

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Thirteenth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Documents Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. PL-025
Block 'G'

(Vol. XXXV contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary-General
Lok Sabha

Dr. P.K. Sandhu
Joint Secretary

Sharda Prasad
Principal Chief Editor

Kiran Sahni
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Manisha Tewari
Assistant Editor

[ORIGINAL ENGLISH PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN ENGLISH VERSION AND ORIGINAL HINDI PROCEEDINGS INCLUDED IN HINDI VERSION
WILL BE TREATED AS AUTHORITATIVE AND NOT THE TRANSLATION THEREOF.]

CONTENTS

[Thirteenth Series, Vol. XXXV, Thirteenth Session, 2003/1925 (Saka)]

No. 5, Friday, July 25, 2003/Sravana 3, 1925 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Questions Nos. 81—86, 89	3—36
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
Starred Question Nos. 87, 88 and 90—100	36—58
Unstarred Question Nos. 731—932	58—276
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	276—291
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	291—294
RE: CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE	
Atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the country	295—300
ADJOURNMENT MOTION	
Re: Reported intrusion of Chinese Army in Arunachal Pradesh.	301—306
MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTS IX AND IX-A OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING WITH PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPALITIES.	
Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake	325—358
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	325
Shri Kashiram Rana	327
MOTION RE: THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS.	
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS—Introduced	
(i) Advocates (Amendment) Bill	
(Omission of Section 16, etc.)	
Shri T.M. Selvaganapathi	358—359
(ii) Working Journalists' and other Non-Journalist Media Employees' Welfare Fund Bill	
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	359
(iii) High Court at Patna (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Bhagalpur) Bill	
Shri Subodh Roy	359—360

*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
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)	
Shri Subodh Roy	360
(v) Protection of Farmers Bill	
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	360—361
(vi) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, (Amendment of the Schedule)	
Shri P.R. Khunte	361
CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL (Amendment of articles 81 and 170)	361—394
Motion to Consider	361
Shri G.M. Banatwalla	362, 389
Shri Kharabela Swain	366—370
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	370—372
Shri Anadi Sahu	372—374
Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab	374—377
Shri Arun Kumar	377—378
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	378—380
Shri Ramdas Athawale	380—382
Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann	382—385
Shri Arun Jaitley	385—389
SLUMS AND JHUGGI-JHOPRI AREAS (BASIC AMENITIES AND CLEARANCE) BILL	394—400
Motion to Consider	397
Shri Ramdas Athawale	394—398
Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh	398—400

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 25, 2003/Sravana 3, 1925 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I made humble request that there should be a discussion on the Statement given by hon. Prime Minister regarding his recent visit to China and other EU countries because an important news item has been published in the newspapers today ...(Interruptions)

[English]

It is published in the "Times of India" that official Chinese Website says: "Sikkim is not a part of India."

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. The Chinese forces had violated the line of control and entered Arunachal Pradesh when the Prime Minister of India was visiting China ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. During Zero Hour, you can raise this issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am getting information from the Government.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, China is not ready to accept Arunachal Pradesh as part of India. It is a very serious issue. When the hon. Prime Minister spoke about the issue of Tibet in the second Lok Sabha ...(Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. It concerns the whole country. What has been told just now shows that we are reverting back to the situation that prevailed in 1953. At that time the nation made a wrong move. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Speaker, Sir, everyday Samajwadi Party raises some serious issue during Question Hour. There is nothing else to do. Question Hour may be commenced.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I am collecting information from the Government. I can make any comment only after receiving some information from the Government.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, our country made a blunder in 1953 and it seems that the same blunder is going to be repeated. We were kids at that time and you might be there when the air was thick with the slogans of 'Hindi-Chini bhai-bhai' and Panchsheel by children. Today the same thing is going to take place now. It is a very serious issue. The hon. Prime Minister visited China and on return he gave a statement that we are not making any changes in our policy regarding Tibet. This statement is extremely misleading. It involves two things—first it was the policy of Nehruji in 1953 and secondly China attacked our country in 1962. What kind of a policy is this. Today there is the news item saying that he surrendered Tibet to China.

MR. SPEAKER: Even I have read this news item. I have sought information from the Government in this regard. You can raise this issue during Zero Hour.

[English]

The point regarding suspension of Question Hour is rejected. Now we will go to Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, China is not ready to accept Sikkim as a part of India, therefore, it is my request that it should be discussed in detail.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

12.02 hrs.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Reserves

†
'81. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) the foreign exchange reserves of the country as on date;

(b) whether India also has huge external debt;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to repay the external debt from the foreign exchange reserves; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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) India's foreign exchange reserves stood at US\$ 83.3 billion on July 11, 2003.

(b) and (c) India's external debt was estimated at US\$ 105 billion at end-December 2002. The country's external debt indicators have progressively improved in terms of both debt-GDP and debt service ratios. In terms of indebtedness classification, the World Bank has categorised India as a less indebted country since 1999.

(d) and (e) The Government has prepaid high-cost foreign currency loans worth US\$ 1342.33 million from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and US\$ 1687.8 million from the World Bank, in February 2003. The Government purchased foreign currency directly from Reserve bank of India at the then prevailing exchange rates. The prepayment was financed through domestic rupee borrowings. The policy of prudently managing the external liabilities and of proactively liquidating the relatively higher cost component of the country's external debt portfolio will continue.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the end of December 2002, India's external debt was estimated at US \$105 billion. Recently, our country prepaid high interest rate bearing loans. Even after prepayment of high interest bearing loans, there are huge external debts which are high interest bearing.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, as to what are the steps proposed to be taken for the repayment of these loans.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have answered this question earlier also. It is for the first time that this Government initiated steps to pre-pay high interest bearing loan. As the hon. Member, and the House knows, for example, last year, we paid US \$ 3 billion plus. We will continue with that process. I do not want to announce as to how much will be paid on a particular date, and to whom. But our commitment to repay high interest bearing debt earlier than schedule, remains. In fact, as the hon. Member, no doubt, has observed, despite the repayment which was advance US\$ 3 billion not even a flutter was felt in the flow of foreign exchange into the country, the total reserves in the country or even on the rupee rate. In fact, the rupee rate appreciated after that. So, we will continue to follow a prudent policy of repayment ahead of time.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister, and the Government. It is because from negative deficit, I think, in the beginning of 2004, we will have foreign exchange reserve of US\$ 100 billion. So, I would like to congratulate the Government. Sir, what I would like to ask the hon. Finance Minister is this. It is said that increasing foreign exchange reserve is resulting into appreciation of Rupee value and it is also observed by the experts that the Rupee may go up to Rs. 40 or something like that. How will it benefit the country for repayment of external debt? It is because I feel that it is going to benefit.

My second question is this. What are the reasons for this increase in foreign exchange due to trade balance?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: In fact there are two or three questions here. One is, what the hon. Member said, namely, speculation about the stock of reserves, say at the beginning of the next year. I would really not

enter into speculation as to what the stock is going to be. But the trend of the reserves, and the accretion to our reserves, is obvious enough and it is a welcome trend. There is no negative factor in that trend.

The second part relates to the exchange rate of the Rupee. Sir, the exchange rate of the Rupee is really a management of the Rupee value by the Reserve Bank of India in consultation with the Ministry of Finance. The exchange rate is market determined. We do not decide in advance as to what the rate is going to be. It is a market-determined rate. The factors that have contributed to the exchange rate are, of course, a low inflation rate, a healthy foreign exchange reserve, plus simultaneously a decline in the dollar value globally. Now, I do not want to speculate further, as the hon. Member said, as to what the figure of the exchange rate is going to be today, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. This is being very well managed by the Reserve Bank of India and I would like to leave it at that. There are many factors. There is an aspect of confidence in India. There is an aspect of combination of, as I said, low inflation rates, appreciating Rupee value and economic climate growth. All these factors contribute to the accretion of the reserves.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: Sir, the purchasing power of Rupee was directly proportionate to the external debts to the tune of about US\$ 105 billion. I saw in newspaper that the Rupee was cut in different sizes. Twenty per cent of this Rupee value is directly proportionate to the external borrowing. Twenty per cent of the Rupee value is directly proportionate to the internal debt and ten per cent of the Rupee value is going to be interest towards external debt. I just want to know whether the valuation of the Rupee is directly proportionate to the to the external and internal debts, the borrowings and the interest rates. What is the value today?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Regarding the value, I have not checked the newspaper report as to what is the parity today, but it has been oscillating between, I think, Rs. 46 and Rs. 46.50 in the last few days. I do not follow the Rupee rate. It is altogether a different question.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is the value of the rupee? It is 9 paise now.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is altogether a different question. We are, now, on foreign exchange reserves.

SHRI P.H. PANDIAN: What is the purchasing power?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: If the hon. Member is talking about the purchasing power or the purchasing power parity status of India, the purchasing power parity status in India, really today is 3rd or 4th in the world. If you really consider the purchasing power parity, then we are really amongst the top two or three countries of the world. Therefore, in that sense, for the hon. Member to suggest that the purchasing power of the Rupee today, as compared to, say, 1947, is low, inevitably it will be lower. We are also so much older than we were 50 years ago. I do not think that is really arising out of this question. But in purchasing power parity India today globally ranks third in the world which is, in fact, a reflection on the strength of India's economy also.

Restrictive Trade Practices by Foreign Countries

*82. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether due to restricted trade practice of some countries, the export of rice from our country has received a setback;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the name of the countries;

(c) the corrective steps taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have taken any counter-measures against those countries who practice Restrictive Trade;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) Do not arise.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Sir, the hon. Minister may kindly be requested to let me know as to how much quantity of rice has been exported during the last two years, and how much is the foreign exchange that has been received by the Indian firms.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as the categorisation of rice is concerned, it is put in two categories-basmati rice and non-basmati rice.

Our export, as far as the non-basmati rice is concerned, has been substantially increasing. For instance, in the year 2001-2002, the total quantity of rice exported was 15.41 lakh billion tonnes. In the next year, it has increased to 40.76 lakh billion tonnes. In terms of value; in terms of Indian Rupees, the figure stood at Rs. 1,331.30 crore two years ago. Last year, it has increased to Rs. 3,634.08 crore.

As far as basmati rice is concerned, the value has more or less remained stagnant in the last few years with a marginal increase or decrease. The figures in terms of Rupee for the last two years has been Rs. 1,842 crore and Rs. 1,729 crore respectively.

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Sir, it is reported that recently, our rice has been rejected in the international market because of our not adopting the export laws. Is it a fact? If it is true, what steps you are going to take for this so that it does not happen in the future?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, since the original question relates to any form of trade restrictions, I would like to clarify that there are no trade restrictions, as such, by any country, as far as the rice is concerned.

However, those, which are within the permissible parameters of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), they relate to certain sanitary and cyto-sanitary measures—which are the health measures—which some countries can impose. Depending upon the quality that we export, some countries may take objection in relation to a particular quality of a particular consignment, and, therefore, take some appropriate action in that regard. Now, if that is taken for consideration, we try and check our quality.

For instance, recently there was action taken on those considerations made by Mexico. We usually get in touch with both our exporter, and also the country to which it is exported to find out whether there is any unfair treatment. If there is something lacking on the part of our exporter itself, some appropriate improvements are carried out by them.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, my question is this. What is the overall agricultural and general export position of our country? What has been the position of import after the removal of qualitative restriction 1½ years back? Do we face trade deficit with regard to trade in agriculture produce and in general also?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, as far as export in general is concerned, two years ago in the EXIM policy, for five years my predecessor, Shri Maran had declared a target for India of occupying 1 per cent of the global trade by the year 2007. We are presently in 2003, and we have already reached a figure of 0.8 per cent. Therefore, the targeted rate of growth each year was 12 per cent.

Now, as against this 12 per cent rate of growth, last year despite the global slow down; despite the hardening of the Rupee in relation to Dollar; despite all these factors—against the projected growth rate of 12 per cent—our exports grew by over 19 per cent. The figure for last year was in excess of \$ 52 billion. This year also we expect that the exports will be reasonably well. Perhaps, we will cross that target, which we have fixed for ourselves. It is anticipated that this 1 per cent target which we had set for ourselves to achieve by the year 2007, we will be able to achieve it a little ahead of 2007 itself.

As far as agriculture is concerned, it is a matter of satisfaction that for the first time in the last few years, our agricultural exports also seem to be improving. As far as import market is concerned, we are still very careful on account of the fragile situation of the large number of our farmers in opening out imports to them. But in terms of export, last year as far as pure agricultural products are concerned, our exports were in excess of Rs. 21,000 crore. In fact, the figure was Rs. 21,185 crore. If we add to this other land grown products like coffee, tea and marine products, the total figure would be in excess of Rs. 31,000 crore last year itself. As far as the balance of trade is concerned, if we take the oil imports, as there is inadequacy of petroleum and oil in this country, and add them, there is still a marginal negative balance of trade as far as we are concerned. But if we keep the oil imports out, our exports are far in excess of our imports. Most of the items which we are importing are not items of consumer interest to India but these are all intermediate products, a large number of which are used for value addition and then for re-export back as far as our country is concerned.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this restrictive trade practice by the advanced and developed countries is a big blow to the export of the Third-world countries. We know that we are engaged in an unequal battle in WTO since GATT. Advanced countries are just ignoring the WTO direction and discipline. They are increasing their export subsidies to their farmers and they are forcing us to decrease our subsidies. In that situation,

for the future of growth of our agricultural export, we have to have a very steep battle with those rich countries.

MR. SPEAKER: Come to the question straight.

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: We have an opportunity before us. The next meeting of the WTO will be in Cancun. In that meeting what are the agenda that they are trying to impose and in that context what will be our proposal to fight back and improve our export in the advanced countries?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised several very relevant questions particularly in regard to the challenges which the developing countries face on account of the stand which has been taken by certain developed countries and this is all the more serious, particularly in the context of agricultural exports, as far as we are concerned.

As far as the barriers are concerned or the restrictive trade practices are concerned, they can relate to fixation of quotas and they can relate to restriction on ports of entry. In the context of rice, I have already said such practices do not exist. What exists are practices in relation to certain health, sanitary and cyto-sanitary measures which we are trying to take up after keeping in mind as to which side is really the improvement required or is it merely a barrier to trade which they are creating.

As far as the general direction of the negotiations is concerned, the hon. Member is very correct in saying that when high level of subsidies are given by developed economies, these high level of subsidies tend to depress and distort the market as far as the rest of the world is concerned. As far as India is concerned, there is absolutely no pressure of any kind on India from any developed country or from the WTO to reduce our subsidies. How much subsidies we can give to our agriculture is really dependent on the capacity of our economy to give those subsidies. For instance, last year the amount of subsidies has increased four times. It is today about Rs. 27,000 crore. It is entirely dependent upon our own capacity. If the capacity increases, we are within the permissible limits. There are subsidies which are permissible, and there are subsidies which are trade distorting. As far as permissible subsidies are concerned, our subsidies of Rs. 27,000 crore are far below the permissible figure.

Therefore, that is not a question as far as we are concerned.

But the hon. Member is right when he says that one of the main challenges that India faces as also some other developing countries face particularly countries with a large agricultural base is how to pressurise them, through the instrument of WTO, to reduce their subsidies. One of the main items in the Cancun meetings is agriculture. There are several items which are going to be discussed, but agriculture certainly is going to be one of the principal items which is going to be discussed there. I do intend to discuss this issue separately with the important political parties before the Cancun meeting because the country as such has a consolidated stand and our pressure on the developed world has been in fact to reduce the quantum of subsidies which will directly have an impact on pricing, as far as our economies are concerned.

Confiscated Goods

*83. SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether seized and confiscated goods by customs worth several crores were pending disposal upto March, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the Customs Department only disposed goods to the extent of 32 per cent of total goods seized during 1998-2001;

(c) if so, the reasons for such low disposal of goods;

(d) the amount spent by the Government in storage, maintenance and security of this stockpile upto 2002; and

(e) the steps envisaged to dispose of this huge stock of confiscated goods?

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) As on 31.3.2001, the total stock of seized/confiscated goods stood at Rs. 1185.07 crores;

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Reasons for slow disposal of goods include time taken in investigation of the case, followed by issue of show cause notice, completion of adjudication and appellate proceedings as well as the verdict of Courts in cases where prosecution is launched;

(d) In the five year period April, 1998 to March, 2003, an amount of Rs. 12.48 crores was spent.

(e) Confiscated goods are disposed of by Commissionerates through periodic auctions, direct sale to cooperative societies and through retail sales to the public.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: In the answer given by the hon. Finance Minister, he admitted that a stupendous amount of Rs. 1185.07 crore lies blocked in the form of confiscated goods, up to March 2001. To make matters worse, storage and security, etc. for these goods cost the taxpayer, an amount of Rs. 12.48 crore during the five-year period from 1998 to 2003. In order to save the nation this huge and unnecessary loss, what specific steps are being envisaged to expedite the issue of show-cause notice and to ensure completion of adjudication and appeal proceedings, since the hon. Minister quoted these two as the main reasons for delay in his answer? It should be done within a specified and set time to enable quick disposal of this huge stockpiles.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I think, I need to explain to the hon. Member that this figure of the cost of storage, which is for a five-year period, works to an average of roughly about Rs. 3 and odd crore per annum. But that point is also true and I would quite share the sentiments of the hon. Member, that we need to speed up the whole process by which confiscated goods, confiscated by the Customs Department are disposed of.

Firstly, there are one or two things that need to be understood clearly. One is that we cannot dispose of goods confiscated by the Customs Department until and unless the total legal proceedings like appeals, etc. by the importer are fully settled. That, I think, is the principal reason behind the delay that is taking place. Is there a delay? Yes, there is a delay. Is it needed to be shortened? Yes, of course it is needed to be shortened.

The hon. Member wanted to know, amongst others, the specific steps that the Government has taken. As the hon. Member, no doubt, has recognised, we have already—and this is not just an announcement in the Budget—said that we have moved to a system of green channel. We have also moved to a system of self-assessment. It is only a small percentage of the goods that are scrutinised and checked. But in addition to this, for expeditious disposal, the steps include constant monitoring of the goods that are lying in stock of the Customs Department. Then, we are moving almost on a daily basis, towards a more rapid settlement of adjudication and appeal proceedings.

The Government, the Ministry of Finance particularly, as also the Board of Excise and Customs constantly monitor the prosecution of cases which are mainly dependent on the courts. The Chief Commissioners, periodically in their monitoring meetings, are required to review the disposal of goods as well as other key areas of appeals and prosecution. Similarly for zonal members and the Commissionerates, targets of disposal are given.

Having said that, I recognise the thrust of the hon. Member's question. We need to move much faster in this regard. Some of the items, of course, are quickly disposed of, like those that are perishable but some take very long period of time but only because of the extremely litigious nature of our citizens and of the entire proceedings.

SHRI CHANDRA VIJAY SINGH: Does this figure of Rs. 1185 crores and odd include the value of Rs. 700 crores of plant and machinery of Essar Oil Limited that was seized by DRI at Ahmedabad and that of Rs. 232 crores being the value of two aircraft which have been seized by the Customs?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: These relate to specific commercial concerns. I would much rather not reduce the question to responding that the items have been imported by commercial concern 'a' or 'b'. However, as the hon. Member is very keen to obtain a reply to this, I shall have it sent to him separately.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, two points have emerged from the reply of hon. Minister. Disposal of seized goods worth crores of rupees is delayed due to delay in legal proceedings. Through you, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any assessment has been made as to the amount of goods seized every year and the number of cases where disposal of goods is needed. Since legal procedure is the main reason for delay so whether the Government have any proposal to set up special courts or fast track courts to speed up the legal procedure and after clearing the backlog depute a certain number of adjudicating officers who will deal with such incidents during the course of the year and every year the matter should be disposed off. Whether the Government are contemplating any such move or whether the Government have considered any measures to speed up the legal proceedings?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, mainly there are two aspects of the hon. Member's Question—first one is related to the legal procedure and secondly whether the proportion of goods seized every year remains the same or is there some change in it. I will give few example for the items that are seized. For example, in 2001 gold worth Rs. 186 lakhs was seized and in 2002 and 2003 seized gold amounted to Rs. 19854 lakhs and Rs. 19534 lakhs respectively. I am giving an example in which I am including gold, silver, diamond, precious stones, fake currency, arms and ammunition which is not seized. For the last four years totally there are no explosives, the NDPC is regarding drugs. Drugs are seized in big amounts. Mobile phones and computer and its parts are seized. These are the items that are seized and they are disposable ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Would the hon. Minister be pleased to state the approximate amount of goods that comes every year on an average and are seized and the number of cases that are registered. Whether the Government are considering any steps to evolve a special legal procedure to solve the cases and dispose off the goods fast and expeditiously and ensure that there is no delay. The steps the Government is considering for the same.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You want to know the approximate amount and I have given the details. In 2002 it was Rs. 1214 crore and in March, 2003, it was Rs. 1306 crore. The average of such goods is same amounting to around Rs. 1100 to 1300 crores. It is very difficult to say anything about the average extent of delay in the procedure. As the hon. Members may know that certain goods are seized in Mumbai and goods belonging to individuals hailing from Chennai then after the initial procedure, the case may be taken to Mumbai High Court of Chennai High Court or it can go to Delhi High Court and it can go to Gujarat High Court etc. It has been our experience which is shared by the hon. Members that at times different High Courts give different rulings which creates problems for the department to coordinate.

For this, we have recently announced the constitution of a National Tax Tribunal. That National Tax Tribunal will function for the expeditious settlement of such tax cases all over the country. I hope that by the month of

October this National Tax Tribunal will start functioning and in my view we will very soon start getting its good result. The cases of customs would also be heard. ...(*Interruptions*)

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, three types of goods are seized by the Custom—goods smuggled through the ports, through air and through land routes. It is seen that alongwith the smuggled goods which are seized by the land custom and mobile custom the vehicles are also seized. Those vehicles consist of trucks, buses and cars which are definitely indigenously manufactured. We notice that whenever you auction them, the bus of Rs. Five lakhs is auctioned either in Rs. 50 thousand, 75 or 80 thousand. The employees of the Department of Customs take away several types of spare parts from these goods. Similarly, the employees make widespread misappropriation in respect of the goods seized by them. Through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the government will develop any mechanism to release the vehicles seized by the land custom and mobile custom after getting security deposited for them? Secondly, I would like to know in this context, as hon'ble Chaturvediji asked just now as to how much goods are being smuggled in and how much is being seized? I just want to give you an example of a mobile telephones. A large number of mobile telephones are available in the Indian market. Have you made any assessment that how many people have got mobiles and out of them how many have been imported legally and how many came through illegal route. If these smuggled goods are making an illegal entry, then have you taken any measure to prevent it.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are three aspects of the question of the hon'ble member. First is about the seized goods that are auctioned. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Today multi-dimensional questions are being put before you.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes Sir, there is no problem. I will try to answer all the aspects of your question. The auctions are not properly carried out. This is my responsibility and I am sorry to accept this fact but personally I agree with you.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: I would like to make it clear that it was my submission that their vehicles turn out to be so much out of order ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the hon'ble Minister complete his reply.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I would just come to the question of vehicles. The hon'ble Member wanted to know whether this system of auctioning is satisfactory. I would like to tell you that it is not satisfactory. Many times we see that this is also one of the reason. Seized goods by the custom are auctioned only after completion of all the legal procedures. It has been felt that at times the reserved prices for auctioning are not accrued. That does not accrue because there a cartel of five-seven people. How can I claim here that the staff of my Ministry are honest and they do nothing about this cartel. This is a matter of concern for me. We are trying to improve the situation.

