.14 hrs.

**INTER-STATE WATER DISPUTES
(AMENDMENT) BILL—Contd.**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up Item No. 17, Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat to continue his speech. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, you have already taken 13 minutes time.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Hon. Speaker, Sir, as a discussion is going on in the House, I strongly support and welcome the Inter-state water Dispute (Amendment) Act, 2001.

Completing my earlier speech in this regard, I would like to say that water is a national property. And through you, I request the Government that the National Water resources policy or the National Water Policy should be evolved immediately so that the decisions given by authorities with regard to dispute between different States could be complied and even the chances of such a dispute taking place, could be avoided. The disputes could be disposed off within a definite time frame. The Sarkaria Commission was constituted, which made some suggestions regarding inter-state water disputes for establishing cordial relations between the Centre and the States. This amendment has been brought in that context only. They had made suggestions to make amendments in the Bill passed in 1956 for judicious decisions related to the Inter-State rivers and river valley disputes under Article 262 of the Constitution of India. These amendments are being made in that context only.

14.16 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, there are six small amendments. But I feel that they are very important. At one place for the words inter-state the words 'Inter-State rivers' shall substituted. Secondly, under Section 1 and 4, there is some amendment in the original Act i.e. when any request under Section 3 is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government shall, within a period not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of such a request, by notification in the official Gazette, constitute a water Disputes Tribunal for the adjudication of the water dispute, provided that any dispute settled by a Tribunal before the commencement of the Inter-State Water Dispute (Amendment) Act, shall not be re-opened and if the Central Government deem it fit that such matters cannot be entrusted to the States for negotiations, then they would be entrusted to the Tribunal. Then again, there is amendment in Section 5. The provisions given in Sub-section (2) and (3), would be substituted by a new clause. There is amendment in Section 6 also. In this also, after the publication of the Gazette, the decision given by the Tribunal would have the same effect as that of any order or decree of the Supreme Court. E.g. Iradi Commission gave its decision, but several State Governments did not implement it. Now this amendment has been brought and the responsibility of giving decision on any case would be entrusted to the Tribunal after proper deliberations only. And the decision of the Tribunal shall have an effect like that of the verdict, order or decree of the Supreme Court. I feel that such amendments are very important to dispose off river water disputes by the Tribunals.

Then there is amendment in Section 9. Section 9(A) says—"The Central Government shall maintain a data bank and information system at the national level for each river basin which shall include data regarding water resources, land, shall include data regarding water resources, land, agriculture and matters relating thereto, as the Central Government may prescribe from time to time. The State Government shall supply the data to the Central Government or the Central Government shall give it to the Tribunal and the responsibility of supplying such data would be on the concerned Data Bank and Central Government or concerned State Governments. The Central Government would also have the right to verify the data supplied by the State Governments. It can appoint any person or entrust the work to someone for this purpose. This provision has also been made in this Bill. It comes

to light after looking into all these facts that this Bill is an important step towards evolving a national water policy.

14.19 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*]

In the end I would say that it is really ironical that on the one hand we face famine, floods due to excessive rains or any other natural calamity and on the other hand, natural water flows into sea. ...*(Interruptions)* The Ministers of all states can sit together and hold talks in order to resolve this problem...*(Interruptions)* I would say that water is neither a property of any particular person, nor it can be confined to the area of a particular State.

Hence it is necessary to pass this water disputes (Amendment) Act unanimously for preventing the loss of life and property in floods and having a permanent solution to the problem of drought.

I welcome it once again. As I have said earlier that National Water Policy has not been formulated so far and there is a need to formulate it immediately. Whether it is Cauveri water dispute; Krishna river dispute. Some other River Dispute, Yamuna river water dispute and whether it is Trade Commission or other tribunals constituted under the Chairmanship of hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

MADAM. CHAIRPERSON: Several other Members have also to speak in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Whether it is Bachawat tribunal which has given its decision in regard to Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. I urge upon the Union Government to implement the decision of all these tribunals in an effective manner.

[*English*]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR (Mysore): Madam Chairman, I rise to speak on the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

Madam, the Constitution provides for settlement of Inter-State water disputes under Article 262. Article 262 of the Constitution provides that all disputes of Inter-State waters between the riparian States be barred from the purview of the Supreme Court and the Centre can appoint Tribunals to adjudicate into the Inter-State disputes.

The present amendment, to some extent, tries to incorporate certain recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. The manner in which the Tribunals have

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

functioned and the fact that the implementation of the awards of the Tribunals shows that it has been a rather difficult and tedious task for the Central Government. The Sarkaria Commission made certain recommendations and the recommendations have been accepted in the Inter-State Council.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the proposed amendment to the Inter-State Disputes Act states that because of the time taken in setting the Tribunals, the long time taken by the Tribunals to adjudicate and to give awards and the difficulties faced in their implementation have given rise to further concern and there is a need for remedial measures to address this issue.

The Objects further state that the Sarkaria Commission recommended certain amendments to the Inter-State water disputes. These recommendations *inter alia* pertain to the adjudication of the disputes by the Tribunal in a time-bound manner to provide effective implementation of the decisions given in the disputes by setting up data banks and information system at a national level for each river-basin State. These have also been recommended in the meeting of the Inter-State Council on 28.11.1997.

The present amendment deals with the words 'Inter-State'. They may be substituted by the words 'Inter-State river'. This is a very welcome suggestion. I shall deal with this further.

The Cauveri Tribunal has passed an interim order prohibiting area under cultivation in Karnataka and in old Mysore region beyond what was existing, that is, 11.2 lakh hectares.

The second provision provides for in the event of a request by the State Government that there is a dispute existing and the Centre is of the opinion that there is really a dispute, it can within one year set up a Tribunal and the Tribunal shall consider all the facts and pass the award within three years.

If for some unavoidable reasons, the tribunal cannot give its decision within a period of three years, the Centre can extend the period further by another two years. If there is some unexplained provision or part of the point that has not been originally referred to the tribunal, these points can be raised within a period of three months and the same thing can be referred to the tribunal and the tribunal has the opportunity of extending it further and that shall be part of the amended Award.

But these amendments are still not going to really solve the problems or the disputes on a permanent basis. There has been a need first to specify what is the method or the rule under which the Tribunal adjudicates the Award. I feel that the Centre should follow the Helsinki rule as a method of adjudicating the water disputes. I have read a number of disputes in the United States where the inter-State disputes have been adjudicated by means of applying this Helsinki rule and they have been settled amicably to the satisfaction of all the basin States involved in the inter-State disputes that have been there.

To adjudicate upon this, there should be just, equitable and reasonable say on the usage provided to all the States. The other relevant factors that have to be considered are—geography of the basin including the particulars of the extent of the drainage, the hydrology of the basin, the climatic conditions of the region, past utilisation including existing utilisation, economic and social needs, the population dependent on water, availability of alternative sources of water, avoidance of waste, prevention of pollution, practicability of compensation as a means of adjudication to be given to the affected parties and the degree to which the need of the basin States may have to be satisfied without loss or injury to the basin States.

The manner in which the Tribunals have adjudicated the Awards leaves a lot to be desired. The manner in which the Tribunals have adjudicated the Awards, the time taken in adjudicating the Awards, the basis of adjudication, the method of adjudication and the vagueness of Awards have all been giving rise to further and fresh disputes.

Further, some Tribunals have given interim orders. These Tribunals have failed to give a final order even after a decade. The Tribunals have put restrictions on an interim order prevalent on the upper riparian States from undertaking cultivation through irrigation-connected works. As far as the ceiling on land under cultivation is concerned, the ceiling on land under cultivation is rather wrong as I feel that in Karnataka especially, river is not the only source of irrigation and there are people who use wells, tanks and other rivulets and streams which do not necessarily flow into the river and the people use this water as a means of irrigation. So, the ceiling that has been put thus causes a lot of hardship to the farmers of the particular State. These sorts of actions are very arbitrary because irrigation in old Mysore State has been dependent not only on rivers, but also—as I said — on tanks and wells.

The disputes should pertain to the river water alone and not to the groundwater. But in this instant case where I am referring to a Tribunal having passed an interim

order, it bans irrigation on a whole which, I feel, is rather unfair. I feel that this amendment is too little and too late. If one analyses the manner in which the Awards have been given, sometimes the vagueness in the Awards and sometimes the arbitrary nature of these Awards show that the Central Government at times or on many occasions behaved arbitrarily in favour of one or two or more States.

I would like to deal with the vagueness and arbitrariness of the Award by citing two important Tribunal Awards — one is an interim award and the other is the Bachawat Award. The Bachawat Award is on Krishna waters.

Madam, the Centre set up the Bachwat Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute of Krishna river water between the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. The Award was gazetted on 31st May, 1976, but the Tribunal in its award termed it as Scheme 'A' which was also gazetted. And accordingly, out of a total of 2,399 tmc water available in the basin of 50 per cent dependable flow, 330 tmc was treated as surplus and of the remaining total of 2060 tmc, the State of Maharashtra got 560 tmc, Karnataka got 700 tmc and Andhra Pradesh got 800 tmc. But in respect of water in excess of 2060 tmc, the share was divided as follows. Maharashtra got 35 per cent, that is, 24.5 tmc, Karnataka got 50 per cent, that is, 35 tmc and Andhra Pradesh got 15 per cent which amounts to 15 tmc. In respect of water above 2130 tmc, the distribution was made and Maharashtra got 25 per cent, Karnataka 50 per cent and Andhra Pradesh 25 per cent.

The Scheme A of the Award was gazetted as I have already stated, but the Tribunal had also drawn up Scheme B which it failed to make part of the Award as Andhra Pradesh had raised dispute regarding the proposed Krishna Valley Authority. The present dispute in Karnataka pertaining to the Krishna River water is because of the fact that Scheme B, which was supposed to be made a part of the award, was left vague or ambiguous. So, the State of Karnataka had to seek an injunction from the Supreme Court to restrain Andhra Pradesh from continuing with the execution of the projects of permanent nature to use the surplus water. Karnataka had further contended that the Tribunal had permitted Andhra Pradesh to use surplus water as a matter of temporary right until the implementation of Scheme B. However, Karnataka had planned to utilise 173 tmc water under Scheme A, that is, 119 tmc under Upper Krishna Project-I, and Upper Krishna Project-II envisaged use of 54 tmc. The Planning Commission had approved Upper Krishna Stage-I on 27.4.1978, but Stage-II is yet to get clearance.

In 1977, the Central Government in its affidavit submitted, in the case, before the Supreme Court stated that Andhra Pradesh had failed to establish that by the construction of Almatti Dam, Karnataka would be utilising more water than its share. It also pointed out that water sharing was on gross allocation of water and was not project specific. Rather strangely, the Union Government retracted from its earlier stand that Almatti and Narayanpur Dams' plans would be only on the basis of the quantity approved by the Planning Commission.

Further, Maharashtra had not objected to the height of Almatti Dam at 524.256 metres full reservoir level in 1997. A year later, it changed its stand and submitted an affidavit in the Supreme Court stating that if Almatti reservoir's height was increased to 542 metres, it would result in flooding and submerging of much of its territory. The Karnataka Government allowed Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore to conduct a study in this regard. The Study Team pointed out that no territory of Maharashtra would be flooded as a result of Almatti and Hiraji Dams.

Now, I deal with the tribunal which was set up in the year 1990 to decide upon the Cauvery water issue.

It passed an interim order where it ordered, on June 1991, an interim amount of 205 TMC of water to be provided to Tamil Nadu. Although it has been 11 years since the Tribunal passed this interim order, it is yet to give its final order on this issue. Further, the Tribunal has assumed that there is going to be a good monsoon throughout. The maximum amount of water available at the Cauvery Basin is 705 TMC. When there is full flow and when there is flood, the minimum amount of water available is 380 TMC. The Tribunal has been silent as to what would happen if the monsoon fails. Further, the Tribunal should have taken Biligundlu as the point of entry into Tamil Nadu, but unfortunately, the Tribunal has taken Mettur as the point of entry to measure the amount of water flowed into Tamil Nadu. In the year 1999-2000, the flow at Biligundlu was 273.18 TMC, but what was recorded at Mettur was 267.54 TMC. There was about 60 TMC water, more than what was stipulated by the Tribunal, which was allowed to flow into Tamil Nadu.

The schedule that has been drawn up in this interim order is a very tight schedule. May and June are months when monsoons can be in full flow or, sometimes, the monsoons are not there. We are not experiencing any monsoon this year. So, the schedule to be followed is rather difficult, in my opinion.

[Shri S.D.N.R. Wadiyar]

Further, Tamil Nadu has the advantage of both the South-West and North-East monsoons, but in Karnataka, we have only the possibility of South-West Monsoons to rely upon. The U.N. Development Programme reported that Tamil Nadu has wasted about 340 TMC of water.

