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Friday, November 22, 2002
Agrahayana 1, 1924 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Book

(Vol. XXVIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

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CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXVIII, Eleventh Session, 2002/1924 (Saka)]

No. 4, Friday, November 22, 2002/Agrahayana 01, 1924 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 61, 66 and 67	6—26
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 62—65 and 68—81	27—67
Unstarred Question Nos. 676 to 905	67—356
RE: APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE VENKATASWAMI AS CHAIRMAN, ADVANCE RULING COMMISSION FOR CBEC	356—359
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	359—373
MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—*Laid*	373—374
COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS	
Minutes	374
COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS	
Twentieth and Twenty-first Reports	374
COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES	
Twenty-second Report and Minutes	374
COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN	
Ninth Report	375
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	375—379
CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Reported crisis faced by rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom growers in various parts of the country, particularly in Kerala and steps taken by Government in regard thereto	380—398
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	380—385
Shri Arun Shourie	381—385, 394—398
Shri Suresh Kurup	388—389
Shri K. Francis George	389—392
Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev	392
Shri P.C. Thomas	392—393
Shri Joachim Baxla	393
Shri M. Master Mathan	393
MOTION RE: FORTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	399
RE: PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE SUGARCANE GROWERS IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY IN UTTAR PRADESH	400—406
THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT AND LEADERS OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002	407—408

*The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Motion to consider	407
Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar	407
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	408
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	408
Motion to pass	408
THE HOMOEOPATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002	409—431
Motion to consider	409
Shri Shatrughan Sinha	409—410
Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi	410—414
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	414—418
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	418—420
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	421—422
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	422—424
Shri Hannan Mollah	424—426
Dr. V. Saroja	426—427
Shri Naresh Puglia	427—428
Clauses 2 to 4 and 1	431
Motion to Pass	431
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—*introduced*	431—433
(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 25A)	
Yogi Aditya Nath	431
(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 16)	
Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	432
(iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of articles 124 and 216)	
Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	432
(iv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of section 304, etc.)	
Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	433
(v) Most Backward Classes (Proportional Representation in Services and Educational Institutions) Bill	
Shri Brahma Nand Mandal	433
ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL—*Withdrawn*	433—447
Motion to Consider	433
Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury	434—437
Shri Shatrughan Sinha	437—441
Dr. V. Saroja	441—447
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999 (Omission of Article 44, etc.)	447—476
Motion to Consider	447
Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan	447—451
Shri Kharabela Swain	452—455
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	455—462
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	462—466
Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot	466—472
Shri K. Francis George	472—474
Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy	474—475

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 22, 2002/Agrahayana 1, 1924 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[Translation]

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is distress and discontent in entire Uttar Pradesh today...*(Interruptions)* Farmers are being exploited...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Firstly all of you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, sugarcane growers are being exploited. They are completely ruined...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one by one and rest of the hon. Members should take their seats. One hon. Member should speak so that I may know as to what is the subject matter of discussion.

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

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. Sugarcane growers are getting completely ruined. They are compelled to burn their crop. The Government of India have announced the price from Rs. 64 to Rs. 80 and the State Government increased it from Rs. 95 to hundred rupees...*(Interruptions)*. The State Government has rolled it back.

MR. SPEAKER: We have already discussed this issue yesterday. Yesterday this issue was discussed during 'Zero Hour', you please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: We are ready to sacrifice anything for the cause of farmers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji you lease take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not like it at all. The senior leader of your party is speaking, please allow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice of Adjournment Motion on this issue...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I will take care of it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Sir, time and again they interrupt us when we raise question of farmers...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Akhileshji, you please resume your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, I will go to 'Question Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I will have to stop telecast of proceedings in TV. Please stop telecast.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members please resume your seats. Akhileshji, you will also have to resume your seat, it is not good.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please tell them to resume their seats...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking them to sit down, however, you should also cooperate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attitude of the Government towards the sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh is not good...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to understand as to what is subject matter of the discussion? But it is not proper.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government is anti-farmers. Attitude of the Government towards sugarcane growers is not good...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): You always disturb the 'Question Hour'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, look the way he is behaving...*(Interruptions)* why is he interrupting...*(Interruptions)*. Today, the farmers are being compelled to burn their crop...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Everyone knows this thing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: If everyone knows about it then what are you doing...*(Interruptions)*. You please sit down...*(Interruptions)*. You please keep quiet...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You also keep quiet and allow the 'Question Hour' to proceed...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, see the way he is behaving...*(Interruptions)*. Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I was submitting that the behaviour of the Government towards the sugarcane growers is not good...*(Interruptions)*. All the Members in this House have a right to express their views. When we are discussing the problems of sugarcane growers, the Government should provide protection to them...*(Interruptions)*. He has tried to stop me from speaking...*(Interruptions)*. Vijay Kumar Malhotraji you cannot become a Minister throughout your life...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever you want to say I will listen it in 'Zero Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, they are enemy of the farmers, they have nothing to with the problems of the farmers.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: From Monday, I will not allow any Member to disturb the 'Question Hour'.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, presently the sugarcane growers are not happy, proper treatment is not being given to the farmers and the Members of the level of Ministers are trying to dominate over us. The House will not proceed like this...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I will not be able to permit this.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request only this that you please call the Minister of Agriculture so that he may answer the questions related to this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, we would not like to disturb the Question Hour. We want the Question Hour to continue...*(Interruptions)* I would only like to bring to your notice, for a minute, a very important matter for which I wish to be given time in the Zero Hour. The Government may react immediately and respond to it in the House.

Sir, in this House there was a long agitation after the Tehelka exposure. Though, we demanded a joint Parliamentary probe, the Government desired to have the Venkatswamy Commission. The Venkatswamy Commission is yet to complete its work and today he is to give a ruling at 2 o'clock. We gather the information — if our information is wrong Government will correct us — that Venkatswamy himself by this time got a Government assignment as Chairman of Advance Ruling Commission for Customs and Excise, having the office at North Block...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise this issue during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, this is highly prejudicial...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I come to Question Hour now. Q. No. 61, Shri Y.G. Mahajan to ask first.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Question No. 61 — Shri Y.G. Mahajan.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record other than the question and answer.

...*(Interruptions)* *

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Since it was a serious matter, I gave permission to speak during Question-hour but you cannot stall Question-hour. Excuse me, right now this issue cannot be taken up for discussion. I will allow, if you raise this matter during Zero-Hour. Right now I will not allow discussion on this matter....*(Interruptions)*

*Not Recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: Acharia ji, it is not good. What you are doing is not right. You may ask this question during Zero-Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Y.G. Mahajan, you kindly go ahead with your question.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: My ruling is that you can rise this question in the Zero Hour and not now. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, will you please advise the Government to react to this issue in the Zero Hour?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The Ministers are here. They have heard that you want a reply on this in the Zero Hour. I think, they will be probably concerned about it.

Now, Shri Y.G. Mahajan.

11.11 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Export of Textiles

*61. + SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and value of foreign exchange earned by exporting textiles during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the target set for exports during each of the last three years and the actual performance, country-wise;

(c) the target fixed for the current year; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The textile export targets set for exports along with latest available DGCI&S data on export performance during the last three years i.e. 1999-2000, 2000-01 and 2001-02 and target fixed for the current year i.e. 2002-03 are given below:—

(US$ Million)

	1999-00		2000-01		2001-02		2002-03
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement*	Target*	Achievement*	Target
Textile Exports	14385	13324.8	15532	12037.6	12100	10715.0	15005

Based on information provided by Textile Export Promotion Councils
(*)As per DGCI&S provisional data.

Country-wise export targets for textile products are not fixed.

The USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia, etc. are the major importing countries of our textile goods.

(d) Government have been taking several steps from time to time to achieve the textile exports target. Some of the important initiatives are:—

(i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also announced the de-reservation of knitted segment in the Union Budget 2002-03.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.

(iv) With a view to encouraging backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%. A programme has also been announced to induct 50,000 shuttleless looms and to modernise 2.5 lakh powerlooms in the decentralised sector by 2004.

(v) Foreign equity participation upto 100% through automatic route has been allowed in the textile sector with a few exceptions.

(vi) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/ programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.

(vii) To prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories.

(viii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for importing focussed thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports. A provision of Rs. 14.5 crore has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

(ix) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS) has been launched. A provision of Rs. 15 crores has been made in the B.E. 2002-03 for providing assistance under the scheme.

[Translation]

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, textile industry in India is in bad shape and export is on the decline. What are the reasons for not achieving textile export target fixed by the Government during last three years? Whether the Government have evolved any ambitious plan for achieving export target? If so, the details thereof? The Government have not clarified in its

reply regarding actual foreign exchange earned through export of textiles.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as export of textiles from India is concerned, export has been on the increase every year except 2001-2002. And, so far as current year 2002-2003 is concerned, during first quarter, i.e. from April till today, there has been a growth of about 8 percent. I am sure, the Government would achieve the target fixed for current year. The export declined during 2001-02 because of attack on WTC building in New York during the month of September. Not only in India, it resulted in slow-down in economy the world over and ultimately it affected our export as well. Export came down during that year. But the Government have taken steps to boost export and we have fixed the export target worth 50 Billion dollar by 2010. Therefore, the Government announced a textile package during 2002-03 Budget. The Government have taken several steps in this regard. Woven segment of garments have been de-reserved. In addition to it, CEN VAT has been lowered from 16 percent to 12 percent. We have abolished compounded levy on independent power processing. Periodical review is conducted at Ministry level to ensure export growth and wherever the demand exists, quota is released. Thus, I told that there has been a growth in export during 2002-03. We are sure to achieve our target.

SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know whether efforts have been made to include the major importing countries in other countries. If so, the details thereof? The Government have stated in its reply that a Technology Fund has been created to facilitate its modernisation and upgradation. I would like to ask hon. Minister the likely growth in export of textiles as a consequence thereof?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already told that the steps taken by the Government for boosting export have yielded good results. It has resulted in increase in export not only to quota-countries but to non-quota-countries also. Multi Fibre Agreement will be over by December, 2004. The Government have taken many necessary steps for it such as how unit value realisation can be promoted and high cost be brought down. It gives advantage or preference not only in USA and E.U. but in other countries also. In view of it, the Government are contemplating to take steps for boosting export of textiles.

SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been increase in the demand of Indian Garments in the foreign countries and Rajasthani carpets, Sanganeri and Bangaru Prints are selling like hot-cakes the world over. Today our export has declined. Thousands of women and poor families are engaged in dyeing, washing and stitching of garments. It is a question of their livelihood. If export comes down their livelihood is likely to be adversely affected. Through you, I would like to ask hon. Minister total value of Rajasthani garments and carpets exported during last three years? If there has been a qualitative decline in export of these items, what steps hon. Minister propose to take for boosting export?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, handicrafts consist major part of export from Rajasthan. We have taken many steps to increase export. Through you, I want to inform the House that handicrafts worth 1243 million dollars were exported during 2000-01. As a I have already said, WTC tragedy adversely affected exports but this year our export has registered growth. We conduct Trade Fairs/Exhibitions-Exports to boost export. In addition, we hold exhibitions abroad also so that we may get foreign buyers. Exhibitions and Trade Fairs, no doubt help increasing our export.

[English]

SHRI A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY: Thank you, Sir.

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the august House that from my constituency Cannanore, the export volume of textiles is 16 per cent of the total exports. Presently, textile units are facing serious problems due to lack of modern facilities. I would like to know whether we could include the small-scale textile units under the Technology Upgradation Fund Programme. There are two types of exporters—the first is the merchant-exporters and the second is the manufacturer-exporters. The manufacturer-exporters create job opportunities for weavers. Therefore, I would like to know whether there is any provision to give a special subsidy to the manufacturer-exporters.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Under the Textile Upgradation Fund Scheme, There is no provision for a special subsidy to our manufacturers but in the case of some machinery, if there is some difficulty and if some machinery should be included, as the hon. Member has demanded, we would definitely consider that. The Steering Committee on the TUFFS periodically looks into the same and we would positively think over the suggestion. SSI is included in TUFS.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (d) of the Question, the hon. Minister has

stated that one of the steps taken by the Government to achieve the textile export target included — I quote from his answer at (vii) — 'to prepare and sensitise the textile industry to conform to the ecological requirements of importing countries by providing facilities by way of testing laboratories'. This means, despite the fact that we have not otherwise agreed to the requirements on environment being made part of the WTO as such, we are accepting them here. I have no objection to that but my concern is that despite our going out of the way to accept what the countries like the US want, we are faced with a situation where despite the fact that the Ministerial Conference at Doha had taken a decision to eliminate quota curbs, a recent US decision goes quite counter to the Indian interests. The hon. Minister was pleased to say that he has the confidence about the target being achieved by the year 2005. I would pointedly like to know from him whether this decision of the Government of the US would not go against our interests and whether we would still be able to see that quotas are phased out by 2002 because only in that situation would we be able to achieve the target we have set for ourselves.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: The Government has taken some steps just for the augmentation of our exports. So far as the reference to some of the steps relating to ecological requirements is concerned, that issue is separate. Certain things were banned in 1996. That is why eco-testing laboratories were set up. So, we are not going out of the way.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I am not saying so. My quarrel is not with that part. Once we are placating them and are going by what they want, are they also sticking to the decisions of the WTO?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Whatever they want, according to the policy of the Government of India, we try to accommodate those suggestions so long as they do not affect our interests.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not the answer to my question. I need your protection.

My question has perhaps not been understood. It is not a question of our policy, I accept. Our desire is to see how others respond to them and what we are doing after that.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may send the answer to the hon. Member.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, so far as the importing countries are concerned, as I have already said, whatever suggestions the importing countries make to our Government or to the Ministry, if they are in the interests of our exporters or our Government, we would take them into consideration.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, the hon. Minister is again harping on the ecological part only. I am not disputing that. I gave that only as an illustrative example. I do not know why but he says that; he counts that as one of the major steps taken to improve our exports to achieve our targets. I do not consider that to be very relevant. I cited that because you are accepting what some other countries want...*(Interruptions)* That is what some other countries want. Maybe the hon. Minister is not wanting to reply and the hon. Minister for Disinvestment, Shri Arun Shourie wants to reply to that. I have no objection.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not permit Shri Arun Shourie to reply.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I will not mind. But I want an answer to that. I want the House to be assured that certainly the quotas will be phased out by the year 2005 and our interest, the interest of India would not be adversely affected.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a difference of opinion. The hon. Minister contends still, once again that he is doing it in the interest of the Government and also in the interest of the country, whereas you plead that it is being done in order to make the other countries happy.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: No, Sir. I am not doubting his integrity, I am not doubting his intention. He has the interest of India in mind. I agree to that. I am saying that despite his best intention, because of what the others are doing, will he be able to safeguard our interests?

MR. SPEAKER: That is what he has said. Mr. Minister, I think you have already replied. Please sit down. Shri Kharabela Swain to put his question now.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, China is the greatest exporter of garments in the world today and it intends to grab 33 per cent of the market share of the garment export within the next five years. In such a situation, what are the main impediments faced by our textile industry for not rising up to that standard?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, the main impediment, so far as my Ministry and the Government are concerned, is that so many hidden benefits are given and subsidy is also being given to the Chinese exporters. So, for that purpose, the cost of production is lower than our Indian products. That is the main reason. My Government is also trying to reduce the cost of production.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: How?...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is related to the country. I want to tell it plainly. Hon. Minister has told that there is a growth in export but figures for 1999-2000 show that we have achieved 92 per cent of the target.

[English]

In the year 2000-2001, we reached only 77 per cent and not up to 100 per cent and in the year 2001-2002, we achieved 88 per cent of the target. In the year 2000-2001, we reached only 77 percent and not upto 100 percent and in the year 2001-2002, we achieved 88 percent of the target.

[Translation]

It means that despite taking so many steps such as technological upgradation, modernisation, foreign participation, as hon. Minister has stated, we could not achieve our target. Hon. Minister has also stated that the Government have fixed an export target of 1505 U.S. million dollars for the year 2002-03 and the Government are committed to achieve it fully. I don't know, on what basis he has said so, as we could not achieve targets during last three years. In reply to part (a), I want to know from the hon. Minister.

[English]

What special types of checks and balances are you providing to reach the target? This is the first part of my question. The second part is very important.

[Translation]

The second part of my question is that reply of hon. Minister has no mention of any resolution to save textile mills. It is natural that if mills are saved then only we can export and then only export target can be achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to cite a small example of Maharashtra. Shri Mohan Rawale is sitting here and Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you, too, are from Maharashtra, you know what is the situation over there. All the mills in Maharashtra are getting closed because of one or the other reasons. My question is related to Nagpur based Empress Mills where corruption is rampant. My question contains two points.

[English]

I want to know what special checks and balances he has provided to achieve the target fixed for 2002-2003.

[Translation]

Whether any Task Force, Study Group, Committee has been appointed to deal with closed mills? If so, what is its target period?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has said that our export has been declining for the last three years. The data provided by DGCIS are authenticated by the Government of India, Ministry of Commerce and as per these data our export during 1999-2000 was 10.5 million U.S. dollars. It increased to 12 billion dollars during 2000-2001 registering a growth of 15-17 percent. I have admitted that it has come down during 2001-2002 because of September episode. It does not mean it has declined. It is an exceptional case and I am sure of achieving our target during 2002-2003.

[English]

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Then, what is the use of fixing the target?

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Second question was what steps the Government propose to take for revival of mills getting closed day by day. I would like to say that our mills are running on latest machinery and equipments. The production of our fabric has increased resulting in more export. The mills with old machinery, old technology and old management are getting closed. The Government have created a Technology upgradation Fund to help revival of such mills and we have reimbursed about Rs. 5000 crore under this scheme. We have launched Technology Mission Cotton for improving the quality of cotton. The funds, which were not available to mill owners, are being drawn by them from T.U.F....*(Interruptions)*

Bungling in Cooperative Banks

+

*66. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:

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

(a) whether bungling to the tune of crores of rupees in various co-operative banks/district co-operative banks came to the notice of the Government during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details of such banks, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons found guilty therein alongwith the action taken against them; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to restore confidence of depositors?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that irregularities in securities transactions in some co-operative banks have come to its notice in the year 2002. A State-wise list of such banks is given in the Annexure.

(c) RBI has stated that police investigations into the criminal cases and departmental enquiries are in progress.

(d) RBI has taken several steps to ensure the depositors' interest and remedial measures to ensure smooth functioning of cooperative banks. Some of these are:

(i) Inspections of these banks by National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD);

(ii) RBI has approached the Co-operative Department of the concerned States for urgent action like supersession of the Board of the Directors of the Bank and appointment of Administrator, etc.;

(iii) Criminal cases have been registered against the authorities/officials of the bank by the State Government;

(iv) RBI has also issued instructions to all State and District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) making it mandatory to maintain their investments in the Government Securities in Demat form, in the respect Subsidiary General Ledger (SGL)/Consolidated SGL Accounts;

(v) RBI has asked the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to conduct special audit of investment transactions of State and all DCCBs of certain selected State immediately;

(vi) Instructions have been issued to all Urban Cooperative Banks reiterating that the role of the broker should be limited to bring the two banks together with the settlement of the transaction being undertaken directly between them and to adhere strictly to RBI's instructions;

(vii) Urban Cooperative banks have been advised to have the transactions in Government securities subjected to concurrent audit every quarter by Chartered Accountants and confirm that the investment as reported by the bank are in fact owned by the bank.

Annexure

State-wise list of Banks involved in irregularities

S.No.	State	Name of the Bank
1	2	3
1.	Gujarat	Adajan Nagrik Shahakari Bank Ltd., Surat
2.		Gandevi Peoples' Cooperative Bank Ltd., Gandevi
3.		The Karamsad Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd., Karamsad

1	2	3
4.		Navsari Peoples' Co-operative Bank Ltd., Navsari
5.		Sheth B.B. Shroff Bulsar Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd., Bulsar
6.		Surat Mahila Nagrik Shahakari Bank Ltd., Surat
7.		Surat Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Surat
8.		Udhana Citizen Cooperative Bank Ltd., Udhana
9.		Shri Morbi Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd., Morbi
10.	Maharashtra	Nagpur District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Nagpur
11.		Wardha District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Wardha
12.		Osmanabad District Central Co-operative Bank Ltd., Osmanabad
13.		Raghuvanshi Co-operative Bank Ltd., Mumbai
14.		Shree Sadguru Jangli Maharaj Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune
15.		Suvarnayug Sahakari Bank Ltd., Pune
16.		Amravati Peoples' Co-operative Bank Ltd., Amravati
17.	West Bengal	Bhatpara-Naihati Cooperative Bank Ltd., Bhatpara
18.		Boral Union cooperative Bank Ltd., Boral

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Hon'ble Chairman, Sir, the reply given by the hon'ble Minister in response to Question No. 66 is not satisfactory. Everybody knows the significance of Cooperative Banks in the entire country. These banks provide direct loans to farmers and have made more progress in the agriculture sector during the last 50 years. Today, we find that the Reserve Bank has no control over the scandals and frauds taking place in Cooperative Banks. If anyone is responsible for this, it is the Union Finance Minister and the Central Government.

Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Finance Minister whether billions of rupees of farmers deposited in Cooperative Banks of Gujarat, Maharashtra and other States, where scandals are being reported, is safe or not? If, at all, there is a reason, then it is our election system. The elections in district Cooperative Banks are indirect one. One representative is elected from one Taluka. Share holders have no say in this. A single vote is sold for one to two lakh rupees. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also belong to Maharashtra. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government are considering to bring all co-operative banks of the country under the control of Reserve Bank of India?

Secondly, whether any efforts are being made to elect share holder, who keep deposits in banks and make transactions, as representative of Taluka?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Member has expressed many views on co-operative banks within the ambit of this question and have asked some questions also. I will try to give reply to those questions, and if it is possible, I would also like to make some brief comments on his views.

The hon'ble Member has said that the Reserve Bank of India has no control over Co-operative Banks. It will be an exaggeration in itself because, as the hon'ble Member has been intimated in reply to the question, the Reserve Bank of India has taken many steps for improvement in Co-operative Banks. It is true that even today this kind of things are taking place in many co-operative banks and therefore, it is necessary that there should be some improvement. I have provided a list of

the co-operative banks, against whom we have received complaints regarding irregularities, alongwith the reply of that question. We are continuously making efforts for improving the functioning of co-operative banks and want that the objective for which these co-operative banks have been established, should be fulfilled.

The hon'ble Member wanted to know as to what steps the Government would take to check the irregularities taking place in the elections of co-operative banks. Firstly, the election irregularities are the consequences of atmosphere prevailing there and secondly, if these irregularities take place in vast political perspective, then it will have an impact or influence on other elections also...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection. Hon'ble Minister is taking this question very lightly. In the entire country, irregularities are taking place in the co-operative sector.

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Minister complete his reply.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: I have asked whether the elections are conducted indirectly, while denying the rights to the share holders. The hon'ble Minister should give a reply to this.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The hon'ble Member need not seek protection. I was trying to give a reply to his question. The hon'ble Member has given a suggestion that there should be improvement in the method of election. Certainly, there should be improvement in it. It is not acceptable to us that irregularities take place in cooperative banks and consequently, people from outside are elected and things go on like this.

Sir, certainly I respect all the views of hon'ble Member. Though, I am not complaining, yet the fact is that, as the hon'ble Member knows, the co-operatives are almost a state subject. We have to see as to in which form and to what extent the Central Government or the Central Institutions, could interfere in that and while doing so, we have some limitations. The hon'ble Member certainly understands these things.

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: The hon'ble Minister has given an ambiguous reply and after hearing his reply, it seems to me that the hon'ble Minister is not serious on this subject.

This kind of fraud is taking place in almost all sates of the country. The funds of the farmers are not safe in the co-operative banks and Central Co-operative Banks. After depositing their money in these banks, they feel insecure. The shareholders and the people associated with banks have no information about this Similarly, many scams are taking place in urban banks also. In the urban banks of Gujarat and other states, the list of which the minister has kindly provided in his reply, scams are taking place. Today the condition is such that even the Central Co-operative Banks are not free from scams...*(Interruptions)*

I am not taking about Gujarat and Nagpur only, instead I am talking about all states of the country. In Maharashtra also, the people who committed frauds were put in jails. I am not taking about any single state. I am talking about the entire country. The urban and central co-operative banks, in which the funds of the people living in urban and rural area have been deposited, are not in secure hands.

The Minister has said that the Reserve Bank of India has control over Urban and Central Co-operative Banks. I would like to know as to why irregularities are taking place when Reserve Bank of India has control over these banks. If it is happening then it means that Reserve Bank officials are involved in these irregularities due to which big frauds are being committed. If Reserve Bank has a control, then how so many frauds are being committed. Therefore, through you, I would like to know as to what would be the role of Finance Ministry in the funds which are being deposited by Private Agents in cooperative and urban banks and if Reserve Bank has control over co-operative banks then why it is not taking any action against those who are committing frauds and what action the Central Government are taking against the Registrar, Co-operative Bank and the R.B.I.?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government have started working for the improvement in Co-operative Banks and it is having consultations with Reserve Bank regarding amendment in Banking Regulation Act and as soon as this amendment is approved by Parliament, the shortcomings, which the hon'ble Member has mentioned, will be removed. I cannot say that all the shortcomings will be removed but I can definitely say that after passing of this amendment, there will be a lot of improvement.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, as regards the reply which the hon'ble Minister has given just now and the things which he has mentioned, I would request him to tell all these things more clearly. As for division of responsibility, regarding the election by shareholder, the BTC regulate the financial matters related to limited companies under the Ministry of Finance, I

request to provide more information that financial supervision, audit and regulatories would be brought under the control of RBI, as SEBI regulates the listed companies. There is dual responsibilities in financial regulatories control oversight in cooperatives, one of them is supervised by state cooperatives and other by RBI.

Besides, I would also to know Sir, whether the Government or NABARD have been any order for holding special investigation into the various scams including one of Mumbai Cooperative Bank which have occurred during the last six months, if so, what is that order?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the intent of the question asked by the hon. Member is that a kind of dual responsibility has been evolving, hence some remains at both the levels. I am of the view that the Ministry of Finance is alert in this regard. The hon. Member has asked about the proposed amendment in the Banking Regulation Act. I would like to humbly submit to the hon. Member that until the amendment is passed, I cannot say anything in this regard. Even otherwise we would only approach them when the Bill would be brought for passage because we do not have anywhere to go and they would get the full information about it. Banking Regulation Amendment is under consideration. All these are contained in that. One of our officials have passed on this piece of information just now that a budgetary allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the cooperative sector reforms. Two Committees namely Kapoor Committee and Patil Committee were constituted and these 100 crores rupees have been allocated on the basis of recommendation made by them. I hope that these steps would bring reforms in the cooperative sector.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Tell us something about the Mumbai Cooperative Bank.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not have any objection in providing information to the hon. Member but to speak like it on a particular bank here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mumbai Cooperative Central Bank is a big bank for which RBI have given the orders for investigation. What does it show, what are the investigation orders and strictures passed by NABARD. It is a major issue.

MR. SPEAKER: You send him the information later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can write to him and inform him about it.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I think that he is a very vigilant and active parliamentarian. Mumbai being his constituency, it is quite natural for him to be alert about every issue related to his constituency and draw attention of the Government. I will give him the information later on. One more issue has been raised. I have told it earlier also that cooperative is a state subject. I am not complaining but it is a fact that unless the states do not fully cooperative, the reforms we seek to achieve would be very difficult.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Cooperative Banks are associated with farmers. I am satisfied with the reply to original question but I have a supplementary question. In Bihar, the politicians have taken money from the cooperative banks by mortgaging the Patna Railway station and Gandhi ground. I am talking something unusual because it is a strange thing and Raghuvansh Babu is also well aware about it. Not only his friends but those who are the friends of his friend have also taken money in the name of farmers by mortgaging the Railway Station and the Gandhi ground...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Boat Club...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: I would like to know whether any action in this regard has been taken or not? If so, the details in this regard should be provided. The interests of the farmers being marred at such large scale by cooperative banks in Bihar and the crores of rupees of the farmers have been usurped by the politicians by giving fake evidence of land. Several cases including those in the High Court are pending in this regard. I would like to know whether any action has been taken or proposed to be taken in this regard...*(Interruptions)*. Patna Railway Station and the Gandhi Maidan, where the speech of Sonia Gandhiji is to take place and that by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has already taken place has been mortgaged by the politicians. The Chairmanship of Cooperative Bank is being enjoyed by the politicians...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Radha Mohanji, you please sit down.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would certainly reply to this question but before doing so I would like to tell that Shri Simranjit Singh Maan has, through a letter asked me to speak simple Hindi. I would try to do so even though I am not speaking any difficult one. I would make it more simpler. As has been asked by Shri Maan Saheb and Radha Mohanji, Bhai Raghuvansh Babuji during his thoughtful speech yesterday evening had also mentioned and informed about the same thing. Mr. Speaker, Sir you are aware that Bihar is a progressive state and it is natural in such states that such novel kind of steps are taken. Now I can not give any reply about that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You please give a detailed reply.

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, big scams are taking place in Gujarat, Maharashtra and other parts of the country...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What else is taking place besides scams...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Reserve Bank have several regulations and in that the guilty officers including Director of the bank would be dealt with by the Court. However, I would like to know whether the Union Government would issue guidelines to the State Government to take necessary steps to ensure that the poor people, farmers and the retired people who had disposited their hard earned money in cooperative banks in the hope of meeting their obligations like the marriage of their daughters and also leading secured life, should, get their money back. Further, whether the Union Government besides instructing the State Government for ensuring the timely payment of their money has taken adequate measures in this direction. Whether there is any hope of people getting their money?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question of hon. Member is important. The hon. Member has asked about the cooperative bank, I would like to say in this regard that if the deposits of any citizen are lost due to any reason whether due to irregularity, mismanagement or negligence then it is the responsibility of the bank to pay it. Cooperatives being a state subject, centre has its own limitation to interfere or issue directions to the States for compensation in this regard and the hon. Member is also aware of it. However, we are considering in that direction. Hence, whether it is deposit, insurance or reform in Banking Regulation Act, there would be some steps in the direction towards improvement.

[English]

Bailout Package to UTI

+

*67. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH RAJUKHEDI:

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

(a) whether the Government have issued a new bailout package of Rs. 14,000 crores in order to meet the UTI's liabilities on flagship scheme US-64 and assured return scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the outstanding liabilities of the UTI on US-64 Scheme alongwith details of the liabilities already disposed of after February 2002;

(c) the amount of loss suffered by the UTI due to recent fallout resulting in severe redemption pressure from the investors;

(d) whether the flagship US-64 scheme is still facing severe redemption pressure from the investors; and

(e) if so, the measures taken by the Government to tackle the situation?

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

Statement

(a) It is not a "bail out", as suggested. The government had already announced a reform package for supporting investors in the US-64 Scheme. This package was given final shape on 31st August 2002. The Scheme envisages (i) providing support to UTI for meeting obligations of redemption under the US-64 Scheme as and when they arise; (ii) support to such of those Assured Return and Monthly Income Plan Schemes where the NAV is lower than the face value; (iii) resetting interest rates of such Assured Return Schemes to lower levels wherever feasible; and (iv) separating UTI into two units of which one would manage NAV based schemes and the other US-64 and such of those Assured Return and Monthly Income Plan Schemes where the NAV was lower than the face value. To operationalise the decision on bifurcation, an Ordinance has been promulgated on 29th October, 2002 which provides, *inter alia*, for repeal of the UTI Act and bifurcation of the UTI into two entities — one (Unit-II) to be run as a Company under the

Companies Act and the other (Unit-I) to be managed by Government appointed Administrator. The commitment likely to devolve on the Government on account of US-64 and Assured Return Schemes could depend upon the market conditions.

(b) According to UTI, as on October 28, 2002, subject to certain assumptions, the estimated difference between the net asset value (NAV) and the assured repurchased prices upto May, 2003 is Rs. 6,571 crores approximately. Repurchases between February 01, 2002 and October 31, 2002 have been to the extent of Rs. 872 crores under assured repurchase price and Rs. 186 crores under the NAV based repurchases.

(c) UTI has intimated that the redemption pressure for the last one year was not severe. The repurchase under all schemes for the period July 01, 2002 to November 15, 2002 was Rs. 3,023 crores against sales of Rs. 3,160 crores.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether all the money invested in US-64 scheme has been refunded. What measures have been taken by the Government to stop recurrence of what had happened last year?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If I have understood the hon. Member's question correctly,

MR. SPEAKER: He wants to know whether you have refunded whatever money had been invested in UTI.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I followed. The question is whether the moneys that were invested in the UTI's US-64 scheme have bee refunded. The entire scheme was, as announced by the Government last year that we would fix a value for Unit 64. The value of the unit was fixed in relation to a point, which is May 2003 and then we worked out backwards. In My 2003 it would be this value and lesser values from earlier months. What we have done, as I have indicated in my Answer, is not a bail out. I it is in reality a fencing in of the liabilities of UTI and fencing it in once and for all. That is why Unit-64 becomes Unit-I and other net asset value investments become Unit-II. There are two distinct and separate functions. The Mutual Fund will be governed, principled, organised and run in accordance with the best market practices. Unit 64 remains a commitment of the Government. I am happy to inform the hon. Member that in the last two months of September and October, in fact, in Unit-64, for the first time the net accrual amounted to over Rs. 600 crore.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: You have not answered my second question.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask two questions. You have the right to one supplementary. Now, you ask your supplementary.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN: I would like to know whether the Government has decided to split UTI into two companies. Will the splitting of UTI make it competitive?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes, Sir. The reply as already conveyed to the hon. Member states that the Ordinance issued does effectuate the separation of the Unit Trust into two entities — Unit-I and Unit-II. Unit-II, as I have just indicated, is the net asset value based Mutual Fund. It will in fact be a competitive Mutual Fund and will work in that fashion.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India has fixed any responsibility on any person for such an episode. If so, what action has been taken against the offenders?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: As the hon. Member knows, the Tarapore Committee went into this aspect. It has identified what had gone wrong. We will be moving in the direction of fixing responsibility and then take action against the errant individuals.

[Translation]

SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how much money has been invested by the C.P.M. party in US-64 scheme...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: This is not the black money...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether individual investments are concerned or whether by any institution, political party or by any person, it does not behove a Minister to disclose it publicly. Hence, it is not possible for me to tell about it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Encroachment in the Wakf's Assets

*62. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the cases of sale and encroachment on the Wakf's assets;

(b) if so, the details of such cases during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons found guilty in this regard; and

(d) the details of action taken against them, State-wise?

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

As per the Wakf Act 1995, the proper management and protection of the Wakf's properties is the responsibilities of the Wakf Boards. The Wakf Boards are under the supervision of State Government/UT Administration.

(b) to (d) The information as received from the State Governments/UT Administration is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of cases of illegal sale/encroachment of Wakf properties

Name of State/UT	Details
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	An area of 84,212 acres is under encroachment. Notice under Section 54 and 55 of the Wakf Act has been issued to 3373 persons for evicting the encroached Wakf properties.
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	The UT administration has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Arunachal Pradesh	The State Government has reported that there is no Wakf Board and no Wakf property exists in the State.
Assam	The State Government has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Bihar (including Jharkhand)	13 Wakf properties were sold and 129 properties were encroached of Sunni Wakf Board. 4 persons are found guilty and removed from Mutawaliship. 8 Wakf properties of Shia Wakf Boards are reported under encroachment. 8 persons have been found guilty. All the cases are pending in the court for eviction.
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	The UT administration has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Daman & Diu	There is no Wakf Board in Daman & Diu and no report has been received from the UT.
Delhi	Encroachments exist in a number of Wakf properties for which a proper survey is being conducted under the supervision of Survey Commissioner (Wakf) appointed under Wakf Act, 1995. Necessary action will be taken on the receipt of the survey report.

1	2
Goa	The State Government has reported that there has been no survey of Wakf properties in the State and as such they have given the nill information.
Gujarat	The State Government has reported that Survey Commissioner has been appointed and that the survey of work is in progress.
Jammu & Kashmir (not covered under the Wakf Act, 1955)	It has been reported by the State Government as per the pursuance of provisions of J&K Wakf Act, no sale of Wakf property can be made. 3385 kanals, 14 marlas and 157 sft. is under encroachment. Cases against 78 encroachers have been filed in the courts. 37 cases have been decided for eviction which have been referred to District Collectors for removal of encroachments.
Karnataka	155 cases of unauthorized encroachment on Wakf properties are reported. Out of which 2 cases pertaining to Banglore Urban, necessary compensation was paid by the National Highways and Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation. In another case pertaining to Chitradurga District, the encroached property was evicted in view of the judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka and in one more case, the encroachment was evicted by the local authorities. In the remaining cases, action is being taken.
Kerala	34 cases of encroachments have been reported, encroachments from 5 properties have been removed, in remaining cases reccvery proceedings are going on.
Lakshadweep	The UT administration has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Madhya Pradesh (including Chhattisgarh)	148 properties are reported under encroachment. 595 persons have been found guilty. 55 Wakf properties have been recovered. In remaining cases, the action is being taken by the concerned authorities.
Maharashtra	268 cases of encroachment and 71 cases of illegal sale of Wakf lands located in Marathwada region have been reported. For rest of the State, figures are not available. 2254 persons have been found guilty for encroachment. Actions have been initiated for removal of encroachments.
Manipur	The State Government has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Meghalaya	The State Government has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Mizoram	The State Government has reported that there is no Wakf property in the State.
Nagaland	The State Government has reported that there is no case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Orissa	12 cases of encroachment have been reported on Wakf properties. Investigation is going on and action has been initiated to recover the Wakf land as per the provisions of the Wakf Act.
Pondicherry	102 Wakf properties have been reported under encroachment and 96 persons have been found guilty. Eviction action is to be taken on receipt of survey report from Survey Commissioner regarding encroachment of illegal possession by the encroachers. In most of the cases the matter is under litigation and vigorously followed by the Mutawalis.

1	2
Rajasthan	302 cases of encroachments are pending under Section 54 and 55 of the Wakf Act, 1995. 85 cases are pending under the provisions of Rajasthan Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, 1964. There are 225 cases of encroachments on the Endowments of Dargah Khwaja Saheb, which is administered under the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act. Legal action is being taken.
Sikkim	The State Government has reported that information may be treated as nil.
Tamil Nadu	4 cases of illegal sale of Wakf properties and 848 encroachments on the Wakf assets are reported. 848 persons are found guilty for encroachments and 4 persons are found guilty of illegal sale of the Wakf properties. For recovery of the Wakf properties, notices have been issued to the encroachers under Section 54 of the Wakf act, 1955 and an enquiry has been conducted by the Chief Executive Officer of Tamil Nadu Wakf Board under Section 54 of the Wakf Act, 1995 after receipt of objections/replies from the encroachers in 505 cases.
Tripura	The State Government has reported that there is no such case of sale and encroachment of Wakf properties.
Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	22 cases of illegal sale and 727 cases of encroachments are reported. 2 encroachments have been removed, 747 requisitions have been sent to the concerned Collectors for taking necessary action regarding eviction of Wakf land. Notices have been issued to 2893 persons. Remaining cases are under process at the level of Wakf Boards.
West Bengal	75 Wakf properties have been reported under possession of unauthorized persons. 75 persons are found guilty. 9 cases are pending in the Court for recovery of the Wakf properties.
The States of Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and UT of Chandigarh are under Punjab Wakf Board	Punjab: There has been no illegal sale and encroachments of Wakf properties in the State in the last 3 years. Haryana: There has been no illegal sale and encroachments of Wakf properties in the State in the last 3 years. Himachal Pradesh: There has been no illegal sale and encroachments of Wakf properties in the State in the last 3 years. Chandigarh: There has been no illegal sale and encroachments of Wakf properties in the UT in the last 3 years.

Power Generation through Sugar Mills

*63. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

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

(a) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to bring in a legislation for generating power based on bagasse through sugar mills;

(b) whether any scheme is being formulated in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Act, 2002, has been notified in the Official Gazette on 28th May, 2002 to provide that the Sugar Development Fund shall, *inter-alia*, be applied for making loans to any sugar factory or unit thereof for bagasse based

cogeneration power projects with a view to improving their viability. The Amendment Act came into effect in June, 2002.

It is envisaged to provide loans from the Sugar Development Fund for this purpose at concessional terms. The finalization of the Rules for carrying out the provisions of the Sugar Development Fund (Amendment) Act, 2002, is in progress.

[English]

Non-Performing Assets

*64. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA:

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

(a) the non-performing assets each of the Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions as on September 30, 2002;

(b) the quantum of such advances given by each Public Sector Bank and FI to non-priority sector;

(c) whether the Government propose to allow the banks to publish the names of defaulters so as to black list them;

(d) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(e) the other concrete steps taken/being taken by the Government to recover the NPA?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Information relating to non-performing assets of the public sector banks and financial institutions is available upto 31st March, 2002. Details of the gross non-performing assets in respect of each of the public sector banks, and of these the quantum of non-performing assets in the non-priority sector, as on 31st March, 2002 are given in the enclosed Statement. Details of gross non-performing assets of financial institutions are also given in the enclosed Statement. Financial institutions have no priority sector lending commitments.

(c) and (d) As per the provisions of the banking laws, names of only those defaulters against whom suits have been filed can be disclosed. Reserve Bank of India publishes a list of suit filed cases with aggregate outstanding loan of rupees one crore and above on annual basis. RBI also publishes a list of cases of willful default against whom Banks and Financial Institutions have filed suits for recovery of funds (Rs. 25 lakhs and above) on quarterly basis. Both these lists are available on RBI's website www.rbi.org.in (publication).

(e) Government of India and RBI have advised the banks and financial institutions to take various steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). Banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlements. RBI in July, 2000 had also introduced non-discretionary and a non-discriminatory One Time Settlement scheme for NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore.

Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the Banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Further, to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default and to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues, "The Securitisation & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002" has been promulgated, and its replacement Bill has also been introduced in the House.

Statement

Gross NPAs of Public Sector banks and Development Financial Institution as on 31st March, 2002

(Rupees in crores)

S. No.	Name of the public sector bank and DFI	Gross NPAs	NPAs of Non-priority Sector
1	2	3	4
Public Sector Banks			
1.	State Bank of India	15485.87	8037.05

1	2	3	4
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	615.58	370.19
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	898.52	402.10
4.	State Bank of Indore	320.10	141.22
5.	State Bank of Mysore	624.61	323.42
6.	State Bank of Patiala	628.02	319.52
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	443.25	178.98
8.	State Bank of Travancore	727.60	332.93
9.	Allahabad Bank	2001.85	1174.23
10.	Andhra Bank	524.14	217.69
11.	Bank of Baroda	4489.29	2621.79
12.	Bank of India	3722.41	2317.00
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	906.42	353.48
14.	Canara Bank	2112.44	1006.48
15.	Central Bank of India	3375.69	1641.69
16.	Corporation Bank	587.05	347.71
17.	Dena Bank	1996.03	1222.09
18.	Indian Bank	2175.35	1372.22
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1818.54	1020.43
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	951.79	510.09
21.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1091.84	714.43
22.	Punjab National Bank	4139.86	2352.12
23.	Syndicate Bank	1299.13	556.17
24.	UCO Bank	1332.65	688.81
25.	Union Bank of India	2420.48	1222.99
26.	United Bank of India	1215.50	516.64
27.	Vijaya Bank	602.69	289.68
	Total	56506.7	30251.15
Development Financial Institutions			
1.	IDBI	12859	
2.	SIDBI	784	
3.	IFCI Ltd.	6574	
4.	IIBI Ltd.	1107	
	Total	21324	

Anti-Dumping Duty on Coconut Oil

*65. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut growing States are urging the Centre to impose anti-dumping duty heavily on coconut oil imports to save domestic oil sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has not received any petition from the industry or the States for imposition of anti-dumping duty on Coconut Oil.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Violation of WTO Guidelines by US Over Textiles

*68. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether America has expressed its inability to give concessions on the import of textiles during the WTO conference held last year in Doha;

(b) if so, whether this decision of America has caused a severe blow to the developing countries including India;

(c) whether ongoing dialogue between India and America regarding the former's reach in the American market is also likely to be affected by this decision of America;

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to solve this problem; and

(e) the present status of the issue?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (e) At the Doha Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO) held in November, 2001, certain decisions were taken in respect of full and faithful implementation of Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC). These are contained in Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.3 of the Decision on Implementation Related Issues and Concerns. In addition, the Doha Ministerial conference, in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the Decision on Implementation Related Issues and Concerns requested the WTO Council for Trade in Goods (CTG) to examine two implementation proposals. One of them required the application of the most favourable methodology for "growth-on-growth" provisions while calculating the quota levels for small suppliers. The other implementation proposal, which was relevant for all restrained countries including India, required advancing the application of the higher "growth-on-growth" factor of 27% which was otherwise due on 1 January 2002 to be applied from 1 January 2000.

The Council for Trade in Goods was to examine these proposals and to make recommendations to the General Council by July 31, 2002 for appropriate action.

While the examination of the two proposals was undertaken earlier this year, no recommendation could be forwarded to the General Council due to the stand taken by the restraining members including the US.

During the formal and informal discussions, India alongwith other members of the International Textiles and Clothing Bureau (ITCB) had made a strong case for acceptance of these two proposals. The ITCB members had also submitted a written paper giving their concrete arguments and urging members to accept the proposals. In addition, the ITCB members had demonstrated how the balance of rights and obligations under the ATC had been tilted to the detriment of developing country exporting members. It was that the two textile implementation issues were part of the overall package negotiated by Ministers at Doha and that the CTG should come out with recommendations to the General Council for appropriate action. Paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the Doha Decision indicated that Ministers expected recommendations to be made.

At the 31 July, 2002 General Council meeting, US stated that it had not agreed to two proposals at Doha and that its position remained unchanged.

India and other developing countries have continued to raise this issue in the various fora including the Mini-Ministerial meeting held at Sydney on 14-15 November, 2002.

Acceptance by WTO Member Countries of the Implementation proposal on "growth-on-growth" could have led to the availability of somewhat larger market

access for our exports in the US and other restraining countries.

[English]

Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes

*69. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:

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

(a) whether the Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes has recently submitted its report to the Government;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have since examined the recommendations of this Committee; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Kelkar Committee on Direct Taxes has not yet submitted any report. It has presented a consultation paper on 2nd November, 2002, which has been made public for wider discussion and comments. A statement about its proposals is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The Government is examining them and shall formulate views only after full examination of the recommendations.

Statement

The major recommendations as contained in the consultation paper *inter alia* are as under:

(i) Certain non-core functions of the I-T Department including allotment of PAN, data entry etc. may be outsourced.

(ii) A Tax Information Network (TIN) may be created which will receive the Return of Tax Deducted at Source and other information in a digitized form on behalf of tax administrators. Through networking of Banks with TIN, payments may be received online and the designated banks may issue refunds. Challans or TDS certificates may not be required to be enclosed with the return.

(iii) Various Administrative and Financial Powers may be delegated to the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

(iv) The basic exemption limit may be increased to Rs. 1,00,000 with removal of almost all exemptions on personal taxation including (a) tax rebate under section 88 relating to investment in NSC, EPF, GPF, PPF, tax saving units of mutual funds, insurance premia paid, repayment housing loan infrastructure bonds etc., (b) rebates under sections 88B and 88C available to senior citizens and women, (c) Deduction under section 80L relating to dividend and interest, (d) exemption under section 10 in respect of interest income from bonds, securities, debentures etc.

(v) The deduction on interest payment on purchase/ construction of self occupied property to be reduced to NIL in three years.

(vi) Dividend income and long-term capital gain on equity may be exempted from tax.

(vii) Corporate tax rate may be reduced to 30% and Minimum Alternate Tax (MAT) may be abolished.

(viii) The depreciation under I-T Act may be restricted to that charged by the Company under the provisions of Companies Act.

(ix) Various exemptions and deductions under sections 10A, 10B, 80-IA, 80-IB, 80-JJA and 80-JJAA may be deleted by immediate effect and not by sunset clause.

(x) With respect to Corporate Taxation, the Task Force had given two options — Under Option I, all the deductions and exemptions are to be removed with immediate effect while at the same time reducing Corporate tax rates, abolishing MAT and exempting dividend from taxation-under Option II, the deductions and exemptions are to be phased out in three years and also Corporate tax rate to be reduced in a period of three years, in addition a dividend distribution tax @ 15% may be imposed which will also be phased out in three years.

(xi) For taxation of agricultural income, a tax rental arrangement may be designed so that States can pass a resolution under Article 252 of the Constitution authorising the Central Government to impose Income tax on agricultural income. All taxes collected by the Centre (net of

collection costs) may be assigned to the States. Separate tax return forms for agricultural income may be devised.

(xii) For charitable trusts, the income-based deduction under section 80G may be converted to a tax rebate @ 20%.

(xiii) Exemptions under section 10(21), 10(23B), 10(23C) (iiiab) to (via), 10(29A) relating to exemption to educational and medical institutions etc. may be merged with sections 11 to 13 of I-T Act, which provides exemption to trust's income.

(xiv) The Wealth Tax may be abolished.

(xv) Special procedure for assessment of search cases, that is, the Block Assessment may be deleted.

Tea Production

*70. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether tea production is expected to fall during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the extent to which the production would be less during this year as compared to 2001-2002;

(c) the reasons for lower production of tea in the Southern States; and

(d) the steps proposed to ensure that adequate tea is available in the market for the common man?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The production of tea in India during 2002-03 (April-September) has shown a decline of 30.10 million kgs in comparison with the same period of 2001-02. The total tea production during the complete financial year 2002-2003 is expected to be less by 15 to 20 million kgs. as compared to the production of 847 million kgs. during 2001-02.

(c) The tea growing areas in the Southern States were hit by severe drought and as a result the production of tea in these States suffered a decline of 5.89 million kgs. during April-September, 2002 as compared to April-September, 2001.

(d) The Government and the Tea Board are implementing various developmental Schemes to increase production and productivity of tea in the country to meet domestic requirements. These Schemes include extension of planting in traditional tea growing areas and new planting in non-traditional areas, replantation, rejuvenation pruning, infilling and consolidation of existing tea areas and productivity enhancement through intensive pruning of small holdings, incentives for production of organic teas, green teas and other special teas. Tea Board provides essential R&D support to the tea gardens. These Schemes also provide for extending financial assistance by way of long term loans, subsidy and grant in aid. The current production of tea is adequate to meet domestic demand.

Meeting with Chief Ministers

*71. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether a meeting of all the Chief Ministers with the Prime Minister on fiscal situation of States was held recently in Delhi;

(b) if so, the issues discussed in the meeting;

(c) the views of the participants;

(d) whether issue of D.A., retirement age and commutation of pension of Central Government employees were also taken up in the meeting; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) A meeting of the Chief Ministers on Fiscal Situation of the States was held on 18th October, 2002 at New Delhi, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister.

(b) During the meeting, discussions were held on the fiscal situation of States which, *inter alia*, included issues on (i) measures to bring down the debt to sustainable levels, (ii) introduction of State level VAT from 1.4.2003, (iii) routing of funds to the implementing agencies by Centre for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), (iv) review of the Overdraft Regulation Scheme, (v) implementation of the Supreme Court's Judgement of 21.3.2002 in All India Judges Association case with regard to the recommendations of the First National Judicial Pay

Commission, and (vi) issues involved in containing non-plan revenue expenditure.

(c) to (e) On the principle of the debt swap while there was in principle agreement to the need for debt swap, some States felt that there was need for further fine-turning the proposal. There was consensus among States that VAT should be implemented from 1.4.2003. However, some States were of the view that VAT compensation scheme should be formulated first. Regarding routing of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the State Governments were of the view that these funds should be routed through the State Consolidated Fund, with a stipulation that within 2-3 weeks, the funds will then be transmitted to the implementing agencies. As regards the Overdraf Regulation Schemes of RBI, the States were of the view that this scheme, alongwith the Ways and Means Advance Scheme should be more liberal. The State Governments expressed serious difficulties regarding the Constitutional, financial and administrative issues involved in implementing the Supreme Court Judgement dated 21.3.2002 in the All India Judges Association case. On the issue of containing non plan revenue expenditure which *inter-alia* included issues on DA, bonus and commutation of pension, as no consensus emerged, it was resolved that the State Governments and the Union Government will take decisions on their own.

Public Money Locked up in Litigations

*72. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether a huge amount running into several crores of the public money is locked up in litigation in various courts including Debt Recovery Tribunals handling non-performing assets of banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the total amount involved therein as on October, 2002 bank-wise and financial institution-wise, separately;

(c) the recovery of dues during each of the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to ensure faster recovery of debts from these companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The amount involved in cases pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) as on 30th June, 2002 is Rs. 1,02,201.70 crores. The amount involved in cases pending in the Lok Adalats as on 31st March, 2002 is Rs. 600.29 crores. Financial institution-wise details in this regard are not available. Bank-wise details are given in Statement-I and II.

(c) The recoveries against Non Performing Assets (NPAs) including cash recovery/upgradation/write-off/ compromise made by the Public Sector Banks during the last three years are as under:

Year ending 31st March	Amount (in crores)
2000	10369
2001	13629
2002	13833

(d) Government of India and RBI have advised the Banks and Financial Institutions to take several steps for recovery of dues such as evolving and the implementation of recovery policy by banks, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and filing of suits in Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs). Banks have also been advised to use the forum of Lok Adalat for compromise settlements. RBI in July 2000 had also introduced non-discretionary and non-discriminatory One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs upto Rs. 5 crore.

Credit Information Bureau has been set up to disseminate information on borrowers to the Banks. Corporate Debt Restructuring (CDR) scheme has been put in place to provide a transparent mechanism for restructuring of corporate debts to viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors. Further, to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default and to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues, "The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Ordinance, 2002" has been promulgated, and its replacement Bill has also been introduced in the House.

Statement-I

Details of cases pending in the Lok Adalats in Respect of Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 2002

S. No.	Name of the public sector bank	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	State Bank of India	3435.00
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	8.56
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	53.43
4.	State Bank of Indore	19.93
5.	State Bank of Mysore	7.00
6.	State Bank of Patiala	3442.00
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	502.59
8.	State Bank of Travancore	523.03
9.	Allahabad Bank	4196.03
10.	Andhra Bank	341.67
11.	Bank of Baroda	1091.54
12.	Bank of India	4735.72
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	75.98
14.	Canara Bank	729.94
15.	Central Bank of India	359.03
16.	Corporation Bank	99.88
17.	Dena Bank	634.68
18.	Indian Bank	958.50
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	8140.82
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1372.00
21.	Punjab & Sind Bank	1737.00
22.	Punjab National Bank	1856.63
23.	Syndicate Bank	1737.94
24.	UCO Bank	310.31
25.	Union Bank of India	97.88
26.	United Bank of India	2650.58
27.	Vijaya Bank	0

Statement-II

Details of cases pending in the Debt Recovery Tribunals in respect of Public Sector Banks as on 31st March, 2001

S. No.	Name of the public sector bank	Amount involved (Rs. in Lakhs)
1.	State Bank of India	7695.12
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	444.89
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	729.64
4.	State Bank of Indore	368.19
5.	State Bank of Mysore	234.55
6.	State Bank of Patiala	530.59
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	255.88
8.	State Bank of Travancore	850.98
9.	Allahabad Bank	1092.63
10.	Andhra Bank	259
11.	Bank of Baroda	2409.94
12.	Bank of India	2977.70
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	933.45
14.	Canara Bank	2324.49
15.	Central Bank of India	2315.73
16.	Corporation Bank	158.61
17.	Dena Bank	1061.41
18.	Indian Bank	3390.33
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	964.56
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	604.77
21.	Punjab & Sind Bank	845.33
22.	Punjab National Bank	2981.51
23.	Syndicate Bank	352.58
24.	UCO Bank	631.94
25.	Union Bank of India	1485.83
26.	United Bank of India	667.48
27.	Vijaya Bank	631.94

Abolition of Sati

*73. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the incident of "Sati" in Madhya Pradesh in a village of Patna-Tamoli on August 6, 2002 shows that this barbaric practice is still prevalent in the country;

(b) if so, whether the existing laws are inadequate to eradicate this menace; and

(c) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to amend the existing laws in order to contain this menace?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Rare incidents of Sati as in the village of Patna-Tamoli in Madhya Pradesh do not indicate prevalence of this (barbaric) practice in the country.

(b) and (c) The provisions of the existing laws are deterrent enough to prevent this menace. However, to make the provisions more stringent and effective, the Department of Women & Child Development is in the process of amending the Commission of Sati (Prevention) Act, 1987 in consultation with the National Commission for Women and other concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

Starvation Deaths

*74. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news items appearing in various newspapers regarding starvation deaths in various States especially Orissa and Rajasthan during the last six months;

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken for ensuring proper supply of foodgrains to these areas;

(c) the norms being adopted by the Government to issue Below Poverty Line ration card to persons in these States;

(d) whether the women having more than three male children were denied this card;

(e) if so, the reasons therefore;

(f) the State-wise number of starvation deaths reported at present; and

(g) the remedial measures undertaken by the Government to check such recurrence in future?

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

(b) In addition to the normal allotment of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System, 19.25 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated to 12 drought affected States, including Orissa and Rajasthan, between 24th September and 19th November, 2002 under the Special Component of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana.

(c) The State Governments formulate and implement arrangements for identification of the poor for delivery of foodgrains to fair price shops and for distribution, in a transparent and accountable manner, through the Fair Price Shops. As per the Guidelines of the Central Government for identification of Below the Poverty Line families, the thrust is to cover the really poor and vulnerable sections of the society, such as landless agricultural labourers, marginal farmers, rural artisans/ craftsmen, such as potters, tappers, weavers, blacksmiths and carpenters, in the rural areas, and slum dwellers and persons earning their livelihood on a daily basis in the informal sectors like porters, coolies, rickshaw pullers, hand-cart pullers and pavement fruit/flower sellers in urban areas.

(d) and (e) No such specific cases have been reported.

(f) and (g) No State Government has reported starvation deaths. Following the visits of Central Teams to Orissa and Rajasthan, among other States, the State Governments have been addressed to put in place a fully functional Public Distribution System in the vulnerable areas and to provide uninterrupted supply and distribution of foodgrains to the same. It has also been stressed that employment generation programmes ought to be implemented vigorously and that the State authorities have to ensure requisite measures to combat starvation and extreme hardship at the earliest.

[Translation]

Trade with SAARC Countries

*75. SHRI BHAL CHANDRA YADAV:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

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

(a) the percentage of increase in the Indian trade with SAARC countries during the financial year 2001-2002 as compared to 2000-2001;

(b) the member countries of SAARC to which maximum exports have been made alongwith the value of total exports in terms of Dollar during the last financial year;

(c) the items which topped the list;

(d) whether the Government are contemplating any action plan to boost the trade with SAARC countries; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) India's trade with SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries registered increase of 10.76% in 2001-2002 compared to 2000-2001.

(b) Of all the member countries of SAARC, maximum exports took place to Bangladesh. These were valued at US $ 942 million in 2001-2002. India's exports to Sri Lanka during 2001-2002 occupied the second place at US $ 629 million. India's exports to Nepal and Pakistan during 2001-2002 were US $ 214 million and US $ 144 million respectively.

(c) Details of exports and imports in 2001-02, item-wise and country-wise of the five major items are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) Over the recent years, Government have taken several steps to boost India's trade with SAARC countries. The India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement which came into force from March 2000 is a major step in the direction. Further, India has been exchanging tariff concessions with other SAARC countries under four rounds of SAPTA (SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement) negotiations. The fourth and the last round was held in October-November 2002 in Kathmandu. Efforts are also being made towards a SAARC Free Trade Area (SAFTA) as a culmination of the SAPTA process.

India has provided a unique preferential duty free access to Nepalese goods provided they fulfil certain criteria mutually agreed by both sides in the bilateral Indo-Nepal Trade Treaty last renewed with effect from 6th March, 2002 for a period of five years. A similar preferential trading arrangement exists with Bhutan. Bilateral trade between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan is conducted in Indian currency while it is on the basis of convertible currency with the remaining SAARC countries.

Efforts are also being made to harmonize standards and measurements of exports products manufactured in the region to promote and protect inter-regional investments, to avoid of double taxation and to harmonize customs procedures and regulations. Trade fairs are organized by the SAARC member countries to show case the trade potential of the member countries. The last SAARC trade fair was held in Kathmandu in October 2002. Steps are also being taken to improve the infrastructure facilities and the land customs stations on the borders, especially with Bangladesh and Nepal. To facilitate movement of officials handling trade matters and the trading community within the SAARC region, the SAARC VISA Exemption Scheme has been in operation. The Scheme incorporates an agreed list of entitled persons who are issued the SAARC VISA in their respective countries of citizenship.

Statement

Details of Top Exports and Imports from India to SAARC countries during 2001-2002

(Value in US$ Million)

Country	2001-2002 Exports	Value	% share	2001-2002 Top 5 Imports	Value	% share
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bangladesh	1. Cotton yarn fabrics made-ups etc.	144.67	15.35	1 Jute, Raw	18.41	31.15

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2. Wheat	85.98	9.12	2. Inorganic Chemicals	15.05	25.45
	3. Transport equipments	73.99	7.85	3. Madeup Textile articles	9.48	16.04
	4. Machinery & instruments	71.81	7.62	4. Other commodities	4.69	7.94
	5. Coal	39.66	4.21	5. Other Textile yarn, Fabrics, Madeup articles	3.18	5.37
Sri Lanka	1. Cotton yarn fabric, made up etc.	69.51	11.05	1. spices	26.00	38.57
	2. Sugar	62.73	9.97	2. Other Commodities	11.03	16.36
	3. Transport equipments	49.32	7.84	3. Non-Ferrous Metal	5.31	7.87
	4. Machinery and instruments	41.08	6.53	4. Metalifers ores & metal scrap	4.84	7.19
	5. Glass/Glassware/ Ceramics/ Refractories/ Cement	36.85	5.86	5. Organic chemicals	3.48	5.16
Nepal	1. Transport Equipment	48.00	22.40	1. Other Commodities	146.63	41.17
	2. Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine chemicals	31.64	14.77	2. Non Ferrous Metals	48.33	13.57
	3. Machinery and Instruments	18.79	8.77	3. Essential oil cosmetic Preparations	44.69	12.55
	4. paper/wood products	8.29	3.87	4. Man-made filament/spun yarn (Including worested and spun)	32.28	9.06
	5. Glass/Glassware/ Ceramics/ Refractories/ Cement	6.89	3.22	5. Iron and Steel	12.50	3.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Pakistan	1. Sugar	42.75	29.75	1. Fruits and Nuts Excl. Cashew Nuts	26.63	41.13
	2. Plastic Linoleum Products	22.12	15.39	2. Other Commodities	10.47	16.17
	3. Drugs, Pharmaceuticals & Fine Chemicals	18.32	12.75	3. Sugar	6.77	10.45
	4. Rubber Manufactured Products except footwear	8.08	5.62	4. Pulses	6.71	10.36
	5. Dyes/ Intermediates and Coal Tar Chemicals	79.36	5.12	5. Spices	5.23	8.08
Bhutan	1. Rice Other than Basmati	1.03	17.06	1. Inorganic chemicals	10.39	43.43
	2. Transport Equipment	0.97	12.73	2. Primary Steel Pig Iron based items	8.49	35.49
	3. Spirit & Beverages	0.88	11.57	3. Wood and wood products	2.89	2.10
	4. Manufacture of Metals	0.73	9.64	4. Other commodities	0.75	3.15
	5. Machinery and Equipments	0.69	9.03	5. Other crude minerals	0.37	1.53
Maldives	1. Machinery and instruments	2.62	9.72	1.		
	2. Rice other than basmati	2.33	8.66	2.		
	3. Other ore and minerals	2.29	8.51	3.		
	4. Drug pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals	1.95	7.24	4.		
	5. Sugar	1.63	6.05	5.		

Promotion of Silk Industry

*76. SHRI MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHRI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any fresh offer from Japan for the promotion of silk industry in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) the benefits likely to accrue therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (d) Technical Cooperation between Government of India & Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in the field of Sericulture has been extended by a III phase with the Project entitled 'Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture in India'. The project commenced in August, 2002 and will continue for a period of 5 years. The Project aims to provide technical support for the expansion and promotion of Bivoltine Sericulture in the States of Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, by focusing on the following aspects relating to Bivoltine Sericulture:—

i. Establishing a System of Mass Production of Quality Seeds.

ii. Strengthening Training System for Staff of Departments of States and Farmers.

iii. Establishing an Extension Model for Spread of Bivoltine Sericulture.

Production of Edible Oil

*77. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of vegetable oil and other cooking oils in the country, particularly in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the demand of the above mentioned varieties of oils in the country during the current year, State-wise;

(c) whether the supply of edible oil is sufficient to meet the demand; and

(d) if not, the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (d) The total production of edible vegetable oils and other cooking oils like hydrogenated oil (Vanaspati) in the country during the last 3 years is as under:—

(in Lakhs MT)

Year	Production of edible vegetable oils	Production of vanaspati
1999-2000	60.14	11.90
2000-2001	55.04	13.60
2001-2002 (E)	61.33	11.79 (upto September 2002)

Data relating to annual production of edible oils, State-wise, is not maintained as there is no restriction on inter-State movement of oilseeds/oils. However, on the basis of oilseeds production in Orissa and the Vanaspati units situated in the State, the production of edible oils, including Vanaspati, in Orissa is assessed as under:—

(in Lakh MT)

Year	Production of edible vegetable oils	Production of vanaspati
1999-2000	0.47	0.12
2000-2001	0.47	0.26
2001-2002 (E)	0.35	0.23 (upto September 2002)

The demand of vegetable oils in the country during the current year is estimated at 117 lakh MTs. The supply of vegetable edible oils, including Vanaspati, in Orissa is 55 to 65,000 MTs.

The supply of edible oils in the country is not sufficient to meet the demand. The shortfall is met through import of edible oils under OGL (Open General Licence). The remedial measures taken and efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and of edible oils include:—

(i) A Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is implemented in 25 States covering 395 selected Districts to increase the production of oilseeds/edible oils in the country,

(ii) A Technology Mission on Oilseeds is in place to harness appropriate production, processing and management technology.

(iii) intensification of research efforts to increase the production of oilseeds,

(iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops, like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.,

(v) Setting up necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme to oilseeds,

(vi) Assistance for oil palm development,

(vii) Better incentives to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds,

(viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of Vanaspati to at least 25% of the production, on a monthly basis, is mandatory, at present. Higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of Vanaspati up to 30% has also been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their production,

(ix) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate imports of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils is reviewed from time to time.

[English]

Protest by Disabled Rights Group

*78. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

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

(a) whether the Disabled Rights Group held a two-day protest demonstration from August 14, 2002 in Delhi to demand tax concessions for working and other disabled persons;

(b) if so, the details of their precise demands; and

(c) the Government's reaction and response to each of their demands?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA): (a) to (c) A letter from Disabled Rights Group (DRG) was received in August, 2002 which, *inter-alia*, stated that a 48 hour freedom vigil was being organized at Jantar Mantar from 14.8.2002 to 16.8.2002 to protest against the non fulfillment of the demands put forth to the Government.

The demands over a wide range of issues such as raising of limit of income tax exemption for disabled persons, no tax on aids & appliances meant for disabled persons, private sector incentives to promote employment, shifting office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCD) from NOIDA to Delhi, all facilities/ concessions given to persons with orthopaedic, visual and hearing disabled to be extended to mentally impaired, one per cent reservation for people with mental and/or developmental disabilities in C & D category of jobs, standardisation of Indian Sign Language, further revision of the recently revised list (June, 2001) of identified posts for persons with disabilities, abolishing Office of CCD and constituting a Disability Commission, passage of amendments to Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995, shifting 'Special Education' from Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to Ministry to Human Resource Development and passage of an ordinance to ensure barrier free design and access features in all future construction.