The second question you asked was about the motor vehicles coming through the land route. Most of the motor vehicles come through the land route from Nepal. Earlier they used to come from Pakistan etc. also. When the route of Pakistan will be opened then they would start coming from there. It is your opinion that the cases of the motor vehicles coming from Nepal and those which are being seized should be settled at that time itself. If you have to take fines to take fees then take it and release the vehicles then and there. Your suggestion is good. We will consider this suggestion. Now-a-days motor vehicles in India are more than enough ...*(Interruptions)*. We would change our view if four-five such motor vehicles are to be sold out. I agree with it and we would see that in which manner this issue could be considered.

There is also a third aspect of your question which was about the mobile telephones. This is a fact that now-a-days mobile telephones are in abundance everywhere like the insects in the rainy season. ...*(Interruptions)* This is mobile. How can I claim that all the mobiles coming in India have come through the authorised route and I would not be able to contend that some of them have not been smuggled in ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I think that this much reply would be enough.

Fast Track Courts

*84. ⁺SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI KAMAL NATH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government have approached the 12th Finance Commission for setting up an additional 15000 fast track courts to dispose of the huge backlog of cases;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Fast Track Court opened during each of the last three years; State-wise;

(d) the number of cases disposed of by these courts during the above period, State-wise;

(e) whether the Fast Track Courts are not functioning in some States; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Government have approached the 12th Finance Commission for setting up an additional 1500 Fast Track Courts of Magistrates for dealing with non-sessions cases and other crimes.

(c) and (d) The Fast Track Courts were to start functioning from April 2001, but some states started late. Statements showing the number of Fast Track Courts opened and made functional during each of the last three years, and the number of cases disposed of by these courts, are enclosed at Annexures I and II.

(e) and (f) As per the information available, the Fast Track Courts are not functioning in the states of Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim. In respect of the state of Himachal Pradesh, due to low pendency of cases, the state Government was not in favour of establishing Fast Track Courts, but recently it has notified two Fast Track Courts. In respect of the state of Sikkim, no Fast Track Court has been established on account of low pendency of cases in the subordinate courts.

Annexure-I*Number of Fast Track Courts set up in the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	From 1.4.2001 to 31.12.2001	From 1.1.2002 to 30.11.2002	From 1.12.2002 to 30.6.2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22	24	2
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3	0	0
3.	Assam	15	0	5
4.	Bihar	37	73	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	11	12	8
6.	Goa	1	0	0
7.	Gujarat	36	0	25
8.	Haryana	5	1	0
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	9*	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	20	55	1
12.	Karnataka	8	2	25
13.	Kerala	1	21	5
14.	Madhya Pradesh	30	10	0
15.	Maharashtra	103	0	0
16.	Manipur	2	0	0
17.	Meghalaya	0	2	0
18.	Mizoram	0	3	0
19.	Nagaland	0	0	2
20.	Orissa	17	9	0
21.	Punjab	7	0	9
22.	Rajasthan	40	43	0
23.	Sikkim	0	0	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	30	19	0
25.	Tripura	2	1	0
26.	Uttaranchal	30	2	9
27.	Uttar Pradesh	150	56	0
28.	West Bengal	13	12	29
Total		592	345	120

*The Government of J&K has set up an additional 31 FTCs out of their own resources.

Annexure-II*Number of cases disposed by the Fast Track Courts during the last three years*

Sl. No.	Name of the State	From 1.4.2001 to 31.12.2001	From 1.1.2002 to 30.11.2002	From 1.12.2002 to 30.6.2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1731	4770	N.A
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	N.A	4	50
3.	Assam	N.A.	1054	2785
4.	Bihar	N.A.	3110	N.A
5.	Chhattisgarh	523	455	N.A
6.	Goa	N.A	N.A	N.A
7.	Gujarat	N.A	175	8596
8.	Haryana	N.A	448	N.A
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	N.A
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	2100	8500	5649
11.	Jharkhand	N.A	200	5110
12.	Karnataka	N.A	572	N.A
13.	Kerala	N.A	836	N.A
14.	Madhya Pradesh	N.A	4123	N.A
15.	Maharashtra	N.A	18393	9148
16.	Manipur	N.A	136	N.A
17.	Meghalaya	0	N.A	N.A
18.	Mizoram	0	N.A	8
19.	Nagaland	0	N.A	N.A
20.	Orissa	N.A	7286	N.A
21.	Punjab	N.A	232	N.A
22.	Rajasthan	1880	5506	N.A
23.	Sikkim	0	0	N.A
24.	Tamil Nadu	N.A	6158	28831
25.	Tripura	N.A	196	N.A
26.	Uttaranchal	5289	2511	10150
27.	Uttar Pradesh	N.A	10788	578
28.	West Bengal	40	427	2139
Total		11563	75880	73044

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister about the average time being taken in the disposal of cases i.e. the time being taken in their disposal and the percentage of cases which have been disposed of.

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, an average of about 40 cases have been disposed of by the Fast Track Courts. within a month, on an average, they are able to finish 40 cases.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the steps being taken by the government to increase the utility and popularity of the Fast Track Courts that have been set up because most of the people have no knowledge that such courts have been set up at various places. I would like to know about the measures being taken by the government in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: In fact, pending cases are being transferred to the Fast Track Courts. Those cases, the sessions cases, which are two years old, those cases where the under-trials are there in custody for quite a long time, are being transferred. Of course, by way of review meetings that are being conducted and by way of publicity, the fast Track Courts' name become popular. It is a fact that many of the states have taken it very seriously, though in some States it has to come up a little more. Anyway, wide publicity is also being given.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, those who have retired from the judicial services have been posted in the Fast Track Courts that have been constituted. Now-a-days incidents of diverse types are being talked about associating the people holding high posts of judiciary. I do not want to take the name of anyone, nor do I intend to mention any incident regarding subordinate courts. The hon'ble Law Minister has been a renowned lawyer of the Supreme Court, I do not want to comment on whether he knows or not about the incidents taking place in the lower courts.

Where the officers of the judiciary sit, the Peshkar also remains sitting and presents the case directly. In

that position some of the persons amongst them who are retired have been entrusted with the responsibility to decide the fate of these people by you and this government. Through you, I want to know from the government that if you are keen to settle the increasing number of cases why don't you dispose of the cases by recruiting more and more magistrates. How much can you rely for justice on the retired judges.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by Shri Prabhunath Singh is very important and draws our concern. At the time of constituting Fast Track Courts options were given to them that the retired Judicial Officers can be taken and those who are at the magistrate level can also be taken after promoting them on ad-hoc basis. Or they can also take some lawyers as well. But in the beginning mostly the retired persons were appointed. Thereafter, the issue was moved to the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court in its verdict stated that the first chance should not be given to the retired persons rather the opportunity should be given to the in-service people by way of promotion on ad-hoc basis. Now, these appointments are being made from the in-service personnel only.

So far as the second aspect of this question is concerned, the number of personnel working in the lower courts, subordinate courts of the judiciary needs to be increased. When it comes to add to their strength, this falls within the jurisdiction of the state and the states generally face the problem of scarcity of resources. The Supreme Court has ordered to double the strength in the next few years. It is perhaps due to lack of resources that many states have shown their inability to follow suit. But, in almost every state, this number needs to be increased. With a view to assist the State Governments, Central Government is bearing the expenditure of these 1700 courts and we have again written to the Finance Commission that on these pattern 1500 more Fast Track Courts at the magisterial level might be set up and expenditure involved therein may also be borne by the Central Government. This will increase their strength.

[*English*]

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: It is very well appreciated that the Government has taken measures to dispose the,

large pendency of cases and this would definitely come to the help of the under-trials who have been in jails for quite a long time. But, from the answer given here, especially in Annexure-I attached to the statement, it is not very clear as to how many courts are allotted to each State and whether the State Governments have been lagging behind in establishing the courts in time.

My specific question is, what is the criterion followed in allotting the number of fast track courts and the funding pattern for the establishment of those courts.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: It depends upon various aspects like the pendency of cases and the total number of cases which are coming to courts. These are the matters which are mainly considered in allotting the number of fast track courts. Many of the States have started the courts well in time. The scheme was started as early as on 1.4.2001 and it is seen that the scheme is working quite well. Some of the States have found difficulty in putting up courts. They have brought forward some practical difficulties.

If the hon. Member is interested in knowing about Kerala, I would say that in Kerala 38 courts have been sanctioned and the number of courts started is 27. There was a review meeting taken in Kerala in which we said that if the Kerala Government and the Kerala High Court are ready, they can start all the 38 courts as money has been given for all the 38 courts. Unfortunately, they said that because of lack of pendency of cases and also because some of the Sessions' cases are over, the necessity for more courts may not be there.

But then I also found that there was another thinking that, out of 38 courts, 27 courts which were already established will be enough, if the whole money can be utilised for all the 27 courts. But the scheme is not like that. The scheme is, the whole money should be given for all the 38 courts. The Government of Kerala cannot take it that these 27 courts can be established and the whole money meant for 38 courts can be utilised for them. In other States, it is found that there are some practical difficulties which they say like finding judges on time and finding places where the courts are to be set up. I hope your main question is answered.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: In the case of setting up of Fast Track Courts, as in many other matters,

the Government has always ignored the Union Territories while the Union Territories are the primary charge of the Government of India. I would like to now from the hon. Minister as to why it is so and whether he is contemplating setting up of such Courts in the Union Territories also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: For the Union Territories, it was originally envisaged. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN S. DELKAR: How about Dadar and Nagar Haveli? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Yes. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He may be your friend. But you cannot reply to him directly.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: You are giving some assistance to the States. Why are you not doing so for the UTs as well?

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Shri Bansal will be happy to know that the Government of India has allotted Rs. 6.09 crore for starting Fast Track Courts in Chandigarh and Delhi. I think Dadra and Nagar Haveli would be considered soon.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Sir, justice delayed is justice denied. For so many years, cases are pending at various stages. I am appreciating the Government of India for starting Fast Track Courts. So far, we have started 1057 Courts and last year, they have disposed of about 1,60,400 cases. It has received good appreciation everywhere. But what are the offences being tried by the Fast Track Courts? Is there any timeframe fixed for disposing of the cases? In the normal courts, it will take 10-20 years to dispose of the cases as there is no time frame fixed. If there is a timeframe fixed, there will be no pendency. Regular courts have no timeframe. So, have you fixed any timeframe for these Fast Track Courts for disposal of the cases and what are the offences dealt with by such Courts?

Most of the cases are at the primary level. That is why, we are establishing these Fast Track Courts at the district level headed by Additional District Judges and Session Judges. But at the sub-judges and Magistrates level, lakhs of cases are pending throughout the country. Now, the proposal would be given to the Twelfth Finance Commission as and when it would be appointed. If these Fast Track Courts would be established at various levels,

everybody would be happy so that justice will not be delayed and justice will not be denied. If you want to give justice to innocent people, we have to establish such courts everywhere and dispose of the cases as early as possible.

MR. SPEAKER: The supplementary is becoming longer than the reply.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The hon. Member has asked a very important question. Let me just clarify the position.

These 1,60,487 cases that they have disposed of during the last three years is not the complete figure. This figure, as per the Annexure-II, is received by the Central Government from the States. There are at least several States which, for the last two to three years, have not given us the figure. This is the received figure and this received figure is against about 55 per cent of the entries. So, there are 45 per cent of the entries from various States for which we have not received the figure. This figure would be far in excess and anything between 2.5 and 3 lakhs which have been disposed of by the courts.

Now, the cases which we transferred to the courts, at the first instance, were of two categories. We have transferred to these Courts all cases of high crime which were to be tried by the Session Courts, which were more than two years old and evidence was disappearing. The second category was where the accused did not get bail, he was in judicial custody and had been in jail for more than a year. We told to transfer all these cases to give them the first right. As far as these two category of cases are concerned, there are about 3,96,000 cases which should have been disposed of by now. We are somewhat trailing behind. But reasonably good work has been done and the pressure has now gone down.

As far as the number of courts are concerned, which is 1057 now, 300 odd more courts have been notified and 400 more courts remain to be notified. We have, this month, written to all the State Governments and Chief Justices to transfer two more categories of cases to these courts. The first is that all civil cases relating to senior citizens, where either the plaintiff or the defendant is more than sixty years old, need not wait in the queue as far as normal courts are concerned. The second is that all cases of harassment and sexual assault, as far as women are concerned, should be transferred to these courts to be given a priority.

Sericulture Development Projects

*85. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR:
SHRI R.S. PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the States where sericulture development projects have been launched during last three years both with external and internal assistance, project-wise;

(b) the funds released to those States during last three years for launching those projects, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) to what extent the funds have been utilized by the States;

(d) whether the Union Government have signed recently any agreement with any country for launching more of such projects in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) Sericulture Development Projects have been taken up in the last three years with plan funds and external assistance in 27 States. The State-wise and year-wise list giving funds released under different schemes and their utilization is appended.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government of India has signed an agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for implementation of 3rd Phase of the bivoltine sericulture project namely 'Project for Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture' in August, 2002 for a period of five 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:-

1. Establishing a System of Mass production of Quality Seeds.
2. Strengthening Training System for Staff of Departments of States and Farmers.
3. Establishing an Extension Model for Spread of Bivoltine Sericulture.

Annexure

Rs. in lakhs.

Project	State	Funds Released during				Funds Utilised
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A. Catalytic Development Programme	Karnataka	291.65	650.51	875.38	1817.54	1817.54
	Tamil Nadu	85.14	132.28	62.32	279.74	279.74
	Jammu & Kashmir	37.94	71.9	225.14	334.98	334.98
	Andhra Pradesh	170.5	350.53	1425.86	1946.89	1946.89
	West Bengal	55.05	101.92	65.41	222.38	222.38
	Maharashtra	65.26	67.73	92.22	225.21	225.21
	Madhya Pradesh	34.7	31.57	52.59	118.86	118.86
	Bihar	23.36	7.00	106.27	136.63	136.63
	Jharkhand	—	8.09	103.35	111.44	111.44
	Uttar Pradesh	53.57	52.03	22.86	128.46	128.46
	Uttaranchal	—	22.72	210.41	233.13	233.13
	Kerala	25.14	19.23	38.05	82.42	82.42
	Gujarat	—	0.05	—	0.05	0.05
	Punjab	1.26	3.5	—	4.76	4.76
	Himachal Pradesh	27.44	—	1.45	28.89	28.89
	Chhattisgarh	—	—	12.13	12.13	12.13
	Sikkim	5.65	3.25	15.48	24.38	24.38
	Assam	206.03	164.87	119.03	489.93	489.93
	Arunachal Pradesh	11.25	12.03	2.67	25.95	25.95
	Manipur	0.07	—	—	0.07	0.07
	Meghalaya	13.87	72.98	33.11	119.96	119.96
	Mizoram	12.9	39.27	84.49	136.66	136.66
	Nagaland	10.32	22.82	2.49	35.63	35.63
	Tripura	31.29	45.42	36.56	113.27	113.27
	Total for CDP	1169.99	1928.44	3637.89	6736.32	6736.32
B. SGSY Projects						
1. SGSY Project For Development of Muga, Eri Culture & Mulberry Sericulture	Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland & Mizoram	—	—	—	1106.94	988.15

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
C. Externally Aided Projects							
1. UNDP assisted	1.	Andhra Pradesh	29.884	18.470	10.810	59.164	59.164
Sub-Programme	2.	Assam	162.687	62.139	63.137	287.963	287.963
on Development	3.	Chhattisgarh	17.340	33.151	22.025	72.516	72.516
of Non-Mulberry	4.	Bihar/Jharkhand	55.255	43.704	42.943	141.902	141.902
Silks	5.	Meghalaya	31.050	23.578	8.681	63.309	63.309
	6.	Nagaland	12.068	5.588	8.552	26.208	26.208
	7.	Orissa	66.162	37.643	15.606	119.411	119.411
	8.	Uttaranchal	0.00	25.863	68.307	94.17	94.17
	9.	West Bengal	58.425	62.926	30.130	151.481	151.481
2. SERI-2000	1.	Andhra Pradesh	—	77.670	89.560	167.230	146.000
	2.	Karnataka	—	215.860	34.340	250.200	204.960
	3.	Tamil Nadu	47.430	—	98.250	145.680	142.074
	4.	West Bengal	32.900	52.980	17.400	103.280	104.390
3. Project for Strengthening Extension System for Bivoltine Sericulture	1.	Andhra Pradesh	Under this project only technical assistance is being provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan.				
	2.	Karnataka					
	3.	Tamil Nadu					
4. Chhattisgarh Sericulture Project		Chhattisgarh	2848.00	905.00	513.00	4266.00	1332.00
5. Manipur Sericulture Project		Manipur	—	—	—	—	—

[English]

Sale of Surplus Land of NTC

*89. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Asset Sale Committee of National Textiles Corporation has given permission for sale of surplus lands of its subsidiaries;

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

(c) the details of the pending requests for sale of surplus land of closed NTC mills;

(d) the time by which the pending requests will be examined by the ASC for final decision;

(e) the manner in which the amount obtained from the sale of surplus land will be utilized; and

(f) the action taken by the Government to obtain approval from the States which have refused the sale of surplus land?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Assets Sales Committees constituted by BIFR for sale of surplus assets of NTC have so far

given permission for sale of 18 parcels of land details of which are enclosed.

(c) and (d) There are no pending requests with Asset Sale Committees for sale of assets.

(e) The proceeds from the sale of surplus assets are to be utilized for implementing the Rehabilitation Schemes of NTC as approved by BIFR.

(f) No State Government has refused permission for sale of assets.

Annexure

Details of surplus land sold by NTC on the recommendations of Assets Sales Committees

S.No.	Name of the State	Area of land sold (In acres)	Price at which sold (Rs. Crs.)
1.	Punjab	1.33	1.61
2.	Rajasthan	7.83	1.95
3.	Uttar Pradesh	16.72	16.47
4.	Maharashtra	43.67	13.15
5.	Tamil Nadu	3.63	0.69
6.	Pondicherry	10.37	12.66
7.	Kerala	5.35	0.88
8.	Karnataka	13.59	61.34
Total		102.49	108.7

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, can I take Question No. 89 along with this?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Yes.

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Is it a fact that in spite of the increased allocation of funds to the States, the funds have not been utilised by some of the States because the Ministry is not reaching the funds on time. It is because of this fact that several amounts have lapsed. Is it so? If so, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what he would do to redress this situation.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, especially several schemes of Sericulture are run by

the Central Government. In reply to his question I am to say that it is being done with external assistance in 27 States and the States which have not utilized this money and send their projects then we ourselves pursue that and see that it is utilized in full.

[English]

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Sir, my second supplementary question is that, I would like to have some clarifications on certain aspects following the agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency for strengthening extension system for Bivoltine Sericulture, which is stated in the reply.

The Government has signed certain agreement on certain aspects relating to establishing a system of mass production of quality seeds; strengthening training system for staff of Departments of States and farmers; establishing an extension model for spread of Bivoltine sericulture.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what action has been taken in establishing and seeing that these aspects that were signed for, are implemented at various states. I would also like to know what would be the extent of quality and quantity of seeds that is likely to be produced in various States. I would also like to know what the Government proposes to do in the states in respect of training of staff etc., that have been planned under the agreement.

[Translation]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand of Silk in our country is around 25000 tonnes and our production is around 17351 tonnes. We need nearly 7000 tonnes more. Since our Silk is not of very good quality, assistance was sought from various other countries especially through Japan International Cooperation Agency and the project was executed for a period of five years from 1991 to 1997 and subsequently, it was again launched from 1997 to 2001 and it is still continuing in 2002. For that purpose the Bivoltine sericulture technology was in the States of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the third phase of the project has been sanctioned from 2002 for a period of five years and through which the quality of Silk is being improved alongwith increasing its production since 73 per cent Silk production of the world is contributed by China and after China India is the next main second producer in the world. 18.5 per cent of Silk is produced in India and the rest 7.9 per cent is produced in the countries like Brazil, Japan and South Korea. Thus, India

and China are the main players in Silk production. Thereafter, we are improving the quality of Silk with the cooperation of Japan so that it could also be used in power-loom. In Karnataka it is being put to maximum use.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale's supplementary question is in respect of Question No. 89. He is putting the question because Shri Mohan Rawale is not in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, out of the NTC mills which were in the list of BIFR for selling the assets, permission was accorded by it for selling 18 land parcels. In the annexure of the reply it has been stated that the total area of land is 102.49 acres and its price has been stated to be at Rs. 108.75 crores out of that 43.67 acre of land falls in Maharashtra and its price has been stated to be at Rs. 13.15 crores. I would like to ask the Minister as to why this land has been sold for such a meagre amount?

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: There are 119 mills of N.T.C. I have replied in detail about it. We have formulated a plan to commission 53 mills out of those 119 mills. I have also stated in my reply that decisions have been taken on all the recommendations which have been received by us and now no demand is lying pending with us. In the states of Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry we have recovered the cost by selling the assets worth around Rs. 108 crores. So far as question of other mills is concerned, our exercise is already on and a decision will be taken shortly.

[English]

Separate Enquiry Commission

*86. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the scandals involving some judges/judicial officers of High Courts/District Courts and Session Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up several committees to look into charges levelled against them;

(d) if so, the findings of the Committee;

(e) the action initiated against these judicial officers;

(f) whether the Government propose to constitute a separate Enquiry Commission to look into the charges levelled against each of them; and

(g) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes Sir. Allegations of deviant behaviour involving acts of corruption and moral turpitude against some Judges of High Courts and some members of Judicial Service of the States have come to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e) The Chief Justice of a High Court has the competence to receive complaints against the conduct of a Judge of his Court, and, when he receives any, he would look into it whether the allegations deserve to be closely looked into. In some recent cases, the Chief Justice of India set up inquiry committees under in-house procedure to deal with cases of deviant behaviour of Judges. As regards, the members of Judicial Service of a State, the administrative control, under article 235 of the Constitution of India, vests in the High Court of that State. Under the circumstances, the Government has no Constitutional competence to set up any Committee to look into allegations levelled against Judges of High Courts, and members of Judicial Service of a State.

(f) and (g) As the Judges Inquiry Act, 1968 specifies the procedure to deal with misdemeanour of Judges of Supreme Court/High Courts, the Government has no proposal to appoint any commission to enquire into the charges levelled against Judges of High Courts/members of Judicial Service of State. However, the Constitution (Ninety-Eighth Amendment) Bill, 2003 proposes to vest the power of inquiry into cases of misconduct or such deviant behaviour of a Judge, other than those calling for his removal, in the National Judicial Commission. The Bill has already been introduced in the Parliament.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, we ask questions and the Government replies to them. In case something is left, a supplementary question is asked. It seems, that Honourable Minister is trying to conceal reply of the main question. Why he should not be charged for suppression of facts. He claims that law is more intelligent in English, we do not think so.

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask your question.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If we look at the question.

[English]

(a) "Whether the Government are aware of the scandals involving some judges/judicial officers of High Courts/District Courts and Session Courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof.'

[Translation]

We have demanded 'the details thereof' in part 'b' of the question. He has stated that some judges and some members of State Judicial Services are involved in deviant behaviour and moral turpitude. Some cases have come to the notice of the Government. We are asking the details thereof and in reply he is saying that some information have come to our knowledge. We should be told why he wanted to conceal the facts. Samit Mukherjee who was arrested was his junior. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not proper.