From all these factors, the conclusion that can be drawn is that whatever awards the Tribunals have given so far, the Tribunals seem to have failed to consider various aspects, like the monsoon aspect, high flood situation, and low flood situation, in giving these awards. Many a time, the awards given seem to be vague. For instance, regarding Krishna waters, they have left the Schedule Scheme 'B'. It has not been gazetted and made part of the award. Therefore, these awards have given rise to fresh disputes.

As all of you know, the present dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka is now in the Supreme Court. According to the Constitution, Inter-State disputes are barred from the purview of the court because of the ambiguity in Scheme B of the order. Today, the matter is in the court. What is really required is a total comprehensive Bill taking into consideration all the factors. The problems that have been faced over the last 50 years in the implementation of the awards should be taken into consideration, and a comprehensive Bill should be drawn up to include all these factors.

I personally feel that a national water policy should be enunciated where there is a provision to uplink the Himalayan rivers with the peninsular rivers. I am told that there are 31 projects, and there is excess of flood in one area but there is drought in another area. So, uplinking of Himalayan rivers with peninsular rivers will definitely help in mitigating the hardships of the farmers, and also to provide drinking water to the people. Otherwise, large quantities of water go waste.

I also feel that there are certain States where pollution of water by industries is very high. These sort of States must be forced to put treatment plants to treat effluents that are going into the water so that purity of water is not affected and in no way it is polluted so that it can be used by all the people concerned.

I feel that there should be a comprehensive Bill for listing out the manner in which the Tribunals have to be constituted; the time-frame for implementing the process and, as far as possible, to prevent any further litigation. These matters should be resolved and this could only be possible through a comprehensive Bill and a National Water Policy.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Madam, Chairperson, this is a legislation on a State subject. As per the provisions of the Constitution, river water is a State subject. Now, the Centre is forced to mediate in a dispute between States in the use of river water.

Madam Chairperson, we had passed the Water Dispute Act in 1956. Forty-five years have passed since then. But, what is the result? It is a failed law. We have not achieved anything in spite of the fact that many attempts were made to reach a consensus between the States. But we have not achieved anything. That is why, this matter was referred to the Sarkaria Commission. The Commission recommended mainly two things. One, the delay in passing an award by the Tribunals. Two, the Award passed by the Tribunal would have the status of a Supreme Court order. This legality was given. Also, there must be a legislation to the effect that the orders or Awards passed by the Tribunal would have the same legal force as an order or judgement of the Supreme Court. Now, this Bill deals with only one of the two recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and that is about delay in passing of the Awards. What about the second recommendation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): The second recommendation is also included in the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The second recommendation is about giving a legality to the order. Why has the second recommendation not included in the Bill?

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: The second one is also there in the Bill.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Madam Chairperson, I may be permitted to quote a report that appeared in the newspapers about the meeting of the National Water Commission. The meeting was convened by the hon. Prime Minister and the Chief Ministers of almost all the States attended that meeting. What was the stand taken by the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Vasant Rao Dada Patil in that meeting? He asserted that 'amendments or modifications to the existing inter-State dispute Act of 1956 and to fix up a time limit for the Tribunal to decide the dispute is undesirable'. So, the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra was of the opinion that no amendments were required to the present Act. According to him, it was undesirable. That was the stand taken by the then Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Vasant Rao Dada Patil at the meeting of the National Water Commission Board.

The Prime Minister presided over that meeting. What exactly is the position now? The exact tenor of the contention is that politics outweigh water disputes. If the Centre is governed by a party and the State is governed by another party which is in opposition at the Centre - it is because we have a multi-party system - implementing the tribunal's decision is very difficult. The Central Government will have to do some thing in the matter. That has become evident in the case of water dispute between Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. NDA Government at the Centre is not in a position to take a decision on the Karnataka Government's demands on sharing of waters between the two States, because the NDA Government is squarely sitting there with the support that it gets from Telugu Desam Party. So, politics outweigh all other considerations. That is why we cannot take a decision in these matters. It is our failure because we could not make any decision for over forty-five years. Even filing and getting an award took more than ten years. In Cauvery waters dispute, in which the riparian States are Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, it took 12 years to get an award. That award is not implemented even today. Why is it so? It is because of political considerations. Even among parties also there are political interests. A Chief Minister belonging to one party is governing one State, in his anxiety to expand his hold over the people, takes a decision which will be according to his interest and to the interest of the State.

In the water dispute between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, the riparian use of Andhra Pradesh is for a very short distance. The entire area is covered in Karnataka. So, my humble submission is that until and unless we take a firm stand irrespective of political decisions, it will not be possible to take a just and reasonable decision in water disputes.

That is why I charge the present Government because it is reluctant to bring a legislation or even make an amendment to the Water Disputes Act incorporating the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission that the award passed by the Water Disputes Tribunal should have the effect of a Supreme Court order.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: That provision is there.

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): It is there. Section 4 of the amendment says that it has the effect of a decree of the Supreme Court.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I have seen it, but my view is otherwise. Insertion of a clause here is not sufficient. I understand the position. I concede that it is there. But the Supreme Court will not accept this position. Orders passed by Supreme Court alone will be considered by them. Suppose somebody goes to the Supreme Court challenging the decision of the tribunal or files a Public Interest Litigation — any citizen can approach Supreme Court to give a declaration - that the order passed by the tribunal is of no value, the Supreme Court is not answerable to it. The Supreme Court is not held responsible for passing an order like this.

So, it should have been given with an amendment in special terms that whatever be contained in the law, for the time being, any order passed by this Tribunal will be an order under the Supreme Court Act. Without that it will not get any legal validity. By merely stating in the amendments, it will not be sufficient. That is another matter.

On passing of the Statute, we may enumerate some of pending water disputes. The Cauvery Water Dispute is there involving the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka. Even after 12 years, it has not been finally settled. Now, there is a review petition filed because there is a provision provided for. A review petition has been filed and it will take two to three years for an Order to be passed. The Tribunal passes only interim order. It may take 25 years if the things go on like this, for passing a final order. No decision will be taken. The Government of Tamil Nadu is very much agitated over the Government of Karnataka for not releasing water from Cauvery to the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

Then, there is Son river water disputes among Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. That also has not been settled so far. It is pending for a long period. Nothing has been done in this case. Recently, the hon. Prime Minister made an attempt to make a *suo motu* reference to the concerned Governments. But in that *suo motu* reference, some Governments did not send any reply. Anyhow then, representatives from Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan attended the meeting and others did not. So, it is not possible to get a decision on such matters easily. That is our experience.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

Then, there are the Ravi-Beas Water Tribunal, Upper Yamuna River Board. There was an MoU signed among the Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Delhi. Only an MoU was signed. How far it will be implemented and given effect to is a matter to be seen because the law enforcement is ineffective.

Then, as we all know, the Government of Karnataka is contemplating the contempt of court proceedings against the Government of Andhra Pradesh. They are taking a very hard step against the Government of Andhra Pradesh due to non-release of water to their State by them.

Then, another most important and most difficult issue in this case is Krishna Water Dispute. Though the name of the Chief Minister is Krishna, the water dispute is also, coincidentally, known as Krishna Water Dispute between Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is violating the Supreme Court Order. We have the Statute and we are following that Statute but Andhra Pradesh is violating the Supreme Court Order. That is the position, as of now. Can it be enforced? Who is the law enforcing authority? They are contemplating a contempt of court proceedings against the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

So, we are helpless. Even though we passed a Statue like this, we are helpless in implementing the decision of the Tribunal. That is the bitter experience that we are now facing in Karnataka. What is then the meaning of passing this Statute? We could not enforce it. Even after 45 years, we could not enforce or implement the provisions of the Statute. The latest example is that of Karnataka, which is taking the bold step of approaching the Supreme Court for contempt of court proceedings against Andhra Pradesh. What will be the remedy then? Who can give the remedy? Who will enforce the decision of the Tribunal? Nobody knows. Is there an implementing agency in our State? The officials — the Chief Engineers or the Secretaries of Water Resources Departments of the States concerned — are only 'a body of experts'. They cannot be the implementing authorities; they have no powers to do that. When the court is passing an order, there will be a provision for implementing the order. Now, we have no provision for implementing the order of a Tribunal. Most of the States challenge this order and disobey the order; they are not prepared to implement it because they are always influenced by political considerations available in their respective States. They will have to be with the Opposition in such matters. Justice is not the criterion there, but politics is the dominant force. So, decision-making is very difficult in States.

So, my humble submission is that having an Act alone will not solve the problem. The Maharashtra Chief Minister had opined that no purpose will be served by amending the present Act. This is his opinion. 'Undesirable' is the word he had used.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON: What is your opinion?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: My humble submission is that the Minister may have to bring in a legislation with provisions to implement the order of the Tribunal.

Further, a data-base bank is essential and should be made available to give the details like availability of water, the riparian area, the surrounding basins in the river, etc. all these details must be at hand. But in spite of all these, I do not think that we will be able to implement it.

With these observations, I would say that the learned Minister will bring in another legislation in the near future at least to satisfy all the Chief Ministers including the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. MALAISAMY (Ramanathapuram): First of all, let me thank the Chair for the opportunity given to speak on the Inter-State Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2001.

While I am happy about the opportunity given, I have got my own constraints to realise whether the time given is adequate enough and appropriate enough to make my presentation and submission. However, let me try the process of presentation as quickly as possible within the time frame given.

15.00 hrs.

Besides joining with some of the aspects which some of my colleagues have already touched, I would like to supplement a few more aspects in submitting to the Chair that this is a major and macro level problem assuming the importance of every State, touching upon every State in some form or the other. To amplify, let me remind that it is one of the *panchbhootas*, the benevolent gifts that the nature has given us, namely, the water. Not only it is one of the *panchbootas*, three-fourth of the world's geophysical territory is filled with water. Though water is in plenty, useable, potable and irrigable water is not adequate and there is big scarcity. That is why when I thought of this, I am reminded of an English poem, in

which an ancient mariner marooned in the mid-sea said, "Water water everywhere but not a drop to drink". That is why I said though plenty of water is available either in the sea or otherwise irrigable or useable or potable water is limited.

The rivers play a vital role in this context, as already said here. Unfortunately, the geophysical feature is such that the total monsoon or rainfall period is confined to three to four months only. As a result, there is heavy flood resulting heavy damage to property, life and also causing socio-economic disaster. Almost 75 per cent of the rainfall is confined to three to four months and there will be a spate of flood during that period. On the other hand, 68 per cent of our area is dry. And, 16 per cent of the area is drought-hit like Ramanathapuram, the constituency from which I hail and represent. Thus the major area is suffering for want of water while in a few places flood is occurring. Under these circumstances, we feel that the surplus river water, which is entering into the sea, should be profitably used by interlinking rivers diverting the west flowing rivers and joining with sea into other areas for irrigable purposes and nationalisation of the rivers. These are the policies widely advocated by many of the experts and visionaries. It is high time one should look into these aspects seriously. This august body should think of doing something concrete at the macro level to solve this problem of scarcity of water.

We all feel proud in saying that we are Indian and that we are broad-minded. We also say that we have got a broad outlook. I would like to quote a Tamil poem: "yaadum oore yaavaram kelir" It means, in the universe every place is ours and everyone in the world is my own kith and kin. But in reality, it is otherwise. Our concept, perception is very much narrow-minded or self-centred. We only think of ourselves. The overall interest is overlooked and the national interest is neglected. When we feel pleasure, it should be the pleasure of everyone. When we feel pain, it should be shared. If one Indian is suffering, the other should also feel and his share his sufferings. But in reality if I get into pleasure, I myself want to enjoy. My colleague from Karnataka who has just now spoken, appealed to take care of the interest of Karnataka even at the expense of Tamil Nadu. On the other hand, my colleague from Kerala has rightly said how great injustice has been done to Tamil Nadu just because its disadvantageous geophysical location in sharing river water.

You should have an overall perspective of the national interest. In this situation, I want to appeal that our approach should be really broad-minded and our outlook should also be broader.

Coming to the Bill, I very much like to support it. While endorsing the views of Shri Radhakrishnan to the effect that though it is on law, but has not been implemented. As far as Cauvery issue is concerned, for the last 11 years, we are driven from pillar to post. After so many years the Tribunal was able to pass only an interim order. Even that interim order could not be implemented. On many occasions, the Tamil Nadu farmers have to starve for water. The Tribunal has given an interim award that during such and such period, such and such quantity of water should flow. But in reality, it was not done. The law is there but unfortunately, it was not be implemented. Shri Radhakrishnan's observations strengthens the case of Tamil Nadu. I thank him for that. My colleague from Karnataka who just now made his speech was saying that Tamil Nadu has drawn more water. I may tell him that it is not so. On the other hand, what has to be given to Tamil Nadu has not been given because the interim order has not been implemented in full. That is what I am trying to say.