The demands relating to legislative, financial and administrative aspects involving various Ministries/ Departments of Government of India and the State Governments have been referred to them. The Government has approved the proposal to shift the Office of Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities from NOIDA to Delhi. A reply to the representation has been sent to DRG.

Export Growth

*79. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether there has been increase in our exports during the last few months;

(b) if so, whether the export target fixed for the current financial year is likely to be achieved;

(c) the impact of increased export on our balance of payment position as on date;

(d) the export items which have shown encouraging trends with various countries;

(e) the countries where our export targets are likely to cross the original planned target;

(f) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to meet the export targets or surpass the targets during the current year;

(g) whether the Government are considering reducing the export target fixed for the current year due to unprecedented drought; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per the provisional data provided by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S), Kolkata, India's exports of merchandise goods in the first half of financial year 2002-2003 (April-September) in dollar terms have registered a growth of 13.49 percent over the corresponding period of last year. This is higher than the target fixed at 12 percent for 2002-2003.

(c) The trade deficit at $(-) 4303 million during the period April-September 2002-2003 shows a decline of 12.92 percent over the trade deficit of $(-)4942 million for the corresponding period last year. As imports have also increased by 8.5% in April-September 2002-03, this improvement is due to growth in exports.

(d) The major items of exports which have shown higher growth rate (over 10%) during April-July, 2002-2003 as per DGCI&S data include: Gems & Jewellery, Chemicals and related products and Engineering goods.

(e) Destination-wise export targets are not fixed. However, all major destinations of India's exports have witnessed growth in exports during April-July 2002-2003.

(f) A Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07 has been announced by the Deptt. of Commerce and Action Plans have been prepared by the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards to achieve the target. In the Exim Policy 2002-07, a number of measures have been announced to promote exports which include additional features for Special Economic Zones, a scheme to reimburse certain admissible expenses for export of certain agricultural products, scheme to help electronic hardware exports, etc.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Cut In Interest Rates of Banks

*80. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) the salient features of RBI's mid-term monetary and credit policy announced recently;

(b) whether the rates of interest in all deposit schemes have been brought down during the past three years by regular intervention through the monetary and credit policies of RBI;

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

(d) the impact of such slashing of rate of interest on various bank deposits and common man;

(e) whether RBI has also reduced its GDP growth forecast for the year 2002-2003;

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

(g) the corrective steps to be taken by the Union Government for making the country economically strong?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The salient features of the mid-term Review of the Monetary and Credit Policy announced by Reserve Bank of India for the year 2002-2003 are as under:

- Bank Rate reduced by 0.25 percentage point.
- Repo Rate was reduced by 0.25 percentage point.
- CRR reduced by 0.25 percentage point.
- Proposal to liberalise interest rate on rupee export credit in two phase with effect from May 1, 2003.
- Flexibility in the repayment on export credit.
- Freedom to banks to decide FCNR (B) deposit rates denominated in Japanese Yen.
- Rationalisation of standing facilities.

- Issuance of CDs by banks as floating rate instruments.
- Extention of repo to CSGL Account holders.
- Proposal to introduce anonymous screen based order driven trading in government securities on the stock exchanges.
- Proposals to improve credit delivery to priority sector & in particular to agriculture.
- Proposals to further increase credit flow to small business.

(b) to (d) Interest rates on all term deposits have been deregulated since October 1997 except savings bank deposit rate which is regulated by the Reserve Bank. The savings bank deposit rate has been kept unchanged at 4.0 percent since April 1, 2000. Commercial banks are free to offer interest on term deposits at fixed or floating rates with the approval of their Boards. The deposit rates offered by SCBs have come down from 8.50-11.00 percent in 1999-2000 to 7.25-8.75 percent in 2001-2002 and further to 6.50-8.25 percent by October, 2002. Notwithstanding the decline in the deposit rates, aggregate deposits mobilised by the Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) (excluding RRBs) increased by 13.9 per cent (Rs. 99,320 crore) in 1999-2000, by 18.4% (Rs. 1,49,273 crore) in 2000-01, 14.6% (Rs. 1,40,742 crore) in 2001-02, and by 13.0% (Rs. 1,42,996 crore) in 2002-03 upto November 1, 2002.

(e) to (g) RBI has reduced its GDP growth forecast for the year 2002-03 announced earlier in its annual Policy Statement of April, 2002. The overall GDP growth for the year 2002-03 is likely to be 5.0 to 5.5% as against the earlier projection of 6.0 to 6.5%.

The earlier growth projection was based on the assumption of normal monsoon. While the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) estimate for the first quarter of the current year is in line with the projected rate of growth of 6.0 to 6.5% for the year as a whole, the rate of growth in GDP would be lower in view of the poor rainfall in some parts of the country. Taking into account the performance of the south-west monsoon, it is expected that production of foodgrains this year would be lower than last year by about 5.0% while there is a likely decline in agricultural GDP, with higher growth in infrastructure industries and impressive export performance, the overall GDP growth for the year 2002-03 is pegged to 5.0 to 5.5% despite drought conditions.

The measures to encourage greater flexibility in domestic deposit rates, reduction of spread-over Prime Lending Rate (PLR) and transparency in the range of interest rates charged, apart from generating healthy competition among Banks, are expected to improve banking facilities available to depositors and make them more responsive to changes in the overall financial and inflationary environment.

Closure of Textile Mills

*81. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills closed in public cooperative and private sector respectively during each of the last three years in the country, Sate-wise;

(b) whether BIFR has recently cleared the rehabilitation package of some NTC mills in various States especially Maharashtra;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) the details of the mills reopened so far;

(e) whether the Government have decided to wind up 39 NTC mills by December, 2002;

(f) if so, the details thereof along with the number of employees likely to be affected; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government to clear the wages/salaries of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) Number of mills closed during last three years, state-wise is given at Statement-I.

(b) and (c) BIFR has sanctioned Rehabilitation Schemes for all the 8 sick subsidiaries of NTC including that of NTC (SM) and NTC (MN) located in the state of Maharashtra. The Rehabilitation Schemes envisage revival of viable mills and closure of unviable mills (after offering VRS to employees at a cost of Rs. 3,900 Cr. Implementation period of these Schemes is two years starting from April 2002.

(d) 50 out of 53 mills which are proposed for revival are currently functional.

(e) As per the rehabilitation schemes sanctioned by BIFR for the eight sick subsidiaries of NTC, 39 non-functioning unviable mills are to be closed after giving VRS to affected employees during 2002-03.

(f) List of mills and number of employees employed therein is given at Statement-II.

(g) The Government is giving budgetary support to NTC for meeting shortfall in payment of salaries/wages during the implementation period.

Statement I

No. of Textile Mills closed in Public, Co-operative and Private Sector during the last three years, State-wise

State/UT	1st Oct 1999 to 30th Sept 2000			1st Oct 2000 to 30th Sept 2001			1st Oct 2001 to 30th Sept 2002			Total
	Public	Co-op.	Private	Public	Co-op.	Private	Public	Co-op.	Private	
Andhra Pradesh	—	1	3	—	2	3	4	—	4	17
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Bihar	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	3
Gujarat	—	1	5	—	—	5	7	—	4	22
Haryana	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	3	9
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Karnataka	—	—	2	—	2	2	1	—	1	8
Kerala	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2
Madhya Pradesh	2	—	—	1	—	—	5	—	—	8
Maharashtra	—	1	3	—	1	4	4	—	—	13
Orissa	—	1	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	6
Punjab	—	—	3	—	—	2	—	1	2	8
Rajasthan	—	—	1	—	—	2	1	—	1	5
Tamil Nadu	—	—	8	—	—	12	7	—	18	45
Uttar Pradesh	2	3	8	1	1	1	—	—	—	16
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	2	8
Union Territory	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Grand Total	4	8	32	5	6	35	38	2	39	169

Note: 1999-2000, 2 mills are closed under official liquidator and 1 mill is closed under ID Act in pvt. sector, 2000-2001, 2 mills are closed under official liquidator in pvt. Sector.

Statement II

List of 39 non-functioning unviable mills proposed for closure during 2002-2003 and the number of workers to be affected

	Subsidiary	Mill	State	Workers
	1	2	3	4
1.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Adoni Cotton Mills	AP	118
2.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Azam Jahi Mills	AP	539
3.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Natraj Spinning Mills	AP	73
4.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Netha Spinning & Weaving Mills	AP	143
5.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	M.S.K. Mills	Karnataka	780
6.	N.T.C. (APKK&M)	Mysore Spg. & Mfg. Mills	Karnataka	0
7.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills	Gujarat	1095
8.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Jehangir Textile Mills	Gujarat	1194
9.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Mahalaxmi Textile Mills	Gujarat	801
10.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	New Manekchowk Textile Mills	Gujarat	854
11.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Petlad Textile Mills	Gujarat	394
12.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Rajkot Textile Mills	Gujarat	320
13.	N.T.C. (GUJ)	Viramgam Textile Mills	Gujarat	811
14.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	Bihar	508
15.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Bangasri Cotton Mills	West Bengal	175
16.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Bengal Fine S.&W. Mills' No.II	West Bengal	141
17.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Mahindra B.T. Mills	West Bengal	237
18.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Jyoti Wag. Factory	West Bengal	225
19.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Central Cotton Mills	West Bengal	532
20.	N.T.C. (WBAB&O)	Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills	West Bengal	468
21.	N.T.C. (DPR)	Edward Mills	Rajasthan	327
22.	N.T.C. (UP)	Atherton Mills	UP	1054
23.	N.T.C. (UP)	Bijli Cotton Mills	UP	198
24.	N.T.C. (UP)	Laxmirattan Cotton Mills	UP	1277
25.	N.T.C. (UP)	Lord Krishna Textile Mills	UP	839
26.	N.T.C. (UP)	Muir Mills	UP	1358

1	2	3	4
27. N.T.C. (UP)	New Victoria Mills	UP	1416
28. N.T.C. (UP)	Raebareli Textile Mills	UP	345
29. N.T.C. (UP)	Shri Vikram Cotton Mills	UP	555
30. N.T.C. (UP)	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	UP	1357
31. N.T.C. (MP)	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills	MP	1389
32. N.T.C. (MP)	Hira Mills	MP	991
33. N.T.C. (MP)	Indore Malwa Unied Mills	MP	1988
34. N.T.C. (MP)	kalyanmal Mills	MP	1739
35. N.T.C. (MP)	Swadeshi textile Mills	MP	702
36. N.T.C. (MN)	Kohinoor Mills No. 1, 2 & 3	Maharashtra	805
37. N.T.C. (MN)	Kohinoor Mills No. 3 (merged)		0
38. N.T.C. (MN)	India United Mills No. 3	Maharashtra	1438
39. N.T.C. (MN)	India United Mills No. 4 (merged)		0
			27186

[English]

On-Line Banking Network

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

(a) whether the State Bank of India has completely ignored Nagpur and other cities of Vidarbha for providing online banking network;

(b) if so, the reasons thereto; and

(c) the time by which SBI proposes to put Vidarbha at the online network of bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) No, Sir. State Bank of India has reported that one ATM is being installed a Nagpur Railway Station which will be connected to SBI's all-India ATM Network. Nagpur Main Branch will also be linked to the all-India ATM Network. SBI has installed 25 ATMs in Nagpur and Vidarbha which are connected on-line to the branch. The list of these ATMs are as follows:—

1. Adarshnagar, Akola
2. Akola
3. Ambazari
4. Amravati
5. Amravati Camp
6. Awalpur
7. Ballarpur
8. Buldana
9. Central Avenue Road
10. Chandrapur
11. Chhoni
12. Datta Chowk, Yavatmal
13. Gondia
14. Gopal Nagar
15. Khamgaon
16. Koradi
17. Mahal
18. Malkapur
19. PBB, Ramdaspeth

20. PBB, Wardhman Nagar

21. Ravinagar

22. Shastri Nagar

23. Vayusena Nagar

24. Warora

25. Yavatmal.

The ATM at Nagpur Railway Station and Nagpur Main branch are expected to be linked to SBI's all-India ATM Network shortly.

[Translation]

Delhi Haat

677. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi Haat was meant for sale of articles of bonafide artisans, if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some businessmen set up their shops in the Delhi Haat and thus bonafide artisans are deprived of the opportunity;

(c) whether Government have identified such businessmen who grab stalls of artisans and set up their shops in shifts through forged identity;

(d) the outcome of the enquiry, if any, made in this regard; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Only bonafide artisans/weavers are being nominated for participation in Delhi Haat.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Children Drugged and Burried in Tamil Nadu

678. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been invited to shocking ritual in Tamil Nadu, where over 100 children were drugged and burried for a few seconds;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government propose to issue directives to the State Governments to ban such practices as such incident come as a rude shock to millions of Hindus in the country and around the world?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Government is aware that the ritual of temporary burial of children, took place in Arulmigu Muthukuzhi Mariamman temple in Peraiyur Town and Taluk, District Madurai, Tamil Nadu on 21-8-2002. The temple where the ritual was conducted is not under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowment Administration Department. It is being administered by a Committee consisting of 16 persons representing Pandiakula Vellar community. This ritual is conducted by Pandiakula Vellalar community once in five to seven years for more than the last 200 years as form of fulfilling their vow; when the prayer to Arulmigu Muthukuzhi Mariamman for getting a child is fulfilled. They consider that the child is a gift given by Muthukuzhi Mariamman and willingly bury the child in a pit of less than one foot depth for a few seconds. The Government of Tamil Nadu has since taken cognizance of this abhorrent practice and have enacted a legislation banning such practices in worship places in the name of custom prevailing in the locality.

Textile Projects

679. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals received from the State of Rajasthan for the implementation of various projects in the State;

(b) the present status of those projects including the projects which are already sanctioned, amount allotted and the details of achievements made so far; and

(c) the details of projects pending for sanction and time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) to (c) A statement is enclosed.

Statement

Projects in respect of Rajasthan

	No. of proposals Received (during 2001-02)	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in lakhs)	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)	Remarks
Handloom Sector	05	78.92	38.71	The balance has not been released for want of utilization certificate or for want of matching share from the Government of Rajasthan.
Handicrafts Sector	17	21.228	8.964	In addition, an amount of Rs. 2 crore has been sanctioned for setting up of Urban Haat at Jodhpur. The balance amount would be released on completion of formalities by the implementing agencies.
Wool Sector	46*	574.25	574.25	A total of 14 projects are still pending for sanction. The State Government of Rajasthan has been asked to resubmit the projects on the lines suggested at the meeting of the Executive Committee of Central Wool Development Board held recently.

*The number indicates the proposals received since 1994-95 when the Central Wool Development Board began administering sheep and wool development programmes in the country.

Note: In respect of Sheep & Wool Development Projects the State Government has utilized around 74% of the amount sanctioned.

[Translation]

Details of externally aided Projects in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

680. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of externally aided projects in UP and Bihar:

(b) the project-wise details of the actual progress made till date;

(c) whether any such project has been withdrawn or left incomplete;

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

(e) the steps taken by the Government to complete the projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The project-wise details of externally aided projects in UP and Bihar, including their progress are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) to (e) "Usar Reclamation in UP", funded by Netherlands Govt. was withdrawn in May '01 to avoid duplication as similar projects were being implemented in UP with the World Bank and European Commission's assistance.

Statement

Details of externally aided projects in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

As on 31-10-2002 Loan/Grant amount in millions

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Amount of Loan/Grant		Terminal Date of Disbursement	Utilisation
		Currency	Amt.		
	Uttar Pradesh				
	LOANS				
France					
1.	SGPGIMS-Supply & Installation of Medical Equipment 25-01-98	FRF	4.60	31/08/02	4.42
Japan					
2.	Annapara B Thermal Power dt 24-01-1994	JPY	17638.00	11/09/02	17425.99
OPEC					
3.	Basti Distt. Hospital dt. 04-05-1990	USD	6.50	30/06/00	5.90
IBRD					
4.	UP Power Sector Restructuring dt. 19-05-2000	USD	150.00	31/12/04	92.27
IDA					
5.	UP Health Systems Development dt. 19-05-2000	SDR	82.10	31/12/05	3.93
6.	Uttar Pradesh Sodic Land Reclamation Project-II 04-02-1999	SDR	141.70	30/09/05	48.51
7.	UP Water Sector Restructuring	SDR	117.00	30/04/07	4.01
	GRANTS				
European Economic Community					
1.	Ravine Stabilization in UP dt. 17-04-1997	EUR	7.90	31/12/04	0.06
United Kindgom					
2.	Western India Rainfed Farming-II dt. 21-04-1999	GBP	15.09	31/03/06	1.92
Netherlands					
3.	UP Sub Project VI dt. 16-10-1990	EUR	10.98	30/06/01	8.33
4.	Rural Water Supply UP Sub Project-VIII dt. 24-08-1994	EUR	11.56	31/12/01	9.51
5.	Bundel Khand Integrated Water dt. 12-06-1996	EUR	1.27	30/06/02	0.61
6.	Ganga Action Plan Support dt. 23-07-1997	EUR	23.25	31/03/02	6.43
	Bihar				
	GRANTS				
1.	Energy Services for Rural Industries, Angara 13-10-99	USD	0.60	30/09/02	0.15

[English]

World Bank Aided Projects In West Bengal

681. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects in the State of West Bengal have been undertaken with the assistance of World Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of assistance provided by the World Bank for each project during the last three years;

(d) the targets achieved so far under each project; and

(e) the time fixed for the completion of each project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A multi-state project namely Second State Health Systems Development Project is under implementation in West Bengal, Karnataka and Punjab since 18-4-96, with the assistance of World Bank.

(c) to (e) The total amount of assistance for the above project is US $ 350 million. An amount of US $ 245.47 million has been disbursed so far. The Project will close on 31.3.2004.

[Translation]

Income Tax Not Paid by Companies

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

(a) whether the Government have identified companies which have not paid their income tax during 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details of the companies who have been identified for not paying income-tax during the above period; and

(c) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Identification of Companies defaulting in filing of Return or payment of Income Tax is done by the Income Tax Department at the field level. Necessary action is taken for such defaults as per the Statutory Provisions and Administrative Instructions.

(b) and (c) Such information is not centrally maintained. The collection and compilation of the desired information from the field formations spread all over the country will involve substantial time and efforts, which may not be commensurate to the objectives sought to be achieved.

[English]

Funds to Karnataka

683. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka has sought a one-time financial grant from the Union Government that would act as an incentive to the State Government to comply with the conditionalities suggested by a Committee for organisational, operational and systemic aspects of co-operatives;

(b) if so, the total amount so far provided to the State of Karnataka; and

(c) to what extent it has been utilized by the State Government to revamp co-operative credit system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Union Government has received a proposal from Government of Karnataka for sanction of Rs. 742.60 crores for rehabilitating the co-operative credit structure. Decision on this proposal will be taken once the details of the scheme for rehabilitation of cooperatives announced in the Union Budget for the year 2002-2003 have been worked out.

Visit of Irish Minister of Trade

684. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

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

(a) whether Ireland's Minister of Trade led a 27 Member delegation to India recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held between two countries in the field of trade and commerce;

(c) the present trade balance between the two countries;

(d) whether new areas of trade have been identified by both the countries in the near future;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the likely increase in the trade between the two countries after identifying new areas of cooperation;

(g) whether Ireland has shown interest in import of any Indian items which were hitherto not exported to that country; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (h) The Irish Minister of State for Trade and Commerce visited India in October 2002 accompanied by an Irish trade mission. The mission members included representatives from the sectors of education, software/ IT, biotechnology and industrial sectors, which is indicative of the prioritles for bilateral economic relations. During interaction with the Indian side, IT Sector, pharmaceuticals, tourism, biotech and other knowledge based industries were considered as the possible growth areas for bilateral trade.

The Indo-Irish trade is of the order of US $ 186.81 million per annum (2001-02), with a positive trade balance of US $ 16.95 million in India's favour. Such bilateral interactions would facilitate increase in bilateral trade between the two countries.

Import of Coins

685. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to import coins of small denominations such as Rupee 1, Rs. 2 and Rs. 5 to cope with the ongoing scarcity of small coins in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the countries from which these coins are proposed to be imported, denomination-wise and value thereof;

(c) the quantity of coins of each of the above denominations, if already imported; and

(d) the reasons for not minting these coins in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal in this regard has been received from Reserved Bank of India (RBI) and the denomination-wise details of the requirement is being worked out. For import of coins Government will resort to floating of Global Tender and names of the countries can only be known after completion of Tender formalities.

(c) The Government has imported rupee coins in the denominations of Rupee 1 (2450 million pieces), Rupees 2 (1650 million pieces) and Rupees 5 (1400 million pieces) since 1997-98 to overcome the shortage of coins in the country.

(d) the rupee coins are minted in four India Government Mints (IGMs) at Kolkata, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Noida. The combined capacity of these four IGMs falls sort of the annual demand of coins projected by the RBI. Imports are resorted to meet the gap between demand and indigenous supply.

[Translation]

Inclusion in the OBC List

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

(a) the States in the country which have included the Kelal, Kalwar and Kalar castes in the list of backward classes;

(b) whether these castes have not been included in the list of backward castes in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to recognize these castes as backward castes in these States;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Kalal, Kalwar and Kalar castes/communities have been included in the Central list of OBCs in the States of Bihar (as Kalwar, Kalal),

Delhi (as Kalwar), Gujarat (as Kalal), Madhya Pradesh (as Kalal, Kalar), Maharashtra (as Kalal, Kalar), Orissa (as Kalwar), Rajasthan (as Kalal), Uttar Pradesh (as Kalal, Kalwar, Kalar) and West Bengal (as Kalwar). The subject matter of inclusion of castes/communities in the State list for OBCs is however dealt with by the respective State Governments and a separate list is brought out by each State.

(b) to (e) As mentioned above, Kalal community has been included in the Central List of OBCs for Gujarat *vide* Gazette Notification No. 270 dt. 6-12-1999. As regards Andhra Pradesh, the community Kalal, Kalwar and Kalar has not been included in the Central List of OBCs as the National Commission for Backward Classes rejected the request for its inclusion in the Central List of OBCs for Andhra Pradesh on the grounds that it is not a socially and educationally backward caste/community in the State.

Upliftment of Tribal Women

687. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tribal Women Empowerment Scheme was launched on April 11, 2002 for the economic upliftment of tribal women; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and achievements of the above mentioned scheme so far?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) had in April, 2002, launched a new scheme titled 'Adviasi Mahila Sashaktikaran Yojana' (AMSY) for the economic development of Scheduled Tribe women below the poverty line.

(b) (1) The details of the AMSY are as under:

(i) Unit Cost: NSTFDC provides Term Loans for scheme(s)/Project(s) costing up to Rs. 50,000 per unit.

(ii) Quantum of Assistance: NSTFDC provides term loans up to 90% of the cost of the scheme(s)/project(s). The remaining amount is contributed by way of subsidy/ promoter's contribution.

(iii) Interest Rate: NSTFDC charges a highly concessional interest @ 2% p.a. from the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) and the SCAs may charge a maximum interest @ 4% p.a. from the ultimate women beneficiaries.

(iv) Repayment Period: In quarterly/half yearly instalments within a maximum period of 10 years, including a suitable moratorium period.

(2) *Achievements*: Upon launching of the scheme, NSTFDC requested the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of the respective States/UTs to submit viable proposals. Based on the proposal(s) received, two Schemes with an NSTFDC share of Rs. 35.90 lakhs for assisting 105 Scheduled Tribe women beneficiaries have been sanctioned till 31.10.2002.

Release of Sugar Quota

688. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have released sugar quota for October-December, 2002 quarter;

(b) if so, the quantum allocated to various States, State-wise and Quantum wise;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay;

(d) the status regarding the decontrol of sugar industry; and

(e) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (c) The free sale quota for the quarter October-December, 2002 was announced in the month of September, 2002, as under:

October 2002	11.50 lakh tonnes
November 2002	10.50 lakh tonnes
December 2002	10.00 lakh tonnes

The State-wise allocations of free sale quota for the months of October, 2002 and November, 2002 are given in the enclosed statement. The allocation of free sale quota for the month of December, 2002 would be made at the end of November, 2002 with a validity period from 1st December, 2002 to 31st December, 2002.

(d) and (e) Action has been initiated towards decontrol of the sugar industry; the process of decontrol needs to be effected in a manner so as to avoid destabilization,

including in the prices, and has to be accompanied by steps, such as establishment of a forward/futures market for sugar in the interest of long term price stabilization. The compulsory levy percentage was reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000, from 30% to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001 and, subsequently, w.e.f. 1.3.2002, has been reduced from 15% to 10%.

Decontrol of sugar is linked with the operationalisation of futures/forward trading in sugar; in May 2001, a Notification was issued under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952 allowing futures/forward trading in sugar. In November, 2001, "in principle" clearances were accorded to three proposed Exchanges, two in Mumbai and one in Hyderabad. One Exchange has shifted to Delhi. Recognition has been extended to one of the three Exchanges for a period of five years w.e.f. 20.6.2002 for conducting future trading in sugar under Section 5 of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952.

Statement

The State-wise allocation of free sale quota for the months of October, 2002 and November, 2002

(Quantity in MTs)

Sl. No.	State	Allocation for October, 2002	Allocation for November, 2002
1	2	3	4
1.	Punjab	35191.5	31797.6
2.	Haryana	29923.1	26951.2
3.	Rajasthan	341.8	274.7
4.	Uttar Pradesh	311661.9	285447.4
5.	Madhya Pradesh	4635.2	4245.2
6.	Gujarat	68480.8	61099.3
7.	Maharashtra	378232.4	341580.4
8.	Bihar	19477.8	17746.8
9.	Assam	0.0	0.0
10.	Orissa	1509.9	1344.5
11.	West Bengal	30.2	26.8
12.	Andhra Pradesh	66375.7	60560.2
13.	Karnataka	102400.9	98101.1
14.	Tamil Nadu	128684.7	118067.0
15.	Pondicherry	2387.5	2186.7
16.	Kerala	240.3	220.1
17.	Goa	426.0	351.7
	Total	1149999.7	1050000.7

[English]

UNIDO-NER Collaboration for EPZ

689. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Council) in collaboration with the North Eastern Council has drawn out plans for developing Export Promotion Zones in the North Eastern Region;

(b) if so, the details of the plans indicating the number, cost and location of the Export Promotion Zones and the nature of the industries to be set up therein;

(c) whether the plans have since been approved;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay; and

(e) the steps so far taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No such proposal has been received so far.

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

Working of Settlement Commission

690. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the very objective of setting up the Settlement Commission and Director-General of Income Tax (Exemptions) has been defeated as they have not been able to achieve the desired results;

(b) if so, the Government's reactions thereon alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to re-activate both the institutions?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Business in Gold by MMTC

691. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC has entered into gold business as a part of its programme of diversification of its activities;

(b) if so, the total amount worth gold imported from and exported to various countries and in which form by MMTC since it diversified its activities; and

(c) the year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) MMTC has been in bullion trading since the year 1985-86. During 1988, MMTC was nominated by Government of India as one of the nodal agencies for import of bullion and supply to Export Oriented Unit/Export Processing Zone.

(b) and (c) The data for the last five years relating to import of bullion (gold/silver) and exports in the form of studed jewellery are given hereunder:—

(Value in Rs. Million)

Year	Exports in Jewellery Form/Diamonds/ Gems*	Imports
2001-02	276.70	48396.75
2000-01	188.00	29418.00
1999-00	79.00	25561.00
1998-99	203.00	26519.00
1997-98	416.00	21146.00

Source:MMTC's Annual Reports

*It reflects the exports booked by MMTC excluding the exports by Export Oriented Units/Units in Domestic Tariff Area.

Patent System

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

(a) whether the laws on patents are unclear in the India's Patent Act which make patent system very difficult and prone to litigation;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the Drug MNC's are scared of competition from the indigenous manufacturers, adding to the problem of manufacturers in the country and also leading to higher retail prices for the consumers;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Indian patent laws has been periodically updated/amended to respond to emerging issues. The patent law, as existing since 1911 was substantially revised in 1970 and has been further amended in 1999 and 2002. The Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002 not only complies with India's international obligations but also simplifies/rationalizes several procedural and conceptual aspects.

(c) to (e) Since patent protection is integral to the marketing strategies of R&D-intensive companies, especially pharmaceutical companies, the standard/form/ level of patent protection in Indian law has been an issue of continuing debate/discussion. However, Indian patent law, as recently amended, fully ensures that patented inventions, including pharmaceuticals, are available at reasonably affordable prices to the public. This issue has been addressed in the patent law through provisions relating to revocation of patent in public interest, compulsory licensing of patents, use of inventions for the purposes of Government, acquisition of invention and patent for public purposes, parallel import, etc. in sum, the Indian patent law has provisions to enable an appropriate, timely and efficient response to national and public interest requirements/concerns especially those relating to public health and nutrition.

Interest Rates of Cooperative Banks

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

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has instructed cooperative banks to restrict their interest rates for saving deposits;

(b) whether cooperative banks offer higher rates of interest than commercial banks;

(c) if so, the RBI's directive in this regard to cooperative banks; and

(d) the impact of such directives on deposits of cooperative banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) State/Central Co-operative Banks have been given full discretion by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to fix interest rates on deposits including saving deposits with effect from October, 1994. Many cooperative banks have been offering higher rates of interest in the light of RBI's instructions. However, in terms of the mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for the year 2002-2003, RBI has advised the cooperative banks not to pay any additional interest on the savings bank accounts over and above that payable by commercial banks. Further, cooperative banks have also been encouraged not to pay interest on current accounts.

(d) The measures taken by RBI are expected to reduce the cost of funds of the co-operative banks thereby increasing their profitability.

World Bank Aid to Orissa

694. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the cities of Orissa which have received financial assistance provided by the World Bank for development work during the last three years;

(b) the interest paid on the amount received by the Union Government or State Government;

(c) the conditions on which the assistance has been received;

(d) the details of the works commenced with the amount received so far by the Orissa Government; and

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

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

[Translation]

Fake Stamp Papers

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

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka has sent a proposal to the Government for amending the Stamp and Registration Act and issue order to allow registration of property on plain paper and to deposit fee in cash; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No such proposal of Government of Karnataka is pending with the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Recommendations of Delisting Panel

696. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:

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

(a) whether the SEBI approved the delisting panel's recommendations to set up a central listing authority;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of other recommendations made by the delisting panel; and

(d) the action taken by the SEBI on each recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that the SEBI board has considered and accepted the

recommendations of the delisting committee to set up the central listing authority.

The details of the recommendations to set up a central listing authority are as under:

I. To bring about the uniformity in the exercise of due diligence in scrutinizing listing applications, a separate agency be formed designated as the Central Listing Authority (CLA);

- The initial role of the CLA may be confined to scrunitizing listing agreement and reviewing the provisions of listing agreement from time to time;
- It would be up to SEBI to expand the scope of CLA to include monitoring and compliance with the listing agreement at later date;
- The CLA will be suitably empowered by SEBI;
- A company seeking listing of fresh securities would make an application in a prescribed format listing first to the CLA. The CLA should give its opinion within 30 days after submission of application. After receiving the approval of CLA, the company would be free to apply to any stock exchange along with the letter of approval of CLA. The stock exchange would independently decide on whether to list the security or not with reference to its listing criteria and in case it does not list the security, it shall give its reasons in writing. The stock exchange shall convey its decision within the timeframe already prescribed under the applicable regulations. The decision of the stock exchange would be appealable to the securities appellate tribunal;
- The members of the CLA should not exceed 11 and CLA may be chosen from among the judiciary, lawyers, and people having expertise in securities market regulation, financial experts, academicians and investor associations. 4 members of the CLA should always be drawn from the stock exchanges who would provide the CLA with expertise and experience in the area of scrutinizing applications for listing;
- The quorum will be of 4 members. The representative of the stock exchanges where listing may be sought by the company, would not form a part of quorum of the CLA. Of the members present at the time of granting approval to a listing application, 50% should be non-stock exchange members;
- SEBI would draw up a panel of names for members of the CLA;
- The term of a member shall be for a period of 3 years unless the member has been found unfit for any reason or the member has himself expressed his desire to discontinue. No member may be given re-appointment after two terms of 3 years each;
- to enable the CLA to function efficiently, it should have a permanent secretariat which may be provided by the stock exchanges/SEBI who may depute personnel to the CLA to enable CLA to analyze and scrutinize applications, convene meeting etc.;
- the CLA will be accountable to SEBI and shall provide a quarterly report on their activities in a specified format to SEBI;
- SEBI would periodically review the performance and working of CLA based on the reports and may reconstitute the CLA as and when necessary.

II. Reinstatement of delisted securities should be permitted by the stock exchanges with a cooling period of 2 years. It would be based on the respective norms/ criteria for listing at the time of making the application for listing and the application will be initially scrutinized by the CLA;

(c) Some of the other recommendations of the Committee are as follows:—

- There should be no prohibition *per se* against delisting securities provided that the securities of company have been listed for a minimum period of 3 years on any stock exchange;
- There should not be any selective restriction or discrimination against any class of companies for delisting. However, the regulatory framework may need to be strengthened to prevent any misuse by the companies and to ensure that investors' interests are protected at all times;
- Any acquisition of shares or scheme or arrangement, by whatever name referred to, which may result in delisting of securities shall be in compliance with the relevant provisions under any SEBI regulation, circular or guideline and the provisions of the listing agreement so as to ensure protection of investors' interest;

- SEBI should clarify once again that no company could use the buy-back provision to delist the company;

- There should be comprehensive provisions which should also include procedures governing the entire subject of delisting of securities of companies, and should cover cases in which companies on their own seeking delisting of their securities from all or some of the stock exchanges, as well as those where the stock exchanges can compulsority delist the securities of a company;

- The comprehensive provisions for delisting will be applicable in cases where a person in control of the management is seeking to consolidate his holdings in a company, in a manner which would result in the company being delisted, or in cases where as a result of a takeover process, the public (non promoter holding) falls below the prescribed threshold;

- The exit price of delisting should be in accordance with the book building process;

- A company which is listed on any stock exchange may be allowed to delist from that stock exchange without an exit offer being made to its shareholders provided that the securities of the company are listed on BSE or NSE which have nation-wide reach as the securities of the company would continue to be listed on stock exchanges which have nation-wide reach, investors' interests would not be jeopardized and hence no additional exit route need be separately provided to them;

- In all other cases, *viz.* when a company which is listed on any stock exchange or stock exchanges other than BSE or NSE seeks delisting, an exit offer must be made to the shareholders in accordance with the book building process;

- There should not be any compulsion for the existing companies to remain listed on any stock exchange merely because it is a regional stock exchange and companies should have the freedom to list on a stock exchange of its choice;

- Even if the shares of a company are delisted, the fixed income securities may continue to remain listed on the stock exchange. If however a company has a convertible instrument outstanding, it should not be permitted to delist its equity shares till the exercise of the conversion options;

- Stock exchanges should be empowered to delist those companies which have been suspended for a minimum period of six months for non-compliance with the listing agreement;

(d) SEBI is in the process of issuing guidelines with respect to delisting of shares and central listing authority.

Reforms in Financial Sector

697. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have drawn up a detailed schedule for the implementation of structural reforms in the financial system; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Committee on Banking Sector Reforms (Narasimham Committee-II) has provided the road map for future reforms in the banking sector. Major agenda for further reform in the financial/banking sector based on the recommendations of the Committee are as follows:—

- Deregulation of the financial sector with greater autonomy in operations.

- Consolidation of banking system and convergence to universal banking.

- Restructuring of weak public sector banks.

- Dilution of Government equity in public sector banks to 33%.

- Adoption of scientific tools for management of risks.

- Further enhancement of Capital Adequacy.

- Capital for market risk and adoption of scientific tools for management of risks.

- Tightening of prudential standards.

- Greater disclosures.

- Technology improvements to modernise Indian banking.

- Further legal reforms to expedite recovery of banks' dues.

Model School for Hearing Impaired in Kerala

698. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any project proposal from the State of Kerala regarding setting up of a model school for the education of the hearing impaired;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A proposal from National Institute for Speech and Hearing Handicapped, has been received through the State Government of Kerala for setting up a model school for education of hearing handicapped for assistance under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities.

(c) The proposal is not in accordance with the guidelines of the Scheme. The State Government has been informed accordingly.

Rehabilitation Package for Cooperative Sector

699. SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken up the initiative to process the finalization of the rehabilitation package for revamping of the cooperative sector;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for any financial package in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) In pursuance to the announcement made in the Budget Speech for the current year, Government has initiated the process for finalizing the rehabilitation package for the co-operative credit sector. The modalities for implementation of the same are being worked out. Meanwhile, a proposal amounting to Rs. 742.60 crores for rehabilitating the Co-operative Credit Structure in Karnataka has been received. The proposal would need to be examined in terms of the scheme for rehabilitation of co-operative credit structure which is under consideration of Government.

Stoppage of Foodgrain Export due to Drought

700. SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total export of foodgrains of the country during the last financial year;

(b) whether the Government propose to stop foodgrain export in the wake of the prevailing drought situation in the country;

(c) if so, when a financial decision in this regard is likely to be taken; and

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The total foodgrains lifted by the exporters from Food Corporation of India (FCI) for export during the year 2001-2002 is 59.30 lakh MT.

(b) to (d) No, Sir.

Procurement of Paddy

701. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the quantum of paddy procured by Food Corporation of India and other agencies from farmers during the last three years and till date, year-wise and State-wise particularly in Bihar;

(b) whether there is a decline in paddy procurement due to the prevailing drought situation;

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to meet this shortfall;

(d) whether the FCI has been directed to open more procurement centers in the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) A statement indicating the State-wise procurement of paddy by the FCI and State Agencies during KMS 1999-2000 to 2001-2002 and during 2002-2003 (upto 14.11.2002) is annexed.

A quantity of 118.61 lakh tonnes of paddy has been procured upto 14.11.2002 in the current KMS 2002-2003 as against 110.33 lakh tonnes procured during the corresponding period of last season. Procurement in Bihar during KMS 2002-03 is yet to commence due to the late paddy arrivals in the State.

(d) and (e) The FCI has been directed to open additional paddy procurement centers in various States including 60 new centers in Bihar and 20 in Orissa.

Statement

State-wise Procurement of Paddy by FCI and State Agencies from 1999-2000 to 2002-2003

(In '000 tonnes)

State/U.T.	1999-2000			2000-2001			2001-2002			2002-2003*		
	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total	FCI	State agencies	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	56	374	430	74	230	303	1	—	1
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	1	—	1	12	17	29	15	118	133	—	—	—
Chandigarh	17	—	17	24	—	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	524	524	—	1886	1886	—	—	—
Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	81	267	348	158	1204	1363	195	1381	1575	112	1399	1511
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	1	—	1	Neg.	—	Neg.	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	Neg.	Neg.	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	467	467	—	119	119	37	228	266	—	—	—
Maharashtra	Neg.	—	Neg.	—	32	32	—	148	148	—	1	1
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	2416	5855	8270	2783	5846	8629	2387	7047	9434	2599	7705	10304
Rajasthan	24	—	24	31	—	31	17	—	17	37	—	37
Tamil Nadu	—	1372	1372	—	2530	2530	—	1272	1272	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	Neg.	62	62	—	540	540	—	895	895	—	7	7
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	63	63	—	39	39	—	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2539	8023	10561	3065	11250	14316	2725	13244	15968	2749	9112	11861

*Position as on 14.11.2002

Closure of Cooperative Banks in Gujarat

702. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that co-operative banks in Gujarat are facing closure;

(b) if so, whether the RBI has initiated any investigation in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) It is not correct to say that the co-operative banks in Gujarat are facing closure. However, some of the Urban Co-operative Banks are facing liquidity crunch subsequent to the crisis of Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has reviewed the transactions of urban co-operative banks in government securities which revealed certain irregularities like extention of credit facilities to brokers in violation of RBI's guidelines, violation of prudential norms for transactions through individual brokers, etc. RBI has taken several steps to strengthen the system of regulation and supervision on Urban Cooperative Banks. These include, putting ceiling on operations in call money market and bank finance against shares and debentures, increase in percentage of SLR investments in Government Securities, restrictions on interest rates on deposits offered by UCBs and investment of funds as deposit with other UCBs, etc.

National Policy on World Trade Treaty

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

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to evolve a national policy on the negotiations to replace the present world trade treaty on agro-exports and subsidies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India's position and approach in the on-going negotiations under the Agreement on Agriculture of the World Trade Organisation is based on wide-ranging consultations held by the Government from time to time with the Governments of States and Union territories, representatives of political parties, farmers' associations, eminent agro-economists and research institutes, and the deliberations of the Expert Group on Agriculture constituted by the Government in May 2002. In these consultations, there is a general convergence of views on the need to safeguard the interests of our agricultural production and farmers during the negotiations by, *inter alia*, taking into account food security and livelihood concerns of developing countries like India, providing appropriate levels of tariff protection on imports, and through increased market access for products of export interest to us.

Licences to Tobacco Growers

704. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Tobacco Board has issued licences to the residents of Andhra Pradesh to grow tobacco in Rayagada district of Orissa having no landed property in that district;

(b) if so, the number of growers to whom licences have been issued;

(c) whether several licences have been issued in various names to a single family;

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

(e) whether licences have been issued to the genuine farmers of Rayagada district to grow tobacco for 2002-2003;

(f) if so, to how many farmers and the area of land for which licences have been issued;

(g) whether action has been taken to open tobacco auction platform at Rayagada from 2003 i.e. from the current crop harvest in order to facilitate the farmers to avail the nearest auction platform;

(h) whether decision has also been taken to take a member of tobacco Board from Rayagada to represent tobacco growers of Orissa; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Tobacco Board registers growers of Flue Cured Virginia tobacco in accordance with the Tobacco Board Act and the rules made thereunder. The Act and Rules do not require a grower to own landed property for registration. In 2002-2003 crop season 98 growers have been registered in Rayagada district.

(c) and (d) Registration is granted to growers on individual basis.

(e) and (f) During 2002-03, crop season registration for cultivation of Virginia tobacco has been granted to 98 growers on 228 hectares of land in accordance with the laid down criteria.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) No, Sir.

(i) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Production of Silk

705. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for production of silk during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) the actual quantum of silk produced during this plan period;

(c) whether any target has been fixed for the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the schemes formulated to achieve the said target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Against the production target of 20666 MT by the terminal year of the IXth plan, 17351 MT of raw silk (Provisional) was produced. Details are given below:—

a.	Mulberry	—	15842 MT
b.	Tasar	—	249 MT
c.	Eri	—	1160 MT
d.	Muga	—	100 MT
	Total	—	17351 MT

(c) and (d) The X Plan period raw silk production target is 26450 MT by 2006-2007 of which 6700 MT is superior quality bivoltine mulberry raw silk. It is proposed to be achieved by implementing the following Plan Schemes:—

1. R&D/Transfer of Technology/Training
2. Seed Support & Technical Assistance/HRD
3. Catalytic Development Programme with the following components:
   i. Mulberry Sector
   ii. Tasar Sector

iii. Eri Sector

iv. Muga Sector

v. Post Cocoon Sector

vi. Enterprise Promotion and Training

vii. Extension and Publicity Material in Local Languages.

4. Specific Special Collaborative Projects with States

5. IT initiatives

6. Quality Certification Systems

7. UNDP—Assisted Fibre Development Programme.

[English]

Export of Fruits

706. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to enter into the world market with any kind of brand name denoting quality and the best of the items meant for export from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the efforts made or being made by the Government to export fruits like mangoes, apples, oranges, etc. to be competitive and market oriented one in the world markets; and

(d) the result achieved in this regard after making efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Government is supporting efforts to promote individual brands of Indian companies to foster international awareness of these brands in the overseas markets through financial assistance under the India Brand Equity Fund Trust.

(c) Government has been encouraging export of fruits through various schemes, such as arranging buyer-seller meets; participation in international fairs and exhibitions; setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports, providing assistance for Infrastructure Development, Quality, R&D, Packaging and Marketing etc.

(d) The total export of fresh fruits during the last two years are as under:—

Year	Export (Rs. crores)
2000-2001	386.38
2001-2002	405.26
April-July, 2002	168.20

(Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata)

Funds to Kerala for Welfare Programmes

707. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

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

(a) the total funds allocated to Kerala for implementation of welfare programmes during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the funds allocated actually utilized by the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Funds are allocated for welfare schemes for country as a whole and not for any particular State. Release of funds to a particular state depends upon proposals received from the States, budget availability and the submission of utilisation certificates for earlier releases. During the last three years, funds were released under various welfare programmes in Kerala as per *statement* enclosed.

(b) and (c) State Governments release funds only after utilization certificate has been received of the amount released during the previous years.

Statement

Release of funds to various schemes in the State of Kerala

(Rs. in lakh)

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Release		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
Scheduled Caste Development				
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	—	—	—
2.	Post Matric Scholarship to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	554.87	301.90	938.16
3.	Pre-Matric Scholarship to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	7.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Book Banks for Scheduled Castes students	11.10	13.92	40.00
5.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Castes boys	0.00	0.00	4.00
6.	Construction of Hostels for Scheduled Castes girls	0.00	0.00	45.50
7.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	10.15	8.69	20.86
8.	Scheduled Caste Development Corporations	124.93	33.60	0.00
9.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	10.00	41.95	44.15
10.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	0.00	0.00	4.50
11.	Assistance to Voluntary Organizations for Scheduled Castes	2.46	17.02	9.88
Other Backward Classs				
12.	Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs	0.00	0.00	4.09
Minorities				
13.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	16.46	9.08	9.01
Disabilities				
14.	Employment of Handicapped	7.96	0.00	64.46
15.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities	12.50	136.40	108.2
16.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	442.04	483.72	539.83
17.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aids and appliances	28.00	19.00	57.45
Social Defence				
18.	Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment	16.86	21.30	25.28
19.	Scheme for Prohibition & Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention	119.24	131.43	125.12

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Scheme for Welfare of Street Children	14.00	4.52	7.68
21.	Integrated Programme of Old Age	13.66	9.72	8.77
22.	Construction of Old Age Homes	0.00	22.00	11.20
23.	Assistance to Homes for Infant & Young Children for promoting in-country Adoption	6.98	4.49	8.70

[Translation]

Import of Soap from Nepal

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that soap is being imported from Nepal by decreasing its rate per kilogram;

(b) whether the Government are facing a loss of crores of rupees in import duty and States Sales tax as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

Sugar Mills in UP

709. YOGI ADITYA NATH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

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

(a) the number of the sugar mills lying closed in the country at present, State-wise and sector-wise;

(b) the reasons for their closure;

(c) whether the Government propose to revive these closed mills especially the sugar mill at Anand Nagar, Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) A *statement* showing statewise and sectorwise number of sugar mills which have remained closed in the country during 2001-2002 sugar season is enclosed. The present season 2002-03 has just started.

(b) The closure of sugar mills in the country could be due to variety of factors, such as, inadequate cane availability, uneconomical size and age of the plant, bad condition of plant & machinery, technical and managerial failure, excessive high cane price not commensurate with sales realization and various other factors.

(c) and (d) At present, there is no proposal in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution for revival of closed sugar mills including Anand Nagar sugar mill. However, the Government of India have taken the following steps for revival of sick sugar mills:—

(1) A Committee has been constituted to examine the cases of sick Cooperative sugar mills and to recommend revival packages of potentially viable units.

(2) The Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 have been amended for providing financial assistance at concessional rates of interest to potentially viable sick sugar mills.

(3) The levy obligation of sugar mills was reduced from 40% to 30% w.e.f. 1.1.2000 and was further reduced to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001 and then again reduced to 10% w.e.f. 1.3.2002.

Statement

Statewise and Sectorwise No. of Sugar Mills Remained Closed during Sugar season 2001-02

State	No. of sugar mills closed		
	Private	Public	Cooperative
Punjab	—	—	1
Rajasthan	1	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	6	1	—
Madhya Pradesh	1	2	—
Gujarat	—	—	7
Maharashtra	1	—	26
Bihar	3	15	—
Assam	1	—	1
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	4
Karnataka	3	—	3
Tamil Nadu	1	—	2
Kerala	1	—	—
Orissa	3	—	1
Total	22	19	46

Performance of NABARD

710. SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

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

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the performance of National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank in different States specially in Himachal Pradesh during the last three years;

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

(c) the details of the lapse, if any, found in the implementation of State Projects;

(d) the place-wise details of the sanctioned projects during the last three years; and

(e) the number of such projects in each State and specially in Himachal Pradesh which are yet to be approved by National Agriculture and Rural Development Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The activities of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are monitored by Government on an on-going basis. An indepth review of its operations is conducted by its Board of Directors comprising amongst others, senior representatives from the Ministries of Finance, Agriculture and Rural Development and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The activities of NABARD are also reviewed by the Central Board of Directors of RBI every year. An annual review of NABARD's activities is also tabled in Parliament alongwith the annual report of the institution.

The details of the State-wise refinance assistance provided and the loans given to State Governments

including the State of Himachal Pradesh for the last three years are given in Statement-I.

(c) NABARD has reported that deficiencies observed in the implementation of projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) in States include, *inter-alia*, inadequate budgetary provision, poor progress in implementation, non-receipt of project completion reports, delay in land acquisition, low level of drawls, deviation from approved design estimates, inadequate monitoring, etc.

(d) and (e) The state-wise details of the RIDF projects cleared during the last three years are given in Statement-II. The details of the projects to be sanctioned in the forthcoming sanction committee meeting are given in Statement-III.

Statement-I

NABARD support to States during 1999-2000 and 2001-2002

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/Union Territories	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Target	Max. O/S	Target	Max. O/S	Target	Max. O/S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	A & N Islands	287	276	329	324	273	306
2.	Andhra Pradesh	231538	215112	263741	235768	267456	246538
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1064	1117	3502	3502	7205	3764
4.	Assam	14546	14568	12976	13049	4867	10391
5.	Bihar	28225	26767	27151	26436	30546	19953
6.	Chandigarh	10	10	12	12	9	9
7.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—	24031	19074
8.	D & N Haveli	24	24	67	67	14	14
9.	Goa	1910	1910	2005	2005	3489	3157
10.	Gujarat	80033	63084	106273	79129	124155	87020
11.	Haryana	118369	118290	149328	140728	162519	147733
12.	Himachal Pradesh	13602	13571	20035	19863	30918	24662
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	8889	8749	10739	10822	25896	18956
14.	Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	4695	4675
15.	Karnataka	125594	123913	144063	135441	162636	131375
16.	Kerala	64751	52052	71960	51870	94938	77177
17.	Lakshadweep	21	21	9	9	9	9
18.	Madhya Pradesh	120958	96519	124863	110715	146339	126551
19.	Maharashtra	109681	86838	139197	125885	159763	128775

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Manipur	203	817	187	187	155	55
21.	Meghalaya	2133	2074	2615	2655	2791	2903
22.	Mizoram	1386	1386	1814	1814	1681	2336
23.	Nagaland	1032	1032	1342	1294	389	1471
24.	NCT of Delhi	100	100	669	669	627	627
25.	Orissa	87492	77624	80754	79831	100972	90288
26.	Pondicherry	844	809	912	878	932	932
27.	Punjab	101244	98650	106839	99373	127294	120194
28.	Rajasthan	98413	91321	113963	106933	146814	116781
29.	Sikkim	1500	1400	977	1077	883	1596
30.	Tamil Nadu	145149	120659	160830	135526	177018	146408
31.	Tripura	2710	2946	3561	3567	1651	1964
32.	Uttar Pradesh	180482	164877	191879	184373	209189	201282
33.	Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	8165	2778
34.	West Bengal	55282	48065	67554	65432	98503	72197
	Total	1595472	1434581	1816689	1646141	2126812	1811931

Statement-II

The details of the sanctions and the disbursements made under RIDF during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

S.No.	State	RIDF-V	RIDF-VI	RIDF-VII
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1474	2294	2882
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	7	13	5
3.	Assam	100043	7	0
4.	Bihar	0	0	1490
5.	Chhattisgarh	36	35	87
6.	Goa	0	60	89
7.	Gujarat	5304	12027	2703
8.	Haryana	6	72	1200
9.	Himachal Pradesh	733	1308	397

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	132	176	2039
11.	Jharkhand	32	0	0
12.	Karnataka	866	586	6156
13.	Kerala	235	256	296
14.	Madhya Pradesh	117	125	102
15.	Maharashtra	1549	1159	1272
16.	Manipur	0	157	0
17.	Meghalaya	61	62	28
18.	Mizoram	38	70	9
19.	Nagaland	54	73	1
20.	Orissa	93	16122	148
21.	Punjab	104	181	715
22.	Rajasthan	327	5640	1637
23.	Sikkim	27	5	45
24.	Tamil Nadu	848	721	796
25.	Tripura	87	9	15400
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1142	1728	1802
27.	Uttaranchal	22	0	6
28.	West Bengal	958	374	4087
	Total	113288	43848	43462

Statement-III

The State-wise position of number of projects to be submitted for sanction

(Position as on 18-11-2002)

S.No.	State	No. of Projects
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	27
2.	Chhattisgarh	6
3.	Himachal Pradesh	106
4.	Karnataka	21
5.	Kerala	43
6.	Madhya Pradesh	7
7.	Orissa	153
8.	Punjab	261
9.	Tamil Nadu	1
10.	Uttar Pradesh	1
11.	West Bengal	201
	Total	827

[English]

Non-Banking Financial Institutions

711. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked the non-banking financial services organisations for setting up the much tainted self-regulatory organisations; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Non-Banking Financial Companies in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that the Task Force on NBFCs (1998) appointed by the Government of India under Shri C.M. Vasudev recommended, *inter alia*, that it would be desirable if in the NBFC sector also, well represented Self Regulatory Organisations (SROs) come up and the RBI could encourage the growth of these SROs. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank is pursuing with the Associations of NBFCs for the last three years to form an SRO for this sector.

(b) The NBFCs have not formed an SRO till date. However, the various associations representing the sector are actively deliberating on the issue.

Co-operative Sugar Mills in Maharashtra

712. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 19 co-operative sugar mills in Maharashtra have been accused by the Central Excise Departments and the sugar commissioner's office of selling sugar in the domestic market meant for export;

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

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken by the Government to prevent such irregularity in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Chief Commissioner of Customs and Central Excise, Pune has informed on 8.11.2002 that 24 sugar mills of Maharashtra have delivered sugar for export under Bond and the proof of export had not been submitted or received by the Central Excise Department. The Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and PD has requested the Chief Commissioner, Central Excise and Customs to send a detailed report regarding this.

However, as per the information available in this Ministry, sugar meant for export is found to have been sold in the domestic market from 12 sugar mills in Maharashtra without permission of the Government.

(b) The Government has taken the following action against the defaulting exporters/sugar mills:—

(i) Letters have been issued to the office of Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT), New Delhi, Mumbai and Gujarat for cancellation of the registration of the defaulting exporters.

(ii) No further release orders for export have been issued to the defaulting exporters/sugar mills.

(iii) The validity period of the export release orders had been reduced to 30 days from earlier 90 days.

(iv) The State Government of Maharashtra has initiated enquiry against the sugar mills whose sugar has been diverted in the local market under Maharashtra Cooperative Societies Act, 1960.

(c) In order to prevent recurrence of such irregularities, the Government has decided to send a copy of the export release order to the following authorities by registered post with a request to keep a watch on the exporters' performance and report any instance of default, aberration or violation of rules and instruction immediately to the Directorate of Sugar, if any such occasion arises.

1. Chief Commissioner of Central Excise of the State.
2. Office of the Commissionerate of Central Excise.
3. Customs Authority of the concerned Port.
4. District Collectors of the districts where the exporting firm and the concerned sugar mills are located.
5. Chief Secretary/Sugar Secretary of the State.
6. Commissioner/Director of Sugar of the State.

In addition, Letter of Credit (L/C) opened by the foreign buyer is being insisted on in the case of new exporters while processing their requests.

Inflation Rate

713. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that inflation rate touched a new high of the year crossing 3% in the week ended August 10, 2002 due to burgeoning prices of cereals, gram, vegetable oil, fodder, processed tea, textiles, mineral, metals etc. and petroleum products; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to contain the inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The first four months of the current financial year were characterised by a low inflation rate of less than 3 percent. The annual point to point inflation rate based on the Wholesale Price Index crossed 3% (provisional) for the week ended August 10, 2002 which is still regarded as low inflation rate. Marginal rise or fall in inflation merely reflects the seasonal price variations. Only edible oil prices exhibited a sharp rise during the year, reflecting the impact of the uptrend in imported edible oil prices compounded further by higher import duties.

(b) Government made concerned efforts to keep inflation under control through effective supply management as also through close monitoring of prices and supply of essential commodities. Record public stocks of foodgrains at around 51 million tonnes ensured comfortable supply situation of foodgrains and helped stabilise their prices. Government's liberal release of surplus foodgrain stocks under various welfare schemes provided increased support to the vulnerable sections of the society.

Bribery Charges against Government Officials

714. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has established that several accounts were used by Xerox Modicorp to Park the money it used to pay bribes to Government Officials;

(b) if so, the details of Government officials identified to whom Modicorp has given bribes; and

(c) the action the Government propose to take against the involved persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) Documents seized by the Income Tax Department during search and seizure operation carried out on 17.7.2002 at the premises of M/s. Xerox Modicorp Ltd. and connected persons indicate that this company (i) generated cash by making payments to certain entities by whom no service was rendered, and (ii) released payments to sale employees under cash vouchers, 'I owe you' (IOU). Investigation carried so far has not revealed that cash so generated was used to pay bribes to Government officials.

[Translation]

Filing of I.T. Returns

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

(a) whether PAN number has been allotted to all persons who had applied for it;

(b) if not, the time by which this allotment will be done;

(c) the option left with persons filing income tax returns for the first time in banks when asked for PAN;

(d) the manner in which tax will be deposited by persons who are already tax payees but who have not been provided with PAN;

(e) whether many discrepancies have been noted in the prevailing system such as even name and photograph given in the cards does not match each other; and

(f) the reasons therefor and the steps taken to improve the system and expedite the process of issuing the PAN?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A total of 2.71 crore PAN applications have been received till 31.10.2002 out of which 9.04 lakh applications had core deficiencies. PAN has been allotted in 2.53 crore cases till 31.10.2002.

(b) Allotment of PAN is an ongoing process. Instructions have been issued to field Officers for allotment of PAN in all valid PAN applications within 10 working days.

(c) There is no requirement for filing income tax return in banks. New taxpayers can file their returns of income along with application in form 49A before their respective Assessing Officers.

(d) In cases where PAN has been applied for but not allotted the tax payer can make a statement to this effect before the bank for payment of taxes.

(e) Such discrepancies have been pointed out by some allottees in the PAN Cards. Necessary steps have been taken up for corrections in such PAN Cards.

(f) The mismatch between the names and photographs pointed out in some cases was mainly due to not carrying out the step of PAN preview before printing of PAN Cards. Instructions have since been issued for carrying out PAN preview before printing of PAN Cards.

Withdrawal of LIC Policies

716. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) the quantum of the investor's money invested by Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in the market alongwith justification thereof;

(b) the income accruing thereby to the LIC during the last financial year;

(c) whether LIC has withdrawn many of its policies involving payments of heavy bonus for want of returns on them;

(d) if so, the details of such policies; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of investors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) LIC invests its funds as per Section 27A of the Insurance Act, 1938 and IRDA (Investment) Regulations, 2000. The funds are invested in Central and State Government Securities, socially oriented and infrastructure scheme bonds, debentures, shares of PSUs, public limited companies and other avenues as indicated in the Act/Regulations. The Corporation is an investor in equities with a long term perspective for realising dividend income and capital appreciation for the policy holders. As on 31.3.2002, the book value of LICs investment (cumulative value since 1956) was about Rs. 2,15,392 crores.

(b) The investment income of the Corporation in the financial year 2001-2002 was approximately Rs. 22,600 crore, including a gain of Rs. 723 crore from sale of equities.

(c) to (e) During the last three years there has been a decline in the yield earned by the LIC on its funds. The policies issued by LIC under some of its plans stipulate for guaranteed additions to the sum assured. These policies will continue on the same terms. However, the sale of new policies under these plans has been discontinued. Some of these plans have been re-introduced with revised benefits. The plans withdrawn are:

During 2001-2002	New Bima Nivesh, Bima Nivesh 2001, Jeevan Shree, Bima Kiran, Jeevan Sanchya and Money Back Children Assurance.
During 2002-2003	Jeevan Griha Double and Triple Cover.

The plans re-introduced with revised benefits are New Bima Kiran, New Jeevan Shree, Komal Jeevan, Jeevan Samridhi, New Bima Nivesh and Bima Nivesh 2002. There is, however, no adverse effect/impact on the existing policies.

[English]

Loan to Foreign Countries

717. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the loan advanced by India outstanding as on date, country-wise; and

(b) the estimated interest earned by India from these countries yearly, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

National Policy for Handicapped

718. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for formulating a national policy for handicapped is under the consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A National Policy on Disability Prevention and Rehabilitation is at an advanced stage of formulation.

Medium Term Export Strategy for Tea

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

(a) whether the Tea Board has prepared a medium term export strategy with focus on country specific issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the countries to whom the tea is exported by the Tea Board;

(d) whether the export of tea is declining day by day;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to boost the tea export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Tea Board has formulated a medium term export strategy for the period 2002-07 in consultation with a global management consulting firm. While preparing the strategy a thorough study of India's competitiveness in each market *vis-a-vis* its competitors was carried out. The recommended strategy includes, diversification of market portfolio, focusing on value addition and niche segments like organic and flavoured teas, increasing proportion of orthodox tea production to cater to international demand, quality improvement and benchmarking and promotion of the India brand in teas.

(c) Tea is exported to more than 80 countries of the world. The major importers of Indian tea include the Russian Federation, United Kingdom (UK), United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, Poland, Kazakhastan, USA, Germany and Japan.

(d) and (e) Export of tea from India has shown a decline from 203.55 million kgs. in 2000-01 to 190 million kgs. in 2001-2002. During 2002-03 (April-Sept.) there has been a decline of 5.54 million kgs. as compared to the exports of 95.54 million kgs. in the same period in the last financial year. The major factors responsible for the decline are lower offtake by Russia, stiff competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia Vietnam and Kenya and tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by some important tea importing countries like Russia, Egypt and Iran.

(f) The Govt./Tea Board has taken various steps to promote tea in the country as well as in overseas markets. In line with the recommendations contained in the medium term export strategy, Government/Tea Board has taken the following steps to increase exports of tea:

- A factory upgradation Scheme has been implemented to encourage production of orthodox and non-reconditioned CTC teas to cater to international demand.
- Financial assistance is provided to tea exporters towards meeting the handling, packaging and transport/freight charges.
- A promotional campaign for Indian tea and its logo has been launched in Russia to sustain and improve India's market share.
- A quality upgradation programme is being implemented in the country to improve the quality of tea.
- Promotional support is lent to Indian exporters in their promotion and marketing of India brands.
- Participation in international fairs and specialized exhibitions, field samplings at speciality stores

and markets, buyer-seller meets, exchange of tea delegations between India and tea importing countries are some of the other activities undertaken by Tea Board.

[Translation]

Complaints from Small Investors

720. SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

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

(a) the number of complaints received by SEBI/ Department of Company Affairs from the investors particularly small investors during the last three years;

(b) whether even 50 percent of the complaints which are received from the small investors are not disposed of properly;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken for making improvements in the existing system; and

(d) the steps taken by the government to safeguard the interests of small investors?

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

Foodgrain Allocation to Rajasthan

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

(a) whether two lakh metric tonnes of wheat allocated to Rajasthan by the Union Government have not been released so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether a Central Study Group was designated to visit the State of Rajasthan under the prevailing famine and financial crisis suffered by the State; and

(d) if so, the details of the report prepared by the Study Group and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Two lakh metric tonnes of wheat was allocated to the Government of Rajasthan on 24th September, 2002 which has been fully lifted by the State Government.

(c) and (d) To assess the drought situation, a Central Team had visited Rajasthan. An additional allocation of five lakh metric tonnes wheat has also been given.

[English]

Cut on Prices of Pulses

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

(a) whether Government have taken any steps to bring down consumer prices for pulses, the common man's food; and

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Apart from measures taken to increase the production and productivity of pulses in the country, imports of pulses are allowed at a lower rate of 10% duty for augmenting its availability at reasonable prices. The imports during 2001-02 at 21.8 lakh tones and 7.36 lakh tonnes during April-August, 2002 have helped in maintaining the prices of different varieties of pulses in the country.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Scam

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have been drawn towards the news item published in the *'Hindustan'* daily dated September 18, 2002 under the Caption "Kendra Ne Teen Rajyon Ko Sasta Anaaj Bechney Se Roka";

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard till date;

(c) the names of the officials found involved in the scam; and

(d) the action being taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) Due to timely preventive action taken by the Central Government, it was ensured that no undue loss was caused in the tender process for sale of balance stocks of paddy in the States of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh. As it was observed that several tenderers had quoted very low rates, it was decided that all tenders below Rs. 450 per quintal be rejected and the paddy stocks offered to tenderers as well as other interested parties on "first come first served basis" at Rs. 450 per quintal. As the possibility of a foodgrains scam was averted in this manner the question of involvement of officials does not arise.

[English]

Posts for Disabled Persons

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

(a) whether the Government have identified certain posts for disabled persons in Government and semi-Government Organisations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to fill up these identified posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) yes, Sir.

(b) Over 1900 posts have been identified as suitable for persons with different disabilities and notified in the Gazette of India No. 178 dated 30.6.2001.

(c) Special drives for filling up the vacancies reserved for persons with disabilities are undertaken by the recruitment agencies from time to time. Besides, all the Ministries/Departments have been requested to furnish a certificate to the recruiting agencies that the policy relating to 3% reservation for persons with disabilities has been taken care of when they send requisition for fresh recruitment.

Revision of Pay Scale

725. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are examining the issue of implementation of revision of pay scale FCS for the scientist working in different institutes under Central Silk Board;

(b) whether a complete proposal in this regard has been prepared so far and also submitted to the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) Comments of the Expert Committee set up in the Deptt. of Science & Technology have been obtained and examination of the issue has progressed to the point where the next stage of examination from the viewpoint of financial propriety and reasonableness can commence.

[Translation]

Decline in FDI Inflow

726. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether FDI inflow in the country has declined steadily since 1997 inspite of the fact that Government have taken a number of steps to encourage the FDI inflow;

(b) if so, whether India now falls in eight position in the 15th positions as indicated in the report of the Global Consultancy A.T. Kearney;

(c) if so, the decline in FDI observed since 1997 onward upto date against the target fixed, if any year-wise;

(d) the reasons for shortfall in FDI inflow; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to attract foreign investors so as to regain the lost ground?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The amount of inflow has generally registered an increasing trend except in the year 1999. The year-wise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows from 1997 to 2002 (upto August) are as under:

(Rupees in crore)

Year	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002 (Jan-Aug)
Inflow	12,989.27	13,269.21	9,259.90	10,441.20	16,071.50	12,438.44

•The above figures exclude ADRs/GDRs.

(b) While India has fallen by 8 positions to 15th position, with a 20% decline in the likelihood of receiving of FDI as per the A.T. Kearney FDI Confidence Index Report of September 2002, in terms of actual performance, India is among the few countries that have been able to buck the downward trend in world FDI inflows, which declined by 51% in 2001 and is expected to further decline by 27% in 2002. FDI inflows amounting to US$ 4.06 billion (excluding ADRs and GDRs) were receiving during 2001-2002 as against US$ 2.46 billion received in 2000-01, registering a 66% growth. The upward trend in FDI inflows has been sustained during the current financial year as well. FDI inflows amounting to US$ 678 million (excluding ADRs and GDRs) were received during April and May, 2002 as against US$ 467 million received during the corresponding period in 2001, resulting in a growth of 45%. Further, as per the recent UNCTAD report, China, Malaysia, India and Philippines have been identified as the four countries in developing Asia which are expected to witness increased FDI inflows.

(c) and (d) As explained in the reply to Part (b) above there has been no decline in the FDI inflows into the country. Further, no target has been formally fixed for FDI.