[Translation]

You ask question as to why details were not furnished and Hon'ble Minister will reply to it.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Which things have come into the cognizance of the Government in this particular details thereof? The Judiciary, like the Legislature, the Executive and the Journalism, is also a pillar of democracy. If there is any scam in the first three we demand enquiry by a Judge or by a Judge of the Supreme Court. I would like to know why 'the details thereof' have not been furnished, what are these details?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, till date I have not been fortunate enough to see any of my juniors assuming the office of the Judge. Insofar as details are concerned, whenever a complaint is received against a member, disciplinary action is taken. There are two aspects involved therein. As far as the question of subordinate Judiciary goes, that information is not furnished to the Government under the Constitution. If any complaint is forwarded to the Government, then too, the information is forwarded to the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned. The disciplinary action whatsoever is taken by the High Court and the State Government is apprised of the action taken by the High Court.

12.00 hrs.

As far as the action taken against the Judges of the High Court and those of Supreme Court is concerned, unless it involves action for impeachment and Government owes a responsibility to that effect or somebody resigns and after resumption it comes before Government for notification, besides that the constitutional arrangement so far against the judiciary has been that the disciplinary action and details thereof falls under the jurisdiction of the Judiciary itself. Thus, it comes to our knowledge only when some complaint is received as we just forward the same. No enquiry is forwarded to us for disciplinary action. That is why we do not have the details thereof.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

FDI in Insurance Sector

*87. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to hike the limit of FDI in insurance sector;

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

(c) its impact on insurance sector;

(d) whether industry is asking for comprehensive changes in the regulation before hiking the FDI limit; and

(e) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana'

*88. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are implementing a 'Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana' (AHVY) for the development of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Non-Government Organisations to which the funds were released under the aforesaid scheme during the last two years; and

(e) the manner in which funds were utilized by these organisations?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scheme envisages a package of support to clusters of handicraft artisans and seeks to organize artisans into Self Help Groups (SHGs)/Cooperatives with a view to enabling them to take up handicraft related economic activity for sustainable development through a participatory mode.

The scheme provides for following four types of interventions:

- **Social Interventions:** Diagnostic Survey, formulation of Project Plan & Community Empowerment-Mobilization of Artisans.
- **Technological Interventions:** Assistance for training the trainers, financial assistance for development & supply/dissemination of modern improved tools, equipments, products and process technologies, assistance for Design & Technological Upgradation, Design and Technical Development Workshops, Integrated Design and Technical Development Projects, Documentation, preservation and revival of old rare and

languishing craft, training for handicrafts other than carpets, training for Carpets, Common Facility Centres.

- **Marketing Interventions:** Organizing Exhibitions, Crafts Bazaars & Setting up of Handicrafts Emporia & Publicity.
- **Financial Interventions:** Margin Money for Working Capital.

(c) Funds were released to 218 NGOs during the last two years under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana.

(d) The funds have been utilized satisfactorily by the organizations as per the provisions of the scheme.

Streamlining PDS

*90. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

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

(a) whether the Union Government have taken any steps to streamline the Public Distribution System in drought and flood prone areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which success has been achieved by the Government after taking steps to streamline the Public Distribution System in the said areas?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The Public Distribution System (PDS) is implemented under the joint responsibility of the Central and State Governments wherein the Central Government is responsible for the procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the Central godowns and the States are responsible for identification of beneficiaries, issue of Ration Cards and their distribution through the Fair Price Shops (FPS). Regular reviews for the purpose of streamlining the PDS and initiating corrective steps is an ongoing process, as part of which the following measures have been taken:-

- (i) The Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001 was issued by the Government of India in order to streamline the functioning of the PDS and to make the same more effective and

accountable. Any offence committed in violation of the provisions of the Order invokes criminal liability under Section 7 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955,

- (ii) The State Governments and the Union Territory Administrations have been asked to actively involve the Panchayati Raj Institutions to monitor the functioning of the Fair Price Shops, as a measure of social audit,
- (iii) The States and Union Territories have also been asked to constitute Vigilance Committees on the PDS at the State, District, Block and FPS levels,
- (iv) With a view to efficiently reaching PDS commodities to the consumers in a transparent manner, a model Citizens' Charter has been issued by the Central Government for adoption by the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Further, a Task Force has been constituted to look into irregularities in the implementation of the TPDS and the Antyodaya Anna Yojana in the identified areas, including in the drought affected States. The shortcomings/irregularities noticed by the Task Force Teams are forwarded to the concerned State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for urgent remedial action.

To combat drought conditions, the allocations of foodgrains have also been made under the Special Component of the Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojna (SGRY) which are in addition to the normal allocations under the Public Distribution System. About 63.4 lakh MTs of foodgrains were allocated to 15 drought affected States under the Special Component of the SGRY in 2002-03; 41.5 lakh MTs of foodgrains have, so far, been allocated in the current year 2003-04.

[English]

Protection of Small Investors

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

(a) whether the Government have accepted and implemented the recommendations of various expert committees including JPC, Investors' association to streamline, strengthen, bring transparency in take over code, buy back of shares and investors' protection;

(b) if so, the efforts made by the regulators, SEBI, Department of Company Affairs, Reserve Bank of India in this regard;

(c) whether bypassing small investors interest is still continuing in Sterlite Industries and other cases;

(d) if so, the major companies having more than Rs. 10 crore paid up capital got listed, applied for delisting in the year 2002, 2003;

(e) the apprehensions of small investors against these companies; and

(f) the steps taken by the regulators to protect small investors?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Based on inputs received from experts/Committees, SEBI have made amendments to the Takeover Regulations and issued regulations on buy-back of securities.

(c) Regarding Sterlite Industries, an appeal has been filed in the hon'ble Supreme Court by SEBI to protect the interest of the share holders. Besides, as the company has come out with another scheme of demerger, SEBI has filed an intervention petition in the Bombay High Court. SEBI has also advised Stock Exchanges to amend listing agreements to safeguard the interest of small investors in this regard in all companies.

(d) As per data available with SEBI, pursuant to an open offer made under SEBI (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997, 20 companies were delisted during 2002 and 19 companies delisted in 2003.

(e) and (f) Measures taken by the Government to protect interest of Small Investors include amendment of SEBI Act to check insider trading, fraudulent and unfair trade practices and market manipulation, amendment of Companies Act providing for an Investor Education and Protection Fund and putting up an inter-regulating coordination mechanism with RBI, SEBI, IRDA and Ministry of Finance. In addition, SEBI's delisting guidelines prohibit buy-back route for delisting and provide for reverse book building process for determination of exit price.

[Translation]

Sale of Wheat/Rice by FCI

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

(a) the quantity of wheat and rice sold by the Food Corporation of India in the open market during the last three years and 2003 till date;

(b) whether the Government have made any assessment in regard to the factors influencing the operation cost of foodgrains during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the cost at which wheat and rice were sold in the open market and the cost at which the same was exported alongwith the subsidy given by the Government in this respect?

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

(a) The quantity of wheat and rice sold by the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the open market during the last three years is as under:

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Year	Wheat	Rice
2000-01	11.01	3.86
2001-02	51.97	4.01
2002-03	52.34	3.87
2003-04 (upto June 2003)	1.60	2.55

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The increase in the economic cost of wheat and rice is on account of increase in the procurement cost and incidentals, labour and transport charges, storage and interest charges and administrative charges of State Agencies. However, the distribution cost in respect of both wheat and rice has come down in 2002-03 in relation to the distribution cost in 2000-01.

(d) The open market sale price of wheat ex-Punjab in the last three years, have been in the range, as shown below:-

(figures in Rs. per quintal)

2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
650—900	615—655	615—700

The prices of wheat sold in other States were higher, as they include an element of freight.

Rice was largely sold through tenders at prices decided on the basis of the rates obtained in the tenders. The prices of wheat and rice offered to exporters are the same as the Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, except that post delivery and other WTO compatible expenses are allowed to the exporters. These expenses are reviewed and fixed on a quarterly basis on the recommendations of an Inter-Ministerial Committee, viz. the High Level Committee of the FCI which takes into account all relevant factors.

The amount of subsidy released to the FCI during the last three years under (OMSS) (D) and Exports is as under:

(in Rs. crores)

	OMSS (D)		Exports	
	Wheat	Rice	Wheat	Rice
2000-01	74.00	46.55	1213.00	—
2001-02	616.00	176.68*	531.90	836.47
2002-03	1206.00	280.60*	1949.18	3793.51

*This amount of subsidy is due but is yet to be released to the FCI.

Decline in FDI Inflow

*93. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether Foreign Direct Investment is showing a declining trend and falling short of the target set during the last three years;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to assess the current situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) and (b) No target for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) is fixed. FDI inflows during the last three financial years, as reported in the Economic Survey 2002-03 are as under:

Financial Year	Amount of FDI inflows (US \$ in billion)
1999-2000	2.15
2000-2001	2.34
2001-2002	3.90

The FDI inflows for the year 2002-03 is estimated at US\$ 2.57 billion. FDI inflows are also determined by global economic situation, market conditions and global FDI inflows. According to World Investment Report 2002, the FDI inflows in the world have declined from US \$ 1492 billion in 2000 to US \$ 735 billion in 2001. The FDI inflows are estimated to have further declined to US \$ 534 billion in 2002.

(c) to (e) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) performance is assessed on an ongoing basis and appropriate policy initiatives are taken from time to time.

[English]

Amount Allocated under TSP

*94. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
SHRI A. NARENDRA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the amount of the Central assistance allocated for Tribal Sub-Plan area in different States during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the amount of Central assistance utilized by the respective States during the above period, State-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the various welfare schemes of the Central Government for the tribals actually reach them?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) A Statement showing the amount of

Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan released to the different States and funds utilized by them during the last three years, is enclosed.

(c) In order to ensure that the various welfare schemes for the tribals actually reach them, the following measures are taken:

1. Utilization Certificates are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds;
2. Periodic progress reports regarding the status of implementation of schemes are obtained;
3. Central Government Officers undertake on the spot visits to the States/UTs for ascertaining the progress of implementation of schemes;
4. Meetings/conferences are convened at the Central level with state Secretaries of Tribal Welfare Departments to ensure timely submission of proposals, speed up implementation of schemes, and review physical & financial progress.
5. At the State/field level, the agencies like Tribal Advisory Council, Project implementation Committees of ITDPs and Panchayat Samities also monitor timely spending of funds and effective implementation of schemes.
6. To avoid delays in disbursement of funds by the State Plan/Finance and Tribal Welfare Departments, to the line departments/ implementing agencies, the guidelines for allocation and utilization of SCA to TSP have since been revised with the provision of ITDA/ ITDP-wise earmarking of SCA funds. It has been provided in the guidelines that all States/UTs should ensure that assessment of actual programmes/schemes implemented under TSP on the socio-economic conditions of the tribal covered under ITDPs, MADAs, Clusters, PTGs, as the case may be, should specifically be undertaken.

Statement

Release and Expenditure under SCA to TSP for last 3 Years

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.N.	Name of States/U.Ts	2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003	
		AR	ER	AR	ER	AR	ER
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2182.94	2182.94	2732.80	2732.80	2732.80	910.93
2.	Assam	2443.50	2194.25	3058.99	2499.99	3058.99	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	Bihar	1711.06	0.00	556.56	0.00	556.56	
4.	Gujarat	3139.98	3646.00	3930.91	2924.84	3930.91	3147.10
5.	Himachal Pradesh	514.05	531.61	643.53	654.52	643.53	514.82
6.	Jammu and Kashmir	776.38	605.92	971.94	914.46	971.94	—
7.	Karnataka	616.13	615.88	771.33	514.22	771.33	717.68
8.	Kerala	218.63	228.24	273.70	145.54	273.70	—
9.	Madhya Pradesh	6257.12	8789.15	7833.22	6224.78	7833.22	8790.40
10.	Maharashtra	2974.57	3200.00	3723.83	2839.79	3723.83	—
11.	Manipur	608.65	235.65	761.96	901.98	761.96	595.57
12.	Orissa	5188.40	4931.72	6495.30	6881.82	6495.30	—
13.	Rajasthan	2915.24	3260.55	3649.56	3721.21	3649.56	2683.32
14.	Sikkim	86.28	104.10	108.02	108.02	108.02	108.01
15.	Tamil Nadu	258.27	258.27	323.32	0.00	323.32	—
16.	Tripura	831.57	831.57	1041.03	1028.23	1041.03	810.82
17.	Uttar Pradesh	41.83	100.00	32.10	0.00	32.10	—
18.	West Bengal	1759.40	1759.40	2202.57	2202.57	2202.57	513.93
19.	Jharkhand	3422.62	1345.37	5870.24	1259.34	5870.24	—
20.	Chhattisgarh	3695.36	3620.73	4626.18	4754.39	4626.18	3873.22
21.	Uttanchal	58.02	0.00	92.91	0.00	92.91	—
22.	Andman & Nicobar Islands	233.90	130.62	230.85	166.68	20.85	—
23.	Daman & Diu	66.10	0.00	99.15	61.42	99.15	32.15
Total		40000.00	38571.97	50030.00	40536.602	50000.00	22697.95

Abbreviations

AR - Amount Released.

ER - Expenditure Reported.

Visit of Pakistan Trade-Delegation

*95. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:
SHRI G.J. JAVIYA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether endeavour is being made by businessmen and industrialists of India and Pakistan for establishing friendly links with their counterparts;

(b) if so, whether any delegations of businessmen and industrialists of Pakistan and India have visited each other's country during the current calendar year;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the composition of each delegation;

(d) the details of issues discussed by these delegations and agreements signed by them during their visits; and

(e) the extent to which both the countries are likely to be benefited thereby?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To attend the Third Meeting of India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IPCCI) held in New Delhi on July 7-8, 2003, a Pakistani delegation of businessmen and industrialists had visited New Delhi. Indian participants in the meeting included members of trade and industry in India.

(c) India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (IPCCI) was formed jointly by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), and Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) on April 10, 1999 after the historic maiden visit of Prime Minister of India to Lahore by bus in February, 1999. IPCCI was formed with the objective of strengthening bilateral economic relations and to provide a common officially recognised platform at the apex level for promotion of economic activities between businessmen and industrialists of the two countries. A Conference on India-Pakistan trade was also held on July 7, 2003 which was attended among others by Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate for India. Inaugural address at this Conference was delivered by the External Affairs Minister. About 128 members from Pakistan and 112 members from India had participated in the meeting.

(d) Discussions were held to promote trade between India and Pakistan and to remove the bottlenecks. The joint recommendations of the meeting identified (i) enlargement of scope of goods and services trade; (ii) restoration of transportation and communication links; (iii) liberal visa facility for businessmen; and (iv) making SAARC effective as the major factors for promotion of trade and commerce.

(e) The interaction will help to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries. However, no targets have been fixed.

[Translation]

Loan Burden of State Governments

*96. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments/UTs have taken loan from market during the last two decades and are due for repayment alongwith penal rate of interest;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise alongwith their repayment schedule;

(c) the States who have not fully repaid their loans and if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the outstanding loans as on date in each State/UT; and

(e) the efforts made by the Government to reduce the loan burden of the States?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) State Governments are allowed to raise market loans under the scheme of financing of their Annual Plans approved by the Planning Commission. All such market loans, which are raised for the State Governments by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are serviced and are repaid on maturity by RBI. The question of default and penal interest rate does not, therefore, arise.

(d) A statement indicating outstanding loans against States/Union Territories, as on 31st March, 2003, is inclosed.

(e) Government of India has formulated a Debt Swap Scheme which enables States to pre-pay high cost Government of India loans to the State Governments, bearing coupons of 13% and above, with low coupon bearing Small Savings and Open Market Loans, over a three year period ending 2004-05. Further, Government of India has put in place a framework for Medium term Fiscal Reforms Programme (MTFRP) in States till 2004-05, which is being implemented by the States. The State-wise fiscal reforms programmes aim at bringing down debt to sustainable levels. Government of India has also issued instructions for streamlining of borrowings by States under Article 293(3) of the Constitution, within the contours of the MTFRP of the States.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	State	Loans outstanding as on 31.03.2003
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16465.96
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	404.17
3.	Assam	2950.79

1	2	3
4.	Bihar	10244.75
5.	Chhattisgarh	2636.00
6.	Goa	730.29
7.	Gujarat	14547.28
8.	Haryana	4440.03
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2253.50
10.	Jharkhand	3345.31
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2871.07
12.	Karnataka	10152.12
13.	Kerala	5386.44
14.	Madhya Pradesh	7740.45
15.	Maharashtra	21541.11
16.	Manipur	379.04
17.	Meghalaya	325.48
18.	Mizoram	239.92
19.	Nagaland	331.06
20.	Orissa	7247.97
21.	Punjab	7205.10
22.	Rajasthan	8396.92
23.	Sikkim	202.48
24.	Tamil Nadu	10334.19
25.	Tripura	604.82
26.	Uttaranchal	992.01
27.	Uttar Pradesh	27741.12
28.	West Bengal	21993.62
Total		191703.00
Union Territories:		
1.	Pondicherry	1112.98
2.	NCT of Delhi	11352.59

[English]

Inflation Rate

97. SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the continued inflationary trends in the country has been a cause of great concern;

(b) whether the wholesale and consumer price index has been rising as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the rate of inflation during each of the last six months; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to check the price rise and to contain inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No, Madam. The annual point to point inflation rates based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) have remained moderate during the last six months. The WPI based inflation rate decelerated from a peak of 6.3% in April 2003 to 5.3% in June. The current WPI based inflation rate for the week ended July 5, 2003 has declined further to 5.15%. Inflation rate based on the CPI-IW, also remained moderate during January-March 2003. It rose to 5.1% in April 2003, but declined to 4.7% in May this year. (Table 1)

Table 1: Annual Point to Point Inflation Rates based on WPI and CPI-IW

	WPI based inflation Rate (%)	CPI (IW) based inflation rate (%)
2003		
Jan.	4.2	3.4
Feb.	5.3	3.9
Mar.	6.0	4.1
Apr.	6.3	5.1
May	5.8	4.7
Jun	5.3	—
July 5	5.1	—

(d) Government's anti-inflationary policies in recent years include monetary and fiscal discipline; effective management of supply and demand for essential commodities and raw materials through liberal imports, and further strengthening of the public distribution system.

Adequate public stocks of foodgrains have ensured comfortable supply situation and have helped stabilise prices of foodgrains despite the shortfall in domestic production resulting from drought during 2002. The progress of monsoons so far this year has raised the hopes for good agricultural production during 2003-04.

[Translation]

Antyodaya Anna Yojna

*98. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE:

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

(a) whether the Government have identified additional 50 lakh BPL families to be covered under Antyodaya Anna Yojna for the year 2003-04;

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

(c) whether an assessment/review of the AAY Scheme has been conducted;

(d) if so, the outcome of the review;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to enhance the subsidy given under the scheme to the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the number of families under BPL covered under this Scheme in each State/UT during the last two years?

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

(a) to (g) Guidelines have been issued to the State Governments/UT Administrations for identification of 50 lakh additional BPL families for coverage under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and for issue of distinctive Ration Cards to such families. The State-wise details of the additional AAY families is enclosed in statement-I. A Study to, *inter alia*, assess the performance of the AAY is currently in hand.

The allocation of foodgrains to 50 lakh additional AAY families is estimated to entail an additional subsidy of approximately Rs. 510 crores. The State-wise number of BPL families covered under the AAY (upto July, 2003) is enclosed in statement-II.

Statement I

S.No.	States/UT	Estimated no. of Additional Antyodaya families (in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3.117
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.077
3.	Assam	1.408
4.	Bihar	5.003
5.	Chhattisgarh	1.439
6.	Delhi	0.315
7.	Goa	0.037
8.	Gujarat	1.626
9.	Haryana	0.606
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.395
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	0.564
12.	Jharkhand	1.841
13.	Karnataka	2.400
14.	Kerala	1.192
15.	Madhya Pradesh	3.164
16.	Maharashtra	5.011
17.	Manipur	0.127
18.	Meghalaya	0.140
19.	Mizoram	0.051
20.	Nagaland	0.096
21.	Orissa	2.530
22.	Punjab	0.359
23.	Rajasthan	1.865
24.	Sikkim	0.032
25.	Tamil Nadu	3.730

1	2	3
26.	Tripura	0.227
27.	Uttaranchal	0.382
28.	Uttar Pradesh	8.191
29.	West Bengal	3.973
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.021
31.	Chandigarh	0.018
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.013
33.	Daman & Diu	0.003
34.	Lakshadweep	0.003
35.	Pondicherry	0.065
Total		50.021

Statement II

S.No. States/UT No. of BPL families covered under AAY as on 16.7.2003

1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	622800
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	15100
3.	Assam	281369
4.	Bihar	999982
5.	Chhattisgarh	285617
6.	Delhi	31123
7.	Goa	6530
8.	Gujarat	309752
9.	Haryana	113531
10.	Himachal Pradesh	79492
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	112900
12.	Jharkhand	366500
13.	Karnataka	479700
14.	Kerala	271575
15.	Madhya Pradesh	631000

1	2	3
16.	Maharashtra	1001700
17.	Manipur	25500
18.	Meghalaya	28100
19.	Mizoram	10500
20.	Nagaland	18900
21.	Orissa	505500
22.	Punjab	71700
23.	Rajasthan	372600
24.	Sikkim	6750
25.	Tamil Nadu	716088
26.	Tripura	45224
27.	Uttaranchal	76300
28.	Uttar Pradesh	1637000
29.	West Bengal	588499
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	4300
31.	Chandigarh	3100
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2800
33.	Daman & Diu	594
34.	Lakshadweep	394
35.	Pondicherry	10000
Total		9732520

*[Translation]***Special FERA Courts**

*99. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FERA cases which are more than five years old pending in the courts as on date, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to constitute special courts for speedy disposal of these cases;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the other steps taken for the speedy disposal of these cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (e) As on 30 June, 2003, a total of 1284 cases under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 were pending in Trial Courts, all over India, for over five years. The Zone-wise break-up of such cases along with the States covered under each Zone is given in the Statement.

The Government had mooted a proposal for setting up of Special Courts during 1998-99 in Mumbai and Delhi for dealing with cases registered under FERA, 1973. However, the response of the concerned States was not encouraging in view of the fact that FERA has since been repealed and replaced by a new legislation-Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999.

The progress of disposal of FERA cases is regularly monitored by the Directorate of Enforcement, and Public Prosecutors have been advised to take necessary steps for their speedy disposal.

Statement

Name of the Zone	State/Regions covered	Number of FERA cases pending trial for over 5 years
1	2	3
1. Ahmedabad	Gujarat	03
2. Bangalore	Karnataka & Andhra Pradesh	07
3. Chennai	Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Pondicherry	83
4. Delhi	Rajasthan, Western U.P., Western Madhya Pradesh, Uttranchal & Delhi.	396
5. Kolkata	West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand,	165

	1	2	3
		Orissa, Chhattisgarh, Eastern Madhya Pradesh, Eastern U.P., North Eastern States.	
6. Jalandhar	Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Chandigarh		136
7. Mumbai	Maharashtra & Goa		494
Total			1284

Internal and External Debt

*100. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the internal and external debt burden on the country as on June 30, 2003;

(b) the amount repaid as external and domestic loan during each of the last three years;

(c) the per capita loan as on June 30, 2003;

(d) the interest per annum paid by the Government during the above period;

(e) the reasons for constant increase in the external debt; and

(f) the steps being taken by the Government to minimise the external/internal debt of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) As per latest information available, internal debt of India as on March 31, 2003 was Rs. 15,04,226 Crores and total external debt as at end-December, 2002 was US\$ 105.00 billion (Rs. 504,394 crores).

(b) The amount repaid on internal and external debt during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Principal Repayment on Internal Debt as Market loan (Rupees in crores)	Principal Repayment on External Debt (US \$ in millions)
2000-01	27,275	8,359
2001-02	26,489	6,776
2002-03	27,420**	6,754*

*April, 2002-December 31, 2002.