Madam Chairperson, coming to the Bill, I agree that some attempt has been made by fixing the time frame for adjudication. It is very good. Instead of dragging the matter for years, a time frame has to be fixed. The Tribunal should give its adjudication and Award within a time limit. On that point I fully support it. Not only that Tribunal should find a workable devise and should give directions in such a way that the Award given could be implemented. An attempt in that direction has been made in this Bill based on the recommendation of Sarkaria Commission.

As far as the Bill is concerned, there are yet other good things. But how are you going to effectively implement it? This is a moot question. Shri Radhakrishnan also raised this question. You must find out a suitable mechanism and make an in-depth study to see how it could be done. You may consider whether it should be done administratively, politically or through consensus. But once an award is given, it should be implemented effectively.

While I am supporting many aspects of this Amendment Bill, I have got my reservations in regard to clause 9A (2) which reads as follows:

"The Central Government shall have powers to verify the data supplied by the State Government, and appoint any person or persons for the purpose and

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

take such measures as it may consider necessary. The person or persons so appointed shall have the powers to summon such records and information from the concerned State Government as are considered necessary to discharge their functions under this section."

Under this clause it contemplates that the Central Government can have the powers to verify the data supplied by the State Governments. As you know, water flow is dynamic in nature and it will not stagnate. If I take a data that such and such cusecs of water have passed through a point on a particular time and date, how can it be verified that particular data on a later date? It is impracticable and not feasible. In such a situation, how could you introduce a clause saying that you can verify the data which is given by the State Government? You cannot verify it in practice. On the other hand, all these years the data given by the State Government has been accepted. If the Tribunal has got some reason or reservation that the data given by the State Government cannot be relied upon, then the Tribunal has got the power just like any other court by way of summoning witnesses, examining documents and analysing evidences.

The Tribunal can call for any document; examine the data in whatever form and analyse the data in whichever way it likes. When that power is already there why do you introduce a provision as 9(A) (2) which is superfluous and unimplementable.

Secondly, this is a new insertion beyond the recommendation of the Sarkaria Commission. You have followed all the conditions of the Sarkaria Commission verbatim and that is understandable. Why you have brought out a new insertion which is not at all warranted. It is neither envisaged by the Sarkaria Commission nor useful in any way. This is a superfluous clause without any purpose. If at all you introduce a new clause, it should be useful also. Therefore, kindly think over very seriously whether clause 9a (2) will be of any use except to have a super say by the Central Government over State Government. All along the data given by the State Government have been accepted. This has been the age old practice.

Finally while I support the other clauses of the Bill, I would plead that clause 9A(2) may be deleted. Secondly, as rightly said by Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, some serious thought should be given as to how the award given by the Tribunal could be implemented by evolving a proper device or mechanism in practice.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA (Mahasamund): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a law for resolving water disputes has been framed after a long time it is a very good step but there is a need to further amend it. Some of its clauses are redundant i.e. section-1 wherein it has been stated that —

[English]

an amendment has been sought to be made saying that the words 'inter-State' shall be substituted by the words 'inter-State River.' But I feel that the previous nomenclature was much better. If you restrict it to only inter-State river disputes, it will create more complications. There are many river basins where disputes may arise because of submersion of land. The river may not be an inter-State river. But on the borders, if one State builds a dam, some land of the other State may also get submerged. So, the previous nomenclature was better. In fact, the amendment which is now sought to be made creates more complications. Therefore, I suggest that the hon. Minister may drop this amendment. Inter-State water dispute has been defined very well in the original Act where it is said that:

"Inter-State water dispute means any dispute or difference between two or more State Governments with respect to use, distribution or control of water or in any inter-State river or river valley."

Therefore, it is already there. There is no need to bring this amendment at all.

There is a welcome feature in this Act that according to Sarkaria Commission's recommendations, a time-limit is sought to be imposed on tribunals so that they do not keep on dragging the disputes for years and years. The amendment is not very explicit. Clause 3 is for introducing an amendment to section 4 of the principal Act.

"When any request under section 3 is received from any State Government in respect of any water dispute and the Central Government is of opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government shall, within a period not exceeding one year from the date of receipt of such request, by notification in the Official Gazette, constitute a Water disputes Tribunal."

The Central Government should not take more than six months to appoint a Tribunal. One year is too long a period.

Now, I will give you an example of the former State of Madhya Pradesh and now the State of Chhattisgarh. Indrawati river is coming from Orissa and flowing into Chhattisgarh. Before it enters the old Madhya Pradesh and the present Chhattisgarh,— I do not know whether it is deliberate or not — the majority of the river water is being diverted into Johda Nullah so much so that almost 90 per cent of the Indrawati river water is going into a different valley. The water which was coming into Chhattisgarh was to generate power in Bhod Ghat project and two or three projects down the stream. If all the water goes into another valley thus diverted, it would not be good. The Orissa Government says that it is being diverted inadvertently and it is not their own doing. The banks have been denuded.

[Translation]

Denudation has occurred in it. Hence all its water has been going to Johda Nullah, however the water dries up in summer and no water remains in river Indravati. Hence hundreds of villages at lower attitudes do not have any discharged water. Tribunal should take a decision in this regard. I think that to give a time of one year to the tribunal for such a task is quite wrong. I understand that the Government have to bear several responsibilities, still it is too long to take one year for the constitution of a tribunal. I am of the opinion that if this time limit is reduced to six or three months, it will give a lot of relief.

You have fixed the time limit as per the recommendations made by the Sarkaria Commission. The following is mentioned in clause 4 of the section 5 and it has been substituted by you in section 2 and 3

[English]

"The Tribunal shall investigate the matters referred to it and forward to the Central Government a report setting out the facts as found by it and giving its decision on the matters referred to it within a period of three years."

Now, why not make it two years? In the modern age, where everything is moving so fast.

[Translation]

Why a period of three years has been given to the tribunal to give its decision when there is so much work to do and there is a need to take quick decisions. A dispute should be resolved expeditiously by collecting all the evidences and making all the involved parties to take it seriously and the Government should refrain from

adopting delaying tactics. Two years are enough for halting the development process of a place. Hence I will submit to the hon. Minister that this time limit should be reduced to two years from the existing three years.

[English]

Further it says:

"Provided that if the decision cannot be given for unavoidable reasons, within a period of three years."

Here, it should be made two years instead of three years.

"...the Central Government may extend the period for a further period not exceeding two years."

Now, why two years? At least, you may make it as one year or if not, six months.

[Translation]

It will be better if it is reduced to one year or 6 months. Tribunal has stated that:

[English]

"If, upon consideration of the decision of the Tribunal, the Central Government or any State Government is of opinion that anything therein contained requires explanation or that guidance is needed..."

[Translation]

You have again given an opportunity for further one year to the Tribunal for this purpose. I think that six months duration is enough. They are to give some clarifications or some explanation, hence the time should be reduced to 6 months instead of one year. The provisions made in amendments under clause 5, section 6 are quite good:

[English]

"The decision of the Tribunal, after its publication in the Official Gazette by the Central Government under sub-section (1), shall have the same force as an order or decree of the Supreme Court."

[Translation]

This is very good amendment. This provision also covers the suggestion of hon. Radha Krishanji. It does not require anything like making the provision as per the

[Shri Shyamacharan Shukla]

Supreme Court Act, for Lok Sabha is a sovereign body and the Supreme Court is bound to comply with and implement. Whatever law is passed by the House. Therefore the provision made for the purpose is very good. However, there is a need to further amend it. There is a need to delegate more powers to the Supreme Court. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that some new factors emerge in several cases which are either missing earlier or they are not brought to the attention due to some reason or the other. Such matters need the intervention of the Supreme Court.

15.21 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

When you are passing the orders in the name of Supreme Court then it should also be given the reviewing authority. Giving such authority to the Supreme Court can prove very useful in the disposal of several disputes going on between various States including Karnataka and Tamil Nadu regarding tribunal award for the last 12-15 years. Provision to this effect must be made in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an example for it. The tribunal award to the dispute of Narmada Water dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh was given in 1977. At that time no Scientific data regarding the volume of Narmada water was available. Its calculation was done on the basis of rough estimates of the quantum of water available through rainfall and its deposition in the 18 million square feet catchment area. On the basis of that estimate water proportion for various riparian States like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat was fixed. We don't want to create any dispute over it. However as per the gauging done by Central Water Commission on the basis of the data collected in last 40 years, the water volume of Narmada is not more than 23 million acre feet. As per the formula given by the tribunal, the water to be distributed among various States will automatically be reduced in the proportion in which the water is allocated to each State. There is a provision for right to use water by each State accordingly. We are aware that people of Gujarat are very patriotic and they took active part in the struggle of independence. So they must happily accept the provision of 23 million acre feet volume of water as the share of their State instead of the initial provision of 28 million acre feet of water. The reason for this reduction in the decision to decrease the height of dam from its original 436 feet to 392 feet in order to save the large area from being inundated. The people of Gujarat must be convinced not to protest against this decision because they will certainly get their due share of water. This decision will also render the movement launched by environments like Medha Patkar

and others protesting against the construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam quite meaningless because once the height of the dam is reduced all the villages and residential areas will be prevented from getting submerged. I have never heard that in any country. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is talking out of subject and saying irrelevant things. My objects is that there is no need to unnecessary link it with the order of the Supreme Court.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: You listen to my points. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Why is it not related?...*(Interruptions)* It is related...*(Interruptions)* He is talking about Narmada...*(Interruptions)* It is a related subject...*(Interruptions)* Unnecessarily he is interfering...*(Interruptions)* He is talking in favour of Gujarat people...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Supreme Court has given orders in this regard. Hence it should not be talked about...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You do not have the permission of the Chair, so please take your seat.

SHRI SHYAMACHARAN SHUKLA: I am suggesting that you must give the Supreme Court power to review in light of the fact that new factors keep on emerging during and after several cases. I do not want to claim that whatever I am saying is right but I am trying to prevent before the House the viewpoint of technical experts and engineers. You cannot find a single instance that people in civilized country are put to the risk of being submerged and thus flee their homes. Gujarat can be given its due share of water even while the height of the dam is kept to a reduced level of 392 feet. People of Gujarat will never make a hue and cry provided they are apprised of facts, for, they have contributed in the freedom struggle and always work in the interest of the country. The Narmada valley which is turning into a sorrow valley owing to its threat of submerging various areas. Can only be saved Supreme Court plays its role. We should also make provision in this Bill to grant the right to the Supreme Court to review tribunal award under particular circumstances.

I request the hon'ble Minister to move amendments in this regard and Supreme Court should also be given authority to intervene in the Award of the Tribunal. The several disputes which are lying pending could be solved if such an amendment is made in this act. The water dispute going on between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu for last 12-15 years may be settled if such provisions are made. I hope that the hon'ble Minister will consider my points seriously.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government have claimed that inter-state water disputes will be settled by bringing this Amendment Bill. We all know that earth has two-third water and one third land. But out of this total water 97 percent water is saline and only 3 percent is soft water. There has been a history of struggles for getting possession of this 3 percent soft water. This water is the root cause of a lot of bloodshedding. I mean to say that water is an important issue which becomes an apple of discord among States, communities and nations. The hon'ble Minister has claimed that the bill has been brought in accordance with the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission which was constituted for making suggestions to settle water disputes among various States. My first question is that what about the international water dispute. What measures have been taken to check wastage of water and devastation caused by rivers originating from the neighbouring countries. The Government are not capable to solve water dispute among two States then what legal provisions will be made to check the devastation caused by rivers flowing from neighbouring countries or protect the riparian rights. The rivers flowing from Nepal cause havoc in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Bengal. To check the devastation caused by international rivers a barrage was constructed at Gadhmaiya and Nunthar on Bagmati river and now a dam has been constructed. During summer season when there is shortage of water, they stop water and say that river has dried up and in rainy seasons water is released due to which several villages submerge in water and fertile soil is washed away. At the time of need water is stopped and during rainy season due to release of water we have to face flood problem. Is there any law in this regard and details of the agreement signed between India and Nepal in this direction. Karnali, Bagmati Nunthar, Bagah, Kosi, Kamla Bagaan, Bhutahi and all the rivers of Diyara Group cause havoc in my area.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is going to be 3.30 p.m. now and Private Members' Business is to be taken up in the House. Only two Members are there to speak on this Bill and they can be allowed now if the House permits to do so.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a sensitive Bill. Let him continue next time and we can now take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Mr. Chairman, Sir, now it is 3.30 p.m. Let us start Private Members' Business. Let Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh continue next time.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, hon. Members from Tamil Nadu also want to participate in the debate on this very important Bill. If you want to close and gag everybody's voice, they will not be able to contribute to the debate. So, let us continue the debate on this Bill on Monday and we can now take up Private Members' Business.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, this Bill has far-reaching implications. Let him continue on Monday. Now, let us take up Private Members' Business.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sentiments of the House will be respected. Raghuvansh Prasadji will continue his speech. Now we take up Private Members' Business.