(e) The Government of India is making continuous efforts to make India an attractive destination for FDI in the region by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy framework, factors and institutions. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously to make it more investor friendly. In order to increase FDI, the Government has permitted access through the automatic route for FDI upto 100% in most activities.

[English]

Grant to Maharashtra

727. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

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

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has urged the Union Government for consideration of one time grant/very soft loan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Union Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the States economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir, the Government of Maharashtra have, *inter-alia*, requested for, a one time infusion by way of grant or soft loan to ease out their ways and means position.

Any one time grant or soft loan to ease the ways and means position of the state needs to be in consonance with the Medium term Fiscal Reforms Programme agreed to by the State, under the States Fiscal Reform Facility 2000-01 to 2004-05, of the Government of India. In keeping with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, an Incentive Fund has been created under this Facility, to supplement the efforts of the State towards fiscal reforms. A sum of Rs. 55.55 crores so far, has been released under Incentive Fund to the Government of Maharashtra. Besides, the Government of India has also put forward a proposal for debt swap to enable States to retire high cost debt so as to supplement their efforts towards fiscal consolidation.

Wages of Bank Employees

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

(a) whether the Indian Banks Association had proposed a number of measures to staff unions as a precursor to wage-negotiations scheduled on October 25, 2002;

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposed measure;

(c) whether the Staff Unions have considered the IBA proposals; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Bank Unions thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Indian Banks' Association has reported that they have suggested certain measures regarding change of service conditions like special pay, transfer liability etc. for the employees.

(c) and (d) As the detailed discussions on the issues are yet to take place, it is too early to comment on the reactions of the Bank Unions.

[Translation]

Import of Raw Sugar

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

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

(a) whether 'raw sugar' is imported in the country;

(b) if so, whether 'raw sugar' is free of import duty;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantity of raw sugar imported in India during the last three years and till date, value-wise and country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) to (d) Import of sugar including raw sugar is under O.G.L., under the present EXIM Policy, subject to registration of import contracts with the Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA). Government, w.e.f. 9.2.2000 have imposed a basic custom duty of 60% and a countervailing duty of Rs. 850 per tonne, on imported sugar.

However, raw sugar imported under the Advance Licence or Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC) scheme for reprocessing into white sugar is exempted from import duty. This duty free import of raw sugar is strictly against the corresponding export obligation of white sugar under the Advance Licences issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

As per the latest available DGCI&S Kolkata publication on Foreign Trade Statistics of India, the import of sugar and its value during the financial years 1999-2000 to 2002-2003, is as given below:—

S.No.	Financial Year	Quantity (in MTs)	Value (in Rs. Crores)
1.	1999-2000	11,81,183	1110.79
2.	2000-2001	30,404	31.11
3.	2001-2002	26,578 (P)	32.60 (P)
4.	2002-2003 (upto July, 2002)	Nil	Nil

As per the available information, M/s. Sakthi Sugars have imported a quantity of 35,700 MTs of raw sugar during the month of September 2002, under the Advance Licencing Scheme, against the white sugar already exported by them, for reprocessing into white sugar. M/s. Renuka Sugars Ltd. have also imported a quantity of 11,033.8 MTs of raw sugar against their export of white sugar, for reprocessing into white sugar.

The information regarding import of raw sugar and the country of its origin is not maintained by DGCI&S Kolkata.

[English]

Excise Duty on Life Saving Drugs

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

(a) whether the Excise Department have started levying 60 percent excise duty on imported life-saving drugs, not manufactured in India;

(b) if so, whether no custom duty, counter-value duty is levied on that;

(c) if so, the reasons for levying 60 percent excise duty;

(d) whether the Government have received several representations from MPs, Health Ministry, Cancer Patients Association and from others also in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof with the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government on the representations?

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

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

(d) and (e) The life saving drugs and medicines covered under List 4 of notification No. 21/2002-Customs dated 1.3.2002, are fully exempt from all import duties. In terms of note 5 to chapter 30 of Central Excise Tariff, the activity of labeling/relabeling amounts to manufacture. As such these imported drugs were also liable to excise duty of 16% when labeled or relabeled so as to comply with the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. A number of representations were received requesting for exemption from excise duty in this case. After examination of the whole issue Government have exempted, Life savings drugs or medicines specified in List 4, appended to the notification No. 21/2002-Customs, dated 1.3.2002, when labeled or relabeled so as to comply with the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995, from central excise duty vide notification No. 55/2002-Central Excise dated 7.11.2002.

Wakf Board

731. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Wakf Council give assistance to various State Wakf Boards or Institutions for setting up educational or technical training centres;

(b) if so, the funds allotted during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have allotted fund for the purpose during the current financial year to Central Wakf Council;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to provide funds to the Central Wakf Council during 2002-2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Central Wakf Council does not provide any grant to the Wakf Boards for setting up educational institutions. However, it provides funds directly to institutions for setting up of technical and educational training centres and other educational programmers as per the details given in Statements-I and II.

(c) to (e) The Government does not give any grant to the Central Wakf Council for its educational programme. The Central Government, however, provides funds to the Central Wakf Council for Development of Urban Wakf Properties and has allocated an amount of Rs. 176 lakhs to Central Wakf Council for the year 2002-2003.

Statement I

Amount released for other educational programmes such as scholarship etc. by the Central Wakf Council

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the States	Amount released			Remarks
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4.39	3.52	1.50	
2.	A & N Island	0.10	0.10	—	
3.	Assam	2.80	2.68	2.63	
4.	Bihar	25.29	46.30	37.18	This includes grant to three ITIs
5.	Delhi	9.02	7.44	5.31	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Haryana/Punjab	2.04	2.80	0.56	
7.	Jharkhand	—	—	1.67	
8.	J & K	1.60	2.80	2.48	
9.	Goa	0.18	0.25	—	
10.	Karnataka	5.80	5.75	2.80	
11.	Kerala	1.34	0.78	3.00	
12.	Manipur	1.98	0.63	0.03	
13.	Maharashtra	7.88	2.74	1.86	
14.	Madhya Pradesh	5.59	2.29	2.04	
15.	Meghalaya	0.10	0.05	—	
16.	Pondicherry	0.26	0.43	0.60	
17.	Lakshadweep	—	0.60	—	
18.	Gujarat	0.06	0.42	4.41	
19.	Orissa	0.21	0.60	20.12	This includes grant to one ITI
20.	Rajasthan	0.32	0.22	0.36	
21.	Tripura	1.50	0.55	—	
22.	Tamil Nadu	1.76	0.72	1.62	
23.	Uttar Pradesh	27.16	34.75	63.64	This includes grant to five ITIs
24.	West Bengal	4.91	2.76	4.31	

Statement II

Grant for the purpose of setting up ITIs, Vocational Training Centres and Libraries

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the State	Amount released			Remarks
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.25	2.99	0.15	
2.	Assam	1.20	0.10	0.20	
3.	Bihar	6.15	32.60	28.96	This includes grant to three ITIs
4.	Delhi	2.85	1.10	—	
5.	Haryana	1.30	—	—	

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Jharkhand	—	—	0.29	
7.	J & K	0.10	1.30	0.50	
8.	Goa	0.18	0.25	—	
9.	Karnataka	5.30	4.41	2.20	
10.	Kerala	—	0.30	—	
11.	Manipur	1.50	—	—	
12.	Maharashtra	4.40	0.10	—	
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1.60	0.25	—	
14.	Meghalaya	—	0.30	—	
15.	Lakshadweep	—	0.10	—	
16.	Gujarat	—	0.30	—	
17.	Orissa	—	2.25	20.00	Includes grant to one ITI
18.	Rajasthan	0.20	0.05	—	
19.	Punjab	—	—	0.20	
20.	Tripura	1.50	0.05	—	
21.	Tamil Nadu	1.10	—	—	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	10.54	18.70	51.40	Includes grant to five ITI
23.	West Bengal	2.52	0.55	0.35	

Welfare Schemes for the Handicapped of Gujarat

732. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some schemes from the State Government of Gujarat for the Welfare of handicapped have been pending with the Union Government for approval for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for pendency; and

(c) the time by which these schemes are likely to be approved?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Liabilities of IFCI

733. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND .COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the liabilities of IFCI stand to the tune of Rs. 8,000 crore;

(b) if so, whether the Government have finalized a package to bailout the institution; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) IFCI have reported that their total liabilities as on 30.9.2002 are Rs. 20012.70 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Simplification in the Laws of SEZ

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

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

(a) whether the N.K. Singh Committee has recommended simplification of laws governing Special Economic Zones;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken on the recommendations of the Committee; and

(d) if not, the reasons for not accepting the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Steering Group on Foreign Direct Investment headed by Shri N. K. Singh *inter-alia* recommended removal of investment restriction, International standard financial regulations, treatment of SEZ as foreign territory under Customs Laws, liberalised policy in power and enactment of SEZ laws by the State Governments.

(c) and (d) The SEZ policy is under constant review and the recommendations made by the N.K. Singh Committee are also be kept in view appropriately. The steps taken by the Government to promote SEZs include 100% FDI in manufacturing sector through automatic route barring a few sectors, exemption from Industrial licensing requirement for items reserved for SSI sector, external commercial borrowing without any maturity restriction through recognized banking channels; facility to set up of Overseas Banking units in SEZ, recognition of foreign territory status of SEZ in Customs Act, announcement of policy guidelines on generation, transmission and distribution of power in SEZs. While the Government of Uttar Pradesh has enacted a State SEZ Act on 7.9.2002, the Governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh have announced their policy on SEZs.

[Translation]

Allocation of Foodgrains to States

735. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise details of foodgrains allocation by the Union Government under various schemes during the last three years and the current year, foodgrain-wise quantum-wise and scheme-wise;

(b) the names of the States that have already received their share out of the above mentioned quantum till date;

(c) the State that have utilized the allocated foodgrains till October, 2002; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the non-utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The statements-I to XII showing statewise, schemewise details of allocation and offtake of foodgrains (rice and wheat) in respect of the States/UTs during the last three years and the current year 2002-2003 (upto October, 2002) under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)— Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY), for families below poverty line (BPL) and above poverty line (APL)—and various Welfare Schemes are enclosed.

The lifting of foodgrains allocated to the States/UTs under various schemes depends on several factors such as parity between the issue prices of foodgrains and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, purchasing power of the consumer and eating habits etc.

Statement-I

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 1999 to March, 2000 under TPDS

(in '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake (P)		
		BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	453.360	1847.040	2300.400	433.570	1874.350	2307.920
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	8.400	100.800	109.200	8.320	93.410	101.730
3.	Assam	228.720	441.280	670.00	215.900	312.230	528.130
4.	Bihar	412.320	95.040	507.360	234.350	2.220	236.570
5.	Delhi	0.000	154.680	154.680	0.000	74.470	74.470
6.	Goa	3.120	72.840	75.960	8.480	37.650	46.130
7.	Gujarat	94.500	198.000	292.500	96.920	72.130	169.050
8.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.000	146.760	146.760	0.000	64.800	64.800
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	56.412	376.854	433.266	52.250	290.410	342.660
11.	Karnataka	276.000	624.000	900.000	278.100	544.900	823.000
12.	Kerala	184.200	1559.640	1743.840	182.000	1009.000	1191.000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	288.000	124.200	412.200	270.420	48.521	318.941
14.	Maharashtra	253.920	508.560	762.480	239.500	441.390	680.890
15.	Manipur	20.600	104.00	125.000	21.070	21.300	42.370
16.	Meghalaya	17.160	190.416	207.576	17.550	174.150	191.700
17.	Mizoram	6.360	118.716	125.076	6.890	84.000	90.890
18.	Nagaland	9.240	115.860	125.100	10.340	103.220	113.560
19.	Orissa	824.715	345.140	1169.855	769.300	118.300	887.600
20.	Punjab	8.160	3.360	11.520	0.220	0.050	0.270
21.	Rajasthan	3.000	12.860	15.860	1.300	1.440	2.740
22.	Sikkim	4.080	83.640	87.720	4.210	65.810	70.020
23.	Tamil Nadu	549.480	1265.280	1814.760	535.390	1271.880	1807.270
24.	Tripura	27.720	169.780	197.500	19.070	133.060	152.130
25.	Uttar Pradesh	416.700	323.000	739.700	391.580	96.480	488.060

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
26.	West Bengal	264.840	253.760	518.600	171.660	249.790	421.450
27.	A & N Islands	1.800	28.200	30.000	0.000	16.680	16.680
28.	Chandigarh	0.240	3.360	3.600	0.030	0.080	0.110
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1.440	5.160	6.600	0.600	0.780	1.380
30.	Daman & Diu	0.240	6.960	7.200	0.040	0.780	0.820
31.	Lakshadweep	0.240	6.060	6.300	0.000	5.000	5.000
32.	Pondicherry	7.800	16.200	24.000	7.320	4.570	11.890
	Total	4422.767	9301.846	13724.613	3976.380	7212.851	11189.231

(P) Provisional.

Statement-II

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 1999 to March, 2000 under TPDS

(in '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment			Offtake (P)		
		BPL	APL	Total	BPL	APL	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	141.000	141.000	0.000	117.600	117.600
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.840	6.960	7.800	0.000	5.350	5.350
3.	Assam	0.000	213.900	213.900	0.000	219.170	219.170
4.	Bihar	618.480	242.560	861.040	641.930	17.080	659.010
5.	Delhi	0.000	724.800	724.800	0.000	53.940	53.940
6.	Goa	1.440	32.280	33.720	0.140	13.190	13.330
7.	Gujarat	145.500	594.000	739.500	149.930	144.490	294.420
8.	Haryana	87.960	68.640	156.600	80.320	3.830	84.150
9.	Himachal Pradesh	51.120	91.320	142.440	24.150	30.710	54.860
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	17.748	346.800	364.548	16.930	29.160	46.090
11.	Karnataka	69.000	351.000	420.000	68.800	146.800	215.600
12.	Kerala	0.000	452.640	452.640	0.000	237.000	237.000
13.	Madhya Pradesh	352.080	151.800	503.880	267.010	49.110	316.120
14.	Maharashtra	471.600	736.560	1208.160	432.110	644.420	1076.530
15.	Manipur	0.000	23.220	23.220	0.000	0.120	0.120

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
16.	Meghalaya	0.000	14.460	14.460	0.000	15.690	15.690
17.	Mizoram	0.000	14.080	14.080	0.000	14.800	14.800
18.	Nagaland	2.280	21.210	23.490	2.310	17.160	19.470
19.	Orissa	50.000	370.00	420.00	49.900	116.500	166.400
20.	Punjab	43.440	18.120	61.560	2.430	0.000	2.430
21.	Rajasthan	257.400	375.820	633.220	191.760	51.680	243.440
22.	Sikkim	0.000	2.090	2.090	0.000	1.420	1.420
23.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	360.000	360.000	0.000	165.920	165.920
24.	Tripura	0.000	17.160	17.160	0.000	7.640	7.640
25.	Uttar Pradesh	780.600	748.840	1529.440	811.541	32.830	844.371
26.	West Bengal	283.800	777.300	1061.100	278.510	456.730	735.240
27.	A & N Islands	0.840	8.160	9.000	0.180	4.570	4.750
28.	Chandigarh	1.920	19.680	21.600	0.180	0.180	0.360
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.360	2.640	3.000	0.178	0.180	0.358
30.	Daman & Diu	0.120	2.280	2.400	0.000	0.030	0.030
31.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.504	0.504	0.000	0.030	0.030
32.	Pondicherry	0.000	9.000	9.000	0.000	2.110	2.110
	Total	3236.528	6938.824	10175.352	3018.309	2599.440	5617.749

(P) Provisional

Statement-III

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1316.648	1847.040	15.570	3179.258	923.047	1002.912	1.333	1927.292
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.384	70.320	0.000	88.704	15.828	13.958	0.000	29.786
3.	Assam	457.428	331.280	0.000	788.708	374.143	5.768	0.000	379.911
4.	Bihar	750.840	86.604	0.000	837.444	131.445	1.032	0.000	132.477

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	99.228	20.004	7.185	126.417	76.400	0.060	11.744	878.204
6.	Delhi	0.000	163.320	0.000	163.320	0.000	1.980	0.000	1.980
7.	Goa	6.230	42.840	0.000	49.070	1.483	7.069	0.000	8.552
8.	Gujarat	343.526	216.000	0.000	559.526	113.962	2.584	0.050	116.596
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	1.640	0.000	0.000	1.640
10.	Himachal Pradesh	34.947	62.760	0.984	98.691	21.755	3.539	0.980	26.274
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112.800	150.120	0.000	262.920	64.649	4.096	0.000	68.745
12.	Jharkhand	73.800	8.436	0.000	82.236	14.150	0.120	0.000	14.270
13.	Karnataka	568.272	917.000	0.000	1485.272	527.845	420.613	0.000	948.458
14.	Kerala	365.144	1375.440	5.955	1746.539	417.011	71.939	0.000	488.950
15.	Madhya Pradesh	468.496	104.196	4.760	577.452	278.330	1.050	3.718	283.098
16.	Maharashtra	521.504	268.560	0.000	790.064	341.107	33.283	0.000	374.390
17.	Manipur	31.214	34.320	0.000	65.534	18.670	4.606	0.000	23.276
18.	Meghalaya	34.354	190.416	0.000	224.770	30.106	1.058	0.000	31.164
19.	Mizoram	13.940	81.720	0.000	95.660	13.938	27.122	0.000	41.060
20.	Nagaland	18.480	103.560	0.000	122.040	17.944	0.271	0.000	18.215
21.	Orissa	949.922	44.640	0.000	994.562	659.580	3.340	0.000	662.920
22.	Punjab	16.800	3.360	0.000	20.160	0.364	0.070	0.000	0.434
23.	Rajasthan	23.595	9.360	0.107	33.062	1.141	0.020	0.064	1.225
24.	Sikkim	8.916	83.640	0.000	92.556	5.875	3.284	0.000	9.159
25.	Tamil Nadu	1121.664	461.280	0.000	1582.944	1131.124	78.586	0.000	1209.710
26.	Tripura	55.450	109.440	0.000	164.890	53.567	6.225	0.000	59.792
27.	Uttar Pradesh	741.628	131.812	0.000	873.440	320.906	0.098	0.000	321.004
28.	Uttaranchal	22.172	2.588	0.000	24.760	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	676.064	198.760	0.000	874.824	305.853	34.025	0.000	339.878
30.	A & N Islands	3.604	28.200	0.000	31.804	3.020	4.245	0.000	7.265
31.	Chandigarh	0.480	2.040	0.000	2.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.899	2.160	0.050	5.109	2.078	0.556	0.000	2.634
33.	Daman & Diu	0.532	1.320	0.000	1.852	0.211	0.150	0.000	0.361

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	6.540	0.000	6.540	0.000	5.288	0.000	5.288
35.	Pondicherry	17.088	21.480	0.000	38.568	7.510	2.394	0.000	9.904
	Total	8876.049	7180.556	34.611	16091.216	5874.682	1741.341	17.889	7633.912

(P) Provisional

Statement-IV

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	3.295	0.000	3.295
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.840	6.360	0.000	8.200	0.278	0.466	0.000	0.744
3.	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	0.396	0.000	0.396
4.	Bihar	1126.260	129.908	0.000	1256.168	428.651	1.081	0.000	429.732
5.	Chhattisgarh	28.428	13.700	0.000	42.128	2.555	0.000	0.083	2.638
6.	Delhi	24.540	487.140	0.000	511.680	10.501	0.084	0.000	10.585
7.	Goa	2.874	20.280	0.000	23.154	0.361	1.272	0.000	1.633
8.	Gujarat	565.287	354.000	0.000	919.287	284.423	2.690	0.020	287.133
9.	Haryana	175.918	8.640	0.000	184.558	47.763	0.000	0.000	47.763
10.	Himachal Pradesh	67.369	38.400	0.984	106.753	24.700	2.727	0.905	28.332
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	35.520	88.320	0.000	123.840	22.993	7.881	0.000	30.874
12.	Jharkhand	110.700	12.652	0.000	123.352	72.526	0.067	0.000	72.593
13.	Karnataka	142.068	221.000	0.000	363.068	135.560	63.926	0.000	199.486
14.	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	30.212	0.000	30.212
15.	Madhya Pradesh	665.612	138.100	11.050	814.762	277.928	3.518	7.642	289.088
16.	Maharashtra	968.580	496.560	0.000	1465.140	619.256	8.032	0.000	627.288
17.	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.003	0.120	0.000	0.123

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	Mizoram	0.000	15.120	0.000	15.120	0.000	2.602	0.000	2.602
20.	Nagaland	4.560	18.480	0.000	23.040	3.043	1.487	0.000	4.530
21.	Orissa	102.300	0.000	0.000	102.300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
22.	Punjab	89.436	18.120	0.000	107.556	10.756	1.515	0.000	12.271
23.	Rajasthan	850.575	392.160	9.208	1251.943	321.592	1.457	8.055	331.104
24.	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.350	0.000	0.350
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.759	0.000	0.759
26.	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1537.660	260.916	0.000	1798.576	887.713	1.557	0.000	889.270
28.	Uttaranchal	11.840	5.124	0.000	16.964	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	577.496	777.400	0.000	1354.896	493.111	39.797	0.000	532.908
30.	A & N Islands	1.680	8.160	0.000	9.840	1.737	5.064	0.000	6.801
31.	Chandigarh	3.838	11.640	0.000	15.478	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.725	0.6000	0.020	1.345	0.364	0.120	0.000	0.484
33.	Daman & Diu	0.268	0.468	0.000	0.748	0.014	0.000	0.000	0.014
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.504	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	6.240	0.000	6.240	0.000	0.827	0.000	0.827
	Total	7095.374	4251.324	21.262	11367.960	3645.828	181.302	16.705	3843.835

(P) Provisional

Statement-V

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1470.960	1495.680	186.840	3153.480	972.348	564.141	191.522	1728.011
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	24.459	70.320	1.134	95.913	25.007	21.065	0.740	46.812
3.	Assam	515.058	311.280	28.152	854.490	429.825	45.296	28.515	503.636
4.	Bihar	656.370	69.732	60.000	786.102	64.639	0.686	43.252	108.577

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	305.748	60.012	86.220	451.980	148.292	0.210	77.884	226.386
6.	Delhi	11.790	163.320	0.480	175.590	9.699	18.652	0.246	28.597
7.	Goa	6.431	42.840	0.979	50.250	3.539	4.208	0.734	8.481
8.	Gujarat	234.604	216.000	12.350	462.954	130.324	2.653	11.785	144.762
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	173.955	62.760	14.172	250.887	102.705	3.772	13.721	120.198
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	115.247	150.120	19.323	284.690	120.544	129.449	4.072	254.065
12.	Jharkhand	227.00	25.308	36.650	288.958	76.529	5.609	26.925	109.063
13.	Karnataka	646.182	444.000	67.287	1157.469	639.186	380.709	64.640	1084.535
14.	Kerala	374.958	1375.440	71.460	1821.858	371.494	21.005	61.507	454.006
15.	Madhya Pradesh	289.756	64.188	57.120	411.064	121.551	0.791	51.922	174.264
16.	Maharashtra	725.426	268.560	93.749	1087.735	426.556	1.509	82.663	510.728
17.	Manipur	35.136	34.320	1.914	71.370	25.455	0.000	0.740	26.195
18.	Meghalaya	44.240	114.360	3.515	162.115	43.278	4.511	2.812	50.601
19.	Mizoram	16.461	81.720	3.156	101.337	16.168	18.931	3.156	38.255
20.	Nagaland	24.185	103.560	2.280	130.025	24.185	3.143	2.280	29.608
21.	Orissa	907.045	44.640	88.446	1040.151	488.185	11.584	87.277	587.046
22.	Punjab	18.080	3.360	0.000	21.440	1.588	0.000	0.000	1.588
23.	Rajasthan	6.282	9.360	1.284	16.926	0.338	0.159	0.484	0.981
24.	Sikkim	11.205	35.640	1.176	48.021	11.371	5.972	1.146	18.489
25.	Tamil Nadu	1350.423	461.280	35.475	1847.178	1040.753	0.000	24.760	1065.513
26.	Tripura	62.718	109.440	7.917	180.075	61.115	15.363	6.786	83.264
27.	Uttar Pradesh	736.649	126.636	82.111	945.396	253.688	0.942	84.006	338.636
28.	Uttaranchal	70.962	7.764	8.028	86.754	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	831.438	128.760	54.960	1015.158	213.648	28.757	27.957	270.362
30.	A & N Islands	3.686	28.200	0.591	32.477	2.888	9.585	0.303	12.776
31.	Chandigarh	0.350	2.040	0.318	2.708	0.055	0.000	0.318	0.373
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	3.009	2.160	0.600	5.769	2.475	0.745	0.570	3.790
33.	Daman & Diu	0.639	1.320	0.120	2.079	0.056	0.219	0.085	0.360

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
34.	Lakshadweep	0.044	6.560	0.040	6.664	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
35.	Pondicherry	22.701	3.480	1.125	27.306	8.502	0.120	0.917	9.539
	Total	9923.197	6124.160	1028.992	17076.349	5835.986	1302.786	903.725	8042.497

(P) Provisional

Statement-VI

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	96.000	0.000	96.000	0.000	7.385	0.000	7.385
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.565	6.360	0.000	8.925	1.715	2.795	0.000	4.510
3.	Assam	0.000	123.600	0.000	123.600	0.000	70.011	0.000	70.011
4.	Bihar	1164.501	104.604	90.000	1359.105	313.475	0.325	65.300	379.100
5.	Chhattisgarh	87.597	41.100	0.000	128.697	39.649	1.788	0.000	41.437
6.	Delhi	102.375	413.520	1.920	517.815	77.062	7.645	0.949	85.656
7.	Goa	3.420	20.280	0.000	23.700	0.000	1.350	0.000	1.350
8.	Gujarat	634.936	354.000	49.400	1038.336	313.857	1.317	44.960	360.134
9.	Haryana	182.541	8.640	27.346	218.527	71.349	0.000	22.655	94.004
10.	Himachal Pradesh	74.280	38.400	9.444	122.124	31.021	5.485	9.371	45.877
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	36.516	88.320	6.084	130.920	41.962	45.988	3.195	91.145
12.	Jharkhand	340.941	37.956	54.980	433.427	152.531	0.861	35.867	189.259
13.	Karnataka	161.542	111.000	16.823	289.365	159.683	69.951	16.156	245.790
14.	Kerala	0.000	452.640	0.000	452.640	0.000	98.533	0.000	98.533
15.	Madhya Pradesh	696.227	110.700	132.600	939.527	460.717	6.306	121.639	588.662
16.	Maharashtra	1370.786	496.560	174.112	2041.458	736.350	1.802	151.707	889.859
17.	Manipur	0.000	20.520	0.000	20.520	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
18.	Meghalaya	0.000	12.000	0.000	12.000	0.000	6.334	0.000	6.334

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19.	Mizoram	0.000	12.120	0.000	12.120	0.000	8.887	0.000	8.887
20.	Nagaland	5.937	18.480	0.558	24.975	5.937	12.314	0.558	18.809
21.	Orissa	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.468	0.000	0.000	0.468
22.	Punjab	96.283	18.120	19.723	134.126	44.354	0.000	8.070	52.424
23.	Rajasthan	909.987	392.160	110.496	1412.643	559.028	10.458	102.298	671.784
24.	Sikkim	0.000	1.200	0.000	1.200	0.000	0.600	0.000	0.600
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
26.	Tripura	0.000	15.360	0.000	15.360	0.000	3.000	0.000	3.000
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1603.140	250.668	178.680	2032.488	895.511	7.805	162.420	1065.736
28.	Uttaranchal	38.760	15.372	3.420	57.552	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
29.	West Bengal	422.931	776.400	54.966	1254.297	309.607	159.547	28.952	498.106
30.	A & N Islands	1.764	8.160	0.231	10.155	1.547	2.534	0.128	4.209
31.	Chandigarh	5.330	11.640	0.000	16.970	0.050	0.000	0.000	0.050
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.753	0.600	0.240	1.593	0.489	0.230	0.206	0.925
33.	Daman & Diu	0.330	0.480	0.060	0.870	0.020	0.015	0.029	0.064
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.240	0.000	0.315	0.000	0.315
	Total	7942.992	4057.700	931.083	12931.775	4216.382	533.581	774.460	5524.423

(P) Provisional

Statement-VII

Allotment and Offtake of Rice from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	842.800	1232.623	152.586	2228.009	829.409	194.155	126.176	1149.740
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	18.298	44.266	3.703	66.267	17.222	23.260	3.887	44.369
3.	Assam	397.999	277.165	68.971	744.135	316.253	32.000	62.784	411.037
4.	Bihar	532.832	534.667	98.000	1165.499	43.403	0.230	70.986	114.619

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
5.	Chhattisgarh	262.836	362.075	70.413	695.324	10.461	0.000	4.654	15.115
6.	Delhi	25.259	194.802	2.144	222.205	18.310	12.147	1.691	32.148
7.	Goa	4.578	47.085	1.792	53.455	3.639	3.583	1.207	8.429
8.	Gujarat	116.544	643.256	15.925	775.725	79.938	9.483	12.888	102.309
9.	Haryana	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
10.	Himachal Pradesh	51.058	132.782	11.097	194.937	56.012	4.397	11.220	71.629
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	94.948	156.100	21.042	272.090	93.252	120.406	8.911	222.569
12.	Jharkhand	190.099	50.477	35.917	276.493	21.380	0.124	26.711	48.215
13.	Karnataka	519.995	966.280	93.338	1579.613	503.306	226.866	84.622	814.794
14.	Kerala	322.329	793.940	58.359	1174.628	178.162	6.328	58.046	242.536
15.	Madhya Pradesh	212.941	577.579	44.388	834.908	94.488	0.754	43.131	138.373
16.	Maharashtra	474.376	1072.231	85.897	1632.504	296.134	5.621	73.850	375.605
17.	Manipur	25.599	17.325	6.251	49.175	24.233	0.543	7.251	32.027
18.	Meghalaya	37.947	21.728	6.888	66.563	38.701	4.856	6.887	50.444
19.	Mizoram	14.154	24.598	2.576	41.328	14.153	22.743	2.576	39.472
20.	Nagaland	20.678	29.737	3.724	54.139	20.678	2.728	3.724	27.130
21.	Orissa	865.886	683.613	123.851	1673.350	223.536	0.000	93.418	316.954
22.	Punjab	6.576	82.599	0.000	89.175	0.980	0.016	0.000	0.996
23.	Rajasthan	5.397	44.135	1.050	50.582	0.250	0.010	0.195	0.455
24.	Sikkim	8.995	27.184	1.645	37.824	8.954	4.585	1.703	15.242
25.	Tamil Nadu	1025.901	2213.625	165.485	3405.011	658.625	0.000	163.103	821.728
26.	Tripura	61.194	93.296	11.081	165.571	53.840	14.346	10.930	79.116
27.	Uttar Pradesh	698.238	1723.353	132.020	2553.611	111.160	1.126	71.147	183.433
28.	Uttaranchal	56.422	98.297	13.111	167.830	23.839	0.005	5.786	29.630
29.	West Bengal	647.428	362.061	89.768	1099.257	145.567	10.467	52.335	208.369
30.	A & N Islands	2.919	16.450	0.756	20.125	1.999	7.596	0.000	9.595
31.	Chandigarh	0.105	7.282	0.518	7.905	0.105	0.30	0.518	0.653
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2.583	3.262	0.490	6.335	0.827	0.150	0.190	1.167

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33.	Daman & Diu	0.553	4.949	0.098	5.600	0.010	0.084	0.036	0.130
34.	Lakshadweep	0.217	3.608	0.098	3.923	0.000	0.500	0.000	0.500
35.	Pondicherry	18.277	35.208	2.205	55.690	4.463	0.062	1.636	6.161
	Total	7565.961	12577.638	1325.187	21468.786	3893.289	709.201	1012.199	5614.689

(P) Provisional

Statement-VIII

Allotment and Offtake of Wheat from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under TPDS

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allotment				Offtake (P)			
		BPL	APL	AAY	Total	BPL	APL	AAY	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0.000	89.642	0.000	89.642	0.000	4.225	0.000	4.225
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.205	4.415	0.000	6.620	1.455	2.30	0.000	3.685
3.	Assam	0.000	352.975	0.000	352.975	0.000	228.790	0.000	228.790
4.	Bihar	786.692	802.053	147.000	1735.745	154.267	0.935	112.067	267.269
5.	Chhattisgarh	75.306	247.975	0.000	323.281	37.970	0.449	0.000	38.419
6.	Delhi	67.016	492.900	5.696	565.702	51.970	70.004	4.829	126.803
7.	Goa	2.940	23.427	0.000	26.367	0.000	1.697	0.000	1.697
8.	Gujarat	331.124	1053.692	63.700	1448.516	154.374	5.005	48.991	208.370
9.	Haryana	152.187	726.253	27.398	905.838	93.645	15.575	24.928	134.148
10.	Himachal Pradesh	34.034	81.168	8.188	123.390	31.066	5.201	8.020	44.287
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	30.378	91.840	6.662	128.840	29.083	57.799	3.631	90.513
12.	Jharkhand	285.138	75.698	53.879	414.715	114.418	0.663	39.906	154.957
13.	Karnataka	129.997	241.570	23.331	394.898	125.211	71.580	20.613	217.404
14.	Kerala	0.000	261.275	0.000	261.275	0.000	90.089	0.000	90.089
15.	Madhya Pradesh	530.396	1131.485	110.550	1772.431	314.754	19.598	100.327	434.679
16.	Maharashtra	881.048	1982.684	159.523	3023.255	462.856	12.397	134.987	610.240
17.	Manipur	0.000	10.360	0.000	10.360	0.000	1.850	0.000	1.850

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
18.	Meghalaya	0.000	3.570	0.000	3.570	0.000	3.565	0.000	3.565
19.	Mizoram	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.236	0.000	6.076	0.000	6.076
20.	Nagaland	5.068	12.556	0.910	18.534	5.068	12.361	0.907	18.336
21.	Orissa	0.000	120.00	0.000	120.000	0.000	6.683	0.000	6.683
22.	Punjab	90.500	936.526	17.570	1044.596	48.799	4.993	8.251	62.043
23.	Rajasthan	463.631	1806.892	90.237	2360.760	346.805	89.238	85.294	521.337
24.	Sikkim	0.000	1.085	0.000	1.085	0.000	1.016	0.000	1.016
25.	Tamil Nadu	0.000	50.000	0.000	50.000	0.000	8.874	0.000	8.874
26.	Tripura	0.000	13.698	0.000	13.698	0.000	2.576	0.000	2.576
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1407.615	3411.382	266.923	5085.920	373.897	3.884	131.548	509.329
28.	Uttaranchal	31.592	194.642	5.586	231.820	12.976	0.730	2.528	16.234
29.	West Bengal	345.844	2180.884	89.775	2616.503	239.012	113.794	61.070	413.876
30.	A & N Islands	1.421	4.760	0.294	6.475	1.001	2.052	0.000	3.053
31.	Chandigarh	4.998	40.465	0.000	45.463	0.610	0.030	0.000	0.640
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.651	0.903	0.196	1.750	0.132	0.218	0.096	0.446
33.	Daman & Diu	0.280	1.131	0.049	0.1460	0.011	0.008	0.012	0.031
34.	Lakshadweep	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.292	0.000	0.150	0.000	0.150
35.	Pondicherry	0.000	2.549	0.000	2.549	0.000	0.380	0.000	0.380
	Total	5660.151	16456.983	1077.427	23194.561	2599.380	844.685	788.005	4232.070

(P) Provisional

Statement-IX

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 1999 to March, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme	
		Rice		Wheat		Wheat	
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	228.54	1550.00	0.00	0.00	20.81	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.53	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Assam	70.04	9.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	101.19	5.59	179.41	8.31	0.00	0.04
5.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	18.10	0.20	0.00	0.00
6.	Goa	2.34	1.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Gujarat	44.06	15.54	44.06	16.01	23.25	13.10
8.	Haryana	26.65	12.92	26.65	21.32	0.90	0.02
9.	Himachal Pradesh	20.83	14.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	18.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
11.	Karnataka	121.95	97.10	47.81	41.90	0.00	0.00
12.	Kerala	49.85	54.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Madhya Pradesh	98.39	75.61	122.28	102.94	0.00	0.00
14.	Maharashtra	288.72	153.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Manipur	7.64	6.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
16.	Meghalaya	9.62	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17.	Mizoram	2.92	2.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Nagaland	2.92	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Orissa	97.01	55.37	0.00	0.00	20.79	6.80
20.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	52.99	0.90	0.00	0.00
21.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	166.05	89.82	5.00	0.00
22.	Sikkim	2.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Tamil Nadu	118.74	68.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
24.	Tripura	0.00	1.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Uttar Pradesh	166.48	69.99	291.38	142.21	0.00	0.00
26.	West Bengal	260.34	130.87	3.06	5.57	0.00	0.00
27.	A & N Islands	1.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
28.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.69	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	Daman & Diu	0.45	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Pondicherry	1.22	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	1747.39	933.82	952.18	429.18	70.75	19.96

The allocation during 1999-2000 was for MDM and Nutrition Programme only.
The allocation under Nutrition Programme was for Wheat only.
(Provisional)

Statement-X

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2000 to March, 2001 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme		Total	Annapurna	
		Rice		Wheat		Wheat				
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot. (Rice + Wheat)	Rice Offtake	Wheat Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	234.61	128.84	0.00	0.00	23.00	0.00	11.19	4.87	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.43	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.22	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	70.15	9.72	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	54.47	32.34	132.52	38.16	0.00	0.00	26.59	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	30.90	25.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	17.98	5.73	0.00	0.00	0.97	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	2.62	2.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	59.40	18.22	60.18	18.14	22.30	9.63	5.32	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	20.08	13.10	20.56	13.21	0.00	0.30	2.07	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	16.61	14.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.91	4.95	0.35
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	22.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.23	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	21.43	6.49	2.04	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	114.57	99.91	46.93	46.34	0.00	0.93	8.17	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	46.56	49.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.34	0.94	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	80.53	74.32	138.09	117.89	1.20	0.51	14.38	0.00	0.00
16.	Maharashtra	280.69	236.13	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	16.08	0.00	0.00
17.	Manipur	6.75	637	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	8.91	1.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.92	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.12	0.00
20.	Nagaland	3.04	2.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.31	0.00
21.	Orissa	101.19	55.20	0.00	0.00	4.46	3.00	7.78	4.80	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	39.83	4.20	2.41	1.09	1.50	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	130.31	100.55	2.00	2.00	5.70	0.07	2.88
24.	Sikkim	2.26	2.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
25.	Tamil Nadu	107.48	74.95	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.65	10.33	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	1.53	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.52	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	132.70	43.69	232.42	49.90	0.00	0.00	30.13	0.00	5.26
28.	Uttaranchal	9.39	3.99	2.24	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
29.	West Bengal	218.86	175.33	0.00	10.46	0.00	0.00	11.48	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	1.13	0.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.39	0.20	0.80	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.72	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.44	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.23	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.19	0.00	0.00
	Total	1657.23	1088.03	823.47	405.18	68.17	18.11	165.15	16.58	8.56

The allocation during 1999-2000 was for MDM, Nutrition Programme and Annapurna only.

The allocation under Nutrition Programme was for Wheat only.

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.

(Provisional)

Statement-XI

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2001 to March, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme		Total	Annapurna	
		Rice		Wheat		Wheat		Allot. (Rice + Wheat)	Rice Offtake	Wheat Offtake
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Andhra Pradesh	232.75	167.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.14	21.53	14.03	11.99	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4.30	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.09	0.00
3.	Assam	91.72	32.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.27	0.67	0.19
4.	Bihar	46.92	35.87	170.75	107.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.06	6.47	10.62
5.	Chhattisgarh	126.72	59.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	0.00	3.20	0.94	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.21	6.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.07	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
7.	Goa	2.41	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00
8.	Gujarat	45.08	10.65	45.08	11.36	0.09	0.03	22.05	11.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	24.25	18.43	24.25	18.34	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	20.06	19.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.76	0.23	0.20
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	21.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.50	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	21 43	18.17	2.04	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.51	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	120.45	106.11	35.70	29.16	36.42	7.86	37.00	16.98	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	46.69	43.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.51	3.52	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	44.35	35.91	146.26	131.51	5.73	0.07	55.16	29.68	0.00	1.12	4.44
16.	Maharashtra	293.76	249.86	0.00	0.00	33.96	23.83	0.00	9.03	17.82	0.09	0.10
17.	Manipur	8.38	6.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	0.05	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	12.57	8.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.11	0.18	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.95	2.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.10	0.00
20.	Nagaland	4.79	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.81	0.40	0.00
21.	Orissa	92.22	79.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.92	10.63	6.50	6.45	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.42	49.79	28.83	2.27	0.00	3.04	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	18.65	147.31	0.00	0.00	4.60	0.00	12.64	0.00	10.93
24.	Sikkim	2.42	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	116.01	81.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	2.57	8.64	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	14.24	9.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.78	1.78	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	161.26	128.61	313.87	245.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	42.00	0.00	28.89
28.	Uttaranchal	19.21	15.87	1.72	0.51	0.00	0.00	7.00	1.05	1.27	1.00	0.05
29.	West Bengal	287.44	207.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.60	1.37	0.38
30.	A & N Islands	1.15	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.06	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.04	0.56	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.76	0.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.45	0.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.25	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.00
	Total	1867.50	1348.81	996.79	727.96	80.17	31.85	175.11	103.41	162.25	37.06	55.80

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.
(Provisional)

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels			SGRY				Food for Work			
		Total	Rice	Wheat	Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	100.23	62.28	0.00	232.44	381.67	0.00	0.00	1650.00	1598.63	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.18	0.00	0.00	328.70	102.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	0.00	0.00	0.00	228.48	24.90	0.00	0.00	100.00	5.05	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.29	124.22	0.00	2.75	120.55	130.38	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.01	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	5.32	0.00	3.19	0.00	0.14	92.45	11.60	11.59	25.03	46.51	80.76
9.	Haryana	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	88.79	66.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.06	5.46	7.19	5.08	0.00	5.97	0.00	0.00
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.98	13.20	9.73	6.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	0.76	0.00	0.00	11.52	10.01	53.54	8.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
13.	Karnataka	17.07	8.03	3.10	158.96	117.88	22.55	17.90	57.46	57.25	42.54	42.54
14.	Kerala	1.61	0.75	0.00	41.52	13.25	0.00	0.00	5.00	4.98	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	89.92	78.57	265.88	253.78	43.43	60.72	145.24	208.92
16.	Maharashtra	20.85	0.29	0.37	81.86	24.58	153.90	39.81	28.00	7.44	112.00	27.09
17.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.38	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.97	10.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	1.01	1.01	0.00	7.25	5.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.18	5.19	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Orissa	21.94	1.08	0.00	197.81	175.63	0.00	0.00	150.00	155.76	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.67	14.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	3.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	137.59	9.52	0.00	0.00	621.36	502.23
24.	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.59	3.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	17.41	2.94	0.00	151.84	34.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
26.	Tripura	0.18	0.00	0.09	32.67	17.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	253.52	10.55	244.74	121.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
28.	Uttaranchal	0.13	0.00	0.00	16.98	5.88	12.89	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	5.82	0.00	0.00	225.60	146.57	0.00	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.64	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	196.47	76.42	6.79	2357.09	1318.92	1114.37	563.66	2166.03	2051.21	967.65	861.54

Allocation under SC/ST/OBC Hostels Scheme was in terms of foodgrains.
(Provisional)

Statement-XII

Allotment and Offtake of Rice and Wheat from April, 2002 to October, 2002 under Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Mid day Meal (MDM)				Nutrition Programme				Annapurna		
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat		Total	Rice	Wheat
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot (Rice+Wheat)	Offtake	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1.	Andhra Pradesh	223.69	76.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.30	11.18	5.15	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5.00	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00
3.	Assam	91.72	25.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.01
4.	Bihar	57.59	15.82	185.29	52.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.04	4.51
5.	Chhattisgarh	74.55	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	4.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	0.00	0.00	20.22	1.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	2.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.02	0.00
8.	Gujarat	32.59	5.97	32.59	6.08	0.00	0.00	28.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00
9.	Haryana	23.07	11.30	23.07	11.47	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
10.	Himachal Pradesh	19.20	10.48	0.00	0.00	1.88	0.20	2.14	0.23	0.76	0.51	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	24.66	0.06	0.00	0.00	1.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12.	Jharkhand	47.44	7.97	4.36	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.52	2.96	0.00
13.	Karnataka	142.92	58.39	10.64	6.08	55.99	13.41	35.00	4.15	0.00	0.00	0.00
14.	Kerala	47.11	28.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	49.31	20.40	161.34	67.04	2.00	0.00	60.00	15.15	0.00	0.55	2.18
16.	Maharashtra	297.93	158.17	0.00	0.00	33.96	8.95	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.01	0.02
17.	Manipur	8.62	5.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	13.04	8.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00
19.	Mizoram	2.81	0.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	4.79	3.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.00
21.	Orissa	123.76	50.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.57	7.03	0.00	3.71	0.00
22.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	48.62	18.70	21.06	0.00	28.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
23.	Rajasthan	0.00	0.00	154.04	88.20	0.00	0.00	5.16	1.07	12.64	0.00	6.65
24.	Sikkim	2.31	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	108.03	41.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	18.76	3.84	8.64	2.62	0.00
26.	Tripura	13.80	3.16	0.00	0.00	3.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.77	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	151.10	66.12	294.57	127.78	0.00	0.00	31.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.04
28.	Uttaranchal	20.79	5.25	3.86	0.69	0.00	1.40	7.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00
29.	West Bengal	292.92	116.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.16	1.98	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	1.08	0.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	1.25	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.30	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.78	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.25	0.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	Total	1884.23	723.26	939.85	380.78	120.26	23.96	280.81	45.27	46.80	25.91	33.41

Allocation under Annapurna was made in terms of foodgrains.
(Provisional)

(In '000 Tonnes)

Sl.No.	States/UTs	SC/ST/OBC/Hostels				SGRY			
		Rice		Wheat		Rice		Wheat	
		Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake	Allot.	Offtake
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72.24	40.96	0.00	0.00	2024.26	1463.06	0.00	0.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.57	0.21	0.19	0.00	4.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	34.12	0.04	0.00	0.01	0.00	174.91	0.00	0.00
4.	Bihar	44.39	0.00	66.58	0.00	131.46	108.37	0.00	0.00
5.	Chhattisgarh	22.52	0.00	6.46	0.00	259.31	8.14	0.00	0.00
6.	Delhi	1.58	0.00	6.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
7.	Goa	0.40	0.01	0.25	0.00	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00
8.	Gujarat	9.86	0.00	27.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.08	49.70
9.	Haryana	0.00	0.00	13.04	0.05	0.00	0.00	78.69	69.92
10.	Himachal Pradesh	4.38	0.70	2.92	0.23	9.58	3.58	8.46	1.84
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	8.06	0.00	2.54	0.00	7.12	6.93	3.43	2.56
12.	Jharkhand	16.30	0.00	24.44	0.00	96.44	20.93	56.22	13.43
13.	Karnataka	44.57	7.96	11.15	2.19	318.89	257.99	14.97	13.57
14.	Kerala	27.62	0.45	0.00	0.00	51.48	43.31	0.00	0.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	19.18	0.00	44.53	0.00	165.16	45.76	265.35	170.27
16.	Maharashtra	40.66	3.56	75.52	5.34	49.92	52.75	90.51	87.02
17.	Manipur	2.20	0.37	0.00	0.00	4.53	1.02	0.00	0.00
18.	Meghalaya	3.25	0.57	0.00	0.00	7.23	4.41	0.00	0.00
19.	Mizoram	1.21	0.71	0.00	0.00	1.85	2.80	0.00	0.00
20.	Nagaland	1.78	0.00	0.43	0.00	3.58	2.78	1.96	1.96
21.	Orissa	74.22	1.74	0.00	0.00	495.14	371.39	0.00	0.00
22.	Punjab	1.32	0.00	7.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.96	7.79
23.	Rajasthan	0.47	0.00	39.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.86	355.52
24.	Sikkim	0.77	0.04	0.00	0.00	2.76	0.02	0.00	0.00
25.	Tamil Nadu	91.15	13.39	0.00	0.00	190.64	106.08	0.00	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
26.	Tripura	5.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.89	18.35	0.00	0.00
27.	Uttar Pradesh	49.63	0.00	108.02	0.00	81.34	106.54	493.38	323.08
28.	Uttaranchal	4.69	0.00	2.63	0.00	44.94	15.19	26.98	9.46
29.	West Bengal	72.73	0.01	12.41	0.00	93.80	98.05	0.00	0.00
30.	A & N Islands	0.25	0.00	0.12	0.00	0.38	0.57	0.00	0.00
31.	Chandigarh	0.01	0.00	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
32.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.05	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
33.	Daman & Diu	0.22	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00
34.	Lakshadweep	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.17	0.00	0.00
35.	Pondicherry	1.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.64	0.32	0.00	0.00
	Total	658.21	70.72	452.67	7.82	4058.34	2913.42	1420.85	1105.92

(Provisional)

Direct Tax Cases In Court

736. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

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

(a) whether the rate of acquittal in the cases relating to direct taxes filed in courts by the revenue department is high because the cases of direct taxes are not pursued properly;

(b) if so, the number of persons acquitted during each of the last three years and the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the working of the Department of Revenue in this respect has been reviewed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Number of persons acquitted during last three years are as under:

Financial Year	Number of persons acquitted
1999-2000	1465
2000-2001	419
2001-2002	199
2002-2003 (upto 31.10.2002)	335

Prosecution complaints for the offences under the Direct Tax laws are filed after taking legal advice of and are defend by the Department Counsels as per due process laid down in this regard. Many offenders come forward for compounding of their offences which is allowed as per provisions of law in this regard.

(c) to (e) Instructions have been issued from time to time to field officers for proper collection and marshalling of evidences resulting in successful prosecution.

[English]

Fake Trusts

737. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government have drawn to the news item captioned "I-T Officer runs fake trust" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 18th September, 2002;

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

(c) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this matter;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty?

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

(b) The CBI has registered a case RC 43(A)/2002 against an officer of the level of Director General of Income Tax and two other private individuals regarding issue of tax clearance certificates. Subsequently, a search was conducted at the official and residential premises of the officer by the CBI. Report from the CBI is yet to be received.

(c) and (d) The CBI is conducting investigations, which are in progress.

(e) The officer has already been transferred to a different station and action, if necessary, will be taken after the investigation report of the CBI is received.

Issuance of Ten Rupee Coin

738. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:

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

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to issue ten rupees coin;

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

(c) whether any measures are being taken by the Reserve Bank of India for withdrawal of soiled and mutilated notes from circulation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether issuing of coins through post offices is also being contemplated; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A new series of coins is being planned that would include a coin in Rs. 10 denomination too.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have instructed all branches of Public Sector Banks and currency chest branches of Private Sector Banks to exchange soiled and mutilated notes held by public. Special measures have been adopted by the RBI for processing of lower denomination notes by examination under random sampling method and by resorting to quick destruction of the lot when the discrepancy level are found below the prescribed tolerance level. Besides, RBI have already installed Currency Verification and Processing Systems (CVPS) in their nine issue offices and are in the process of installing these CVPS in the remaining offices to expedite the processing and destruction of soiled notes.

(e) and (f) A pilot arrangement for distribution of coins have been entered into between Reserve Bank of India, Mumbai and General Post Office (GPO), Mumbai. GPO receives full bags of coins of various.denominations from the RBI and delivers the coins to different post offices in the Maharashtra circle for issue of coins over their counters. So far, GPO, Mumbai has received a total of 5170 bags of rupee coins worth Rs. 2.84 crores for distribution through their offices. Other RBI Offices are also in discussion with the postal authorities for entering into similar arrangement.

[Translation]

Increase In Foreign Exchange Reserves

739. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the facts responsible for the increase and decrease in foreign exchange reserve of the country; and

(b) the details of the dependence of foreign exchange reserve on international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The increase or decrease in foreign exchange reserves depends in general on India's international transactions both on the current and capital accounts of balance of payments.

(b) International economic situation including developments in global capital markets also affects India's foreign trade, invisible and capital flows and thereby have some impact on the foreign exchange reserves. India's foreign exchange reserves (including gold and SDRs) held by the Reserve Bank of India amounted to US $ 65.38 billion as on November 8, 2002, which is equivalent to more than one year's imports.

Bank for Minorities

740. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established banks for the development of Minority Communities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned/released by the Government to these banks during each of the last three years; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to release full sanctioned amount to these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) No separate bank has been established by the Government for the minority communities. However, Government is committed for the development of minority communities by providing credit facilities through banks under various Govt. sponsored schemes. Banks have to ensure that credit is made available to the members of minority communities in an adequate measure not only in the 44 districts identified by the Government as having concentration of minority communities but also in the country as a whole. As per the available data the flow of credit to these communities is steadily increasing. The credit flow to these communities under priority sector during the last three years is given below:

(No. of accounts in lakhs)
(Amount in Rs. Crores)

Year ended (March)	In all the districts in the country	
	No. of A/Cs	Amount Outstanding
2000	65.77	12998.81
2001	64.92	14449.59
2002	71.63	16500.04

[English]

Import of Growth

741. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether country's import has registered a steep increase in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details of imports done in this period and the comparative data of the same for the previous couple of years;

(c) the items which have shown increasing trend of imports;

(d) whether the Government evaluated the impact of these increase in imports on the indigenous producing sectors of these items;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken/being taken to reduce the increasing trend of imports and to save the benefits of domestic producers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) There is a marginal increase in the growth of import during April-August 2002. Import growth during the period was 10.4% as compared to 9.8% for the corresponding period of last year.

(c) Items which have contributed significantly to this growth are the following Pearls precious & semi precious stones, Transport Electronic goods, Machinery except electrical and electronic, Vegetable oils (edible), Organic chemicals, Petroleum, crude & products.

(d) to (f) The imports are being closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers.

Loans to Handicapped

742. SHRI T. GOVINDAN:
SHRI P.C. THOMAS:

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

(a) whether National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation and National Handicapped Finance Development Corporation have given loan to handicapped persons through State Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Union Government to discontinue the system of double guarantee for such loan;

(d) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps taken to help the handicapped persons by support from banks and financial institutions for putting up projects of their own?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Whereas State Channelising Agencies of National Backward Classes Finance Development Corporation (NBCFDC) are not maintaining separate data relating to coverage of handicapped persons belonging to backward classes, the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) has sanctioned Rs. 45.46 crores upto 31-10-2002 to 11,294 handicapped persons in various States/UTs as per details given in *Statement* attached.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Steps have been taken to involve banks and financial institutions to extend loan to disabled persons upto at least 3% of their target of priority sector loaning.

Statement

(Amount in Rs. lacs)

S. No.	States/UTs	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Beneficiaries
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	268.24	1062
2.	Assam	2.00	20
3.	Bihar	3.00	30
4.	Chandigarh	28.24	77
5.	Chhattisgarh	15.26	32
6.	Delhi	10.78	151
7.	Goa	17.93	16
8.	Gujarat	566.90	1397
9.	Haryana	776.33	1843
10.	Himachal Pradesh	77.74	108
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	7.65	5
12.	Karnataka	6.65	76
13.	Kerala	433.04	899
14.	Lakshadweep	12.49	21
15.	Madhya Pradesh	495.54	1120
16.	Maharashtra	63.72	126
17.	Manipur	2.00	20
18.	Nagaland	120.62	265
19.	Orissa	625.58	1437
20.	Pondicherry	171.98	361
21.	Punjab	34.54	62
22.	Rajasthan	599.15	1041
23.	Tamil Nadu	71.71	447
24.	Tripura	14.31	63
25.	Uttar Pradesh	11.12	43
26.	West Bengal	109.87	572
	Total	4546.39	11294

[Translation]

Bifurcation of UTI

743. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to bifurcate UTI into two parts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the financial implications of bifurcation of UTI on shareholders and the extent of impact alongwith the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme in UTI; and

(e) if so, the time by which it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Government have decided to bifurcate Unit Trust of India (UTI) into two parts (i) a specified undertaking comprising of the guaranteed portion consisting of US-64 and Assured Return Schemes, which will be managed by a Government appointed Administrator, assisted by a team of Advisers. It will not launch any new scheme; and (ii) a specified company comprising of all NAV based schemes and which will be fully complaint with SEBI Regulations and shall be professionally managed. It will be subsequently divested and the sales proceeds, net of expenses, will accrue to the Government.

(c) The Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 2002, inter alia, provides that the initial capital contributed by the IDBI, LIC, SBI and the subsidiary bank and other institutions will be refunded by the Government depending upon the book value, assets and liabilities of the UTI.

(d) and (e) The Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 2002, *inter alia*, provides that officers and other employees of the UTI, other than the Chairman, trustees of the board and executive trustee shall be the officers and other employees of the specified company, on the same terms and conditions as applicable to them before repeal of the UTI Act, 1963.

[English]

Import Duty on Rubber and Other Crops

744. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala Government regarding increase in import duty for rubber; coir and other commercial crops for the benefit of its producers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action to open the tea estates in the State of Kerala which where abandoned; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Representations have been received from the Government of Kerala, various Members of Parliament and planters' associations for increasing the import duty/bound rate of duty on Natural Rubber. In respect of coir no representation for increase in import duty has been received.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However as an interim measure, the Government of Kerala has allowed supply of ration and medical facilities to the workers of the abandoned tea estates and also deferred the agricultural income tax.

Benefits of SCTL Scheme

745. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government and Coffee growers of the State have urged the Union Government to liberalise the rules and restrictions of Special Coffee Term Loan Scheme (SCTL) at present only 5% of growers are utilising the benefit of SCTL;

(b) whether the Government have called a meeting of Reserve Bank officials, Coffee growers and public representatives recently;

(c) if so, the major decisions taken in the meeting to provide more facilities like housing, transportation, etc. under SCTL to Coffee growers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) After the announcement in July 2002 of a new relief package for coffee sector viz. Special

Coffee Term Loan (SCTL) 2002 by the Reserve Bank of India, requests have been received from various quarters for liberalising the terms and conditions of SCTL package. On the basis of requests made by coffee growers associations/Members of Parliament/Govt. of Karnataka etc., this package was further improved to effectively address the concerns of the growers. Under the improved package, the banks have been empowered to raise the repayment period to 9 years and above and also the moratorium period from 2 to 3 years after making assessment on merits of the individual cases. Further, a number of long term loans components such as estate purchase loans (where growers and substantial stake), vehicle loans (tractor, jeep etc.) house loans (at the farm or in same Taluk) which were earlier excluded from the purview of the SCTL have been included, if these could be related to coffee related operations. Regarding the condition to repay 75% of previous dues to be eligible for fresh loans, the banks now can take a decision in the matter on a case by case basis, subject to approval by their respective Boards.

The progress of implementation of SCTL package is being closely monitored by the Govt. of India. Recently, in a meeting convened by the Govt. with the representatives of leading commercial banks involved in coffee loaning activities, the Banks were requested by the Govt. to ensure that the benefits envisaged under the package are fully available to the growers, by being more flexible in dealing with the problem of the coffee growers, particularly those relating to fresh crop loans, within the overall guidelines issued by RBI with respect to the SCTL. The Banks have agreed to the following measures to provide further relief to the coffee growers:

- Deferment of interest due during the current year on the coffee loans, to be recovered over the next three years.
- For sanctioning fresh crop loans, the Banks will adopt a flexible approach relating to repayment of crop loans availed by the coffee growers earlier.
- The option of availing of the benefits under the SCT would be available to the growers till 31.12.2002.

Further, at the request of the Government, the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (NABARD) has also set up a "Plantation Industry Cell (PIC)", for providing prompt attention to the credit related problems of the plantation industry.

The Banks and Coffee Board through their extension network have been disseminating the information regarding relief packages to the coffee growers for successful implementation of SCTL package.

I.T. Returns Associations

746. SHRI AMBAREESHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to allow various associations to file income tax returns in bulk;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) At present there is no proposal to allow Association to file income tax returns in bulk.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) The reason is that Bulk filing of returns is beneficial only if all the returns to be filed pertain to one single Assessing Officer. An Association filing bulk returns at one place for its members falling in the jurisdiction of different Assessing Officers will result in administrative problems.

Dividend to Shareholders of Companies

747. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations of the Committee set up by Department of Company Affairs to allow companies to pay dividends to their shareholders electronically;

(b) whether the Government propose to amend the Companies Act, 1956 to make mandatory for the companies to pay dividends to their shareholders electronically; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No Committee has been set up by Department of Company Affairs for this purpose.

(b) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Setting up of Haats

748. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of profit earned in rupees by the Governments during the last two years and as on date from Delli Haat; and

(b) the norms prescribed for the allocation of stalls in Haats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Government does not earn any profit from the Delhi Haat. It is a joint venture between the Ministry of Textiles, Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DT&TDC), and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC), New Delhi.

The details of profit earned by DT&TDC Delhi from Dilli Haat during the last two year and the current financial year i.e. 2002-03 (April 2002 to Sept., 2002) is as under:—

S. No.	Year	Profit earned (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	2000-2001	Rs. 104.05
2.	2001-2002	Rs. 189.88
3.	2002-2003 (April-September)	Rs. 50.24

(b) The allotment of stalls in Delli Haat are made only to registered artisans/weavers representing States slotted in the Annual Calendar chalked out in Advance. The participating artisans/weavers get the next turn of allotment not before a cooling off period of three months.

[English]

Withdrawal of Rice from FCI Godowns

749. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State of Andhra Pradesh has proposed to the Union Government that it should allow withdrawal of rice from the Food Corporation of India godowns within the State;

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

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

(d) the other details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has not sent any proposal to Central Government to allow withdrawal of rice from the FCI godowns within the State.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Subsidy for Handling of Foodgrains

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

(a) whether the Government provide subsidy for handling of food-grains;

(b) if so, norms adopted for the purpose;

(c) whether the subsidy is being paid to the farmers;

(d) if so, the reasons and details of the same; and

(e) the extent to which the farmers are benefited by this payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) The amount of subsidy provided by Government of India to the FCI and to the State Governments for distribution of foodgrains under decentralized procurement scheme during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

	FCI	State Government	Total
1999-2000	8856.72	343.28	9200.00
2000-2001	11462.00	548.00	12010.00
2001-2002	16724.00	770.00	17494.00

(b) Food subsidy is paid for covering the gap between the economic cost of foodgrains and the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of the foodgrains distributed. FCI is also reimbursed the cost of carrying buffer stocks.

(c) to (e) Farmers are paid the Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) fixed by the Government for the grains procured from them. Procurement operations by Government agencies ensure that there is no distress sale of foodgrains by the farmers.

Data of Offences

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

(a) whether the Customs Department developed a software called data on offences, smuggling, seizures, investigations, evasion and rewards (DOSSIER) to check offenders at airports;

(b) if so, whether the software become operational;

(c) if so, the results achieved so far; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be operated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (d) No. Sir, No such software has been developed to check offenders at airports. However Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has developed a software called Data on offences, smuggling, seizures, investigations, evasions and rewards (DOSSIER) only for tabulation of data relating to seizure, confiscation etc. Similarly, some of the Customs Commissionerates have developed need based software mainly for storage of information about seizure confiscation etc. These softwares are not capable of detection any offenders at the airports.

Import of Garlic

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

(a) whether he importers of garlic have demanded the Government to grant quotas for import of garlic;

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

(c) whether the Government had issued quotas to some public sector agencies for import of garlic; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Under the current Exim Policy, import of fresh garlic is restricted. For grant of import licence for this item, applications are to be made in accordance with prescribed Policy & Procedure. The licences are granted in consultation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

(c) and (d) During 2002-2003, 15,000 MT of fresh garlic have been allocated to 4 Co-operatives Societies, namely (1) NAFED, (2) NCCF, (3) Karnataka State Co-operative Marketing Federation, and (4) M.P. State Co-operative Marketing Federation.

[Translation]

Blacklisting of NGO

753. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government funds are being misutilised in the name of NGO's;

(b) if so, the State-wise details of such institutions which have been blacklisted so far;

(c) whether report of misutilsing of funds meant for de-addiction centres in Maharashtra have been received; and

(d) if so, the details of such institutions and the steps taken by the Government to check them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) A few NGO's have misutilised Govt. funds. The details are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) and (d) The de-addition centers in Maharashtra at serial numbers 24, 25, 26 & 29 were found non-existent and those at serial numbers 27 and 28 were found non-functional. These organizations have been blacklisted and the State Government has been directed to recover the grants released and seize the assets.