**2002-03 (RE)

(c) The per Capita external debt of the country as at end-December, 2002 was US \$ 101.20 (Rs. 4,864) and internal debt as on March 31, 2003 was Rs. 14,506.

(d) The amount paid as interest on internal and external debt during the last three years were as follows:

Year	Interest payment on Internal Debt (Rupees in crores)	Interest payment on External Debt (US \$ in millions)
2000-01	75,172	4,462
2001-02	81,793	4,086
2002-03	90,162**	2,695*

*April, 2002—December 31, 2002.

**2002-03 (RE)

#This is net of receipts on account of accrued interest arising out from market borrowings.

(e) The main reason for increase in external debt of the country was due to deposits of maturity proceeds of Non-Resident Non Repatriable Deposits [NR (NR) D] and Non-Resident Special Rupee Deposit [NR (SR)] schemes to the Non-Resident External Rupee Account (NRE) accounts of holders which were discontinued with effect from April, 2002.

The quantum of public debt, including internal debt has been growing over the years on account of large and persistent fiscal deficit being faced by the Central Government.

(f) In order to minimise the external debt of the country, the Government of India has followed a prudent debt management policy that focuses on concessional and less expensive fund sources, preference for longer maturity profiles, and enduring vigil on billed up of short term debt, premature retirement of high cost external debt and encouragement of non-debt creating capital flows.

It order to reduce the burden of internal debt, Government has been following a comprehensive strategy to achieve moderation in growth of non-plan expenditure and augment non-debt capital receipt including the tax as well as non-tax receipts. Several initiatives have been taken to restructure the debt portfolio to reduce the interest burden of the debt. The debt structuring measures, along with the policy of fiscal rectitude, are expected to moderate the public debt burden.

Trade Issues between India and US

731. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of long pending trade issues between India and its largest partner US are being solved;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there was wide ranging dialogue during the visit of Indian leaders;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the long pending trade issues between the two countries are to be solved and quantum of trade likely to increase as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Resolution of bilateral trade issues is a continuous and ongoing process. One of the important issues resolved in the recent past is the restoration of duty preference to India on 43 products under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) of USA.

(c) to (e) There have been a wide-ranging dialogue between India and USA. Trade issues like restoration of GSP, Social Security Dual Taxation Avoidance Treaty, various legislation in US States for placing restrictions on outsourcing were among the notable trade issues discussed by India with USA. Since trade depends on various factors, it is difficult to predict the impact of the outcome of the discussion on it.

[English]

Tea Production in North Region

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

(a) whether with early showers in April this year, tea production is set to increase in the North including Assam;

(b) if so, the likely tea production in different sectors this year compared to last two years;

(c) whether mood amongst tea planters is not upbeat despite rich production prospects due to low prices fetched at the auction markets in Assam and other markets; and

(d) if so, the average prices of tea fetched in different markets during the past four months and the extent to which the same compares with the respective cost of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) The production of tea during April-May 2003-04 in North India, including Assam, registered an increase of 20.82 million kgs. as compared to the

corresponding period of the previous year which may be seen in the following table:

(figures in million Kgs.)

Region	2003-04 (April-May)	2002-03 April-May	Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Assam	67.31	51.11	(+) 16.20
Other North India	35.72	31.10	(+) 4.62
Total North India	103.03	82.21	(+) 20.82

In the present trend continues, the production of tea in North India, including Assam, for the complete financial year 2003-04 may reach 670 million kgs, as compared to 641.16 million kgs. in 2002-03 and 648.45 million kgs. during 2001-02.

(c) Yes Sir. The tea planters in India including Assam are facing problems due to depressed prices of tea at the auctions for the last 3-4 years as also in the current year so far. Till prices do not improve, the rich production of tea is not expected to better the prospects of the tea planters.

(d) The average price of tea sold at North and South Indian auction centres for the first three months (April-June) of the current financial year i.e. 2003-04 together with the cost of production is furnished below:

(figures in Rs/Kg)

(April-June)

Region	2003-04		2002-03	
	Price Range	Cost of Production	Price Range	Cost of Production
North India	55 to 90	65 to 70	55 to 90	60 to 65
South India	35 to 65	55 to 60	35 to 70	50 to 55

Bench of Supreme Court in Kerala

733. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start Division Bench of Supreme Court in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Housing Finance Companies

734. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring housing finance companies within the jurisdiction of Securitisation Act, 2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A proposal to bring Housing Finance Companies within the jurisdiction of Securitisation Act, 2002 is under consideration of the Government.

Appointment of Secretaries by Companies

735. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the companies having paid up share capital exceeding rupees two crore to appoint full-time company secretary;

(b) if so, the number of such companies who have not appointed full-time secretaries; and

(c) the action taken/propose to be taken by the Government against such defaulting companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of cases detected who have not appointed full-time Company Secretaries during the last five years are as under:

2001-02	—	92
2000-01	—	45
1999-2000	—	45
1998-99	—	18
1997-98	—	10

(c) If any contravention of Section 383A(1) of the Companies Act, 1956 read with Companies (Appointment and Qualifications of Secretary) Rules, 1988 is noticed by Registrars of Companies, necessary penal action is taken.

Share of Export of Herbs in Global Market

736. SHRI P. KUMARASAMY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether contribution of India to the global export of herbs is just 2 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons for such low export inspite of the rich flora available in the country; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of herbal items in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Although the global export figures of 'Herbs' alone is not available it is estimated that the international market for Medicinal Plant Products is about Rs. 283030 crores per year, out of which the Indian share is Rs. 616.52 crores. As per the DGCIS data available, the export of Ayurvedic and Unani Herbs from India (ITC HS Code 12119026) has been Rs. 22.50 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 30.44 crores in 2001-2002 (conversion rate 1 US\$ = Rs. 45.65). Also the export of crude drugs from India has been Rs. 315.77 crores in 2000-2001 and Rs. 445.47 crores in 2001-2002.

(b) This is newly developing sector. Awareness about Indian herbs is beginning to grow only recently.

(c) The Government has established the National Medicinal Plant Board for integrated development of medicinal plant sector. The Department of Biotechnology has also supported research and development projects on medicinal and aromatic plants used in the country. The Government has been assisting CHEMEXCIL, an autonomous Export Promotion Council setup by the Department of Commerce through its Market Access Initiative Scheme by financing the conducting of market study and follow-up activities to promote exports. The Department of Commerce through its Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Programme, is also granting financial assistance to the industry for participating in International Trade Fairs to exhibit their products. In order to give thrust to exports of Ayurvedic and Herbal products a new panel has also been constituted in Chemexcil.

Insurance of Buildings

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

(a) whether Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has rationalised the norms for fire insurance of buildings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the new norms are different from the previous one;

(d) whether household policies issued after June 1, 2003 have been first loss cover;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the areas likely to be covered by the household policies after June 1, 2003?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) With effect from 1st June, 2003, IRDA has permitted insurance of the contents of dwelling houses covered under Householders' Package Policy on first loss basis. Under First Loss policies, the cover is restricted to certain agreed percentage of the total value of the risk and premium is charged accordingly.

(f) The Householders' package Policy may cover following areas:

1. Fire insurance of building and contents.
2. Burglary, housebreaking, larceny and theft insurance
3. All risks insurance of jewellery and valuables.
4. Accident insurance of fixed plate glasses.
5. Breakdown insurance of domestic appliances.
6. Breakdown insurance of TV, VCR, VCD, DVD etc.,
7. Insurance of pedal cycle.
8. Insurance of travel baggage.
9. Personal accident insurance.
10. Public liability & WC Liability.

Strike in Banks

738. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of strikes reported in the public sector banks during the last one year;

(b) the effect of these strikes on the business of the banking sector alongwith the quantum of losses suffered by the banks thereto; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring the public sector banks at par with the private banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) During the period 1st July, 2002 to 30th June, 2003, there were two industry level strikes on 2.5.2003 and 21.5.2003 and three bank level strikes on 21.2.2003, 17.3.2003 and 28.3.2003.

(b) Strikes in banking industry do cause inconvenience to the public and financial loss to trade and industry as the business cannot be transacted and clearing houses do not function on the day of strike. However, it is not possible to quantify the loss on this account.

(c) Public Sector Banks and Private Sector Banks differ in various respects such as share-holding, management etc. Therefore, it may not be appropriate to compare them with each other.

[Translation]

Employees in the Ministry

739. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups 'A,' 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes, separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY

AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Duty Exemption to Importers

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

(a) whether C & AG in Para 8.1 of its Report No. 10 of 2003 (Indirect Taxes—Customs) brought out that benefit of exemption of special additional duty (SAD) amounting to Rs. 54.34 lakh was extended to imports;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving the above said benefit to the importers; and

(c) the reaction of the Government to the C & AG's observation?

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

(b) The exemption was available if the imported goods were sold as such in India, in a place other than a Sales Tax Free Zone and the importer filed a declaration to this effect. The benefit was extended on the basis of such a declaration filed by the importer.

However, subsequently it was found that they had violated the conditions of the declaration by way of selling part of the imported Rapeseed Oil in a sales tax free zone and the remaining part had to be refined (and not sold as such).

(c) The point raised by C&AG in para 8.1 of their report has been accepted by the Government and action has been initiated for recovery of the benefit wrongly availed of by the importer.

Purchase of Land for Tribals

741. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to provide Rs. 1000 crore for the purchase of land for landless Tribals in Kerala for rehabilitating them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the fund likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Allotment of land to the landless tribals is a 'State' subject. The State Government has however, been advised that the problems of landless tribals may be solved on an urgent basis and in a time bound fashion within the over all purview of the State Legislations on the subject. The State Government has also been advised to purchase land from private and other parties, if so required, for tribals from the SCA to TSP and grants under Article 275(i) of the Constitution and TSP funds of the State Government in this regard. However, no funds, for this purpose, have been released by this Ministry to the State Government of Kerala.

Appointment on False SC Certificate

742. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5021 on April 25, 2003 regarding appointment of false SC certificates and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) the time by which the information is likely to be collected by the Government?

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

(b) and (c) There were different versions regarding the caste of an employee of New India Assurance Co. (NIAC) in the verification report of the state government, which was received by the NIAC. NIAC have advised to Regional Offices to verify the caste certificate of each of the SC/ST employees and also asked such employees to submit their caste certificates in prescribed format, so that employees found guilty could be dealt with. The Company has also initiated departmental proceedings in certain cases where irregularities were noticed.

Residential Schools

743. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government are providing education fund for the children of Tribal community;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether residential schools are being opened for Tribal students;

(d) if so, the number of residential schools opened during last three years in each State, particularly the Karnataka; and

(e) the amount of education fund provided for residential schools during the above period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The Government are providing funds for the development of education amongst the tribal children of the country under the programmes of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub-Plan, Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution and the schemes of Post Matric Scholarships for ST students, National Overseas Scholarship for higher studies abroad, coaching and allied

scheme for ST students, Vocational Training in Tribal Areas, Upgradation of Merit for ST students, Vocational Training in Tribal areas, Upgradation of Merit for ST students, Book Bank for ST students, Establishment of Ashram Schools in Tribal Sub-Plan Area, Construction of Girls' Hostels, Construction of Boys' Hostels, Setting up Educational Complexes in Low Literacy Pockets for the Development of Women's Literacy and Grant in aid for Voluntary Organisations working for the welfare of STs.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. Grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution, are provided to the State Governments to establish Eklavya Model Residential Schools for imparting quality education to the tribal students of VIth to XIIth Standard. During the Ninth Plan period, funds were provided for establishing 84 Eklavya Model Residential Schools in the country. A statement showing the State-wise number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools, including Karnataka, sanctioned, and funds provided during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Statewise number of Eklavya Model Residential Schools and funds provided during the last three years

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	No. of Schools for which amount released during IXth Plan	2000-01 AR	2001-02 AR	Total of the IXth Plan AR	2002-03 AR
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6	0.00	10.50	16.50	1.20
2.	Assam	2	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
3.	Bihar/Jharkhand	4	0.00	0.00	4.00	6.00
4.	Gujarat	6	0.00	8.00	12.00	0.00
5.	Himachal Pradesh	1	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	1	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
7.	Karnataka	3	0.00	6.05	8.05	0.00
8.	Kerala	2	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.20
9.	Madhya Pradesh	9	0.00	8.10	25.10	0.00
10.	Chhattisgarh	8	0.00	0.00		2.85
11.	Maharashtra	4	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00
12.	Manipur	3	4.00	0.00	5.00	1.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
13.	Orissa	10	0.00	7.40	11.40	2.00
14.	Rajasthan	7	5.00	5.50	17.50	0.00
15.	Sikkim	1	0.00	1.50	2.50	0.00
16.	Tamil Nadu	1	0.00	1.95	2.95	0.00
17.	Tripura	3	0.00	1.50	4.50	3.00
18.	Uttar Pradesh	1	0.00	1.50	2.50	0.00
19.	West Bengal	5	0.00	0.00	5.00	1.50
20.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
21.	Meghalaya	2	0.00	0.00	2.00	0.00
22.	Mizoram	1	0.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
23.	Nagaland	3	4.50	0.00	7.50	0.00
Total		84	13.50	52.00	138.50	20.00

AR—Amount Released.

Welfare Schemes for Tribals

744. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the welfare schemes formulated for tribals in remote areas;

(b) the funds earmarked for this purpose in 2003-04; State-wise;

(c) whether there is a proposal to enhance such allocation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs implements various schemes/programmes for the welfare and development of tribals in all the States/UTs. The details of the schemes are available in the Annual Report as well as on the website (www.tribal.nic.in). The schemes of Development of Primitive Tribes, Educational Complex in low literacy pockets and Grants-in-Aid to Non-Governmental Organisations are specially made for welfare of tribals living in remote areas.

(b) Amount the schemes/programmes of this Ministry, the funds are earmarked, State-wise, in only two

Schemes, namely, SCA to TSP and Article 275(1) of the Constitution. The details of the State-wise funds earmarked under these Schemes during 2003-04 are at Statement-I and II enclosed respectively.

(c) and (d) The Ministry proposed to the Planning Commission for enhancement of the allocation under the programmes of SCA to TSP and Article 275(1) of the Constitution, which was not agreed to by them.

Statement I**Allocation of Funds under SCA to TSP during 2003-04**

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the States/UTs	Allocation 2003-04
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2459.52
2.	Assam	2753.09
3.	Bihar	500.90
4.	Gujarat	3537.82
5.	Himachal Pradesh	579.18
6.	Jammu & Kashmir	874.75

1	2	3
7.	Karnataka	694.20
8.	Kerala	246.33
9.	Madhya Pradesh	7049.90
10.	Maharashtra	3351.45
11.	Manipur	685.76
12.	Orissa	5845.77
13.	Rajasthan	3284.60
14.	Sikkim	97.22
15.	Tamil Nadu	290.99
16.	Tripura	936.93
17.	Uttar Pradesh	28.89
18.	West Bengal	1982.31
19.	Jharkhand	5283.22
20.	Chhattisgarh	4163.56
21.	Uttaranchal	83.62
Total		44730.00

10% (Rs. 49.7 crore) of the total allocation of Rs. 497.00 crores has been kept separately in view of proposed revised guidelines for SCA to TSP. The guidelines are pending with the Planning Commission for approval.

Statement-II

Entitlement of the States under Article 275(1) of the Constitution during 2003-04

(R. in lakhs)

State	Allocation for 2003-04
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	1535.00
Assam	1050.00
Bihar	209.00
Gujarat	2250.00
Himachal Pradesh	80.00
Jammu and Kashmir	317.00

1	2
Karnataka	700.00
Kerala	118.00
Madhya Pradesh	3536.00
Maharashtra	2672.00
Manipur	230.00
Orissa	2570.00
Rajasthan	2000.00
Sikkim	33.00
Tamil Nadu	210.00
Tripura	313.00
Uttar Pradesh	27.00
West Bengal	1393.00
Arunachal Pradesh	200.00
Meghalaya	555.00
Mizoram	240.00
Nagaland	387.00
Jharkhand	2208.00
Chhattisgarh	2089.00
Uttaranchal	78.00
Total	25000.00

An amount of Rs. 30.00 crore i.e 10% of the outlay has been retained as per clause (xiii) of the guidelines.

An amount of Rs. 20.00 crore has been earmarked for completion of the ongoing 84 Model Residential Schools.

Dumping of Surplus Foodgrains

745. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have dumped the surplus foodgrains into the sea to avoid storage problem;

(b) if so, the quantum of foodgrains dumped into the sea during the last three years and its value thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments were ignored for the distribution of such foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Foreign Currency Loan to SSI

746. DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nationalized banks are denying foreign currency loans for export to small scale units and only give rupee loans at higher rate of interest;

(b) whether there is a minimum ceiling in value terms for providing SSI Sector imposed by banks for issue of these loans;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to provide sufficient foreign currency loans for export to SSI units?

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 data relating to export credit in foreign currency to SSI Sector is not being compiled separately. However, information available with RBI indicates that in absolute terms, export credit to SSI Sector increased by Rs. 996 crores from Rs. 3210 crores in 2000 to Rs. 4206 crores in 2002. As a percentage of total credit to SSI sector, export credit increased from 13.2% to 17.9% between the same period. Under extant instructions, Banks and Borrowers are free to negotiate the nature of credit/rate of interest whether in terms of foreign currency or rupee credit depending upon the specific requirements of the proposal and nature of funding required.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) • Banks have been advised by RBI to extend timely and adequate credit in foreign currency to SSI Sector.

- Banks have been permitted to avail of lines of credit from overseas for the specific purpose of granting bill discounting facility etc. in foreign currency.

- Banks have been advised that no worthwhile export credit proposal should suffer for want of bank finance.

- Interest rate of export credit in foreign currency is specified at London Inter Bank Ordinary Rate (LIBOR) plus 75 basis points and in the case of export credit in rupees at a concessional rate "Not exceeding PLR minus 2.5% for 180 days for pre-shipment credit and 90 days for post-shipment credit. For periods beyond this, interest rates have been deregulated.

Inclusion of 'Telaga Pamuls' in the List of Scheduled Tribes

747. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representations to consider "Telaga Pamuls" community as Scheduled Tribes community;

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

(c) whether any anthropological study was done in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The proposal has been examined along with the other proposals as per approved modalities for deciding the claims of Scheduled Tribe's status.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Textile Mill Workers

784. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mill workers in the country on date, State-wise; and

(b) the welfare measures the Government have extended to these mill workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) The number of textile mill workers in the country State-wise as on 30.6.2003 is given in the statement.

(b) The welfare measures extended by this Ministry to these mill workers include:

(i) **Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme (TWRFS):** This Scheme is being implemented since 15.9.1985 by the Office of the Textile Commissioner in coordination with the State Governments/Workers' Union/Official Liquidator/ Provident Fund Commissioners. It is applicable to the whole of India and is meant for providing an interim relief for an interim period of only three years on a tapering basis to the workers who have lost their job due to permanent closure of their mills/units in conformity with this scheme. Since inception of this Scheme, as on 30.6.2003, an amount of Rs. 163.73 crore has been disbursed to 72117 workers of 41 closed textile mills.

(ii) **Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Workers:** In order to improve the sense of security among powerloom workers and thus increase their productivity in the globalised integrated markets this scheme has been introduced in the Xth Five Year Plan jointly with the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India at

financial outlay of Rs. 1.73 crore. This scheme is applicable to the one of the families of powerloom workers, who are aged between 18 to 59 years of age group and below the poverty line (BPL) or marginally higher than the BPL, engaged in the activity of weaving on powerlooms and in allied pre-weaving/preparatory activities like twisting, winding, warping and sizing.

(iii) **Group Workshed Scheme for powerloom workers:** The Government has approved a Group Workshed Scheme for powerloom workers with a total outlay of Rs. 77.08 crore to be implemented during Xth Five Year Plan where the Government's contribution would be 25% i.e. Rs. 19.27 crore. Under the Scheme, it is proposed to provide assistance for construction of worksheds for installation of modernized powerlooms. An integrated approach to construction of group powerloom worksheds would be encouraged in powerloom parks so that appropriate infrastructure for optimum capacity utilization is provided under Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme of the Ministry.

Statement

The number of textile mill workers in the country State-wise as on 30.6.2003

S.No.	State/Union Territory	Workers on roll		
		Non-SSI Mills	SSI Mills	
			Spinning	Weaving
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	37415	612	2934
2.	Assam	4080	0	82
3.	Bihar	3189	0	0
4.	Chhattisgarh	2461	0	0
5.	Delhi	1318	90	2014
6.	Goa	72	0	0
7.	Gujarat	160806	2553	4540
8.	Haryana	21351	3296	222
9.	Himachal Pradesh	14077	18	648

1	2	3	4	5
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	3776	0	0
11.	Jharkhand	712	0	0
12.	Karnataka	36382	487	60
13.	Kerala	16540	383	15
14.	Madhya Pradesh	57315	111	2789
15.	Maharashtra	175795	1010	6199
16.	Manipur	350	0	0
17.	Orissa	16080	15	54
18.	Punjab	53187	1917	1895
19.	Rajasthan	58927	450	5262
20.	Tamil Nadu	202447	29771	3026
21.	Uttar Pradesh	70206	1164	408
22.	Uttaranchal	3228	47	0
23.	West Bengal	38006	0	1114
24.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2251	0	224
25.	Daman & Diu	180	32	0
26.	Pondicherry	7672	105	0
Grand Total		987823	42061	31486

**Spinning and Weaving Sector In
Small Scale Industry**

749. SHRI ANANT GUDHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether spinning and weaving sector being reserved category for small scale industries is providing employment to large persons;

(b) if so, the number of persons are being earning their livelihood by making production in this sector as on date;

(c) whether the Government propose to delist the spinning and weaving sector from the reserved list for small Scale Industry; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) The spinning and weaving sectors are not reserved categories for small-scale industries.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[Translation]

Allotment of PAN

750. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT:
SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL:
SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH:
DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the job of issuing PAN Cards to income tax payers has been entrusted by the Government to the UTI on payment of nominal fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether large number of assesses who applied for allotment of PAN number to the Department of Income Tax before UTI were authorised, have not yet been allotted the same;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reason for such a delay in allotment of PAN number;

(e) whether these assesseees are also required to pay processing charges to UTI; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Yes, Sir. Certain services relating to issue of PAN Cards have been out sourced to UTI Investor Services Limited (UTIISL).

(b) UTI Investor Services Limited (UTIISL) has set up Income Tax PAN Service Centres in all cities or towns where there is an Income Tax Office. It has been authorized to charge Rs. 5/- for each application form and Rs. 60/- towards processing and delivery in respect of each PAN card issued.

(c) and (d) As per records of the Income Tax Department only 3,33,335 applications were pending for allotment of PAN on 31.5.03. Receipt of PAN application is an ongoing process and in the normal course some applications remain in the pipeline. In some cases permanent account numbers could not be allotted due to core deficiencies in the applications.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Not applicable.

[English]

Export of Salt from Gujarat

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

(a) whether Kutch-Saurashtra region of Gujarat has tremendous potential for salt exports;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote export of salt produced in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

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

(i) Export by sea/rail are exempted from levy of cess under Salt Cess Act, 1953.

(ii) Railways are according higher priority 'B' for export of iodised salt and common salt by rail;

(iii) Specifications for edible and industrial salt were laid down to ensure export of only good quality salt.

(iv) Quantitative ceiling of 5 lakh metric tonnes on exports of iodised salt has been lifted in 1992.

(v) Star Trading House & Export Houses recognised by Central Government have been exempted from the purview of compulsory pre-shipment inspection of salt.