15.33 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH REPORTS OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK (Pondicherry): Sir, I beg to move the following:—

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 23 March, 2001 and agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 19 April, 2001, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of recommendations thereof relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted and also agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 25 July, 2001."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirteenth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on 23 March, 2001 and agree with the Fourteenth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 19 April, 2001, subject to modification that para 4 and sub-para (ii) of recommendations thereof relating to allocation of time to Resolutions, be omitted and also agree with the Fifteenth Report of the Committee presented to the House on 25 July, 2001."

The motion was adopted.

15.35 hrs.

[English]

PUBLIC PREMISES (EVICTION OF UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of section 2)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 18A)

[English]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new Part XXIA, etc.)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 24A)

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

15.37 hrs.

**STATES REORGANISATION
COMMISSION BILL***

[*English*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a States Reorganisation Commission for recommending reorganisation of the States of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a States Reorganisation Commission for recommending reorganisation of the States of the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.

NATIONAL PARKS BILL*

[*English*]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE (Ramtek): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment and control of National Parks and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: I introduce the Bill.

**PROVISION OF FREE MEDICAL AND
ENGINEERING EDUCATION TO
MERITORIOUS AND ECONOMICALLY
WEAKER STUDENTS BILL***

[*English*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free medical and engineering education to meritorious and economically weaker students and for matters connected therewith.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free medical and engineering education to meritorious and economically weaker students and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

[*English*]

COTTON GROWERS (BENEFIT) BILL*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection and welfare of cotton growers."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

15.40 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Insertion of new article 364A, etc.)***[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Amendment of article 130)**15.40 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.*[English]*

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs.

**HIGH COURT OF MUMBAI
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT
BENCH AT NASIK) BILL****[English]*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Mumbai at Nasik.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Mumbai at Nasik."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): I introduce the Bill.

15.41 $\frac{1}{2}$ hrs.*[English]***CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*****(Amendment of Seventh Schedule)**

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN (Tiruchendur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

DR. A.D.K. JAYASEELAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

15.42 hrs.

**NATIONAL AGRICULTURE COMMISSION
BILL****[English]*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Agriculture Commission with the objective to increase agricultural productivity in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Agriculture Commission with the objective to increase agricultural productivity in the country."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Insertion of new article 21A etc.)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.43 hrs.

**POLITICAL PARTIES (ASSISTANCE AND
REGULATION) BILL****[English]*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for assistance to political parties and their candidates by the Central Government for ensuring their effective functioning and for promoting sound democratic polity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for assistance to political parties and their candidates by the Central Government for ensuring their effective functioning and for promoting sound democratic polity and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.43 1/2 hrs.

**NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR
CITIZENS BILL****[English]*

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE (Nasik): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for senior citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Commission for senior citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The Motion was adopted.

SHRI UTTAMRAO DHIKALE: I introduced the Bill.

15.44 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)***[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I introduce the Bill.

15.44 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Amendment of article 75, etc.)***[English]*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I introduce the Bill.

15.45 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Amendment of First Schedule)***[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL***(Amendment of Article 80)***[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.**[Translation]*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I introduce the Bill.

15.46 1/2 hrs.

THE SENIOR CITIZENS (WELFARE) BILL**[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to old persons.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of pension and provision of other facilities to old persons."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.47 hrs.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOARD BILL*

(Amendment of First Schedule)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the development, storage and sales of fruits and vegetables and their products.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the development, storage and sales of fruits and vegetables and their products."

The motion was adopted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

THE PROHIBITION ON RELIGIOUS CONVERSION BILL*

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious conversions.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious conversions."

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) Mr. Chairman, Sir, kindly see what the Bill is. It is for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious conversions. That is against the Constitution which he is wanting to do. It is against the explicit provisions of the Constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should give a notice.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, if there is any force exercised anywhere, the existing law takes care of it.

These are the things which you cannot provide by law. They can go out to the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should give notice before the introduction of the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this objection can be raised. I pointed out this...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should give the notice before opposing.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, this objection should have been taken...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): It is on Constitutional ground. Article 25 provides the Fundamental Right to propagate a religion...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: How the business of the House will be taken up if so many Members speak at the same time.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: This could not have been done...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): They should have informed...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Is it an indication of the Government's desire to do away with the Constitution here?

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Constitution provides the right to freedom to every citizen. Anyone who wishes to practise any particular religion can do so. No ban should be imposed in this regard...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, there should not be any compulsion in this regard. Law is already there in case, someone is forced to do so.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seats.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I have a point of order...(Interruptions) The Bill is contray. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The Bill is against the Constitution...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: This Parliament is under the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is at introduction stage now. You can raise your points when discussion is held on it.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the past also, on many occasions, objection was taken note of at the time of introduction of the Bill and you had accepted it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: A point of order does not need any notice...(Interruptions) The Bill cannot be moved

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Banatwallaji, you are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Have you read the Bill?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, I must say that...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: The Bill is against the Constitution...(Interruptions) This Parliament has to work under the Constitution...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He has a point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am not moving any bill contrary to the Constitution of India. ...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: This is a point of order. The point of order does not require any prior notice. The point of order is that under article 25 of the Constitution of India, people have full freedom of conscience and full freedom of religion. Here if you have prohibitions on the same, then that is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution of India. As such, the Bill cannot come. Now, if you talk about conversion by fraud, then in that case, the Indian Penal Code is sufficient to look after the situation. This Bill is, therefore, totally out of order. You must rule it out and do not give any permission for the motion for leave to introduce the Bill. Therefore, we seek your ruling objecting to it and we want the ruling in order not to allow this motion for leave to introduce the Bill to be moved. This is the point of order on this motion.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria): Shall I make one submission?

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, you are very right. If a Member wants to oppose at this stage of introduction, he should have to give a notice. But what Shri Banatwalla has said is that if we raise the point of order on the specific provision how the order is being violated, then you have got to listen. I am thankful to you that you have listened.

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Please read the Bill. Do not stand up.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I am not going into the details. I only quote this. I am on the point of order on article 25.

[Translation]

I have taken permission and read this bill. Please let me speak.

[English]

SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI: Sir, are you allowing a discussion on the merits of the Bill now?...*(Interruptions)* Then, we will discuss the merits of all the Bills that are being introduced.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is the introduction stage and there is no discussion on the merits.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS (Trichur): There is a very pertinent point of order raised by SHRI G.M. Banatwalla and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to his point.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Fundamental Rights, as explained in article 25, are guaranteed by the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)* The Right to Freedom of Religion is a right to decide which religion I like to belong and which I like to leave.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can go through the Article 25 of the Bill.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: I have read the Bill.

[English]

The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is also present here. He is more competent than I am, so far as handling of Bills is concerned. If any Fundamental Right under the Constitution is twisted or violated, the law of the land takes care of it. That is why there is a Writ Bench in the High Court. If the legal provisions that are incorporated in the Constitution are threatened, what is the point of legislation?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: What is wrong in it ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, we want a ruling from you.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla and Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi have raised a point of order. It is quite clear under rule 74 that at the time of introduction of a Bill, any Member can object to it. ...*(Interruptions)* He has now raised a point of order. If you kindly take the Rules of Procedure, you would see that it is very clearly stated that any law that is contrary to the provisions of the articles of the Constitution cannot be enacted.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: It is not there.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, there is no restriction in religion conversion voluntarily by any person...*(Interruptions)* What is problem in it...*(Interruptions)* There is no restriction if someone voluntarily wishes to convert...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Article 25 says:

"Subject to public order, morality and health and to the other provisions of this Part, all persons are equally entitled to freedom of conscience and the right freely to profess, practise and propagate religion."

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: There is no problem in it. It is not contradictory to the Constitution. There is no restrictions for those who voluntarily convert to another religion ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: The objective of this Bill is to impose restrictions if someone is forced to change his religion.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: It is clearly stated, 'subject to public order'. So, why should we have another Bill coming up for this?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, clause 2 of the Bill has certain restrictions that are unconstitutional.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to make his point, please listen to him.

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, we want a ruling. Then only can the proceedings go on. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: He has to listen to me also. He has listened to Shri G.M. Banatwalla. He should hear everybody. I am the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I also have to speak on this.

16.00 hrs.

I also have to speak. ...*(Interruptions)* So, the whole question is: whether this is violating article 25 or not. He has a right, you have a right and I too have a right. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, naturally, whenever you will debate, you will have to go through the contents of the Bill whether it is violating any provision or not. I would like to draw the attention of the House to clause 3 of the Bill. The sub-clause 3 of the Bill, which the hon. Member is introducing, says that this Act shall not apply to any person who voluntarily converts to another religion or reconverts to his original religion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS: That is not the problem. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Let me speak on my problem. Let us discuss it. You can then stand up and raise the question. ...*(Interruptions)* No new Act has to enforce the Constitution. The Constitution is there. It is supreme. All laws, which are unconstitutional cannot be valid. So, I am not on that point.

The second point is: he himself is reiterating the position that if anybody wants to change the religion voluntarily, it is totally permitted. What this Bill is trying to say is that no person or institution shall encourage or cause to encourage convert religion by way of inducement in any form and force...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

I may be wrong but please let me conclude.

[English]

So, he is not talking about the religious freedom. It is already given. But what he is trying to reinforce is that any change of religion, which is done by force, or inducement should be prohibited. Suppose, tomorrow I want to change my religion, the Constitution gives me right and I can change it. But if somebody is trying to give money; somebody is trying to force, then it is opposed.

Sir, there are any number of such Bills which are discussed in the Lok Sabha during the last 50 years. This is not the first Bill, which has been brought here. There are any numbers of Bills which have been discussed. I think, the Member has a right and he should be allowed to introduce his Bill. Let the House take a decision at a proper time as to when it will be discussed.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I fully share the concern of the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. Please read the first line — inducement and force. What is the meaning? It is subject to public order and morality. It is already written there. ...*(Interruptions)* It is already written there, 'subject to public order and morality'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Please see Rule 72. It is with regard to procedure when introduction of the Bill is opposed. Then, Rule 72(1) says and I quote:

"If a motion for leave to introduce a Bill is opposed, the Sepaker, Sir, after permitting, if he thinks fit, brief statements from the Member who opposes the motion and the Member who moved the motion, may without further debate, put the question."

Sir, in the second paragraph it is written:

"Provided that where a motion is opposed on the ground that the Bill initiates legislation outside the legislative competence of the House, the Speaker may permit a full discussion thereon."

Now, Sir, you will have to decide whether it is outside the legislative competence of the House or not. I think, it is not. We cannot go into the merit of this Bill at this stage. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, why should you allow all these discussions? The rule is very clear. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.C. JOS: It is not a question whether it is outside the legislative competence of the House. ...(*Interruptions*) This rule is against the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*). It cannot be moved.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the Constitution is clear. If somebody induces me, it draws the attention of morality. If somebody creates chaos by writing anything to convert...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have quoted the rule. I want a ruling from you. You give me the ruling. ...(*Interruptions*) The rule is very clear. It is mentioned here.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the submission is that this Bill contains certain restrictions and stipulates certain things which certainly go against the basic tenets of our Constitution. The hon. Minister read out one sentence. It is fine. But you just look at the other thing. I do not want to go into the merits of it. ...(*Interruptions*) For example, I go to some religious place; I find those people, the environment extremely conducive to my way of thinking. They, at the same time, offer me a stay there. Will it amount to inducing? According to this Bill, this will be inducement and both the persons, incharge of the organisation will also be put behind the bars. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: It cannot be that this House does not go into the merits of the case. You cannot say that it is outside the competence of the House. Everything is within the competence of the House.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: If it is contradictory to the Constitution, then, it cannot be taken up. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Everything could be discussed here. That is why we are here. Even if it is a case of amendment of the Constitution, this House has got a right to discuss it. How can you say that we cannot discuss certain things? We can discuss anything. The rule is very clear in this regard. ...(*Interruptions*). Sir, you see the rulings given by former Speakers in so many cases. Hundreds of cases are there.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Sir, you reserve your ruling and then we can introduce it. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I will give my ruling on it.

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, please allow me.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hurry up if you want to make any argument so that I could give my ruling on it.

[*English*]

SHRI ANADI SAHU: Sir, there are certain laws which prohibit religious conversion by threat, inducement or promise or by force. There are certain organisations or atmosphere which is being created by certain institutions which do not come under the existing law. The present Bill has been brought by hon. Member Shri Geete to include those circumstances which lead to those threats, promise or inducement. That is the reason. You can see the Statement of Objects and Reasons ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (*Ajmer*): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your kind permission, I would like to make a submission that this Bill has already been passed and approved by the sub-committee constituted for Private Members' Bill and this Bill has been presented here and is property of the House.