Statement

List of NGOs for whom Grant has been suspended/blacklisted

Sl.No.	Name of the NGO	Action Taken by the Ministry
1	2	3
State: Andhra Pradesh		
1.	Sri Durga Education Society, D. No. 17-105, Sundaraiyet street, Chittor—District, Andhra Pradesh	Black listed
2.	Centre for Rural Education and Development Society, D. No.2-163-1, Chakalaveedi, Gorantla, Distt. Anantpur, AP	Black listed
3.	Learning in the Field of Training (LIFT), Flat No. 302, Rocky Apartments Venkatreddy Colony, Secunderabad, AP	Black listed
4.	Mercy Minority Educational Society, 13-2-668, Ist Cross, Ramchandra Nagar, Anantpur, AP	Black listed
5.	Adarsh Mahila Mandali, MIG-II 50, APHB Colony, Anantpur-District, Andhra Pradesh-515001.	Black listed
6.	Cultural Action in Rural Development, Pamidi, Anantpur-Distt., AP	Black listed
7.	Sangameshwara Educational Society, D.No. 11-292-A2-02, 4th Cross, Aravind Nagar, Anantpur-Distt., AP	Black listed
8.	Yuvajana Vikalangula Samkeshma, Sangam Kummara, Palam Road, Vinukonda, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh-522647	Black listed
9.	Navodaya Seva Sangam, H.No.10-107, Netaji Road, Jadcherla, Mahabubnagar, Andhra Pradesh	Black listed
10.	Zila Viklangula Sangham Dakshinam Bazar, Vinukonda, Guntur District, Andhra Pradesh	Black listed
11.	Christ Rural Development Educational Society, Distt.: Anantpur, Andhra Pradesh	Black listed
12.	Social Service Society for Poor People, 1/2909, Tharaka Ramapuram, Dharamevaram-515671, Anantpur (AP)	Black listed
13.	Mother India, Gorantla-515231. Anantpur-District, Andhra Pradesh	Black listed
State: Bihar		
14.	Gula Singh Mahila Evam Bal Kalyan Sangh, Vill & P.O. Rukundipur, Daraunda Siwan, Bihar	Black listed
15.	Gramin Vikas Sangathan, Gaya Bihar (under Scheme for Spl. School for MR Children & Scheme for Rehabilitation Centre for Mentally Retarded)	Black listed

1	2	3
State: Goa		
16.	Asha Bhavan, Boa Vista, Bastora, Goa-403507.	Black listed
State: Gujarat		
17.	Bhagini Niketan, 10/Tulsi Marg, Baug Colony, Near Core House Ambawadi, Ahmedabad, Gujarat	Black listed
18.	Unigramodhyog Rachanatmak Samiti, Surendera Nagar, Gujarat	Black listed
State: Karnataka		
19.	Suparna Women Welfare Association, H.N. 1-3-290, Vijayanagar Layout MPCL, Karnataka	Black listed
20.	Bhanu Education Society, No. 2, Ist Main 11th Cross 80 feet Road, Kangery Satellite Town, Karnataka	Black listed
21.	Society for Planning Urban and Rural Development, Bangalore,	Further grant in-aid has been stopped.
22.	Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Pre-examination Coaching Centre, Near Ram Mandir, Bidar-585041	Black listed
23.	Independent Pre-examination Coaching Centre, 1, Muniyappa Layout, New Police Station Road, K.R. Puram, Bangalore	Black listed
State: Maharashtra		
24.	International Mission of Dr. Ambedkar Education Society, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Black listed
25.	Tantrik Prashikshan Sansthan, Amravati, Maharashtra	Black listed
26.	Shiv Shakti Education Society, Nagpur, Maharashtra	Black listed
27.	Jan Kalyan Samaj Vikas Sanstha, Osmanabad, Maharashtra	Black listed
28.	Saheed Abdul Hameed Education Institute, Cherwha, Khatipura, Ward No. 60, Distt.: Yuvatmal, Maharashtra	Black listed
29.	Apanga Association, Nandgaon, Khandeswa, Amrawati, Maharashtra.	Black listed
30.	Akshar Sarvajanik Vachanaleya, Ambikanagar, Malkapur, Akola, Maharashtra	Black listed
31.	Apanga Mahila Mandal Amravati, Kamala Jadhav, Maharashtra	Black listed
32.	Savitribai Jyotirao Phule Samaj Sewa Sansthan Tarhala, Tarhala, Taluk Magroolpir, Distt. Akola, Maharashtra.	Black listed
33.	Jambuvant Maharaj Shikshan Sanstha, Banjara Colony, Khokapura, Aurangabad, Maharashtra	Black listed

1	2	3
	State: Orissa	
34.	Association of Moral Guide and Service to Poor (AMGALAS), At/P.O. Distt. Nayagarh, Orissa	Black listed
35.	Orissa Association of the Deaf, Plot No. 105/A, Palashpalli, Aerodrome Area, Bhubaneshwar, Pin-751009 (Orissa).	Black listed
	State: Rajasthan	
36.	Chetna Public School Shikshan Samiti, B-22, Sanjay Colony Nehru Nagar, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	Black listed
37.	Social Welfare Charitable Trust, 638-A, Barkat Nagar Tonk Phatak, Jaipur, Rajasthan	Black listed
38.	Asha Bal Mandir Shiksha Samiti, Plot No. 1 B. Krishnapuri, Jaipur-1 (Rajasthan)	Black listed
	State: Sikkim	
39.	SHRADHA, Pakyong East Sikkim	Black listed
	State: Tamil Nadu	
40.	Social Welfare Society, 2-A, Main Road, Tittagudi, Tamil Nadu	Black listed
41.	Enmasse Counselling Technical Centre, 157, Alwarpet Street, Chennai	Black listed
42.	Street Elfins Education & Development Society, No. 6, Ist Cross Street Lake Area, Nungambakkam, Chennai, TN	Further grant-in-aid has been stopped.
	State: Uttar Pradesh	
43.	Bhartiya Samajothan Sewa Sansthan, Nehru Nagar, Chakiyawa, Deoria, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
44.	Akhil Bharatiya Samaj Kalyan Prathisthan, Sewa Puri, Deoria, U.P.	Black listed
45.	Anjuman Madrasa Islamia, Urai Jalaun, U.P.	Black listed
46.	National Institute of Social Welfare, 5/13/43B, Behind Gurudwara, Khawaspura, Faizabad, U.P.	Black listed
47.	Sarvodaya Gram Avam Mahila Vikas Sansthan M. Rampur, U.P.	Black listed
48.	Ambedkar Shiksha Prasarak Samiti, Nilchlaul, Maharajganj, U.P.	Black listed
49.	Abhinav Sewa Sansthan, Dwarika Ganj, Sultanpur, U.P.	Black listed
50.	U.P. Rana Beni Madhav Jan Kalyan Samiti, Rai Bareily, U.P.	Black listed
51.	Jan Sewa Sansthan, Vill. + P.O.: Kaundhiyara, Distt.: Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
52.	Nandini Bal Vikas and Gramin Gramodhyog Sewa Samiti, Vill. Parbati, P.O. Harwanshpur, Distt. Gonda, U.P.	Black listed

1	2	3
53.	Rashtriya Samaj Kalyan Sansthan, B-405, Gopal Tower, 50 Ram Tirath Marg, Lucknow, UP	Black listed
54.	Jan Kalyan Avam Nari Uthan Samiti, 104, Sahebganj, Faizabad District, UP	Black listed
55.	Propkari Sansthan, LS-2/648, Sector-F, Janakipuram, Lucknow, UP	Black listed
56.	Bhartiya Gramin Kshetra Gramodyog Vikas Samiti, Jai Narain Verma Road, Fatehgarh, Farukhabad, UP	Black listed
57.	Manav Shiksha Prasar Samiti, 280/69, Tilak Nagar, Baghambari Road, Allahabad, UP	Black listed
58.	Bal Vikas Avam Mahila Kalyan Parishad, Distt. Gonda, UP	Black listed
59.	Awadh Sansthan, Ramghat, Ayodhaya, Faizabad, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
60.	Ambedkar Gramodyog Sewa Sansthan Ram Janki Nagar, Gorakhpur, UP	Black listed
61.	Prabhat Antarrashtriya, M.D.I., L.D.A. Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
62.	Sewa Lok Kalyan Samiti, Tarangini Marg, Elidco Colony, Bangla Bazar, P.O.: Bhadrakh, Lucknow, UP	Black listed
63.	Sarva Kalyan Sansthan, 564/44, Guru Nanak Road, Alambagh, Lucknow, UP	Black listed
64.	Anant Ashram, L.D.-9, Sector-F, LDA Colony, Kanpur Road, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
65.	Karunodaya Sewa Sansthan, Vill.: Barkacha, P.O. Box No. 11, Distt.: Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
66.	Harijan Kalyan Samiti, Karoli Lathori, P.O.: Tandwa Jalal, Tehsil: Allapur, Distt. Ambedkar Nagar, UP	Black listed
67.	Akhil Bhartiya Samaj Kalyan Evam Mahila Vikas Sewa Sansthan, Vill.+ PO: Chakiyawa, Distt. Deoria, Uttar Pradesh	Black listed
68.	Murlidhar Shiksha Kalyan Samiti, Rusthampur, Dhiya, Jaunpur, UP	Black listed

[Translation]

Irregularities in FCI

754. SHRI AKHILESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has made a surprise visit to the godowns of Food Corporation of India situated in Delhi in the month of July, 2002;

(b) if so, the shortcomings found during this visit;

(c) whether the officials held responsible for these shortcomings were apprehended; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against these officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC

DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. Surprise inspection of Mayapuri depot of FCI was conducted on 27th July, 2002.

(b) to (d) No irregularity was finally established.

[English]

Seizure of Fake Revenue and Non-Judicial Stamp-Paper

755. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fake postal, revenue and non-judicial stamps/stamp papers worth more than Rs. 216 crore were seized in Delhi last month;

(b) if so, whether this is an off-shoot of similar fake stamp racket unearthed in Karnataka few months back;

(c) whether LIC and GIC were main users of such fake stamps/stamp papers;

(d) if so, whether any collusion between the accused and the officials of LIG/GIC has been established; and

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

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

Task Force for Common Economic Policy

756. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Task Force comprising the External Affairs Minister, Finance Minister and the Commerce Minister to have a common economic policy in India's extended neighbourhood;

(b) if so, whether any meeting was held of this task force recently;

(c) if so, the idea behind the concept of such meeting; and

(d) the manner in which trade, investment and technology will be allowed to play an important and mutual role in country's diplomacy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Indo-South Africa Agreement on Spare Parts of Vehicles

757. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed between India and South Africa regarding spare parts of vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the term of this agreement;

(d) the value of order which has been received by India for the export of spare parts so far; and

(e) the foreign exchange likely to be earned?

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

(b) to (e) Does not arise.

[English]

Export of Bio-Products

758. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been done to assess the export potential of domestic bio-products;

(b) if so, the steps taken to promote the export of such products to potential buyers; and

(c) the details of export of bio-products during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP

RUDY): (a) and (b) No survey has been carried out by Government to assess the export potential of the Indian biotechnology products so far. However, in view of its expected export potential, an Export Promotion Forum for Biotechnology has been registered by the All India Biotech Association.

(c) The quantum of export of biotechnology products by Indian companies over the past three years is as follows:—

Year	Export in Rs lakhs
1997-98	33130
1998-1999	31086
1999-2000	37973

Source: Department of Biotechnology

Bailout Package for IFCI and IDBI

759. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have offered a bailout package of Rs. 21,000 crore for IFCI and IDBI;

(b) if so, the likely impact on the fiscal deficit of the country; and

(c) the details of repayment plan of IFCI and IDBI to the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

External Debt

760. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the external debt position of the nation as on March 31, 2002;

(b) whether any efforts have been made by the Government to reduce the external debt; and

(c) if so, the achievement made in this regard during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) India's external debt stood at US$ 98.1 billion at end-March, 2002.

(b) The Government follows a prudent external debt management policy to keep the debt within manageable limits. The key elements of this policy are external borrowings from multilateral/bilateral sources concentrating on concessional and less expensive debt, limiting short term debt, prepayment of more expensive debt, encouraging non-debt creating flows on capital account and exports/invisibles on current account.

(c) Major debt indicators have been significant improvement during last three years as indicated below:

Key External Debt Indicators

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
External Debt (US$ billion) as at end-March	98.26	99.70	98.14
External Debt to GDP ratio (%)	22.2	22.3	20.8
Short term to total Debt ratio (%)	4.0	3.5	2.8
Debt Service Ratio (%)	16.2	17.3	14.1
Debt to Current Receipts ratio (%)	145.6	126.2	122.5
Interest payments to Current Receipts ratio (%)	7.3	6.6	5.4

Mediclaim Policies

761. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector insurance companies have decided to outsource mediclaims;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the broad features of the scheme prepared in this regard;

(c) whether this would impose additional burden on the public and if so; and

(d) the steps proposed to offset the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Consequent to notification of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Third Party Administrators—Health Services) Regulations, 2001, the system of TPAs has been introduced by the four public sector general insurance companies to facilitate Cashless service for medical treatment of the insured at the designated hospitals. Claims servicing by professional TPAs is also expected to result in prompt settlement of claims and reduce cost of medical treatment through better monitoring.

(c) A nominal increase to the extent of 6.0% in mediclaim premium has been approved by IRDA on account of service charges payable to TPAs.

(d) With the introduction of TPAs for handling of claims, it is expected that the current adverse claims ratio would show improvement which will, in the long run, be beneficial to the insured.

[Translation]

Recommendation of 11th Finance Commission

762. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Tenth and Eleventh Finance Commissions have recommended assistance to all the States of the country under local body item;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had accepted the recommendation of both the commissions and reported it to the Parliament;

(c) if so, whether said amount has the year 1996-97 has been given to Bihar and Jharkhand;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the amount of Rs. 625 crore earmarked for the State of Bihar for the year 1997-2001 is still outstanding with the Centre;

(f) if so, whether this amount is under unspent provision;

(g) if so, the reasons for non-payment of this amount even after Panchayat election in Bihar; and

(h) the time by which the Government will pay the outstanding amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission (EFC) were accepted by the Union Government with the condition that in cases where elected local bodies are not in place, the Central Government shall hold the share of such bodies in trust on a non-lapsable basis during 2000-2005. With the acceptance of EFC's Report on Additional Terms of Reference, the unutilized amount under specific purpose grants, including local bodies grants, due to non-fulfillment of conditionalities, would ultimately lapse to Central Government at the end of 2005-06.

(c) to (h) The Tenth Finance Commission (TFC) had recommended total grants of Rs. 507.19 crore for panchayats and Rs. 67.09 crore for urban local bodies to be provided to the then undivided State of Bihar during the period 1996-97 to 1999-2000. PRI grant amounting to Rs. 126.80 crore and ULB grant of Rs. 16.77 crore had been released to the State Government during 1996-97.

As per the guidelines issued by Ministry of Finance, the local body grant recommended by the TFC was part of a larger Constitutional scheme of devolution of functions & responsibilities from the State to local bodies with mandatory elections so that they could function as effective units of local self-government. Hence, the grants were to be released only in respect of elected local bodies wherever such elections were mandatory under the Constitution. Since the due elections to local bodies in Bihar had not been held during the TFC period 1995-2000, balance of TFC grants for the period 1997-2000 could not be released to the State Government.

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

The PRI grant for the year 2000-01 recommended by EFC have been released to the Government of Bihar.

[English]

Fifth Pay Commission Recommendation

763. SHRI C. KUPPUSAMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Pay Commission recommended that the DA due to Government employees after reaching 50 per cent will be merged to their Basic Pay;

(b) if so, whether the recommendation has been accepted by the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. However, it was recommended that DA should be converted into Dearness Pay (DP) each time the CPI increases 50 per cent over the base index. Such DP was to be counted for all purposes, including retirement benefits.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Import/Export of Natural Rubber

764. SHRI P.C. THOMAS:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) the details of imports and exports of various kinds of rubber including natural rubber taken place during the last three years;

(b) the action taken by the Government to boost export of natural rubber and reduce its undue imports to the detriment of the interest of the farmers;

(c) the details of the results of such actions and the effect of price of natural rubber by such action;

(d) whether the Government have further allowed import of rubber through various ports; and

(e) if so, the reasons for changes its earlier decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Import and export of Natural Rubber and synthetic rubber during the last 3 years are given below:—

Year	Import (in tonnes)		Export (in tonnes)	
	Natural Rubber	Synthetic Rubber	Natural Rubber	Synthetic Rubber
1999-2000	20213	94582	5989	1332
2000-2001	8970	87171	13356	1232
2001-2002	49769	99471	6995	2726

(b) and (c) To boost export of Natural Rubber and reduce its undue imports, Government has taken a series of measures which include implementing a financial incentive scheme for export promotion of Natural Rubber, exploring possibility of export to various countries, improving quality, consistency and packaging of processed rubber in the country, sponsoring trade delegations and participation in international trade fairs/exhibitions etc. For curbing import of Natural Rubber, Government has banned import of Natural Rubber against advance licences, prescribed Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) quality standards on quality of imported rubber also and restricted imports of Natural Rubber through two ports only i.e. Kolkata and Vishakhapatnam.

As a result of the above steps, there has been a significant impact on export and import of Natural Rubber during the current financial year 2002-03. While export of Natural Rubber has gone up considerably, the import of Natural Rubber has also declined. The price of Natural Rubber has also improved and is presently ruling at Rs. 3650/quintal which is higher than the minimum price fixed by the Govt.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Narcotic Drugs and Gold

765. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and the value of narcotics drugs and gold confiscated brought to the country from other countries during the last three years, state-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the smuggling of narcotics drugs and gold in the country?

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

[English]

Tobacco Platforms in Karnataka

766. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tobacco platforms at present in Karnataka location-wise;

(b) the present quantity of tobacco being grown in Karnataka;

(c) whether there is any proposal to provide 8 more platforms in Karnataka to meet the increased to tobacco production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There are eight auction platforms, at the following locations, in Karnataka:

1. H.D. Kote
2. Hunsur-I
3. Hunsur-II
4. Periyapatna
5. Periyapatna
6. Periyapatna
7. Ramanathapura
8. Shimoga

(b) The authorised crop size for Virginia tobacco for Karnataka has been fixed at 50 million kgs. 10% excess over this is permissible. This is subject to ratification by the Board.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Closure of Mills

767. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gaya Cotton and Jute Mills has been closed and its labour sent to Mukama which is a small unit as compared to Gaya mill;

(b) whether the workers have desired to either restart Gaya mill or to avail voluntary retirement scheme; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes, Sir. 247 surplus employees from this mill were redeployed in Bihar Co-operative Mills, Mukama as per the Rehabilitation Scheme approved by BIFR.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) BIFR approved a Rehabilitation Scheme for NTC (WBABO) consisting revival of viable mills and closure of unviable mills. Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills is one of the mills found unviable and proposed for closure as per the Scheme. In accordance with the direction of BIFR, the mill was closed with effect from 6.5.2002 under ID Act after redeploying 247 employees in the Bihar Co-operative Mills, Mukama (which is viable mill slated for revival as per scheme sanctioned by BIFR) and the remaining 185 employees were given VRS.

Board of Directors of Financial Institutions

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

(a) the number of Board of Directors appointed for various financial institutions during each of the last three years, financial institution-wise;

(b) the tenure of those Board of Directors; and

(c) the terms and conditions laid down in their appointments?

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

[Translation]

Implementation of Plans

769. SHRIMATI REENA CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a special evaluation team to monitor the implementation of various plans and programmes undertaken by his Ministry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs sponsors evaluation studies to Government and Non-Government Research Organisations to evaluate the implementation through the State Governments/U.T. Administration.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Regional Rural Banks

770. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of regional rural banks and their branches in North Eastern States including Sikkim alongwith names of their sponsoring banks;

(b) the number of employees/officers working in the headquarters of the regional rural banks;

(c) the profit/loss incurred by these regional rural banks during each of the last six months; and

(d) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure that these banks fulfils the objectives for which they were set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) There are 11 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with 639 branches operating in North Eastern States. There is no RRB working in Sikkim. Out of 11 RRBs, six have been sponsored by United Bank of India and five by State Bank of India.

(b) The total number of Employees/Officers working at headquarters of these RRBs is 348.

(c) National Bank for Agricultural & Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that loss/profit in RRBs are not worked out on a Half-yearly basis.

(d) The RRBs in the State of North East have been functioning as per mandate given to them. They have opened branches in un-banked areas and financed small and marginal farmers and artisans in the rural areas besides implementing the Government sponsored programmes. However, the fragile state of the RRBs necessitated initiation of several policy changes by the Government to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs. These changes inter-alia include:

- introduction of Development Action Plan and Memoranda of Understanding (DAP/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of the RRBs in planned way, introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, asset classification and provisioning norms;
- diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- rationalization of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- deregulation of interest rate structure; and
- providing greater role to the sponsor banks in the management of RRBs.

[Translation]

Old Age Homes in UP

771. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes being operated in Uttar Pradesh during the last three years, till date;

(b) the number of old age homes for which the organizations approached the Government to run and the names of such organization;

(c) the amount of expenditure of 'old age homes' being operated;

(d) whether any external financial assistance is also being obtained to operate them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The numbers of old age homes in Uttar Pradesh given financial assistance by Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date) are 29, 18, 22 and 19 respectively.

(b) The details of number and names of organizations who approached the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the financial assistance for running old age homes and whose applications are pending are given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(c) The financial assistance given by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment to the organizations for running old age homes in UP during the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 (till date) is Rs. 69.58 lakhs, Rs. 41.83 lakhs, Rs. 73.89 lakhs and Rs. 33.65 lakhs respectively.

(d) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment gives the financial assistance to the organizations to run the old age homes from its own budget. Apart from this, no external financial assistance is obtained by the Ministry to assist the organizations.

(e) Does not arise.

Statement

Details of number and names of organizations who approached the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for the financial assistance for running Old Age Homes during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date) and whose applications are pending.

Sl. No.	Year	Name of the Orgnisations	Date of Recommendations of the State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh
1.	1999-2000	Nil	Nil
2.	2000-01	Panchdevara Shiksha Vikas Samiti, Allahabad District, Uttar Pradesh	10.5.2000
3.	2001-02	Nil	Nil
4.	2002-03	Bhartiya Anusuchit Jati Janjati Vikas Samiti, Barabanki Distt., Uttar Pradesh	20.5.2002
		Manav Kalyan Samiti, Varanasi Distt. Uttar Pradesh	25.6.2002
		Lifeline Welfare Society, Sant Kabir Nagar Distt., Uttar Pradesh	16.10.2002

[English]

Schemes for Handicapped

772. PROF. I.G. SANADI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the schemes funded through National Handicapped Welfare Fund, the deployment thereof and the utilization by the respective States during the last three years; and

(b) the number of sectors provided for creation of services for the handicapped, for prevention, early detection of disabilities, education, training, physical and economic rehabilitation of disabled persons during the last two years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Scheme of training of Viklang Bandhus is implemented through National Handicapped Welfare Fund (renamed as National Fund for People with Disabilities). The number of organizations assisted and the amounts released under the Scheme during the last 3 years is as under:

Year	Number	Amount (Rs. in lacs)
2000-01	Nil	Nil
2001-02	42	83.95
2002-03 (As on Date)	15	34.39

(b) A *Statement* indicating number of voluntary organizations assisted in the area of education, training and rehabilitation under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities and under the Scheme of Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances assistance to the needy disabled persons (ADIP Scheme) is enclosed.

Statement

Details of number of Organisations given assistance during last 2 years under the Scheme to Promote Voluntary Action for Persons with Disabilities (Umbrella Scheme) and the scheme of Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances assistance to the needy disabled persons (ADIP Scheme)

State	Umbrella Scheme		ADIP Scheme	
	2000-01 Nos	2001-02 Nos	2000-01 Nos	2001-02 Nos
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	91	106	14	12
Arunachal Pradesh	1	2	0	1
Assam	8	13	0	1
Bihar	8	19	6	11
Chandigarh	2	2	0	0
Chhattisgarh	1	3	0	1
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	1	0	0
Delhi	34	36	8	12
Goa	2	3	1	1
Gujarat	25	17	6	6
Haryana	15	17	11	3
Himachal Pradesh	2	3	6	2
Jammu & Kashmir	3	4	0	0
Jharkhand	0	3	0	1
Karnataka	57	67	1	10
Kerala	55	62	2	6
Madhya Pradesh	10	15	10	7
Maharashtra	18	27	9	5
Manipur	5	8	4	0
Meghalaya	4	5	0	0
Mizoram	3	2	0	0
Nagaland	1	1	0	0
Orissa	24	27	6	15
Pondicherry	1	1	0	0
Punjab	11	11	7	8
Rajasthan	11	22	2	4
Sikkim	0	1	0	0
Tamil Nadu	37	50	12	17
Tripura	1	1	1	1
Uttar Pradesh	57	59	30	37
Uttaranchal	5	8	0	1
West Bengal	42	48	11	11

Landed Cost of Imported Edible Oil

773. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the landed cost of imported edible oil is much higher than the domestic prices;

(b) the quantity of edible oil imported during the last two years, country-wise and price-wise; and

(c) the comparison of these import prices with the indigenously produced oil prices?

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

MoU between NABARD and Union Bank of India

774. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:

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

(a) whether Union Bank of India and NABARD have signed an MoU to jointly finance, agriculture and rural projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Union Bank of India and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly finance agriculture and rural projects. The salient features of the agreement are as under:

- The arrangement of co-financing shall be extended to projects relating to agriculture, agro-processing and high-tech agricultural and rural development projects;
- The parties shall identify viable projects for financing jointly for the above;
- Loan proposals both for working capital and term loan assistance can be assisted under the arrangement;
- The quantum of financial assistance, margin requirement, security and other aspects and share of each of the party will be decided by mutual discussion;
- After sanction of the project, all necessary actions relating to dealing with the borrowers shall be taken by the bank. NABARD shall pay service charges to the bank as may be mutually agreed between the parties;
- Loan documentation shall be done at the concerned branch office of the bank for the entire loan assistance. Bank shall furnish to NABARD a copy of the loan documents duly certified;
- Loan assistance extended shall be disbursed to the borrowers through the concerned branch of the ban. However, NABARD shall also be entitled to visit the site for inspection and oversee the monitoring of the project, utilization of the funds and progress of the projects;
- The bank shall ensure timely recovery of loans and keep NABARD informed in this regard;
- Bank shall immediately remit to NABARD proportionate amounts out of the amount recovered from the borrowers;
- NABARD shall be entitled to parri-passu charge on all the securities obtained by the bank for securing the loan extended;
- All the securities held, or to be held by the bank for loan assistance shall be held by the bank for itself as also as an agent of NABARD;
- The arrangement will be implemented through mutual consultation.

Meeting of Commonwealth Countries

775. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Finance Ministers from the Commonwealth countries was held in London from 24th to 26th September, 2002;

(b) if so, the whether India also participated in the meeting; and

(c) if so, the details of the discussions held and the outcome thereof?

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

(c) The meeting marked an important step forward, translating the commitments made at Doha, Monterey and Johannesburg into a concrete Action Plan for the Commonwealth. In the spirit of the Commonwealth, this Action Plan reflects a new partnership between developed and developing countries.

[Translation]

Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955

776. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation for comprehensive amendments in 'Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1995;

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

(c) the measures being taken at present for the proper arrangements, management and utilization of offerings made at Dargah Sharief at Ajmer;

(d) the plan of the Government regarding maintenance and security of Dargah;

(e) whether attention of the Government has been drawn towards the problems faced by pilgrims coming to this Dargah;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government appointed a Committee in the Ministry to look into the amendments to Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955. The Committee has submitted its report, which is under consideration of the Government.

(c) As per the Dargah Khwaja Saheb Act, 1955 the administration, control and management of Dargah is vested in the Dargah Committee. Boxes for offerings are kept in various places of Dargah premises. Income is also from donations money orders, postal orders, bank demand drafts and directly by cash deposit in office of Dargah Committee. The offerings received are utilized for purposes such as daily offering of flowers, management of annual Urs, Muharram Sharif, running of Darul Uloom for providing Deeni taleem, running of Khwaja Model School, Daily lunger for poor, stipend to widows and needy persons, Homeopathic dispensary, scholarships, arrangements of Shamiyanas, water for wazoo and drinking water in Dargah Sharif, etc.

(d) The security of Dargah is looked after by the security guards appointed by the Dargah committee. During the period of Urs and special occasions, the help of district administration is also taken.

(e) to (g) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the problems. The main problems relate to lack of adequate facilities such as permanent vishram sthali for pilgrims, toilets and bathrooms on Dargah premises, stray cattle near Dargah premises, etc. The Rajasthan Government is taking step to improve the facilities available for pilgrims.

[English]

Tax Exemption to Foreign Companies

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

(a) whether the Government are providing customs duty and income tax exemption to the foreign companies with whom agreement have been signed for exploration of petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total exemption granted to such companies during the last three years;

(d) the total loss suffered by the Government exchequer on this account; and

(e) in which way the Government are filling this gap of customs duty and income tax exemption?

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

(b) The Government is providing customs duty exemption to foreign companies in respect of raw materials/parts used for manufacture of goods for the purposes of off-shore oil exploration. Exemption is also available on specified goods required in connection with petroleum operations and coal-bed methane operations undertaken under specified contracts subject to certain conditions. Under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, expenditure by way of infructuous or abortive exploration expenses in respect of any area surrendered prior to the beginning of commercial production is allowed as a deduction. Foreign companies are also entitled to tax benefits as per the provisions of bilateral Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAAs) between India and various other countries.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Exemption granted does not amount to revenue loss.

(e) Does not arise.

Upgradation of City

778. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for upgrading a city;

(b) the facilities provided to these cities after upgradation;

(c) the names of cities in the country particularly in West Bengal, which have been upgraded during the last five years; and

(d) the names of cities which are proposed to be upgraded during the next financial year particularly in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The criteria adopted for upgrading a city or town for determining HRA and CCA entitlements are population criteria as recommended by 5th CPC and accepted by Government, re-constitution of the municipal area by the State Government, their relative expensiveness, prevailing rentals, availability of accommodation, maintenance of earlier parties etc. and large influx of refugees, as in the case of Jammu.

(b) The Central Government employees posted in the upgraded cities become entitled to House Rent Allowance, City Compensatory Allowance and Daily Allowance on tour etc. at higher rates after upgradation of the city.

(c) The following cities have been upgraded during last 5 years:—

Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Jammu and Oulgaret (Pondicherry)

(d) There is no proposal under consideration for upgrading a city during the next financial year.

[Translation]

Special Component Plan for Uttar Pradesh

779. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Special Component Plan has been prepared for Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal;

(b) if so, the main features of the said plan alongwith the details of target fixed for achieving its objectives;

(c) the details of funds allocated for the said scheme during the current financial year; and

(d) the details of outcome of the steps taken for the upliftment of women in the said States during each of the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) As per guidelines issued by Planning Commission and Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, the State Governments prepare and implement Special Component Plan (SCP) by earmarking plan fund in proportion to Scheduled Castes population for ensuring socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes. Details on sector-wise earmarked, fund utilized and SC families assisted are maintained by the respective State Governments. Government of Uttar Pradesh during 2002-03, has allocated Rs. 1540 Crores for Special Component Plan out of total Plan outlay or Rs. 7250 Crores. The information from Uttaranchal Govt. is awaited.

(d) The information is under collection from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Development of Export Infrastructure of Assam

780. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scheme for development of the existing export infrastructure of Assam State;

(b) if so, the details and the cost of the Scheme;

(c) the Central aid or contribution released therefor; and

(d) the progress made in implementation of said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is a national scheme for all the States known as Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and other activities (ASIDE) for development of export infrastructure including Assam.

(b) The details of the scheme is available at Department of Commerce web site at www.commin.nic.in. The allocation of the financial year 2002-2003 for this scheme is Rs. 330 Cr.

(c) An amount of Rs. 2 Cr. has been released to Govt. of Assam under this scheme during the current financial year.

(d) State Level Export Promotion Committee (SLEPC) of Assam under the Chief Secretary has been constituted and three projects have been taken up under the Scheme.

Tea Plantation In Orissa

781. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a vast scope to promote tea plantation in Keonjahar district of Orissa;

(b) if so, the steps taken to bring additional areas in that district under tea plantation;

(c) whether the local entrepreneurs are proposed to be involved in tea plantation in that district; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Studies have revealed that the identified areas of Keonjahar district are suitable for tea cultivation subject to provision of assured artificial irrigation during prolonged dry months at an economic cost. A pilot plantation was set up in the middle of 1980s as a joint collaboration with a private consultancy firm and the State Government of Orissa. An area of 213 hectares was planted and commercial production was started. However, the project could not succeed due to extreme climatic conditions.

The State Government of Orissa is focusing on extending tea cultivation in the small holdings in consultation with the Tribal Co-operative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED).

Debt Recovery Tribunals

782. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) as one of the measures to recover the debts in public sector banks and thereby contain the NPAs;

(b) if so, the number of such DRTs have been constituted so far, State-wise;

(c) the amount both in absolute terms and as percentage to outstanding collected through DRTs during the last three years;

(d) whether the DRTs do not have adequate staff to dispose off the cases; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to deploy more staff in DRTs?

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

(b) At present 29 Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs) have been established. They are 6 in the State of Maharashtra, 3 each in the States of Tamilnadu, West Bengal and NCT of Delhi, two each in the State of Uttar Pradesh & Andhra Pradesh and one each in the States of Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Orissa Jharkhand and UT of Chandigarh.

(c) No. of cases filed, No. of cases disposed off, amount involved, amount recovered and percentage recovery to total outstanding as on 31.3.2000, 31.3.2001 & 31.3.2002 are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) and (e) The current sanctioned strength of the officials of each DRT is 30 in number which is considered adequate to meet the present workload of DRTs. However vacancies arise for various reasons and efforts are being made on a continuous basis by DRTs and the Ministry to fill up the vacancies at the earliest.

Statement

(Amount: Rs. in crores)

Period as on	No. of cases filed	Amount outstanding	No. of cases disposed of	Amount involved	Amount recovered	% Recovery of total outstanding
31.3.2000	37889	53967	9825	5923	1398	2.59
31.3.2001	47667	82854	14462	10336	2583	3.11
31.3.2002	56988	108665	23393	18556	4737	4.36

World Bank Aid to Gujarat

783. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank and Asian Development Bank had given 498 crores to the Gujarat State for relief and rehabilitation programme of earthquake effected areas; and

(b) if so, the total amount utilised, programme-wise and area-wise so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. The total amount of Rs. 1580.57 crores has been released to Gujarat during 2001-02 for relief and rehabilitation programme of earthquake affected areas against releases from World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

(b) Government of India released an amount of Rs. 372 crores as an advance installment and the rest Rs. 1208.57 crores on reimbursement basis, against actual claims lodged by State Government. The relief and rehabilitation are being carried out in all the earthquake affected areas in Gujarat.

Ban on Azo Dyes

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

(a) whether European Union has banned two more azo dyes for use in textiles and leather goods in order to protect human health;

(b) whether these dyes are made in India and exported and used in the country;

(c) if so, whether the Government are considering to put ban on these dyes in India;

(d) whether a similar ban would be put on all such dyes which have been banned in Euro countries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (f) European Commission introduced an EU wide legislative regulation, effective 11.9.2003 prohibiting use of specific azo dyes capable of releasing amines harmful to human health. This legislation would give EU wide effect to the already existing country specific similar regulations which are in force in Germany, Netherlands and Austria.

Government of India has prohibited handling of dyes which are capable of releasing harmful amines. In view of the impact of such legislations on India's exports, especially to EU countries, labeling and eco-marking schemes etc. have been introduced for propagating the use of safe dyes and chemicals. Government has also initiated various steps to educate and assist the trade and industry like setting up of eco laboratories, dissemination of information regarding the ecological requirements in EU countries, creating awareness and providing guidance in respect of eco-friendly products etc. to meet the challenges posed by such ecological requirements in developed countries.

Decentralised Procurement of Foodgrains

785. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the State of Kerala regarding decentralized procurement of foodgrains in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of Kerala has represented to the Central Government that it is not in a position to adopt the scheme of decentralized procurement as it is a food deficit State. This stand was indicated by the State Government in the conference of Chief Ministers held on 21.5.2001 and was reiterated in the 4th meeting of the Standing Committee of Union Ministers and State Chief Ministers held on 23.2.2002 at New Delhi.

(c) The Scheme of Decentralized Procurement is voluntary in nature and is not imposed on any State Government. The State Government has been informed of this position already and the requisite allocation of foodgrains to the State Government are being made as usual from the Central Pool stocks.

Indian Economy

786. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's indecision about the disinvestment has severely affected the economic reforms in the country;

(b) if so, whether disinvestment, labour reforms and reduced FDI have crippled Indian economy;

(c) if so, to what extent our economy has been affected; and

(d) the initiatives the government are considering to take to proceed the reforms in a proper and better manner for the interest of the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. Economic reforms in many areas continue to make progress.

(b) to (d) The Indian economy continues to experience high rates of growth by world standards.

Further accelerating the growth rate remains the prime goal of the government.

The recent policy announcements in many areas reflect this effort.

[Translation]

Smuggling of Drugs

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

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding large scale smuggling of narcotics drugs in the country through Nepal border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check this smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Seizures indicate that there is smuggling of narcotic drugs in the country through the Nepal border.

(b) The details of various types of drugs seized during the last three years, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, are given in the enclosed *Statement.*

(c) To deal effectively with the smuggling of narcotic drugs, the Government has taken a number of steps. These include instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up the enforcement efforts, periodical training of the enforcement officers, close interaction between the agencies of the Central and State Governments and quarterly co-ordination meetings for this purpose by the Narcotics Control Bureau, neutralizing organised drug traffickers by coordinated action, modernization and upgradation of the police and securities forces with advanced sophisticated weapons, empowerment of a large number of Central and State Agencies under the NDPS Act to ensure its effective implementation, and a liberal reward scheme for informers.

Statement

Details of various types of drugs seized in Indo-Nepal border during the last three years [i.e. 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto September)] as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies

Year	2000		2001		2002 (upto Sept.)	
	No. of cases	Qty. in Kg.	No. of cases	Qty. in Kg.	No. of cases	Qty. in Kg.
Drug						
Heroin	5	1.564	0	0	2	0.320
Ganja	61	832	73	1191.51	71	1848.03
Hashish	52	1182.805	50	801.925	34	368.94
Opium	3	10.090	5	7.04	2	22.012

[English]

Jute Production In Bengal

788. SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the jute mill owners in West Bengal have decided to cut down the production by 15-18% by December, 2002;

(b) whether this is the effect of the notification issued by the Union Textiles Ministry diluting the mandatory Jute Packaging Order;

(c) whether it is a fact that consequent upon issuance of the dilution in Mandatory Jute Packaging Order, the jute industry is facing an acute crisis, thereby laying off thousands of workers;

(d) whether this order created an adverse situation for the jute growers; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interest of the jute industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No Sir.

(e) The Jute Corporation of India Ltd. (JCI) is the Official Agency which undertakes Support Price operation for purchase from the jute growers and to serve as stabilising Agency in the jute sector. JCI is the nodal agency to buy whatever quantity of jute is offered at support rate by the growers without any quantitative limitation. In order to modernize the jute industry, the Government provides financial assistance under the Technology Upgradation Fund Schemes (TUFS). The Government also proposes to launch Jute Technology Mission (JTM) for the development of jute industry.

Visit of World Bank Team to Gujarat

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

(a) whether the World Bank (WB) team visited the State of Gujarat in October, 2002 to assess the progress of quake related projects funded by them;

(b) if so, the results of evaluation conducted by World Bank during their visit to Gujarat;

(c) whether the World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have found any discrepencies in the financial assistance provided by them to the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A World Bank Team visited Gujarat during September 11-21, 2002 to review the World Bank financed components of Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Programme.

(b) The team observed that the programme financed by the World Bank was processing satisfactorily as per the agreed plan.

(c) and (d) No material discrepancy in use of the World Bank and Asian Development Bank funds has been found.

Internal Debt

790. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) the details of the internal debt of the various State Governments as on October 30, 2002, State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any requests from the States for reducing the interest rate from 12 per cent to 8 per cent on the Central Loan to the States;

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

(d) the other steps being taken to reduce the debt burden of States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A *Statement* is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Requests have been received from some States for reduction in interest rates on Plan loans of Government of India, in keeping with the low interest rate regime in the market. The Government of India have been reducing the rate of interest on Plan loans periodically. The rate of interest on plan loans have reduced from 12.50% in 2000-01 to 11.50% in 2002-03.

(d) The Eleventh Finance Commission had recommended a General Debt Relief Scheme for States. The Government of India have accepted the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Besides, Government of India have also put forward a proposal for debt swap to enable States to retire high cost debt to facilitate the process of fiscal consolidation.

Statement

Outstanding internal debt of Ministry of Finance against the State Governments as on 31.10.2002

(Rs in crores)

Sl.No.	States	Outstanding balance
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17086.97
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	407.56
3.	Assam	3376.15
4.	Bihar	10638.54
5.	Chhattisgarh	2767.98
6.	Goa	823.96
7.	Gujarat	15763.59
8.	Haryana	4833.47
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2449.49
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3056.36
11.	Jharkhand	3574.25
12.	Karnataka	10640.12
13.	Kerala	5807.87
14.	Madhya Pradesh	8078.68
15.	Maharashtra	20903.53
16.	Manipur	3390.02
17.	Meghalaya	339.54
18.	Mizoram	244.72
19.	Nagaland	340.02
20.	Orissa	7443.64
21.	Punjab	8010.68
22.	Rajasthan	9858.56
23.	Sikkim	196.63
24.	Tamil Nadu	10929.22
25.	Tripura	630.74
26.	Uttar Pradesh	28749.00
27.	Uttaranchal	1541.60
28.	West Bengal	23074.49

LTC

791. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for the restoration of LTC facilities for Central Government employees; and

(b) if so, the date from which the facilities will be available for the Central Government employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Inclusion in ST List

792. SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any community has been excluded from ST list in Koraput and Rayagada districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details of such communities; and

(c) the reasons for non-inclusion of these communities?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A Bill, namely The Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Second Amendment) Bill, 2002, which, inter-alia, includes the proposal to include 114 communities as synonyms/sub-tribes of 26 Scheduled Tribes of Orissa has already been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 2.8.2002.

Licences of Cooperative Banks

793. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE:

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

(a) the licences of co-operative banks cancelled by RBI during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 till date, bank-wise and year-wise;

(b) the grounds of their cancellation, bank-wise; and

(c) the guidelines for opening and working of such banks?

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

[Translation]

Export of Rice

794. SHRI CHINMAYANAND SWAMI:
YOGI ADITYA NATH:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH:

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

(a) the popular varieties of rice and wheat exported to different countries during the last three years and current year, till date, quantum-wise and year-wise;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned from this; and

(c) the States which received maximum benefits from these exports alongwtih the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) procures wheat and rice of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) all over the country. The quantities of wheat and rice released to exporters during the following years from the Central Pool is as under:

Year	Wheat	Rice (lakh MT)
2000-01	18.76	—
2001-02	39.45	19.85
2002-03 (Oct., 2002)	35.68	43.32

The exporters directly enter into commercial transactions with buyers.

Procurement of Foodgrains

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

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

(a) whether some States play an important role in the procurement of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the percentage share of farmers of each State in the total procurement of wheat and paddy vis-a-vis the total production of these commodities in the country;

(c) whether the existing arrangements of procurement of foodgrains are inadequate to provide financial assistance for agricultural development to the farmers of those States of the country where minimum procurement is made; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. The surplus States have the major share in foodgrains procurement.

(b) Statement-I & II showing State-wise production, procurement and percentage thereof of wheat and rice during the last two Marketing Seasons 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are annexed.

(c) and (d) The present policy of MSP and procurement of FAQ standard of foodgrains is being implemented with the help of the State Governments uniformly in all States, which have potential for procurement. This policy has been successful in meeting the purpose of ensuring MSP to the farmers.

With a view to effect savings in the form of reduction in the outgo of food subsidy, enhancing the efficiency of procurement and PDS and encouraging local procurement to the maximum extent thereby extending the benefits of MSP to local farmers, the scheme of Decentralized Procurement of foodgrains was introduced by the Government in 1997-98. The scheme is now in operation in the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Uttaranchal. The Union Government has been encouraging States to adopt the scheme of decentralized procurement of foodgrains.

Statement-I

State-wise Production, Procurement and Percentage thereof of Wheat during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(in '000 tonnes)

States/U.T.	2000-2001				2001-2002			
	Production	% to Total Production	Procurement	% to Total Production	Production*	% to Total Production	Procurement	% of Total Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bihar	4497	6.54	—	—	—	—	43	0.21
Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	0.06
Delhi	29	0.04	—	—	—	—	50	0.24
Gujarat	649	0.94	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	9652	14.04	4497	27.50	—	—	6407	31.06

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Himachal Pradesh	588	0.86	—	—	—	—	2	0.01
Jammu & Kashmir	145	0.21	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	3887	5.65	351	2.15	—	—	294	1.43
Maharashtra	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pondicherry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	15551	22.62	9423	57.62	—	—	10560	51.19
Rajasthan	5554	8.08	539	3.30	—	—	676	3.28
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	24940	36.27	1545	9.45	—	—	2446	11.86
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—	—	140	0.68
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Others	3271	4.76	—	—	—	—	—	—
All India Total	68763	100	16355	100	71470	—	20630	100

*State-wise production figures for 2001-2002 are not available from Ministry of Agriculture.

Statement-II

State-wise Production, Procurement and Percentage thereof Rice during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

(in '000 tonnes)

States/U.T.	2000-2001				2001-2002			
	Production	% to Total Production	Procurement	% to Total Production	Production*	% to Total Production	Procurement	% of Total Production
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Andhra Pradesh	11448	13.49	7174	33.71	—	—	6625	29.04
Arunachal Pradesh	126	0.15	—	—	—	—	—	—
Assam	3999	4.71	—	0.00	—	—	—	—
Bihar	5417	6.38	19	0.09	—	—	89	0.40
Chandigarh	—	—	16	0.08	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	3238	3.82	857	4.03	—	—	1922	8.69
Delhi	5	0.01	—	—	—	—	—	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Gujarat	1014	1.19	—	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	2684	3.16	1481	6.96	—	—	1484	6.71
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	1	0.00	—	—	11	0.05
Jammu & Kashmir	415	0.49	—	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	3734	4.40	230	1.08	—	—	137	0.62
Madhya Pradesh	961	1.13	176	0.83	—	—	273	1.23
Maharashtra	1945	2.29	34	0.16	—	—	129	0.58
Orissa	4614	5.44	918	4.31	—	—	1253	5.66
Pondicherry	61	0.07	40	0.19	—	—	11	0.05
Punjab	9154	10.79	6963	32.72	—	—	7282	32.91
Rajasthan	158	0.19	26	0.12	—	—	39	0.18
Tamil Nadu	7218	8.50	1695	7.97	—	—	852	3.85
Uttar Pradesh	11540	13.60	1174	5.52	—	—	1936	8.75
Uttaranchal	622	0.73	42	0.20	—	—	235	1.06
West Bengal	12428	14.64	434	2.04	—	—	48	0.22
Others	4090	4.82	—	—	—	—	—	—
All India Total	84871	100	21280	100	—	—	22126	100

*State-wise production figures for 2001-2002 are not available from Ministry of Agriculture.

[English]

Rehabilitation of Weaker Sections in Punjab

796. SHRI BHAN SINGH BHAURA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any National Programme has been launched in the country particularly in the State of Punjab for rehabilitating of weaker section;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas selected for this purpose alongwtih the number of targeted beneficiaries; and

(c) the amount of fund released so far towards this scheme during the current financial year State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has launched two National Level programmes for rehabilitation of weaker sections:—

(i) National Scheme of Liberation & Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS)

(ii) National Programme for Rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities (NPRPD)

The programmes are implemented throughout the country.

(b) NLSRS is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and funds are released to the States. The scheme was launched in 1991-92 with the objective of assisting scavengers for their training and rehabilitation in alternative occupations. Since 1992 till 2001-02, 1,56,488 scavengers have been given training and 4,08,644 rehabilitated in alternative occupations all over the country.

Under the Scheme of NPRPD, 82 districts are to be covered in different States of the country for providing comprehensive Rehabilitation Services to persons with disabilities especially those living in rural areas.

(c) During the current financial year, under the scheme of NSLRS, the proposals have been received from the following State Governments and funds have been released:—

Andhra Pradesh—Rs. 27.38 crore

Himachal Pradesh—Rs. 2.40 crore

The NPRPD is a State Sector Scheme, which was launched in 1999-2000. In the tenth Five Year Plan (2002-07), the State have to fund the programme through their own resources.

[Translation]

Violation of FDI Rules by Foreign Companies

797. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:
SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:

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

(a) details of the rules & regulation for investment in India by foreign companies;

(b) whether the government have any information about the violation of these rules by some foreign companies;

(c) if so, the names of the foreign companies against which action has been taken for violating the investment rules during the last three years and the basis of the action taken;

(d) the latest position in this regard;

(e) the reasons for unnecessary delay in taking necessary action against those companies; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The FDI Policy, guidelines and procedures are published in the form of a Manual, which is widely circulated including the Library of the Parliament and is also available in the Website (http://indmin.nic.in).

(b) to (f) Foreign investors are found by the terms and conditions of the foreign collaboration approval and relevant Indian laws, including the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999, and Regulations made thereunder. Cases of violation of the terms and conditions of the foreign collaboration approval and/or relevant Acts/ Rules are dealt with by the Administrative Ministries/ Statutory authorities, including the Reserve Bank of India, for taking appropriate action against defaulting companies.

[English]

Problems of Tea Industry

798. SHRI SURESH KURUP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any communication from the Kerala Government regarding the serious situation prevailing in the tea plantations in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government to help the tea sector in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Government of India has received representations from the Government of Kerala highlighting the problems being faced by the plantation sector, including tea. With regard to tea, the requests of the State Government included, abolition of excise duty on tea and increase in import duty.

(c) Government of India has taken several measures to assist the tea sector in the country, including Kerala. These measures include:

- Reduction in excise duty on tea from Rs. 2.00 per kg to Rs. 1.00 per kg. from 2002-2003 onward.
- Increase in import duty on tea from 70% to 100%.
- Increase in the deductible allowance under Section 33AB of the Income Tax Act from 20% to 40% with the aim to encourage rejuvenation, replantation and modernization in tea plantations for the long term development of this sector.

- Announcement of an RBI relief package providing for restructuring/reschedulement of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks.

- Implementation of a quality upgradation programme to improve the quality of the tea produced which would also enable the grower to get better prices.

- Implementation of a factory upgradation Scheme for encouraging production of good quality orthodox and non reconditioned CTC teas which have a greater demand in the world market.

- Implementation of a medium term export strategy to promote exports of Indian tea.

[Translation]

Reservation to Nomadic Community in Maharashtra

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

(a) whether a large number of people belonging to Nomadic community exist in Maharashtra including other States;

(b) whether the Government have taken any steps to provide reservation for them by creating a separate category in the list of Scheduled Castes;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide 5 percent exclusive reservation to these Nomadic community in proportion to its population;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (e) As per provision under Article 341 of the Constitution of India, specification of Scheduled Castes is done in relation to a State/Union Territory and that no separate categorization within the list of Scheduled Castes is done. As such there is no separate category of Nomadic community within the list of Scheduled Castes and that the statistics concerning number of persons belonging to Nomadic community in Maharashtra and other States are not maintained. As regards reservation benefits, in the Central Services, these have been extended to only those communities, which have been specified as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, based on their social, educational and economic backwardness and thus, there is no proposal under consideration to provide 5% reservation to Nomadic community exclusively.

[English]

M.H. Kania Committee Recommendation

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

(a) whether the M.H. Kania Committee on Corporatisation and demutualisation in stock exchanges has recommended the abolition of the concept of regional stock exchanges in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the other recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have examined these recommendations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Kania Committee has noted that concept of regional stock exchange, which was introduced in the days of manual trading and open outcry system to encourage mobilization of resources and development of equity cult across the country, has lost its regional stock exchange needs to be abolished.

Some of the other recommendations of the Committee are:

- the stock exchanges which are set up as association of persons and those which are set up as companies limited by guarantee be converted into companies limited by shares;

- a common model for corporatisation and demutualisation be adopted for all stock exchanges; and

- Clause (j) of section 2 of Securities Contracts Regulations Act, 1956 would need to be amended to provide that a stock exchange should be a company incorporated under the Companies Act.

- the three stakeholders viz. shareholders, brokers and investing public through the regulatory body should be equally represented on the governing board of the demutualised exchange;
- there should be specific vacancies on the board for each group of stakeholders;
- the shareholders' representatives should not be functioning brokers;
- the brokers representatives would be elected by the shareholders from among the brokers of the exchange;
- the representatives of the investing public would be nominated by SEBI from among a panel comprising of academics, professionals, industry representatives, public figures and investor associations, none of who should have any interest in any broking firm;
- adequate disclosures about the background of the directors of the board should be provided to the shareholders at the annual general meetings and the annual reports;
- the roles and hence the posts of the Chairman and Chief Executive should be segregated. The Chairman should be a person who has considerable knowledge and experience of the functioning of the stock exchanges and the capital market;
- the Chairman of the Board should not be a practicing broker;
- the demutualised stock exchanges should follow the relevant norms of corporate governance applicable to listed companies in particular, the constitution of the audit committee, standards of financial disclosure and accounting standards, disclosures in the annual reports, disclosures to shareholders and management systems and procedures;

(c) and (d) (SEBI). The recommendations of the Committee are yet to be approved by the Board of the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Purity of Silver Jewellery

801. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether a majority of silver items being sold in the capital are mixed with cheaper metals and neither the police nor the Government are doing anything to clamp down on the trade as reported in Times of India dated November 2, 2002 at page 3;

(b) if so, the details of the jewellers found guilty during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The Government does not have any substantive information that the silver items sold in the capital are mixed with cheaper metals. The Government is also not empowered under the provisions of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 and the Rules framed thereunder, to take appropriate legal action against such unscrupulous traders of silver.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat

802. SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received an order from Sri Lanka for export of wheat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be earned by the Government due to export of this wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 300,000 MTs of wheat will be supplied through a credit agreement of US $ 31 million which will cover 100% of FOB value of the wheat.

[English]

Motor Insurance Premium

803. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether various Insurance companies have increased the premium to insure motor vehicle more than 100% without taking permission from Insurance Regulatory Authority of India recently;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received in this regard; and

(c) the action taken by IRDA thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) A number of organisations including the apex body of transporters had complained to IRDA about the manner in which the revised motor tariff was being implemented by the insurance companies. IRDA has asked the insurers to strictly follow the motor tariff approved by the Tariff Advisory Committee.

UTI Dividend

804. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make Unit Trust of India dividend tax-free again;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government have, inter alia, decided that the dividend received by the UTI-1, comprising of US-64 and Assured Return Schemes, from the corporates in which the assets of UTI-1 are invested net of expenses, shall be passed on to the investors by the UTI and will not be remained to improve its NAV. This dividend will not be taxable in the hands of the investors.

Irregularities by Co-operative Sugar Mills

805. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some co-operative sugar mills in Maharashtra have been accused by the Central Excise Department of selling the sugar meant for export in the domestic market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against these co-operative sugar mills for committing this irregularity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The latest position is as follows:

No. of sugar mills	Duty amount involved (in Rs. Lakh)	Duty amount realised (in Rs. Lakh)
26	942.44	363.54

(c) Action has been initiated in all the cases to recover the excise duty evaded and to penalise those concerned.

[Translation]

Bank Employees Working In Custodian Special Court

806. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:

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

(a) whether a number of officers of banks particularly of State Bank of India are working without any approved vacancy in the Custodian Special Court situated in New Delhi for several years;

(b) whether these officers are drawing deputation allowance other than their salaries and allowances from their respective banks;

(c) whether the State Bank of India has requested from time to time to send its officers back;

(d) whether the SBI has also suggested to replace these officers if necessary so that working of banks is not affected;

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

(f) the time by which these officers will be sent back to their parent offices in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Custodian has taken assistance of Officers from Banks for examining securities

transactions, audit reports and related matters which are technical in nature. At present, six officers and two staff of various banks including one officer and one staff from State Bank of India (SBI) are attached with the Office of the Custodian.

(b) These officials draw their salaries and allowances as well as deputation allowances from the concerned banks.

(c) to (f) The SBI had requested the Office of the Custodian in April, 2001 for replacement of the existing officer attached with the Office of the Custodian. The Custodian has, however, requested SBI to reconsider allowing retention of the existing officer keeping in view the important nature of work presently handled by him and any replacement of the officer at this stage would adversely affect the progress of work.

[English]

Swarn Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana

807. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

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

(a) the role of banks in providing loans to self-help groups constituted for the implementation of the Swarn Jayanti Swarojgar Yojana;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints against some banks who are not providing loans to the eligible persons;

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

(d) the remedial action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Banks do play an important role in the implementation of the Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana (SGSY). The scheme is a credit-cum-subsidy programme with credit as the critical component. Banks are to be closely involved in planning and preparation of projects, identification of activity clusters, infrastructure planning as well as capacity building and choice of activity of the Self-Help Groups (SHGs), selection of individual swarozgaris, pre-credit activities and post-credit monitoring including loan recovery. During the stage of formation, the SHG is brought in contact with the bank branches through opening of savings bank accounts. After the group formation stage, the SHGs are eligible for Rs. 25,000/- as revolving fund assistance in the form of cash credit facility from the bank to enable them to take up income generating projects subsequently.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that although there were no specific complaints against banks in regard to the implementation of SGSY scheme, there were incidents where the performance of banks was not satisfactory in some of the States. These complaints pertained to delay in disbursement of sanctioned loans, not adhering to the time schedule in sanctioning of loans, non-participation in the meetings, etc. The overall progress under the scheme had not been upto the desired extent. These issues were discussed in the Central Level Coordination Committee (CLCC) meeting convened by the Administrative Ministry in the Government. RBI had subsequently advised the banks in July, 2002 to reduce the gap between sanction and disbursement, ensure greater coordination of work at the block level with Government functionaries, adhere to the prescribed time schedule for loan disbursements and to participate in the block and district level SGSY Committee meetings. Banks have also been advised to organize district-wise intensive one-day sensitization camps/ workshops for their branch officers to enable them to sharpen their understanding of the scheme.

Working of Cooperative Banks in Andhra Pradesh

808. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Export Group constituted to inquire into the working of cooperative banks in the State of Andhra Pradesh had identified 41 banks as loss making;

(b) if so, the names of such banks;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has taken any steps to safeguard the interests of depositors of these banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Expert Committee on Urban Cooperative Banks appointed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh has mentioned in its report that

41 banks in the state are loss making. However, the Committee has listed names of only 39 banks as loss making. The names of these banks are given in the enclosed *Statement.*

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has taken various steps such as issue of direction under section 35(A) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Cooperative Societies), issue of operational instructions, issue of show cause notice for cancellation of license, cancellation of license, etc. in respect of 16 banks to safeguard the interest of the depositors. The position of the remaining 23 banks is also being closely monitored by RBI as well as by the State Level Review Committee under the Registrar of Cooperative societies, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Statement

List of loss making Urban Cooperative Banks as identified by the Expert Committee in Andhra Pradesh

S. No.	Name of the Bank
1	2
1.	A.P. Janata Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Secunderabad
2.	A.P. Mahajan Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
3.	Anantpur Cooperative Town Bank Ltd.
4.	Annapurna Mahila Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
5.	Apna Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
6.	Armoor Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Armoor
7.	Charminar Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
8.	Dhana Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Eluru
9.	Dharmavaram Cooperative Town Bank Ltd.
10.	Gokul Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Secunderabad
11.	Hyderabad Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
12.	Jawahar Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Saroornagar
13.	Manikanta Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
14.	Milli Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
15.	Mother Theresa Hyderabad Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
16.	Narasaraopet Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Narasaraopet
17.	National Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Kurnool
18.	Neelagiri Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
19.	Neelkhanta Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
20.	Neelakrishna Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
21.	Ongole Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
22.	Pithapuram Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Pithapuram
23.	Ranga Reddy Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Kothapet
24.	Salur Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
25.	Secunderabad Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.
26.	Secunderabad Mercantile Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.,
27.	Seva Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Habshiguda
28.	Seven Hill Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
29.	Sree Swamy Gananda Yogeshwara Mahila Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.,
30.	Sri Satya Sai Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Secunderabad
31.	Srinivasa Padmavathi Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.,
32.	Star Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Dilsukhnagar
33.	Tandur Mahila Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.,

1	2
34.	Tadpatri Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd.,
35.	Vasavi Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
36.	Vasundara Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
37.	Veershaiva Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., Hyderabad
38.	Vijaya Cooperative Urban Bank Ltd., (for women) Hyderabad
39.	Yemmiganur Cooperative Town Bank Ltd.,

Mid Term Loan to West Bengal

809. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mid-term loan of Rs. 865 crore sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance for the State of West Bengal, has not been released so far;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are seriously considering releasing the same at the earliest considering the current financial position of the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) An amount of Rs. 878 crore has been approved as a Medium Term Loan, to Government of West Bengal, which, however, can be released only after the supplementary grants for the year 2002-03, are approved by the Parliament.

Bound Rate Tariff on Edible Oils

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

(a) whether India has opposed the WTO Swiss formula for proposed reduction of bound rate tariffs on edible oils;

(b) whether due to volatile fluctuations in international edible oil markets it would be advantageous to India to have a flexible mechanism when the bound rates are high; and

(c) if so, the Government's reaction to the Swiss proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) As part of the on-going negotiations in agriculture in the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United States and some other Members of the WTO favour steep reductions in tariffs on the basis of a "Swiss Formula". Modifications to the "Swiss Formula" have also been suggested for developing countries by some Members. India supports minimal reductions in tariffs on a bound rate basis for developing countries and flexibility to address specific concerns of domestic agricultural production and of our farmers.

Black Money

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

(a) whether any study has been undertaken by the Government to find out the circulation of black money in the country at present;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to contain the generation and circulation of black money;

(d) whether there is any proposal to provide another amnesty scheme for the people to declare their unaccounted money; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) According to a study made by the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in 1983-84 the estimated undisclosed money was between Rs. 31584 crores and Rs. 36786 crores. No estimate is available on the amount of black money circulating in the Indian economy at present.

(c) In order to combat black money and to check its growth, the Government have been adopting a two-pronged strategy of encouraging voluntary compliance as also intensifying various enforcement measures.

(d) There is no proposal to introduce any Amnesty scheme at present.

(e) In view of the reply to the part (d) above, question does not arise.

Relaxation to MNCs for FDI

812. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representations/suggestions from US Government to give relaxation to Coca Cola, Pepsi and other companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the conditions laid down for multi-national companies to tap Indian capital market via Indian Public Offer (IPO);

(d) whether many MNCs have approached the Government to give relaxation about IPOs;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether SEBI, MPs and other organisations have urged the Government to make it compulsory to MNCs to go for IPO; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Certain references were received from the US authorities regarding the divestment condition in respect of Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd.

(c) Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd. was required to fulfill the divestment condition by way of Indian participation of upto 49% in Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., its wholly owned subsidiary, over a period of five years, i.e., by 16.7.2002. As per this condition, Indian participation can be in the form of participation by individuals/joint venture partners or general public or both.

(d) and (e) A few FDI enterprises had approached FIPB for relaxation of divestment condition which has not been agreed to. In the case of Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd., the company approached the Government for grant of extension of time to complete the divestment process indicating the steps taken/proposed to be taken by them for completion of the divestment exercise. Based on these submissions, the Government allowed extension of time to Hindustan Coca-Cola Holdings Pvt. Ltd. up to 28.2.2003 for implementing the divestment condition.

(f) and (g) No specific proposal in this regard is under consideration of the Government.

Expenditure on Advertisements by Banks

813. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the expenditure incurred by the nationalised banks on advertisement and publicity during last two years, bank-wise;

(b) the norms laid down for allocation of funds for advertisement and publicity;

(c) whether all the norms have been fully complied with by these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not the reasons therefor and the corrective steps taken in this regard?

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

Urban Cooperative Banks

814. SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a new supervisory board for urban cooperative bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when a final decision will be taken in this regard; and

(d) the other steps taken/proposed to be taken to revamp the Urban cooperative Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had submitted a proposal to Central Government for setting up an exclusive apex body for the supervision of urban cooperative banks in view of duality of control prevailing in cooperative banking sector. The proposal was examined and it was found that without legislative changes in the State cooperative Societies acts of various states to bring it in tune with the Model Cooperative Societies act recommended by Ch. Brahm Parkash Committee, apex supervisory body as suggested would suffer from similar legislative handicap that RBI suffers today.

The efforts of the Central Government are directed towards convincing State Government to amend their State Cooperative Societies Act. With this background, Central Government has announced in the Urban Budget to usher reform in cooperative banking sector and has made a provision of Rs. 100 crore to start with to incentive these reforms and revitalize the cooperative banking sector.

(d) RBI reviews the system of regulation and supervision of urban cooperative banks (UCBs) and has taken a series of measures to correct the systemic deficiencies and to strengthen the system of regulation and supervision of urban cooperative banks. These measures inter-alia include putting ceiling on operations in call money market and bank finance against shares and debentures, increase in percentage of SLR investments in Government Securities, restrictions on interest rates on deposits offered by UCBs and investment of funds as deposits with other UCBs, etc.

[Translation]

Import of Sensitive Items

815. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

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

(a) whether the import of sensitive items is increasing despite the contrary claims of the Union Government;

(b) if so, its impact on Indian market and economy in regard to employment;

(c) whether the Government have taken or propose to take any concrete steps to curb it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) Subsequent to removal of Quantitative Restrictions last year, 300 items were identified as sensitive items. Import of these items is being monitored regularly. As per the provisional estimate import of these items for the first six months of the current financial year is Rs. 6487 crores as compared to Rs. 5854 crores for the corresponding period of last year thereby showing an increase of 11%. The growth in imports in general for the same period is 12%. Detailed analysis of these sensitive items show that the growth is accounted for mainly due to increase of import of crude Palm oil to the extent of Rs. 1434 crores. For regulating the import of palm oil, the government has already fixed tariff value for assessment of custom duty which is being revised from time to time.

[English]

Indo-Mauritius Tax Treaty

816. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to review the Mauritius tax treaty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other steps being taken to stop the one sided favour being bestowed to various Indian and foreign institutional investors using Mauritius as a conduit at the cost of revenue in India?

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

(c) The tax benefits being availed by foreign institutional investors of Mauritius are not one-sided but available to residents of both the countries as per the provision of Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Mauritius which is a bilateral agreement. Steps have already been taken to ensure effective exchange of information to prevent its abuse.

Loss Making Branches of Banks

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

(a) whether there is a proposal to hand over loss-making branches of public sector banks to cooperative institutions;

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

(c) whether the banks have identified their loss-making branches all over the country;

(d) if so, the criteria used to identify loss-making branches; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the banking sector does not reduce its presence in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The banks continually review the performance of their branches. Efforts are made to ensure the viability of those branches which are identified as loss-making failing which the banks consider their relocation/merger/closure.

(e) Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks that a branch which is the only branch functioning at a rural center should not be shifted/closed/merged outside the service area as this would render the area unbanked.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes under Packaging Development Programme

818. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the projects or welfare schemes being run by the Ministry under "Packaging Development Programme" meant for the welfare of others; and

(b) the formulae being adopted by the Government for providing loans, grants and other economic assistance under these projects; and

(c) the contribution or economic participation of the State Governments therein?

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

[English]

Release of Foodgrains to Kerala

819. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala have requested to the Union Government to the release of more foodgrains to distribute to the employees of the Tea Estates that were closed down; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total quantity of foodgrains released to Kerala for this purpose since last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the Government of Kerala has been allotted 25,000 tonnes of common rice during 2002-2003 for distress areas under Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY).

Requests of South Korea for Tax Incentive

820. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of South Korea have requested the Government of India for certain facilities including tax incentives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to request from a foreign country on tax incentives and other facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Government of South Korea have expressed their desire for revision of existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between the two countries and forwarded a revised draft of DTAC mainly on the grounds of differential tax treatment for branch office of foreign companies in India and taxation of income of South Korean shipping lines. Similarly the request of Indian authorities for extension of applicability

of 'tax sparing' credit for another 10 years from 1995 onwards has been pending with the South Korean authorities. A bilateral meeting between the tax authorities of India and South Korea on the above issues was proposed to be held from 15 to 17th January, 2002 at New Delhi but was postponed due to unexpected reshuffle in the Korean Finance Ministry in the first week of January, 2002. This meeting was rescheduled to be held at Seoul, Korea from 5 to 7th November, 2002 but has been again postponed at the instance of South Korean authorities due to their National Assembly Session. South Korea authorities have now proposed that this meeting may be held in the month of July, 2003.

(c) The differential rates of income tax in India are applied to domestic companies who make arrangements for declaration and payment of dividends in India. Since the companies other than the domestic companies i.e. foreign companies do not declare and pay dividends in India, they attract a higher tax rate. As per Finance Act, 2002, rates of income tax chargeable from foreign companies has been brought down from 48% to 40%. As regards taxation of income from shipping enterprises, taxation rate of 50% of the international tax rate as provided for in the treaty will become applicable only when a bilateral shipping agreement enters into force and till such time the rate of tax will be 90% of the tax imposed by the internal tax law of the either country. The bilateral agreement is being negotiated by the Ministry of Shipping with their South Korean counterparts.

UTI NAV-based Funds

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

(a) whether the Government propose to divide Rs. 12,400 crore assets of UTIs NAV-based funds into four or more separate funds;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to privatize UTI; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the same and the manner in which the interests of investors are likely to be protected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The NAV based schemes of UTI will be transferred to a specified company, which is being set up jointly by PSU banks/financial institutions. It will be professionally managed and shall be complaint with SEBI Regulations.

(c) The specified company shall be subsequently divested and the realisation, net of expenses, will accrue to the Government.

(d) The specified company will manage the NAV based schemes as per SEBI (Mutual Fund) Regulations.

New Markets for Wheat

822. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prospects of export of wheat by India have brightened due to reduction in production of wheat in some countries like U.S., Australia and Canada;

(b) if so, whether the Government are exploring the possibilities of exporting more wheat to new markets; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) It is not possible to indicate accurately if the prospects of exports of wheat by India have brightened due to reduction in production of wheat in countries like USA, Australia and Canada, the same being a function of various factors including international demand and supply position, domestic demand and supply position, domestic and international prices, consumer preferences and varieties traded.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Hike in FDI Limit

823. SHRI AMBAREESHA:
DR. ASHOK PATEL:
SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY:

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

(a) whether the Group of Ministers headed by the Finance Minister to chart out a road map for further liberalizing the Foreign Direct Investment regime has taken any decision on hiking the FDI limit in some sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to relax norms for foreign participation in joint ventures in the aviation sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to secure the national interest before opening the aviation sector for joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The Group of Ministers (GOM) on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reviews the sectoral policies on FDI, including sectoral caps, to decide necessary changes. The Steering Committee on FDI set up by the Planning Commission in the context of the 10th Five Year Plan has submitted its report which is presently under consideration of the GoM on FDI. The Report, inter alia, has made recommendations for raising/removal of FDI caps in certain sectors, strengthening of institutional framework for FDI and simplification of entry/exist norms.