(vi) Export Worthy Certificate is issued by Office of the Salt Commissioner free of charge.

(vii) Establishment of salt refineries/washeries is encouraged to improve the quality of salt.

(viii) In order to encourage export of salt and reward exporters, Export Award Scheme, 2002 has been introduced.

(c) In Kutch region at Port Jakhav, a salt export jetty with modern salt loading conveyor system has been established at the cost of Rs. 250 Crores. Over and above two modern ports are developed for general cargo namely, Mundra and Pipavav with modern conveyor facilities which can be used for salt loading also.

[Translation]

Consumer Awareness

752. SHRI PADAM SEN CHOUDHRY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to involve school students to boost the consumer awareness campaign in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has recently introduced a

scheme on consumer clubs to involve students to boost the consumer awareness campaign in the country. The objectives of the Scheme are to educate children about the rights of the consumers as provided in the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, to mobilize youngsters by instilling in them the spirit of protection of consumer rights; to impart knowledge about the role of the consumers in protection of their rights and to strengthen the consumer movement in the country. According to the Scheme, a Consumer Club shall be set up in a middle/high/higher secondary school which is affiliated to a Government recognized Board and shall consist of a minimum 50 members. Each Consumer club shall be in the charge of an active teacher in the concerned school. A group of not less than 20 and not more than 50 consumer clubs in one or more geographically contiguous districts will be serviced by a co-ordinating agency. A well established educational institution, a non governmental voluntary organisation or a professional body shall be designated as the Coordinating Agency.

The Department of Consumer Affairs shall provide financial support @ Rs. 10,000/- per annum per consumer club to the coordinating agency from the Consumer Welfare Fund. The coordinating agency will assist and monitor the functioning of each club.

[English]

Storage of Sugar

753. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

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

(a) whether the National Chemical Laboratory, Pune has discovered that the quality of sugar when kept in plastic bags for longer period deteriorates at a faster rate which are harmful for human beings;

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

(c) whether the Government are aware of the marketing of sugar in plastic bags by the sugar factories in the country which often remain in storage in the sugar factories and again with retailers before these are sold to the consumers; and

(d) if so, the steps contemplated by the Government to solve this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) According to National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune, a scientific result indicates that when a sugar group is chemically attached to a polymer molecule, such as polystyrene, the said polymer undergoes faster bio-degradation in the environment. The products of bio-degradation are small organic residues and carbon dioxide. These are not harmful. The NCL further states that the degradation of plastics will not occur if the plastic is only in physical contact with the sugar. Consequently, sugar packed in plastics bags in safe and indefinitely stable.

LIC Act, 1956

754. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to amend LIC Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the likely changes proposed to be carried out in the Act; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Shortage of Staff in Anti-Dumping Department

755. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Anti-dumping Department is facing acute shortage of staff and offices for efficient monitoring against Anti-dumping;

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

(c) the funds allocated by the Union Government for Anti-Dumping Department in the current annual plan? ,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A provision of Rs. 50 lakhs has been exclusively made for the office of Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties (DGAD) in the non-plan budget of the Department of Commerce for activities relating to the working of DGAD. Apart from this, all expenditures of DGAD are borne by the Department of Commerce.

Meeting with EU on Agricultural Exports

756. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any meeting between the representatives of Indian Agricultural Exporters and the Chief Commissioner of European Union was held on agricultural exports;

(b) if so, whether the exporters of agricultural products in India have been facing difficulties to meet the very high sanitary and phytosanitary standards;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken up this issue with the European Commission;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the other steps taken by the Government to boost the agricultural exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d) Government of India is in regular touch with the European Union (EU) for addressing the difficulties being faced by Indian agricultural exports to EU market, especially with reference to EU's health and sanitary/phytosanitary standards for agricultural products. These issues were recently highlighted to the European Commission in the meetings of the India-EU Working Group on Agriculture/Marine Products and India-EU Sub Commission on Trade Cooperation. In these interactions, EU side has been sensitized about the difficulties being faced by the Indian agriculture sector and the need for early redressal of these difficulties.

(e) Steps taken by the Government to boost agricultural exports include implementation of the concept of Agri Export Zones, focusing on growth areas like organic food, processed food etc. and addressing the quality related issues on agricultural products.

Balance of Trade between India and Thailand

757. SHRI RAJAIAH MALYALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of balance of trade between India and Thailand;

(b) the items which India imports from Thailand and the items which India exports; and

(c) the latest status of negotiations for concluding free trade agreement between both countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The present position of the bilateral trade between India and Thailand is as follows:-

(US \$ Million)

Year	Exports	Imports	Total	Balance of Trade
2001-02	632.58	423.05	1055.63	(+)209.53
2001-02 (Apr-Feb)	567.58	392.76	960.34	(+)174.82
2002-03 (Apr-Feb)	653.54	342.58	996.12	(+)310.96

(b) The major items which India imports from Thailand are electronic goods, machinery except electrical & electronics, artificial resins, plastic materials etc. other commodities, manmade filament/spun yarn (incl. was), other textile yarn, fabrics, made-up articles, iron and steel, vegetable oils fixed (edible), pearls, precious/semi precious stones and electrical machinery except electronic. The major items which India exports to Thailand are gem & jewellery, oil meals, primary and semi-finished iron and steel, inorganic/organic/agro chemicals, marine products, drugs, pharmaceuticals and fine chemicals, machinery & instruments, dyes/intermediates & coal tar chemicals, manufacture of metals and non-ferrous metals.

(c) A Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) has been set up for drafting a Framework Agreement on India-Thailand Free Trade Agreement covering goods, services and investments. The Framework Agreement is expected to be signed in October, 2003 during the Prime Minister's visit to Thailand.

Industrial Growth among States

758. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government have taken note of wide disparity/gap of industrial backwardness amongst various States in the country;

(b) if so, the States which are lagging far behind in industrial growth and main reasons therefor;

(c) the industrial growth of each State during Ninth Plan period, year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to give boost for industrial growth of industrially backward States; and

(e) the financial/technical assistance provided to each State during the Ninth Plan period, Scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) After the announcement of the New Industrial Policy in 1991, Licences are not required from the Central Government to set up industries except in few specified sectors. Investment decisions on locations are primarily guided by availability of quality infrastructure,

responsiveness and incentives offered by the State Governments which ultimately affect the rate of return on investment. Promotion of industrial development in backward areas is primarily dependent on the initiative of the State Government. The Union Government supports the State's efforts through various Schemes/incentives like Growth Centre Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme, etc. Further, Central Government, in the Ninth Plan, introduced Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, Comprehensive Insurance Scheme for accelerating industrialization in the North Eastern region. This package has been extended to the States of Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttranchal also.

There are Scheme being implemented by other Ministries like Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme (IID) and National Programme of Rural Industrialization (NPRI) being implemented by Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries respectively for development of backward areas.

Ministry of Finance, Department of Revenue had notified 123 industrially backward districts in the country for grant of concession under the Income Tax Act, 1961. Also, under Section 80-IB of the Income Tax Act, industrial undertakings are entitled to a 100% tax holiday for a period of five years in Category-A industrially backward districts and three years tax holiday in Category-B districts. Such industrial undertakings in both categories of districts are entitled to a further deduction of 25% (30% in the case of companies) from their profits and gains for a period of another five years.

A list of States listed as Industrially Backward in the Eighth Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961 is placed at Statement-I. The details on industrial growth of each State during Ninth Plan period are being collected.

(e) A statement on financial assistance provided to each State under the Schemes for development of backward areas by this Ministry are enclosed at statement-II.

Statement-I

List of States listed as Industrially Backward in the Eighth Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961:

1. Arunachal Pradesh
2. Assam

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 3. Goa | 10. Sikkim |
| 4. Himachal Pradesh | 11. Tripura |
| 5. Jammu & Kashmir | 12. Andaman & Nicobar |
| 6. Manipur | 13. Dadar & Nagar Haveli |
| 7. Meghalaya | 14. Daman & Diu |
| 8. Mizoram | 15. Lakshadweep |
| 9. Nagaland | 16. Pondicherry. |

Statement-II*State-wise Releases of Fund to the States/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)***Transport Subsidy Scheme, 1971**

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Assam	2548.61	1250.53	1195.24	4252.04*	6583.19*
2.	Manipur	18.96	24.42	4.01		
3.	Tripura	78.19	51.40	26.19		
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	1243.55	277.21	606.46		
5.	Meghalaya	506.55	127.45	703.96		
6.	Nagaland	970.01	1169.19	649.02		
7.	Mizoram	—	103.29	347.22		
8.	Sikkim	129.82	—	—	—	69.59
9.	Himachal Pradesh	824.77	4814.06	4650.79	4037.88	2238.23
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	138.62	594.51	280.23	275.86	69.54
11.	UP (now Uttaranchal)	0.92	45.13	—	0.76	—
12.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—	33.46	3.19
13.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—
14.	West Bengal (Darjeeling)	—	42.82	36.88	—	36.26
Total		6460.00	8500.00	8500.00	8600.00	9000.00

*From May, 2000, NEDFi has been designated as the nodal agency for disbursement of subsidy to eligible units in North Eastern Region (S.No. 1-7) and accordingly funds are released in favour of NEDFi. Details of disbursements made by NEDFi are given in the statement enclosed.

Details of Disbursement Made by NEDFi

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	1.98
2.	Assam	—	16.69	17.97
3.	Manipur	—	—	—
4.	Meghalaya	—	2.62	10.13
5.	Mizoram	—	—	4.35
6.	Nagaland	—	—	5.65
7.	Tripura	—	0.69	0.19
Total		—	20.00	40.27

Central Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme, 1997

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Funds released to NEDFi	—	2.00 crore	5.10 crore
BE of the Scheme	—	2.00 crore	5.00 crore

Details of disbursement made by NEDFi

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0	0
2.	Assam	—	0	3.89
3.	Manipur	—	0	0
4.	Meghalaya	—	0	0
5.	Mizoram	—	0	0
6.	Nagaland	—	0	0
7.	Tripura	—	0.26	0.02
Total		—	0.26	3.91

Central Interest Subsidy Scheme, 1997

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Funds released to NEDFi	—	—	1.25 crore
Be of the Scheme	—	0.01 crore	2.00 crore

Details of disbursement made by NEDFi

(Rs. in crore)

Sl.No.	Name of the State	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	0	0
2.	Assam	—	0	0.05
3.	Manipur	—	0	0
4.	Meghalaya	—	0	0.20
5.	Mizoram	—	0	0
6.	Nagaland	—	0	0
7.	Tripura	—	0	0
Total		—	0	0.25

Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme, 1997

	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Funds released to NIC	—	0.10 crore	—

Details of disbursement made by NIC—NIL

Central Assistance by Growth Centres in Various States during Ninth Plan

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name(s)	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	150	300	11	—	—
Arunachal Pradesh	—	48	50	—	—
Assam	50	—	250	200	—
Bihar	50	—	—	—	—
Chhattisgarh	—	—	125	—	—
Goa	150	—	—	150	—
Gujarat	—	—	—	400	235

1	2	3	4	5	6
Haryana	50	—	—	150	200
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
Jammu and Kashmir	50	50	200	200	50
Jharkhand	—	—	—	—	—
Karnataka	60	120	—	200	—
Kerala	200	532	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	—	—	—	100	—
Maharashtra	1300	250	660	255	240
Manipur	50	—	—	100	—
Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	—	—	—	250	—
Nagaland	—	500	500	195	255
Orissa	—	100	50	—	675
Pondicherry	50	—	250	—	100
Punjab	—	—	—	—	—
Rajasthan	120	100	250	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	50	150	600
Tripura	—	—	—	250	270
Uttar Pradesh	220	—	100	650	1025
Uttaranchal	—	—	—	—	—
West Bengal	—	—	—	—	350
Total	2500	2000	2496	3250	4000

World Bank Assistance to Maharashtra

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

(a) the details of proposals for financial assistance for various projects of the Government of Maharashtra forwarded to the World Bank by the Union Government and which have not yet been sanctioned by the World Bank so far;

(b) the date when each of the above proposal was forwarded to the World Bank and the amount

of assistance sought from the World Bank for each project;

(c) the present status of each such proposal; and

(d) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government to ensure early sanctions of the above proposals by the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The details are as follows:

No.	Project Name	Date of posing	Amount (US \$) million	Present Status
1.	Maharashtra Water Services Improvement Project	7.2.2002	425.3	The World Bank has initiated their internal documentation for including this in their future lending program.
2.	Maharashtra Forestry Project	19.8.1999	133.0	Consultations have commenced with the World Bank regarding the Forestry Sector
3.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanction Project Stage II	20.9.2001	181	Loan has been negotiated With the World Bank in July 2003.

(d) Approval of a project follows the cycle of project identification, preparation, posing, appraisal and negotiation. Government of India interacts with the World Bank in this process closely.

Representation from Vanaspati Producers

760. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the domestic Vanaspati industry is facing crisis;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any representation from the Vanaspati producers from Eastern region of India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to protect the domestic Vanaspati industry in the country particularly in West Bengal and other Eastern States?

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

(a) to (e) NO representation has been received from the Associations of Vanaspati manufacturers about the crisis in the industry. However, consultations are held with the representatives of the industry about their problems from time to time.

Trade remedial measures are in place to protect domestic industry from unfair competition.

WTO Ruling

761. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI:
SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL:
SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has lost a major textile dispute *vis-a-vis* the United States at the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) to what extent India has suffered a loss;

(d) whether the Government of India are planning again to appeal against the panel's ruling; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The panel established by the Disputed Settlement Body (DSB) has decided against India in the case titled "United States—Rules of Origin for Textiles and Apparel Products". The unilateral changes in the US Rules of Origin are applicable from 1996 and, therefore, there are no new effects from the panel ruling. At that time, the changes did affect India's grey cotton fabrics exports to countries such as Sri Lanka which used them for processing and exports to US.

(d) and (e) The Government has decided not to appeal against the DSB panel ruling.

Assistance under Article 275(1)

762. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the details of special assistance given for Tribals under Article 275(1) of the Indian Constitution during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether the Government have received any complaint on misuse/irregularity of funds allotted to State Governments on this account;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The following amount of grant has been released during the last three years, to the State Governments having tribal population, under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution:

(Rs. in lakhs)

2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
19128.9	30000	30000

(b) to (d) The Principal Accountant General (Audit), Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry had reported delay in setting up of Model Tribal Residential School for tribal students resulting in non-utilisation of Central assistance. Based on the reply of the State Government that the delay was due to administrative reasons and action for completion of the school had been taken, the Principal Accountant General (Audit) has been requested to drop objection.

Export of Leather Goods

763. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of leather goods by India to various countries particularly to USA have declined tremendously during the last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to help the Indian footwear and leather goods industry to boost export in global market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) India's export of leather goods and exports to USA during the last three years are as under:

(exports in Million US\$)

	Total Exports	Exports to USA
2000-2001	440.37	107.71
2001-2002	407.16	90.86
2002-2003	412.97	84.79

Total export of leather goods registered a marginal growth of 1.43% in 2002-2003. However, there is a decline of 6.68% in so far as USA is concerned during 2002-2003 over the previous year. This performance in respect of leather goods is due mainly to general slow business phenomenon across the global markets.

(c) Government of India is providing financial support to exporters for participation in international fairs & buyer-seller meets. Potential Indian companies are also supported to strengthen their market network by establishing warehousing and showroom facilities in the focus countries like the USA and select European countries. It is also supporting the Indian exporters to establish Design Studios in their Production Units to enhance their design development capabilities to boost export in global market.

Impact of Iraq War on Tea Export

764. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether Iraq war had inflicted adverse effect on export of country's tea exports;

(b) if so, the loss suffered in terms of rupees as a result of war;

(c) whether export of tea has started again after the war; and

(d) if so, the quantity of tea being exported now and the quantity of tea that was being exported before the war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The value of tea export from India to Iraq has declined by about Rs. 82.09 crores during the period January-May 2003 as compared to the value of export of Rs. 87.02 crores in the corresponding period of 2002.

(c) and (d) There has been no export of tea from India to Iraq during April and May 2003. The details of export of tea from India to Iraq are given below:-

Year	Quantity (in million Kgs)	Value (Rs. in Crores)
2000-2001	13.34	93.90
2001-2002	25.32	160.03
2002-2003*	33.47	222.41
January-May, 2003	0.70	4.93
January-May, 2002	14.59	87.02

*Provisional and subject to revision.

Procurement Centres

765. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of procurement centres opened so far, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have given any relaxation for the procurement of foodgrains from the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target set for procurement by the Government during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Statement-I and II showing State-wise number of purchase centres are enclosed herewith.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) With a view to reduce the hardship to farmers and to avoid distress sale of paddy, the prescribed specifications for procurement of paddy have been relaxed by the Government in the States of Madhya Pradesh (Jabalpur Division), Bihar and Orissa in the current KMS 2002-03 as under:

- (i) In Madhya Pradesh, the maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains has been allowed upto 7% against the limit of 3% provided under the uniform specifications.
- (ii) In the cases of both the States i.e. Bihar and Orissa, the maximum limit in respect of damaged, discoloured, sprouted and weevilled grains has been allowed upto 5% against 3% provided under the uniform specifications and the maximum limit in respect of immature, shrunken and shrivelled grains has been allowed upto 5% against 3% provided under the uniform specifications.

(d) No targets for procurement of foodgrains are fixed by the Government.

Statement I

List of Purchase Centres Operated during Kharif Season 2002-2003 for Procurement of Paddy/Coarsegrains

S.No.	State	FCI	Jointly	State Agency	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Punjab	403	165	895	1463
2.	Haryana	25	35	160	220
3.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—	1155	1155
4.	Delhi	2	—	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Rajasthan	12	—	—	12
6.	Andhra Pradesh	111	—	214	325
7.	Madhya Pradesh	43	—	258 108*	301 108*
8.	West Bengal	—	—	—	—
9.	Karnataka	—	—	3*	3*
10.	Pondicherry	—	—	2	2
11.	Tamil Nadu	—	—	347	347
12.	Bihar	100	—	827	927
13.	Orissa	20	—	—	20
14.	Himachal Pradesh	4	—	—	4
15.	Maharashtra	—	—	748	748
16.	Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—	—
17.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	1443	1443
18.	Uttaranchal	—	—	50	50
19.	Gujarat	—	—	—	—
Total		720	200	6210	7130

*For coarsegrains only.

Statement II

List of Purchase Centres Operated by FCI/State Agencies during Rabi Season 2003-2004 (Provisional)

S.No.	State	2003-04			Remarks
		FCI	State Agencies	Total	
1.	Punjab	556	964	1520	
2.	Haryana	105	235	340	
3.	Uttar Pradesh	—	4222	4222	
4.	Rajasthan	20	40	60	Procurement decentralised.
5.	Madhya Pradesh	167	763	930	Procurement decentralized
6.	Chhattisgarh	—	—	—	—
7.	Delhi	2	—	2	—
8.	Bihar	100	N.A.	100	—
9.	Himachal Pradesh	4	—	4	—
10.	Uttaranchal	27	175	202	Decentralised procurement under process.
Total		981 (Prov.)	6599 (Prov.)	7580 (Prov.)	

Supreme Court Judgement regarding Video Conferencing

766. SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
DR. (SHRIMATI) C. SUGUNA KUMARI:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to Supreme Court's recent judgment allowing the use of video-conferencing to record the evidence;

(b) if so whether the Government propose to amend the relevant laws on the subject incorporating the Supreme Court judgement; and

(c) if so, the time by which a legislation in this regard is likely to be brought before Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) According to the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, video-conferencing has been allowed. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has effected amendment to section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 (Central Act of 1974).

It is upto the State Governments to effect amendment to the related Criminal Procedure Code in consultation with the High Courts. In case of any doubt in this regard, they seek the advice of the Central Government/Supreme Court.

Unit-64 Scheme

767. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unit-64 investors throughout the country have made any complaint individually or through their associations for not been able to realise their required dividend and appreciation of their net asset value;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to ensure protection of Unit-64 Scheme investors and to arrange the return of the dividend with appreciation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As per the information

received from the Administrator of the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India, some individual investors and associations made representations seeking relief such as to pay dividend for the year 2002, to make goods the capital loss on account of difference between the acquisition cost and repurchase price, and to waive 5000 units limit for small investors/senior citizens/charitable trusts for getting Rs. 12 per unit repurchase price, etc.

Investors of US-64 were given option of 6.75% p.a. tax-free, interest payable half-yearly, Government guaranteed tradable bonds in lieu of cash payment as on 31.5.2003. These bonds have the features of safety, liquidity and superior returns compared to returns currently available in the market. The effective yield on these bonds works out to over 10% in respect of corporates and individuals with the marginal tax rate of 30% or above.

Textile Industry

768. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects executed in West Bengal for development of textile industry;

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and disbursed for various centrally assisted schemes in West Bengal during the last three years;

(c) whether the disbursed funds for various schemes and projects have been utilized fully by the West Bengal Government; and

(d) if no, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (d) State-wise allocation of funds is not made in the budget of the Ministry of Textiles under any of the schemes. Proposals are invited under the schemes, and the amount released is based on the appraisal and approval given to the projects. Release is made in installments each subsequent release being subject to progress in implementation and the receipt of utilisation certificates. Release is made to the State Government under centrally sponsored schemes, and directly to the implementing agency under Central Sector Schemes. The details of the amount released to projects in the State of West Bengal under different sectors by this process as follows:-

1. Handicrafts

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Export	—	—	7.95
2.	Exhibition	2.06	5.34	4.45
3.	Publicity	6.58	3.36	—
4.	Design	9.16	1.00	0.12
5.	Training	7.86	2.20	0.32
6.	Marketing	14.63	11.72	5.34
7.	Marketing Dev. Support	2.73	1.00	1.04
8.	Survey/Study	0.17	3.05	—
9.	Welfare	7.20	2.97	1.95
10.	CDC/CFC	14.45	9.00	0.89
11.	AHVV	—	23.01	48.77
12.	R&D	—	—	6.00
Total		64.84	62.65	76.83

2. Handlooms

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2000-2001 Fund Released/utilised	2001-2002 Fund Released/utilised	2002-2003 Fund Released/utilised
1.	Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme	358.45/124.76	—	—
2.	Health Package Scheme	7.35/7.35	2.35/*	—
3.	Thrift Fund Scheme	—	—	10.00/*
4.	Group Insurance Scheme	2.47/2.47	2.77/2.77	—
5.	Handloom Export Scheme	16.25/16.25	4.20/4.20	31.93/*
6.	MDA Scheme	110.08/110.08	—	—
7.	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.	28.15/*	27.69/*	347.88/*

*Utilisation report not received from the Government of West Bengal.

3. Silk

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Catalytic Development Programme	55.05	101.92	65.41**
2.	Information Technology Initiatives (commenced in 2002)	—	—	2.97***

**100% utilized

***Utilisation report not received.

* ,

4. Powerlooms

S.No.	Name of the Scheme	1996-1997	1999-2000
1.	Group Insurance Scheme for Powerloom Weavers (On reimbursement basis)	Rs. 68,000.00	Rs. 68,000.00

5. Jute

There is no Centrally Sponsored Scheme for development of jute textiles. However, as 77.63% of jute mills in the country are located in the State of West Bengal a sizeable portion of funds meant for jute development being operated through JMDC, IJIRA, Institute of Jute Technology etc. are utilised in the State of West Bengal only.

Export of Rice

769. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have ordered an enquiry into the alleged irregularities involving crores of rupees in the export of rice/wheat allegedly facilitated by the FCI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the enquiry report has been submitted in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (e) An inquiry had been instituted taking note of the reports appearing in the press regarding alleged irregularities relating to the concession given to rice exporters as allowance for 'Brokens'. The report has not been submitted.