SHRI A.C. JOS: Whether the Committee has examined or not is not a criterion for introduction of the Bill. It is the property of the House. We want a ruling whether this is appropriate to move in this House whether it is in order or not under the Constitution which governs this House and its functions or whether it is redundant to the Constitution and whether it is opposed to the Constitution or not. ...(*Interruptions*) Can you say it is redundant?

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: I am not saying it. Sir, on the contrary it supports the Constitution and makes it more and more clear. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AC. JOS (Trichur): Sir, it creates only ill-will. There is no necessity for it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is the property of the House but it is not at all related to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, please take your seat. I am giving the ruling.

First of all, a notice to oppose the introduction is not received. I am now giving the ruling.

I have to inform the House that the Chair does not decide whether a Bill is constitutionally within the legislative competence or not. The House also does not take a decision on a specific question of *vires* of a Bill. The Chair also does not decide whether a Bill is *ultra vires* to the Constitution or not. In the circumstances, I put the question before the House.

The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for prohibition on religious conversions."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.10 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 103, etc.)

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.10 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) (UNION TERRITORIES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.11 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.11 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of articles 115 and 205)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.12 hrs.

PUNJAB MUNICIPAL CORPORATION LAW (EXTENSION TO CHANDIGARH) BILL*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Punjab Municipal Corporation Law (Extension to Chandigarh) Act, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.13 hrs.

CONSUMER PROTECTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 2)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.14 hrs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 53)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Jugvenile Justice Act, 1986.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of Indian Extra ordinary Part-II, Section 2 dated 27.7.2001.

* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dated 27.7.2001.

16.15 hrs.

FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL*

(Amendment of new Section 2A)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Malvelikara): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980."

The motion was adopted .

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

16.16 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS BILLS

(I) Constitution (Amendment) Bill — Contd. (Insertion of new article 75A, etc.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Last time, Shri P.R. Kyndiah was on his feet, and he has taken only two minutes. Since he is not present, I now call Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi to speak.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, I rise to support the Bill introduced by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and his contention which he has stated in his Bill.

Sir, during the Private Members' Business, considering the fate of the nation and the functioning of the system of parliamentary democracy, we can very freely and frankly express our views, which is also free from partisan angle. That is why, since the inception of Parliament, this Private Members' hour is devoted to strengthen our understanding; the views expressed further stimulate the objective understanding of respective Ministries, including the Ministry which is concerned with this Bill.

Sir, it is a fact that ours is a very strong and rich democracy in the world. It is also a fact that the constitutional guarantees for democratic functioning principally lay at the top, that is, with Parliament. The two Chambers of Parliament — the Lok Sabha, and the Rajya Sabha — are the most important arteries of the heart of our democracy, which we call the Indian Constitution.

Sir, after experiencing what was happening in the Rajya Sabha elections on several occasions, perhaps, Shri Geete brought this legislation with a view to cleanse the process, to strengthen the democracy, and to have certain amount of ideological commitment to the people as well as the Parliament by political parties with their respective views. I had the pleasure to go through the text of the Bill in depth, and I can only thank Shri Geete for choosing the appropriate time and hour to bring this piece of legislation.

Sir, a few minutes before, informally, I was chatting with the hon. Minister and I asked him, "When will all the parties unite, free from all partisan angles, to stop the criminalisation of politics. When shall we come together to concur on the most important point that the Parliament or this institution should not indulge or encourage the criminalisation of politics through the loopholes in the system, as has been pointed out by the media, by the man on the street or by any significant number of voters belonging to any ethnic or linguistic group? Criminalisation of politics is not merely about murdering a man or assaulting a woman, but it is about the very tenet of democracy, that is, probity in public life. We come to Parliament to fulfil the aspirations of the people. We may not fulfil all their aspirations because the capacity is limited, but if we remain answerable and honest, then we can at least maintain probity in public life. That way, the democracy could be further strengthened.

Sir, when I was a student in my school and college I used to ask my parents about what the Rajya Sabha was all about. They told me that the Rajya Sabha was the House of wisdom; it was the House of knowledge and it was the House of experts who lent enough strength to our democracy. Eminent politicians of our country emerged from Rajya Sabha. I would not like to take names. The numbers would be more. There were Members from the Congress Party, the Swatantra Party, the Communist Party etc. Dons of our democracy, luminaries of the legal world, professionals from the industry had many times donned the forum of the Rajya Sabha and have provided enough strength to our democracy. It sometimes so happened that a debate that was concluded in Lok Sabha and when it was sent to Rajya Sabha, it found a new look and a new approach. That is why, I think, the makers of the Constitution perhaps thought, finally in regard to amending the Constitution, that a significant role should be played by Rajya Sabha because it is the House of wisdom, it is the House of knowledge and it is the House of professionals and experts. Who are they? They represent

the society. They represent our stream of life. Maybe, they do not work exhaustively at the grassroots that the Members of Lok Sabha do, but at the same time they have the desire to represent the people. For instance, Dr. Raja Ramanna is one of the greatest scientists of this country and he is a Member of Rajya Sabha. It is not a pleasure for Rajya Sabha alone but it is a pleasure for the entire nation that such scientists and professionals do come to Rajya Sabha.

Sir, I would not like to mention about the credentials of any individual here. But the method of election in Rajya Sabha — as has been pointed out by Shri Geete — is a real pointer to what is happening today in our parliamentary system. How do we elect the Members of Rajya Sabha? That is the question. The numerical strength of the House or the strength of the political party decides the quota. If there is a fraction here and there within the party or if there is some dissension, then in spite of the choice of the candidate by the party, all kinds of horse trading and money power come to the fore. This aspect has been amply demonstrated in one of the recent elections to Rajya Sabha in one of the largest States of our country. It has shown how cruelly and crudely money power plays a role in determining the fate of a candidate, not any party candidate who has his usual numerical strength in the House, who is having the money power outside the House. This destroys the entire faith of the people; this destroys the entire tradition of Rajya Sabha and the entire commitment to the nation. We keep quiet simply because we feel that that person wins who is able to manage his vote. I used the words, 'manage the vote' which means that he who has the money power gets elected to Rajya Sabha. It does not happen in all cases but in a few cases it happens and this has been amply demonstrated in the recent Rajya Sabha elections in one of the largest States of this country. This incident has opened our eyes and thus we are asking the question as to whether there should be a check on it or not. Therefore, the first provision that Shri Geete has proposed is very significant. If ten parties do get nine seats on their own quota and on their own strength, then that party should choose and nominate the candidates. If a fraction is left out or if there is a combination of a fraction — it is anybody's game — then let that not be decided by money power. Let there be an election with a clear direction which would be known to the presiding authority, who is called the Whip, and let that be done transparently.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, he is discussing the present Bill or the Bill presented by Shri Geete ji from Rajya Sabha. These days Government are often toppled and in such circumstances the House should complete its term of five years and the Prime Minister also...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): That has been concluded.

[*English*]

That is the Bill that was pending. Shri Dasmuni, you are totally on a different subject.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: But the list of Business does not say so. The List of Business says that we have to discuss this Bill.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: That has so far not been concluded. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The List of Business says, further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete on the 24th November, 2000, namely:—

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, then I am not taking part in it.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Constitution Amendment Bill 1999 presented by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete and through you, I would like to request the august House to consider this private member's bill seriously. The bill states that during the last 12 years since 1989 to 2001, Governments have changed for 8-9 times. Political instability has been created in the country. Coalition Governments are formed and then they fall down. We all are aware that several small parties are mushrooming in the country. It is like "Ganga Gaiye to Gangadas aur Jamuna Gaiye to Jamunadas." People are changing sides every now and then. An atmosphere of uncertainty has been emerged in

[Shri Rasa Singh Rawat]

the country. ...*(Interruptions)* Coalition Government are formed and they fall thereafter. Political instability is weakening the country day by day. Frequent elections are affecting both the Central and State Governments. People elect their representatives for five years. On the basis of majority, these representatives choose their leader in the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assemblies. That leader is elected as Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha and Chief Minister in the States. However, these days, in the absence of a majority of a single party, Governments are formed with the alliance of several parties and the Prime Minister of such a coalition Government remains concerned as to how to keep the majority intact and to avoid defections. Frequent elections waste millions of exchequer's money of the country. The country's hard earned money is wasted on elections. People also become distressful due to frequent elections.

As I have stated, during the last 10-12 years, 8 Governments have changed. Just now, Shri Dasmunsi was applauding Rajya Sabha but through you I would like to say that the Congress party dared to create instability in the country. Shri V.P. Singh's Government was formed in 1989-90, since then, Governments have been toppled and if we go into the causes, it clearly reveals that the Government of the Congress Party...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Congress Government never fell rather the Government of other parties have failed. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Please listen. The Congress Party supported the Government of Shri Chandrashekhar ji from outside in 1991....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: You were involved in toppling of Government but our Government never toppled...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: He has accused the Congress Party, that's why I am saying this...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, in 1991 the Congress supported Shri Chandrashekhar's Government from outside. Later Shri Rajiv Gandhi withdrew support alleging that Haryana Police was involved in spying. I would like to know from the Members of Congress Party as to who was responsible for toppling the Government of Shri Chandrashekhar. They are responsible as they were supporting his Government...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Who was responsible for toppling the Manipur Government...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Similarly the Government of Shri Narsimharao was not in majority and by manipulating and including in horsetrading he proved his majority and continued as Prime Minister. We all are aware of it. Today, Shri But Singh and his colleagues have been convicted by the court. No other Prime Minister of the country has been questioned by the court like Shri Narsimharao for indulging in horsetrading to make his Government run. Now they are attempting to wash their countless sins. It is being stated that they are not involved in toppling rather the Governments are toppled for their own misdeeds. We require self-introspection in this regard. The Congress leadership has tried to create instability in the country. They force the country to face the elections again and again.

The after 5 years Deve Gowda Government came into power followed by Gujarat Government. Which party was supporting both these Governments from outside....*(Interruptions)*. The Congress party was behind the formation and toppling of these Governments...*(Interruptions)*

"Truth is bound to happen".

[English]

A lie has no legs to stand upon.

[Translation]

Sir, thereafter, the NDA Government was formed under the leadership of hon'ble Shri Vajpayee ji. Later Jai Lalita ji withdrew the support from NDA Government. Today she is in power in Tamil Nadu with the support of the Congress Party. As a result of that, NDA Government lost the majority and was toppled in the House only by one vote. At that time who was craving for power. Shrimati Sonia ji was dreaming to become the Prime Minister. However, she could muster only 245 seats in the elections though 272 seats are required to form the Government in the country. The opposition failed to evolve consensus on the selection of the candidate for Prime Ministership as each party was favouring its own leader for the Prime Ministership. Therefore, elections were held again and the funds which should have been spent for development works, were wasted in horsetrading. Such a distressful act of toppling the elected Government without seeking

public opinion was made just to grab power and to create instability in the country. Therefore, I support the bill presented by Shri Geete ji. Members of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies are elected for five years. They should complete their term of 5 years and if no confidence motion is moved against the Prime Minister having majority in the House, then the party moving the no Confidence motion should first elect the new leader having majority and is capable of forming the Government. If the new leader is not able to form the Government and the previous Government is not having majority, then Lok Sabha or Legislative assembly should be suspended and as per the provision, the hon'ble President should convene the Lok Sabha and the Governor should convene Legislative assembly within 4 months of suspension. He will then ask the elected representatives to choose the leader among themselves. The leader having the majority is elected as Prime Minister who remains Prime Minister and run the Government till the Lok Sabha completes its terms. This is the provision.

Just now a mention was made about criminalization of politics. I would like to mention that politicisation of criminals is also prevailing in the country. Please mention the names of the members who are hand in glove with criminals. The House is well aware of it. Criminalization of politics and politicisation of criminals is required to be checked. Due to the wrong use of money and muscle power in elections many evils are creeping in the process of elections and the people are also facing various problems. Members of Lok Sabha should ask their conscience whether they remain concerned about their majority in the House. It is just like the sword of damocles hanging on their heads because in case of dissolution of Lok Sabha they have to face the elections for a fresh mandate. People also may say that we are not doing anything even after election. The House is dissolved sometimes after 13-14-16-18 months or even after two or two and a half years. We have such conditions in our country. Having frequent elections need to be stopped to remove this ambience of uncertainty and instability, to bring about political stability and administrative firmness, for all round development of our country and to put our country on the path of development. Therefore, a Member of Lok Sabha who is elected for five years, should get all the opportunity to work. When a Government is formed even if it enjoys majority, the House should have the right to elect an able person as leader and the Prime Minister. A leader thus elected should complete the tenure of five years so that the treasury of our country is saved from the burden of frequent elections causing poverty to the people.