(c) to (e) Recommendations of the Steering Committee also include the Civil Aviation sector, where the Committee has recommended that the foreign equity cap be raised from 40% to 49% and foreign airlines allowed to invest within this cap. This, along with other proposals, is under consideration of the Group of Ministers on FDI. All relevant factors, including national security interests, would be taken into account while considering these proposals.

Expansion of Trade with China and Nepal

824. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal for expansion of trade with China and Nepal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas identified for this purpose; and

(d) the specific steps being taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to expand it's trade including with China and Nepal. In respect of China, various sectors of export interest include ores, cotton yarn and fabrics, plastic polymers, organic chemicals, stone, granite, marbles, precious stones, seafood, iron & steel, hides and skins, inorganic chemicals, etc. Specific steps taken include signing of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement and negotiating SPS Protocol to facilitate export of Indian fruits and vegetables to China etc. As regards Nepal, bilateral trade between India and Nepal is sought to be promoted through various provisions of the India Nepal Treaty of Trade.

Anti-Dumping Investigations

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

(a) whether India initiated largest number of anti-dumping investigations during January, 2002 to June, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present status of these investigations initiated by India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) During the period January to June 2002 Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties initiated 11 anti-dumping investigations. The products under investigation are Graphite Electrodes, Sodium Tri Poly Phosphate, D (-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Base, Vitamin—A Palmitate, Phenol, Ferro Silicon, Citric Acid, Acyclic Alcohols, Caustic Soda, D (-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Methyl Potassium Dane Salt and X-Ray Baggage System, The countries involved are Poland, Brazil, China, Taiwan, European Union, Georgia, Singapore, South Africa, Macedonian, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Romania, Korea and Germany. Out of the 11 anti-dumping cases initiated, preliminary findings have been issued in respect of 10 cases and one case is under investigation.

[Translation]

Foodgrain Allocation to Institutions

826. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether wheat and rice have been allocated to various institutions for their domestic use at export rates;

(b) if so, the names of the institutions and the basis on which wheat and rice have been allocated to them at export rates, States-wise; and

(c) the monitoring mechanism, adopted on these institutions?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

827. SHRI V. VETRISELVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange reserves with the RBI as on date;

(b) whether the Government propose to use the fresh reserves to retire high interest debt;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the extent to which this decision would reduce possible reserves and debt and maintain adequate debt and import cover?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total foreign exchange reserves with the RBI amounted to US$ 65,376 million as on Nov. 08, 2002.

(b) and (c) The Government undertakes prepayment of high cost external debt from time to time. This forms a part of prudent debt management policy. An amount of US$ 702.82 million has been prepaid during 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 so far.

(d) Prepayment does not have automatic impact on foreign exchange reserves held by RBI. While debt services are undertaken by the Government by purchasing foreign exchange from the market, the reserves maintained by the RBI is the net result of transactions on both current and capital account of external sector. The foreign exchange reserves have increased from US$ 54,106 million at the end March, 2002, to US$ 65,376 million as on Nov. 08, 2002 which is equivalent to more than one year's import requirements.

World Bank Loan to States

828. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of World Bank loan received by various States during each of the last three years;

(b) whether any project from any State has been posed for World Bank loan and pending for clearance of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Disbursement for various World Bank projects in various States during the last three years is as follows:

Year	Disbursement (in US$ million)
1999-2000	1471.352
2000-2001	1446.881
2001-2002	2211.472

(b) and (c) Posing of projects to World Bank is a continuous exercise. Projects from states are examined in consultation with concerned line Department/Ministry in Government of India and posed to the World Bank from time to time. During the current year 2002-2003, following 4 projects have been posed to the World Bank:—

(i) UP Rural Supply and Sanitation Project.

(ii) Haryana Water Resources Consolidation Project II.

(iii) Assam Rural Infrastructure & Agricultural Services Project-Phase II.

(iv) CHETANA.

Following proposals are at the stage of examination:

1. M.P. Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project
2. Assam Rural Water Supply and Sanitation (Watsan) Project
3. Karnataka Power.

4. A.P. Power II.

5. Tamil Nadu Structural Adjustment Loan

6. Maharashtra Structure Adjustment Loan.

7. A.P. Structural Adjustment Loan II

8. Karnataka Structural Adjustment Loan III.

Elimination of Quota Curbs

829. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doha WTO Ministerial Conference had decided to step up elimination of quota curbs;

(b) whether the US decision on textile quota runs counter to this decision and would hit Indian exporters adversely;

(c) if so, the action taken, if any, to obviate such a situation; and

(d) whether the quotas would be phased out by the year 2005 as stipulated under WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) The Doha World Trade Organization (WTO) Ministerial Conference had reaffirmed the commitment to full and faithful implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing, and agreed that the provisions of the Agreement relating to the early integration of products and the elimination of quota restrictions should be effectively utilized. It had also mandated an examination by the WTO's Council for Trade in Goods of two implementation proposals relating to the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing (ATC) for recommending appropriate action by 31st July 2002. The first proposal relates to calculating the quota level for small suppliers for the remaining years of the ATC using the most favourable methodology available in respect of those members under the growth on growth provisions. The second proposal which is of relevance to us requires the usage of the higher stipulated percentages for growth on growth with effect from 1st January 2002 itself rather than at the beginning of the third stage which is 1st January 2002.

India had coordinated its position on the second implementation issue on "growth-on-growth" with certain other textile exporting countries, including the ITCB member countries, and sought a satisfactory resolution of this issue. This was, however, strongly opposed by the United States and certain other restraining countries. The issue could therefore not be successful resolved by 31st July 2002.

(c) India has raised the issue of non-adherence to the deadline on this implementation issue as mandated by the Doha Ministerial Conference at the WTO and other meetings with major trading countries.

(d) In accordance with the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing all restrictions under the agreement have to be eliminated with effect from 1st January, 2005.

Declaration of Twin Cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad as A-1 City

830. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Organisations of Central Government employees have urged the Union Government to declare the twin cities of Hyderabad-Seconderabad as A-1 City; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the response of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Representations have been received from the Central Government Employees Federations for declaring Hyderabad (UA), which also includes Secunderabad, as A-1 class city for the purposes of grant of House Rent Allowance and City Compensatory Allowance.

(b) The representation could not be agreed to as Hyderabad city does not fulfill the criteria of population of 50 lakh based on the 1991 census which is the criterion laid down by the 5th Central Pay Commission and accepted by the Government to classify a city as A-1 class city.

FCI Godowns in Kerala

831. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether total capacity of Food Corporation of India godowns in the State of Kerala at present, district-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to construct more godowns in the State;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of godowns that are lying closed in the State, district-wise; and

(e) the remedial steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to restore these closed godowns particularly Wellington Island in Cochin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) At present, Food Corporation of India has a total storage capacity of 6.03 lakh tonnes (Owned & Hired/Covered and CAP) in the State of Kerala. District-wise storage capacity is given in the enclosed *Statement*.

(b) and (c) During the Tenth Five Year Plan FCI proposes to construct godowns at Meenangadi and Arakulam with a capacity of 5000 MTs each.

(d) and (e) No godown in the State is lying closed. However, 'B' site of Kochi (Wellington Island) having a capacity of 40,960 MTs is being surrendered to Port Trust due to its un-storage worthiness. The PDS requirements of Ernakulam District are being met from FCI's godown at Angamally.

Statement

As on 30.09.2002
(Capacity in '000' Tonnes)

Name of FCI District	Total Capacity (Covered & CAP/ Owned & Hired)
Alleppy	35.00
Calicut	91.48
Cochin	100.30
Kottayam	20.64
Muzahappulangad	52.56
Palaghat	87.02
Quilon	64.93
Trichur	67.66
Trivandrum	83.07
Grand Total	602.66

RRBs Making Loss

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

(a) the names of the States and the number of Regional Rural Banks particularly in Madhya Pradesh which are running at loss;

(b) since when these banks are incurring losses and the amount of losses incurred by these banks so far; and

(c) the steps taking by the Government for revival of these banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per NABARD's report, out of 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) in the Country, 29 RRBs are incurring losses as on 31st March, 2002. State-wise number of loss-making RRBs and the amount of losses during 2001-2002 & accumulated losses including those in the State of Madhya Pradesh are given below. The assessment of losses of these banks is done with reference to their financial position as on 31 March of each year and these figures are subject to change in accordance with the performance of the RRB in that particular year.

(Rs in Crore)

S. No.	States	No. of RRBs	Losses during 2001-02	Accumulated losses
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	6.19	55.31
2.	Rajasthan	2	4.36	77.17
3.	Assam	1	1.00	19.17
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	8.36	11.16
5.	Manipur	1	1.16	12.09
6.	Bihar	5	6.61	254.30
7.	Jharkhand	2	4.07	51.70
8.	Orissa	5	38.90	319.95
9.	Chhattisgarh	2	6.28	84.68

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3	3.11	44.23
11.	Uttar Pradesh	2	3.76	65.83
12.	Gujarat	1	1.57	0.38
13.	Maharashtra	2	3.52	26.75
14.	Andhra Pradesh	1	3.19	12.03

(c) Several policy changes have been initiated by Government to facilitate strengthening and revitalization of RRBs. These changes inter alia include;

- 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, introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, asset classification and provisioning norms;
- diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- rationalization of branch network including relocation and merger of loss making branches;
- deregulation of interest rate structure; and
- providing greater role to the sponsor banks in the management of RRBs.

[Translation]

Forward Trading in Gold

833. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has permitted forward trading in gold;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it will have any impact on rates of gold in the country;

(d) if so, the extent thereof;

(e) whether this will also have any impact on the economy of the country; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at the time of formulation of the Gold Deposit Scheme in 1999, the Central Government, vide its notification dated 19th August, 1999 exempted all forward contracts for the sale and purchase of gold within the country from the operation of the provisions of the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952, if one of the parties of the contract is RBI or a scheduled bank authorized by RBI to deal in gold. However, RBI stipulated that banks launching the scheme could enter into forward contracts only with those banks that are authorised to import gold. In effect this meant that banks could not enter into such contracts with their clients.

However, banks have now gained sufficient experience in dealing with gold and have established prudent risk management procedures. Thus, RBI has allowed banks to enter into forward contracts in gold with their clients, subject to certain conditions.

(c) to (f) The RBI is of the view that the move is not expected to make any impact as such on gold prices or the economy.

[English]

Shares of HPCL and BPCL

834. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the shares of HPCL and BPCL were off loaded by some shareholders a week before the Cabinet decided to defer decision on disinvestment of these PSUs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether as the prices plummeted they bought again heavily making more than Rs. 50-80 per share at the end of about 10 days and have made more than Rs. 500 crore;

(d) if so, whether an enquiry is under way by Bombay Stock Exchange and or National Stock Exchange;

(e) if so, whether Securities and Exchange Board of India is enquired into the matter;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (f) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that share prices of HPCL and BPCL fell sharply on 9th September, 2002 after the Cabinet Committee on Disinvestment postponed decision on disinvestment by 3 months in its meeting on 7th September, 2002.

Examination of trading at National Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange, Mumbai, was carried out by both exchanges and client level information has been gathered and is under examination by the exchanges and SEBI.

(g) In view of above, does not arise.

Agricultural Product Exports by MMTC

835. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether MMTC propose to enter into agricultural exports business in a big way;

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

(c) the total turnover of MMTC at present;

(d) the total business expectedly MMTC in agricultural field;

(e) whether MMTC has identified countries to whom export is likely to be made; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and orders received by MMTC from these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) MMTC is already in the business of export of Agro Products. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is supplying wheat and rice for export purpose as per the Policy of the Government. Based on terms and conditions of FCI, efforts are made to export wheat and rice to the international market at competitive rates.

(c) and (d) The total turnover of MMTC from 1st April 2002 till 31st October, 2002 is Rs. 3697.79 crores (7 months). MMTC expects to generate about Rs. 1000 crores during the year 2002-03 in agricultural field.

(e) and (f) Some SAARC, ASEAN and African countries which have geographical proximity to India are the natural markets of MMTC have already exported agro products viz. wheat and rice to the tune of Rs. 587 crores and has export orders in hand to the tune of Rs. 400 crores for execution upto end March, 2003.

Schemes for Industry in Assam

836. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any schemes have been drawn out for revitalising the beleaguered tea industry in Assam including improvement quality, production patterns and exports of Assam tea during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the Central assistance proposed to be provided for implementation of said schemes; and

(d) the targets fixed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Tea Board has drawn up five major schemes for implementation during the 10th Plan period which will also cover the tea industry in Assam. The schemes would focus on the following areas:—

1. Productivity Improvement
2. Quality improvement
3. Market Development
4. Human Resource Development
5. Research & Development
6. Small Growers Development

(c) The Central assistance approved for the 10th Five Year Plan is Rs. 350 crores as subsidy and grant in Aid.

(d) Tea Board has a production target of 1044 million Kgs and export of 264 million kgs by the terminal year of the 10th Plan period.

Trade Relation with Argentina

837. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have established trade relation with Argentina; and

(b) if so, the details of the areas in which Indo–Argentina trade relation has been established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) Yes, Sir. Traditionally India is having trading relations with Argentina. These relations have further strengthened in the last few years.

(b) Our exports to Argentina comprise transport equipment, textiles including readymade garments, inorganic chemicals, agro-chemicals, dyes and intermediates, manufacture of metals, rubber and rubber products, machinery & equipment, drugs & pharmaceuticals and handicrafts etc.

Major imports from Argentina comprise iron & steel, chemicals, machinery, raw wool, non-ferrous metals, vegetable oils, leather, petroleum products etc.

NABARD Loan to States

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

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

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to accord sanction to the schemes pertaining to purchase of dry fodder and deepening of wells in dark and green zones;

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

(c) the response of the NABARD thereto; and

(d) the number of wells deepened in the dark and grey zones in various States with NABARD's assistance during the last two years and current year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that on the request made by banks in the State of Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra, it has sanctioned schemes for purchase of dry fodder in these states with a view to help the farmers to maintain their milch animals affected by drought, prevent the migration of animals to other parts of the state and to support the economy in the drought affected areas. The details of the refinance sanctioned by NABARD are given below:

No.	State	Amount (Rs. crores)
1.	Gujarat	107.438
2.	Rajasthan	81.000
3.	Maharashtra	16.690

(d) NABARD has reported that it does not generally extend refinance facility for deepening of wells in the dark areas. However, on the request of Rajasthan State Cooperative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank (SCARDB), it has sanctioned refinance to the extent of Rs. 161.595 lakhs for deepening of existing 1495 dugwells in the dark/grey zones.

Joint Working Group of Industrial Growth

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

(a) whether the Government propose to form a joint working group for regulate interaction to remove impediments to industrial growth;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also considering grant of price preference to domestic industry in accordance with the provisions of the World Trade Organisation; and

(c) if so, the concrete steps worked out in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The Government monitors industrial growth through various advisory and development counsils such as Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry and other working Groups constituted for specific segments of the industry from time to time. An inter-ministerial Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary, Heavy Industry has been recently constituted to coordinate matters relating to development of capital goods industry.

(b) and (c) A purchase preference scheme for public sector units already exists. Price preference for domestic industry vis-a-vis imports is provided by imposition of customs duty, which is WTO compatible.

Prosecution Launched against Companies

840. SHRI PRAVIN RASHTRAPAL:
DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs has recently launched prosecution against several companies under the Indian Companies Act, 1956;

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

(c) whether the said companies have been found violating the provisions of the Indian Companies Act, 1956 under Section 408 of the Act; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the period from 01-04-2001 to 31-03-2002, 8334 prosecutions were launched against 1964 companies and their officers in default.

(c) and (d) Section 408 of the Companies Act, 1956 empowers the Central Government to prevent oppression and mismanagement by appointing, with the approval of Company Law Board, directors on the Board of a company. No violation under this Section has been reported during the year 2001-2002.

Report of Committee on FDI

841. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI Y.V. RAO:
SHRI PRABODH PANDA:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether in order to attain an annual foreign investment inflow of 8 billion and 8% economic growth, a high power committee headed by Shri N.K. Singh has recommended 100% FDI in crucial sectors like refineries, oil marketing, petroleum exploration, airports, private banks, non-banking finance companies, financial services, mining, manufacturing and real estate;

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government have agreed to with the recommendations;

(c) the details of other recommendations made by the Committee in regard to FDI inflow in other sectors and to bridge the gap of FDI inflow; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) The Steering Committee on Foreign Direct Investment set up by the Planning Commission in the context of the 10th Five Year Plan, has submitted its report recently. The Report, inter alia, has made recommendations for raising/removal of FDI caps in certain sectors.

(b) to (d) The Committee has specifically recommended increase in equity cap in certain sectors like insurance, broadcasting and telecom as a measure for increasing FDI inflows. In addition, the Committee has also recommended strengthening of institutional framework for FDI promotion and facilitation and simplification of entry/exist norms. The Report of the Committee is under consideration of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on FDI.

Directors of Banks

842. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENAKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government continue to appoint a number of social workers, political activists and others in various professions to the banks as Directors without equity;

(b) if so, the reasons for this practice;

(c) whether such nominees are not held responsible for the bad loans and other culpable activities of the bank management;

(d) if so, the purpose and criteria of appointment of such directors;

(e) whether the Government propose to review such patronage; and

(f) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Appointments of directors on the boards of public sector banks are made in accordance with the criteria and procedures prescribed in the relevant statues.

(c) and (d) The general superintendence, direction and management of public sector banks vests with their respective Boards. The non-official director of a public sector bank has no credit sanctioning powers in individual capacity. The decisions in this regard are taken by the Board which is responsible for it.

(e) and (f) It is proposed to amend some of the Sections dealing with the nomination of non-official directors of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/80. A Bill in this regard was introduced in the Lok Sabha. This has been referred to Standing Committee of Finance.

Promotion of Education Amongst SC/ST

843. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether this Ministry has been laying greater emphasis to promote education among Scheduled Caste boys and girls;

(b) if so, the details of various schemes launched in this regard;

(c) whether any such scheme has been sponsored by the Union Government for the State of Karnataka during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the grants given for the construction of hostels for the SC/ST boys and girls in the States during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of India is implementing following schemes for the educational development of Scheduled Caste boys and girls:

1. Post Matric Scholarship.
2. Pre-Matric Scholarship to children of those engaged in unclean occupation.
3. Hostels for SC boys and girls.
4. Book Bank Scheme.
5. Upgradation of Merit.
6. National Overseas Scholarship.
7. Special Educational Development Programmes for SC girls belonging to very low literacy levels.
8. Coaching and Allied Assistance.
9. Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations working for Scheduled Castes

The details of these schemes are given in the Annual Report of the Ministry for the year 2001-02;

(c) All the above mentioned schemes have been implemented in all the States/UTs including the State of Karnataka during the last three years.

(d) The details of the Central grants released for the construction of hostels for SC/ST Boys and Girls in the State of Karnataka during the last three years are as under:

(Rs. in Lakhs)

S.No.	Scheme	Amount released		
		1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Hostels for SC Boys	483.82	495.00	563.19
2.	Hostels for SC Girls	35.44	148.96	207.42
3.	Hostels for SC Boys	Nil	75.00	135.00
4.	Hostels for SC Girls	Nil	Nil	40.00

Export Prices of Foodgrains

844. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the prices of foodgrains for export in accordance with the WTO regulations;

(b) the details of the WTO regulations for export of foodgrains;

(c) whether the price of foodgrains supplied to the exporters by the Food Corporation of India is in accordance with the WTO regulations;

(d) if not, the price at which the foodgrains are supplied to the exporters; and

(e) the comparison of these prices with the open market prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (e) Foodgrains are being offered to the exporters at the Open Market Sales Schemes (Domestic) price of the FCI. However, post-delivery and other related expenses, which are WTO compatible, are allowed.

Welfare Schemes in Rajasthan

845. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of welfare schemes for SC/ST Minorities/disabled/widows in operation in Rajasthan, especially in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Western Rajasthan;

(b) the funds allocated/spent on each of these schemes during each of the last three years, scheme-wise;

(c) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the backward and most backward classes under these welfare schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of families and people benefited under these schemes during each of the last three years in Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment operates welfare schemes for Scheduled Castes/Minorities/Disabled and the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for Scheduled Tribes throughout the country and not for a particular State and not in particular districts.

(b) No State-wise allocation is made under welfare schemes. During the last three years funds released under these schemes in Rajasthan are detailed in the *Statement*-I. State Governments and Voluntary Organizations are released grant only after utilization certificates have been received for the previous releases.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During Ninth Five Year Plan, the Ministry has launched schemes for educational and economic development of Other Backward Classes.

(e) The number of persons/families benefited under these welfare schemes during the relevant period in the State is given in the *Statement-II*.

Statement-I

Release of funds to various schemes in the State of Rajasthan

(Rs. in lakh)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Released		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
	Scheduled Caste Development			
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	2792.68	3738.95	3005.41
2.	Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	308.28	411.36	470.13
3.	Pre Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	0.00	107.51	59.69
4.	Book Banks for Scheduled Caste students	0.00	0.00	9.40
5.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	0.00	43.10	0.00

1	2	3	4	5
6.	National Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers	1661.79	0.00	0.00
7.	Scheduled Caste Development Corporations	0.00	0.00	118.74
8.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	50.00	150.00	317.38
9.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	15.51	0.00	8.24
10.	Assistance to VOs for Scheduled Castes	66.05	95.19	126.53
	Other Backward Classes			
11.	Construction of Hostel for Other Backward Class boys and girls	57.48	0.00	0.00
12.	Assistance to VOs for Other Backward Classes	0.00	0.00	10.66
13.	Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs	0.00	0.00	0.38
	Minorities			
14.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	5.25	2.45	4.43
	Welfare of the Persons with Disabilities			
15.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	88.13	93.99	155.81
16.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aid & appliances	348.78	360.00	382.92
17.	Employment of the Handicapped	11.33	39.26	10.41
18.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities	25.00	198.35	156.05
	Social Defence			
19.	Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social maladjustment	8.77	8.00	12.17
20.	Scheme for Prohibition & Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention	66.54	72.69	79.67
21.	Scheme for welfare of Street Children	24.95	17.68	37.90
22.	Integrated Programme of Old Age	1.35	0.00	3.18
23.	Construction of Old Age Homes	10.00	2.50	0.00
24.	Assistance to Homes for Infant and Young Children for Promoting in-country Adoption	4.91	13.87	10.40
	Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan	2915.24	2915.24	3649.56
2.	Grant Under Article 275(1) of the Constitution	800.29	1700.00	2550.00
3.	Boys Hostels	319.20	0.00	0.00
4.	Educational Complex	17.51	19.80	30.58

1	2	3	4	5
5.	Research & Training (Tribal Research Institutes)	1.70	11.03	4.53
6.	Grant in aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations	25.00	0.00	251.61
7.	State Tribal Development Finance Corporations	0.00	4646.07	0.00
8.	Post Matric Scholarship	0.00	0.00	111.00
9.	Grant to NGOs	24.49	30.21	28.23
10.	Book Bank	0.00	0.00	6.00
11.	Upgradation of Merit	0.00	0.00	7.05

Statement-II

Number of Beneficiaries under various schemes in the State of Rajasthan

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	Beneficiaries		
		1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1	2	3	4	5
Scheduled Caste Development				
1.	Special Central Assistance to Special Component Plan for SCs	66724	62494	63071
2.	Post Matric Scholarships to the students belonging to Scheduled Castes	59721	62002	64110
3.	Pre Matric Scholarships to the children of those engaged in unclean occupation	3713	20184	21310
4.	Book Banks for Scheduled Caste students	NA	NA	3067
5.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes	NA	3320	NA
6.	National Scheme for Liberation & Rehabilitation of scavengers	172	404	800
7.	Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1995 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989	NA	NA	NA
8.	Upgradation of Merit for SC/ST students	176	NA	87
9.	Assistance to VOs for Scheduled Castes	1380	1370	1140
	Other Backward Classes			
10.	Construction of Hostel for Other Backward Class boys and girls	175	NA	NA
11.	Assistance to VOs for Other Backward Classes	NA	NA	540
12.	Pre-Examination Coaching for OBCs	NA	NA	40
	Minorities			
13.	Pre Examination Coaching for Weaker Sections based on economic criteria	200	150	200

1	2	3	4	5
	Welfare of the Persons with Disabilities			
14.	Scheme to promote voluntary action for persons with disabilities	NA	1384	2303
15.	Scheme of assistance to disabled persons for purchase/fitting of aid & appliances	3804	4577	5675
16.	Employment of the Handicapped			
	(a) Live Register	6293	6761*	**
	(b) Placement	75	88	**
17.	National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities			
	Social Defence			
18.	Prevention and Control of Juvenile Social Maladjustment	337	337	337
19.	Scheme for Prohibition & Substance (Drug) Abuse Prevention	7578	5763	3933
20.	Scheme for welfare of Street Children	800	800	800
21.	Integrated Programme of Older Age	250	Na	150
22.	Construction of Old Age Homes	63	73	58
23.	Assistance to Homes for Infant and Young Children for Promoting in-country Adoption			
	Ministry of Tribal Affairs			
1.	Point 11 (b) of the Twenty Point Programme	68673	74374	85256

* Compiled upto December, 2000 by Ministry of Labour
** Awaiting information from Ministry of Labour
NA Not Available
Na Not Applicable as no fund was released during the year

[Translation]

Fake Insurance Racket

846. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fake insurance racket operating in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, whether the Development Officers, agents and the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) offices are running this racket in connivance with each other as a result of which the Life Insurance Corporation is incurring losses;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation has been asked to probe the matter;

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

(e) the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(f) the concrete steps taken by the Government to simplify and streamline the functioning of Life Insurance Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that over the last few years there has been no report regarding any fake insurance business being carried out in any part of the country.

However, in the year 1995 CBI had registered 8 cases for investigation with regard to irregularities in new business. 6 out of 8 cases have been closed after completion of investigation.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

(f) The LIC has very stringent mechanisms of checks and controls to ensure adherence to the laid down systems and procedures. All Offices undergo regular Audit as well as Inspections which cover the financial and procedural aspects of their working respectively. Any deviation from the prescribed systems is reported and corrective action is taken immediately. The Audit & Inspection Reports of the last few years do not reveal any such irregularities.

[English]

Rural Sector Obligations of LIC

847. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) have urged the Life Insurance Corporation of India to meet their compulsory rural sector obligations;

(b) whether the existing regulations have not been conducive to the development of rural and social sector insurance;

(c) if so, the details of concrete proposals suggested and formulate in identifying and tapping the rural insurance business market; and

(d) to what extent the proposed change in the regulations is expected to boost the LIC business in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has reported that they are complying with the IRDA regulations relating to rural sector obligations.

(b) and (c) The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has reported that some of the insurers were not able to comply with the regulations in totality because of the difficulties in identifying the rural areas. Therefore the IRDA has notified the revised rural and social regulations on 16th October, 2002.

(d) With the revised changes in the regulations, the percentage of business of LIC in rural areas would increase.

[Translation]

Welfare Schemes in Bihar

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

(a) the amount spent on the welfare of the Scheduled Castes in Bihar under various Centrally sponsored schemes during he Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether the Government propose to enhance his allocation during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the amount allocated during the current financial year and the amount released out of it so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) During Ninth Five Year Plan, Rs. 130.91 crores has been released under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes for the welfare of Scheduled Castes in Bihar.

(b) to (d) Release of funds for welfare of Scheduled Castes in the Tenth Five Year Plan is expected to be higher than that in the Ninth Plan Period. The allocations are not made State-wise under these Schemes but access of funds by the States depends on receipt of proposals, budget availability and submission of utilisation certificates for funds released earlier. Rs. 65.00 lakhs have been released upto 15-11-2002.

[English]

Task Force on F and PDS

849. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have set up a task force comprising 50 officers from the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies to keep a vigilant eye on complaints of starvation deaths, diversion or recycling of foodgrains meant for PDS and the quality and foodgrains procurement for the Central pool;

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

(c) whether the task force has recently inquired the allegation of hunger deaths in Kalahandi;

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

(e) whether the attention of task force was also drawn to the various media reports of starvation deaths in Rajasthan;

(f) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted by the task force in this regard;

(g) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(h) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) and (b) A list of suitable Officers has been drawn up in the Department of Food and Public Distribution so that, when situations arise necessitating investigation into the adequacy (or otherwise) of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in any area, alleged "starvation" and other matters concerning the supply and distribution of foodgrains, a Team of such Officers can quickly be deputed to these areas to assess the situation. Each Team of Officers is called a Task Force.

(c) and (d) One Task Force Team visited Muniguda and Ghatagaon Blocks of Rayagada and Keonjhar Districts (Orissa) in September, 2002 for on-the-spot assessment of alleged "starvation" deaths.

The shortcomings in the Public Distribution System (PDS), as pointed out in the Report, were brought to the attention of the Government of Orissa for remedial action.

(e) to (h) Consequent upon reports appearing in sections of the Press in regard to alleged "starvation" deaths in Baran District (Rajasthan), a Task Force Team was sent to the area in October, 2002 for on-the-spot assessment of the situation and the working of the PDS.

As per the Report of the Task Force, the deaths in Suvans and Gangapur villages of Baran District could have been due to starvation, coupled with malnutrition and lack of timely medical attention. The Team observed wide-spread hardship, hunger and malnutrition in remote areas due, mainly, to the failure of the Public Distribution System and the absence of employment opportunities.

The matter has been taken up with the State Government to put in place a fully functional Public Distribution System in the vulnerable areas and to provide uninterrupted supply and distribution of foodgrains to the same. It has also been stressed that employment generation programmes ought to be implemented vigorously and that the State authorities have to ensure requisite measures to combat starvation and extreme hardship at the earliest.

Task Force on Taxes

850. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task forces on indirect taxes has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Task Force on Indirect taxes has not yet submitted any Report. It has presented a Consultation Paper on 25.10.2002 and the proposals therein have been made public for wider discussion and comment. A *statement* of the important proposals is enclosed.

(c) The Government is examining them and shall finalise its views only after full examination of the recommendations.

Statement

1. There is an urgent need to arrest the trend of falling indirect tax to GDP ratio by widening tax base, removing customs and central excise duty exemptions, reducing transaction costs, expanding Service Tax base, and better tax compliance.

2. Multiplicity of Customs duty levies may be reduced; the rates of Basic Customs Duty may be reduced to four, namely, 0% (for life saving drugs, government imports, security and atomic energy related goods), 10% (for raw materials, inputs, intermediate goods), 20% (for final goods), and rates upto 150% (on demerit goods and agriculture produce); and there should be a move away from specific rates towards advalorem rates.

3. CENVAT should be the single levy on central excise side; the rates of duty may be 0% (for life saving drugs, security related goods), 8% (for food products), 16% (general rate), and separate rates for agriculture produce, tobacco and tobacco related products; eligibility limit of clearances for Small Scale Sector duty exemption may be reduced in a phased manner to Rs. 50 Lakhs; and policy of exemptions based on the locations should be reviewed.

4. Exemptions should be removed as far as possible and the relief, if justified, should be provided by upfront and transparent budgetary support;

5. A notification should come into force from the date after the day of its issue.

6. Exports should be zero rated from 1-4-2003.

7. Customs clearance procedure should be trust-based accompanied by enhanced system appraisal with use of Risk Management Techniques. Facilities should be provided for self-assessment of Bill of Entry; release of goods on minimum documentation; payment of duty through cheque; online filing of documents; etc.

8. Central Excise levy should be progressively based on the value addition; Maximum Retail Price (MRP) based valuation may be expanded and a Permanent Committee on MRP Abatement set up.

9. Each Central Excise Commissionerate should establish one tax clinic for SSI sector to guide the small scale manufacturers.

10. CENVAT Credit Rules should be modified to remove the distinction between inputs and capital goods; deemed credit should be withdrawn; while allowing credit, technical infirmities should be condoned; and there should be provision for recovery of credit erroneously refunded.

11. Refund/Drawback should be directly credited to the tax payers Bank account; delay in sanction of Drawback beyond the week of the receipt of complete documents should be subject to payment of interest.

12. CBEC should issue instructions that whenever an audit objection runs counter to its instruction/ circulars, no protective demands need be issued.

13. There should be automatic collapse of Show Cause Notices if the assessee pays the duty and interest within 30 days of the issue of the Notice; in cases of fraud and suppression, they would also be required to pay a penalty of 25%.

14. Fortnightly payment of central excise duty may be replaced by Monthly payment; and date of filing return may be shifted to 15th of the month/ quarter.

15. The Budget day restrictions may be removed.

16. Self-sealing of export goods should be allowed to the manufacturers; Multiplicity of export promotion schemes should be reduced; extent of domestic sale by EOU/EPZ units should gradually be reduced; and Drawback scheme should be improved.

17. All Commissionerates should fully automate their processes by January 2004; on-line filing of returns/documents should be encouraged; Telephone help-lines should be available; and ISO certification of Commissionerates should be initiated.

18. Adjudication should be done by a bench of two officers of the same level with the next higher officer appointing a third officer in case of conflicting view; in respect of CEGAT the provision of automatic vacation of stay in the event of non-disposal of cases within six months should be revoked.

19. Inter-Ministerial Committee and Trade Facilitation Committees should be constituted for faster clearances of import/export goods; Standing Committee on Procedure should be established; multi-banking should be encouraged; and CBEC should codify the circulars/instructions by 1.4.2003 and Notifications by 1.6.2003.

20. In general, the Service Tax base should be expanded; scheme of tax credit should be extended to services; and there should be a Service Tax legislation.

21. The State Governments should announce a time bound action plan to implement VAT by 1.4.2003;

and there should be uniform VAT legislations, uniform rates of taxation and uniform classification based on HSN.

[Translation]

Fair Price Shops and Consumers

851. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of fair price shops in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) the list of consumer items being sold through these fair price shops, rate-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide all consumer items to all needy persons through these shops thus doing away with the APL & BPL demarcation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) A *Statement* is enclosed in this regard.

(b) to (d) Fair price Shops are set-up to distribute essential commodities to the ration card holders under the Public Distribution System. The State Governments have been advised that Fair Price Shop owners should be encouraged to enlarge the basket of commodities by adding non-PDS items for sale through PDS outlets at the retail prices to be fixed by them.

There is no proposal to provide all consumer items through these shops.

Statement

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Number of fair price shops
1	2	3
1.	Uttar Pradesh	74,788
2.	Maharashtra	49,819
3.	Bihar	41,818
4.	Andhra Pradesh	40,631
5.	Assam	32,347
6.	Tamil Nadu	27,886
7.	Orissa	24,665
8.	West Bengal	20,437
9.	Karnataka	20,372
10.	Rajasthan	19,904
11.	Madhya Pradesh	18,688
12.	Gujarat	14,458
13.	Kerala	14,183
14.	Punjab	13,982
15.	Uttaranchal	7,697
16.	Chhattisgarh	7,866
17.	Haryana	7,230
18.	Meghalaya	4,237
19.	Himachal Pradesh	3,957
20.	Delhi	3,133
21.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,926
22.	Manipur	1,928
23.	Tripura	1,432
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,135
25.	Sikkim	1,071
26.	Mizoram	1,011
27.	Goa	534
28.	Pondicherry	405
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	404
30.	Nagaland	351
31.	Chandigarh	121
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	78
33.	Daman & Diu	38
34.	Lakshadweep	35
35.	Jharkhand*	NA
	Total	4,59,567

[English]

Made in India Show

852. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) whether a 3-day "made in India Show" was organised at Kabul recently;

(b) if so, the number of Indian companies participated in the trade fair;

(c) the volume of trade conducted at the fair;

(d) whether any trade agreements were signed; and

(e) the overall response of Afghanistan Government towards the Indian companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized "Made in India Show" at Kabul from 26-29 September, 2002.

(b) 170 Indian companies representing various industrial sectors participated in the Show.

(c) As a goodwill gesture, New Holland Tractors donated a tractor valued at US $ 8000 to the Ministry of Agriculture, Ashok Layland donated a generator valued at US $ 4000 to Afghanistan's Ministry of Commerce for one of the hospitals in Kabul. 50% of the exhibiting companies have already appointed/are in the process of appointing dealers/distributors/agents. 10% of the exhibition companies have decided to open a representative office in Kabul. 20% of the participating companies are in the process of tying up with potential partners.

(d) M/s. Kamrup Industrial Gases Ltd. signed an agreement with Yahya Gulf Trading to set up a chemical and industrial gas unit with an approximate investment of US $ 2.5 million. An another Indian company has decided to invest in Afghanistan for setting up a mineral water plant in Kabul. The Indo-Afghan Business Forum (IABF) was officially launched on 26th September, 2002 in the presence of Afghanistan Commerce Minister and the Indian Foreign Secretary.

(e) The overall response from the Afghan Government and the general public was very positive towards the "Made in India Show". The exhibition was visited by senior Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior Government officials from the Afghanistan Government.

Steps to Safeguard Service Sector

853. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:

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

(a) whether the service sector is the biggest growing area in international trade;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government had constituted working group on the negotiation strategy in service sector for GATT;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the said group has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the main recommendations of the Group; and

(f) if so, the steps taken by the Government to safeguard service sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) As per the World Trade Organization's Annual Report, 2002, the international trade in services registered an average annual growth of 6% during 1999-2000 before declining by 1% in 2001 under the impact of overall slowdown in the world economy.

(b) to (f) The Department of Commerce has recently set up an Expert Group consisting of persons having experience in the trade in services. The Expert Group will advise the government on various issues relating to Services negotiations, particularly on cross-cutting issues. As the Expert Group is an advisory body, no formal report is expected to be submitted by it. The Department of Commerce has also suggested to the Administrative Ministries/Departments concerned with various service sectors to constitute a Focus Group within each Ministry/ Department to evaluate the requests and offers that may come up during the negotiations and to help formulate the stand to be taken on the concerned service sector. It is understood that Ministries/Departments concerned are taking action in this regard.

Nedungadi Bank

854. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has declared a moratorium on Nedungadi Bank till February, 2003 curtailing withdrawal limits by the depositors;

(b) if so, the reasons for promoting such a decision by the Apex Bank;

(c) whether the RBI is considering the option of amalgamating Nedungadi Bank with any of the Public Sector Bank;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the RBI to have a proper supervision on the working of private sector banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Nedungadi Bank Ltd. has been placed under moratorium on account of its deteriorating financial position and negative CRAR. The accumulated losses of the bank have wiped out its capital and reserves.

(c) and (d) Draft Scheme of amalgamation of Nedungadi Bank with Punjab National Bank has been sent to banks by RBI for their comments. This scheme is available on RBI Website.

(e) The Private Sector Banks are subjected to annual financial inspection by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The irregularities/deficiencies observed during the course of inspection are brought to notice of respective banks for corrective action and compliance is closely monitored by RBI. These are also discussed by senior officers of RBI with Chief Executives/Directors of the banks.

Banks Frauds

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

(a) whether the cases of bank frauds have of late increased considerably;

(b) if so, the number of such cases come to the light during the last three years;

(c) whether the Ghosh Committee recommendations to stop frauds in banks has been implemented in letter and spirit;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the name of bank employees found connected with these frauds during the above period; and

(f) the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that during years 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto June) 3185, 3080, 2076 and 1158 cases of frauds have been reported to it by the banks.

(c) and (d) The RBI has reported that almost all the banks have implemented the recommendations of the Ghosh Committee relating to the prevention of frauds in banks. The recommendations include joint custody of cash and other valuables, reporting of currency chest transactions on a daily basis, adherence to the norms prescribed by RBI on issue and payment of high value drafts, period verification of securities, surprise check by Vigilance Cell, surprise inspection of branches, concurrent audit of large branches, rotation of staff, close watch on the operation of newly opened accounts, obtaining photographs of depositors at the time of opening accounts, surprise visit by controlling authorities to the branches and balancing of books by staff other than those who have written them.

(e) and (f) Banks have taken departmental action against their 127 officials for their involvement in the frauds during the above period.

Investigation on Takeover of L & T

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

(a) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry/ investigation in regard to takeover of L & T by Birla's;

(b) if so, the present status of the enquiry/ investigation; and

(c) the action taken or likely to be taken by the Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. However, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has decided to conduct an investigation against GRASIM Industries Ltd. (acquirer), L&T (target company), Reliance Industries Ltd. (seller) and JM Morgan Stanley Pvt. Ltd. (merchant banker) in terms of the SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares of Takeovers) Regulations, 1997.

(b) The investigation is in progress.

(c) Appropriate action will be taken depending on the outcome of the investigation.

Clearance to FDI Proposals

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

(a) whether the Government have cleared a number of FDI proposals recently;

(b) if so, the details of said proposals indicating the amount involved therein, sectors to which these proposals pertain and the names of foreign companies who offered these proposals; and

(c) the overall FDI proposal cleared during the last two years and in the current financial year so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Based on the FIPB meetings held on 18.10.2002 and 24.10.2002, Government has approved 41 proposals of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) amounting to around Rs. 97.00 crore. The major investments proposed pertain to the sectors of chemicals & petrochemicals, manufacture of vegetable oils & fats, consumer goods, wholesale trading of hi-tech engineering components, automobile components, information technology & software development and NBFC activities. The particulars of these FDI proposals are available in the Press Release dated 5.11.2002, which is also posted on the website of SIA: i.e. http://indmin.nic.in.

(c) During the period from April 2000 to August 2002, a total number of 4,668 proposals involving FDI amounting to Rs. 68,273.99 crore have been approved.

[Translation]

Exchange of Soiled Bank Notes

858. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether facility to exchange soiled currency notes is not available in all the branches of commercial banks; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to provide this facility in all branches of commercial banks in order to obviate the difficulties being faced by the common people in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Reserve Bank of India have reported that the facility to exchange soiled currency notes is, in the normal course, available in all the branches of commercial banks. The facility for exchange of defective and mutilated notes is made available at all the branches of the Public Sector Banks and currency chest branches of private sector banks.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

Profit after Tax

859. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in power, oil and infrastructure sectors have been asked to pay 30 percent of their profit after tax (PAT) on equity whichever is higher and in case of other PSUs the minimum 20 percent of the PAT as dividends to the Government for the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, the details of companies which have paid so far giving the amount; and

(c) the budget estimate and estimated collection of dividend for the fiscal year 2002-2003?

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

(b) and (c) The Budget estimate for receipts on account of dividends from Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) for the year 2002-03 is Rs. 9,455 crore. Till September 2002, dividends of Rs. 1957 crore has been received by the Government.

Rural Branches of SBI

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

(a) whether State Bank of India has reduced its rural credit to small farmers and artisans in Andhra Pradesh in 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether State Bank of India is also applying to close down some of its rural branches;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any monitoring is being done in this regard;

(f) if so, the findings of the Government on the functioning of State Bank of India and its rural credit disbursals; and

(g) the steps taken to ensure that State Bank of India does not reduce its rural credit to small farmers and artisans in order to protect their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that its branches in Andhra Pradesh have increased their budget from Rs. 250 crores (2001-02) to Rs. 300 crores (2002-03) in their Annual Action Plan. The credit flow from its branches in the State to agriculture in general and small and marginal farmers and artisans in particular has increased, as per data indicated below:

(Rs. Crores)

Year	Direct Agricultural	Advances	Out of which small & marginal farmers	
2001-02 (Sep.01)	362637	422.64	155589	153.89
2001-02 (Mar.02)	521118	838.38	275616	388.40
2002-03 (Sep.02)	263111	454.73	163991	159.53

(c) and (d) SBI has a total of 9040 branches out of which 4058 are in the rural areas. The bank has plans to continue with its strong presence in rural areas and has no plans to close them. However, 2 rural branches have been considered for merger in recent years. One of the branch had to be merged due to declaration by the State Government that it falls under forest area of pench tiger project. The other branch had to be merged due to poor business prospects.

(e) and (f) The performance of the branches of SBI is being monitored by the Circle Management Committee on a monthly basis. The performance of the bank in Andhra Pradesh is ranked 1st in the periodical reviews done by State Level Bankers Committee.

(g) SEBI has been a pioneer in vital segments like agriculture, small scale industries and small business and is actively involved in the poverty alleviation and income generation programmes launched by Union Government and State Governments. The bank has planned to increased its agricultural advances by Rs. 2275 crores and has set a target of issuing 8.0 lac Kisan Credit Cards during the year. A target of financing 27550 Self-Help groups (SHGs) have also been set for 2002-2003. Further, SBI has also devised the following farmer-friendly schemes/products recently:

i. Kisan gold Card Scheme;

ii. Land Purpose Scheme for Small and Marginal Farmers;

iii. Scheme for Financing Purchase of Combine Harvestors;

iv. Hassle-free Small Business Card Scheme.

Extinction of Juang Tribes

861. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing extinction of Juang Tribes in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent their untimely death particularly in Keonjhar district in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) According to the Registrar General of India, the population of the Juang Tribals in Orissa has increased from 30876 in 1981 to 35665 in 1991 as per the 1981 and 1991 census data respectively.

(c) No instance of untimely death has come to the notice of this Ministry. However, the Government of Orissa are implementing various socio-economic programmes by setting up a micro project (The Juang Development Agency) registered under the Society Registration Act for the overall development of Juangs, a Primitive Tribal Group in Orissa. In addition, funds are also available under the Central Sector Scheme for the development of Primitive Tribal Groups (PTGs) for the implementation of programmes by the State Governments and Non-Government Organisations.

Cotton Purchase Centres

862. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to open more purchase centres of Cotton Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and progress made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) to (c) No request from Government of Andhra Pradesh to open more purchase centres of Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) in Andhra Pradesh is pending.

In Andhra Pradesh, the CCI purchases kapas at a number of purchase centres under its 4 branches, viz. Adilabad, Guntur, Warangal and Raichur.

Cotton Technology Mission

863. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Cotton Technology Mission has been launched by the Union Government;

(b) whether any such Mission has been launched to promote cotton cultivation in Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, since when and the amount allocated to Madhya Pradesh since then?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC), a Centrally Sponsored Scheme, is applicable to all cotton growing states in India.

(b) and (c) Under Mini Mission II, Rs. 239.25 lakh in 2000-01, Rs. 301.34 lakh in 2001-02 and Rs. 170.00 lakh in 2002-03 has been allocated to the State of Madhya Pradesh for implementation of Integrated Cotton Development Programme.

Under Mini Mission III, development of 8 market yards improvements of Ratlam, Burhampur, Khargaon, Sausar, Dhamnod market yards, activation of Khategaon market yard and setting up of new market yard at Badnawar and Khandwa have been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.65 crore with Government of India assistance of Rs. 7.75 crore.

Under Mini Mission IV, modernisation of 20 Ginning & Pressing factories has been sanctioned at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.59 crore with Government of India assistance of Rs. 3.91 crore.

Vanished Companies

864. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) the total number of cases reported about the companies which vanished after mobilizing money from the investors through public issues during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Department of Companies Affairs has prescribed any criteria for declaring a company as a 'vanished' company;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to inquire about the veracity of such companies at the time of listing in the capital market for public issues;

(e) if so, details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government in order to avoid the hardships of the investors in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) 229 companies were reported to have ceased operation after mobilizing money from investors through public issues in the 1990s. No such case has however been reported/noticed during the last three years.

(b) and (c) A Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Secretary, Department of Company Affairs (DCA) and Chairman, SEBI had adopted the following criteria for identifying 'vanishing' companies:

(i) does not comply with the listing requirements for two years (listing requirements include filing of annual return and balance sheet) with respective Stock Exchange/ROCs.

(ii) does not submit the required reports to Regional Stock Exchange.

(iii) does not correspond with regional Stock Exchange for two years.

(iv) is not available at its Registered Office at the time of Stock Exchange inspection.

(d) and (e) The companies proposing to bring out public issues have to comply with SEBI Disclosure & Investor Protection (DIP) Guidelines which inter alia provide for mandatory appointment of a Merchant Banker, who carries out due diligence of the proposed issue, disclosures about the project, background of promoters etc. In addition, for listing their shares on Stock Exchanges, the companies have to comply with all the requirements of the listing agreement including the provisions relating to continuous disclosure.

(f) The field offices of DCA have taken action against such companies for violation of the provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. SEBI has debarred 92 companies and 352 directors u/s 11B of the SEBI Act from raising money from the Capital Market in any form, for a period of five years. Moreover, since December 2001, 117 prosecutions have been launched all over the country under sections 62/63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act. Offences under these sections carry punishment of imprisonment.

Conversion of IDBI as a Bank

865. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a proposal from Industrial Development Bank of India to convert itself into a full-fledged bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the other proposals which IDBI has given to change its profile?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Government has decided to corporatise Industrial Development Bank of India and permit it to undertake banking business.

Scheme for Weavers

866. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN:
SHRI K. KARUNAKARAN:
SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to launch an ambitious scheme for providing Central assistance/ relief to the current drought hit weavers in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details and objectives of the said scheme; and

(c) the financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) There is no such proposal.

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

Investment In Industrial Sector

867. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:
SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the pace of investment in the industrial sector has down considerably during the last three years as compare to other sector;

(b) if so, the total investment made in industrial sector in comparison to other sectors in each state during each of the last three years upto October, 2002, sector-wise;

(c) whether mining, quarrying, electricity, gas and water supply and construction sector have shown most declining trend in the matter of investment; and

(d) if so, the reasons for declining levels of real investment and its likely impact in achieving the desired growth in the industrial sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) The distribution of investment in the industrial sector vis-a-vis other sector of the economy in terms of gross capital formation by industry of use for the last three years is at enclosed *statement.*

The Central Statistical Organisation, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, does not maintain statewise information on gross investment by sectors.

The Statement shows that steady decline in investment over the last three years has taken place only in case of "construction" sector.

(d) The main reasons for decline in investment in the industrial sector are lack of aggregate demand; operation of investment and business cycles; adjustment lags of corporate restructuring; infrastructure constraints; lack of reforms in land and labour markets and economic slowdown in major trading partners of India like USA, Japan and European Union, etc.

Statement

Gross Capital Formation by Industry of use (at 1993-94 prices) (in Rs. crore)

Sl.No.	Sector/Industry	1998-1999	1999-2000	2000-2001
1.	Mining & Quarrying	5447	5753	3626
2.	Manufacturing	102210	109419	106446
3.	Electricity, gas & water supply	25834	24148	25713
4.	Construction	5691	3434	3088
	Sub total for industrial sector (1+2+3+4)	139182	142754	138873
5.	Agriculture, forestry & fishing	17470	19289	19451
6.	Trade, hotels & restaurants	3406	13434	12802
7.	Transport, storage & communication	24852	28659	35180
8.	Financing, insurance, real estate, & business services	33020	33247	33763
9.	Community, social & personal services	25767	30991	34848
	Total	243697	268374	274917

Source: Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation.

[Translation]

Role of ITPO in Export of Handicrafts and Jewellery

868. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the works undertaken by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation for promotion of handicrafts and artificial jewellery in various states especially in Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Maharashtra;

(b) the quantity of handicrafts and artificial jewellery exported during the last three years indicating the share of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Maharashtra and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the efforts proposed to be made by the Government to boost the export of above mentioned items from the country especially from Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Maharashtra in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) India Trade Promotion Organisation has been regularly organising participation in many overseas trade fairs in different parts of the world where display profile also includes handicrafs and artificial jewellery. These fairs offer suitable platform to handicrafts industry from all over India including the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar and Maharashtra to display their skills and products in International market. Besides, overseas offices of ITPO contact buyers and generate enquiries for various products including Handicrafts and Artificial Jewellery to facilitate exports.

(b) State-wise data on export of handicrafts is not maintained. However, the quantity of export of handicraft in Rupee terms including imitation/artificial jewellery during the last three years is as per statement attached.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to boost the export of above items from the country including from the State of Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Maharashtra inter-alia include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad; organisation of buyer-seller's meet; overseas publicity; organisation of export promotion marketing programmes/packaging programmes; publication of international level catalogues, organisation of overseas trade fairs.

Statement

Export of Handicrafts (excluding hand-knitted Carpets) for the last 3 years (provisional)

Year	Rs. in Crores
1999-2000	5923.60
2000-2001	6955.35
2001-2002	6769.50

Export of Artificial Jewellery (Provisional)

1999-2000	113.64
2000-2001	121.68
2001-2002	117.53

Industrial Growth

869. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the industrial growth rate has slowed to 2.3% during February, 2003 and further slowed to 4.9% during April to August, 2002 as compared to the same period of last year;

(b) if so, whether growth rate of industrial sector is continuously falling for the last successive two years;

(c) if so, the factors responsible for this declining trend of industrial growth rate;

(d) the present rate of industrial growth in the country and the overall target fixed for the current year;

(e) whether current growth rate is sufficient to fulfil the objectives of the Government;

(f) if not, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to improve and achieve the desired target of industrial growth rate?

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

to (c) The industrial growth was 2.4% during February 2002 as against 2.9% in February 2001. The industrial growth during April-August 2002 was 5% as against 2.4% during the corresponding period of last year. Indian industry which experienced slowdown during last two years is, however, showing recovery since the beginning of the current financial year (2002-03). As per the latest data available, Index of Industrial Production (IIP) has grown by 6.1% during September 2002 as compared to 2% registered during September 2001.

(d) to (g) The industrial growth during April-September 2002 has been 5.2%. The Planning Commission, in its draft Tenth Plan has set an annual Tenth Plan (2002-07 target of 8% GDP growth. The actual achievement of the targeted growth will, however, depend upon several factors which include the lagged impact of deficient rainfall this year and the pace with which economic recovery takes place in the world particularly U.S., Japan and European Union. The Government has already taken measures for creating an environment in which Industry can become efficient and competitive. Some of these measures are mentioned below:

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has entrusted sector-wise studies in respect of capital goods, pulp and paper and cement industries to organisations of international repute with a view to enhance the competitiveness of these industries.
- The Government has announced guidelines for allowing 100% FDI in the development of integrated townships and regional urban infrastructure. This is expected to boost housing/ real estate sector and also boost production in cement and steel sector.
- To boost Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in India, FII portfolio investments will not be subject to the sectoral limits for foreign direct investment except in specified sectors.
- Kelkar Committee for Direct taxes and for Indirect taxes has recommended reforms, which are expected *inter alia* to reduce transaction costs by 50%.
- The RBI has continued its cheap money policy in its Mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for 2002-03. It has announced series of measures for developing technological and institutional infrastructure of the financial sector and for improving the credit delivery system.
- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 percent, a move that will ease the liquidity position further.
- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.
- The Union Budget 2002-03 has made allocations towards some of the major schemes, which will boost demand especially in construction, housing, steel, and cement sectors. These schemes include PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund, Urban Reform Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund, and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme.
- Sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sectors, which include engineering/ electronic/electrical and allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied sector have also been announced in the Medium Term Export Strategy for 2002-07.

[English]

Development of Silk Industry

870. SHRI SUBODH ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhagalpur region is one of the leading quality silk producing regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the Central schemes including UNDP projects for development of silk industry in that region; and

(c) the funds earmarked in each scheme and total amount actually spent in this region for developing the infrastructure, processing of raw silk and marketing of the product during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) The details of the schemes being implemented & the funds earmarked and spent on each during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in Lakhs)

#	Name of the Scheme	1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002	
		Allo.	Exp.	Allo.	Exp.	Allo.	Exp.
1.	Support to Agencies for popularization of improved reeling/spinning Devices for Tasar, ERI & Muga	12.39	12.39	—	—	—	—
2.	Entrepreneurship Development Programme	0.82	0.82	—	—	—	—
3.	Raw Material Bank Sub-Depot for Tasar Cocoons	Expenditure Booked under the main Tasar Raw Material Bank Chaibasa (Jharkhand)					
4.	Certification Centre, Bhagalpur	9.45	9.45	7.29	7.29	8.45	8.45
5.	Demonstration cum Technical service centre and eco testing laboratory, Bhagalpur	24.79	24.79	27.50	27.50	28.01	28.01

FDI Inflow

871. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the preliminary estimates on FDI released recently by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the report;

(c) if so, whether country's Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Confidence Index has been slipping and that there is likelihood of substantial decline in receiving the estimated FDI;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the reasons for decline in the FDI confidence Index;

(f) the areas of economic development in which FDI has been slipping and its likely affect on the country's economic growth; and

(g) the details of steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase FDI in the country?

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

(c) to (f) The report, inter alia, contains country rankings by the UNCTAD in terms of inward FDI Performance Index and inward FDI Potential Index. As per the report, India is ranked 119th in terms of Performance Index for the year 1998-2000 against 121st rank for the period 1998-90. The above ranking is based on the ratio of our share in global FDI flows to our share in global GDP and is not based on performance relating to absolute FDI inflows in which India has outperformed most countries in 2001 in terms of percentage growth.

The FDI Potential Index ranking is based on eight variables viz., GDP per capita, real GDP growth, exports as percentage of GDP growth, telephone density, per capita consumption of commercial energy, R & D expenditure as percentage of gross national income,

students in tertiary education as a percentage of total population and country risk. However, these are not the usual factors that determine the attractiveness of a country as a destination for FDI, which are market size and potential labour cost, availability of skilled manpower, legal environment, return on investment, etc.

As per several international surveys done by independent agencies such as A.T. Kearney, Japan EXIM Bank, etc., India ranks among the top FDI destinations. As per the UNCTAD Report, China, Malaysia, India & Philippines have been identified as countries which are expected to witness increased FDI inflows.

(g) The Government is making continuous efforts to promote India as a preferred investment destination by providing an internationally competitive investment climate in terms of policy framework, factors and institutions. The FDI policy is reviewed continuously for carrying out progressive reforms.

[Translation]

Boost Trade Relations

872. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government in order to boost trade relations with neighbour countries during the last three years;

(b) he details of the results of these steps; and

(c) the utility of SAARC organisation in commercial related matters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) India and other neighbouring countries, namely, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Pakistan, have organised themselves in an association known as South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in December 1985 with the basic objective to accelerated the process of economic and social development in the region through joint action in the agreed areas of corporation. Under this arrangement, the following steps have been taken to boost inter-regional trade:—

(i) Agreement on SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA) has been signed by the member countries on 11th April, 1993. The objective is to achieve higher level of trade and economic cooperation in the region by reducing the customs tariff and removing gradually the para-tariff and non-tariff barriers on trade within the region. The ultimate objective is to establish a Free Trade Area (SAFTA) in a scheduled manner.

(ii) The Committee of Experts set-up to negotiate tariff concessions under SAPTA has held four rounds of negotiations. The last meeting was held in October, 2002 in Kathmandu.

(iii) A group of experts in the SAARC region is working on drafting the SAARC Free Trade Area (SAFTA) agreement.

(iv) A Group of Customs Cooperation has been established to streamline the customs procedure for smooth flow of goods. This group has so far held two meetings. The second meeting was held in Dhaka in October, 2002.

(v) India has been taking proactive action in harmonization of Standards and Measurements for the manufacture of export products in the region. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) organized a workshop on the subject in New Delhi where all member states participated.

(vi) Trade Fairs are organized to share information about export potential among the SAARC member countries. First trade fair was held in New Delhi in January, 1995. Subsequent trade fair were held in Colombo, Karachi and Kathmandu. The last and the fourth trade fair was held on October 24-29, 2002.

(vii) To promote intra-regional investment, efforts are being made by the member countries to enter into an agreement to promote and protect such investments.

(c) SAARC has played an important role in accelerating the economic and commercial relations among the member countries. During the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002, India's overall trade with the SAARC Member countries has increased from US $ 1791.99 million to US $ 2289.48 and 2535.81 million, showing an annual growth of 27.76% and 10.76% during 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 respectively. During these periods India's export to these countries has shown a growth of 33.04% from US $ 1394.36 million during 1999-2000 to 1855.10 million during 2000-2001 which has further increased to 1964.04 million during 2001-2002. Similarly imports from

these countries during the three financial years mentioned above have increased from US $ 397.63 millions to US $ 438.38 million and US $ 571.77 million respectively.

[English]

Hurdles in FDI

873. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR:
SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "MNCs worry about red tape, not FDI" appearing in the Times of India, dated October 22, 2002;

(b) if so, whether procedural wrangles, hassles, red tape and FDI caps continue to impede FDI in major projects;

(c) if so, whether Chief Executives of 30 MNCs have held a closed door meeting with Planning Commission member and emphasised that India would be more palatable in boardrooms of Fortune 500 companies if the Government settles procedural delays and bring efficiency in the process of clearing and implementing projects;

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

(e) the steps stipulated to create an environment conducive to greater investment in the country?

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

(b) With a view to attracting more Foreign Direct Investment, the Government have already put in place a liberal, transparent and investor friendly FDI policy where most activities fall on automatic route for FDI upto 100% except for a small negative list. Government has also taken various initiatives to step up FDI inflows which include setting up of Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) under SIA to act as a single point interface between the foreign investors and various approved agencies to resolve problems relating to implementation of FDI projects.

(c) Based on the information received from the Planning Commission, no meeting of the CEO's of MNCs was held in the Planning Commission as reported. However, at the behest of CII, Member, Planning Commission Shri N.K. Singh did have an interaction with the CII MNC Group on 21st October, 2002, in which CEOs stressed the importance of improving procedural efficiency as an important ingredient for attracting foreign investment.

(d) and (e) A Committee, headed by the Secretary (IPP) was set up to look into the simplification of investment procedures, which has submitted its report to the Government recently. The Committee has recommended an empowered single window system along with re-engineering of the regulatory processes at the State level to reduce delays in various approvals. The Committee has further suggested that the single-window agency at the State level should be empowered to lay down time frames for approvals, review grant of approvals by concerned agencies/departments, local bodies, etc., accord approvals in a predetermined time frame, and also give appropriate directions to the concerned agencies/ departments.

Oasis Committee

874. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

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

(a) whether the recommendations of the Committee named Old Age Social and Income Security Committee (OASIS) has submitted its report to the Government in 2001;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) whether the Government have referred this report to the Group of Ministers for comments;

(d) if so, whether comments have been received by the Government from Group of Ministers; and

(e) the time by which the recommendations of the Committee are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The expert committee for devising a Pension System for India named Old Age Social and Income Security Committee (OASIS) submitted its report to the Government in January, 2000. The

Committee, inter-alia, recommended establishment of a new pension system based on defined contribution based individual accounts with low cost and widespread accessibility.

(c) to (e) The report of the expert committee has been referred to the Group of Ministers (GOM). The GOM has held two meetings on the subject so far.

Collection of Advance Tax

875. SHRI Y.V. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total collection of advance tax during the current year sector-wise;

(b) whether it has registered a significant upward trend during the current financial year, till now; and

(c) if so, the total collections expected to be made till the end of the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total collections of Direct Taxes upto the end of October, 2002 were Rs. 32673.66 crores. Sector-wise figures are not maintained.

(b) Yes Sir. There is an increase of 13.32% in the collections upto October, 2002 as compared with the collections during the corresponding period of the last Financial year.

(c) Two installments of advance tax are still to be received. One in the month of December an another in the month of March. The extent of advance tax payment at a particular time depends on the Economic conditions prevailing. It is, therefore, not possible now to hazard any estimate of the collections expected to be made.

Borrowing by Union Government

876. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether drought situation have forced the Government to over borrow in the current financial year;

(b) if so, to what extent the drought have forced the Government to borrow more than the budgeted target for fiscal 2002-2003;

(c) to what extent the drought had affected economy;

(d) whether any assessment has been made by the Government;

(e) if so, the total amount borrowed by the Government uptil now;

(f) to what extent it was more compared to the last financial year; and

(g) to what extent it has pushed the fiscal deficit higher than the budgeted levels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Additional expenditure on drought relief measures will be met from within the budget provision.

(e) and (f) Gross borrowing of Rupees 119000 crore has been completed upto November 20, 2002, which is 83.55% of BE 2002-03. During the corresponding period last year, gross borrowing of Rupees 107000 crore had been completed, which was 93.57% of BE 2001-02.

(g) The gross fiscal deficit at the end of first half of the financial year is Rs. 57746 crore, which is 42.6% of BE 2002-03. At the end of first half of 2001-02, the gross fiscal deficit stood at Rs. 57262 crore, which was 49.2% of BE 2001-02.

Formulation of Manufacturing Strategy

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

(a) whether there is a need to formulate a manufacturing strategy of various products in order to complete globally;

(b) if so, the steps have been taken to that direction;

(c) whether any action is being implemented to ward off the threat from Chinese products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) and (b) The globalization process, which is an integral

part of the economic reforms being undertaken since 1991 require manufacturing units to restructure themselves in a way that increases their efficiency and competitiveness. Micro level restructuring is already taking place and the Government has taken measures to create an environment in which Industry can become efficient and competitive. Some of these measures are mentioned below:

- Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion has entrusted sector-wise studies in respect of capital goods, pulp and paper and cement industries to organisations of international repute with a view to enhance the competitiveness of these industries.

- The Government has announced guidelines for allowing 100% FDI in the development of integrated townships and regional urban infrastructure. This is expected to boost housing/ real estate sector and also boost production in cement and steel sector.

- To boost Foreign Institutional Investment (FII) in India, FII portfolio investments will not be subject to the sectoral limits for foreign direct investment except in specified sectors.

- Kelkar Committee for Direct taxes and for Indirect taxes has recommended reforms, which are expected *inter alia* to reduce transaction costs by 50%.

- The RBI has continued its cheap money policy in its Mid-term review of monetary and credit policy for 2002-03. It has announced series of measures for developing technological and institutional infrastructure of the financial sector and for improving the credit delivery system.

- The RBI has cut Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) to 4.75 per cent from 5.0 percent, a move that will ease the liquidity position further.

- The draft Electricity Bill has been introduced in the Parliament for facilitating comprehensive power sector reforms.

- The Union Budget 2002-03 has made allocations towards some of the major schemes, which will boost demand especially in construction, housing, steel, and cement sectors. These schemes include PM's Gram Sadak Yojana, Infrastructure Equity Fund, Urban Reform Incentive Fund, City Challenge Fund, and Accelerated Power Development Reform Programme.

- Sector-wise strategies to boost production for exports in key sectors, which include engineering/ electronic/electrical and allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied, textiles, gems & jewellery, chemicals & allied sector have also been announced in the Medium Term Export Strategy for 2002-07.

(c) and (d) There is no perceptible threat from Chinese goods to the overall industrial performance as the share of imports from China during 2001-02 has been 3.07% only. Industrial production, in fact is growing since the beginning of the current financial year (2002-03) and grew by 5.2% in April-September, 2002. India's overall exports have also grown by 13.49% over the corresponding period of 2001. As per the statistics of India-China trade, during the year 2001-02 compared to 2000-01, there has not been any surge of Indian imports compared to exports to China on an overall basis. The rate of growth of India exports to China during 2001-02 compared to 2000-01 was 11.33% compared to 11.54% for imports.

The measures taken by the Government against unduly cheep imports are in the nature of anti-dumping actions and bringing certain imports within the purview of Provisions of the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977. Other measures relate to packaging, specifications and quality standards. Director General of Anti-Dumping and allied Duties (DGAD) has initiated 61 anti-dumping cases against imports from China. In 45 cases findings have been issued.

Revival of Mills

878. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested for the revival of Azam Jahi Mills at Warangal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government has been informed that BIFR, after examining the viability of this mill, concluded that the mill is not revivable and proposed for its closure as a part of Rehabilitation Scheme sanctioned for NTC

(APKKM). Before taking steps for closing the mill as per BIFR order, Government of India had also offered to transfer it to State Government on a nominal or no cost basis if they are prepared to revive/run. Subsequently, the Mill was closed with effect from 31st October 2002 after obtaining due permission under ID Act. All the employees in this mill have applied for and were given VRS.

Agencies Involved in Agricultural Export

879. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the public and private sectors undertakings dealing with agricultural exports at present;

(b) the norms prescribed therefor;

(c) whether the MMTC has also entered into the agricultural exports; and

(d) if so, the details of plan drawn up by the MMTC thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) As per current EXIM Policy export of all agricultural products, save for onion and niger seed, is free.

(c) and (d) MMTC is already in the business of export of Agro Products. Food Corporation of India (FCI) is supplying wheat and rice for export purpose as per the Policy of the Government. Based on terms and conditions of FCI, efforts are made to export wheat and rice to the international market at competitive rates.