The concession give to rice exporters had been withdrawn with effect from 1st October, 2002.

VRS for Employees of Insurance Companies

770. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in Life Insurance Corporation and Public Sector General Insurance Companies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the VRS is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) A proposal of Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the Officers and employees of four public sector general insurance companies has been received from General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association of India (GIPSA). It is under consideration of the Government.

There is no proposal to introduce Voluntary Retirement Scheme for the employees of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Import of Natural Rubber

771. SHRI K. MURALEEDHARAN:
SHRI T. GOVINDAN:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken away the import restriction on natural rubber and decided to import natural rubber;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has submitted any proposal in this regard;

(d) if so, whether the Government have taken any measures to protect the rubber producers due to this act;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether there is any plan to increase the import duty on rubber; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Import of Natural Rubber has been made free w.e.f. 1.4.2001 as part of the removal of Quantitative Restrictions from large number of items for imports. Under the Exim Policy, exporters are entitled to import inputs duty free for the manufacture of items for export under the Advance Licence Scheme as per the Standard Input Output Norms (SION) fixed for a particular item. Certain restrictions had been put in place for import of Natural Rubber duty free under this scheme. The Public Notices and the Policy Circulars imposing such restrictions have been set aside by the Bombay High Court. The SLP filed by the Government against this order was not admitted by the Supreme Court. As a result, restrictions imposed on import of Natural Rubber under the Advance Licence Scheme stand removed.

(c) to (e) Yes Sir. A representation has been received from CM, Kerala. The Government is keenly monitoring the price as well as import of Natural Rubber in the country and will take appropriate action, if there is an undue surge in the import of Natural Rubber.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal at present to increase the import duty on rubber. The WTO bound rate of duty on Natural Rubber is 25% and at present, the same is being levied.

Write off of Tax Arrears

772. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are writing off Rs. 92,000 crore tax arrears owned to the Government by the assesseees;

(b) if so, the reasons which prompted the Government to take such a decision;

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to recover the arrears before taking such a decision;

(d) whether any accountability has been fixed for allowing to accumulate the arrears; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, do not arise.

NPA of Banks

773. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:
SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quantum of Non-performing Assets (NPAs) of the public sector banks/financial institutions have come down after the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Securities Interest Act, 2002 has come into effect;

(b) if so, the details of NPAs of each public sector banks/financial institutions as on March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003;

(c) the NPAs recovered and the amount written off during the year 2002-2003 by each of these banks/financial institutions separately; and

(d) the further steps taken by the banks to recover the NPAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The total Gross NPAs of the Public Sector Banks decreased by Rs. 4839 crore from Rs. 56607 crore to Rs. 51768 crore between March 31, 2002 and March 31, 2003 (Provisional). In the case of financial institutions the Net NPAs have increased by 10.8% from Rs. 12104 crores as on March 2002 to Rs. 13412 crores as on March 2003 (provisional).

(b) The bank-wise gross NPAs of public sector banks & institution-wise net NPAs of financial institutions as on 31st March 2002 and 31st March 2003 are at Statement-I.

(c) The bank-wise details of amount of NPAs written off and NPAs recovered in the year 2002-2003 by each

of these banks is at statement-II. Institution-wise details in this regard are being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

(d) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of use such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees, Lok Adalats and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. Credit Information Bureau has also 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. A company viz., "Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd." has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956. "The Securitization & Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002" has been enacted to facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues. RBI has issued revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of Public Sector Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines will cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or loss as on 31st March 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10.00 crore and below.

Statement I

Gross NPAs of Public Sector Banks and Net NPAs of Financial Institutions

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S.No.	Bank Name	31st March 2002	31st March 2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	2002	1842
2.	Andhra Bank	524	581
3.	Bank of Baroda	4489	3910
4.	Bank of India	3722	3495
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	906	958
6.	Canara Bank	2112	2393
7.	Central Bank of India	3376	3243

1	2	3	4
8.	Corporation Bank	687	657
9.	Dena Bank	1996	1617
10.	Indian Bank	2175	1545
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	1819	1760
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	952	1145
13.	Punjab & Sindh Bank	1092	1077
14.	Punjab National Bank	4140	4980
15.	Syndicate Bank	1299	1416
16.	UCO Bank	1333	1206
17.	Union Bank of India	2420	2388
18.	United Bank of India	1216	926
19.	Vijaya Bank	603	506
20.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	616	580
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	899	740
22.	State Bank of India	15486	12474
23.	State Bank of Indore	320	295
24.	State Bank of Mysore	625	562
25.	State Bank of Patiala	628	482
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	443	354
27.	State Bank of Travancore	728	635
Total		56607	51768

Financial Institutions

1.	IDBI	6500	7330
2.	IFCI	3897.64	4559.68
3.	IIBI	662	609
4.	IDFC	Nil	30
5.	TFCI	213.17	224.54
6.	EXIM Bank	448.42	184
7.	NHB	Nil	Nil
8.	NABARD	0.93	1.61
9.	SIDBI	382.17	472.71
10.	Total	12104	13412

Statement II**Bank-wise Details of Amount Written off
and NPA Recovered**

(Amount in Rs. crore)

S.No.	Bank Name	Amount Written off	NPA Recovered
1.	Allahabad Bank	208.5	222.64
2.	Andhra Bank	93.65	74.6
3.	Bank of Baroda	456.77	439.61
4.	Bank of India	535.7	462.79
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	92.35	102.53
6.	Canara Bank	112.24	638.41
7.	Central Bank of India	418.22	318
8.	Corporation Bank	16.15	74.85
9.	Dena Bank	637.87	452.55
10.	Indian Bank	57.1	270.64
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	125.81	352.41
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	4.97	293.3
13.	Punjab & Sindh Bank	55.32	122.43
14.	Punjab National Bank	157.93	477.14
15.	Syndicate Bank	42.32	181.33
16.	UCO Bank	132.59	121.18
17.	Union Bank of India	378.22	326.42
18.	United Bank of India	223	117.5
19.	Vijaya Bank	122.59	123.71
20.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	94.84	91.59
21.	State Bank of Hyderabad	289.34	135.79
22.	State Bank of India	3939.93	1309.89
23.	State Bank of Indore	110.57	67.49
24.	State Bank of Mysore	129.99	214.12
25.	State Bank of Patiala	175.29	111.97
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	98.69	45.69
27.	State Bank of Travancore	81.65	87.55
Total		8791.6	7236.13

[Translation]**Contribution to Annual Income**

774. SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the contribution of the industrial sector, agricultural sector and the defence sector to the national income during the financial year 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): The contribution of industry (mining, manufacturing, electricity and construction), agriculture (including forestry and fishing) and services sectors to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at current prices are given below. The contribution of defence sector to GDP is mainly included in the 'manufacturing' and 'service' sectors and is not separately presented in the National Accounts Statistics.

Percentage contribution to GDP at current prices by broad sectoral groups.

Sector	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Industry (mining, manufacturing, electricity and construction)	26.6	25.9	26.4
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	24.9	25.0	23.0
Services	48.5	49.2	50.6
of which community, social & personal services	14.5	14.6	15.1
of which; public administration and defence	6.5	6.4	NA

NA: Not Available.

[English]**Hallmarking of Silver Articles**

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

(a) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards proposes to introduce the quality assurance system of Hallmarking for silver articles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for mandatory use of hallmarking for silver articles by the manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) proposes to introduce Hallmarking of Silver Articles on voluntary basis in accordance with the Indian Standards IS: 2112:2003 "Silver, Jewellery artifacts—Fineness & Hallmarking".

(c) There is no proposal at present with BIS to make the Hallmarking of Silver Articles mandatory.

Dishonour of Cheques

776. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing law is not sufficient to tackle the cases relating to dishonour of cheques;

(b) if so, the details of flaws in the existing law;

(c) whether RBI is reviewing the norms pertaining to dishonour of cheques from stock exchanges including proposal to amend the Information Technology Act, 2000 relating to electronic clearance of cheques; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) After recent amendments in the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881, the existing law is sufficient to tackle cases relating to dishonour of cheques.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Pursuant to the recommendations contained in paragraph 5.214 of the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam for the issuance of specific guidelines by Reserve Bank to all banks regarding the procedure to be followed by them in respect of dishonour of cheques from stock exchanges, the Reserve Bank has issued a circular No. 113 dated 26th June, 2003 after reviewing the extant instructions relating to return of all dishonoured cheques. The circular contains guidelines to the banks with regard to the procedure to be followed by them in the event of dishonour of cheques, which includes prompt action to be taken by them.

However, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government for amending the Information Technology Act, 2000 relating to electronic clearance of cheques.

(d) Does not arise.

Properties taken over by IDBI

777. SHRI G. GANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has taken over possession of certain properties under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002; and

(b) if so, the number of properties whose possession has been taken over by the IDBI since the enforcement of above Act?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that IDBI has so far taken over possession of five properties of four assisted companies under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

[Translation]

Unit-64 Scheme

778. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had promised cash payment to people who had invested money under Unit-64 scheme;

(b) if so, whether the Government are forcibly issuing bonds to the persons who have invested money under Unit-64 scheme;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of the people to whom bonds have been issued by the UTI till date?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As per the information received from the Administrator of the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India, till date approximately 28.87 lakh bond certificates have been issued to investors covered under 17.93 lakh Investor Identification Numbers.

[English]

Handicraft Complexes in Rajasthan

779. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance for setting up of handicraft complexes in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the detail thereof during the last three years;

(c) the number and locations of the complexes have been set up;

(d) whether there is a proposal to set up an export zone for Handicraft items in the district Jodhpur, Rajasthan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]:
(a) No, Sir. There is no scheme for setting up of handicraft complexes in the sector.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Fall in FDI/Foreign Institutional Investors

780. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI AMAR RAOY PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country has registered a fall in Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional Investors during the year 2001-2003;

(b) if so, the extent of the fall; and

(c) the extent of fall in respect of each State/UT?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) received during the financial years 2000-01, 2001-02 are US \$ 4029 million and US \$ 6131 million respectively. FDI data which is in alignment with international best practices, would be available for 2002-03 after a time-lag. Foreign Institutional Investors (FII) investment during calendar years 2001, 2002 and for the period January-June 2003 was US\$ 2843.3 million, US \$ 763.5 million and US \$ 2083 million respectively.

(b) and (c) There has been no fall in FDI into the country for the years 2000-01 and 2001-02. FII investment, being portfolio investments is dependent on capital market conditions and several other factors and determinants, both domestic and international, which influence the market trends/sentiments.

Smuggling along Eastern Coast

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that there has been a drastic increase in smuggling activities along the eastern coast of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of persons arrested along the eastern coast for smuggling activities;

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

(e) the action being taken by the Government to check the smuggling activities along the eastern coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Details of the cases booked, persons arrested and action taken during last three years is as below:

Year	No. of cases booked	No of persons arrested	Action taken against the persons arrested
2000-2001	121	21	Prosecuted
2001-2002	120	15	-do-
2002-2003	109	15	-do-
2003-2004 (upto June 2003)	38	Nil	-do-

(e) All Customs field formations including the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of any contraband goods along the eastern coast of the country.

GDP Projection

782. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the GDP projections of India made by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific for 2003, placing the GDP at 5.1 percent; and

(b) if so, the extent to which the Government agrees to this projection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in its "Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2003" brought out in March, 2003 has projected India's real GDP growth rate at 6 per cent for 2003. At the time of Survey's media launch on April 17, 2003, ESCAP has indicated a revised growth rate of 5.1 per cent based on the projection made by the International Monetary Fund. Different agencies make projections of growth based on their perception of growth prospects. The Government has taken note of the projection by the ESCAP.

Financial Restructuring of LIC

783. DR. V. SAROJA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked for a report from Life Insurance Corporation of India on its financial position;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Corporation is falling short of the capital norms and the solvency requirement;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government for financial restructuring of the LIC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) According to the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) (Assets, Liabilities and Solvency Margin of Insurers) Regulations, 2000 which have become applicable to LIC w.e.f. 1.4.2001, the IRDA has asked LIC to fulfill the Solvency Margin requirement. Since the Solvency Margin requirement has arisen for the first time, on the request of LIC, IRDA has provided 3 years transition period to fulfill the same. At present there is no proposal by the Government for financial restructuring of LIC.

Tax Concessions availed by Cigarette Manufacturing Companies

784. SHRI K.A. SANGTAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that cigarette manufacturing companies instead of setting up complete manufacturing units for their products resorted to entering into agreements of job work of partial process and were vying with each other to exploit excise duty concessions under the tax holiday and excise exemption scheme announced by the government for the North East region to encourage the investors to boost the economy;

(b) if so, the details of the claims made by such companies during the last three years, year-wise and company-wise;

(c) the steps being taken to check such malpractices and encourage genuine investors to set up their units irrespective of product category in terms of Industrial Policy, 1997 in this sector in the North-East; and

(d) the attempts being made to recover the benefits exploited by such cigarette manufacturing companies in

terms of Section 154(4) of Finance Act, 2003 and to extend the benefits of North East Industrial Policy to all genuine manufacturing units set up in North-East pursuant to Government promise and continuing their operations till date irrespective of product category?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A statement showing the details of the refunds of excise duty paid/ withheld for the period from 8.7.1999 to 31.12.1999 and

from 17.1.2000 to 22.1.2001, the period during which exemption to cigarettes was available, is enclosed.

(c) Industrial activity is governed by the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951. The Finance Ministry has no jurisdiction to check such malpractices committed in violation of the said Act.

(d) The manufacturers have been directed to deposit the refunds availed by them. The benefit to other manufacturers other than tobacco products are unaffected.

Statement

Unit-wise data showing the refunds allowed and refunds withheld in respect of the units manufacturing cigarettes in the North Eastern Region and claiming exemptions in terms of the Notification No. 32/99-CE dated 8.7.1999

Sl.No.	Name of the unit	Amount of refunds already granted	Amount of refunds withheld
1.	M/s. Newzone India Pvt. Ltd.	13,48,14,120.00	10,65,40,851.00
2.	M/s. Kaziranga Tobacco Products	3,63,45,120.00	6,75,52,192.00
3.	M/s. AVM Tobacco Co. Pvt. Ltd.	57,65,340.00	47,00,600.00
4.	M/s. Golconda Industries	16,09,37,360.00	11,98,42,800.00
5.	M/s. Frontier Multiproducts	11,46,49,600.00	12,04,34,200.00
6.	M/s. R.C. Tobacco Pvt. Ltd.	14,06,88,640.00	23,57,84,415.00
7.	M/s. Assam Cigarette Co. P. Ltd.	13,20,33,605.00	11,01,25,121.00
8.	M/s. Sri Agasthay Industries P. Ltd.	8,48,62,624.00	8,05,74,000.00
9.	M/s. Sunflag Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	13,10,35,700.00	12,21,49,500.00
10.	M/s. Tirupati Tobacco Pvt. Ltd.	5,59,38,661.00	11,65,79,435.00
11.	M/s. Assam Tobacco Pvt. Ltd.	2,01,46,460.00	9,46,81,099.00
12.	M/s. Alam Industries	0.00	11,24,66,457.00
13.	M/s. O.V. Tobacco Co. Pvt. Ltd.	0.00	6,61,200.00
14.	M/s. A.M.S. Convertors	0.00	5,87,19,129.00
15.	M/s. Khatuwalla Tobacco	0.00	5,25,000.00
16.	M/s. Krishna Industries Pvt. Ltd.	4,82,85,491.00	2,07,65,200.00
17.	M/s. New Tobacco Co.	2,76,90,000.00	1,89,45,120.00
18.	M/s. NETCO	93,51,17,180.00	56,79,99,605.00
Total		202,85,09,901.00	139,10,46,319.00

**Amount Released under TSP to
Open Ashram Schools**

785. SHRI ANADI SAHU: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the total amount released under the Tribal Sub-plan for starting of Ashram Schools in each State/UT of the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds allocated to Orissa have been fully utilized;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The details of the amount released during the last three years is at the statement enclosed.

(b) This is a 50:50 Scheme and the State Government could not make provision. Hence no grant has been released to the State Government of Orissa during last three years.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Statement

The release of amount in various States/UTs under the Tribal Sub-Plan for starting of Ashram Schools during last three years

S.No.	Year of Release	Name of State	Amount released (in rupees)
1	2000-01	Nil	Nil
2	2001-02	(1) Andhra Pradesh	2,62,50,000
		(2) Gujarat	1,57,30,000
		(3) Tripura	50,00,000
		(4) Karnataka	1,28,00,000
		(5) Chhattisgarh	4,00,00,000
3	2002-03	(1) Karnataka	1,30,00,000
		(2) Madhya Pradesh	8,20,00,000

Decline in Export of Fruits due to US-Iraq War

786. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's export of fruits suffered setback on account of war in Iraq; and

(b) if so, the total loss in terms of rupees suffered as a result of war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There is very little impact on export of fruits and vegetables including mangoes on account of war in Iraq. A small reduction in exports to the Gulf countries is apparent because of increased costs as a result of air freight hike, war risk premium and recent evacuation of ethnic population from the Gulf countries etc.

Budget Estimates

787. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the presentation of budget estimates is not in consonance to the actual collections but on optimistic projections as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Report No. 10 of 2003 (Indirect taxes—Customs);

(b) if so, the reasons for making optimistic projections; and

(c) the steps taken to present realistic budget?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Budget Estimates are made on the basis of certain assumptions which appear plausible at the time of formulation of the budget. These assumptions, like projected growth in the manufacturing sector, export import trade, exchange rate changes and market forces of supply and demand etc. may fluctuate. This may result in actual collection of revenue varying from the budget estimates.

(c) Various factors affecting the economy cannot be predicted with great degree of accuracy. Efforts are, however, made to make the assumption as realistic as possible.

[Translation]

Recession in Global Economy

788. SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the impact of indications of recession in global economy would also affect the Indian economy;

(b) if so, the expected percentage of growth rate of Indian economy during the current financial year;

(c) the reasons which would affect the Indian economy; and

(d) the steps being taken to achieve the targets of the economic growth rate fixed by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The latest World Economic Outlook (April 2003) of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects a growth of 5.1% for the Indian economy in 2003. This projected growth rate is higher than that of the overall world output (3.2%), the advanced economies (1.9%), as well as that of the developing economies (5.0%). India, therefore, is expected to be a major performer in the world economy during the current year despite global recessionary trends.

(b) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has projected a growth rate of 6% for the Indian economy in 2002-03 on the assumption of a normal monsoon. However, growth targets for the economy are not fixed annually. The Tenth Five-Year Plan aims at an annual average growth rate of 8% for the Tenth Five-Year Plan period (2002-2007). The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives like promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Procurement of Cereals

789. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT:

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

(a) the cereals procured by the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the cereal procurement has declined during the current year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The quantities of wheat, rice and coarse cereals procured during the last three years are as under:-

(Qty. in lakh tonnes)

Marketing Year	Rice	Coarse cereals (Jowar, Bajra, Maize, Ragi)	Wheat
2000-01	212.80	6.51	163.55
2001-02	221.29	3.15	206.30
2002-03*	160.30	0.60	190.24
2003-04*	—	—	158.02

*As on 22.7.2003

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The major factors contributing to lesser procurement in the current Kharif/Rabi Marketing Season are drought conditions in most of the paddy producing States, fall in production of foodgrains and open market prices ruling at par or higher than the Minimum Support Prices.

[English]

Demands of Bar Council of India

790. SHRI J.S. BARAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Bar Council of India has demanded that the kinds of Judges should not be allowed to appear for cases under their jurisdiction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has informed that it has

demanding that the Judges must be posted at places other than the places where their children or near relations practice. The Council at a joint meeting with the Chairmen/Representatives of State Bar Councils and Presidents of High Court Bar Associations passed the following resolution on 8/9-2-2003:

"IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that in matters of selection of Judges, merit should be the paramount consideration and that the policy of transfer should continue as it promotes the national integration and give the judiciary a pan Indian approach and also serves the purpose of enabling the judges to be posted at places other than the places where their children or near relations practise."

The above resolution was passed to emphasise the need to observe Rule 6 of the Bar Council of India Rules relating to "Standards of professional Conduct and Etiquette", which reads as under:-

"An Advocate shall not enter appearance, act, plead or practise in any way before a Court, Tribunal or Authority mentioned in Section 30 of the Act, if the sole or any member thereof is related to the Advocate as father, grandfather, son, grand-son, uncle, brother, nephew, first cousin, husband, wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, niece, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, brother-in-law, daughter-in-law or sister-in-law.

For the purpose of this rule, Court shall mean a Court, Bench or Tribunal in which above mentioned relation of the Advocate is a Judge, Member or the Presiding Officer."

Note Counting and Verification Process System

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has installed Counting and Verification Process System Machines at various locations;

(b) if so, the number of such machines installed, location-wise;

(c) the amount incurred on installation/purchase of such machines;

(d) the quantum of staff (category-wise) rendered surplus because of such sophisticated mechanism; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise their services?

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

(b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the location-wise installation of machines is as under:

Office	Number of Machines
Ahmedabad	3
Bangalore	3
Belapur	2
Bhopal	4
Bhubaneswar	2
Chandigarh	3
Chennai	3
Guwahati	2
Hyderabad	3
Jaipur	3
Jammu	1
Kanpur	3
Kolkata	3
Mumbai	3
Nagpur	2
New Delhi	3
Patna	3
Thiruvananthapuram	2
Total	48

(c) RBI have further reported that an amount of Rs. 172.65 crores has been incurred on the installation of machines which includes customs duty.

(d) RBI have reported that as on date no staff is rendered surplus because of machines.

(e) Does not arise.

World Bank Aid for Irrigation Project

729. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed in March, 2003 between India and World Bank for development of irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of loans taken from World Bank till date; and

(d) the details of amount released to each State from the loans received from World Bank, State-wise?

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 information in respect of ongoing Irrigation Projects is enclosed in the statement.

Statement

World Bank Aid for Irrigation Project

(US\$ million)

S. No.	Name of the project	State	Date of signing	Amount of Loan/Credit	Disbursement as on 30.6.2003
1.	Hydrology Project	Multi-state	22.9.95	122.4*	88.239**
2.	Tamil Nadu Water Resources Consolidation Project	Tamil Nadu	22.9.95	254.9#	188.637
3.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project	Orissa	5.1.96	290.9	181.204
4.	Andhra Pradesh III Irrigation Project	Andhra Pradesh	3.6.97	280@	199.663
5.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	15.3.02	140	5.654
6.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	8.3.02	149.2	5.501
7.	Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	Karnataka	4.6.02	98.9	3.988

*after cancellation of US\$ 19.6 million in August 2000.

#after cancellation of US\$ 28 million in January 2002.

@after cancellation of US\$ 45 million in December 2002.

**The cumulative disbursement for Hydrology Project which is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Chhattisgarh is US\$ 88.239 million.

Cooperative Banks Functioning Without Licences

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

(a) whether most of the cooperative banks that have failed in the recent past were working without licences;

(b) if so, the action the Government have taken or propose to take to check the growth of cooperative banks running, without valid licences in different States of the country; and

(c) the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to ensure that banks with proper licences of banks are allowed to do banking business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that presently 181 unlicensed urban co-operative banks (UCBs), 17 State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and 297 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) are functioning in the country. Since the

Cooperative Banks were brought under the ambit of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (As Applicable to Co-operative-Societies), from 1st March, 1966, these banks are permitted to carry on banking business till a decision is taken on their licence applications by RBI.