If Government is not concerned about it right now, it may have to take a few unpleasant steps in the interest of and all round development of the country. Therefore, the Government should be concerned about it right now. These days people adopt various tactics for cheap popularity, politics of vote or for capturing media attention. I need not say more about it as you all are aware of this. I strongly support the Constitution Amendment Bill, 1999 (inserting of new Article 75 a etc.) introduced by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete. Its provisions regarding Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly and regarding election of Prime Minister or Chief Minister are appropriate and logical and Government should give it serious attention.

I would like to thank the NDA Government for setting up a commission under the Chairmanship of Shri Venkataswamiji for a through review of the constitution in this respect. The commission needs to discuss this issue in all seriousness. I once again thank Shri Geeteji and conclude.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayirikil): The aim of this Bill is crystal clear. The Indian political system, as you know, is undergoing a very difficult situation. The parliamentary system as a whole is facing a crisis. Many people are thinking in terms of changing the system. Why should we not examine the system of presidential rule? Things have developed to such an extent that, to some people, the change of system is unsavoury. But the system, as it is, is not answerable for all these drawbacks.

People who were dealing with the system have done many wrong things and their wrong doings are reflected on the system. That is why, the people are thinking of changing the system. The system is good and it is appreciated throughout the world. Every country is thinking of a democratic system. Even in Indonesia recently the system was changed to a democratic one through political process. Shrimati Meghawati Sarnoputri was elected patiently under a political system. The Assembly took a decision; and after due consideration it was done.

In India, the recent experience in Manipur is a glaring example. The parliamentary democracy is facing a crisis. Even the Speaker of that Assembly is coming to the scene as an aspirant for Chief Ministership. He met the Governor of Manipur several times and requested him to appoint him as the Chief Minister of that State. But the Governor politely told him that he could not be appointed as Chief Minister because he happened to be the Speaker of the Assembly. So long as he continues as the Speaker,

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

The Governor cannot consider his case for Chief Ministership. So, things have developed to this extent.

In Tamil Nadu, we have another example. Though the final word is to come from the Supreme Court — I do not say whether it is right or wrong — I will explain the situation.

There is a Constitutional authority under the authority of the Election Commission of India. They had found the present Chief Ministers be unsuited or disqualified of being a Member of the State Legislature. And, to be the Chief Minister of a State, membership of the State Legislature is a must. An interregnum of four to six months is given during which period one must acquire this qualification. How can a person, who is disqualified by the Election Commission, acquire the qualification of the membership of the State Legislature? That is a very serious matter. The Election Commission, in this particular case, had taken a decision against her and the same Election Commission at a later stage had to confer qualification to the present Tamil Nadu Chief Minister after the Supreme Court decided in her favour. We have numerous such instances.

In the State Legislatures, the MLAs sit together and make claims and counter-claims in the lawns of the *Raj Bhawan*. The Supreme Court finally gave a ruling that the Lawn is not a place to decide the majority of the House. Decision regarding whether the Government enjoys majority or not, should be taken on the floor of the House. The decision should come from within the four walls of the House. That is the only place under the Constitution where the people's representatives should take a decision. Any decision taken either in the lawns of the *Raj Bhawan* or anywhere else does not have any legality. That is the present stage. Every day we are getting new experiences in these matters.

In many States, elections have been ordered within a short period. Even in this House, after 1989, we had eight coalition Ministries but elections were many. The elected MPs had to go to the electorate within 13 to 14 months of the election. That is the present stage. If things go on like this, what will be the future of the Indian democracy or Indian polity? That is a matter which all of us should ponder over with all seriousness, with all efforts in our mind.

In the present context, the present NDA Government has appointed a Constitution Review Commission but there are disputes regarding the intention of the Constitutional review. Since the intention is not good, we have to oppose it. Since a review of the Constitution is thought of by the Government, it makes clear that our Constitution requires some change. But the review has been undertaken with a political motive. Centre-State relations are now at a low ebb. A few hours back I

spoke on inter-State water dispute. That is a federal matter which could not be decided purely under the provisions of our Constitution. There were also disputes with regard to the financial matters.

The State finances are being reduced by the Centre. Almost all the States are having complaints about this federal nature in the sharing of taxes. The Tenth Finance Commission and the Eleventh Finance Commission have recommended certain items with regard to Centre-State Relations in the matter of sharing of taxes. It is said that even in that respect the relationship between the Centre and the States is undergoing a crisis. There is some political influence also behind the scene.

If I may put it correctly, till 1989, there was one party rule in the Centre. Now, afterwards coalition Governments took over. In some States, coalition Governments had come much earlier and now it is the order of the day that minority Governments are in office with the support of splinter groups. This will not be conducive to the development of parliamentary democracy. That is a matter to which all of us should give a thought. The founding-fathers of the Constitution might not have envisaged or even thought of such a situation developing in India. But unfortunately beyond all our expectations, the situation has come to such an extent that minority coalition Governments came to power. These Governments undertake any measure to maintain their Governments in office. They may or may not follow the strict principles enshrined in our Constitution. That is our past experience in many States and the last being Manipur experience.

In all these matters, the primary and vital issue is the role of elected representatives of Parliament as well as of State Legislatures. They are not given the power to take a decision in the appointment of Prime Minister or the Chief Minister. The Prime Minister is appointed by the President and the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor of the State. We the Members of the Legislature do not have any voice in that decision. In the event the persons who are not Members of the Legislature are appointed as Chief Ministers in our country, six months gap is also allowed in the Constitution. So any ordinary person who is not at all elected by the people can become Chief Minister or the Prime Minister as the case may be in India. This is an extraordinary situation which has created many hurdles in the development of parliamentary democracy. That is our bitter experience. The Prime Minister need not be a Member of Parliament and the Chief Minister need not be a Member of the Assembly. But once he is appointed and gets through the election, he can continue in office as long as he enjoys confidence of the House. So, when the House decides lack of confidence in the Ministry, the entire thing stops. The Chief Minister or the Prime Minister as the case may be, will have to resign as per the provisions of the Constitution. We, the Members of Parliament vote

on the No Confidence Motion against the ruling Prime Minister of Parliament vote on the No Confidence Motion against the ruling Prime Minister without having a voice in the matter of his appointment. We will have to face the electorate immediately after the No-Confidence Motion is passed.

Is it good? Each and every time we will have to go to the electorate for having passed a No Confidence Motion against the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister as the case may be. This will naturally lead us to frequent elections which would prove to be costly to the Exchequer. India is a developing country and we have many things to do. When we are facing a financial crisis is it good or proper to have frequent elections in our nation either to the Parliament or to the State Assemblies? We will have to ponder over this matter.

Therefore, Geeteji has brought forward an amendment. The salient aspect of his amendment is insertion of a provision to give a cooling period of four months for reconsideration of the Composite Motion by the Parliament or the Assembly before the dissolution of the same. So, when a No Confidence Motion is passed, the House shall be prorogued for four months. The President or the Governor is constitutionally bound to re-summon the House after four months. This period is called the cooling period. In this time changes may take place; new alignment may take place; decisions may take place leading to the reconsideration of the Composite Resolution. If Members are not in a position to pass the Composite Resolution suggesting the name of a new Prime Minister in the place of the incumbent Prime Minister who has been voted out, the House shall be prorogued for four months after which the President or the Governor shall re-summon the House and the Composite Resolution expressing lack of confidence in the incumbent Prime Minister or the Chief Minister and suggesting a new name for the position of the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister shall be re-considered by the House. The House can take a decision in the matter.

Suppose the House is unable to take a decision regarding the question of a successor, then there is no other go. The President or the Governor has to dissolve the Parliament or the Assembly. But the Members of the House would have got an opportunity to decide the question after four months and we have a right to decide the question. Now decisions are being taken outside the House by political parties in their offices. I do not stand in the way of political parties taking a decision; but it must be approved by the House.

So, this is the amendment that I propose. This a Constitution amendment for making our Parliamentary democracy more viable, more effective and more workable. We expect that a decision by the Supreme Court will come out in this matter when they take up the Tamil Nadu question. That will be another landmark in the history of Parliamentary democracy.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I appreciate the spirit with which Shri Geeteji has moved the Bill, but in my opinion, under the parliamentary democracy, we have accepted, only that party gets the right to be in power which commands majority. At the time of drafting of our Constitution, Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar had fixed the term of five years for general elections and this is what has been provided in our Constitution. But from 1989 till date, there have been five elections in the period of 12 years which is a danger to our democracy. All parties need to think about it. Just now Rawatiji was speaking about the defection in political parties. The present Government have also been formed with the help of 24 parties. Defection also occur in the ruling coalition. When Ms. Jayalalitha left coalition it was felt that Government was at risk. However, they are trying to lure whichever Member they can in order to save their coalition. This morning also some of the Members were inviting me to join. I replied that I will come to that side only when they come to this side. I do not want to come alone. They even gave me the temptation of including me in the cabinet. I have not come to this House with a view to become a Minister. We need to think about why is it happening. We all have faith in democracy, we all talk about strengthening democracy, giving the people more powers, but we are not serious about it. We all think about strengthening our parties.

Just now, an hon. Member was pointing out that I am the lone Member from my party. I want to say that in the year 1982, Bhartiya Janata Party had just 2 Members and now they are 182 in just 19 years. Similarly, I may, be a single member of my party today, but in the next 10 years, my party may have more than 100 members.

Sir, Baba Saheb Ambedkar had also talked about two party system in our country. At the time of our acceptance of Parliamentary Democracy and the drafting of our Constitution, he had mentioned the 2-party system. I want to request them that they should try to merge all the 24 constituents of the coalition into a single party. Either Shiva Sena merge with the BJP or vice-versa. It will strengthen the democracy and help the cause of holding elections every five years. If a Government is reduced to minority, President has no other option but to dissolve the House. Therefore I want to suggest that they should continue for six more months and complete their two years in power. Thereafter we should be allowed to form Government for the next three years. Thus elections will be held after five years and no one would try to topple the Government. We will try to save the Parliament together. Therefore, there is no need for the Constitution amendment. We are considering the ways

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

and means of forming a single front. We all need to think about it. I also support the view that elections should be held after every five years. People as well as MPs find it troublesome.

17.00 hrs.

It is not right that elections are held after every 2 years or so. Therefore all the elected Members should get five years to work. They have the mandate to be in Parliament for full five years. It is for them to find out the ways and means to keep Parliament functioning for its full five year term. If their Government falls, they should come to us for support. Last year efforts were made to form Government under Ms. Sonia Gandhi, but it failed. Ms. Jayalalitha also supported them and it was their responsibility to handle her. At the time of forming the Government, they had majority, but they could not sustain it. We also failed to handle our partners.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I mean to say is that it is their responsibility to manage their partners. They often talk about moral values, but everybody is aware of the case of P.M.K. which keeps on coming to and going out of their coalition. It was with them at first, but deserted them after the elections and they are preaching us about morality...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Ramdasji, please speak something about the Bill also.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Sir, I am doing exactly that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are speaking on issues not relevant to the Bill. I request you to concentrate on the Bill.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have risen not to support the Bill moved by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete in the House. I agree with his sentiment that a Member of Parliament should have the right to remain an MP for five years. But it is their responsibility to think of the ways through which Parliament could function for its entire term, because they are in power.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Pramod Mahajan is present here and I want to say to him that if the Government function well, we would not try to topple it. In any case, we are not in a position to topple the Government, because there is no alternative. Therefore we are not thinking about toppling the Government. We want them to continue for full five years. We will be able to remain Member for five years only if they are in the Government for five years. Therefore it is for them to find out the ways to manage their coalition partners. It is also their responsibility to see whether their partners support their policies or not. Their coalition partners ought to support their policies, but it is not happening.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the policies of BJP are not supported even by Shiv Sena which is their coalition partner and is sharing power with them. It is not good. Difference of opinion may not be avoidable but they should keep on providing their support for a complete term of five years. We will provide full cooperation for keeping the Parliament functioning for its entire term of five years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we want two party system in the country. We all need to think about it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, with these words I conclude and express my gratitude for the opportunity you gave me for speaking.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Prabhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, the leader of my party, Shiv Sena.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Jadhavji, you stop for a minute.

Three Hours time was fixed for the discussion over this Bill and now the time is about to be over. Some other hon. Members are yet to speak, hon. Minister is also to give reply and Geeteji also want to ask something. In view of this I would like to propose, with the approval of the hon. Members, extending the time by 45 minutes.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Permission is granted.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, the time to speak on this subject is further increased by 45 minutes with the permission of the august House.

Shri Suresh Jadhav ji you continue with your speech.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that our's is the biggest republic in the world. The population of our country has also increased a lot.