Manual Scavenging

880. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
DR. MUNDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to put an end to the practice of manual scavenging;

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

(c) the guidelines sent to the State Government in the matter; and

(d) the achievements made so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of India implements the National Scheme of Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers in alternative and dignified occupations. The Ministry of Urban Development implements Low Cost Sanitation scheme for conversion of the dry latrines into low cost pour flush latrines. In order to energise and expedite the pace of NSLRS this Ministry has implemented concept of Sanitary Marts during the year 1999-2000 for rehabilitation of scavengers in groups. A central legislation "The Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act, 1993" has been enacted to put an end to the practice of manual scavenging which is implemented by the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Till now 17 States and all UTs have adopted the Act. This Ministry is constantly pursuing with the State Governments for preparation of action plan to rehabilitate the scavengers within a time frame. Till now, Rs. 700.97 crores has been released to States for effective implementation of the Scheme. Out of 6,76,009 identified scanvengers 4,08,644, and 1,56,488 scavengers have been rehabilitated and trained respectively from 1991-92 to 2001-02 under NSLRS. 37,532 scavengers have been liberated under Low Cost Sanitation scheme.

Setting up of e-com Portal

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

(a) whether the Union Government have received any project proposal from Kerala to set up an e-com portal for traditional industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has not received any proposal from Kerala to set up an e-com portal for traditional industries in the state.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Introduction of Santhali Language

882. SHRI SHIBU SOREN : Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Jharkhand and West Bengal propose to introduce Santhali language in 'olchiki' script from primary school level upto college (university level) as a medium of instruction; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when?

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

Illegal Transaction by Ranbaxy, U.K. Office

883. DR. BALIRAM:
SHRI RAM RATI BIND:
SHRI SAIDUZZAMA:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Ranbaxy U.K. Office had made illegal transactions in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether any investigation conducted by the Enforcement Directorate in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken against Ranbaxy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement has undertaken investigations into certain transactions of M/s Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd., concerning some officials of the Ranbaxy (U.K.) Ltd.

(c) The investigations are still in progress.

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

[Translation]

Schemes for Tribal Welfare

884. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the schemes under implementation for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in east State/U.T.;

(b) the funds allocated during each of the last three years, scheme-wise for each State/U.T.;

(c) the funds utilised by each State/U.T. during the above period;

(d) whether misuse of funds have been reported from certain States;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The details of the Schemes implemented by the Ministry for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs allocated funds for tribal development in the country under two schemes viz. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India and Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan (SCA to TSP). Statements II & III showing the details of funds released by the Ministry to the States/UTs under Special Central Assistance to the Tribal Sub Plan and Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India, for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes in the country and the utilisation reported by them during the last three years, are enclosed.

(e) No case of misuse of funds by the States have been reported during the period.

(f) Does not arise.

Sl.No.	Scheme
1	2
1.	Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan (Central Sector Scheme)
2.	Grant Under First to Proviso Article 275(1) of the Constitution.
3.	Grant in aid for Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs: (Central Sector Scheme)
4.	Educational Complex in Low Literacy Pockets for Development of ST Girls in Tribal Areas. (Central Sector Scheme)
5.	Vocational Training in Tribal Areas. (Central Sector Scheme)
6.	Village Grain Bank (Central Sector Scheme)

1	2
7.	Development of Primitive Tribal Groups (Central Sector Scheme)
8.	Post Matric Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe Students.
9.	National Overseas Scholarship scheme for Scheduled Tribes Students (Non-Plan)
10.	Grant Under Second Proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution (Non-Plan)
11.	Coaching & Allied Scheme for STs
12.	Upgradation of Merit of ST Students (Central Sector Scheme)
13.	Share Capital Contribution to Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED)
14.	Price Support to TRIFED.
15.	Grant-in-aid to State Tribal Development Cooperative Corporations for Minor Forest Produce.
16.	Support to National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation/ State Tribal development Finance Corporation.
17.	Exchange of Visits by Tribals
18.	Girls Hostels for Scheduled Tribes (Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
19.	Boys Hostels for Scheduled Tribes (Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
20.	Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan area. (Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
21.	Book Bank for Scheduled Tribes Students. (Centrally Sponsored Scheme)
22.	Grants to Tribal Research Institute.
23.	Supporting Project of All-India or Inter-State Nature (Scheduled Tribes)
24.	Award of Research Fellowship in various aspects of Tribal Development (Doctoral/ Post Doctoral Fellowship)

Statement II

Expenditure Reported during the last three years under special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		Amount Released	Expenditure Reported	Amount Released	Expenditure Reported	Amount Released	Expenditure Reported
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2182.9	2182.9	2182.94	2182.93	2732.80	1821.86
2.	Assam	2443.5	1940.0	2443.50	2194.25	3058.99	2499.99
3.	Bihar	4779.1	0.0	1711.06	0.00	556.56	0.00
4.	Gujarat	3140.0	3123.8	3139.98	3646.00	3930.91	2924.84
5.	Himachal Pradesh	514.1	750.6	514.05	531.61	643.53	654.52
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	776.4	726.6	776.38	605.92	971.94	914.46

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Karnataka	616.1	1094.5	616.13	615.88	771.33	514.22
8.	Kerala	218.6	208.0	218.63	228.24	273.70	0.00
9.	Madhya Pradesh	9797.2	12026.5	6257.12	7024.52	7833.22	10123.45
10.	Maharashtra	2974.6	3727.0	2974.57	3200.00	3723.83	2839.79
11.	Manipur	608.7	651.5	608.65	235.65	761.96	901.98
12.	Orissa	5698.3	7660.1	5188.40	4931.72	6495.30	6881.82
13.	Rajasthan	2915.2	3355.5	2915.24	3260.55	3649.56	3721.21
14.	Sikkim	86.3	86.4	86.28	104.10	108.02	108.02
15.	Tamil Nadu	258.3	258.3	258.27	0.00	323.32	0.00
16.	Tripura	831.6	1067.6	831.57	831.57	1041.03	1028.23
17.	Uttar Pradesh	99.9	79.5	41.83	100.00	32.10	0.00
18.	West Bengal	1759.4	1759.4	1759.40	1759.40	2202.57	0.00
19.	Jharkhand	0.0	0.0	3422.62	1345.37	5870.24	1259.34
20.	Chhattisgarh	0.0	0.0	3695.36	3620.73	4626.18	4754.93
21.	Uttaranchal	0.0	0.0	58.02	0.00	92.91	0.00
22.	Andaman & Nicobar	255.4	135.3	233.90	130.62	230.85	166.68
23.	Daman & Diu	44.6	20.6	66.10	0.00	99.15	61.42
	Total	40000.0	40853.9	40000.00	36549.07	50030.00	41176.761

Statement III

Releases made and Expenditure Reported during the last three years under Article 275(1) of the Constitution

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of State/U.T.	1999-2000		2000-01		2001-02	
		Amount Released	Expenditure Reported	Amount Released	Expenditure Reported	Amount Released	Expenditure Reported
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	613.9	613.9	460.5	460.5	2715.35	0.00
2.	Assam	420.2	420.2	443.4	347.0	845.56	431.50
3.	Bihar	967.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	209.35	0.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4.	Gujarat	900.7	0.0	2250.0	0.0	3050.00	2050.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	31.9	31.9	99.5	0.0	78.00	0.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	124.1	124.1	190.5	40.0	502.94	0.00
7.	Karnataka	280.0	204.4	420.0	420.0	1314.37	597.44
8.	Kerala	46.9	72.4	0.0	40.9	117.50	42.19
9.	Madhya Pradesh	2251.0	0.00	2057.8	1255.0	4346.06	0.00
10.	Maharashtra	1069.8	1652.8	1603.5	3983.0	2672.50	1193.06
11.	Manipur	92.4	176.7	650.0	229.0	230.00	0.00
12.	Orissa	1027.9	1027.9	2957.1	2875.5	4104.91	1478.55
13.	Rajasthan	800.3	300.0	1700.0	1200.0	2550.00	3006.33
14.	Sikkim	13.3	113.4	327.9	220.0	239.38	178.27
15.	Tamil Nadu	83.9	0.0	63.0	0.0	405.00	0.00
16.	Tripura	124.7	124.7	287.5	287.5	462.50	370.00
17.	Uttar Pradesh	42.1	28.1	9.6	128.1	176.95	0.00
18.	West Bengal	556.8	556.8	835.5	835.5	1406.67	779.20
19.	Arunachal Pradesh	80.5	380.5	376.6	247.4	200.00	0.00
20.	Meghalaya	221.9	42.0	477.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
21.	Mizoram	95.5	0.00	72.0	612.8	0.00	0.00
22.	Nagaland	155.1	51.7	950.0	0.0	0.00	0.00
23.	Jharkhand	0.0	0.0	1320.0	651.0	2208.15	0.00
24.	Chhattisgarh	0.0	0.0	1530.6	0.0	2086.77	611.89
25.	Uttaranchal	0.0	0.0	46.9	0.0	78.05	0.00
	Total	10000.0	5921.5	19128.9	13833.2	30000.0	10738.43

[English]

Blackmarketing in NCCF

885. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI:

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

(a) whether attention of the Government have been drawn to the news-item appearing in *Dainik Jagran* dated 5th and 16th August, 2002 regarding diversion of rice meant for export in the open market by NCCF;

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) the details of the quantum of rice procured from FCI by NCCF and the names of countries to which this

rice was exported during the last three years, year-wise, quantum-wise and country-wise;

(d) the foreign exchange earned from the above export;

(e) whether the Government propose to blacklist NCCF; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) Government attention was drawn to the news item appearing in Dainik Jagran dated 5th August, 2002. The news item appearing on 16th August, 2002 did not mention anything about the NCCF. A detailed report was sought from the NCCF regarding the matter.

(c) According to the information furnished by the NCCF, they have been allotted Indian Long Raw Rice and Par-boiled Rice by the FCI for export during the last two years and up to October 2002, exports are as under:

2000-2001	800 MTN
2001-2002	25496 MTN
2002-03 (up to Oct.'02)	155483 MTN
Total	181779 MTN

The details of the country-wise export of rice made by the NCCF are given in the enclosed Statement.

(d) The NCCF has informed that the foreign exchange earned from the above mentioned export is worth US$25451813.

(e) and (f) The NCCF has informed that the matter is being investigated by them and has also been reported to the police authorities. Action at Govt. level, if required, will be taken after completion of investigation.

Statement

The details of the country-wise export of rice made by the NCCF

Year	Country	Quantity (in MTN)	
1	2	3	
2000-2001	Bangladesh	800.00	800.00
2001-2002	Bangladesh	11119.00	
	Indonesia	4117.00	
	Dubai	1500.00	
	Oman	6000.00	
	Malaysia	2760.00	25,496.00
2002-2003 (upto Oct., 02)	Bangladesh	50,852.55	
	Sri Lanka	1,400.00	
	Philippines	33,605.60	
	Senegal	17,000.00	
	Malaysia	13,050.00	
	Muzambeque	8,000.00	
	Kango	6,000.00	

1	2	3	
	South Africa	8,285.95	
	Somalia	525.00	
	Indonesia	9,885.20	
	Singapore	3,772.00	
	Dubai	4,106.70	
			1,55,483.00
	Total		1,81,779.00

[Translation]

Regional Economic Disparity in different States

886. SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any survey to remove the regional economic disparity in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to remove regional economic disparity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Approach Paper to Tenth five Year Plan emphasises the importance of ensuring balanced development of all States and indicates that the Tenth Plan should include a State-wise break-down of the broad developmental targets, including targets for growth rates and social development. The Government has been taking necessary steps from time to time to remove regional disparities through devolution of funds to states based on the recommendations of the Finance Commissions and channelising funds under various schemes.

[English]

Achievements of WTO agreements

887. SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of achievements/losses occurred by India after signing WTO agreements;

(b) the items whose export/import has been increased since then and upto what extent;

(c) whether there is a demand for withdrawal from WTO;

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

(e) the overall position of India after becoming member of WTO?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (e) India is a founding Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) since its inception on 1 January 1995. WTO is a rules-based Organization that provides an institutional framework for the conduct of trade relations among its members. The range of WTO agreements, which constitute this rules-based system for the governance of international trade, represent a balance of rights, concessions, commitments and obligations on the part of all Member countries. India's participation in this system is to ensure more stability and predictability, which ultimately would lead to more trade and prosperity for itself and the other Members of the WTO. By being a WTO Member, India also avails of the Most Favoured National (MEN) Treatment and National Treatment for its exports to other WTO Members. India has been actively participating in the work of the WTO Bodies and has been taking positions so as to safeguard its interests as well as that of other developing countries. In this regard, India's participation at the Doha Ministerial Conference should be seen as an achievement for the developing countries. India along with other developing countries have been able to bring developmental issues including the issue relating to Public Health and the TRIPS Agreement to the forefront of the WTO work. Further, India has

been actively participating in the on-going negotiations under the Doha Work Programme.

Since the coming into force of WTO, India's exports have gone up from US $ 26330.28 million in 1994-95 to US $ 43559.93 million in 2001-02. Similarly, the imports have also risen from US $ 28654.37 million to US $ 51087.26 million during the same period.

While there have been some suggestions from time to time for withdrawal from the WTO, there have also been many suggestions for strengthening our participation in the WTO. Since India is fully committed to the rules-based international trading system the government does not see any merit in considering withdrawal from the WTO.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Sum Vikas Yojana

888. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:
SHRI BRIJLAL KHABRI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH:

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

(a) whether the Government have launched "Rashtriya Sum Vikas Yojana';

(b) if so, the main objective of this Scheme; and

(c) the progress of this scheme as on October' 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Rashtriya Sum Vikas Yojana (Development and Reform facility) is a new initiative which has been introduced in the current year to foster balanced regional development. There are three components of the scheme; (i) Backward Districts Initiative; (ii) Special Plan for Bihar, and (iii) Special Plan for KBK Districts of Orissa. No specific guidelines are contemplated at this stage as it is felt that the development problems of the districts are diverse and need to be tackled through innovative approaches.

The Backward Districts initiative is being taken up on a pilot basis in the current year and 25 districts have been identified.

As the scheme has been introduced in the current year, till date Rs. 50 crore have been disbursed to the Govt. of Orissa for the Special Plan for the KBK districts of the State.

Hawala Traders

889. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 995 on July 27, 2001 regarding Hawala Traders in Delhi and state:

(a) whether Delhi Police has submitted names, addresses and other details of 25 hawala traders to the Ministry of Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of action taken against hawala traders till date; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) The Directorate of Enforcement has not received any names, addresses and other details of hawala traders from Delhi Police. however, Delhi Police has submitted names and addresses of 18 hawala traders to the Investigation Wing of the Income Tax Department at Delhi.

(c) Search and seizure operations have been carried out under section 132 of the Income Tax Act at the premises of some of the hawala traders. Investigations in cases of such hawala traders are in progress.

(d) Does not arise.

Proposal for EPIP

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

(a) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has sent a proposal of EPIP having a cost of Rs. 1686 lakhs for Satlapur in Raisen district to the Union Government on October 24, 2001 for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

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

(b) The Government of Madhya Pradesh has proposed for setting up of a second Export Promotion Industrial Park scheme (EPIP) over an area of 192 acres at Satlapur, Near Mandidep at a total cost of Rs. 1686 lakhs through M.P. Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Bhopal) Limited.

(c) As per the scheme, a second EPIP in a State is considered only after the first one has been established and is found to be in operation. Since the first EPIP at Pithampur District Dhar was not found to be operating, the proposal could not be approved.

Measures Taken for realisation of Taxes

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

(a) whether the attention of the government have been drawn towards the news item "Badhana the rajasv aur burh gaya Kharcha" published in the daily 'Danik Jagran' dated 21.8.2002 where in it has been stated that the department, in order to bring down the number of disputes pertaining to income tax and also to recover the tax, has appointed a number of officers, but inspite of recovering tax embroil in disputes, they have added additional burden of ten thousand rupees for the payment of salary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this context?

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

(b) The restructuring of the Income Tax Department was done after a long time in F.Y. 2001-02 and among other measures, the number of posts for Commissioners (Appeals) was increased with a view to expedite disposal of a large number of Appeals field before Commissioners (Appeals). The Restructuring of the Department has not resulted in any additional expenditure on Salary and Allowances rather a saving of Rs. 3.05 crores is expected to be made on this account in the short-run. Despite increase in the number of posts at the Commissioner level, Restructuring has on the whole resulted in the downsizing of the Department by 4.75% as a number of posts at the lower levels have been surrendered.

The newspaper report is misleading as the amount of Demands in litigation at the end of July, 2002 was Rs. 41,296.63 crores and not Rs. 60,000 crores as reported in the news item. The Demands disputed before Commissioner (Appeals) amounted to Rs. 34,796.93 crores on 1.4.002, which has come down to Rs. 29,531.25 crores on 30.9.2002.

(c) There is no substantial issue raised in the newspaper report requiring specific action by the Government. The Tax Demands in Arrears are being liquidated by the Income Tax Department as per the Statutory Provisions and Administrative Instructions in this regard.

[English]

Smuggling of Mobile Phones

892. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some smuggled mobile phones have been seized in different airports during last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some other popular articles are also seized such as drugs, electronics goods, computer parts, gold, counterfeit currency and cigarettes;

(d) if so, the details regarding their quantities, price and brands; and

(e) the procedure followed for selling these smuggled goods?

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

[Translation]

Economic Position

893. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) the details of the economic position of the country in 2002-03 as compared to the position in 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(b) the growth rate and per capita National income of the country during the above mentioned period; and

(c) the position of domestic and foreign loans during the said period in the country and the interest to be paid on the loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

(a) The economic position based on important economic indicators is as follows:

	1991-92	1995-96	2002-03
Growth in real GDP at factor cost at constant prices in Agriculture and Allied Sector (per cent)	-1.5	-0.9	5.7 (2001-02 revised) Estimates)
Growth in real GDP at factor cost at constant prices in Manufacturing Sector (per cent)	-3.6	14.9	2.8 (2001-02 Revised Estimates)
Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index—all commodities (average) (base 1993-94 = 100)	13.7 (base 1981-82)	8.1	2.3 (upto October 26, 2002)
Foreign exchange reserves as at end-March (excluding Gold and SDRs) (US $ million)	5631	17044	61225 (end-Oct)
Imports (Per cent change in dollar value over previous year)	-19.4	28.0	8.5 (April-September)
Exports (Per cent change in dollar value over previous year)	-1.5	20.8	13.5 (April-September)

(b) The growth rates of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices and per capital national income (at current prices) are as follows:

	1991-92	1995-96	2001-02 (Revised Estimates)	2002-03
Growth in real GDP at factor cost at constant prices (per cent) (base 1993-94)	1.3	7.3	5.4	NA.
Per capital National Income at current prices (Rs.) (new series base 1993-94)	6012	10149	17736	N.A.

N.A.: Not available

(c) The position of domestic and foreign loans and interest is as follows:

	1991-92	1995-96	2002-03 (Budget Estimates)
	1	2	3
Domestic (Market) Loans outstanding as at end-March (Rs. Crore)	78075	164094	167932

	1	2	3
Interest on Domestic (Market) Loan during the year (Rs. crore)	7355	15400	61549
External debt outstanding (US$ million) as at end-March	85285	93730	98138 (2001-02)
Interest paid on external debt during the year (US $ million)	3545	4271	4328 (2001-02)

[English]

Tribal Welfare

894. SHRI R.L. JALAPPA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tribal welfare proposals sent by Karnataka seeking financial assistance from the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation;

(b) the proposals that have already been approved and the number of proposals pending; and

(c) the poor people from Scheduled Tribe community in Karnataka who have been sanctioned financial assistance under the sanctioned projects?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) 23 proposals have been received from the Karnataka Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation Ltd. (KSCTDC), the Channelising Agency of the National Scheduled Tribe Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) in Karnataka since the incorporation of the NSTFDC in April, 2001.

(b) The post incorporation details of sanctions and pending schemes/projects as on 31.10.2002 are as under:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Particulars	No. of Scheme/ Projects	NSTFDC's share
1.	Sanctioned	14	536.63
2.	Pending	09	135.07

(c) As per the details received from KSCTDC, 5781 persons belonging to the Scheduled Tribes have been provided financial assistance of Rs. 205.84 lakhs as NSTFDC's share till date.

Tax Structure for Textile Industry

895. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have appointed a task force to review the tax structure for the textile industry with a view to give further incentives for its growth;

(b) whether the task force inter-alia recommended a duty cut on the import of number of textile machinery items;

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the task force; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Task Force has not yet finalised its recommendations.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Promotion of SEZs

896. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a number of steps to promote Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in coastal areas to attract large scale Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) and (b) Major steps taken to promote Special Economic Zones (SEZs) include duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZs and SEZ units; external commercial borrowing without any maturity restriction through recognized banking channels; facility to set up of Overseas Banking units in SEZ, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) upto 100% to develop townships within the SEZs with residential, education and recreational facilities, freedom to make over-seas investment out of Export Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) account; 100% FDI in manufacturing sector through automatic route barring a few sectors and exemption from minimum area requirement of 1000 hectares for port based SEZs.

(c) 13 SEZs have so far been approved for establishment on the basis of the request received from the State Governments/private promoters. The Zone are at various stages of implementation.

Starvation Deaths in KBK Districts of Orissa

897. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there have been starvation deaths in KBK districts of Orissa recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government have received a lot of central funds in the name of development of KBK districts during the last three years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the union Government have asked the progress report and utilization certificates from the State Government;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the details of steps taken by the State Government to prevent the people from dying of starvation?

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

SEZ in North-Eastern Region

898. SHRI M.K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up a Special Economic Zone in the North Eastern region to regulate cross border trade with Bangladesh and boosting exports of products from the North Eastern region especially in respect of items specific to this region like tea etc.;

(b) if so, since when the proposal has been pending and the reasons for the delay; and

(c) the steps so far taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There is no proposal to set up any Special Economic Zone (SEZ) by the Central Government in North Eastern Region.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Safeguards for Tribes

899. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of De-Notified and Nomadic Tribals Rights Action Group had met the Prime Minister and submitted a Charter of Demands for giving Constitutional protection and privileges to Vimukta-Ghamantu Adivasis (Denotified/Ex Criminal Tribes) on the lines as given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Constitution;

(b) if so, the other demands made by the Action Group; and

(c) action taken by the Government to meet their demands?

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

[Translation]

EPZ in J&K and Maharashtra

900. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names and locations of export processing zones in the country, State-wise;

(b) the details of work done by these zones during the last two years;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the corruption rampant in these EPZs especially in J&K, Bihar and Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the number of persons against whom action has been taken for corruption during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) There are at present four Export Processing Zones (EPZs) located at Noida (Uttar Pradesh), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Falta (West Bengal) and Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

(b) The exports generated by the Zones during the last two years are given below:

	Export (Rs. Crores)	
Zone	2000-2001	2001-2002
Noida EPZ	1034.20	980.41
Madras EPZ	690.84	762.59
Falta EPZ	519.97	923.63
Visakhapatnam EPZ	219.08	250.98
Total	2464.09	2917.61

In addition to the above, the Zone units provide employment to about 36,000 persons.

(c) There are no EPZs in J&K, Bihar and Maharashtra.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand for Tussar Silk

901. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for Indian tussar silk has increased in foreign markets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production area of silk; and

(d) the total amount spent by the Government for the development of the production area during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL): (a) and (b) Exports of Tusar Silk goods during 2000-2001 has shown an increasing trend as compared to the year 1999-2000. This is indicative of increasing demand for Indian Tasar silk in foreign markets. The table below gives the performance of Tasar silk goods exports during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

Particulars	Unit	1999-2000			2000-01		
		Quantity	Value	Min. US$	Quantity	Value	Min. US$
Tasar	Nos.	1428414	66.85	15.42	2321318	85.9	18.8
Silk			32.17	7.42	157943	30.42	6.66
Goods	Kg	148523					
Total			99.02	22.84		116.32	25.46

(c) To increase the production of silk in the country the Central Silk Board, apart from providing Research & Development, extension, training support and silkworm seed supply to supplement the efforts of the State Government is also implementing the following sericulture schemes and projects.

(1) UNDP assisted Sub-Programme on Development of Non-Mulberry Silk;

(2) Project on conservation of wild modal Tasar Eco-Races in Similipal Biosphere Mayurbhanj District, Orissa;

(3) Catalytic Development Programme; and

(4) Chattisgarh Sericulture Project.

(d) The amount spent by CSB during the last three years for development for sericulture under Central Sector is given below:

Year	Expenditure (Rs. Crores)
1999-2000	84.00
2000-01	93.48
2001-02	108.06

Dumping of Chinese Silk

902. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that Chinese silk is being dumped in huge quantity in the Indian markets;

(b) whether the Government have also received any complaints in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have got the whole matter investigated;

(e) if so, when and through which agency;

(f) the outcome of the investigation; and

(g) the steps being taken to curb the dumping of Chinese silk into the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (g) The Central Silk Board, Bangalore has filed a petition before the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) on behalf of all cottage/ filature/multiend silk reelers and sericulture farmers through their associations alleging dumping of Mulberry Raw Silk originating in or exported from China and has requested for initiation of Anti-Dumping investigation and levy of Anti-Dumping Duties. The DGAD has initiated Anti-Dumping investigation in the case vide notification dated 17.7.2002 which is in progress.

[English]

IMF Observation on Indian Economy

903. SHRI A. NARENDRA:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the International Monetary Fund and the Reserve Bank of India have both predicted that the Indian economy may not achieve the 6 per cent growth targeted for the financial year 2002-03;

(b) if so, whether in its annual review, these remarks have been made on the Indian economy;

(c) if so, whether the Government have examined this report; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In its latest World Economic Outlook (September 2002) the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected the Indian economy to grow by 5 per cent and 5.7 percent respectively in 2002 and 2003. In the earlier World Economic Outlook (April 2002), IMF had projected India to grow by 5.5 per cent and 5.8 percent respectively in 2002 and 2003. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its Mid-Term review of Monetary and Credit Policy for the year 2002-03 (announced on October 29, 2002) has projected the Indian economy to grow between 5—5.5 percent for the year 2002-03, as against its earlier projection of 6—6.5 percent.

(c) and (d) The growth momentum of the Indian economy for the current year has weakened somewhat due to adverse developments like poor monsoons, neighbourhood securely tensions, slow global recovery etc. However, despite the adversities, the economy has performed creditably in the current year, as indicated by the country's abundant food stocks, record volume of foreign exchange reserves, low inflation, rising exports and a relatively improved fiscal scenario. Government has taken several steps to promote economic growth. These measures include liberalization of policies in trade, industry, infrastructure, financial sector; rationalisation and reduction of both direct and indirect taxes; reduction in interest rates; incentives for investment in infrastructure and backward areas, combined with sound macroeconomics policies to stimulate economic growth with stability in prices and exchange rates.

[Translation]

Old Age Homes in Rajasthan

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

(a) the schemes being run during the last three years i.e. from 1.4.1999 till date in the State of the Rajasthan by the Union Government or the Government of Rajasthan or by other voluntary organizations; and

(b) the year-wise; scheme-wise and agency-wise details of the loan, grant or financial assistance provided by the Union Government for these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) There are two schemes under which the financial assistance by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment for old age homes has been given during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date). These schemes are (i) Integrated Programme for Older Persons for maintenance of Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres, Mobile Medicate Units and Non-institutional Service Centres and (ii) Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Voluntary Organizations/Self help Groups for Construction of Old Age Homes/Multi Service Centres for older persons.

This ministry does not maintain the details of the schemes being run by the State Government of Rajasthan or other voluntary organization for old age homes.

(b) The year-wise, scheme-wise and non-governmental organization-wise details of the financial assistance given by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date) are given in the Statement Attached.

Statement

Year-wise, Scheme-wise and Non-Governmental Organisation-wise details of the financial assistance given by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment during the last three years namely 1999-2000, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (till date)

Scheme-I : Integrated Programme for Older Persons

Name of the Organisation	Name of the Project	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (till date)
Madhu Smriti Mahila & Bal Kalyan Utthan Sansthan, Kota district, Rajasthan	Old Age Home-1	0	0	1.08	0
Manohar Bal Mandir Samitee, Sri Ganga Nagar District, Rajasthan	Old Age Home-1	0	0	1.11	0

Scheme-II : Scheme of Assistance to Panchayati Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations/Self Help

Name of the Organisation	Name of the Project	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (till date)
Indian Council of Social Welfare, Jaipur District, Rajasthan	Construction of Old Age Home	0	2.5	0	0
Opium Deaddiction Center, Maneklao, Jodhpur District, Rajasthan	Construction of Old Age Home	10	0	0	0

[English]

Illegal Transactions of Drugs in Bangalore

905. SHRI E.M. SUDARSHANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bangalore has become the latest destination for unloading the contraband and drugs by the criminals;

(b) if so, the details about the steps taken by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence in this regard; and

(c) the details about the total quantity seized in illegal transactions of drugs during the last three years in Southern States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Seizures indicate that part of the southbound illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, particularly heroin, is through routes which include Bangalore.

(b) Steps taken in this regard include officers of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) being regularly deputed to Bangalore to collect intelligence and identify the places and targets as well as regular surveillance by the officers of the NCB and the Directorate General of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) at sensitive places. Training programmes have also been organized for officials of the Karnataka State Police and other agencies by the NCB.

(c) The details of narcotic drugs seized in the southern States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala & Karnataka during the last three years, as reported by various Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of narcotic drugs seized in the four southern States during 2000, 2001 and 2002 (upto October) as reported by various drug law enforcement agencies

(in kilograms)

Drug	2000	2001	2002
1	2	3	4
Heroin	156.999	199.949	215.09
Ganja	13952.37	5434.807	21.750
Ganja Wet	55921.50	19821.500	—
Ganja Plants	—	—	1795 Nos.
Cocaine	—	—	0.723
Hashish	—	0.79	18.35
Hashish Oil	2.000	4.309	4.295
Opium	1.014	0.367	—

12.00 hrs.

RE: APPOINTMENT OF JUSTICE VENKATSWAMI AS CHAIRMAN, ADVANCE RULING COMMISSION FOR CBEC

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Sir, with your permission, I wish to take this opportunity to clarify an issue. I would do this with your permission as I have to go to the other House.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is with respect to an issue which the hon. Member, Shri Dasmunsi raised just now and it dealt with my Ministry. I had no information on the subject at that time. The facts that I have ascertained in the interim of this raising this issue—and I am attempting to answer questions—are as follows:

Justice Venkatswami was appointed as Chairman, Advance Ruling Commission for CBEC in May, 2002. Now, the sequence of events that took place is like this. The Finance Minister had written to the Chief Justice of India in September, 2001 so that the Chief Justice could nominate a retired judge of the Supreme Court to the Commission. Now, the then Chief Justice of India recommended appointment of Justice Venkatswami. The ACC approved this appointment in April, 2002 and appointment orders in that regard were issued in May, 2002. The Ministry of Finance had acted exactly in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Justice of India because there is no other way that this appointment could be made. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, there is the point. I have checked up with the Finance Ministry and the procedure which the Finance Minister is telling. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please let him complete. Let us hear what the Minister wants to say.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: These are the facts that I have obtained between the period the hon. Member raised this issue and now. Should the hon. Members or should you or the House wish to discuss this appointment further, most definitely we, in the Finance Minister, have no difficulty in discussing it. I only seek the indulgence of the hon. Member as also of the Chair because I have to go to the other House to respond to this very issue. Otherwise, I have volunteered to share the information.

MR. SPEAKER: That is good in a way.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, I am thankful to the Minister for furnishing the information to the House. The Tehelka exposure came to light on 13th March, 2001. Justice Venkatswami was appointed after the resignation of Shri George Fernandes. In 2001, the Finance Ministry did recommend to the Chief Justice of India a few names alongwith the name of Justice Venkatswami. If I am wrong, you may correct me again. The Commission was appointed in May, 2002 when the trial of Tehelka was on. The Government did not object at any point of time including the Appointment Committee of Cabinet which cleared it. Does the credibility of Tehelka Commission stand anywhere now to expose the greatest scam on earth? That is the main question.

Now, the Minister may clarify whether the name was recommended by the Finance Ministry or not. Secondly, the ACC got the names knowing fully well that you had appointed him to inquire into the Tehelka matter. How can the ACC clear his name? That is the point you have to explain to the House.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will respond to it. After all, I have volunteered information to the House and there is absolutely nothing wrong in it. The hon. Member has a viewpoint that this should not have been done. I made it quite clear that the appointment has been made strictly in accordance with the recommendations of the Chief Justice of India. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): His name was recommended after he was appointed to inquire into Tehelka episode. How was his name recommended by the Finance Ministry? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Sir, the recommendation went from the Finance Ministry. My point is, whether his name was recommended by the Finance Ministry or not. Why is he taking the name of Chief Justice now? Has he recommended his name or not? According to my information, the recommendation went from the Finance Ministry.

You deny that you have not recommended his name. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I would like to know from the Minister whether the Finance Ministry has recommended the name of Justice Venkataswami for appointment as Chairman after being given the charge to inquires Tehelka episode. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my major objection is that when he was performing his work in the Venkataswami Commission, at that time Supreme Court. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government are institutionalising impropriety. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: In what manner the entire Commission is working? Is there any credibility and transparency? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the Minister. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me listen to the Minister. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have not started a debate on this issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is because this refers to a period when I was not holding the portfolio of Finance, I am not able to respond immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Did the Finance Ministry recommend his name or the Chief Justice appointed him *suo motu*? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what is your suggestion? Do you want to reply to the queries after getting the detailed information about them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Exactly. I tell you my difficulties. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, whatever information he has got, he will give it to the House. He wants to bring further information to you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: My question is simple. I would like to know whether the Finance Ministry recommended his name or the Chief Justice *suo motu* appointed him. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will ascertain the facts. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: The Government is badly exposed for its cover up on Tehelka episode. What can be a glaring example other than this? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, collect complete information and come back to the House, whenever it is convenient to you and to the Opposition. Then we can have a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We can discuss this issue. We can fix up a time for discussion on this issue.

12.07 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Draft Notification No. 2/5/2001-CL. V. (Hindi and English versions) directing that the clause (g) of sub-section (1) of section 274 of the Companies Act, 1956 shall not apply to a Government Company, under sub-section (2) of section 620 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6014/2002]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports of Food Corporation of India for the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of accounting years.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6015/2002]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi for the year 1998-1999, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions by the Government of the working of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi for the year 1998-1999.

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6015-A/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (Yatnal): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002, along with Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handloom Export Promotion Council, Chennai, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6016/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Gingee N. Ramachandran, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 1020(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th September, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 38 of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Ordinance, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6017/2002]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of Customs Act, 1962:

(i) G.S.R. 580(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. 585(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 105/99-Cus., dated the 10th August, 2002.

(iii) G.S.R. 603(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 40/2002-Cus., dated the 12th April, 2002.

(iv) G.S.R. 580(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 146/94-Cus., dated the 13th July, 1994.

(v) G.S.R. 646(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(vi) G.S.R. 694(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 25/1999-Cus., dated the 28th February, 2002.

(vii) G.S.R. 708(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

(viii) G.S.R. 568(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ix) The Project Imports (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 623(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(x) G.S.R. 624(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt all goods, imported for drinking water supply projects for supply of water for human or animal consumption, from the whole of basic and additional duties of customs.

(xi) G.S.R. 595(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods imported for use or supply to a unit for manufacture of paperboard from the duty of customs.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6018/2002]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:

(i) G.S.R. 567(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification Nos. 6/2002-CE, and 14/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. 581(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(iii) G.S.R. 587(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(iv) G.S.R. 591(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(v) G.S.R. 609(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification Nos. 6/2002-CE and 10/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(vi) G.S.R. 613(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 39/2002-CE, dated the 1st July, 2002.

(vii) G.S.R. 625(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 24/2001 CE, dated the 30th April, 2002.

(viii) G.S.R. 626(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend certain Notifications mentioned therein.

(ix) G.S.R. 627(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(x) G.S.R. 638(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 2002.

(xi) G.S.R. 649(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 214/86-CE, dated the 25th March, 1986.

(xii) G.S.R. 663(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(xiii) G.S.R. 672(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(xiv) G.S.R. 707(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide exemption from excise and additional duties of excise and national calamity contingency duty on the inputs when captively consumed for manufacture goods.

(xv) G.S.R. 515(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt duty of excise payable in excess on the bodies built by the independent body builders on the motor vehicle chassis on which the duty of excise was short levied during the period commencing on and from 1st May, 1991 and ending with the 28th February, 2001.

(xvi) G.S.R. 671(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt Jute intermediates like yarn, thread, rope, twice etc. consumed captively for the further manufacture of jute products during the period commencing on and from 20th May, 1994 and ending with the 10th August, 1994.

(xvii) G.S.R. 739(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe certain conditions for availing the exemption from excise duty in respect of articles of apparel, not knitted for crocheted, made out of handloom fabrics.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6019/2002]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:—

(i) G.S.R. 552(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Diclofenac sodium, originating in or

exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority from the date of imposition of the duty as 7th February, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. 553(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on BOPP film, originating in or exported from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Oman, Singapore and Thailand, at the rates recommended by the designated authority from the date of imposition of the duty as 7th February, 2002.

(iii) G.S.R. 556(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on ferro silicon originating in or exported from, South Africa and Macedonia, and imported into India, as recommended by the designated authority.

(iv) G.S.R. 557(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on ferro Phenol originating in or exported from South Korea, Singapore and European Union at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(v) G.S.R. 558(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Vitamin-A Palmitate, originating in, or exported from European Union and Georgia, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(vi) G.S.R. 596(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Citric Acid, originating in, or exported from, Indonesia and Thailand, the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(vii) G.S.R. 615(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Trimethoprim, originating in or exported from the people's Republic of China at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(viii) G.S.R. 620(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Acyclic alcohols (Oxo alcohols) originating in, or exported from, Brazil, Malaysia, Romania, Singapore and South Africa at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(ix) G.S.R. 622(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 42/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.

(x) G.S.R. 635(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Vitamins originating in or exported from the European Union, Thailand and Singapore at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(xi) G.S.R. 639(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre, originating in or exported from, Italy and imported into India.

(xii) G.S.R. 640(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 4/2002-Cus., dated the 10th January, 2002.

(xiii) G.S.R. 641(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on partially oriented yarn of polyesters, originating in or exported from, Turkey and Korea RP and imported into India.

(xiv) G.S.R. 642(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th September, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking

to rescind Notification No. 131/2001-Cus., dated the 27th December, 2001.

(xv) G.S.R. 673(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 69/2000-Cus., dated 19th May, 2000.

(xvi) G.S.R. 680(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 65/2001-Cus., dated 25th June, 2001.

(xvii) G.S.R. 681(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the rate of anti-dumping duty in respect of thermal sensitive paper originating in, or exported from the European Union, and imported into India, as recommended by the designated authority.

(xviii) G.S.R. 682(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 156/2000-Cus., dated the 26th December, 2000.

(xix) G.S.R. 690(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre, originating in or exported from U.K., Germany, Bulgaria and Brazil and imported into India.

(xx) G.S.R. 691(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 133/2001-Cus., dated the 31st December, 2001.

(xxi) G.S.R. 692(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty on acrylic fibre, originating in or exported from U.S.A., Korea RP and Thailand and imported into India.

(xxii) G.S.R. 793(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 72/2002-Cus., dated the 28th June, 2001.

(xxiii) G.S.R. 695(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend anti-dumping duty on graphite electrodes, originating in or exported from USA, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, PR China and Belgium.

(xxiv) G.S.R. 696(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to provide for provisional assessment of anti-dumping duty on lead acid batteries, when exported by M/s Yuasa Battery Company Ltd. China PR and M/s CSB Battery Guangzhou Co. Ltd., China PR and imported into India, pending new shipper review by the designated authority.

(xxv) G.S.R. 697(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on acrylonitrile butadiene rubber, originating minor exported from Korea RP and Germany as recommended by the designated Authority.

(xxvi) G.S.R. 698(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 91/2001-Cus., dated the 7th September, 2001.

(xxvii) G.S.R. 737(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose safeguard duty on imports of Epichlorohydrin at the rate of 12% advalorem for a period of 1 year.

(xxviii) G.S.R. 738(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 48/2001-Cus., dated the 10th May, 2001.

(xxix) G.S.R. 743(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on

Pentaerythritol, originating in or exported from, Canada, Japan and Taiwan at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(xxx) G.S.R. 744(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Flexible Slabstock Poly on molecular weight between 3000 to 4000 originating in or exported from the United States of America, Japan, European Union and Singapore at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(xxxi) G.S.R. 745(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Sodium Hydroxide, originating in or exported from Qutar, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(xxxii) G.S.R. 746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on D(-) Para Hydroxy Phenyl Glycine Base, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China and Singapore, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(xxxiii) G.S.R. 747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st October, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Poly-Iso-Butylene, originating in or exported from, Brazil, Japan the People's Republic of Korea and Singapore, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6020/2002]

(5) 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. 537(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on services rendered by a life insurance company to a policy holder in relating to life insurance business.

(ii) G.S.R. 538(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on service rendered by a cargo handling agency in relation to agricultural produce or good intended to be stored in a cold storage.

(iii) G.S.R. 539(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt service tax on services rendered by a beauty parlour in relation to dyeing of hair.

(iv) The Service Tax Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 540(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(v) G.S.R. 541(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 6/99-Service Tax dated the 9th April, 1999.

(vi) The Service Tax Credit Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 542(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum.

(vii) G.S.R. 543(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend Notification No. 59/98-ST dated the 16th October, 1998.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6021/2002]

(6) A copy of the Service Tax (Removal of Difficulty) Order, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 544(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory memorandum under sub-section (2) of section 95 of the Finance Act, 1994.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6022/2002]

(7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 536(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with

an explanatory memorandum seeking to appoint the 16th August, 2002 as the date on which the amendments made in the Finance Act, 1994 shall come into force issued under section 149 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6023/2002]

(8) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of One hundred rupees (Containing Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5%) Ten rupees (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) and One rupee Ferric Stainless Steel (Containing Iron 82% and Chromium 18%) coined on the occasion of the celebration of the Birth Centenary of "Lok Nayak Jaya Prakash Narayan" Rules, 2002 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 395(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2002 under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6024/2002]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

(i) The Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 151(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(ii) The Income-Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 331(E) in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(iii) The Income-Tax (15th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 752(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(iv) The Income-Tax (16th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 782(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(v) The Income-Tax (17th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 783(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd July, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(vi) The Income-Tax (19th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 817(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st August, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(vii) The Income-Tax (21st Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 882(E) in Gazette of India dated the 13th August, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(viii) The Income-Tax (22nd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 893(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(ix) The Income-Tax (23rd Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 943(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th September, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

(x) The Income-Tax (25th Amendment) Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. S.O. 1062(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th October, 2002 together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6025/2002]

(10) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 987(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 2002 together with an explanatory note specifying the issue of Foreign Currency Convertible Bonds and Ordinary Shares (through Depository Receipt Mechanism) Scheme, 1993 issued under section 115AC of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6026/2002]

(11) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (Defence Services)—Air Force and Navy (No. 8A of 2002) for the year ended the March, 2002 under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6027/2002]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 83 of the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976:

(1) The Standards of Weights and Measures (General) Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 665(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 25th September, 2002.

(2) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Third Amendment Rules, 2002 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 666(E) in Gazette of India, dated the 26th September, 2002.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT-6028/2002]

12.08 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA—*laid*

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:

(i) In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th November, 2002 agreed without any amendment to the Imperial Library (Indentures Validation) Repeal Bill, 2002 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 30th July, 2002."

(ii) Sir, I have also to report that Rajya Sabha had passed the Separation of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002, at its sitting held on 21st November, 2002.

Sir, I lay on the Table the Separation of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 2002.

12.09 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Minutes

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table of the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-sixth and Twenty-seventh sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the Tenth Session.

12.10 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS

Twentieth and Twenty-First Reports

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I beg to present the Twentieth and Twenty-first Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Petitions.

12.11 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

Twenty-Second Report and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Sir, I beg to present a copy of Twenty-Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes including Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto on the subject "Fair Employment Policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Public and Private Sector—A review of position following globalisation and other reform measures".

12.12 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

Ninth Report

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): I beg to present the *Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on 'Violence Against Women During Riots."

12.13 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

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 25th November, 2002 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's order paper.

2. Discussion on the Statutory Resolutions seeking disapproval of the following Ordinances and consideration and passing of the Bills seeking to replace these Ordinances:

   (i) The Delhi Metro Railway (Operation and Maintenance) Ordinance, 2002.

   (ii) The Unit Trust of India (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal) Ordinance, 2002

   (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002

   (iv) The Representation of People (Amendment) Ordinance, 2002.

3. Consideration and agreeing to amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Constitution (Ninety-third Amendment) Bill, 2001 as passed by Lok Sabha- to be taken up on Wednesday, the 27th November, 2002.

4. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

   (i) The Refugee Relief Taxes (Abolition) Repeal Bill, 2002.

   (ii) The Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Second Amendment Bill, 2002.

   (iii) The High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Amendment Bill, 2002.

   (iv) The Mysore State Legislature (Delegation of Powers) Repeal Bill, 2002.

   (v) The Companies (Second Amendment) Bill, 2001.

5. Consideration and passing of the following Bills as passed by the Rajya Sabha:

   (i) The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

   (ii) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2002.

   (iii) The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Maritime Navigation and Fixed Platforms on Continental Shelf Bill, 2002.

6. Consideration and agreeing to amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Prevention of Money Laundering Bill, 1999 as passed by Lok Sabha. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Sir, Minister of Agriculture should be called to discuss the condition of sugarcane farmers. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: All submissions would start after statement on Government Business for the next week.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No other statement would go on record expect the statement of Shrimati Jayashree Banerjee.

...(Interruptions)

*Presented to hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha on 14th August, 2002 under direction 71A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha when the House was not in session. Hon. Speaker ordered the printing, publication and circulation of the Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of the Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

There should be less books for small children. As the weight of bags of the children is so heavy that it is not good from health point of view. The weight of the bags brings stress problem. Syllabus must be revised. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: All hon. Members are requested to take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you not aware that you should sit when the Speaker is on his legs. What is this? Can't you sit when the speaker is on his legs. I request all the hon. Members that they should sit down when the Speaker speaks. The Members are not aware of discipline to be followed in the House.

I am saying that the zero hour has not started and the other business is still continuing in the House. We are receiving submissions as per the decision taken in the Business Advisory Committee. Would the Members behave in the same manner in the House, they do not wish to run the House? How would things go on like this? Let me run the business. I would listen to you in the Zero Hour, at that time Members would be allowed to speak. I do not like to speak in harsh voice. It would be good if you cooperative with me.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:

1. In the year 1950, while adopting the constitution, a proposal was adopted under Article 45 that within ten years of implementation of the constitution, the state would strive for providing free and essential education to all the children till they complete the age of 14 years, but this could not happen till date.

2. Due to non-fixation of supply cost of sugarcane in crushing session of sugarcane, during 2002-2003, the condition of farmers of Uttar Pradesh has become pitiable. The state government has withdrawn its earlier decision to run the sugar mills under government control. Therefore, the farmers are burning their crop.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

(a) In spite of some marginal improvement in our performance in various international sports meets, mainly due to individual efforts of our athletes, we also got some bad name in some international games due to charges of doping. We should do much more in the field of sports to harness our potential. But we have no clear sports policy. The House should discuss a comprehensive sports policy.

(b) In a recent report called "The Foreign Exchange of Hate", it is revealed that fund is collected in USA from corporate houses for the purpose of development of poor and tribals but used in India for communal activities. This is posing a threat to our unity and it must be discussed and stopped.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Sir, following items may kindly be included for discussion in the next week's agenda:

1. The need for an economic package of rupees 300 crore for saving and modernising as also expanding the sugar industry of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

2. The need for effectively suppressing anti-national activities going on at Indo-Nepal border.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Sir, the following items may kindly be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Due to separate elections of Lok Sabha, Legislative Assemblies, Panchayat etc. the process continues for five years continuously. All political parties remain busy in preparation for elections, which badly hampers the development of the country. There is a need to hold discussion in order to evolve a consensus to the effect that all elections could be held in the same year.

2. There is a need for making a time bound programme for completing irrigation projects lying incomplete for years together.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEBA CHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I request that the following items may be taken up in next week's business:

(1) Santhali language is one of the oldest languages of our country. It is a language of more than one crore people. It has its own literature and script. This language should be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

(2) More than twenty crores of workers are in unorganized sector. They are the Agricultural labourers, Construction workers, Bidi workers, Rickshaw pullers and Shops and Establishment workers etc. These workers are exploited and are not getting even the minimum wages. There is no law in regard to unorganized workers. Government should enact a law to protect the unorganized workers from exploitation.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a discussion should be held on terrorism created by leftists and ISI activities in the terai region of Nepal to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamilnadu as also other states.

Immediate discussion should also be held on revival of small irrigation projects lying pending for more than 50 years in view of the drought situation so that incidents of leakage of Jamunia Water Reservoir in Madhya Pradesh could be checked.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the 'Satnami' caste has been mentioned on schedule number 14 of the scheduled castes in Madhya Pradesh alongwith the castes *viz.* Chamar, Chamari, Ahirwar, Mochi, Ramdas, Bhangi and Mehtar, but the people belonging to satnami caste have raised a demand that their caste may be separated and be mentioned in scheduled caste serial number 14(A). The Chhattisgarh State Government have also sent a proposal to the Union Government in this regard.

The monthly honorarium of public health guides all over the entire country is rupees fifty since the last 22 years. Their honorarium may kindly be increased keeping in view the present circumstances and price hike.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to Calling Attention Notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not started 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, condition of sugarcane growers in Uttar Pradesh is very bad. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you to speak on this issue. Procedure in this regard is:

[English]

Precedence is always given to Calling Attention Notice. Therefore, I take up for Calling Attention Notice first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): What about 'Zero Hour'?

MR. SPEAKER: That will be taken up after the Calling Attention Notice.

[Translation]

This is the procedure and rule.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request you that instructions should be issued in this regard and hon'ble Minister of Agriculture should be called here. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here. He will take notice of what you have said.

12.23 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Reported crisis being faced by rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom growers in various parts of the country, particularly in Kerala and steps taken by Government in regard thereto

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Commerce and Industry

to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Crisis being faced by rubber, tea, coffee and cardamom growers in various parts of the country, particularly in Kerala, and steps taken by the Government in regard thereto."

THE MINISTER OF DISINVESTMENT, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, my written statement may be treated as laid on the Table.

*Hon. Speaker, Sir, in recent years the prices of commodities in the international markets are generally depressed and this has had its effect upon these commodities produced and exported by India. Domestic prices of commodities like coffee, tea and natural rubber have a tendency to move more or less in tendem with the international prices. One of the factors has caused this fall in international prices is that demand has not kept pace with supply of these commodities.

Of the four commodities, coffee prices have been affected the most since 2000. The situation over the last two years remains unfavourable to the coffee growers, in India as well as in major producing countries like Brazil, Columbia, Indonesia and countries in Africa. World prices of the two types of coffee, Arabica and Robusta, averaged 130 cents per kg. and 53 cents per kg. respectively, in 2001—these were about 80% below the recent peak level price of 261 cents per kg in 1995 in respect of Robusta and 64% below the peak level price of 359 cents per kg. in 1997 for Arabica.

Similarly, in the case of tea, prices have declined over the past few years. There was 26% decline in world tea prices in 2001 as compared to the peak level price of 189 cents per kg. in 1997. The decline in international prices coupled with problems like decreasing exports, stagnant domestic demand and higher cost of production has adversely affected domestic prices.

In the case of natural rubber, although the international situation was extremely unfavourably over the last four years, the situation has started improving considerably from the middle of 2002, with prices recovering in both domestic and international markets. While the present international prices of natural rubber is around Rs. 39 per kg, the domestic price is around Rs. 36 per kg.—this compares with Rs. 28 per kg. during 2001. Domestic and international prices are moving in tandem and because of this development there is some relief amongst the growers of natural rubber.

In so far as Cardomom is concerned, no serious crisis has been brought to the Government's attention in the current year. Cardamom is cultivated in some 40,000 holdings in the three States of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. More than 90% of these holdings are in the 2-4 hectare category. The prices of Cardamom have been comfortable during the last 3-4 years and no cases of or the need for closure, abandonment etc. of plantation have been reported. The price for small Cardamom has risen from around Rs. 487 per kg. in 1999-2000 to over Rs. 690 per kg. Today.

Government of India are fully alive to the problems of these commodities and a number of measures have been initiated to deal with the current price situation. Some of the steps taken by the Government are:

Coffee:

- — restructuring of the term loan as well as crop loans availed of by the growers of coffee.
- — Interest subsidy to the small growers.
- — programmes for quality upgradation.
- — enhancement of productivity.
- — package of incentives for export of coffee and innovative marketing strategies in the international as well as domestic markets to arrest the decline in exports and also to increase domestic consumption.

Tea:

- — Basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70% to 100% from 2002-03 onwards.
- — Excise duty on tea has been brought down from Rs. 2 per kg. to Re. 1 per kg. in the Budget 2002-03.
- — A factory upgradation scheme has been implemented by the Tea Board to encourage production of good quality orthodox and non-reconditioned CTC teas in the country.
- — Government has also provided financial incentives to the exporters of tea for meeting part of cost of handling, packaging, transport/ freight charges.

*Also laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 6029.2002]

[Shri Arun Shourie]

* A Quality Upgradation Programme is being implemented by the Tea Board for improving quality to tea manufactured by small growers in the country.

Natural Rubber:

* A package of incentives for export of Natural Rubber has been introduced since 2001-02.

Besides the written statement laid, I would like to explain some of the points. Sir, my distinguished colleague has drawn attention to a very important matter. It is a fact that in three of the four groups, the prices have been declining very substantially in the last few years. I will come to the steps that had been taken. In the case of coffee, they have gone down in respect of Arabica by about 80 per cent below the peak level in 1995, and in the case of Robusta by about 64 per cent below the peak level in 1997.

Similarly, the prices of tea, as you know have declined. There was 26 per cent fall in the prices of tea in 2001 in world prices. In all the commodities, including rubber, the domestic prices are greatly affected by international prices. The Exchanges in London and New York affect coffee and the auction prices in tea. I will come to that.

In the case of natural rubber, over the preceding four years, the things had been very difficult. But I am glad to inform the House that since the middle of 2002, because of slight recovery, the things are much better now. The price, which had fallen to Rs. 28 per kg. has risen to Rs. 36 per kg. in the last few months.

In cardamom, it is not really in the same category as the other three crops are, we are not informed of any grave crisis as was apprehended. In fact the price of small cadamom has risen from about Rs. 487 per kg. to about Rs. 690 per kg. now.

In regard to those three crops which the hon. Member has drawn attention to, there are a large number of steps which the Government has taken. I will come to each of these crops—Coffee, Rubber and Tea in that order. Several things have been done to improve the quality and productivity of coffee. I need not list them because they are well known and they are narrated in the Five Year Plan Document and in the Annual report. But the particular interest of the hon. Member would be the fact that an interest release scheme with an outlay of Rs. 7.50 crore was implemented by the Coffee Board in the preceding year, under which five per cent interest relief to targeted small coffee growers on working capital as well as crop loan was given and availed of them in regard to the loans they had taken from the financial institutions.

Another scheme was implemented of providing five per cent interest relief to small coffee growers in their working capital loans, which they have taken. A scheme was implemented with an outlay of Rs. 3 crore for financial assistance at the rate of 50 paise per kg. to the Indian coffee exporters for reducing the handling costs. This scheme will be continued in the Tenth Plan period. Though import of coffee is minuscule, so as to shield domestic coffee growers, the import duty on coffee was raised from 70 per cent to 100 per cent in the last policy and coffee was declared as one of the sensitive items, whose import the Government could watch very carefully.

Next point is that in coffee, loans have been restructured in a very substantial way in the last year. Repayment periods have been extended from seven years to nine years and now in a recent announcement the consideration is from nine years to eleven years. On all these three crops, coffee, rubber and tea, as the Prime Minister has announced a price stabilisation fund of Rs. 500 crore is being set up and the modalities of that are being worked out at the present time.

Similarly for natural rubber, a series of about ten-twelve steps of the same kind have been taken. One of the points there is that unlike coffee, in the case of natural rubber, the bound rate under WTO was only 25 per cent. We have been trying to urge in the on-going negotiations in the WTO on the Agreement on Agriculture that this should be reclassified so that the bound rate itself can be increased and we would have a better flexibility in providing protection to our domestic growers.

In the case of Rubber Board, the allocation, in the Ninth Plan, of Rs. 303 crore has been increased to Rs. 415 crore during the Tenth Plan period. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev would be happy to note that this includes Rs. 84 crore for the development of natural rubber in the North-Eastern region. That is very important to Tripura also.

I have already mentioned the case of the price stabilisation fund that is being done. In the case of Tea, again a large number of such steps have been taken. Three of these I have narrated in the statement, which I have laid on the Table of the House. If you want, I will just go through them in two minutes.

The first is that the basic customs duty on import of tea has been increased from 70 per cent to 100 per cent from 2002-03 onward. Even though the import of tea is also minuscule and 95 per cent of the imported tea is actually used for re-export, even then this has been increased. Excise duty on tea has been reduced from Rs. 2 per kg. to Re. 1 per kg. in the Budget of 2002-03. The allowance under the Income Tax Act has been increased from 20 per cent to 40 per cent and various other things of this kind have been done for tea as well as for other crops including quality upgradation programme, targeting special markets, where we were losing ground and so on.

Sir, if you would like to have a more elaborate statement on this, I can consider.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the agricultural sector is facing acute crisis due to the unprecendeted fall in prices of all these commodities. It is mainly because of the removal of quantitative restrictions.

Sir, Kerala, in the last one year, has lost Rs. 6,645 crore because of the steep fall in the price of all these commodities. This has affected our economy very badly. The EXIM Policy, whatever the Minister says, has adversely affected and created financial stress on the farmers. I request the hon. Minister to have a re-look on the EXIM Policy, which has been announced by the Central Government.

Sir, regarding rubber, the Minister has said that the price has gone up. The import of natural rubber is still continuing. Even though the Minister has put a ban on the import of natural rubber, unfortunately a decision has been given in Mumbai High Court to vacate this ban, and that has created a new problem. I request the hon. Minister to take appropriate legal steps in this regard.

Sir, regarding coconut, the price of coconut is coming down. Indiscriminate import of Palmolein from Malaysia and other countries has created this problem. Even WTO is giving us a tool to raise the import duty up to 300 per cent. Why is the Government hesitating to enhance the duty more than 100 per cent in this regard?

Regarding arecanut, coffee and ginger, the support price should be declared and the procurement should be started. The Minister has rightly pointed out in regard to coffee. The hon. Minister of Commerce has initiated certain important measures regarding waiver of interest on coffee loan, extension of the repayment of loan in respect of special coffee term loan from nine to 11 years, and restoration of moratorium on repayment from two to three years. Sir, virtually it is not happening. All the banks are hesitating and putting all kinds of hurdles in this special coffee term loan which has been announced by the Government. The announcement is only on paper but in reality it is not happening. So, the Minister of Commerce should take up this issue with the hon. Finance Minister, and the entire loan outstanding, both long-term and working capital should be re-scheduled. Unless and until you do this, the coffee growers will not get any benefit out of the schemes have been announced.

Regarding tea industry, the major problem is in the tea sector. In Kerala, almost all the tea estates have been closed down. More than 25,000 workers are out of their jobs. Actually speaking, we are afraid of poverty, deaths in those areas. The Kerala Government has taken certain initiatives. They have given rice and other things to the poor workers but that is not enough. The Central assistance is very much needed in the areas of Perunad and Wayanad, where thousands of tea growers are left out of other jobs. Sir, the EXIM Policy, as I said earlier, may be revised regarding these kinds of agricultural commodities.

The hon. Minister was mentioning about the import for re-export. There lies the real issue. Tea is coming from Sri Lanka and we are re-exporting it. The quality is very low and they are putting the Indian label. Why are we allowing this? We are not gaining any foreign exchange because we have enough tea, we have enough coffee, enough rubber and other commodities. Why are we allowing them to import and then we re-export?

As the Government has not benefited by this and our country is not benefited by this, I think a time has come to have a re-look on this import for re-export policy which is adopted by this Government. Also, if we are allowing this, then you should ensure that 90 per cent of the tea should be Indian tea. Actually, our markets are flooded by Sri Lankan tea. That is the main reason for closure of all the tea estates in Kerala and other parts of our country. Quality control may also be ensured.

Regarding excise duty, the Minister was saying that the excise duty of one per cent might be withdrawn. As a special case, at least, for this season to tide over this crisis, the Government should come forward to withdraw the excise duty of one per cent immediately. Steps may be taken for the long-term revival of the tea plantation. Almost all the tea plantations are aged. We have to have a comprehensive plan for re-plantation of the existing tea

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

estates. The Ferguson Committee Report is under the active consideration of the Government. It should be implemented properly in consultation with the labour unions, tea growers and other parties which are very much involved in this activity.

Actually speaking, I am very sorry to say that the Tea Board is not taking any interest in the promotion of tea. The Tea Board has been constituted only for the promotion of tea. But, unfortunately, the Tea Board has taken a very-very callous attitude towards the issues of tea growers and the workers in these tea estates.

I request the hon. Minister that to tide over this crisis, the Central Government should come forward to help the State Government of Kerala so that we can given some immediate relief to the poor people who are starving in Wayanad and Idukki districts of Kerala.

MR. SPEAKER: There are two Members who have given me the notice. One is Shri Suresh Kurup and the other is Shri Francis George. They can raise some queries. The Minister will reply. I am requesting them to make the queries.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): Sir, we are coming from the tea growing area. I would like to speak for a minute. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should have given the notice earlier.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Please allow me for one minute after their speech.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot open the debate because there are people who want to start the 'Zero Hour'. If you want some time to be given to the 'Zero Hour', we will have to finish this.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Please allow me one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): The practice is that all the Members are allowed to speak. You should allow me five minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You are allowed to ask for clarification. I can give you five minutes. You can speak.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Please allow me to formulate my points.

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving you five minutes. You can go ahead.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please start Zero Hour now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Here Business of the House will be conducted as per rules.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): The issue regarding women should be discussed in the House.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, the magnitude of the crisis has already been mentioned by my colleague, Shri Ramesh Chennithala. The most important area where this crisis has affected is Peermade Taluka in my State. It is represented by my colleague, Shri Francis George. All the tea estates in the area are closed, except one or two. The workers are committing suicide. Reports are daily appearing in the papers about the suicide of workers and their children. The story of a ninth standard student, a girl child, I am sure, will bring tears into the eyes of the hon. Members. This school-going child studying in the ninth standard has been attending to the school by borrowing a uniform from her classmate. She has been using it for months and months and at last a stage had come that she could not use the uniform. She knew very well that her parents are workers in the tea garden. They are unemployed for the last one year. They are not getting any wages. So, one fine morning she decided to commit suicide. The story of this child, Velankanni, has been reported elaborately in the Kerala media. This is not an isolated incident. Everyday, from Peermade Taluka, incidents of suicide are being reported in the Press.

What is the basis of this crisis? As has already been pointed out, under the SAARC agreement, tea is being imported regularly into India. Our cost of production, per kilogram of tea comes to around Rs. 50 or Rs. 60 and the price at which it is sold in the market is around Rs. 44 or 45 per kilogram. In the case of Sri Lanka, the cost of production of tea is only Rs. 33. Under the garb of the SAARC agreement, this tea is being imported into our country and also there is a provision for duty free import for export. This tea comes from Sri Lanka to our

country and in the name of value-added export, it is being again exported from our country. Our country is not benefiting from this export. They are mixing Indian tea with cheap tea from outside and exporting it. So, our market outside has dwindled. Libya has rejected our shipment of tea. This is a very serious matter. My question is whether the import of tea would be regulated and whether the Government would take steps to check the quality properly.

I would like to know what steps the Government would take to help the labourers. The tea industry is a labour intensive industry. Some 25,000 families in Peermade Taluk alone are in trouble. They are in utter poverty. Nobody is there to help them. The Kerala Government has not done anything. I am sorry to say, the problem would not be solved by giving ration. The Government of Kerala should take some immediate steps. At the same time, the Government of India should came forward to help the Government of Kerala and to help the workers.

Rubber growers, for the last many years, are at the mercy of the international market. The price in the international market has gone up now and the rubber prices have slightly gone up in Kerala. Once it comes down in the international market, it would come down in Kerala also. My colleague has mentioned about the judgement of the Mumbai High Court. I would like to know whether immediate steps would be taken for filing an appeal before the hon. Supreme Court against this judgement.

The demand from rubber farmers of Kerala is that under the WTO agreement, rubber should be categorised as an agriculture product. It is now categorised as an industrial product. So this, should be changed and included in the category of agricultural products. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would take steps in this regard.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the crisis in the plantation sector in South India has been mentioned by my very respected colleagues here.

Kerala is the only State with a substantial stake in all the plantation crops in this country, the major plantation crops being tea, coffee and rubber. Kerala is the worst hit and most affected State due to this crisis. The hon. Minister has said that several measures have been taken to help the plantation sector and to help the workers and small growers. It is very unfortunate that the worst hit area, as has been pointed by Shri Suresh Kurup, belongs to my constituency in Idukki District, Peermade Taluk. Seventeen plantations have been closed down or abandoned by management. The point of interest and the matter to be noted is that the management of these plantations has just abandoned the estates. Fifteen thousand workers have lost their jobs and five have already committed suicide. It is a very grim situation there and the difficulty is that there are several reasons as have been pointed out here.

What is the exact cause of this crisis? The hon. Minister said that it all depends on the international market movements. The EXIM Policy has been mentioned here. Due to the liberalised import regime that has been set in here, products from other countries are very liberally being brought into this country. It has been pointed out that from Sri Lanka, we import millions of tonnes of tea at the rate of 7.5 per cent.

Also, we have imports from China and Indonesia. Last year nearly about Rs. 50 crore worth of tea has been imported. At this rate, if it does this way, how can we open these estates? The point that is to be noted is that some of the managements have just abandoned the estates. The provident fund amount that has been collected from the salaries of the workers, amounting to Rs. 16.5 crore has not been paid. The insurance premium that has been deducted from the salaries of the workers has not been paid by the management and the management has just abandoned these estates. We have now reached a situation where 20,000 policies will be cancelled by LIC due to non-payment of premium. So in Peermade taluk alone the situation is so grave.

The State Government has announced and taken certain measures. I do not deny that. Free ration has been announced and also medicines and medical support have been announced. But the point is that to re-open these estates, a Committee has to be set up. An expert Committee has to be set up to go into the particular problems. Each estate has its own problem, various problems. The hon. Standing Committee of Parliament relating to the Commerce Ministry had visited that area and they held wide-ranging discussions with the management, trade unions and all the stakeholders.

I request the hon. Minister that the Central Government should assist the State Government. Of course, the State Government is faced with financial crisis. The Central Government should assist the State Government to set up a Committee to go into the difficulties of these various managements of various estates for immediate re-opening of these 17 estates

[Shri K. Francis George]

which are closed so that all the workers can get back their jobs. The difficulties which the workers are facing have been detailed here. I do not want to go into all those details again.

The other crops are also there. The hon. Minister has mentioned about rubber. He has also said that cardamom is not facing a crisis. It is in my constituency in which most of the cardamom is being grown. The price at the start of the season was Rs. 800 and now it has crashed to Rs. 400, almost 50 per cent.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you please conclude now?

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Sir, I am concluding. As far as coffee is concerned, it is the same or worse. So, we need liberal central assistance and also certain urgent relief measures have to be taken by the Central Government to tide over this crisis.