Further, RBI is reviewing the position of such banks from time to time and has written to the State Registrars of Co-operative Societies (RCS) not to register societies having enabling provision in their bye-laws to transact banking business, without the prior approval of RBI. The present situation in cooperative banking sector is not conducive for large scale rejection of licence applications. Therefore, the banks which are likely to comply with the licensing norms in the near future are given time to improve their financial position. RBI is also advising RCS liquidation of such cooperative banks which are continuously failing to show any improvement in their financial position or deteriorating.

Globalisation

794. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Globalisation does merely mean export-orientation for India; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by the Government to build up capability in product development, process re-engineering and strong R&D attitude?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Globalization is widely believed to be a process of establishing systems that provide opportunities not only for market access and export promotion but also facilitate development of new and improved techniques of production and management. Government has been taking concrete steps to build capability in product development, process re-engineering and strong R&D attitude through various incentive schemes for industrial R&D including tax relief for R&D activity and national awards for outstanding R&D achievements and commercialization of public funded R&D. Technology transfer procedures have also been simplified.

Securitisation of Countries Forex Reserves

795. PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of India's forex reserves parked in Government securities of developed nations, country-wise;

(b) the percentage of these securities amount out of total Forex reserves;

(c) the percentage of interest earned from these securities; and

(d) the percentage of interest India pays on external debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Reserve bank of India (RBI) manages and operates the country's foreign exchange reserves. The deployment of foreign exchange reserves is guided by the principles of safety, liquidity, and return. Depending upon the conditions prevailing in international financial markets, the RBI makes marginal changes in the currency/asset composition in the portfolio for increasing the return and/or minimising the risk of losses. The entire foreign currency assets of the country are invested in approved foreign securities and in deposits of foreign central and commercial banks and the Bank of International Settlements.

(d) Interest rates on external debt are determined by the maturities and currency compositions of various forms of debt. During the period April-December 2002, India's total debt service (repayments and interest) on external debt was US\$ 9,449 million, of which, interest payments amounted to US\$ 2695 million. India's total stock of external debt at end-December 2002 was US \$104987 million.

Export of Textiles Products

796. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:
SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of items including carpets have been deleted from the list of items eligible for duty free import into USA under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) its effects on the domestic carpet industry; and

(d) the corrective steps taken to revive the carpet industry of the country?

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

(a) to (d) According to a notice issued by the US Trade Representative on 1.7.03, Indian carpets classified under HTS Sub-heading 5702.99.20 (Carpets and other textile floor covering not of pile construction, woven) have graduated out of the US GSP Scheme as the item has exceeded competitive need limitation and de minimus waiver is not admissible. The total import of this item into US is US\$ 15,138 which is negligible as compared with our total carpet exports to US of US\$ 250 million. Besides, there are many carpet products which still enjoy US GSP benefits. Therefore, no significant effects are envisaged on the domestic carpet industry from withdrawal of GSP concession on the item.

[*Translation*]

Agro Products Permitted for Export/Import

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

(a) the number of the agro products permitted for export during the last three years;

(b) the number of the agro products allowed for import during the above period;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to promote the export of cumini; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The Government has been gradually removing export restrictions on agricultural products. Restriction on export of certain varieties of agricultural seeds, wheat and wheat products, grain and flour of barley, maize, rabi and jowar and restrictions on sugar and packaging restrictions on pulses were removed during the year 2001-02. In EXIM policy (2003-04) all agro items have been made freely exportable except onion and Jute seeds, deoiled groundnut cakes containing more than 1% oil and groundnut expeller cakes, fodder, including wheat and rice straw, rice bran (raw and boiled).

(b) During the year 2000-01, 1153 tariff lines of agricultural products were freely importable. This was increased to 1162 as on 31-3-02 and further increased to 1182 as on 31-3-03.

(c) and (d) The Government through Spices Board is implementing a number of schemes including financial and other assistance for upgradation of technology, quality control, marketing etc. to promote export of spices including cumini.

[*English*]

Production of Textiles

798. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the textiles production in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the textiles export to different countries during the last three years, country-wise and year-wise;

(c) the percentage and position of India in the field of exports in the international market;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase textiles exports in 2003-04 and 2004-05; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOU DA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) The textiles production in the country during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2002-02 and 2002-03 has been as given below:

Year	Spun Yarn (Million Kgs.)	Cloth (Million Sq. Mtr.)
2000-2001	3160	39675
2001-2002	3101	41390
2002-2003 (Provisional)	3080	41462

Source: Office of Textile Commissioner, Mumbai.

(b) India's textile products are exported to more than hundred countries. However, 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.

(c) As per the latest available WTO data (2000), India's percentage shares in the global textiles and clothing trade was 3.8% and 3.0% respectively.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Government has already fixed a target of US\$ 13.5 billion for export of textile products

during 2003-04 as against the achievement of US\$ 11.8 billion during 2002-03. Government have been taking a number of measures to boost textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are:

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) 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 machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iv) With a view to encourage backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.
- (v) 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.
- (vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the textile products pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched.

Procurement of Wheat

799. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have investigated the irregularities in procurement and allotment of wheat and rice under PDS;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the number of States who have not fully lifted their quota under PDS scheme; and

(d) the reasons for not lifting the allotted quota by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA). (a) to (d) Irregularities in procurement are investigated whenever complaints are received and corrective and penal action is taken against the defaulting officers/officials. The allotments of wheat and rice to the States is made on the basis of allocations of the Central Government and their further distribution is the responsibility of the State Governments.

Wheat and rice are allocated to the State Governments/UTs on bi-monthly basis under the guidelines of TPDS. The lifting of foodgrains by States/UTs under TPDS depends on several factors, such as parity between the Central Issue Prices and the open market prices, availability of foodgrains in the open market, release of foodgrains under various welfare schemes such as SGRY, Special Components of SGRY, Antyodaya Anna Yojana, etc., food habits of the people in different regions of the country, etc. None of the States/UTs have been able to fully lift the quantity of foodgrains allotted to them.

[Translation]

Education Loan for Talented Youth

800. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the poor talented youths are not coming forward to take education loan;

(b) whether it is due to high rate of interest on loan; and

(c) if so, the action being taken by the Government to reduce the interest rate on education loan which is even higher than the interest rate on housing loan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) According to the information

furnished by Reserve Bank of India they have not received any complaints regarding poor talented youth not coming forward to take education loan. Government in consultation with RBI & Indian Bank's Association has framed a comprehensive educational loan scheme to ensure that no deserving student in the country is deprived of higher education for want of finances. For loans up to Rs. 4 lakh no collateral or margin is required and the interest rate will not exceed Prime Lending Rate (PLR). For loans above Rs. 4 lakh, the interest rate will not exceed PLR plus 1 percent. RBI has been pursuing a soft interest rate regime. The lending rates of banks from time to time are governed by the directives on interest rate issued by RBI. In previous year, there has been continuous reduction in PLRs of banks.

[English]

Export Fraud Committed by Companies

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

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in Delhi who have defrauded Government during the last two years by misusing export promotion schemes such as duty drawback, duty free replenishment certificate schemes and duty exemption pass book scheme;

(b) the total amount involved in these cases;

(c) the number of persons arrested and the number of cases registered against them and the number of convictions made in these cases; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to check such frauds in future?

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

Rejection of Food Consignment by European Countries

802. SHRI AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

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

(a) whether a large number of Indian food consignments including Basmati rice have been rejected by the USA and other European countries recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the items rejected and the basis of rejection;

(c) whether the Government have initiated any action against the erring export firms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Instances of import rejection in USA and European Union on account of non conformity with the standards applicable in the importing countries have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Such cases are investigated as per procedure and action against errant exporters taken as appropriate. Recently, certificate of registration of three exporters of spices has been suspended.

Investment by UCB

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

(a) whether the Government have issued new guidelines to urban cooperative banks regarding investment portfolio;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the banks have been advised to take advantage of non-competitive bidding facility provided to them for acquiring Government securities in primary auction; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has recently issued guidelines concerning investment portfolio to primary (urban) co-operative banks (UCBs). These guidelines caution the banks against investing in

illiquid securities, advise compulsory settlement through Negotiated Dealing System (NDS) and setting through Clearing Corporation of India (CCIL) in government securities and suggest to take advantage of non-competitive bidding facility provided to them in auction of government securities.

Under the scheme of non-competitive bidding in the auctions of Government securities each UCB can bid up to Rupees two crore (face value) in any auction of Government dated securities on a non-competitive basis through a bank or a primary dealer. The securities are allotted at a price based on the weight average of the cut off rates emerging in the auction. In addition, UCBs can also participate directly or through a bank or primary dealer in auction of State Government loans. RBI has reported that in the eight auctions held by RBI during the quarter ending June 30, 2003, 638 applications were received from UCBs involving an amount of Rs. 627.42 crore.

National Task Force on Agriculture and Food Export

804 SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Task Force on Agriculture and Food Exports and Trade Strategy to develop long term agriculture and food export plans for the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

NRI Deposits

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

(a) the total amount of money received by the banks from the Non Resident Indians (NRIs) during each of the last three years;

(b) the rate of interest being paid by the banks on NRI deposits;

(c) how far the same compare with the interest being paid by some of the other countries;

(d) whether NRI are allowed to repatriate their deposits in the Indian banks in dollars; and

(e) if so, the terms on which the NRIs deposit their money in the Indian banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per Reserve Bank of India, the details of deposit inflows and out flows under various NRI deposit schemes of Banks are as under:

(US\$ million)			
Deposit Schemes	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks)	904	594	520
Non-Resident (External) Rupee Account	860	1626	5988
Non-Resident (Non-Repatriable) Rupee Deposit	553	508	(-)3704
Total	2317	2728	2804

(b) The rate of interest paid by the bank's on NRI deposits is as under:-

Types of deposits	Rate of interest
NRI Saving Bank	3.5% (with effect from 1.3.2003)
Current Accounts	Nil
Term Deposits	The banks were free to decide the interest rate till 16.7.2003. Effective from 17.7.2003 interest rate should not exceed 250 basis points above the LIBOR/ SWP rates for US dollar of corresponding maturity, for fresh deposits of one to three years and the renewal of matured deposits.

(c) At present, the interest rates on FCNR (B) deposits are subject to a ceiling of LIBOR/SWAP rates for the corresponding maturities minus 25 basis points, and generally conform to global interest rates in foreign currency deposits in US dollar, pound sterling, euro etc.

(d) and (e) FCNR (B) deposits which were repatriable were accepted by the banks at different interest rates for

specified maturities prescribed by RBI from time to time in four foreign currencies, viz, the US Dollar, the Pound Sterling, the Deutsch Mark and the Japanese Yen.

Transfer Policy in Revenue Department

806. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE:
PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any strategy for posting and transfers of the officers above the rank of Assistant Commissioner in revenue service;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the additional measures adopted to make the transfer process transparent and stop unfair means in the process?

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

(b) The salient features of the new Transfer/Placement Policy are as follows:

- (i) All transfers and postings of Group 'A' officers in CBDT and CBEC shall be effected either by the Placement Committee or on its recommendations;
- (ii) A posting policy has been formulated for officers at different levels;
- (iii) All stations shall be categorized in three classes and tenure of stay in different classes of stay has been prescribed;
- (iv) All posts in a station shall be divided into two categories viz. sensitive and non-sensitive;
- (v) Guidelines for dealing with different types of compassionate issues have been laid down;
- (vi) All annual transfer orders shall be issued by 30th April of that year.
- (vii) The new Transfer/Placement Policy shall come into effect from 2004-05.
- (viii) The transfer guidelines shall not be applicable to the transfer and postings of Chief Commissioners/Director Generals.

(c) The new policy has been given wide publicity in press and other media and has been put up on the official website also.

Handloom Weavers, Maharashtra

807. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of handloom weavers in the country;

(b) out of them how many are from Maharashtra;

(c) the facilities given to these handloom weavers in Maharashtra during 2001-02; and

(d) the amount released to Maharashtra for this purpose during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) As per the joint census of handlooms & powerlooms conducted during 1995-96, there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in handloom weaving and its associated activities in the country. A total of 0.81 lakh persons out of these were based in Maharashtra.

(c) and (d) The Government has formulated a number of Schemes for the development of the handloom sector and for the welfare of weavers. A sum of Rs. 94.26 lakh was released to Maharashtra during 2001-02 for implementation of the:

- (i) Work-shed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (ii) Project Package Scheme.
- (iii) Thrift Fund Scheme.
- (iv) Exhibitions & Publicity.

Besides, two "Weavers' Service Centres" are located at Mumbai and Nagpur, which provide design, guidance, training and technical inputs to the handloom weavers.

Export Target

808. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have pegged the export growth target for merchandise goods at 12% to translate \$57.8 billion exports in 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the increase in the export target as compared to last year's target set by the Government;

(d) whether the target fixed for the year 2002-03 has been achieved;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Export Promotion Councils were consulted before setting up the target; and

(g) the strategy chalked out by the Government to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes sir. The Government has set an export growth target of 12% for 2003-04. This means exports are projected to rise to \$57.8 billion by the end of 2003-04 from \$51.7 billion during 2002-03. The target is in line with the 11.9% compound annual growth rate for 2002-07 given in the Medium Term Export Strategy (MTES) for achieving a 1% share in world exports.

(c) to (e) The Government had set a 12% export growth target for 2002-03 as well, but surpassed it with a growth of 19.2%.

(f) Yes Sir. The target has been finalized after extensive deliberations with Export Promotion Councils.

(g) Based on the strategies contained in the Medium Term Export Strategy 2002-07, announced in January, 2002, a number of programmes/schemes have been launched through the Union Budget, 2003-04 and Exim Policy, 2003-04. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04, besides, the focus on Service exports, policies have been devised to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), 100% Export Oriented Units (EOU's) etc. A new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Duty Neutralization Schemes for import of inputs used for export production have been strengthened. Export Promotion being a constant endeavour of the Government, export performance is continuously monitored on a regular basis to achieve the export target.

[Translation]

Safety of FCI Foodgrains

809. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

(a) the total quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats in the country during the last one year;

(b) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item published in Hindi daily 'Rashtriya Sahara' dated May 21, 2003 under the caption "Chuhon se mukti dilaygi Canadai Vigyaniko ki Salah";

(c) if so, the details of the advice of Canadian scientists;

(d) whether the Food Corporation of India will make use of this advice to save foodgrains from rats;

(e) if so, by when; and

(f) if not, the other steps taken by the Government to save the foodgrains from rats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (f) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) does not maintain a separate record with regard to foodgrains destroyed by rats during storage. However, the Govt. of Mizoram has reported that quantum of foodgrains destroyed by rats in the State of Mizoram in order or 16,380 MT i.e, 15% of the total production from the field as well as during storage.

Canadian scientists have visited State of Mizoram during the month of November, 2002. They have advised to use new second generation anticoagulants namely, difethiolone, difenacoum and brodifacoum. These baits are acute, single dose, anti-coagulants giving mortality within 30 hours.

The FCI undertakes storage of foodgrains on scientific lines following the prescribed code of storage practices. Necessary pest control operations through prophylactic and curative treatment including rodent control measures

like poison baiting and burrow fumigation are undertaken as and when necessary. The following steps have been taken to save foodgrains from rats;

- (i) FCI has constructed its own godowns built on scientific lines which are rodent and damp-proof for storage of foodgrains.
- (ii) Rodent control measures are taken regularly in order to keep the stocks in rodent-free condition.
- (iii) Rat cages/traps and poison baits of zinc phosphide/anti-coagulants are being used in godowns to kill rodents.
- (iv) Qualified and technically trained staff is deployed for periodical inspection and to check menace of rodents.

[English]

SC/ST/OBC Employees

810. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) The group-wise number of personnel working in Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry are given below:

Group 'A'	—	256
Group 'B'	—	488
Group 'C'	—	745
Group 'D'	—	513

(b) The number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled

Castes separately, out of total number of personnel are as given below:

OBC	ST	SC
148	109	410

(c) The group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs are given below:

	OBC	ST	SC
Group 'A'	28	23	44
Group 'B'	18	13	63
Group 'C'	57	37	133
Group 'D'	45	36	170

PDS Schemes

811. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the Public Distribution System, various schemes available for the BPL families are made available to the people of Mumbai;

(b) the number of families identified as BPL in Mumbai;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted to identify BPL families in Maharashtra particularly in Mumbai;

(d) if so, the number of families identified as BPL;

(e) whether any re-survey is being planned;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the benefits available to BPL families under PDS?

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

(b) In Mumbai, 43506 BPL beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) have been identified including 9316 AAY families.

(c) At the inception of TPDS, the BPL survey conducted by Rural Development Department as per

guidelines of Planning Commission was taken as the base for identification of TPDS beneficiaries in rural areas. In urban areas including Mumbai, forms were got filled from households and those families whose income was less than Rs. 15,000/-per annum were identified as beneficiaries for the benefits of TPDS.

(d) Under TPDS 43506 families have been identified in Mumbai including 9316 families under AAY.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) The BPL families are supplied with Wheat, Rice, Sugar and Kerosene under the Public Distribution System.

Debt-Swap Scheme

812. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the budget has introduced a debt-swap scheme to facilitate States repay their high cost debt that would enable them to save an estimated Rs. 81,000 crore in interest;

(b) if so, the schemes that have been initiated to help the Karnataka State in this regard;

(c) the total amount owned by the Karnataka State to the Centre;

(d) the concessions provided to the State;

(e) by what time the clearance of these debt-swap scheme will be completed in the State of Karnataka; and

(f) the steps the Government have taken to help the Karnataka State to clear the debt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) In the Budget Speech of 2002-03, it was proposed that the State Governments would be enabled to pre-pay their high cost debt of the past from the additional resources of small savings transferred to the State Governments, at lower rates of interest. Accordingly, Government of Karnataka also participated.

As per the scheme 20% of Net Small Savings Loans payable to States from September have been used to prepay outstanding Government of India loans. This has been supplemented by Rs. 10,000 crores of Open Market Borrowings for achieving the same purpose. In the current year, 30% of Net Small Savings, complemented by Additional Market Borrowings will be used for the swap. In fiscal year 2004-05, the swap will be effected through 40% of Net Small Savings and Additional Open Market Borrowings.

(c) and (d) Total amount of outstanding loan owed by Karnataka against Ministry of Finance as on 31.03.2002 was Rs. 11,651.46 crores. Out of this, high cost loans of Rs. 831.02 crores have been swapped during 2002-03.

(e) and (f) The scheme envisages that over a three years period ending 2004-05, all State loans to the Government of India bearing coupons of 13% and above would be swapped. The Scheme will restrain the debt build up of States through the small savings loans. Further, the Medium Term Fiscal Reform Programme (MFRP) of Karnataka aims at bringing their debt to sustainable level. Government of India has also issued the instructions for streamlining of borrowings by States under Article 293 (3) of the Constitution.

Seizure of Gold, Silver and Other Foreign Goods

813. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of gold, silver and other foreign goods which have been confiscated during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of persons apprehended in each case;

(c) the action taken by the Government against the person involved in these cases; and

(d) the manner in which the confiscated goods are disposed off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The details of the quantity and value of gold, silver, other foreign goods which have been confiscate, the number of persons apprehended and the action taken against them by the Government during each of the last three years and upto June 2003 is as under:

Year	Gold				Silver				Other foreign goods			
	Qty. (in kg.)	Value in Rs. crore	No. of Persons arrested	Action taken against apprehended persons	Qty. (in kg.)	Value in Rs. crore	No. of Persons arrested	Action taken against apprehended persons	Qty. (in kg.)	Value in Rs. crore	No. of Persons arrested	Action taken against apprehended persons
2000-2001	470.37	19.4392	67	Prosecution launched	2971.48	1.93	Nil	Nil	Assorted goods	159.86	170	Prosecution launched
2001-2002	855.88	36.9722	62	-do-	1130.99	1.87	3	Prosecuted	-do-	303.02	166	-do-
2002-2003	245.57	10.5161	36	-do-	820.66	0.58	Nil	Nil	-do-	335.29	177	-do-
2003-2004 Upto June 2003	6.73	0.3600	4	-do-	19.95	0.01	1	Prosecution launched	-do-	215.25	22	-do-

(d) The confiscated goods are disposed of in the following manner:-

- (i) where seized/confiscated goods are ordered to be released to the parties by the adjudicating/appellate authority, the same are released, after collecting duties/fine/penalty as ordered;
- (ii) in other cases, seized/confiscated goods are disposed of by following the prescribed procedures:
 - (a) consumer goods are sold through agencies like National Consumers Cooperative Federation, Defence Canteens, Customs Retails Shops;
 - (b) trade goods are sold through public auction;
 - (c) narcotic drugs etc. are destroyed under official supervision;
 - (d) confiscated gold is sold through the State Bank of India on the basis of the SBI card rate.

**C&AG Observation on Functioning
of Central Excise**

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

(a) whether the commissionerates of Central Excise are not working as per the regulations laid down by the Central Board of Excise and Customs causing huge

financial loss to the State as has been brought out by the C&AG in its Report No. 11 of 2003 (Indirect Taxes-Central Excise and service tax) on the page 56;

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

(c) the action taken by the Government against the delinquent officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Commissionerates were operating as per the CBEC Circular No. 584/21/2001-CX dated 7th September, 2001. Since the credit have been availed in respect of inputs used in manufacture of goods cleared on payment of duty there is no revenue loss in the matter.

(b) and (c) Nil, in view of reply (a).

Prosecution against Numero Uno

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

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India have launched civil and criminal prosecution against Numero Uno and Ambit Finance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, Numero Uno proposed to buyback its share from the UTI;

(d) if so, the price offered by Numero Uno for each share;

(e) the price at which UTI purchase Numero Uno's share;

(f) whether Ambit Finance has also sent any proposal in this regard; and

(g) if not, the time likely to be taken to start civil and criminal prosecution against Ambit Finance and Numero Uno?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per the information received from the Administrator of the Specified Undertaking of the Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), action has been initiated for filing an application in the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Mumbai among others, against M/s Numero Uno International Ltd. and M/s Ambit Corporate Pvt. Ltd. for recovery of investments. as regards criminal prosecution, the matter is under examination of SUUTI.

(c) and (d) Chairman and Managing Director, Numero Uno International Ltd. has offered to buy back the entire block of 6 lacs equity shares (after accounting for 1:1 bonus issue) from SUUTI and UTI Mutual Fund @45% of the issue price.

(e) The erstwhile UTI had purchased the shares at the following prices:

In March 2000—100000 shares at Rs. 500 each.

In March 2000—100000 shares at Rs. 480 each.

In August 2000—100000 shares at Rs. 480 each.

(f) SUUTI has not received any such proposal from M/s Ambit Finance.

(g) No time limit can be indicated at present, for the start of civil or criminal proceedings.

Vocational Training Centres of Bihar

816. DR. M.P. JAISWAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state the provisions of courses made for vocational training in the tribal areas of Bihar and the

names of the training centres being run alongwith the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Ministry of Tribal Affairs is implementing a Central Sector Scheme of Vocational Training in Tribal Areas. As per the norms of the Scheme grants-in-aid is provided to State Governments/NGOs, who can select any five trades depending upon the employment potential of the area. In the State of Bihar no vocational Training Centre is being run under the Scheme being implemented by the Ministry. However, during the year 1994-95, 3 Vocational Training Centres were sanctioned and an amount of Rs. 44.34 lakhs was released to State Government of Bihar but at present all these 3 VTCs fall within the State of Jharkhand. The locations of these 3 VTCs is as under:

1. Residential High School Chapatoll, Distt. Gumla.
2. Residential High School Chinia, Distt. Gurhwa.
3. Residential High School Kundhit, Distt. Dumka.