Our constitution makers, at the time of Republic coming into force, intended to ensure that our legislatures may have a full term of five years. The representatives are chosen for a period of five years i.e. the public gives a mandate for five years. Anybody contesting for the first time thinks that one is going to be elected for five years. However, even a new Member like me has the taste of facing the Lok Sabha elections thrice within four years i.e. from 1996 to the till date. Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no need to elaborate as to how difficult it is to fight even, one Lok Sabha election. An huge amount of expenditure, roughly two crores are spent over fighting a Lok Sabha election by each candidate excluding official and non-official expenditures and the expenditure borne by Election Commission. If the Lok Sabha does not last to full term then the country has to bear the burden of huge wasteful expenditure in the name of holding elections. I want to say only this much that there is a

need to ensure that Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabhas complete their full term of five years in order to ensure stability in the country, minimise the wasteful expenditure, protect and preserve the democratic set up and to prevent the ever increasing criminalisation of politics in the country. It is high time that a high level committee is constituted to dwell over the various aspects of ensuring that the Lok Sabha term lasts full five years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, every party, Member of Parliament and the citizen of the country wants Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assembly to last for full five years for they are aware that only then the development of the country may take place. On one hand a lot of wasteful expenditure takes place in the country in the name of holding elections and on the other a majority of our rural areas lack even the facility of drinking water. Since independence 53 years have passed and a majority of our population do not have access to even the Minimum Basic facilities like housing. Even then a lot of money is spent over the elections. It has led to instability in the country. Therefore, no administrative progress is taking place. Hence there is a need to make legislatures last full five years in order to bring about administrative stability. We belong to the ruling fraternity who exercise control over the administration. Hence we lose control over the administration if the bureaucracy comes to know that the Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly, whatever the case may be, is not going to lose its term. Hence unless there is political stability and the elected bodies like Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies complete their full five year term, the administration cannot be run in an efficacious and disciplined manner which consequently leads to lack of development.

Eleventh Lok Sabha lasted 18 months, twelfth Lok Sabha for 13 months and now it is the thirteenth Lok Sabha. I support the Bill moved by my party leader which seeks that the Lok Sabha and the State Legislative Assembly should have a definite and fixed tenure of five years and these should not be dissolved before that, for it may lead to various problems. Hence I once again support the Bill moved by Shri Anant Gangaram Geete.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is necessary that Lok Sabha lasts full five years. Whenever the elections for constituting a new Lok Sabha are held, everybody assumes that the Lok Sabha will last its full term. The leader of the majority party in Lok Sabha is appointed as the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has to submit resignation in case the 'No Confidence Motion' is passed against the Government. Subsequently any other party fails to prove its majority to form the Government, then Lok Sabha is dissolved.

However, it should not be case for this leads to the weakening of economic condition of the country and emergence of several problems. The people do not have access to even the basic facilities like water and food. Our country is already in the grip of severe economic

crisis and is surely debt-ridden. Every now and then the natural calamities like famine, flood and drought have been striking the country with unfailing regularity. On other fronts, country is also facing the problem of terrorism in various states including in Jammu and Kashmir. Hence the elections are least desirable in such peculiar circumstances. Hence it is imperative that the legislatures last for the full five years. To help ensure such a thing it is necessary that there should be a provision to appoint a Deputy Prime Minister alongwith the Prime Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister alongwith Chief Minister on the lines of gram panchayats wherein 'Sarpanch' and Deputy Sarpanch are elected. In case of the removal or death of a sarpanch, the charge is handed over to the Deputy sarpanch till the next sarpanch is elected and assumes charge. Similar arrangement is required to be made for the legislatures so that political and in turn the economic stability may be imparted to the country and the citizens of the country may get all the necessary and basic facilities. We talk about entering into 21st century. I would like to say that the watchdogs of democracy, instead of thinking for the welfare of the country only have a myopic view and do not think beyond their parties. There is no need to dissolve the Lok Sabha for electing new Prime Minister for this situation is a bane for the country. Similarly there is no need for seeking fresh mandate everytime of a house has been constituted for the duration of five years then it should last for full term. Three elections have taken place in a short time. I have to get re-elected three times since 1996. This instability is the cause of trouble for everyone including the public and the whole of administration. Hence, I support the Bill moved by Shri Geeteji that the term of the Lok Sabha and the Vidhan Sabha should be fixed for five years.

Secondly suggestion I want to give is that a provision should be made that in case of the passage of 'No Confidence Motion' against the Government headed by a particular Prime Minister, the leader of the second majority party in the House should be appointed as the Prime Minister. In case of his failure to prove majority the leader of the third party in majority in the House and so on should be given an opportunity in the House and so on should be given an opportunity to assume the responsibility as Prime Minister so that some political stability could be brought about in the country and the economic condition of the country may get a boost. It is also necessary to create a harmonious and good environment in the country so that the common people in the country may get all the facilities. It is also necessary to respect the mandate given by the people for full five years to the public representatives who are held in high esteem by them and the people express and repose their faith in them as the watchdog of democracy. The House has no right to decide the time for seeking the fresh mandate, real power should rest with the people. The pattern followed in Nagarpalika should be followed in Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha that when the allegations levelled against any representative of Nagar Palika are proved correct and if it is proved that he has indulged in

[Shri Punnu Lal Mohale]

corruption the representative then alone is removed from the office. Hence it is not justifiable that the entire Lok Sabha is dissolved if the House fails to choose the Prime Minister. Hence it should not take place. I would like to say that it is not only unjust for the people of the country but also tantamounts to committing the murder of democracy. Hence it should not be allowed to continue and there is a need to address this problem quickly. In such circumstances term of the Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha and the Members therefore is required to be fixed for five years. So, I support the Bill move by hon. Geeteji and also thank you.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by hon. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete for the consideration of the House. The hon. Member has brought this Bill for the consideration of the House in view of the prevailing circumstances. This is a good Bill for strengthening the democratic set up in the country.

The Members who have spoken prior to me have expressed their views on this Bill. The hon. Member Shri Athawaleji, who is not present in the House, referring to the maker of the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, said that there is no scope to amend the constitution. I would like to inform him that a lot of change has taken place in the scenario since independence. No one would have thought even in one's wildest dreams that the regionalism will become very strong in the pschye of the country and numerous parties could come get formed on castelines and will enter the electoral fray to weaken the country. It adversely affects the development in the country. When the administrative stability is lacking country turns weak. Hence there is a need to make Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies continue for full five years especially in view of the fact that the people give mandate and elect these legislatures for a period of five years so the Government must remain in office for five years. If the Government is stable then the administrative machinery also become efficient and decision taken remain in force for five years. The people who have elected us for this House are the most potent force in a democracy. However due to the weakening of legislatures, the bureaucracy has started to assume more and more powers. It is due to the weakening of legislature that many incidents of misbehaviour takes place against the parliamentarian and Members of Legislative Assemblies. The speaker who have spoken prior to me has rightly said that Congress, in order to meet its narrow and vested interests, has

always tried to push the country into frequent elections and Congressmen are still continuing with hatching conspiracies and drafting various plans to topple the Government and create political instability so that the elections could be held once again on some pretext or the other, ignoring the fact that the people have elected us for five years. The people want power, roads and education and it is in view of these minimum basic needs that ten or twelve years ago an Act was enacted in this regard. Hence, in my opinion, the need of the hour is to provide electricity, roads and education to the people. Our country has vast reserves of foodgrains and all other resources but the elections have been taking place quite frequently. We derive pleasure in this game of toppling the Governments and facing elections in the expectation of gaining large seats and forming Government. Smaller parties are more prone to this temptation. I would like to suggest one more thing that only two party system should be evolved in our country on the pattern of USA and many other countries wherein one party forms the Government and the other acts as the opposition. Smaller parties should not be given more weightage. This step is necessary for strengthening the country which can only taken place when the centre is more powerful.

To realise the aim of making centre more powerful, it is necessary to ensure that Lok Sabha completes its full five year term. Hon. Geeteji as well as you are also very senior to me. Amendment in the Constitution should be made to make about the provision of yearly review of the achievements of a Prime Minister or Member of Parliament. If need be they could be recalled. Even parliamentarians get daily allowance of Rs. 400 only for attending the House and not otherwise. Similarly democracy only means that representatives enjoy support of the masses and nobody can dislodge them before five years from Lok Sabha or Vidhan Sabha. In case any problem gets cropped up then a period of four months should be given. You have fought a period of six months. The Lok Sabha and Legislative Assemblies should be allowed to complete their terms by giving an opportunity to the majority parties to form Government. Whether they are first largest or the second largest party. It will prove to be a boon for the welfare of the country and strengthen the democracy besides infusing a sense of nationalism. It will also strengthen the Government and increase the hold of the legislature over the administration.

Sir, with these words, I conclude and support the Bill.

[*English*]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, kindly allow me to speak. I will give some suggestions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will have to seek clarifications.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, though I agree with the tone and tenor of this Bill brought by Shri Anant Gangaram Geeteji, I do not agree with some of the procedures suggested by him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already participated in the discussion. You can only seek clarifications now. There is not tradition by which I can allow you to speak again.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, please give me five minutes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already spoken for seven minutes. You have spoken.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am sorry. I did not speak on it.

[*Translation*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not the Convention. You can only put forth some points. You have already spoken this and may speak on some other subject.

[*English*]

Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Private Member Bill was introduced by the hon. Member, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete on the 17th December, 1999.

This Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1999 has sought to introduce two new articles 75A and 164A in the Constitution. As a consequence of that, the consequential amendments are also proposed by articles 85(2) and 174(2). Articles 75 and 164 concern the appointment of the Prime Minister as well as the Chief Minister in the States respectively.

In fact, article 75(A), in a nutshell, is the introduction of constructive vote of confidence. To my knowledge, Germany has already such a provision. By proposing such a Bill, Shri Geete has certainly done a yeoman service.

It is a very contemporaneous Bill in the relevant time. I think everybody, not only the general public but all the Members of this august House are unanimous about this that somehow or the other we must achieve and attain stability at the Centre as well as in the States. What mechanism can be found for that? What should we do about it? That has to be thought over. Shri Anant Gangaram Geete has very wisely suggested certain things by the introduction of this Bill. His logic is that Indian political system has come under increasing stress due to fractured polity and multiplicity of parties. During the last one decade, during the last five elections from 1989-99, no single political Party had been ever able to achieve the simple majority. This period was marked by a succession of about eight Prime Ministers running coalition or minority Governments resulting in frequent elections. This has a destabilising effect on the psyche of the people. Our socio-economic system also undergoes strain. Question mark also arises not only on the credibility but also on the efficacy of the present Constitutional framework.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as many as 16 hon. Members participated in this discussion earlier, and seven hon. Members have taken part today. I am grateful to each one of those for their wise suggestions. They have also represented the feelings of not only this House but also the people at large of this country. All of them have stressed one point that there must be a fixed term of Parliament as well as Assemblies. Except one hon. Member, nobody has opposed this Bill. Though they had certain differences on certain provisions, nobody has opposed this Bill except one hon. Member, Shri Ramji Lal Suman who had opposed this Bill. Otherwise, all the 23 hon. Members have supported this Bill by one voice.

In addition to hon. Member Shri Anant Gangaram Geete, Shri Anadi Sahu, Shri Nawal Kishore Rai, Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu, Shri Sukdeo Paswan, Shri Shyam Bihari Mishra, Shri Haribhau Shankar Mahale, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, Shri Harpal Singh Sathi, Shri Manikrao Hodiya Gavit, Shri V.P. Singh Badnore, Shri Kharabela Swain, Shri Ramji Lal Suman, Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot, Dr. Nitish Sengupta and Shrimati Shyama Singh spoke in support of this Bill.

[Shri I.D. Swami]

The issue raised by all those hon. Members were as follows. I may point out them summarily. They pointed out that frequent elections should be avoided. Money spent on elections could be properly used for development purposes. Elections are expensive. Criminalisation of politics takes place during frequent elections. Political instability results from frequent elections. Development work suffers. If there is no fixed tenure, hostility by the neighbouring country also gets a fillip due to political instability. All these things have been pointed out. This is the summary of the speeches of all the hon. Members. I feel that we need to explore some steps to bring about a system which can reduce political instability. That is the objective purpose of the Bill which the hon. Member, Shri Anant Gangaram Geete had introduced.

But Mr. Chairrnan, Sir, in his Aims and Objects of the Bill, Shri Geete has himself admitted that the Government has already decided to constitute a panel to review the whole Constitution.

The era of coalition Governments has come in from 1989 onwards and is still continuing. We are trying to find out how coalition Governments could be made stable, effective and could meet the requirements of this country, the needs of the poor people of this country. We feel, no single party is going to get a majority. That is the feeling of the people; that is the feeling of this House. In view of this situation, we have to think about the amendments to the Constitution. In its wisdom, the NDA Government has already constituted a very high-powered commission to review the Constitution, to look at the situation in view of the developments of the last 53 years and our experiences in the last 53 years. That is a forum of independent people, of notable integrity and very learned wisdom. I think, we should leave this matter also to their wisdom so that keeping in view all the developments during these 53 years and also the experience we have of the working of the present Constitution, they can make suggestions.