Sir, a mention has been made about excise duty. The hon. Minister has said that the excise duty has been reduced from two per cent to one per cent. That will not do. Even this one per cent has to be suspended at least for the present till the crisis is over. If this one per cent excise duty is done away with, there will be a relief or Rs. 13.8 crore to the estates, to the management. What the exchequer is going to lose is only Rs. 2.54 crore. I do not want to go into the details of the mechanics of all that. But the hon. Minister must be well aware of that. Even this one per cent excise duty has to be cut, at least for the time being.

Also, tea is imported for re-export. What is happening is that even though considerable amount of tea is being produced here, we have an excess of 180 million kilograms of tea here, which is a surplus, we are allowing import of tea in the name of re-export. May be that all this amount of tea that is being imported is not re-exported. Even if it is re-exported it is affecting our export market. There is no doubt about it. The funny point is that very cheap quality of tea is being imported under the garb of re-export and this is being mixed with our good quality tea and that means that our good quality tea is earning a bad name in the export market.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Francis George, as a matter of fact, you have been given five minutes. I have given you seven or eight minutes. Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Yes, Sir. In this re-exporting of imported tea, there is no value addition. It is merely imported, mixed with and again re-exported. No extra foreign exchange is earned by our country. So, that practice is to stop immediately.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Francis George, as a matter of fact you are supposed to ask only a question. Please conclude now.

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: The duty-free import of tea, coffee, cardamom, pepper and all the spices has to be stopped because we are having all these products, we are producing all these products and there is a surplus of these. So, I would request the hon. Minister to kindly look into these matters and take a favourable decision at the earliest. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Only two hon. Members have desired to ask some questions to the hon. Minister. I am going to permit them. They should ask specific questions. This is being done as a special case. Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev will ask the first question and thereafter Shri P.C. Thomas will ask the question.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Hon. Speaker, Sir, almost all the points have been covered, but I would like to say one thing that Assam's mother industry is tea. We produce two-third of the country's tea. The condition of tea industry in Assam is as bad as has been explained by hon. Members here. I do not want to repeat, but I want to say that action has to be taken on war-footing. Our total population engaged in tea industry is 4.5 lakh which is starving. Our State Government is trying to help them, but their financial position is not good.

Sir, I do not want to repeat any question. I support the questions raised and I would urge upon the hon. Minister to take some immediate steps.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, I would just supplement what has been said. I would ask only one question.

Sir, as has been already said, the import duty and the import policy is one which affects the prices of all these plantation crops and the farmer is being very seriously affected by some of the duties which have been fixed. I am happy that the import duty on tea and coffee has been raised from 70 per cent to 100 per cent, but it can be raised, at this stage, up to 300 per cent. I would like to point out that there is Kelkar Committee Report which has come. That Report has suggested that the hike which can be made up to 300 per cent must be reduced to 150 per cent. This is going to very seriously

affect the whole plantation sector. Tea, coffee, cardamom, all the spices, coconut and everything is going to be affected. So, I would submit that the Commerce Ministry should take it up very seriously because the Finance Ministry may not feel the touch of it. The Commerce Ministry must take it up with the Finance Ministry and see that Kelkar Committee Report on this aspect is not accepted at all. I would like to urge upon the Government and seek the indulgence of the Minister in this regard.

[Translation]

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduars): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: If you have any question, you can ask that.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA: Sir, as problems of tea gardens of Kerala and Assam have been raised here, similar problems are being faced by West Bengal. I would like to say that in West Bengal especially in Jalpaigudi and Darjeeling districts of North Bengal almost 15 tea gardens have been closed down so far which has created problems for about 35,000 laborers. Ration is not supplied to them. The Provident Fund subscribed and LIC premium paid by them have not been deposited. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to whether any steps are being taken in this regard. A team of Parliamentary Committee on Commerce has gone there which conducted an indepth study in this regard. I would like to know as to what steps are being taken in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Master Mathan.

[English]

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN (Nilgiris): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I totally agree with other Kerala MPs.

MR. SPEAKER: You just ask the question.

SHRI M. MASTER MATHAN: Yes. I will ask a question regarding Nilgiris. There are about 70,000 small growers and marginal farmers who are totally depending upon tea plantation for their livelihood. For the last three years, the tea prices have gone down very badly because of the policy of the government. Now, the small growers have not even been able to educate their children. I think, even they have not been able to earn their livelihood. Now, I request the Government at least to see that minimum price is provided to the small growers. Today, as a matter of fact, in Nilgiris, there is a bandh going on to project to the Government the present situation of crisis faced by small growers. So, I request the hon. Minister of Commerce to see that something is done for these small growers.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I think, we have all agreed that these problems are matters of concern to all sections of the House. Similarly, there is no conflict between the State Governments doing something or the Centre doing something. We are all there to assist each other in this regard, and the same point goes for West Bengal, Assam and other places that what is required for one set of tea estates will be required actually for all sets of tea estates. So, I will enumerate some of the things that are already being done and I am completely open to all suggestions on looking at EXIM policy and all. The open sessions for revising the EXIM policy will be starting in December.

I would like to request everyone to please assist us in coming up with policies that are even better suited to the interest of our own country. In that spirit I would just like to enumerate a few of the things that the hon. Members may like to keep in mind in the future.

Sir, Shri Ramesh Chennithala mentioned that problems started since the Quantitative Restrictions were removed. I would appeal to all sections of the House that instead of just heckling at things like the WTO, we should see as to what are the measures under the WTO that we can use to our advantage as other countries are doing. I will give you one instance.

Under the WTO we cannot impose anti-dumping duties as India has been a leader in this. We have got duties imposed in 141 anti-dumping cases in the last few years. Almost 50 such duties have been imposed in the last two years. But there is another provision and that is for safeguards. Anti-dumping is that while somebody is selling here, an example was given of Chinese textiles, at a lower price than he is selling elsewhere at his cost of production. But in the safeguards provision of WTO, even if he is selling at a fair price, fair according to what he is selling elsewhere or according to his cost of production, we can take counter measures including Quantitative Restrictions to safeguard our own industry.

I will tell you what the problem there is. It is a matter of serious concern to the House itself. You will be surprised to know that actually in September, 1998, the Cabinet decided that the Foreign Trade Development and Regulation Act, 1992 should be amended so as to enable us to impose Quantitative Restrictions. I do not want to

[Shri Arun Shourie]
go through as to what happened since 1998 but the Bill is still pending. The Bill was referred to the Departmentally-related Parliamentary Standing Committee, it came back from there, but it is still pending. I am sorry to learn that such an important matter has got only a 'B' category priority in this Session. If for four years we did not act and now we are urging each other as to why we are not imposing Quantitative Restrictions, then I think, it is something on which we should all get together and with the permission of the hon. Speaker, I would like to come to the BAC so that this kind of a Bill, that would enable us to take protective action, could be enacted.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA (Contai): Can we not pass this Bill at one go?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I think so. Whenever the hon. Speaker schedules it, we are more than anxious to get on with it.

Sir, another point was mentioned about coconut and coconut oil.

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): I am sorry to interrupt you. Your Government has been initiating and promulgating a lot of Ordinances which were not of any urgent nature. For such an issue, that you are mentioning just now, your Government could have come out with an Ordinance and later on this Ordinance could have been taken care of by way of a Bill.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, it is a common concern for all of us and it is in that spirit that I am agreeing with the hon. Member.

Sir, in case of coconut oil, it is a special concern to the State of Kerala, the good thing there is that the Solvent Extraction Association of India, Mumbai has filed a petition with the safeguard mechanism and hearings of that are now to begin on imposing safeguard duties to protect edible oil in India. It is because like coconut oil other edible oil factories are also being closed down. This is because ten years ago almost 95 per cent of Indian vegetable oils were being supplied by domestic mills and now that figure has come down to 55 per cent because of a great surge in imports. Imports have increased by almost 135 per cent in the last three years.

13.00 hrs.

So, I am completely with you on this. You will be happy to know that these are starting on the 25th of November. We hope to assist everybody so that our industry including the coconut oil industry and thereby the interests of the coconut growers also can be safeguarded.

The point was made about raising the actual duty to bound duty. In edible oils there are two types of figures that have been agreed to. In soyabean oil it is 45 per cent, and in other oils it is 300 per cent. Now, a balance had to be struck between these. Otherwise people will then start switching from one to the other, and again some set of factories will be hurt. You have to strike a balance not only between these different types of edible oils for which different types of bound rates are there, but also between the interests of consumers and of producers. If you raise the actual duties to the bound rate of 300 per cent, immediately all of us will be saying that the consumers have now to pay more for their cooking medium. For that reason, actual rate has been pegged at 60 per cent. But these are matters to be gone into. If that is not enough to safeguard our industry, naturally other measures should be taken. I am completely open to that.

On the point regarding rubber, on the question of Bombay High Court judgement I have to mention two points. First, we did stop the advance licensing imports of rubber. That is what was appealed to in Bombay and Bombay High Court struck down the order. We will be filing an appeal against that order. We will take it to the Supreme Court or to the Division Bench and so on.

It was also mentioned jut now that we should go back to WTO in the negotiations to get natural rubber reclassified. As I mentioned in my statement, that is precisely what we have done already, anticipating your suggestions in that regard.

You mentioned quite correctly that in my friend Kelkar's working paper—the Finance Minister has said many times that it is not a draft report, it is a working paper—he said that many export promotion schemes should be jettisoned. Certainly in our Ministry we do not agree with this. We have had meetings with him and his team. I think that that would be an unrealistic way. After all exporters have got conditioned to one set of incentives. You cannot suddenly abolish those incentives and expect them to suddenly start achieving other things. You will have to then give them incentives of another kind, and then all questions of WTO compatibility and others will start arising again. I will take the first opportunity of meeting Mr. Vijay Kelkar myself, he is my friend, and put to him the strong sentiments of the Members of Parliament in this regard also.

On the question of tea, three points have been made. If you permit me I will just answer them at once.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: That is the most important thing.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Each of these is important. If I am growing cardamom then that is important for me, and if somebody grows tea that is important for him.

As I mentioned, we are the largest producer and consumer of tea in the world with 27 per cent of the world's production and 13 per cent of the world's exports. Therefore, we are buffeted by the international price moves. We cannot insulate ourselves as an island. There are two points. I hope that they will not offend anybody, but I will state the facts as I know them. The first point is about the things we have started saying and hearing for the last one and a half years about import of tea from Sri Lanka. The facts are like this. Our total production is about 850 million kilograms, and the imports from Sri Lanka in the year 2000 were 0.46 million kilogram. In 2001 they were 0.31 kilograms. Now, these are figures which are not 10 per cent of our production, not one per cent of our production, but one-fifth or one-tenth of one per cent of our production.

DR. NITISH SENGUPTA: But they are eating into our markets.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: I am coming to that. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Now, please answer me. What about the excise duty that is being collected in tea industry? Will you withdraw that? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you may not yield to him. I want you to complete your reply as quickly as you can. I want to take up the next item also.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: It is not even one-tenth of one per cent of the total supplies of the Indian market. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will you withdraw the excise duty imposed on tea? ...*(Interruptions)* Please answer that question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not the way in which question can be asked in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Excise duty is the most important thing. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Precisely because of the decline in prices, a 'price subsidy' scheme was implemented by the Tea Board from May to October of 2000, under which an amount of Rs. 26 crore was disbursed as cash subsidy to over 65,000 growers in South India. After that, there has been a massive drive of quality upgradation also.

Nothing will ever be sufficient to meet the crisis. But the real point is on competitiveness. Many of our bushes are old. I do not want to say anything about the workers and so on. But if you compare wages of our workers and the increase in wages over the last few years with the wages being paid in China, Kenya or elsewhere, you will see that we have to be much more competitive either by rejuvenating and replacement of our bushes or by other means.

On the question of workers, a remark was made that the Kerala Government and others have not done much. Actually that is not true. I think, the State Governments are themselves very alert to this problem. The plantation Labour Act of 1951 imposes this responsibility primarily on the State Government. I am happy to say that even in Kerala—or especially in Kerala—the State Government of both the Fronts have done good work in trying to reach immediate relief to the workers. The Centre is with them in this.

We have provided relief to affected plantation workers, including distribution of free rice to the workers, provision of medical care, education and other basic facilities and I would be the first person to cooperate with everyone for this purpose.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: What help you are going to give to them?

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, I think, I have answered all the points. We are open to suggestions.

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on Calling Attention is over.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue is related to sugarcane growers. It is an important issue. ...*(Interruptions)* Mr. Speaker, Sir, I may be allowed to speak for two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have work for just half a second. ...*(Interruptions)*

13.08 hrs.

MOTION RE: FORTY-SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 2002."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Forty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 21st November, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The time of the 'Zero Hour', as a matter of fact, is over. But if you all cooperate, I would like to take up 'Zero Hour' for about 15-20 minutes and then, the hon. Members can go for lunch. But that will depend on your cooperation. If you do not cooperate and go on shouting in the House, I will have to adjourn the House for lunch right now. It is for you to decide what you want me to do.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have made it clear. I will not like to repeat it. 'Zero Hour' is an opportunity for those Members who want to raise specific issues. I really want to go ahead with the business. But I do not want any hon. Member to shout. Even if one hon. Member shouts, I will adjourn the House. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue pertains to sugarcane growers. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I would not be able to take up all the issues, notices for which were given, to be raised during 'Zero Hour', but I will be able to take up some of them.

...*(Interruptions)*

13.09 hrs.

RE: PROBLEMS BEING FACED BY THE SUGAR-CANE GROWERS IN THE COUNTRY PARTICULARLY IN UTTAR PRADESH

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, condition of sugarcane growers throughout the country is very bad. Earlier crushing of sugarcane used to start in the month of October but this year crushing of sugarcane has not started so far. The state Government fixed the rate of sugarcane from Rs. 95 to Rs. 100 per quintal but the G.O. in this regard has been withdrawn and now sugarcane growers are burning their crops in the fields itself. In eastern Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, such problems are created. With your permission, I am speaking on this issue, why he is disturbed. ...*(Interruptions)* I am not interested in raising the issue of sugarcane every day. The Government are not doing its duty. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you talking with each other. You please address to me and conclude in two minutes.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Sir, condition of eastern Uttar Pradesh is really bad. The farmers of Meerut and Muzaffarnagar have jammed the traffic and launched agitation. The Government is not taking appropriate action

required in this regard. Sir, through you, I would like to say that hon'ble Minister Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar should say something on this issue. They will not be able to save their security deposits in the next elections if condition of sugarcane growers remains the same. The farmers living in your areas are facing lot of difficulties. Sir, through you, I request that justice should be done to farmers and their outstanding dues should be paid to them and crushing of sugarcane should be started. I request that the Government should express its opinion on this issue.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I will request the concerned Minister in this regard. But as per my information instructions have already been issued to start all the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: It is a serious issue and wrong statement is being made here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: For the first time our Government have tried to control the problem of sugarcane. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I can only request the Government to hold discussion on this issue under Rule 193. This is a subject on which discussion should be held in the House.

DR. M.P. JAISWAL (Bettiah): Sir, it is a very serious issue. Telecast of a serial 'Vishnu Puran' has been started on television since 8th September 2002 from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. In this serial disrespect has been shown towards Shri Sahastrabhu Arjunji, deity of Jaiswal Community. There are four Members of Parliament in this House from Jaiswal Community—Shri Shriprakash Jaiswal from Congress Party, Shri Jawahar Lal Jaiswal from Samajvadi Party, Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal and myself from BJP. Gazetted holiday is observed in Madhya Pradesh on his birthday. The manner in which disrespect is being shown towards our diety is really painful and there is resentment among people of Jaiswal Community over this issue. I, daily receive 10-15 letters from people that what is being done by MPs in this regard as this serial is being telecast even now and disrespect is shown towards our deity. Nothing is being done by the Government in this regard. Earlier telecast of this serial was stopped but it has been started again since 8th September. His children are being presented as demon. Sir, do I look like the descendant of a demon. Hon'ble Minister is present in this House and I request the telecast of this serial may be stopped and disrespect should not be shown towards our diety.

I demand that attention should be paid towards this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL (Kanpur): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by Jaiswalji. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please listen to me just for one minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will listen to you later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I do not want indiscipline here and I can't permit everyone.

SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Sir, I am associating myself with him. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Alright, you have been associated.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Babu Jagjivan Ramji took part in freedom struggle of India. His residence 6-Krishna Menon Marg has been used as his memorial. The then President Shri Venkatraman, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had paid him floral tribute at that place. He is famous as Babuji and a pride of Bihar. He was not only leader of dalits but worked for welfare of oppressed and downtrodden. His residence was being used as his memorial but it is really sad that the Government have issued notice to vacante it. Court intervened in the matter and the period was extended up to 30th. There were two cases in the court regarding conversion of residence into memorial—One pertained to Late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri and another to Jagjivan Babu. Notification has been issued regarding memorial of Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri but so far no notification has been issued for memorial of Jagjivan Babu. There is resentment not only among people of Bihar but also among the people of whole India. Jagjivan Babuji had been conferred 'Bharat Ratna'. He served the country and participated in freedom struggle of the country and had been successful in every sphere of his life. In this manner the Government seems to be bent upon not to allow construction of memorials of freedom fighters and making discrimination in this regard which will lead to resentment among dalits and the Government will be responsible for that. I, therefore, request the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY (Buxar): Sir, a large number of MPs have signed the resolution for converting the residence of Babu Jagjivan Ram into his memorial. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The Government is indifferent on this issue. If such a sensitive issue is not considered seriously by the Government and not taken up in this House then how such problems will be solved. What will be its impact if people come on roads to express their resentment and stage agitation over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)* His contribution was great in building of the nation. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL MUNI CHAUBEY: The Government should think over this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have written a letter to hon'ble Prime Minister on this issue. I, very well know about this issue as it was discussed with you. I will look into this as to what can be done in this regard.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: At that time hon. Prime Minister himself had signed that document and several other Members also signed the resolution for building this memorial. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I also know about that.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, I leave this issue upto you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Sir, I also associate myself with it. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Ajayji, please speak on this issue precisely just for two minutes.

[English]

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): I would like to draw the attention of the House to one of the serious scams committed by the Government of India. The Government of India has sold out a very prestigious and old hotel, Centaur Hotel, to Batra Hospitals for Rs. 83 crore which, subsequently has sold out to Sahara Groups for Rs. 115 crore.

it is a very serious matter. The Hotel was sold at undervalued price. There is a very large difference. The Batra Hospitals purchased the Hotel at Rs. 83 crore. Thereafter, they sold out the Hotel to the Sahara Group at Rs. 115 crore. The Government of India had sold it out to the Batra Hospital at an undervalued price. It is a serious matter. It is a huge loss to the public exchequer. It is a grave concern of the country. A serious scam has been committed by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, would you like to say anything on this issue? It is up to you to respond.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: It is a serious scam committed by the Government and the Ministry of Civil Aviation. A news item on this matter has appeared in prestigious newspapers. A Hotel was purchased at Rs. 83 crore and within a month, it was again sold out to the Sahara Group.

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not want a reply from the Minister, you may go on speaking.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: It is a serious scam committed by the Government of India and a huge loss to the country. It is a grave concern of the country. I urge the Government, through you Sir, for a CBI probe into the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do you want to say something on this matter? I am not compelling you to speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Sir, I demand through you a probe by the CBI into this matter.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Thank you very much for giving me and Shrimati Hema Gamang an opportunity to speak and I am grateful to the hon. Minister, Shri Arun Shourie for being present here at our request. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, the decision or the recommendation of the Ministry of Disinvestment to disinvest and privatise NALCO has sent shockwaves all over Orissa. The fact is that it is an undertaking which was started in 1981 at Rs. 2400 crores and is now worth Rs. 24,000 crore. The expansion of mining and refinery which is in Shrimati Hema Gamang's constituency and the smelter, the captive power plant which are in my constituency and the port facilities in Visakhapatnam have been approved by this Government at Rs. 9000 crore. The undertaking worth Rs. 25,000 crore has given employment to 8000 people directly and about 20,000 people indirectly. That means,

about 1.5 lakh people are depending on it. The Government has not taken a decision on this matter.

The Petitions Committee of Parliament headed by hon. Acharia has also presented a Report today at 12 noon in this very House. While the Petitions Committee is seized of the matter, the tearing hurry to sell it off when it is giving a profit of Rs. 650 crore has sent shockwaves in Orissa.

Now, the present Minister of Mines, Kumari Uma Bharati has opposed it. The previous Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, has opposed it and the present Chief Minister of Orissa who was the Minister of Mines in 1998, I am told, had opposed it. I have not seen the files but at least, he has taken a public stand of opposing it. I think this disinvestment process must be stopped immediately. Today, also, there was a *dharna*. ...*(Interruptions)* We have seen how BALCO was disinvested. Today, all those BALCO workers have been thrown to the dogs. None of the people who have taken it over at a paltry sum, at a chicken feed, have honoured the Agreement when it was disinvested.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Sir, today, all the ex-MPs and ex-Ministers are waiting to call on you. We have staged a *dharna*.

MR. SPEAKER: Some of them have come to my Chamber to meet me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH (Tamluk): Sir, the Minister is present here. Let him respond on this important matter. It is a very important issue. The Government is selling out everything. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI HEMA GAMANG (Koraput): Sir, I may be allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You are all aware that it is for the Minister to decide whether he wants to reply now or at a later stage by a proper notice.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Supreme Court has given a judgement on 7th May 2002 on the issue of forestry which has also caused disturbance in Andaman and Nicobar Islands like other parts of the country. The closure of forest project in Andaman and Nicobar Island has rendered 3000 labourers jobless. The Forestry Project of Forest Corporation, which received Mini Ratna Award earlier has been closed down while it was viable. This Forestry Project has been closed after 7th May which ruined the future of 2000 labourers and employees of Forest Development Corporation and no one is concerned about the future of these people. In Ninth meeting of IDA held on 22nd January, 1996, a decision was taken for its take-over by the administration. But so far this decision has not been implemented. Till date 50 thousand persons have registered their names in Employment Exchanges. Tropical forests of this region are famous throughout the world. It will not remain in the same condition. People will not be able to get food due to unemployment and if in such a situation deforestation takes place, unemployed youth will become poachers in connivance with foreigners, terrorists and naxalites. I, therefore, would like to say that Forest Development Corporation should be taken over by Andaman Administration and employment of all the employees should be ensured.

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, about 160 persons were travelling in a private bus at Maneri in Mandla district and suddenly its tyre busted due to which the bus overturned and caught fire. Petrol was being transported illegally in this bus due to which it caught fire. 70 persons were charred to death in this incident, which could be averted. There is a filling plant of Hindustan Petroleum just 50 metres away from the place of incident which has all the required implements to extinguish fire in three-four minutes but they refused to provide assistance as they have to seek permission from their Mumbai Headquarter. Action should be taken against such irresponsible persons who did not care for lives of others. Mostly villagers were travelling by this bus. Financial assistance should be provided to family members of the deceased.

13.29 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the clock.

14.32 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at *thirty-two minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair*]

THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENT AND LEADERS OF OPPOSITION IN PARLIAMENT (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Item No. 15 on today's Agenda Paper.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, I beg to move**:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 and the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill has limited purpose. The House may be aware that last year while making amendments in salaries and allowances of Ministers the tours of their assistants were increased from 6 to 12 and under this in place of 24 tours 48 tours were to be provided. Now officers of Parliament, leaders of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha are to be included under it and for that this Bill has been brought. I would like to say that this Bill may be passed without discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: No names have been given here to speak on this Bill, so, I move this Bill for consideration.

[English]

The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salaries and Allowances of Officers of Parliament Act, 1953 and the Salary and Allowances of Leaders of Opposition in Parliament Act, 1977, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Sir, before you take clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill, I would like to say something. There is a misgiving in the country that Indian Members of Parliament, Ministers, Speaker, Leaders of Opposition are getting maximum financial benefits. My only appeal to the Government is that to dispel the truth, in comparison to other Members of Parliament of other countries while we represent the highest number of population, the Government of India, through the I&B Ministry must publish a document as to what Indian Members of Parliament are getting. What others are getting and what type of people and how many people we represent. Unless this misgiving is dispelled, it will give a wrong impression. This is the impression that we are looting the empire and getting everything. This should be settled. This is my only appeal to the Government.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, we agree with him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

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*At 14.00 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 14.04 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 14.08 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter, the Secretary-General informed the Members present as follows:

> "There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet; and we cannot start the House till there is a quorum. Hon. Chairman has directed that the House will re-assemble at thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock."

**Moved with the recommendation of the President.

14.36 hrs.

THE HOMOEOPATHY CENTRAL COUNCIL (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2002

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Homoeopathic system is one of the recognised systems of medicine in India. About two lakhs registered practitioners are practising this system in India. The system is simple, efficacious and proven to be effective for the common ailments as well as in chronic diseases, and for certain disorders, for which there is less or no treatment in other systems. The Government is encouraging this system to develop on its own genius. One of the measures taken to regulate the education and practice of the system is the enactment of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act in 1973. Under the provisions of this Act, the Government in 1974 constituted a Central Council of Homoeopathy, which has been reconstituted from time to time.

The main objectives of this Council are to maintain a central register of the practitioners of Homoeopathy and to ensure maintenance of proper educational standards. Through this measure of registration of practitioners, the menace of the practice of Homoeopathy by people without any training or experience has been greatly curtailed.

Prior to the enforcement of this Act, different State Governments were conducting different courses of varying duration and titles. In order to achieve the standardisation and bring uniformity in education, various regulations have been enforced. One such regulation is the Homoeopathy Minimum Standards of Education Regulation 1983.

With the increase in acceptance and popularity of the system, the demand for establishing new colleges grew, resulting in an increase in the number of doctors coming out from these colleges. Commercialisation of medical education gave incentive to opening more and more colleges. The Societies, Trusts and similar bodies started colleges after obtaining permission of the State Governments and affiliation from the universities. This caused proliferation of colleges leading to fall in standards. It was expected that the Homoeopathy Central Council Act and the Education Regulations would help achieve uniform standard in education and practice in the system. But due to lacunae in the provisions, neither the Central Government nor the Central Council of Homoeopathy could enforce the provisions in letter and spirit.

According to the procedure in vogue, in intending society etc. can obtain permission of the State Government and consent of the University for affiliation. Thereafter, they approach the Central Council of Homoeopathy for permitting them to run the course for a fixed number of seats. There is no legal provision which makes it obligatory to obtain prior approval of the Central Government or the Central Council. This has led to proliferation of sub-standard colleges.

The Central Council of Health and Family Welfare and the Conference of the State Health Ministers on Indian System of Medicines and Homoeopathy addressed this issue and recommended the amendments of the Homoeopathy Central Council Act with a view to permit new colleges which comply with guidelines laid down in this regard.

Therefore, a proposal was made to amend the Act on the pattern of the amendments carried out in the Indian Medical Council Act in 1993.

The provisions proposed in the amendment are: (1) to seek permission of the Central Government for the establishment of new colleges; increase in the number of seats and for introducing new courses, with a view to ensure curtailing the mushrooming of sub-standard institutions; and (2) to provide provisional registration to the interns to undertake their training with proper legal sanction.

Therefore, Sir, I move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I thank and congratulate the Minister of Health and Family Welfare for the first time placing this Bill, which he has brought from Rajya Sabha to Lok Sabha, and seeking the support of the House as the Health Minister of India.

Sir, the homoeopathy education, homoeopathy treatment, if I may say so, the homoeopathic culture is an established one in India since long, long ago. People from all walks of life, literate or illiterate, do always

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

develop a habit and did develop a habit in the past to learn or to understand something about homoeopathy. The easy access to the medicine and the easy access to the knowledge of homoeopathy, through the printed books, provides enormous scope to the people of India to make sure that homoeopathy is available at the door, and it can take care of the minor or even some medium types of ailments of every family. If I may say so, it is not a census report. If you make a sample survey, you will find, at least, in one out of every five houses, there is an old man or an old aunt or a dadi or some one else who will first advise, 'For this ailment, why do you not try homoeopathy?'

14.41 hrs.

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

You will find that in one out of 10 houses, there is a person who is committed or dedicated to study the homoeopathic book and to keep some medicine ready to give you. Even while you travel in the train, sometimes it so happens that in serious cases of some pain or headache or vomiting, you will find that suddenly there is an allopathic doctor travelling in the train. But, you will also find that there is a man with homoeopathic medicine. He would come forward to help you. I am not saying that this practice is a recognised practice. This practice should be honoured. But in many cases, this is a voluntary effort of the people of India to respond to the homoeopathic treatment and to use homoeopathic medicine. From the boyhood days, whenever we got some pain or any other problem, we used to hear the names of Arnica, Thuja and Palcitila from grandparents, even before we learnt the full course of the literature, either of English or its alphabets. We used to hear so many medicines. The children of every house have had a habit even to steal it because it is sweet.

Now, what I would like to say, through you, to the hon. Minister is that we are here to support his amendment. There is no doubt about it. This piece of legislation, which was conceived long back, once in 1974-76, later on reviewed in 1983 and now, through this amendment, in 2002, deserves support. There is no doubt about it. But you have to understand one important thing. In 2002, let us admit that the population explosion of this country has crossed more than one billion. The Government of India and the State Governments till today cannot ensure good health or support the ailing people of the last village, either through homoeopathy or through allopathy or through *ayurveda*. How many people go to hospitals? How many people go to the OPD? If you take the number, you will find that in the remote areas of India, the subsidiary health centres do not work regularly in the absence of doctors. I am not going into the controversy of the States and the Centre or I am not saying it is a State subject or the State Government is accountable. The reality is that half of the people in the villages do not get the minimum response even as outdoor patients standing in the queue. In the subsidiary health centres, they do not get support even for a minor problem through homoeopathy.

I can give you umpteen number of examples. I can tell you that in our State, in 1974, when we were in power, there was an attempt to ensure that if not an allopathic doctor, at least a homoeopathy doctor recognised by the Government is made available, at least in the subsidiary health centres and village health centres, to look into the immediate need of the people who come and stand in the queue. The practice has not been stabilised. The need of homoeopathy doctors, especially in villages, is in abundant numbers, which we cannot cope with. With the result, a number of private practitioners, who are not so-called registered doctors, by studying the book, are doing well. I give you an example today.

One of our footballers had a severe pain in his ankle after an injury in a village while playing a football match. Since we could not take him to the nearest health centre because the road was not good, the local people suggested that we could take him to a person who would give homoeopathic treatment. He was not a regular professional doctor. He was merely reading homoeopathy books and prescribing medicines. He gave some medicines and within a few hours the player was relieved of the pain. After that, he went to the regular doctor. I do not want to undermine the knowledge of such doctors who had not gone to universities or colleges but who can dedicate themselves to this kind of a service. It is also the hobby of retired people in this country to read homoeopathy books in their leisure time and suggest medicines.

This piece of legislation would help control *mala fide* practice and wrong application of medicines by doctors who are not regular practitioners. The intention of this Bill, in that way, is correct but you have defined 'person' in two categories. You have said that no trust or university can establish a medical college in the name of homoeopathy or higher degree courses without obtaining clear concurrence from the Central Government. If you had said that in respect of universities under the control of the Central Government, I could understand that but

you cannot undermine the competence of universities under the control of the States to respond to the needs of those States. You are asking them to justify the establishment of a new institution or a medical college for homoeopathy after which you would examine the scheme of things and take your time to decide on approval of the institution. I am not objecting to it in the case of the Central Universities but I think it is a little too much to encroach on the authority of the universities under the control of the States, who are competent, at least if not in allopathy, to decide whether these institutes are to be recognised as institutes of homoeopathy under the university.

My next submission relates to clause 12 (b), where it is said that any medical qualification granted by any medical institution established without prior permission of the Central Government in accordance with the provisions of clause 12(a) shall not be deemed to be a recognised medical qualification for the purposes of this Act. If a person had got a degree of BMH before 1973, when the Council Concept was first conceived, and is practising, his degree would not be recognised. Shri Shatrugan Sinha knows Bengal very well. There is a doctor who stays in Chittaranjan Park in New Delhi and is also a renowned homoeopathy doctor in Kolkata. His name is Doctor Banerjee. There is always a long queue in his clinic and it is difficult to get an appointment with him. He did not get the degree after 1973. His students also got qualified in homoeopathy before 1973. They got their degrees before 1973. Does this provision say that even now those degrees could be de-recognised? The hon. Minister may kindly explain this. If you say that the degrees obtained from various universities before this Act was introduced should be kept in tact but those degrees obtained later on when this Act were in operation should be questioned, I can understand that but this gives a message, subject to correction by the hon. Minister, that the degrees and registrations of those who do not come into the ambit of the operation of this Act are treated cancelled. This fear is haunting me.

I read in a magazine recently that these days homoeopathy is being considered as one of the very important medicinal systems even among HIV patients. The first time I came across this, I laughed at it because I did not believe it because all the journals I read on HIV treatment do not mention homoeopathy but I am told now that homoeopathy is also now concentrating on research for a quick application on HIV patients.

I do not know whether the hon. Minister is having that information or not. If he is having the information, then he can enlighten the House. India being the second largest HIV-affected country in the world, the capacity of our operation may not be that sound and that strong one. I want to know whether he can consult his Council on such lines, whether homoeopathy doctors could be motivated, trained and given the idea as to what research they are making on the HIV because it is very important for the country to consider it. If we are figured today as the second largest in the world, it will be disastrous for us in future because already we are having one billion population.

Finally, I appeal, through you, to the hon. Minister, whether after consulting the State Governments, he can make a kind of mandatory regulation that in all these subsidiary health centres, not only the block health centres, there shall be a compulsory homoeopathic doctor with all available homoeopathic medicines which are very cheap to the poor people, at least in every centre of the country. They may not have the capacity to buy the antibiotic drugs of the allopathic prescription, but let them have the capacity to take the *pudias* of the homoeopathy. If the hon. Minister can do it and specify the areas, at least the vulnerable areas, I think, it will be a great justice to our people because I very much respect and value the homoeopathic medicine, homoeopathic treatment, homoeopathic method and homoeopathic doctors. They charge very less than the allopathic doctors. It will be in one way helping the poor people of the country with the clear knowledge of the medicines.

I only support this amendment on one count that while two-three dedicated people are there without degrees to apply the homoeopathy medicines, there are a number of frauds also who are making a mess of it and creating nuisance of it. So, to keep a check on that, this regulation is necessary. Therefore, I support the amendment and I convey my feelings on behalf of our Party to the hon. Minister to consider this mandatory arrangement with the States and the Centre for the compulsory engagement of the doctors so that universities also will feel to give this education with the genuine spirit that these doctors will also have a role to play in the society under the umbrella of the Government regulation.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which we are discussing is a very important Bill in the field of medical sciences. We all know that several system of medicine like allopathy, Ayurveda, Unani and homoeopathy etc. are in vogue in India. Besides, there are several other system of medicine

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

which treats on the basis of instruments, devices and vocation instead of medicines. These include acupuncture and acupressure etc. These system of medicine do not need medicine. Ayurveda, Allopathy, Unani and Homoeopathy all are based on drug therapy. However, among these aforesaid systems, homoeopathy is considered as harmless. The drugs administrated under the other system of medicines may cause several side effects which need further treatment. Even Ayurvedic medicines may cause certain adverse effects but homoeopathy medicines do not have any adverse effects. Even a very poor person can afford homoeopathy medicines since it is the most simple and cheap system of medicine.

This Bill has been brought in the House to improve the state of affairs in this system of medicine. Till now the Union Government or the Central Homoeopathic Council had no Control over the affairs of this system. There are state homoeopathic councils in the States. Some of them are being run properly and some others are being run in little space as two rooms. You know that initially when the registration of a practitioner was made compulsory in the field of medicines it was done on the basis of the experience he possessed and the practitioner were not supposed to have any diploma or degree as qualification. Today, both experience and qualification are necessary for registration. However, the danger in registering the person on the basis of experience was that they did not posses even the basic knowledge about human anatomy and many quacks (Jholachhap doctors) who did not have even the elementary knowledge of medicines started to practise. Owing to it the entire field of medicines witnessed it, adverse effect because though there were homoeopathic councils in States they were not in a position to have any kind of check on them. Colleges were being run without the necessary infrastructure i.e. instruments and the efficient teachers. This Bill was a provision which makes the prior permission of Central Council necessary for opening college and even after the grant of permission once again its confirmation is essential at the start of the new academic session so much so that the permission of the Central Council is necessary for making arrangement of training after the completion of medicine curricula. If the second year's session is started without the Council's approval, Central Council can cancel it and students would not be able to appear in the exam and would be denied the benefit of their studies.

This Bill has been discussed in details in Rajya Sabha and several hon. Members have participated in it. The Members also included those who have themselves been practitioners and also those who have benefited from this system of medicine. Our present Governor Shri T.N. Chaturvedi had himself benefited from this system and similarly hon. Minister of Health would also endorse my view. This system gave the maximum results due to its being a harmless systems. There is a need to control it and as has been mentioned in the beginning that some state Governments used to provide approval to the proposals of opening new Homoeopathic colleges which was not right and now this has been done away with. Several such examples can be given where the colleges which used to get the permission for starting session in the first year and used to start the academic session in the subsequent year without taking permission. Union Government want to improve it and it has suggestion some remedial measures hence this Bill provides for taking the mandatory approval of the Homoeopathy Central Council for any college to run new curriculum. Several such provision which have been inserted with a view to impose some constraints on the arbitrary functioning of the colleges are very important.

A sea change is being witnessed in the field of medical sciences. We also know that Ayurveda is a system of medicine which also needs to have the surgery in its armour in the times of Sushruta, considered as the father of surgery. Today surgery has a place of unique importance and it is due to surgery that allopathy is still alive and progressing, else Ayurveda is also a very important system of medicine and not only in our country it is gaining popularity abroad also. The new research activity on several herbal medicines like Ashwagandha, Behera and others like Shilajit is going on and they are being patented. Some lobbies are even trying to get Ashwagandha patented. It was argued that it being an Indian herb, how this could be patented by others? Similarly, the research is also being carried out abroad. Similarly, mother tincture is prepared in homoeopathic system and the drugs of different potencies i.e. 15, 20, 30, 50 or 100 or 1000 are prepared by sprinkling the mother tincture on sugar globules and on the basis of potency the drug is given. For example a drug with 200 potency will have to be taken once in a week. If the potency is less then its dosage would be taken more frequently and if its potency is more then the less frequent dosage like once in a month would be taken and it is the governing principle of the system of medicine. Sometime back, the idea was mooted in the country whether we can develop an integrated system of medicine in our country.

You might be remembering that few years back an Integrated System of Medicine by combining Allopathy and Ayurveda was started and even examinations were

conducted under it. It was known as BIMS—Bachelor of Indian Medicine and Surgery which has now been changed to AIMS. Later on it was realised that both Ayurveda and allopathy should be segregated. But through you, I would like to bring one thing in the notice of the hon. Minister that the practitioner do not practice the system of medicine in which they are registered i.e. they are registered in homoeopathy but practicing allopathy. Several doctors lack the basic knowledge. Hence I request the arrangement be made to ensure that the physicians practice the same system of medicine in which they are registered with the exception of using a particular set of medicines borrowed from other system of medicine. Then they would be free practice under allopathy or Ayurveda and Ayurvedic practitioners could prescribe some permitted allopathic medicines also, this system is in vogue in some States today.

15.00 hrs.

Such system should also be made applicable for homoeopaths. A schedule should be made for mutual benefits. The spirit is to cure through medicines and hence there is a need to think over as to how the disease could be cured with minimum of expenditure and time. A lot of debate over the system of medicines has taken place in America and Britain. I would like to cite an example—Integrated medicine is a new concept which seeks to combine the best elements of modern allopathic system of medicine and other traditional system of medicines including the Indian system of medicine by synchronizing all of them. Though the experts of these various system of medicines have been critical of other systems in the past but the trend has reversed for the last few years and today these systems are cooperating with each other for the effective and cheaper treatment of the diseases and in such a situation this science needs to be given further impetus. There is need to conduct research in homoeopathy also. Emphasis is being laid on research in Ayurveda. Research has been conducted on cancer in Ayurveda and good results have yielded thereby, doctors really deserve to be applaud for that. Similarly, research has also been conducted on malaria as malaria relapses again and again and in Ayurveda successful research has been conducted in this field. There is a need to conduct research in homoeopathy also. The Research in homoeopathy was initiated by a scientist of Calcutta Dr. Mahendra Lal Sarkar who was not only Scientist but also a good doctor. He had conducted this research in Calcutta. Today a system of combination with tincture is being followed in homoeopathy, as some medicine are having identical properties mixed with Thuja and in the same way arscenic is mixed with arnica. Like Ayurveda and Allopathy the system of combination medicine is likely to begin in homoeopathy also. Each system is following other. We should go back to mother tincture if this system of combination is to be made effective and beneficial otherwise this system of combination will not be useful.

Sir, I neither want to discuss other sections of this Bill nor I would like to make a lengthy speech on this issue, but attention should certainly be paid towards some issues. As I have made mention regarding registration that inquiry after registration is necessary. How is one working, what medicine is to be given and Central Government's intervention in colleges regarding curriculum is also necessary. There should be uniform curriculum and proper arrangements in colleges. There should be proper inquiry regarding availability of staff, sitting arrangements and required equipments for setting up medical colleges or dental colleges before granting permission. It has been stated that condition of medical colleges in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh is below average. In such a situation they are playing with health of people. From this viewpoint, this Bill will be effective and helpful in providing better medical facilities to common man. It will be better to develop homoeopathy system of medicine and attention should also be paid towards Ayurveda and other systems of medicine. At the same time, I would also like to say that a separate Directorate should be set up in Ministry of Health for Ayurveda. Now Sinhaji has taken charge of this Ministry and I hope that revolutionary change will be brought in homoeopathy system of medicine. The standards and norms fixed in the field of homoeopathy should be followed properly. State Homoeopathy Councils are not fully independent and it is not adequate to get recognition from universities of States. Steps be taken in this matter so to ensure the role of Union Government in this field. This Bill will be revolutionary from this viewpoint.

With these words, I support the Bill and I conclude.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Thank you, Sir.

At the outset, I submit that I support the Bill. I thank the Health Minister for being present today in the House. Because of his preoccupations, he is a man who is seldom seen in the House. Fortunately he is present in the House now to present this Bill. It is quite all right. For that reason also I support the Bill.

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

In the instant case, the most important factor we should take note of is commercialisation of education as a result of globalisation, liberalisation and other economic reforms. It has also come out that commercialisation is the most important thing that we will have to tackle with when we are dealing with such matters. Why are these homoeopathic institutions coming up like mushrooms? It is because it happens to be a profitable business like the business of running primary and nursery schools. We see a number of nursery schools come up in the country day after day. They charge about Rs. 10,000 a term for teaching a boy in a kindergarten school. So, quite naturally you can see homoeopathic institutions coming up in every nook and corner of the country. Without any recognition and without anybody's authority, people are claiming that they are teaching homoeopathy.

As a matter of fact, I am a believer in homoeopathy. I have faith in homoeopathy because it has no side effects. I am taking homoeopathic medicines for about four decades now. They have not created any side effects in my body. If I had taken allopathic medicines, I would have attracted so many other diseases that are incurable. So, that is the result of homoeopathic treatment. I claim that I am an old man now. In my old age also I am taking homoeopathic medicine because I have complete faith in them as they do not create any side effects.

We see that these homoeopathic colleges do not have adequate teaching facilities. Sometimes these colleges are even run beneath trees. Without even having a building to run classes, they claim that they are conducting homoeopathic institutions, imparting education, and giving certificates of diploma or graduation. That is the claim which I putforth by these private individuals who are making money in the name of homoeopathic education. We must put a full stop to that. This Bill will go a long way in meeting that situation. I hope that Minister will give, as he has given in the fill world, a lead in this and take initiative to bring in control over these unauthorised homoeopathic institutions found throughout India. This is not the case of homoeopathy alone, even allopathic medical colleges are mushrooming in some States.

Some three or four decades ago, only one or two medical colleges were seen in a State. Now there are dozens of medical colleges in each and every State. These medical colleges charge capitation fee of Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 15 lakh for admission. The payment is made three or four years before the time of admission. The guardians of Plus-2 students apply for admission much in advance by paying Rs. 15 lakh.

It is a very lucrative business. What is the motto behind the treatment of both Allopathy and Homoeopathy? It is service to humanity. But service is nowhere seen in both. The only service is to make money or to make profit. This has become the order of the day.

In this particular case also, the State Governments knowingly or unknowingly are giving help to these institutions, may be, because of political reasons. Even without sufficient number of students or even without sufficient facilities or even without any infrastructure, they are allowing them to start Homoeopathic medical colleges in the State. The standard of education has decreased. After all, what they teach is not Homoeopathy at all; it is something else. Even water is provided in small bottles in Homoeopathic treatment and it is claimed that it was medicine; but it was not. So, this has become the experience of the day.

So, I would request the hon. Minister to be very stringent in these matters. We should see that the standard of education comes to the international level. Please do not give recognition to all the institutions which apply for that. Only if they satisfy the requirements of the law, you should give recognition.

The same thing should be followed in the case of Allopathic colleges also. In Allopathic colleges also, capitation fee has become the order of the day. They do not have even the facility of treatment; they do not have medical college hospital; they do not even have the land that is required for starting medical colleges. People start medical colleges just with one acre of land, which is quite insufficient. The standard of education has diminished.

I would also request you to see that commercialisation does not come into it. It should not be the supreme concern. Of course, people who spent some money on it, may get some profit out of it, but that should not be the sole criterion. I would request you once again to be stringent or very strict in giving recognition; and only if it is in conformity with the law, recognition need be granted.

I hope that you will definitely take a lead—in spite of your pre-occupation in the film world—in the matter and see that things are put in the right direction, especially in granting recognition to medical colleges.

With these worlds, I support the Bill.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wholeheartedly support the Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill, 2002 brought by hon. Minister Shatrughan Sinha. Since the formation of NDA Government, attention is being paid towards indigenous system of medicine whether it is Ayurveda, Unani, Homoeopathy or other different system of medicine. Which are being adopted in India, Earlier in comparison to Indian system of Medicine more attention was paid towards Allopathy. It is readily a matter of great pleasure that for the first time Sinhaji has moved a Bill regarding Homoeopathy in this House and Shri Sinha deserves congratulations for that.

15.13 hrs.

(DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA *in the Chair.*)

Sir, all know that Homoeopathy is a popular, simple and easily available system of medicine. It has quite effective medicines. Sir, in Kabir's words I can say that

'Tu Kehta Kagaj Ki Lekhi,
Main Kehata Ankhin Ki Dekhi.'

I can tell my experiences in the field of this system of medicine as I have also got benefit of this system. I had some stone problem in kidney. I opted for Homoeopathy treatment by which this stone came out in pieces.

Now, the Union Government have brought Homoeopathy Central Council (Amendment) Bill—it is really capable. At present there are 166 education institutes for Homoeopathy, which have annual capacity of imparting training to 9930 students. Out of them 133 colleges are in private sector, which have no proper infrastructure for imparting education. Through this council, Union Government have moved this motion that without its permission no one should be allowed to set up homoeopathy hospitals, start any new course and persons imparting training should have required qualifications and ability. It has been stated in our culture—'Serve santu nirmaya' which means that all should be healthy. The Government of India also have the same objective 'Health for all' by 2006 or 2010. Budget for allopathy may not be given but adequate budget for Indian systems of medicine should be allocated. More facilities should be provided for research in field of Ayurvedic and Homoeopathic systems of medicine and health centers and sub-health centers should be set up at rural level. If an allopathic doctor cannot be made available then at least the facility of Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic doctors may be provided at rural level and then people can get rid of their diseases because of this inexpensive and effective system of medicine.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I support the Amendment Bill brought by the Government. Along with this I would like to mention that earlier very effective, standard homoeopathic medicines were imported from Germany but now a days preparation of homoeopathic medicines has been commercialised. There should be some standardization and certification of homoeopathic medicines manufactured in the country so that people have faith in them and patients could be benefited and recovered from the disease. I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You all know that this Bill is to be passed by 3.30, so please have your say precisely. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare has moved Central Council of Homoeopathy Amendment Bill. I do not know what is his interest in Homoeopathy, however it is an important issue for the public health care particularly for the country where most of the people are poor and are suffering form diseases. Surgery is an important part of the Allopathy which can not be ignored however allopathic medicines and treatment are so costly that poor people can not afford and are at the mercy of god. They are not so financially sound to afford Allopathic treatment. Some financial assistance is provide from Prime Minister's Fund. The hon'ble Minister is writing letters to the Members stating that the budget for this purpose has been exhausted, hence no financial assistance can be provided. Earlier financial assistance was provided to poor people if the letter to this effect was written to the hon'ble Minister however now that is not being provided as the fund is not available. So the negative replies are being given. Now what will happen to the poor people? In fact Homoeopathic treatment is very useful. There are certain diseases in various parts of the country for which Homoeopathic medicines are very effective. Now it has been provided by several research that anti-biotic medicines aggravate the diseases. Weaken the body while neither Homeopathic medicines nor operation has such implication.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Heinemann has conducted research in this regard. Mr. Kentek used to disagnose the patients by merely looking at them. This system of medicine is useful and its treatment is also inexpensive.

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

So the hon'ble Minister has brought a very good Bill. Somehow Homoeopathy colleges are being run in the states. The hon'ble Minister has brought this Bill so that the Government may have control over them however it is not proper to impose mere control. It is not proper to control them, take over their ownership and check their functioning directly. For their assistance too. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a doctor in Bihar named N.C. Ghosh. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): It is not being translated in to English and Hindi and I did not understand the meaning of 'Sukhla'.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The term 'Sukhla' means only (control). I feel that there should be provision of financial assistance in it. But there is no such provision in it. Then how only control will be feasible. There is Raibahadur Tunki Homoeopathy college, Muzaffarpur in my state. Shri N.C. Ghosh was a renowned doctors at local district level. You have rightly stated that research should be conduct in this field and there is need to promote homoeopathy for the welfare of poor people. It would have been better if homoeopathy had been developed in a systematic way. Some diseases can be cured by Ayurveda. There are certain effective medicines in Allopathy like live-52 for liver. There is no anyother medicine in Allopathy for this disease. Various types of herbs are being used in Ayurvedic system. So there is a need to promote homoeopathy along with other indigenous system of medicine. People somehow establish collages however facilities are not provided in them. So it should be ensured that proper teaching and training are imparted in colleges.

I would like to submit that the Government should make some financial provisions for this purpose. It is essential for promoting Homoeopathy. Since the financial condition of State Government is not sound, the Government should provide some funds for the promotion of homoeopathy so that poor people may take advantage of in expensive treatment of homoeopathy and its medicines. In indigenous system of medicine, medicines are manufactured with all types of herbs. However, now foreigners are pertaining these herbs. Hard, Bahera, Awanla, Chirayata, Neem etc. are used in these medicines. Mother tincture of homoeopathy is also manufactured by these herbs for the treatment of the diseases. So I would like to urge upon the Government to promote this system and I would also like to request that financial provision should also be made for this purpose so that homoeopathic system of medicine should be made people friendly and poor people may get medicines at reasonable rates in the country. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Mr. Chairman Sir, since the beginning of this week I have been waiting to speak on this Bill. I am happy that it has ultimately been taken up today. I have no time to deliver a lengthy speech. Therefore, I agree with the earlier speakers insofar as the quality, necessity and value of this branch of medicine is concerned. I would like to make some specific points. The hon. Minister has done many good things on the screen; Now I want that he does it on the ground too.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that the Central Homoeopathy Council has become a den of corruption. I would like to see that in his hands it would become clean. Already some hon. Members have explained that all the members of the Central Homoeopathy Council are having their own colleges and most of those colleges are below the required quality. The present Chairman has recently started a new Homoeopathy college. But there is no infrastructure at all. The Vice-Chairman has also opened one in Bihar, again without any infrastructure. You may please enquire into these things. As Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat has just now mentioned, most of the 133 private colleges have been sanctioned through dubious means. This is my allegation.

The present Chairman has set up a Homoeopathy Medicine factory and all the homoeopathy hospitals which purchase medicine from the factories, they are affiliated. I want an enquiry into this. These are the things that are happening. In the case of the Medical Council also corruption has been exposed and many culprits have been found.

Here also, I think that corruption is there in the Homoeopathy Council. I demand that there should be a CBI inquiry in all these aspects. You are changing the rules under the connivance of the Department and the Homoeopathy Council. You have changed the rules. Earlier some rules were there and now they have changed them. For example, they have said that a homeopathic college, institute or hospital desirous to start a post graduate course in homoeopathy, having no undergraduate facility, shall have a minimum of 25-bed hospital with attached laboratory for routine investigative procedure. It is only 25-bed hospital. Earlier, it was not there.

Then there were provisions of both MD (Hom.) regular course of three years duration alongwith a provision of external MD (Hom.) course of two years duration for a limited period of eight years only. This rule was there earlier. They have changed it now. Again they have reduced the period. This is all in collaboration with the Ministry, the Homoeopathy Council and the dishonest practitioners who are not even good doctors.

You know that Kolkata is the birth place of homoeopathy and from there, it has spread to other places. But when these things are happening, nobody is there to look into them. There are complaints but those complaints are not attended to. I hope that, since you are here, you will listen to these complaints and try to clean the garbage.

I demand that a Commission of Inquiry should be appointed under Section 30 and sub-Section (1) of Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973 to inquire into the irregularities of the Central Council of Homoeopathy including the matter of affiliation of both undergraduate and post graduate colleges that have been established in the last three years.

Secondly, immediate steps should be taken to close the substandard undergraduate and post graduate homoeopathic colleges.

Thirdly, I demand deletion of Section 9(3)(a) of amended Homoeopathy (Post Graduate Degree course) MD (hom.) Amendment Regulations, 2001 so that any organisation not having the basic infrastructure of running a undergraduate college as stipulated in the minimum standard regulations can run MD (Hom.) course.

Fourthly, the external post graduate course should be stopped by deleting Part VI of the Gazette of India, Extraordinary Part III, Section 4, No. 295 dated 5 November, 2001 which has provided special provision for external courses. These are certain points which I would request to look into. Later on, you have to even go in for a CBI inquiry to find out where things are going wrong, who are the culprits who are destroying the system, who are giving it a bad name and who are introducing spurious medicines in the market. All these things are there.

You have recently visited Kolkata and seen the National Institute of Homoeopathy. It was created with the idea that it will be a University of Homoeopathy in the country or a pioneering institute. But there are a lot of problems there.

There is no regular Director since 1993. There is no governing body since 1999. The number of teachers as per the minimum standard of undergraduate is much below than stipulated in Central Homoeopathy Council regulations. According to CCH regulations, there should be separate UG and PG Departments. They are not there. The pay scale of teachers is much below the National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur although the status of both the Institutes are the same and both are under the same Department. There is no promotional policy for the faculty members.

These are the points to which I would draw your attention. I will write to you separately as I could not speak on all the points. I hope you will try cleaning of homoeopathy field which will service the poorer sections of the society, as every hon. Member has said here, and can be the instrument of cure of diseases.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is 3.30 p.m. Only two hon'ble members will speak on this Bill for one-two minutes and then the hon'ble Minister will reply. Time allotted for Private Members Bill be deferred till passing of present Bill and the time taken in the passing of Bill be adjusted in the time allotted for Private Members' Bill. Do the House agree on it?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for the Private Members' Bill is deferred till the passing of the present Bill.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing in such a very important Bill, which will be very useful for the people of this poor country. I endorse the views of all the hon. Members who had gone in depth on the subject of homoeopathy. I would like to ask only a few questions. I hope the hon. Minister would take note of my questions so that it would be useful in regulating the standard of Indian medical system.

The Anatomy Act of 1982 is a very important Act, which is useful for the medical students to understand the anatomy of the human body without which the medical students will not be able to understand the physiology and later on the pathology. If they understand that, in their life time, the deterioration of the medical services will not occur.

[Dr. V. Saroja]

Secondly, like other medical colleges, will the Government come forward to bring in stringent law as far as the facilities to create a hospital at least three years before the start of the college and also the laboratory facilities which point was raised by many hon. Members? The infrastructure, the bed strength and the required life facilities should be there before they could start the college. Thirdly, Budgetary provision for the health sector is far below the bare minimum. During 1980, it was 1.30 per cent of the GDP, but it has gone down to 0.8 per cent. Will the Government consider increasing the Budgetary allocation? Kindly take note of this.

The research and development in homoeopathy and in the Indian system of medicines is not up to the mark. Kindly take note of this. It is very important to produce quality doctors. Last but not least, the multi-national companies have to come forward to produce standard drugs for the benefit of Indians without minding more for the commercial work.

[Translation]

SHRI NARESH PUGLIA (Chandrapur): Mr. Chairman Sir, hon. Minister has moved this Bill to accord a new status to the Homoeopathic system of medicine in the country, I rise to support this Bill myself and on behalf of my party.

I would like to tender two-three suggestions in this regard. Presently nearly two lakh homoeopathic doctors are practising in the country. However, unofficial figures of such doctors are more than this who treat patients on the basis of book knowledge. Since there is no side effects of homoeopathic medicines so it is not harmful for anyone. The new Homoeopathic college that will be setup after the passing of this Bill will have a uniform curriculum.

Presently, there is no prescribed curriculum for each state. In the same way there is no uniformity in the pattern of study. In one state it is Diploma, in other state it is degree, in one state it is completed in two years in other state it completed in four years. Thus the courses of homoeopathy in different states are distinct. Once the Bill is passed there will be uniformity of courses all over the country and similar type of homoeopathic doctors will be trained all over the country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the budget allocated for health care in the country is getting reduced day by day. I would like to draw the attention of Shri Shatrughan Sinha towards this fact that the budget of the Health and Family Welfare Department of the states have adversed impact on account of it. They are also compelled to cut in the expenditure on their schemes. Presently the condition of the primary health centre and hospitals all over the country is very bad. While at some places there is shortage of staff, at other places there is lack of medicines. Similar is the condition of treatment being given under Homoeopathic system in the country.

In Parliament Annexe you have arranged for Ayurvedic and homoeopathic doctors and treatment on the lines of Allopathy. It is an appreciable step. I would like that efforts should be made to arrange homoeopathy doctors and medicine all over the country. Several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on medical system and one of our colleagues has stated that there is rampant corruption in the Central Council. Through you, I would like to submit that those who are attached to any college or their bodies must not be included as officials or members in the homoepathic council. Presently there is large scale corruption in the system regarding permission to Allopathic Medical Collage by the Central Council. The way one has to pay lakhs of rupees as capitation fee in private medical colleges indicates that medical education has been commercialised all over the country. In view of this, we must ensure that atleast Homoeopathy is not commercialised. I am sure, with the amendments in this new Bill a uniform course will be adopted in the entire country and Homoeopathy doctors will be appointed in all the hospitals in future. I support the Bill introduced by you.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to all senior Members of this House for having supported this Bill. I would like to throw light on suggestions made by of our hon. Members, our seniors and other intellectual friends on certain matters. My very able friend Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi has expressed concern that the amendment of the Act may restrict the roles of states or universities and establish the Government monopoly in this regard. But, I want to say that there will not be any type of clash.

[English]

The role of the University is to consider affiliations.

[Translation]

The State Government gives locational clearance and the role of the University will continue even after amendment of the Act. So, this type of concern is not needed. He raised a very good question that what about the people who had been practising before 1973? In this

regard, I want to tell that the people who have registered themselves with the State or Central Council before 1973 can continue their practise legally, even after its enactment. There can be no two opinions in this regard.

[English]

They can still practise. No new registration will be given after 1973 if not institutionally qualified.

[Translation]

Those who fail to quality institutionally will not be granted new registration number after that. And people practising earlier can continue to do so. I mean, as some people have raised the issue of sub-standard colleges coming up like mushrooms having no buildings or infrastructure. I would like to give you some figures. There has been extensive growth in this field from the day the bill was passed in Rajya Sabha, i.e. from April till today, when it has come before us. Perhaps because there was information that such things are happening and that they should do so before the Bill was passed. During 1999-2000, there were 141 colleges in the country which rose to 160 in 2000-01 and to 166 by March, 2002. Similarly from March, 2002 to August, 2002, their number jumped to 182. Infact, the said Bill has been brought to check this menace. These sub-standard colleges coming up like mushrooms have become a lucrative business. Large money and commerce is involved in it and large number of people are also involved.

I will not take more time. I was replying to Shri Dasmunsiji's question. He spoke quite lengthy. I respect him and thus I listened to his views quite keenly and therefore, I responded to him.

Pandeyji said that there should be a separate department for Indian system of Medicines. Already a separate department exists in this regard which deals with Ayurveda, Sidha, Yunani, Yoga, Naturopathy and Homoeopathy and is functioning very well. Ayurveda is a very strong and effective system. Therefore, it has a great effect on Indian System of Medicine.

Matters relating to Budget and P.G. Course have been discussed. A short duration P.G. course in I.S.M.H. is about to be introduced soon.

[English]

Modern Medical students will be sensitised about the basic strength of ISMH.

[Translation]

It is also about to be done.

[English]

I am really grateful to Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan for supporting the Bill. I would like to answer very briefly a few points which you all have raised during the debate.

Sir, I would like to inform Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat that we have already been given Rs. 150 crore in 2002-03. In the 10th Plan we have been allotted Rs. 775 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

As far as hike is Budget allocation is concerned, Budget allocation has already been increased considerably in 10th plan, i.e. from Rs. 150 crore to Rs. 775 crore.

Shri Hannan Mollahji, I myself had been to Kolkata Institute. You will be glad to know, which perhaps is not known to some people that we have already constituted a Governing Body. Kolkata based institute is the best institute throughout India. We are repeatedly being informed that the Director over there is an Allopath doctor and there is neither Homoeopath Principal nor Director over there. I want to tell that an officer is officiating. A person had been appointed there, Shri Dasmunshiji may be knowing it and the people in Bengal particularly are aware that a CBI inquiry was initiated against the previous director and thus the matter ended there itself. Two other persons of the same institute had taken over the charge. Now the director is in charge who is officiating. In the meantime the post has been advertised and it will be filled up soon. Rest we will settle mutually. I have already taken more time, therefore, I thank all of you. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj): He had raised a very basic question that the people who are the Members of Homoeopath Board are opening colleges on their name and indulge in corruption.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not granting permission.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: I will take full care of your point as I am concerned about it. I, myself, had gone there and I will satisfy you.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Inquiry should be conducted in the affairs of Central Homoeopathy Council also.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: The Government is looking into it and will not spare them. We will settle the things properly. Expressing gratitude to all of you, I would request hon. Chairman to get this Bill passed.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion wad adopted.

The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill. The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.49 hrs.

(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Insertion of New Article 25A)

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (Gorakhpur): 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.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.11.2002.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH : I introduce the Bill.

15.49$^{1}/_{2}$ hrs.

(ii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Amendment of Article 16)

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): 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.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

15.50 hrs.

(iii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill* (Amendment of Article 124 and 216)

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): 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.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.11.2002.

15.50½ hrs.

(iv) Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment) of section 304, etc.)

[English]

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I introduce the Bill.

15.51 hrs.

(v) Most Backward Classes (Proportional Representation in Services and Educational Institution) Bill*

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill making provision of reservation for Most Backward Classes in services and educational institutions in the states.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce Most Backward Classes (Proportional Representation in services and Educational Institution) Bill."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: I introduce the Bill.**

15.52 hrs.

ACQUIRED IMMUNO DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION BILL—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we take up Item no. 29, further consideration of the Bill moved by Dr. V. Saroja.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 22.11.2002.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

Shri Ramdas Athawale was on his legs. He is not present.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Khammam): Sir, since the hon. Minister is here, thank you for allowing me to speak on this very crucial issue.

HIV, for all its international recognition and its alert status and sometimes an elitist profile that it has taken on, the Governments have not reflected on the extreme position of this disease in our country. While globe tottering foreigners all come home and tell us the percentage is so high in India because of our population and number of people residing in our country, the reality is that the Government has not collectively addressed this issue.

For example, in our various districts because of the trafficking and other high-risk groups that have been happening as well as drought, famine and natural disasters, which have left women to be impoverished, as a result of which they are settling for unsafe sex practices. As a result of which the women have been the more vulnerable group of population, who suffer from HIV-AIDS. It is an unfortunate disadvantage that we have been bestowed with by nature and biology. But the reality is that these women are again the nurtures of our communities. If you go to look at the Tenth Plan that we are moving towards, no budget allocations have been made for any kind of home care or remedial action to be taken at the rural areas and rural districts. As a result of which there is going to be in influx of people who are HIV positive and who are going to get the terminal stages as they keep growing elder despite their drug intervention because we cannot afford those expansive cocktails that are given out. As a result of which poorer people tend to suffer much more, never mind that detection is not affordable and accessible as yet to the majority population. But families have not been involved in counselling where we can encourage people to take home care for these people towards the terminal states as well there should be mobile centres in districts headquarters, *zila parishads*. And the *Anganwadi* workers, ICDS people should be involved in HIV campaign, in percolation of information as well as how to look after these people who are infected with HIV.

Unfortunately, this kind of dissemination of care has not been influenced. Also there is disproportionate migration of rural youth, who come in to metropolitan areas, as a result of which there is a breakdown of infrastructure there. But the villages are being let with elders who are not competent to look after the ailing young who are sent home, discriminated against, abused and not looked after.

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

So, as a result of which, we have largely neglected population who is waiting for medical attention, which they cannot access. Our primary health care centres are lying unattended because not enough doctors go there; not enough doctors have an incentive to work there because the other infrastructure required for a doctor and his family does not exist.

Dr. Saroja's Bill is really a wonderful Bill. She has looked into this issue and talked about social support and rehabilitation of persons suffering from HIV AIDS. In such matters, DWACRA self-help groups have not been tapped as resource centres. Just because you have HIV, it does not mean that you are dropping dead. It is not a contagious disease, you do not get it by a touch or anything. This kind of awareness has not been spread into the micro finance areas, where women can then access other women, who are infected with this disease and they can be taught how to earn their livelihood because most of them do not.

Now, there was a landmark High Court Order in the State of Andhra Pradesh, which had, well intentionally, in all its judicious wisdom—it was wrongly applied—said that the State would then look after the HIV infected people. There was a whole group of people segregated. Enough care should be ensured that this would never be quoted as a precedent in other Courts when there is discrimination against employment as well as discrimination against other issues as well. Now, in order to make this possible, information has to be addressed to the District Collectorates, Panchayats and Mandal level offices, where a group of people can be called, informed and educated regarding HIV AIDS. Infrastructure has to be set up for home care centre. The Government of India should now make an intervention and give us the budget allocation in the ensuring Tenth Plan to ensure that there are enough funds available to people. Otherwise, there is going to a disproportionate migration to Government hospitals which are already overloaded.

Now, I have one impassioned plea to make to all my respected colleagues in Parliament. We all go to Government hospitals and grumble. We grumble that there is inadequate blanket and torn bed-sheets. Nobody realises that these Government hospitals were made with a certain infrastructure to cater to certain percentage of people and that much turnover. Instead, these hospitals are doing ten times and sometimes 40 times the turnover that they were built for. Despite that, these hospitals never put up a board saying, 'houseful' and never turn away the person. There may be a substandard care but at least at some point a citizen can access some care.

If we do not address HIV in the reality that it should be, then we are going to have an influx of people infected at different levels because you have opportunist diseases which come in. So, constantly an HIV infected person, who does not have access to money and to this new intervention that we have, will come back to you repeatedly for skin disease, lung disease, bones that do not heal as well as Tuberculosis. All these complexities come and load on to your existing already overburdened infrastructure. So, it is important that we take it away from the Government hospitals, put it into home care, take care in the villages, set up centres there for the terminally ill, and see that we can reach these people. We have a lot of sentinel centres for prenatal care, where the children are breastfed by mothers. Unfortunately, much of our myth and folklore tell us that mother's milk is the safest. HIV is one dirty virus that has found its way to break through the placenta and in fact, foetus. Sometimes, the embryos are safe. Through breast feeding, mothers who are infected with HIV virus, transmit it to their children. More and more awareness has to be brought in so that people would go for voluntary testing, which is the international norm. We are not allowing voluntary testing to happen. I want to ask one clarification from the hon. Minister. There was a four-digit telephone number which was initiated during my time in the Health Ministry.