Once the report of the Review Commission comes in, at that time, the report could be examined. Again, ultimately, it would be this august House that would have to decide what amendments we have to make. If the Bills are brought forth, they would also be coming before this august House and the other House. So, my request to Shri Geete would be, in view of his own admission

and in view of his knowledge and the knowledge of all hon. Members who have participated in this discussion and who have not been able to participate, that the high-powered Commission is already seized of the matter, to withdraw this Bill.

Even the hon. President, while addressing the Joint Sitting has already indicated on the 25th October, 2000 that the Government would examine replacing the present system of No-Confidence Motion by a system of constructive Vote of Confidence. Even the hon. Prime Minister, while speaking on the occasion of celebrating the 50th year of the Election Commission of India, *inter alia*, observed that he strongly felt that a fixed tenure for our Parliament and State legislatures was essential for our democratic system to become mature and deliver good governance.

In view of the Prime Minister's observation and the President of India having expressed unequivocally what the nation wanted when he spoke to both Houses — he also delivered his address on this topic also — and in view of that fact that the review Commission is already seized of having a second look on the Constitution, I think, it is time I made a request to the hon. Member Shri Geete that he might withdraw his Bill so that we can wait for the report of the Commission.

I also take the liberty to inform this House that all hon. Members of this august House who have participated in this discussion and who have not been able to participate are free to make their suggestions and address their views to the Commission, which is a better form and which is in a better position to go into the various aspects of the Constitution including these two new clauses that are now sought to be added to the Constitution.

With these remarks, I would once again request Shri Geete to withdraw this Bill in the interest of the overall review of the whole question. I also thank all the participants and all hon. Members with whose advice and suggestions we stand benefited and enlightened.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I would request you to allow me for just a minute.

It is all right that we are making a reference to the Constitution.

But from the Government side, our suggestion should be conveyed to the Review Commission.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL (Patan): Sir, with due respect to the mover of the Bill, the hon. Minister should appreciate that this is a Bill diseasing duration of the Indian Parliament. Many hon. Members have participated in it. He has mentioned that 23 Members have participated in the discussion. However, most of the Members are the Members of the ruling coalition supporting the Government. On the other side, he was making a reference to the Review Commission. The hon. Minister should know that the Review Commission is not appointed by the Parliament; the Review Commission is appointed by the Government. We have not accepted it. We have our own opinions about the Review Commission. Even one of my hon. colleagues, Shri Ramdas Athawale, was misquoted by another speaker. But I did not intervene because he was not present. Shri Ramdas Athawale has never said that there cannot be an amendment to the Constitution. He said, NDA can review the NDA Government's working and not the Constitution of India. I object here. The hon. Minister should not compel or the hon. Minister should not request the Member to withdraw the Bill in view of the Review Commission because this Parliament has not discussed whether the Commission, which is an outside agency, has the power to review the Constitution. ...(*Interruptions*) I will request that after such a detailed discussion on a very important subject where, only except one Member, all have supported the Bill, let there be a decision on the Bill. Please do not quote the Review Commission in this Parliament because it is the decision of the Government and not of the honourable Parliament.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, 23 hon'ble Members of the House participated in the discussion on the Bill brought by me. Except Shri Ramji Lal Suman rest 22 hon'ble Members supported this Bill. Shri Suman ji has expressed some apprehensions while opposing the Bill. I would like to give some clarifications in this regard. All the political parties have extended their support to the Bill whereas while expressing his views on the Bill, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has said that the Bill has been brought to save

the Government. Apart from that he also said that Prime Minister has announced out the House to bring such a Legislation. He also said that the right to recall the people's representatives should be vested in the people.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in reply to my Bill the hon'ble Minister said that this Bill has not been brought to save any government nor it is the objects of this Bill. Hon'ble Minister has accepted this fact that not only in the Centre rather in the States also there are coalition Government in power and in coming years also not only in Centre but in the States also the coalition Governments will be in power. In my opinion, there is hardly any possibility of a single party Government coming to power in near future. Mr. Chairman Sir, you know that since 1989, the Lok Sabha elections have been held in the country for five times and eight Governments have been formed since then. You must be knowing that the political parties have been joining hands for toppling the Governments and not for forming the Governments. Keeping in view the substance of the Bill, no political party opposed the Bill because political parties have never joining hands to form the Government rather they have been united to topple the Government. They are ready to topple the Government and remove the Prime Minister but they are not in a position to provide an alternative to the Government.

That is why I have brought this Bill. Presently there is political instability all over the country and we are paying the price for it in our day to day lives. There is a need to end the political instability in the country, so this Bill has been brought in the House. This Bill has not been brought to save any Government.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the second thing that he said is that the Prime Minister somewhere outside the House has made a statement in this regard. In this connection, it should be noted that the Bill was moved in the House much before the statement of the Prime Minister and not after his statement. So it is not proper to link the Bill with the statement made by the Prime Minister.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, he has said one more thing that the right to recall the elected representatives should be vested in the people. There can be no two opinions about it and I fully agree with him. The people should have the

[Shri Anant Gangaram Geete]

right to recall the elected representatives if the latter are involved in corruptions, or are not properly discharging their responsibilities or are misusing their powers and privileges. It is due to some misconceptions that Shri Ramji Lal Suman opposed the Bill, otherwise other Members of his party have supported the Bill. A statement has been made by the hon'ble Minister in this regard and the Government also accede to it. The Government itself feel that there is a need to amend the Constitution. The Government themselves want to bring an Amendment Bill in the House. The Committee which has been set up to review the Constitution has also been referred to here. It is the demand of the entire House that the political instability must end. That is why I had made this suggestion. Every time the President does not say that if the Government are reduced to a minority they should bring a motion of confidence in the House. The roots and foundations of democracy in our country are very strong and the faith of the people on democracy must not be breached. That is why whenever Government are reduced to minority it is the convention of the House that the Prime Minister of the minority Government himself or herself brings a motion of confidence in the House. So, I had suggested that when the motion of Confidence is brought, the entire political parties join hands to defeat the motion and topple the Government. But they do not get united to form the next Government and it adversely affects the economy, financial system and other things and the common people have to pay the price for it. So if any Government are reduced to minority, the minority Government should bring a motion of Confidence to elect a new leader if possible instead of bring the motion of confidence. The previous leader should be removed after electing the new one. If it is not possible then I had suggested for a cooling off of four months. The general election is a costly affair so it would be better if there is a cooling off of four months and an opportunity is given to the political parties for considering about a new leader. The President should reconvene the sitting of the House and an opportunity should be given to the House to elect new leader of the House. The House and the Government will agree to my proposal. The Government themselves want to amend the constitution.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Geeteji, you have also made a mention of Article 75 and Article 65 in the aims and

objects of your Bill. What do you mean by mentioning those articles, please explain that.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I have already said that while framing the constitution, the constitution makers were not aware that the country will witness such type of political instability in future. The constitution was made keeping in view the situation that was prevailing at that time. But now the political scenario is changing day by day and it is difficult to predict about its future course. That is the main reason why I have brought this Bill. Whether it is Assembly or Lok Sabha or the Government everyone accepts this fact and the Prime Minister has also said this. The President in his address has expressed the view that there is a need to avoid instability and the entire House agrees to it. I feel that there is no need to say anything more in this regard.

Since the hon'ble Minister on behalf of the Government has requested me to withdraw the Bill, so I believe that the Amendment Bill will certainly be brought in the House by the Government and the House will unanimously pass the Bill and the political instability of the country will end.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon'ble Minister has requested to withdraw the Bill and not to back track.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I am saying the same thing. With this confidence and hope I accept the request of the hon'ble Minister and seek permission to withdraw the Bill.

Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: I withdraw the Bill.

17.51 hrs.

**(ii) Scheduled castes and Scheduled Tribes
(Reservation in Services) Bill**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Reservation in Services) Bill. Shri Pravin Rashtrapal.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: (Patan): Sir, how much time is allotted for this Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Two hours are allotted for discussion on this Bill.

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes in establishments under the Central and State Government and in private sector and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to speak in favour of Bill No. 24 of 2000 introduced by me on 20.4.2000.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Since you are a Member from Gujarat so either you speak in Gujarati or Hindi language.

[English]

SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL: Since the Indian Constitution was written in English and then translated into Hindi, I have to speak in English.

Sir, this is a very important Bill as far as the issues concerning reservation in services for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are concerned. The Constitution of India, which is being discussed in this august House many times — and today, again reference is made to the same Constitution — is one of the best written document in the world. The most important part of the Indian Constitution is the Preamble of the Constitution, the Chapter on fundamental Rights, the Chapter on Directive Principles and various provisions where the Constitution of our great country has given protective discrimination, protective cover to the people belonging to the weaker sections of the society. The Constitution of India is not only taking care only of the people belonging to weaker sections of the society, in particular the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes, but the Indian Constitution also takes care of children, women, people belonging to minorities and working class

and all those who are exploited on account of the previous foreign rule. If we refer to the Preamble of the Constitution, the Preamble has assured the people of this country social and economic justice, equality of status and of opportunity to every citizen. It was within these parameters that the protective discrimination, which is discrimination as compared to other class, is enacted and accepted by everybody in the country. The Drafting Committee of the Constitution was headed by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, and the Constituent Assembly was headed by great Dr. Rajendra Prasad. When the Constitution was enacted, the provisions of reservation were discussed in great details. We had stalwarts like Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, Sardar Patel, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and various legislators who were the leading luminaries not only in public life, but they were the best barristers in those days.

After taking into consideration all these aspects, the provisions regarding the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes were incorporated, and the Constitution came into being with effect from 26th January, 1950. But the actual implementation part regarding reservations for the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes has not taken one hundred per cent effect even to this day.

According to 1991 Census, the population of the Scheduled Castes is not less than 15 per cent, and the population of the Scheduled Tribes is not less than eight per cent. In fact, it is not a caste. The Supreme Court has gone on record that the 'Scheduled Caste' is not a 'caste'. There may be other castes, but the word 'Scheduled Caste' was coined by the Father of the Constitution by putting all these communities, which were suppressed, depressed, treated as untouchables, which were not having the fundamental rights, which were not having human rights, which were not allowed the dignity as human beings. They were not allowed to enter public places, they were not allowed to enter temples and they were not allowed to go to schools.

I am aware of a place in Gujarat, which Dr. Ambedkar visited during the 1930s, where the students were not allowed to sit inside the class-room. It was Dr. Ambedkar who hired the premises in the city of Ahmedabad at a cost of Rs. 50 per month in those days, and he brought teachers belonging to other religions from other States because the then Hindu teachers were not prepared to teach the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes as they were untouchables. This was the position in 1930-35. A school was opened in a place known as Bawia; a school was also opened in a place which is known as Ahmedabad now. No doubt, there were other good Indian rulers in those days, particularly the Maharaja of Baroda and the Maharaja of Bhavnagar, and also the Maharaja of Kolhapur in Maharashtra, who supported the

[Shri Pravin Rashtrapal]

social reforms started by both Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Ambedkar, and slowly they started to provide education to these left out sections, these untouchables, and the most exploited section of the society.

When Dr. Ambedkar got the opportunity to head the Drafting Committee, it was he who took care and saw to it that not only these people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes are given the right to enter temples, the dignity of life, but also allowed them to participate in the democratic system of the country. This participation can take place only if they are allowed to join the Government service, only if they are allowed to join the Indian legislature, only if they are allowed to join the Indian Parliament, only if they are able to hold posts which, otherwise, they were not allowed to hold in those days. Earlier, only a particular section of the society had the right of education by birth. I am sorry to name them. The *Brahmins* had the right of education by birth; *Brahmins* had the right to read the scriptures; *Brahmins* had the right to perform *pujas*; and the *brahmins* had the right to go to the temple and enter the *sanctum sanctorum* of the temple. This right was given to all communities and all sections of the society after 26 January, 1950. The most important right given to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes was to join every group and every class of Government service for which Dr. Ambedkar introduced article 335 in the Indian Constitution. This article came after the important articles 38 and 46 of the Indian Constitution. According to me, these two important articles should be remembered by everyone who is

supporting reservation and also by those who are opposing reservation.

18.00 hrs.

Article 38 of the Constitution of India imposes a duty on the State. It says:

"The State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political, shall inform all the institutions of the national life and shall in particular strive to minimise the inequalities in income and endeavour to eliminate inequalities in status, facilities and opportunities not only amongst individuals but also amongst groups of people residing in different areas or engaged in different vocations."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rashtrapal, you can continue your speech later on.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 11 a.m. on Monday, the 30th July, 2001.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 30, 2001/Sravana 8, 1923 (Saka)

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