16.00 hrs.

It would give people information in privacy. You must now force the Governments of all the States that they will access this four-digit telephone number and it should be printed in the telephone directory. Along with the emergency number of 100, Fire and Police numbers, you must have an HIV access number. Any NGO will come forward to take this and run it very successfully. People are still ignorant.

I would also advise the Government to please run dummy tests. We did it. We have printed an advertisement in a newspaper where we said that the boy is foreign returned and he is HIV positive. We got replies from parents wanting to get the girls married. They thought the HIV positive was an international degree of some kind. So these are the unfortunate misinformation and fallacy that people still go to it.

Also, the hon. Minister should look into organ donation. There is an establishment set up at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. HIV is going to be a huge deterrent factor in organ uptake. So we need to look into the future so that we have these checks—positive and preventive checks—in place so that we have a successful organ donation programme.

Of course, no one will ask the politicians for their hearts because they are known to be heartless. ...*(Interruptions)* But I do pray that the hon. colleagues here will come forward and set examples. We can set up one here. Parliament should be having an HIV Detection Centre, where we can do the testing in privacy. Just a number is given and blood is drawn and reports are given. We must encourage it. Parliament is not just of Members of Parliament, but we have thousands of workers and employees here. If we do not set the example, nobody else will. Somebody's wife might thank you for it.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am responding to all the Members of Parliament in general, and Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury and Dr. V. Saroja, who has moved he Bill, in particular.

The spirit behind the Private Member's Bill titled "The Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) Prevention Bill, 2000" moved by distinguished Member of Parliament, Dr. V. Saroja, is well appreciated, since basically it intends to prevent and control the HIV/AIDS spread in the country.

The Bill proposes a number of provisions which call for action on the part of the Central Government, State Governments and registered medical practitioners in respect of conducting a census in the country, of persons suffering from HIV/AIDS, prenatal HIV test, blood safety, 100 per cent condom use and establishing surveillance centres. It also proposes a mandatory HIV testing for college students at the time of admission and compulsory testing of truck and heavy vehicle drivers at the time of issuing or renewal of licence. It also proposes that all the State Governments will ensure that every antenatal case should be screened for HIV/AIDS at every maternity home or other hospitals.

HIV is a chronic infection. A person with HIV could remain asymptomatic for a period of 5-7 years or more, depending upon his immune status. During this period, he may not manifest any symptoms or signs, but he is capable of spreading infection to others through the well-known routes of HIV transmission. There is also a period which is called as "window period", which may be as long as 12-14 weeks. During this period, the person may harbour the virsus inside his body this may not be detected by antibody tests. The HIV infection is mostly associated with the risk behaviour of an individual, and therefore, the person who may be sero negative initially may turn out to be sero positive in subsequent tests because of indulgence in high risk behaviours during this interventing period. Thus, provisions suggested in the Private Member's Bill for census of HIV infection, mandatory screening of antenatal mothers, college students, sex workers, would not serve any useful purpose, scientifically.

For the monitoring of the progress of the HIV epidemic in the country, the Government of India has established 384 sentinel surveillance sites including both high risk groups who attend sexually transmitted disease clinics and low risk segments of the population like antenatal mothers. The sentinel surveillance survey is conducted every year during the months of August to October covering designated sentinel sites like antenatal clinics, drug de-addition centres, sexually transmitted disease clinics, etc. State-wise data is analysed and trends of the HIV infection are determined for follow-up action. The Government of India has already started intervention programmes for vulnerable segments of the population like commercial sex workers, truckers, migrant workers and injecting drug users, etc. A comprehensive package of services including peer education, counselling, examination and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and promotion of condom is provided through the non-governmental organisations. We are aiming at achieving more than 90 per cent condom usage among commercial sex workers and other high risk groups in the country. Currently, there are over 700 targeted intervention projects being run in the country with the help of non-governmental organisations.

As regards blood safety, the Government of India has already banned professional blood donation in all blood banks, hospitals, laboratories and nursing homes of the country. More importantly, the Government has made compulsory the screening of each and every unit of blood for five blood transmissible infections namely HIV, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, Syphillis and Malaria under the existing Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Similar provisions have been made in respect of donation of organs.

There is an active debate in the country on the issue of mandatory testing of people suspected of carrying HIV infection. Considerable thought has been given to this issue. The Government feels that there is no public health rationale for mandatory testing of a person for HIV/AIDS. Such an approach could be counter-productive as it may scare away a large number of individuals from getting detected and treated. HIV testing carried out on a voluntary basis with appropriate pre-test and post-test counselling is considered to be a better strategy. It is in line with the WHO guidelines on HIV testing.

[Shri Shatrughan Sinha]

For the voluntary counselling, testing and diagnosis of HIV infection, the Government has established more than 300 voluntary counselling and testing centres in the country in medical colleges and district hospitals. Our aim is to establish one such centre in each district hospital in a phased manner over a period of two to three years.

For the care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS, the Government of India is providing funds to State AIDS control societies for management of opportunistic infections free of cost in all Government hospitals. In addition, 26 community care centres have been established for providing care and support to such patients through the non-governmental organisations. For the protection of health care workers dealing with HIV/AIDS patients, comprehensive guidelines on universal precautions have been provided to the States and Union Territories. Antiretrovial drugs are being provided to Government hospitals for post exposure prophylaxis for health care workers in case of any accidental needle, syringe or sharp injury during treating HIV/AIDS patients. The Government of India also encourages indigenous systems of medicine and homoeopathy to pursue research for refining medicines that would assess the immuno modulatory role of available drugs under these systems of medicine.

The Government of India is using various mass media as well as folk media for generating awareness about prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The Government has also launched a family health awareness campaign which aims to generate awareness about reproductive tract infections through the network of primary health centres, community health centres and first referral units. For making the youth aware that HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, the Government has initiated School AIDS Education Programme with the aim to cover all secondary and higher secondary schools for a period of three to four years in collaboration with the Department of Education and NGOs.

The Government has already involved influential people in the society like Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies of the States, Members of Municipal Corporations, Panchayat Members, religious leaders etc., for creating awareness on prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. The Government has also involved other Ministries/Departments like Railways, Defence, Sports and Youth affairs, Labour, Social Justice and Employment, Women and Child Development etc., in implementation of the HIV/AIDS prevention and control programme in their respective sectors.

The Government has decided to expand the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV programme in the country in a phased manner, giving priority to six high HIV-prevalance States, namely, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur and Nagaland.

The Government has also initiated HIV vaccine research and development programme to develop HIV vaccine relevant to HIV-I, 'C' subtype prevalent in our country, in collaboration with Indian Council of Medical Research and International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, USA.

The Government has constituted the National AIDS Committee under the Chairpersonship of Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare to oversee and review the functioning of National AIDS Control Programme. The members of the Committee belong to various Government departments, NGOs, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assemblies, etc....*(Interruptions)*

The Government of India has released National AIDS prevention and Control Policy and National Blood Policy which adopts the human rights approach with regard to HIV testing, employment and education of HIV-ineffected persons and care and support of people living with HIV/AIDS without any stima and discrimination.

Sir, we are aware of the fact that there is neither cure nor vaccine for the effective containment of the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the world. The growth of the HIV spread can only be slowed down by bringing the behaviour change in the community particularly amongst youth. This would require multi-sectoral response from public, private and voluntary sectors. Political advocacy is an important tool to sensitise the community about prevention and control of HIV infection. The role of religious leaders is also vital in conveying the right type of messages to the people so that the people can be empowered to protect themselves from this tragedy...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: You should add media also.

SHRI SHATRUGHAN SINHA: What Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury says would be added now. Media would play a very important role.

The steps initiated by the Government of India are in the right direction and the policy framework will now determine the Action Plan to pursue effective implementation of the programme for prevention of HIV and care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

In view of the above, I would request hon. Member of Parliament, Dr. V. Saroja, to consider to withdraw the Bill moved by her.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Mr. Chairman Sir, on the eve of the World AIDS Day on 1st December, the House will join me in condemning the statement of the U.S. National Intelligence Council releasing an alarming information that India will have more than 25 million people living with AIDS by 2010 AD.

Sir, according to NACO, there are about 3.9 million people in India who live with HIV infection and full-blown AIDS. However, there are only 40,708 HIV cases.

Sir, the States of Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and a few other States are reporting higher incidence of HIV and AIDS Positive cases. I would like to say with authority and undilutedly that the Government of India is taking every step to contain this disease. I am sure that within the Tenth Five-Year Plan period the Government of India will contain the disease fully and a day will come when India will be free of these AIDS cases.

I would like to congratulate all the speakers who have taken part in this very important discussion. A few of the hon. Members are medical doctors and most of them are non-medical Members. They have all gone deep into the subject, deep into the social evil and deep into this menace. The way they have gone very deep into the subject and the way they analysed it, shows the commitment they have towards this national evil.

Here, I would like to say that the first speaker of this debate. hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya pointed out many things. I would like to appreciate that in his speech he said that he was not a medical person but a person from the finance profession. He has gone very deep into the subject. Hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya had told that 88 per cent of the HIV-AIDS cases are due to illegal, heterosexual and unsafe — underline the world unsafe — sexual relationship which cause the HIV-AIDS positive. At the same time, he had also pointed out about the use of sterile gloves and disposable syringes. He has given a very valuable suggestion. I appreciate it fully and I congratulate hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya for his suggestion. That should be considered with all seriousness. As a medical persons, as a practising doctors, as a gynaecologist, I was involved in this research work for the past 20 years. I fully endorse the views expressed by hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya.

At the same time, in his speech, hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya has mentioned that 16 lakh children in Andhra Pradesh are with HIV-Positive. He had told in his speech that the student community, especially the adolescents between the age group of 15 to 19, should be targeted. This is the age group, the student community that we have to concentrate on. We have to take more care and every effort to prevent further spread of the disease and no stone should be left unturned. This group is, of course, in the general group. But this is the group that we have to address to prevent the spread of the disease.

At the same time, there are 16 lakh HIV-Positive children. How are we going to rehabilitate them and how are we going to put them in a proper track so that they will not be harassed and they will not be discriminated against? This is the point that we have to note.

Hon. Member Shri Kirit Somaiya had also mentioned about the national insurance companies. The Government of India should take their help. You have to take more help from the insurance companies. The insurance companies are benefited in many ways. They have to contribute more to contain this disease. He had also suggested that the State Governments have to lower down the sales tax from eight per cent to five per cent and also the octroi from eight per cent to four per cent. This point is to be considered.

Shri Kirit Somaiya had also mentioned in his speech that the Government of India has given uppermost priority to this and by 2007, during the Tenth Five-Year Plan period, the Government of India will contain this disease.

Sir, as a doctor myself, I would like to prepone this period from 2007 to 2005 for making India an AIDS-free country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to inform the hon. Member that the time for discussion of this Bill is now over, so I would like to seek the permission of the House to extend the time for this Bill for another ten minutes.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time for this Bill is now extended for another ten minutes.

DR. V. SAROJA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the pervious speaker, Smt. Renuka Choudhury, the former Health Minister herself, had given a few suggestions. She mentioned about the HIV factor during organ transplantation. One cannot really lose sight of this fact

[Dr. V. Saroja]

that one can get infected by HIV during transplantation of organs. The points she mentioned are very important and are result-oriented. She had mentioned about the self-help groups. She spoke about cent per cent usage of condom, especially the usage of female condoms would be very useful in containing this disease. I would like to congratulate Smt. Choudhury for the valuable suggestions she has given on this Bill.

Sir, another speaker, Shri Adhir Chowdhury mentioned about discrimination being made in HIV cases. In the Delhi Declaration we took an oath for making our world an AIDS free world. But this should not remain on records here only. The message must reach the people at the grassroot level to achieve this goal. Shri Chowdhary had pointed out that the growth of AIDS patients will affect the growth of our nation. Is it not true that the people in the age group of 15 to 49 enjoy the most healthy period of their life? But people in this productive age group, instead of contributing to the development of the nation, are now getting engaged in destruction not only of themselves and their families but also in the destruction of the nation. If India could be declared an AIDS-free country, then we would score even over the United States of America.

Sir, he mentioned about the budget allocation. There should be a separate budget to contain this disease. It cannot be combined with all the other Budgetary heads of the Ministry of Health if we are to contain this disease. The treatment of this disease is a very costly affair. We have to have a strategy to contain this. We have to prevent new cases of AIDS from being erupted. We have to classify the disease in two parts — one, a full-blown AIDS case and the other HIV positive case. We cannot club these two together. An AIDS patient needs care and support and an HIV positive patient needs treatment. You have to classify them.

Here I would like to point out that according to the estimate of the HIV Surveillance Group, the number of estimated HIV cases (adults) between the age group of 15 to 45 is 3.8 million (males), 1.5 million (females) and 1.7 million (Children) respectively. The total is about 4.9 million. In respect of the sex ratio, it is 30,642 (males) to 10,650 (females) and the total is about 41,000. Now our attention should be focossed on these 41,000 odd cases immediately so that whatever budget allocation has been made, this could be managed and contained within that available budget.

The statistics of Statewide presence of HIV as well as full-blown AIDS cases are available in these papers. I would request all the Members of Parliament to go through this. With the permission of the Chair, I may supply a copy of this to you in due course for your information. All of us should take an oath that we will go to our respective Constituencies, get in touch with the State units of NACO, discuss with them about the number of cases and their details, and reach out to the patients. With the help of elected representatives of *Panchayat Raj* institutions and with public participation, we shall take the message from what we have spoken here in the House, and ensure that action researches the grass roots level and benefits go to the affected people. For paucity of time, I would not like to dwell more on this. I will be able to discuss this with the hon. Minister later and give my suggestions to him.

I would like to inform the hon. Minister what we have done in my Constituency. Tamil Nadu is under the leadership of a dynamic leader Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi.* We had conducted an awareness programme last month for all the elected representatives of Tamil Nadu State Assembly and *Panchayat Raj* institutions, and also for the general public. Being a Gynaecologist, I have set up nearly ten Counseling Centres in my Constituency. In those Centres we had done counseling for 6,665 antenatal mothers. Every antenatal mother is registered with a case-sheet of her own. All the children have a case-sheet with findings and the general conditions. I did it because we are not only treating AIDS but also the associated infections. HIV testing was done on all 6,665 antenatal cases where counseling was done. Out of these 6,665 cases, 172 were found to be HIV positive. I have requested the hon. Health Minister in my letter of 7th August, 2002 to sanction an amount of Rs. 1 crore for these 172 HIV positive patients so that mother to child transmission can be prevented.

Dr. MGR Medical University is doing pioneering research work in this field. This was the first university to focus attention on HIV positive cases as well as tuberculosis cases in 1992. The Department of Experimental Medicine and the National Referral and Research Centre are known for their work in the whole of this country. They have requested for a postgraduate course in Immunology, Immuno-haematology and blood transfusion. It will help in containing this disease also. I would request that the Minister may kindly sanction funds for this also.

There is much more to discuss on this issue. However, due to paucity of time, I will confine myself to giving a few suggestions. One hundred per cent condom usage, especially the female condom usage, will be the

most cost-effective method through which we can contain this disease within a year at least by 75 per cent.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: May I intervene please?

Actually there is no accessibility to condom. The true success of HIV control programme is linked to affordability, accessibility and availability of condom. Please tell me where a citizen accesses a condom in our country. Earlier we used to have little *paan* shops and the cigratte shops, which used to keep it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already participated in the discussion.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: No. I just want to make a suggestion. Since there is such a lengthy debate going on, I just want to suggest to the hon. Minister. He is with the film world background. So, he would speak to the persons who make TV serials and ask them to incorporate one episode on HIV, explaining to them how a family manages, what are the problems they face, etc.

We had a stunt in Andhra Pradesh where the Chief Minister had a huge display of condom. It is all very well for Bill Gates to see! But the reality is that no one can buy a condom when one wants to. Tell me, around Parliament, where do we get a condom? We should learn to say the world 'condom' and 'sex'. Unless you talk about the subject, you are not going to be able to control it.

I was horrified when people were coming to me when I was the Health Minister, and saying:

[Translation]

Your portfolio deals Kamasutra.

[English]

This attitude has to change. It is not about 'Kamasutra'. Sex is an integral part of human being. Much as you eat your food and drink water, you also procreate. It is only the question of how to harness it and how to keep it within the safety levels. For some diseases and accidents, you have first aid, but in the case of HIV, you do not have any.

We have to be able to come out of it. Parents cannot tell their children; teachers do not know how to talk to the students. We have got to empower them by giving them the language, of how to speak about safe sex practices.

DR. V. SAROJA: In the end, I will appeal to the medical fraternity. If not the doctors, who will treat such patients? There should be a stringent law to destigmatise the patients. There should also be a law for the medical professionals to handle such cases in private and Government hospitals. There should be a separate and an important provision to admit the patients within the hospitals.

Finally, I want to say a word about prematernal HIV test. Unless we reach a consensus, we cannot move further. It is a very sensitive subject, but we have to start somewhere. It is for the benefit of their own children that we are saying this. So, I endorse the view for having pre-maternal HIV tests.

It is a very important Bill. It is the need of the hour and the need of this country. I would appeal through you, Sir, to the hon. Minister to treat this as a Government Bill and have it passed. I would thank all the hon. Members who have contributed much to this very important Bill and request them to support it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you withdrawing your Bill, as requested by the hon. Minister?

DR. V. SAROJA: Let me quote what Ms. Renate Ehmer said:

> "Today's gathering is very significant and august for it comprises the most significant glaxy of opinion makers and legislators, so is its purpose-signifying solidarity and oneness of voice in addressing drug abuse issues, especially the inter-connection with HIV/AIDS.
>
> Such well-known artistes got around together to draw the strength from the creative brush and their inner-voice and the result was this—one of the its kind, initiative. Must I call this initiative as 'echo of souls'. We began this journey with an idea, with a purpose and with a dream."

So, Sir, I withdraw this Bill with the hope that the Minister will implement all my suggestions.

I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for the prevention and control of the spread of Human immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and to provide

[Dr. V. Saroja]

for specialized medical treatment and social support to and rehabilitation of person suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"The leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for the prevention and control of the spread of Human Immuno Deficiency Virus (HIV) infection and to provide for specialize medical treatment and social support to and rehabilitation of person suffering from Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): I withdraw the Bill.

16.35 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

(Omission of article 44, etc.)—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, he House will take up Item No. 30. Shri G.M. Banatwalla to continue as he was on his legs.

Shri G.M. Banatwalla — Not present.

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill is a part of the Directive Principles of State Policy Except a new word 'secure', rest of things are all part of the article 44 of the Constitution of India. No doubt, the Directive Principles of State Policy is a solemn promise given by the Constituent Assembly and the forefathers of our nation had got a very great dream of India as a secular country. They were having a feeling that there will be a nation which would have no division among the human being on the basis of religion. They dreamt that there will be a day where everything will be controlled by the rule of the law and especially every people will have a single religion, namely, no religion, which is secularism. But we cannot attribute any motive to a Member when he comes up with a Private Member's Bill. But at the same time, we feel that this time is not good for bringing this type of amendment to the Constitution of India. No doubt, there were about four amendments to the Directive Principles of State Policy. All the four amendments were brought by Shrimati Indira Gandhi for bringing new force into the Directive Principles of State Policy and for enabling the Government to bring forth any law in the name of the Directive Principles of State Policy. That was revolutionary step taken by Shrimati Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister of India. It enabled us to make a lot of new legislation to have better participation of the people in the day-to-day life. For example, there was an amendment to article 38—State to secure a social order for the promotion and welfare of the people. In the same way, article 39A provides equal justice and free legal aid that has brought a new phase in the legal system itself in India. In the same way, article 43A provides participation of workers in the management of industries. Article 48A provides for protection and improvement of environment and safeguard of forests and wildlife. These are some of the new initiatives made during 1976 and subsequently also. But the forefathers of the Constitution had brought forward the article 44 with a great dream that there will be a nation where there will be no division on the basis of religion or caste or any such thing.

Since our Independence, we have evolved a new system for having equality as per the law as well as social structure. But are we in a position to bring a Uniform Civil Code now? Are we in a position to prepare people mentally to have Uniform Civil Code? Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, as the first Prime Minister of India, brought forward the Hindu Marriages Act and the Hindu Succession Act. So many other revolutionary steps were taken. But at the time itself, he was opposed by many people. People asked him as to why he was bringing such a novel and progressive thinking in the Hindu religion. He made the Hindu society to think in a modern way and the joint families were created. That is the strength of India. Nowhere in the world, there is a joint family system. This is the strength of our nation. We have created this strength from ancient and *Vedic* period.

We have faced so many problems during these fifty years. There have been economic problems, problems at the border, there have been wars, droughts, floods, etc. At the same time, our society did not change at all because of the problems. There have been linguistic problems and internal fights in the social structure. There have been religious fights also. Even then our structure remained in tact. India has been strengthened everyday and every minute of its existence as a nation.

Our social structure right from the village level largely belongs to the middle class. This class is having the

largest number of people and it is now coming out of backwardness. As Lenin once said, the middle class segment should be abolished because there can be only two classes; one is the working class and the other is the elite. Now we are trying to go to the elite group also. At the same time, we are afraid that we may fall down to backwardness. We are living in an insecured society. The Indian society is now passing through a very strange situation where the middle class is swelling in its number everyday.

Even the former President of the United States of America in his address to the Indian Parliament in our own Central Hall said that the middle class in the Indian society has to be taken into consideration because they are the people who are very much threatened by the new structural changes. They are ready to go up the ladder. But they are also afraid of the depth from which they have come up. Therefore, this structure is changing itself. It is in this structure that you are witnessing today inter-caste marriages, inter-religious marriages, inter-State marriages and international marriages also. When this becomes universal, that is the time when you can bring the Uniform Civil Code. For this to happen, there should be no religion, there should be no caste, no division of State, no division of language, no division of any sovereign State. When the society reaches that level, that will be the time when we need the Uniform Civil Code. Till then we are bound by certain differences.

Now we have religious feelings here. Many people are roused and frustrated by various democratic set up. We are afraid of them. People are going in large numbers, in crores and crores, to temples, mosques and churches. It is because they feel that the structure which has been built up in India as a democratic set up is not helping them and is not answering their call. It is not giving them social security, employment, proper education and a better living. That situation can be overturned by the Government of the day only.

These are the reasons why this social structure is changing itself. People are migrating to various countries and people are also coming back from various countries. Today, this structure is identified with the variety of people who have got no religion, no sectarian feeling and no language. They are a new people who are evolving as a new Bharat.

There should come a day when all the people in India would themselves ask for the Uniform Civil Code. There will be larger number of such people at that time. There will not be any division in the name of religion and there will be no fanaticism. There will not be a particular limited place, only where you will have to pray. You can pray anywhere. You are the *atman* as the *vedic* scriptures suggest. God is one. Universe is one. Universe is a part of the human being and the human being is a part of the universe. That is what Lord Krishna says in *Bhagavad-Gita.*

When that day comes, the Uniform Civil Code can be brought up. Till then why should we divide people by telling them that they are going to have a Uniform Civil Code? It means you are making certain groups of people—who may be Muslims, Christians or Buddhists—think that they are not secure in this nation. There is something that they are afraid of losing. There is no uniform set up now. When there is no uniform set up, when there is no uniform law to be implemented, what is the purpose of bringing this law?

A law has to be followed, a law has to be acted upon and a law has to be executed. Only then, it will have the force. Otherwise, it will be a part of the law of dead books and it will not have life or dynamism. Therefore, I request, at this juncture, Shri Aditya Nath that bringing forward this constitutional amendment is not the correct way and correct timing. I do not want to comment upon individuals but, at the same time, the person who is bringing in this amendment should have a feeling that we should not divide the nation again. Already some injuries and wounds have been caused in certain areas of our nation. People are having a feeling that there should be one religion. People are asking where our forefathers were born, what is our place of birth and whether our blood is the Indian blood or not. How can we find it out?

India is a union of many States. It is not an individual State. It is a nation where plenty of cultures, plenty of religions and languages have come up. It is not a single nation. It is a union of States. The Indian National Congress had created history when it united different people different areas of people, people of different religions and languages into one nation, that is, Bharat or India. We have done it. By bringing this type of an amendment, kindly do not hurt the feelings of the people and take them to the pre-Independence period.

Before our freedom, there were divisions of nations, there were plenty of kings in India and there were in-fights. All those things have been forgotten now. We now feel that Indians are having their own religion, their own praying methods, succession methods of their own property, whether it is ancestral property or self-acquired

[Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

property. We are safe with our own law and our own system of justice.

Therefore, I request that when this constitutional amendment is brought forth at this hour, the situation should be viewed in a proper way. We are not wearing any colour glass to look at other people. But are we in a position to create certain steps when the Constitution of India is amended like this? There is no need for this amendment. We can bring forth under article 44 of the Constitution of India. But is it necessary to bring forth even that law of uniform civil code? We are going towards globalisation. There is no demarcation of a sovereign State even now. We have lost our sovereignty in trade and commerce and even in citizenship. Any person can go anywhere in the world. They can do trade and commerce, produce new materials, sell them, do service, bring forth money anywhere, purchase property and settle there, marry and create a family there, live and die there. That is the society in which we are living now. In Tamil, there is a saying like this: "*Yaadum oore, yaavarum kezhir*". It means that every village is our own village and everybody is our own brother. In the same way, we are living in a society where we do not feel whether we are a Hindu or a Christian, whether we are bound by a uniform civil code or by a Muslim law or whether we are bound by the Hindu Succession Act or any other Act.

At the same time, we are living in the world of credit cards. The society is moving on the expenditure side. We are not stable. Assets are not created. Assets are enjoyed. Society is going back to the level of Western countries. The Hindu system of living in India is for savings. We used to have savings of property for the old age. But now the society is saying that you can deposit money and can enjoy life at old age. At the same time, you need not bequeath it to anybody else. This is the society in which we are living now.

Therefore, I request the hon. member not to press this constitutional amendment because it is part of the Constitution and article 44 of the Constitution can be followed by legislative system and bringing forth new laws.

We can have uniform civil code when majority of the people forget about religion, when they forget about the divisions amongst themselves, and when they feel that they are one in India. Till then there is no need to have it. It is because it will only open the injuries or the wounds which have already been healed.

With these words, I request the hon. Member to withdraw this Bill because we should not hurt the future generation.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): I rise to support the Motion moved by Yogi Adityanath. I was listening with rapt attention to what Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan was saying. He agreed that the proposal that has been made through this Bill does exist in the provisions of the Constitution. But he said that it is not the right time to adopt it. Who had initiated and introduced the Constitution in India? Was it not the Congress Party, which had done that? It was a political movement once upon a time. It was a movement to free India from the bondage of British rule. I am very surprised that the proposals of the Congress Party, which had introduced the Constitution to the people of India, are being opposed by persons of the same Party.

He said that India is a secular country. Who denies that? He said that there is a rule of law. I agree with that. Everybody agrees with that. But I am asking him whether we are having rule of law or rule of laws. Should we have rule of law or rule of laws? There is a separate law for Muslims; another law for Hindus and another law for some other religion or community. If you say that it is a secular country, why not a single law for all? Go to the West. Tell me which country in the West has so many types of laws? Do they not have Muslims in the United States of America? Do they not have Muslims in Great Britain? There are three million Turks, that is, Muslims, in Germany. Five million Algerians, that is, Muslims, are there in France.

All the countries have minority population. The Europe and the America have sizeable Muslim population. Do they have several types of laws in their country? Why have the Muslims in those countries not demanded a separate law for them there? So, if nobody is demanding such a law in those countries, then why in India should we have so many laws? Why do you say that the time is not appropriate? I do not know why. Probably, Shri Natchiappan was carried away by emotion when he said that India is not a single nation. He said that it is a combination of nations. Their Deputy Leader, Shri Shivraj Patil is present here. Does he believe in what Shri Natchiappan said that said that India is not a nation but it is a combination of nations? Does he believe that? If it is so, then do they believe in the two-nation theory?

Do they believe that India is a secular country? Do they believe that the Muslims constitute a separate nation and the Hindus constitute a separate nation? Did Mahatma Gandhi believe in this? Why did he resort to fasting the day when India was divided into two? Why did Mahatma Gandhi not support the division of this country? Shri Natchiappan, how can you say that India is not a single nation?

If we say that nationality pertains to a religion, they why Pakistan and Afghanistan are two separate countries? They are the Islamic countries. They should combine together to become one country. Why is Afghanistan a separate country? Why had Iran and Iraq fought a war for eight years? Why did Iraq invade Kuwait? Why is Kuwait a separate country? Why is Saudi Arabia a separate country. There are so many countries in Europe which are all Christian. Why did England have a hundred-year war with France? Why did Napoleon of France or Hitler of Germany attack Russia when they were all Europeans, when they are all Christian countries? If you say that all the persons of all the religions form a separate country, then, will Nepal be a Hindu country amalgamated with India? Will they agree to that proposition?

Sir, nationality does not pertain to religion. It is an identity. It is a geographical identity. Culture is a totally separate thing. There are so many Muslim ladies in West Bengal who put on *sindhur*, the vermilion on their forehead. I have seen that there are so many Christian ladies who put the vermilion. The very perception that the marriage is bond of seven births is a peculiar Hindu concept which has been accepted by everybody, by the Muslims, Christians etc.

Now, I am asking this question. In an religion, is there any distinct mark between a married woman and an unmarried lady? The distinct mark is prevalent only among the Hindus. How to distinguish between a married woman and an unmarried lady? It is not there in the case of others. But in India this practice has been accepted by the non-Hindus also because we belong to the same culture. So, I wish to say that this very notion that India is not a single nation is not correct. I very strongly oppose that theory. The Congress Party has opposed it. They have not believed in the two-nation theory. But I am very surprised today when the Congress Party people say that India is not a single nation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Kindly do not create a new notion that the Congress Party has got the two-nation theory. That is your theory. That is the theory of the BJP. I never mentioned any party's name. I want to have a civilised way of talking here. I have not indicated any party. Now, you want to bring new theories to my talking. I told that India is a Union of States; the States were having plenty of Kingdoms and those Kingdoms were having plenty of cultures, religions and linguistic differences. I further told that all these were united by the Congress Party and brought into being a new nation. that is, the Union of States, that is, *Bharat*, that is, India. I have never told that there is a difference between the people. Please do not put such words into my mouth. I want to give this reply to you...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am not yielding.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request you to go through the speech made by Shri Natchiappan. You will see whether what I say is correct or not. He may now correct it because he has understood that he has committed a mistake. You could just go through it.

My point is this. I mean to say that you take the examples of the Christians. Some months back, a Bill was passed in this very House. Why was that Bill passed which was about the Christian Marriage?

17.00 hrs.

It is because there was some sort of discrimination in the Christian community. So, it was Christians who demanded that they should also have a common law like others. Hence, the old Christian law had to be abolished and a new common law was passed in this House.

Let us take the example of Parsis. When India became independent, all the Parsis were asked as to whether they want to have a separate law for themselves. They said that they did not want to have a separate law. The Christians also did not want a separate law. They all felt that there is some advantage in having a common law. But why does only one community want to have a separate law for themselves? Moreover, it is not the question of the whole community. It is only some members of that community who want to have a separate law so as to have control over the community. If you ask women from the Muslim community whether they want to continue with the practice where the husband says '*talaq, talaq, talaq*' and asks the wife to get out his house, they will say that they do not want it. Which woman of that community will agree to this kind of practice? So, women of Muslim community also do not want this kind of practice under their law.

Sir, every society, every community has got its own messiahs, the social reformers who have reformed their community. Shri Sudarsana Natchiappan has said that it is only Hindus who are having inter-caste, inter-religious and international marriages. I agree with him. Once upon a time, we had the practice of child marriage, Sati burning also, but I proudly say that it is only Hindus like Swami Vivekanand, Narayana Guru, Mahatma Pule, Ram Mohan Roy and Dayanand Saraswati who had undertaken social

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

reforms and reformed the Hindu society. It is only Hindus who removed all the ills which they had in their own community and now also we are in the process of changing. Nobody is attached to any stigma or orthodoxy in the Hindu community. We do not agree with what is written in *Manu Smriti.* Maybe, the caste system was good 1,000 or 2,000 years back, but in the present day context, we totally disagree with it. No sensible Hindu will say that the caste system is good. So, why should somebody not come forward to change the orthodox practices in the Muslim community? Let the Muslims themselves come forward to do it. Let wise people from the Muslim community introduce the required changes in their own society. Why should a Hindu bring out a Bill for the purpose?

Sir, in countries like Turkey nobody is allowed to marry four times. Even in a very religious country like Pakistan, a person cannot marry four times unless he takes the permission of the Government. So, except India, in no other Muslim country in the world this system is in vogue. Pakistan is the only country in the world which has been formed on the basis of religion. There is no second country in the world which is having religion as its base. But still in Pakistan, a person cannot marry four times unless he takes the permission of the Government. Let me be corrected if I am wrong.

So, I am happy that such a Bill has been introduced in this House. There is absolutely nothing in this Bill which goes against any community. There is absolutely nothing in this Bill by which one can say that we are dividing this country on the basis of religion.

In India, the system of social change has been undergoing since ages. This Bill has also been brought forward specifically for that purpose. Nobody should treat it as an instrument to divide this country. So, I would appeal to everybody and also the people belonging to all the parties to rise above political considerations. I would appeal even to hon. Members of the Muslim community to come forward themselves and release their womenfolk from this very discrimination of allowing a man just marrying four times and not taking care of the women whom he marries and from whom he begets children.

With these words, I support it and conclude my speech.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Sir, I am participating in this debate because the topic is very important. I am aware of the fact that this Resolution has been moved by a Private Member, that the attendance in the House is very slim and that it is not likely to appear in the media also. Yet, because the topic is important, because there is a lot of misunderstanding about article 44 of the Constitution and because this article has been politically used on occasions, I think, I should avail of the opportunity to express my views on this topic. So, I am before you, Sir today.

Article 44 is a part of the Directive Principles. It means, it is non-justiceable. It cannot be used to request the court to see that the intention expressed in article 44 should be enacted and should be implemented. Article 44, is a part of the Directive Principles. It says:

"The State shall endeavour to secure..."

The words are: 'endeavour to secure'. It is a very carefully drafted article. The Government and the society have to 'endeavour to secure...'. They have to attempt. They have to put in efforts to secure. They should not use force. Neither the Government nor the Parliament nor the people outside should force this view on any part or any section of the society. The article is very carefully worded, as a I have said before. It says:

"The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code..."

People have misinterpreted 'uniform civil code'. They have interpreted it to mean 'uniform personal law'. There is a difference between 'civil code' and 'personal law' A personal law may be a part of the civil code. But the civil code does not mean the personal law alone. Is there no uniformity in the laws applicable to all sections of the society in India today? We have the Law of Contracts. Is it applicable differently to the one section of the society and any other section of the society? Is it applicable in one way to Hindus and in a different way to Christians and in a different way to Muslims? There is a Civil Procedure Code for the entire country as such. All the civil matters are taken to the court by using the Civil Procedure Code. And the Civil Procedure Code is uniformly applicable to all sections of the society.

Indian Penal code is a law, which penalises the citizens for having committed offences in India and all citizens of India are penalised if they commit offences under the Indian Penal Code without any distinction. The Law of Evidence makes no distinction, no difference between one person and another person, between one section of the society and another section of the society. This has to be clearly understood.

The framers of the Constitution were very wise people. They have not said that there shall be a uniform personal law or Uniform Marriage Law or Uniform Law of Inheritance or Uniform Law of Adoption. They have not said that. They have said, Uniform Civil code and there is a Uniform Civil Code in the country today. Let us understand this fact. Let us distinguish the meaning of Personal Law and the Civil Code. The Personal Law may be a part of the Civil Code and yet it is not the Civil Code. The Civil Code is bigger than the Personal Law. This has to be very clearly understood.

There are different laws applicable to different sections of the society as far as marriages are concerned. In some cases Law for Inheritance is different, in some cases the Law of Adoption is applicable to some sections of the society and it is not applicable to another section of the society. There were differences in Hindu Law. Mitakshra and Danabhaga other types of Customary laws were there in the country and we tried to have the Sharda Bill passed and one kind of law applicable to all the Hindus in the country.

It was difficult. It was so difficult that Babasaheb Ambedkar, who had moved the Bill, felt disgusted and left the Government. He left the party also. Who objected to that? It is the Hindus who objected to it. It is the Hindus who objected to the proposed Law of Inheritance, not all, a few Hindus, and influential Hindus at that. They objected to the proposed Hindu Marriage Act, they objected to the proposed Law of Inheritance. They did not object so much to the Law of Adoption.

What was objectionable? The concept of divorce in Hindu Law was most objectionable. They said, 'once married, they should live united and there should be no divorce between the husband and the wife.' This is a concept, which is accepted in India. This is a concept, which is accepted in Christian community, this is a concept, which is accepted in Muslim community also. But in Christian community, they recognise that at times it becomes very difficult for husband and wife to live together and they should be allowed to divorce. They should be allowed to separate and divorce. In Muslim community, the concept of divorce is there, but they too think that once married, they should live together. But when it becomes necessary for them to separate, they should be allowed to separate. The Christian Law allows the divorce to take place more easily than the Hindu Law: and the Muslim Law allows the divorce to take place little more easily than the Christian Law. This is the difference.

What are we going to do with this concept? That is the most important question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time limit fixed for this bill has been over. I seek the permission of the House, to extend the time by one hour. Do the House agree to extend the time by one hour?

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: Yes.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: So, Muslim law of divorce is such that it is easy to get the divorce. Now, the Muslim law of marriage is misinterpreted by some people and it is attacked many times. The Muslim law of divorce is an advancement on the law of marriage, which is used by the Christians and the Christian law of marriage is a sort of improvement on the Hindu law of marriage in India. This has to be very clearly understood.

Now, under the Muslim law, once husband and wife separate, maintenance is available to the wife, which is not available to the Hindu wife when she separates from her husband and she has to move the court for getting the maintenance. Are we going to make a law in which it becomes necessary for the wife to go to the court to get the maintenance if she is separated from her husband?

Sir, one of the most important things under the Muslim law is — they have been saying—that a Muslim can marry four times. This is something which has been misinterpreted. Where are the enough number of girls to be married? Where are the girls to be married? The number of males and the number of females in India are nearly equal. If one man marries four times, there will be three persons who will remain unmarried. Politically this issue has been used in our country. They are saying that as the Muslims marry four times the population of Muslims in India is increasing. This is a fallacy. This is not correct. This is wrong. There is no enough number of girls who can allow the men to marry more than once, four times. This is not possible, and even the Muslim law does not allow this.

The Muslim law is very advanced. The Muslim law of marriage is very advanced. There is a marriage called Mutha marriage. If a man and woman come together and live together for three months, they are treated as husband and wife. And if the child is born out of this union of theirs, that child is treated as the child of the man who lived with her. May I ask you, will this kind of provision be accepted by Hindus? But this is most

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

scientific, this is most just provision in the Muslim law. If a man and woman are coming together and a child is born, that child should get all the protection that it needed, and that protection is given by the Muslim law but it is not given by the Hindu law, it is not given by the Christian law also.

If you want to have a code, which is equally applicable to all sections of the society, is it possible for the Hindu community to accept a provision of this kind in the common civil code? If anybody is trying to have a uniform code of personal law, let him attempt, let him prepare a model code, let it be presented to the people, let him get that draft model code accepted by the people, and then we will see. The Hindu law is not advanced. It is the most ancient law. Some changes have been made and yet it remains ancient. The Christian law is more modern. It is more advanced. The Muslim law is still more advanced and still more modern. The ancient Hindu law was made thousands of years back. The Christian law was made only 2,000 years back and the Muslim law was made 1400 years back. Why should we not apply our mind to this aspect also?

Take for instance the law of inheritance. What kind of law of succession that we have in the country is applicable to the Hindus? The Hindu Succession Act has certainly given an authority to women to own and possess the property. Before the British came, women could not even possess the property, they had no right to possess the property but the British gave to women the right to possess the property.

The Hindu Succession Act has introduced right to own the property. Many times it is said that both man and woman are treated equally. It is not correct. The daughter and the son are not treated on par with each other. If a family has 100 acres of land and that family has a mother, a son and a daughter, that property will be divided between the son and the father. The son gets 50 acres. Fifty acres of land is again divided among the mother, son and the daughter. The daughter gets hardly 15 or 16 acres of land. The son gets about 66 acres of land. This is not equality. But I can understand if this thing applies to the immovable property and the landed property. But why should it apply to the bank balance? Why should it apply to the movable property? This is not equality. This is certainly inequality. The situation today in India is such that no daughter claims her share in the property very easily. But the daughters are not going to the court asking for their share in the property. They say, we do not want it. All right, if they do not want it, let them not go to the court. We are not instigating them to go to the court. But this is the law of succession and inheritance that we have.

What kind of Muslim law of inheritance is there? It is most scientific. It gives to women right to own and right to process the property in a very scientific manner. Why should these aspects be not considered while advocating personal law applicable to all in the country? Why is it necessary to have one personal law applicable to the country? Even in the Hindu Marriage Act, certain rituals are followed to see that the marriage is solemnised. But it also provides that the customary way of marriage is accepted. There also, they have given an opportunity to those who want to solemnise their marriages in the customary way. *Saptapathi* is not necessary in all the marriages. But if the marriage is taking place in a manner, which is in accordance with the customs followed by them, that marriage is also supposed to have been solemnised properly.

Why did you have this kind of distinction? You have this kind of distinction because things have developed through the ages and they have their own sanctity and people are attached to them. That is why, this fact is recognised even in the Hindu Marriage Act. In the present Hindu Marriage Act, this is recognised. Then, why do you not recognise the marriages solemnised by others in other manners or where different kind of laws are applicable?

If Muslims are living in America and England, they are not guided by the Christian law of marriages. Please do not misunderstand that. They are governed by their own laws of marriage. The British Government is not compelling them to solemnise their marriage by following the Christian rituals. Let us not commit mistake on this. They may say, register your marriage. That is a different thing. But they are not saying, you solemnise the marriage and follow the law of marriage in the particular manner. They are also not compelling the Muslim community there in America or in England to follow the principles of inheritance followed by others in that society. They allow the families to inherit their property in their own manner. Let there not be any misunderstanding about it.

This article has been very carefully drafted. I have already said it. It says, 'endeavour to secure'. It does not say 'force them to accept'. The Government should not force, and rightly, the Government is not forcing. The previous Governments also did not force. But we should not create a situation in which a section of the society feels that there are people in the society who are trying to impose their laws on them.

If the Parsis want their laws of marriage to be changed, if they come forth and ask for that, let us change it. If the Christians want their laws of marriage to be changed, let us change it. If the Muslims want a change, let us change the Muslim law of marriage. No one has a right to say, 'You should solemnise your marriage in this fashion. You divide your property between your children in this fashion or in this proportion.' That kind of a right is not given to anybody.

Today, if we have to keep our country united, as Shri E.M. Sudarsana Natchiappan said, we have to give some scope for diversity also. For unity, diversity is essential. If you want to create unity through uniformity, you would never get unity through uniformity because human beings are not the same, their aspirations are not the same, and the culture in which they are growing is not the same. Nature also at least outwardly has not made everything identical. All human beings sitting here are different in their features. They may be the same and there might be unity internally but there is diversity apparently. Let us understand the importance of diversity and plurality. If you do not understand the importance the plurality and want everybody to follow one track, one method, one principle, one scheme and one law, it would be difficult to control them from rebelling against this kind of a forceful action or this kind of a coercive action, which cannot be called persuasive or advisory.

That is why, there has to be clear understanding as to why Article 44 was included in the Chapter on Directive Principles. There has to be a clear understanding of the meaning of the words very carefully chosen and included here: 'endeavour to secure a uniform civil code'. This has to be very clearly understood. I think, it is necessary for a country like ours where a big section of the society is following a different kinds of laws of marriages and inheritance and there are different cultural aspects that have not only to be accepted but to be respected also. If you do not respect them but simply accept them and even in some cases do not accept them but try to force your own point of view on others, even if your point of view is not correct, it is not going to help that section of the society, nor the unity of the country, nor all of us. That is exactly what I wanted to say.

I am thankful to you for giving me the time.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I have one question for you. If in the United States of America a Muslim woman approaches the court and says that she has been deprived of some property, under what law would the court judge her case?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is exactly what I told you. If you are talking about the Civil Procedure Code and things like that, it is different but if a woman were to go to the court and say, 'I have a share in my father's property', or, 'I have a share in my husband's property', the Muslim law would be applicable.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I do not think so. They have a single rule for all their citizens and she would be guided only by that.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: You have a right to think differently.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, at the outset, I request hon. Member Yogi Aditya Nath to withdraw the Resolution. I am constrained to say that moving of this Resolution at this stage is not in the best interests of our country.

We want a unified India and we want unity in every way. As pointed out eloquently by my friend Shri Shivraj V. Patil, we are looking for unity in diversity. The essence of parliamentary democracy is pluralism. We cannot have parliamentary democracy when we follow everything in uniformity. There is nothing uniform in parliamentary democracy.

The basis of parliamentary democracy is tolerance. Tolerance is the essence of parliamentary democracy. With this background, the founding fathers of our Constitutions framed the Constitution with a definite purpose.

Now, when they had to take a decision regarding the individual rights, they had in mind that individual rights, which have to be enshrined and which have to be judicially implemented, should be included in the fundamental rights of the Constitution. Those rights which could not be enforced through the court of law, were included in part-IV of the Directive Principles of State Policy. There are certain fundamental rights which have to be implemented, but those fundamental rights could not be implemented at the time when the Constitution was framed. There is a distinction between the judicial fundamental rights and non-judicial fundamental rights.

Now, India was a colonial country and we got freedom. I will say that every citizen is entitled to get employment. That is a fundamental right. Every citizen belonging to any religion, caste or sex is entitled to employment in a free India. Would it be possible for the framers of the Constitution to provide that right as a

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

fundamental right? It was not possible. Taking into consideration that India was a colonial country with no development, everything was exploited and our country was the poorest country at that time. Historians have recorded that India was the richest country in the 16th or 17th Century. When we became independent, we were a poor State, a starving State with millions of illiterate people. So, the funding fathers have found that though it is a fundamental right, it could not be termed as judicial fundamental right. So, they included in it the Directive Principles of State Policy. The right to work is a Directive Principle of State Policy, which right the State shall endeavour to give to all people. It was included in the Directive Principles of State Policy. Why was it so? It was included in the Directive Principles of State Policy taking into consideration the practical situations. If you give priority to the principles enshrined in the Directive Principles, I would say the right to work should be given the first priority in the Constitution. It should be made the fundamental right. Personal rights should come afterwards. I would have supported the resolution if my friend has brought a resolution or a constitutional amendment to the effect that everybody is entitled to get work in India. Would he bring it? I can understand if such a resolution or such an amendment is moved. That is the top priority.

Millions and millions of youth are unemployed in our country. We could not provide any employment to them even after the implementation of the Nine Five-Year Plans. Crores of educated and un-educated are unemployed. They get a right to be citizens of this country. The citizens's right is right to work. That is not a fundamental right. That has no been included in the fundamental right. We have the freedom of speech; we have the freedom of association and we have the freedom that everybody is equal before law. If anybody is arrested, he must be brought before a court of law within 24 hours. These are the things, which could be enforced, but not the right to get work in a court of law. So, the priority should go to the right to work. He has not mentioned about it.

Now, he has brought an amendment with an ulterior motive that I may be permitted to submit.

This is not an idealistic approach. As a matter of fact, I would have supported it if it was brought with an idealistic view. But it is not like that.

Even in the Statement of Objects and Reasons my friend says: "Our country is not a theocratic State". He says that our country is not a theocratic State. Who says this? Hon. Member Yogi Aditya Nath says it. Our country is a secular State. This is not my statement. On 18th November, when the Gujarat situation was discussed, hon. Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani had said that India is a secular State. That has created a furore among you. It has created widespread resentment throughout the country and from no less than a person than the Shiv Sena leader Shri Bal Thackeray. He found fault with Shri L.K. Advani for having made that statement. After all, our Deputy Prime Minister is holding a legal position. In our Constitution it is enshrined that ours is a secular and democratic State. He has only stated that. But when he has stated that, there was hue and cry from every part and every corner. The Bajrang Dal rose in revolt; the RSS front rose in revolt. The Shiv Sena supreme commander had written in his own paper that Shri Advani is a pseudo-secularist. Shri Advani has simply stated that our India is a secular State with pluralistic society. That is what he has said. He could not state otherwise so long as he is the Deputy Prime Minister. Could he say that India is a Hindu State? He cannot say that. Even stating the real fact as per the provisions in the Constitution has created a big furore among the people.

It is not only that. Our founding fathers found it difficult to implement the common civil code at that time. Do you think that the situation has changed? Is there any change in the situation? We know that the Babri Masjid was destroyed, creating an ill-feeling among the minority communities. We all know it. Even our Deputy Prime Minister Shri L.K. Advani regretted over the incident, for having demolished the mosque. He himself regretted it. That is the situation available in the country.

It is not only that. Even now we are thinking of the Godhra incident. Even our hon. Prime Minister has categorically deplored that incident and he said that it should not be made an election issue in Gujarat. Godhra incident should not be an election issue. That was the statement of our hon. Prime Minister. Please do not make it an election issue. That is the situation available in the country. Is it right for us to amend the constitution and do away with Article 44? Is the time ripe? What is the situation available in the country?

We want a unified India. We do not want any further division of India. We want an India where everybody will live together. The Muslims, the Hindus and the Sikhs—everybody is equal before law. Everybody can have his own personal law. What is the difficulty? I have my own experience. I am a lawyer for the past fifty year—half a century. I have conduced so many personal law cases. No difficulty was felt. The Muslim divorce law was administered through the Civil Procedure Code. The Hindu

divorce law was administered through the Civil Procedure Code. The Hindu divorce law was administered through the Civil Procedure Code. It is the same basic law. The Civil Procedure Code is applicable to the Hindu Succession Act and it is equally applicable to the Muslim law as well. The law of inheritance is equally applicable to the Hindus, the Muslims and the Sikhs as well. There is no difference.

The basic question that is felt is there is the Criminal Procedure Code and we have the I.P.C. You can see that even Muslim women get their maintenance through Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code. They file a petition before the Magistrate and the Magistrate will order maintenance for the wife under Section 125 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

It is a uniform law. But we have certain beliefs. The Hindus once used to believe that when the husband dies, the wife should be burnt along with the husband. But that is now not in practice. But it was a part of an ancient Hindu law. Could it be implemented now? No, it is not possible. There are many such laws that are outdated and cannot be sustained in a civilized society.

I would like to share with you all an interesting story here. In my State some Muslim families in a particular village follow the Hindu law of inheritance, namely, *Marumakatayam,* whereby the sister's son inherits the family property. It is part of a Hindu law. So, law of inheritance, law of succession and laws of marriages are merely personal laws. Why should we bring in those laws here? Is it possible to bring certain aspects of Hindu laws, certain aspects of Muslim laws and certain aspects of Christian laws together? We already have created a lot of apprehension and tension amongst people by demolishing so many things that I need not repeat.

We all are Indians. We stand for a unified India. Please do not try to create a sensation by making further divisions in the society. The aim and intention of bringing this Bill is to enforce the beliefs of the Hindu society on the minorities in the name of personal law. But that is not possible. It has been pointed out by my learned friend, Shri Shivraj Patil that in the United States of America and in the United Kingdom, the Christians are allowed to follow their law in the matter of marriage. The Hindus are allowed to follow their customary beliefs, the Muslims are allowed to follow their laws in matters of marriage and inheritance. Then, what is the difficulty in allowing the Muslims in India to continue with their law of inheritance? They are a part and parcel of our society. They are here in this country for centuries together.

Indian society has a variety of cultures that includes the Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs and the Christians. What is the difficulty in allowing the Hindus, the Muslims, the Sikhs and the Christians to follow their personal laws in matters of inheritance, in matters of succession and in matters of marriage? There is no difficulty in it. They have their own laws, we have our own laws and we follow our respective laws. But the law is administered through a uniform procedure, that is civil procedure and criminal procedure in the law of evidence. But it is uniform. But there is diversity in matters of personal things. So, in the legal parlance and in the application of Indian law, there is uniformity. There is uniform civil code in matter of basic procedure and there is diversity in the matter of administration of personal law. But that would not affect the entire society. We would have to tolerate everybody. We are living in a parliamentary democracy. Tolerance is the essence of parliamentary democracy and we cannot proceed without this.

So, I would like to request my learned friend, Yogi Aditya Nath, in the interest of the nation, to avoid further controversy and tension, especially at this stage and he should not press for this Bill. It would do no good. I can understand if it had done something good. But it will do no good other than creating an atmosphere of apprehension amongst the minority community. That is the purpose for which this Bill has been brought forward.

So, I would request the hon. Member to withdraw his Amendment Bill in the interest of the Indian society and its unity. Let them have their own Personal Law. Let them marry according to their will. We do not accept the position as given in the Amendment Bill. Especially in view of the tensions created in the backdrop of Gujarat elections, we request the hon. Member not to press for his Amendment and withdraw it with the leave of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Constitution Amendment Bill introduced by my colleague Shri Adityanath. Earlier and today also several hon'ble Members have expressed their views on it and Members of Opposition Parties have opined that there is no need of this amendment bill. My personal view is that this amendment is appropriate and in the interest of the country because we all have read Constitution of India. Framers of Constitution had clearly mentioned in Article 44 that there is need of uniform civil code for the citizens of India. However, it was due to vested political interest,

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

politics of votes or by chance that Article 44 could not be made applicable.

I would like to mention one more point on this occasion that in the Article 48 of the constitution, governments were made responsible for the protection of cow-progeny and check cow-slaughter. Constitution was framed in the presence of representatives of Hindu, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians etc. Even the leaders of some political parties sitting in front rows were also there. They understood the need of the country and introduced Article 44 and 48 in the Constitution so that peace and communal harmony could be maintained and country could move fast on the path of development. However, no action has been taken on that till date. Those who want to implement it, are opposed and labelled as communal. As a result of it, there is communal disharmony in the entire country.

I have read Muslim law, Hindu Marriage Act and I.P.C. also. Muslim law prescribes single marriage. Thousands of years ago in a war, a large number of Muslims soldiers lost their lives and their widows were left behind. Some intellectuals of their community reviewed the situation and decided that a married person with the prior permission of his wife, could bring home the widows to take care of their needs despite Shariyat and Islam permits only one marriage. However, in such a situation the dignity and due respect of the first wife would be maintained. But after independence, vested interested led to misinterpret the basic concept.

Just now, I was listening to Shri Shivraj Patil. He mentioned that similar social code exists in Hindu society also. I would like to remind him that I am a Hindu, I am already married and if I marry again, a law suit may be filed against me for maintenance and action under Section 494 would be taken against me under which I would be awarded seven years imprisonment. However, if a Muslim marries more than once, Section 494 would not be applicable to him. This is the difference. If a Hindu marries again he comes under the purview of Section 49 and is liable for seven years imprisonment. But if a Muslim does the same even the section 125 is not applicable to him.

I know. I hail from Madhya Pradesh. Indore is a big city in Madhya Pradesh. Here, a Muslim lady Shah Bano was given divorce by his husband without her willingness and married to some other woman. To get justice Shah Bano filed a case against him under Section 125. Court gave its verdict in her favour. Then the other party moved to the High Court. Again the verdict was in Shah Bano's favour. The other party moved to the Supreme Court. There also the verdict was in her favour. Supreme Court in its verdict stated that under Section 125 of I.P.C. if anyone marries against the wishes of one's spouse, that a person is liable to provide financial assistance as maintenance to the spouse. Court had ordered to give her Rs. 500/- every month as maintenance. But unfortunately, this verdict created commotion's in the Government. I remember, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was Prime Minister at that time. He thought that his party might loose Muslim vote bank on this issue. Therefore, Section 125 was amended from retrospective effect. Generally the amendments are not applicable from the back date. We have witnessed only two such examples. One is when Allahabad High Court disqualified Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi from contesting election and gave verdict to dismiss her because of charges of irregularities and corruption proved against her. To protect her post, she amended the Constitution with retrospective effect that no case can be filed against Prime Minister, President, Vice-President and perhaps Speaker of Lok Sabha also. Second time the amendment from back date was done in Shah Bano case. The then Government deprived her from maintenance which was ordered by the Supreme Court.

A Hindu, if marries against, has to give maintenance but in case of a Muslim, it would be checked whether the person getting married second, third or fourth time is financially competent to give maintenance. In case it is proved that a person is unable to provide maintenance then the financial status of his family would be checked. In case it is proved that none would be able to give maintenance, there is a provision that such maintenance would be given by Wakf Board. I would like to remind you that the money for Wakf Board is collected from the public in the form of taxes. There is a saying "Kare Koi-Bhare Koi".....*

*This is a common saying in my constituency also. Crime is committed by one person and the compensation is provided by Wakf Board. There is no rationale behind this law.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Thawar Chand, I think the word you have used should not be recorded. It is not appropriate to use this word.

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I did not object to many of his statements. But if the House thinks that they

*Not Recorded.

can go on record, let them go on record. Otherwise, this is not the way to deal with the subject.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I said that it is a saying and our ancestors used to say it. If you feel that it is inappropriate, you can expunge it. I agree to it. If you wish, I withdraw my words. I said that just in jest. If it is unparliamentary. I am ready to take back my words.

Who has created such a situation? Such a situation cannot create communal harmony among the Countrymen. Once again, I would like to say that it is the result of Pseudo politics that there is no uniformity in law.

Many hon'ble Members who spoke prior to me have submitted and I too would like to say that people of various Communities live in different countries of the world but there is only one law to deal with crime. When we discuss the matter to check the practice of Polygamy in Muslim society as in Shah Bano case, they give argument that it is the violation of Shariyat and is against Islam. There is a provision in Shariyat and Islam to amputate the hands of a thief and whipping or pelting stones on a rapidest. If any follower of Islam murders some one and the crime is proved against him, he is beaten to death publicly by pelting stones on him in the presence of Government officials and Police. Our argument to those learned persons of Muslim society is that in our country a thief gets the same punishment even if he belongs to muslim society. Is it not against Islam? For this, they give a simple argument that they belong to India and law of this land is applicable to them also. They are ready to accept any decision but politicians do not agree. They say that they are not in power but those who are in power formulate such type of laws and use them as scapegoat. Such are their views. Will you agree if some religious Muslim learned person says that the offenders should be given the punishment as per the Shariyat and Islamic law? I would like to ask Shri Shivraj Patil that he was talking about religious harmony but would he like to bring such a law when Muslims are not in its favour.

Just now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan was referring to the demolition of Babri Masjid. I would like to say that the Muslims are not strictly opposing it, nor are they strictly opposing the construction of Ram Mandir. Only the members of political parties are opposing it but I do not want to name them. They only want to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of the country. Can the unity and integrity of the country be maintained with the respective personal laws and by practicing discrimination? It is good that we all are trying to maintain the peace. What was envisaged during the freedom struggle? Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians all participated together in freedom struggle and faced the wrath of Britishers unitedly.

18.00 hrs.

They sacrificed their lives for the dignity and prestige of the country. Slogans of 'Vande Matram' and 'Bharat Mata Ki Jai' were very popular among them. But how such a situation arose during the 40-50 years of independence that slogans like 'Vande Matram' and 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' became communal when a single party remained in power during this period. How it was labelled for a particular party? Were these slogans not raised by Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru? I remember that the proposal to play Vande Matram here was opposed in this very House. Members were not in favour of playing Vande Matram in the House. They said that National Anthem could be played but not 'Vande Matram' why?

A conference of minority front was organised by BJP in Bhopal in which several people from Muslim society of Madhya Pradesh also participated. While chalking out the programme of the Conference, it was decided to start the programme with 'Vande Matram'. However, some Muslim participants raised objections in this regard. They argued that doing so would create impression among the entire Muslim society that we are reciting Geeta Path. However, we convinced them. Hon'ble Shri Thackeray Ji, a senior leader was Party President in Madhya Pradesh. Shri Arif Baig was also there at that time. He made them understood the real meaning of Vande Matram. He told them that Vande Means namaskar, namastey or Salam a Salutation and Matram means Mother Land. So, it means–'O' Motherland. I salute you. They were told that it was not like reciting Geeta or Ramayana rather it means to salute the Mother land. Thus they were happily convinced. Thereafter, there was no disturbance in the programme. Was it not the responsibility of the then Government to create such type of harmonicus atmosphere? The then Government was instrumental in spreading communalism and creating an atmosphere of disharmony. Consequently to that when such amendment bills are moved in the House, they are opposed...*(Interruptions)* The then Governments failed to fulfil the dreams envisaged by the framers of the Constitution.

Article 48 of the Constitution imposes ban on cow slaughter on the scientific basis that if cow and its progeny

[Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot]

prosper then country will also prosper. However, instead of following this concept, cows are being slaughtered in slaughter houses. Our's is an agriculture based country but it is legging behind in comparison to other countries of the world. There are several Muslim nations in the world and indonesia is One of them. As per my information, out of 39-40 muslim countries of the world, Indonesia has maximum population of Muslims. However, their culture has a great impact of Hindu religion. They have Garud Airlines and Rama Krishna talkies. Such type of things in our country are publicized as communal...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Still there is time. I was saying that this type of environment prevails there. Such an atmosphere can be created here also...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: One more Member has to speak and then hon'ble Minister will also reply. It will take complete one hour.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Population is increasing day by day. To check the population growth, there should be a legislation that a family should not have more than two children. Our neighbouring country China has considerably controlled the population growth rate. We have failed to check the population growth in comparison to China. They have made a law that a family will not have more than one child, and the property of those having more than one child would be attached. Such persons, would be put behind the bars. We have not made such conditions in our country. In India, there is no restriction on the practice of marrying more than once and having many children. This House has to take some steps to check this practice. In every society, there are some fanatics and extremists. We have been checked public representatives and it is our responsibility to make effort to check the wrong practices. I would like to mention one more point. Our ancestors made efforts from time to time to eradicate the evils in Hindu religion and culture. Today it is the responsibility of all of us to make efforts in this direction. Like Shri Kharabela Swain, I can also name some social reformers like Shri Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Raja Ram Mohan Rai who worked to check 'Sati Pratha' in our country. Therefore, on this occasion, I would like to say that this Bill should be passed and efforts should be made to create an atmosphere of religious harmony 'Sarvadharam Sambhav' in the country. I also support the spirit of uniform civil laws in the country.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE (Idukki): Sir, the Private Member's Bill that has been brought about by hon. Member, Shri Aditya Nath to make uniform civil laws in our country, I think, is ill-timed and ill-conceived. As many of our honourable elder Members have pointed out, what is the necessity and urgency in bringing about a law like this, especially at this juncture as well as know the current situation that is prevailing in this country? What message is it going to send to the minorities of this country?

We are having democracy. The essence of democracy, the federal structure, is pluralism and freedom of the individual to profess and practice any faith and any religion that he intends to. My friends from the other side have been citing the practices that are prevailing in various other countries. I would like to remind them that ours is a democratic country. In a democracy like ours with 100 crore people professing various faiths, various cultures, various languages, various traditions, it would not be right and proper to slap a uniform civil code which is going to override all our personal laws which are in existence in our country. If at all there are shortcomings in the personal laws of various communities, those shortcomings have to be addressed to and rectified by those communities themselves instead of the Government coming with a uniform civil code and imposing it on various sections of our country.

Sir, the founding fathers did not mean that a uniform civil code should be adopted compulsorily within a certain period of time. It is very clearly mentioned in the Constitution that we shall endeavour and try to have a uniform civil code. There are several other provisions like this in the Constitution too. The founding fathers also had incorporated in our Constitution that we must have or we shall have a uniform national language within a certain period of time.

Even after fifty-five years of our freedom, we still have not implemented that provision. That is exactly because we respect the sentiments of various sections of people living in various parts of our country. We are yet to adopt a national language. Of course, we have a national language. But we have not imposed it on all States of our country. We still have three-language formula. If we have taken that kind of a liberal approach

on an issue like this, why not adopt the same approach as far as the civil law of this country is concerned? The hon. Member says that this amendment is intended to ensure unity, equality and social justice. As rightly pointed out by Shri Shivraj Patil, if the intention is to bring in unity through uniformity, we that may not happen. If what we want unity in our country, then we should respect the sentiments and traditions of all the sections in our country. Many issues were raised here.

Of late, the hon. Home Minister had declared in this august House that India is never going to be a Hindu Rashtra. That is a correct stand and a right stand. But he was attacked for it. I do not know what he has said. I was not present here at that time. If the hon. Home Minister had taken that kind of a stand that our country is not going to be a theocratic State, then it is a right stand. But even for that he was attacked.

The hon. Member in this Bill says that ours is not a theocratic State. That is right. None of us want that it should be a theocratic State. We want our country to remain as a democracy, respecting individual rights and individual freedom, respecting freedom of the people to profess and practice their faith and letting them live according to the respective personal laws. Probably this House must have debated this issue several times before. This particular issue has been debated in the country several times. But all the time the decision was to keep the respective personal laws intact and to give fair play to the various communities that are there in this country. The decision was always to respect their sentiments and to respect their personal laws. If at all corrective steps are required, let them come from the respective communities, instead of the Government—whichever Government it may be — coming forward with a uniform law. So, that is the practice all over the world in democracies. Since our country is a democracy, and we take pride in saying that ours is a democracy, we should stick to the democratic principles of respecting the sentiments of others and the sentiments of our brethren who belong to various sections and various communities of our country.

So, if this particular amendment is accepted, it will cut at the very roots of the democratic structure of our country. It will go against the secular ethos and secular sentiments that are very highly valued by all sections in this country. So, I would very earnestly request the hon. Member, who is my good friend, to withdraw this Bill. I would request him to stand for democracy, stand for secularism, stand for individual rights and individual freedom.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time fixed for this Bill was upto 6.14 p.m. I would seek the permission of the House to extend the time by half an hour. We will see if we get some spare time.

SEVERAL HON'BLE MEMBERS: All right.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): Sir, may I make a suggestion? If I am not inconveniencing the Chair and the available hon. Members in this House now, I would suggest that it would be better if I am permitted to conclude a portion of my reply in another five minutes. For me, 6.20 p.m. is the outer limit to catch a flight. I can continue it next time, if you permit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can start now and continue later on. I would make it clear that the time is extended by half-an-hour for the Bill and not for the sitting of the House. The House will sit up to 6.20 p.m.

SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been carefully following the arguments that have been advanced by the mover of the Bill as well as by those hon. Members who were opposing the Bill. I was really surprised as to how the question of moving an amendment to the Constitution on the lines of arguments advanced by the mover of the Bill irked others. It is a simple amendment for a civil law. Whether we agree with him or not is entirely a different thing. I can assure this House that ultimately, after whatever I want to place before this House on some of the arguments that have been advanced so far, my conclusion will be to request him to withdraw the Bill.

But, I cannot understand as to how the question of Hindu, Muslim, Christian, etc., has been brought into this argument. He just said that there should be a common civil code. It has not been suddenly sprung up in this House. Fifty years back, as the respected Deputy Leader of the Opposition has stated, this question was alive. They were all wise men. Then, why those wise men chose to include in the Directive Principles' portion that the Government of the day should endeavour to secure a common civil code? Were all those who advanced these arguments against the mover of the Bill not aware of it?

[Shri K. Jana Krishnamurthy]

The very fact that the wise men, namely, the founders and the fathers of our Constitution have chosen to include article 44 in the Directive Principles saying that the State shall endeavour to secure a common civil code goes to show that the framers of the Constitution also wanted that at sometime or the other, the country will have to move towards that and to secure it.

Therefore, when that is the case, I personally feel that the mover of the Bill has tried to get himself motivated with the same spirit and the intention which the Founding Fathers of the Constitution had.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue your speech on this issue on the next date scheduled for it.

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 25th November, 2002 at 11 a.m.

18.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, the 25th November, 2002/Agrahayana 4, 1924 (Saka)

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577

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