The trades selected by State Govt. in these VTCs are Repair of Cycles, Electrician, Radio & Transister, Oil Engine & Electricity, Watch Repair and Water Supply.

Five Rupee Note

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

(a) whether the Government are not issuing adequate number of five rupee currency notes;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware that there is high demand for five rupee currency notes in rural areas;

(d) if so, the reasons for not supplying adequate number of five rupee notes to rural areas;

(e) whether the Government propose to import such currency to meet the demand; and

(f) if not, the other steps proposed to be taken to issue a larger quantity of five rupee notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) and (f) Demand for Rs. 5/- denomination in the country including rural areas is met mainly through Coins. However, the currency notes of

Rs. 5/- denomination are printed to meet the gap between the demand and supply, as and when required.

(e) No, Sir.

Government Mints

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

(a) whether the Government have set up a number of mints to produce coins in the country;

(b) if so, the number of mints working presently in the country;

(c) whether the existing mints are unable to meet the demand for coins in the country;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the capacity of mints in the country; and

(e) 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 Government have established four mints in the country as detailed below:—

1. India Government Mint, Noida (Uttar Pradesh).
2. India Government Mint, Mumbai (Maharashtra).

3. India Government Mint, Kolkata (West Bengal).

4. India Government Mint, Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh).

(c) to (e) No, Sir. The four India Government Mints have an aggregate annual capacity to supply about 3700 million pieces of coins against the average annual demand for 5500 million pieces. However, efforts are being made to increase the capacity of the existing mints through modernisation/replacement of worn-out machineries and through addition of a second shift in India Government Mint, Noida.

World Bank Assistance for Developmental Projects

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

(a) whether a number of developmental projects in the country are receiving financial assistance from the World Bank; and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the World Bank for each project during each of the last three years?

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

(b) A Statement is attached.

Statement

Project Name	Amount In US \$ million
1	2
FY 2002-03	
Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project	150.03
Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	488.00
Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Program Project	250.00
Reproductive Health-I (Supplement)	12.00
Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project	108.00
Mumbai Urban Transport Project	542.00
Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Program Project	442.80
Karnataka Community Based Tank Management Project	98.90

1	2
FY 2001-02	
Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program Project.	250.00
Kerala State Transport Project.	255.00
Mizoram State Roads Project.	60.00
Karnataka Economic Restructuring Program (02) Project	100.00
Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	149.20
Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project.	140.00
Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project (02).	151.60
Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project.	589.00
Karnataka Watershed Development Project	100.40
Karnataka Economic Restructuring Program Project	150.00
Rajasthan District Primary Education Project (02)	74.40
Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	360.00
Powergrid System Development Project (02)	450.00
FY 2000-01	
National Leprosy Elimination Project (02)	30.00
Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project	180.00
Madhya Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project	110.10
Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation Project	65.50
Technician Education Project (03)	64.90
Gujarat State Highway Project	381.00
Renewable Energy (02) Project	130.00
National Highways Project (03)	516.00
Telecommunications Sector Reform Technical Assistance Project	62.00
Economic Reform Technical Assistance Project	45.00
Immunization Strengthening Project	142.60
Uttar Pradesh Fiscal Reform and Public Sector Restructuring Program Project	251.27
Uttar Pradesh Health Systems Development Project	110.00
Uttar Pradesh Power Sector Restructuring Project.	150.00
District Poverty Initiatives Project—Rajasthan.	100.48
Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiatives Project.	111.00

*[Translation]***Investors from Germany**

820. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently made several efforts to attract the German investors for making investment in India; 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) From January 1991 to March 2003, Government has approved 23,874 foreign collaboration (technical and financial) proposals aggregating US \$ 76.77 billion. Out of this the total approvals accorded to German Companies have been 2467 with an equity participation of US \$ 2.55 billion.

While no country specific promotional measures have been undertaken recently, German companies rank 6th in the list of countries in terms of cumulative FDI approvals.

*[English]***Loans to SSIs**

821. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vijaya Bank has introduced any scheme to provide loan for the growth of Small Scale Industries; and

(b) if so, the amount of loan sanctioned to the entrepreneurs in Karnataka State for promoting Small Scale Industries during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) Vijaya Bank has reported that it is implementing following schemes to provide loans for the growth of Small Scale Industries;

1. Loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs is extended to SSI Entrepreneurs without any collateral securities and third party guarantee.
2. KVIC Margin Money Scheme to promote growth of Rural Employment and Establishment of Village and Cottage Industries in Rural Area.

3. Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) which provides five percentage points on loans availed by SSI Units under textile industry for Undertaking Technology Upgradation/ Modernisation.

4. National Equity Fund (NEF) Scheme for providing equity assistance to small entrepreneurs for establishing new projects in the tiny and SSI Sectors and also for rehabilitation of potentially viable sick units in the SSI Sector.

5. Credit Linked Capital Subsidy for SSI under TUFS to provide 12% back ended Capital Subsidy on loans sanctioned to SSI Units for Technology Upgradation in specified Sectors.

6. Laghu Udyami Credit Card (LUCC) to provide Working Capital Credit Limit upto Rs. 2 Lakhs.

7. Assistance under Single Window Scheme is extended upto Rs. 25 Lakhs.

(b) The amount of loan disbursed by Vijaya Bank to entrepreneurs in Karnataka State for promoting Small Scale Industries during the last three years, is as under:

(Rs. in crore)

Year	Disbursements
2000-2001	19.91
2001-2002	20.16
2002-2003	25.34

Rail Neer

822. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Railways have introduced bottled potable water named 'Rail Neer' for sale to public without the ISI mark;

(b) whether any exemption has been given in this regard;

(c) if not, the circumstances under which the Railways are allowed to sell the bottled water without the approval of ISI standard; and

(d) whether the Government have finalized the norms for bottled mineral water, presently being manufactured and marketed by private and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) No, Sir. M/s. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited, New Delhi, applied to Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) for grant of BIS Certification Marks Licence to use Standard Mark on packaged drinking water as per Indian Standard IS 14543:1998. After due verification of their manufacturing and testing facilities available with them at their premises located at Northern Railway Wireless Station Area, Rohtak Road, Nangloi, Delhi, 110041 and subsequently passing of their samples in independent testing, the BIS Certification Marks Licence No. CM/L-8540072 was granted to them for a period of one year from 30th April, 2003 to 29th April, 2004.

(d) and (e) BIS has already evolved amendments in the relevant Indian Standards for Packaged Drinking Water and Natural Mineral Water in order to align them with the World's best norms for pesticide residues. They will be implemented as and when they are incorporated in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 which is administered by Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

Sugarcane Price

823. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI MANSINH PATEL:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

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

(a) whether a high level meeting was convened by the Prime Minister to break the deadlock over the issue of sugarcane price in Uttar Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the meeting failed to break the deadlock of sugarcane price to the farmers of Uttar Pradesh;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether a new formula is being formulated for pricing of sugarcane; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (f) Discussions have taken place in recent weeks to discuss the issue of cane price payment to sugarcane growers in U.P. and the other States concerned in the context, inter alia, of the difficulties generally expressed by the sugar industry in this behalf.

The Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (an expert body) have also been approached to forward recommendations on sugarcane pricing policy at an early date.

Amendments in the Cr.P.C.

824. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
DR. M.P. JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need for judicial reforms in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the areas identified in this regard;

(c) whether the Government propose to amend the various sections of Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be amended?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The canvas of Judicial reforms is very wide, encompassing wide spectrum of issues concerning different departments of the Central Government. However, some of the areas identified in this regard, inter-alia, include computerisation of courts, setting up of Fast Track Courts, establishment of more Family Courts and tribunals, amendment of procedural laws and filling up of vacant posts.

(c) to (e) The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill, 1994, introduced in the Rajya Sabha

on 9th May, 1994, containing 49 clauses proposes to amend various provisions of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973. The amendment of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 is a continuous process, depending on the felt needs, and also the recommendations from various quarters including the Law Commission of India, NGOs and other Committees set up by the Government from time to time.

[Translation]

**Weavers' Co-operative Societies of
Bihar and Jharkhand**

825. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that most of the Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Jharkhand are facing acute financial crisis due to decline in exports and are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any specific proposals regarding protection of these societies; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) and (b) No Weavers' Cooperative Society in Bihar and Jharkhand is reported to be on the verge of closure due to decline in exports. However, the Government of Jharkhand has reported that most of the weavers' cooperative societies in Jharkhand are facing a financial crunch due to lack of working capital & marketing problems etc.

(c) and (d) The Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms has not received any proposal relating to export from the Government of Jharkhand. However, two export projects have been sanctioned so far in favour of handloom agencies from Bihar under the erstwhile Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing Scheme and under the present Handloom Export Scheme and a sum of Rs. 12.75 lakh has been released. The Government of Bihar had submitted 20 project proposals for release of financial assistance under the Deen Dyal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana. Those were not found to be in

conformity with the scheme's guidelines. The proposals have been returned to the State Government for rectification and resubmission.

Utilisation of NRI Investment

826. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMAR RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether the NRI investment is not leading to balanced development of every region of a state;

(b) if so, whether the Government have made any efforts to utilise the NRI investment in backward areas of a State;

(c) if so the details thereof;

(d) the extent of success achieved by the Government in this regard; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Government has put in place a competitive, liberal and transparent policy framework to attract foreign direct investment (FDI), including NRI investment. The Government have also extended some concessions especially for NRIs and OBCs for investment in housing and real estate development sector, civil aviation sector. As per the policy of the Government, NRIs are permitted to invest anywhere in India, including backward areas. However, the investment decisions of an investor, including locational choices of the projects depend upon several factors such as availability of infrastructure in an area, competitive advantages, business/marketing considerations, corporate restructuring/inflows for the period January, 1991 to May, 2003.

[English]

Recycling of Rice

827. DR. S. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India has any mechanism to prevent recycling of rice intended for the

Food for Work Programme and supply the same to it under levy; and

(b) the action taken to ensure that only rabi rice is procured under levy and not those intended for schemes like the Food for Work Programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) A Committee had been constituted by the FCI to suggest measures to check the recycling of rice being issued from FCI godowns under the various Schemes to the State Governments. Keeping in view the recommendations made by the Committee, Government has advised the State Governments to strictly enforce various measures so as to ensure that the levy system is not misused by the rice millers to extract undue gains.

Import of Edible/Non-Edible Oil

828. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state the quantum and value of edible/non-edible oil imported during each of the last three years, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): There have been no import of vegetable oils on Government account during the last three years. Import of vegetable oils is under Open General Licence (OGL). India mainly imports Palm Oil, Soyabean Oil, Rapeseed & Colza from Argentina, Brazil, USA, Malaysia, Indonesia & Germany. The quantum and value of vegetable oils imported during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Quantum (Lakh MTs)	Value (Rs. in crores)
2000-2001	41.77	5976.53
2001-2002	43.22	6464.97
2002-2003	42.66	8744.88

Statistics of non-edible oils are not published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Kolkata.

Mobility Policy

829. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Mobility Policy applicable in four Public Sector General Insurance Companies;

(b) whether the Government have held meetings of CMDs of four Public Sector General Insurance Companies recently to discuss about the implementation of mobility policy and check off system; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and decision taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Transfer and Mobility Policy (TMP) adopted by the four Public Sector General Insurance Companies envisages that Officers upto the rank of Deputy Manager are due for transfer to another station on completion of five years. The transfer of Officers in the rank of Manager and above shall be at the discretion of the management of the Companies. For class III/IV employees, the TMP envisages local transfer after five years and outstation transfer after ten years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the meeting held on 6.6.2003, it was, inter alia, suggested that "Check-off System" should be carried out in the public sector insurance companies to determine the representative strength of the Unions/Associations through the use of secret ballots after discussing the procedural issues with the representatives of Unions/Associations. As reads TMP, it was decided that it should be implemented uniformly in all these companies in a phased manner. During the current year only 20% of the eligible Officers would be transferred to avoid any major dislocation. Transfer of class III/IV employees would be initiated after discussion with the Unions/Associations.

Export of Rice

830. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which rice and wheat are being exported at present;

(b) the quantum and value of wheat and rice exported during each of the last three years till date, country-wise;

(c) whether the Government have a proposal to increase the quota of rice and wheat for exporters from the current financial year;

(d) if so, the quantum of wheat and rice proposed to be exported during the current year and to which countries alongwith their rates;

(e) the steps being taken to further increase the export of rice and wheat from the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that Indian exports are not rejected by the importers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (f) Several promotional measures have been taken by the Government to boost export of foodgrains from the Central Pool. The procedure has been simplified and an empowered Standing Committee on Exports is meeting regularly to take expeditious decisions.

In order to offer a stable price regime, the Government is fixing the offer price of export of wheat and rice from the Central Pool for a period of 3 months, with an additional month given for lifting of stocks. Various measures have been taken to improve the export competitiveness through improvements in handling, packaging, storage capabilities and transportation of foodgrains.

There are no quantitative restrictions except that the Central Pool stocks should not be lower than the buffer stocking norms.

Quantum and value of Wheat and Rice exported in last three years given is statement.

Statement

(Quantity '000 tonnes)
(Value: Rs. Crores)
(Provisional)

Commodity	April 2000-March 2001		April 2001-March 2002		April 2002-March 2003	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Rice Basmati	849.02	2154.94	667.07	1842.77	594.87	1729.54
Rice (Other than Basmati)	682.27	777.26	1541.49	1331.37	4076.35	3634.08
Wheat	813.49	415.09	2649.38	1330.21	3570.90	1700.18

*Source: Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Ministry of Commerce, Kolkata.

[Translation]

Funds for Irrigation Tanks

831. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE:
SHRI P.R. KHUNTE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chhattisgarh State Government has made a request for assistance to the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development for the construction of small irrigation tanks in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

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

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the State Government of Chhattisgarh had submitted three projects of irrigation tanks. However, the proposals were returned to the State Government for want of explicit details on the distribution system/lifting device, mandatory clearances, etc. The revised projects with full details are still awaited from the State Government.

[English]

Filing of Annual Returns by Companies

832. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies are not filing their annual return as per requirement of the Companies Act, 1956;

(b) if so, the number of companies that have not filed their returns during the last year;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against those companies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the number of companies booked during the last year on this account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The total number of companies that have not filed their returns during the year 2001-02 is 2,72,655.

(c) and (d) During the year 2001-02, 3460 prosecutions were launched against companies for non-filing of Annual Returns.

[Translation]

Shares of Public Sector Banks

833. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:
SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
DR. V. SAJOJA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken notice of the volatile trend in public sector bank shares in the month of June, 2003 and had asked the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to study the trading pattern in these stocks and urgently submit a report;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the SEBI has since submitted its report in regard thereto;

(d) if so, the salient features thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) if not, the time by which SEBI is likely to submit its report in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (e) Yes Sir. SEBI have been asked to conduct investigation under SEBI Act and rules and regulations thereunder into the volatile trend in Public Sector Bank scrips during the period April to June, 2003 to ascertain whether there was any manipulation or

violation on the part of any market intermediary/participant. A preliminary inquiry report has been received. SEBI has been asked to complete the investigation expeditiously.

[English]

Foodgrains to Poor

834. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the New Foodgrain Policy State Governments have to formulate their own schemes for supply of foodgrains to the poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received several proposals in this regard from the State Governments for financial assistance;

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

(e) the present status of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No, Sir. There has been no change in the policy of the Central Government relating to foodgrains.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Visit by Textile Delegation

835. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a textile delegation from Pakistan has recently visited India;

(b) if so, the matter discussed with the delegation;

(c) the outcome thereof; and

(d) the extent to which the Indian textile industry is likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) No textile delegation from Pakistan has recently visited India either at the invitation of Ministry of Textiles or has

held exchanges with the Ministry of Textiles/Textile Export Promotion Councils.

(b) to (d) Do not arise, in view of (a) above.

Review of Existing Legal System

836. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "legal, social systems help rapists get away" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated June 12, 2003.

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

(c) whether the Government propose to carry out indepth review of existing legal system and to devise stringent measure for fool-proof legal system to punish the guilty;

(d) if so, the time by which such a review is proposed to be undertaken; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter relates to various aspects of the legal system, such as delay in investigation and disposal of cases, witnesses turning hostile, and lack of social awareness.

(c) to (e) The Law Commission and other bodies like the Arrears Committee (Malimath Committee) have evaluated salient issues relating to the legal and judicial system, and judicial reforms. The Law Commission undertook a comprehensive review of the Code of Criminal Procedure and made several recommendations with regard to rapid disposal of cases.

In view of the recommendations made by such reviewing bodies, the Government have taken appropriate measures periodically like simplification of legal proceedings for speedy disposal of cases, computerization of Court management, appointment of Special Magistrates, and review of the strength of Judges.

GIS for Workers of KVIC

837. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI B. VENKATESHWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has taken a decision to introduce a Group Insurance Scheme (GIS) for workers engaged in Khadi and Village Industries Commission;

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

(c) the number of workers likely to be covered by the scheme in various activities managed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission; and

(d) when the said Group Insurance scheme is likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) have informed that they have considered a proposal from the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries and have agreed that the self-employed Khadi artisans could be covered under the Janashree Bima Yojana. Under this scheme, all eligible Khadi artisans aged between 18 and 59 years are proposed to be covered for a life insurance cover of Rs. 20,000 payable on natural death; Rs. 50,000 payable on death/total permanent disability due to accident and Rs. 25,000/- payable on partial permanent disability due to accident. The total premium would be Rs. 200/- per person.

(c) Initially, in the first year it is proposed to cover about 3 lakh workers.

(d) The launch of the scheme would be decided by the Ministry of Agro and Rural Industries.

Assured Career Promotion In IIC

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

(a) whether Government have introduced the Assured Career Promotion (ACP) to the employees of India Investment Central (IIC);

(b) if so, the number of employees have been benefited by the scheme, category-wise;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the ACP scheme is likely to be implemented in IIC;

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

(b) to (d) Indian Investment Centre has been advised in January, 2003 to take action for implementation of the Assured Career Progression Scheme in accordance with the instructions contained in the Department of Personnel & Training's O.M. No. 35034/1/97-Estt. (D) dated 9.8.1999.

DA to Government Employees

839. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to steep hike in prices of almost all the items, the price-index have also risen for award of DA to Government employees;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to grant DA to all Government employees w.e.f. July 1, 2003; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Government propose to announce the DA and extent thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Based on the hike in the All India Consumer Price Index, Dearness Allowance (DA) to Central Government employees is revised twice a year from 1st January and 1st July normally payable with the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The decision in the salary for the months of March and September respectively. The decision in the matter for grant of revised DA w.e.f. July 1, 2003 will be taken at the appropriate time.

National Institute of Designs

840. SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give 'Deemed University' status to the National Institute of Designs;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Institute would get this status; and

(c) the benefits likely to accrue to the institute and the students consequently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal to consider granting of 'Deemed to be University' status

to the National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmedabad. The NID has been asked to examine the same with reference to its Memorandum of Association, Rules and Regulations as well as the guidelines issued by the University Grants Commission (UGC) in this regard. Any decision in this regard will depend on objective evaluation of the benefits likely to accrue to the Institute/students and the financial as also administrative implications of declaring NID as a 'Deemed to be University'. At this stage, it will be premature to indicate the outcome and the time frame for the same.

Export of Auto Spare Parts

841. DR. B.B. RAMAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether world's leading automobile vehicle manufacturers are coming to India for purchasing auto parts and making enquiries for collaboration in manufacture of auto spare parts etc.;

(b) if so, the total exports of these parts/items made during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the foreign exchange earned thereby during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Due to current cost pressures, the global Multi-national companies are increasingly looking at the "low cost countries" like China, Thailand, India, Malaysia, Brazil, Turkey, East Europe etc., for purchasing auto parts. Delegations from world's leading vehicle manufacturers such as Volvo, Cummins, Navistar, Caterpillar and Delphi have visited India during the last 6 months and a few large Indian component manufacturers are in discussions with some of these companies for global sourcing contracts. It is expected that finalisation of these contracts would start translating into real business to the Indian companies in the coming years.

(b) and (c) The export of auto parts covered under ITC (HS) Code 8708—Parts and Accessories of motor vehicles during the last three years has been as under:-

Quantity in Metric Tonnes-Value in Rs. Lakhs

2000-01		2001-02		2002-03*	
Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
95967	136972	107829	143972	113808	163605

*April, 2002-February, 2003.

Source: DGC&S

Black Listing of NGOs

842. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) the number of Non-Government Organizations black listed during the last three years alongwith the reasons therefor, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal to hand over the NGOs to the respective State Governments;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) The Ministry has decided to black-list nine

Non-Governmental Organizations during the last three years as the performance of these organizations has not been found satisfactory during the inspection. State-wise list of these Non-Governmental Organizations is given in statement enclosed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The mandate of the Ministry includes, among others, the promotion of voluntary efforts for the development of Scheduled Tribes and therefore, the Ministry is making efforts to promote voluntary agencies specially for implementation of developmental programmes in unserved tribal areas.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Organisation	Name of the Project	Reason for Blacklisting
1	2	3	4
1.	Arundhati Educational Society, H.No. 10-5-77/34, Venkat Nagar, Tukaram Gate, North Lallaguda, Secunderabad, A.P.	Educational Complex	During the inspection the performance of the organisation has not been found satisfactory.
2.	Rural Education & Development Society, Door No. 32-35-22, Zamindar Street, Machavaram, Vijayawada-4, A.P.	Mobile Dispensary	-do-
3.	SAM Society for Social Justice, 96, HC Colony, Opposite Deer Park, Rangareddy Distt. A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
4.	Rural and Urban Programme Society, H. No. 1/6/39, Near Inspection Bangla, PO & Mandal 0 Sadashivapet, Dist. Medak, A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-

1	2	3	4
5.	Little Flower Society, Plot No. 96, High Court Colony, Vanastipuram, RR District, A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
6.	Sri Venkateswara Mahila Mandali, D. No. 5-8-11/3/2/7, Brodiepat, Guntur, A.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
7.	Gramin Mahila Silari Kadhai Bunai Prashikshan Kendra, Gram Mustafabad, Post Gunjanpur, Azamgarh (U.P.)	Educational Complex & Residential School	-do-
8.	Dr. Ambedkar Sarvodaya Vikas Parisad, 10, Iqbal Colony, Bhopal, M.P.	Educational Complex	-do-
9.	Hindu Muslim Ekta Avam Kalyan Samiti, 82/75, Guru Gobind Marg, Lal Kuwan, Lucknow, U.P.	Educational Complex & Residential School	-do-

Mechanism to Assess NPA of Banks

843. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rating agencies CRISIL and FITCH have estimated independently that the Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of public sector banks are actually double the estimates worked out by Indian Banks Association (IBA);

(b) whether according to CRISIL/FITCH estimates, the combined NPAs of the public sector banks have now crossed Rs. 1,30,000 crore;

(c) if so, the norms adopted by banks/financial institutions to declare any loan as bad loan;

(d) whether the Reserve Bank of India has any mechanism in place to assess the extent of NPAs of banks independently; and

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

that the gross NPAs of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) as on 31st March, 2002 were Rs. 1,30,000/- crores. However, as per RBI, the gross Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) on the same date were Rs. 70903.63 crores (10.41% of gross advances). FITCH ratings have estimated that the net NPAs of SCBs would go up from 5.5% of net advances as on 31st March, 2002 to 11.5% of net advances, if 90 day norm is adopted instead of 180 day norm being used now. However, the estimated made by the rating agencies do not reflect the factual position, as these agencies have done the estimation of NPAs on the basis of a sample and extrapolating the results to the entire system. CRISIL has applied a multiple to the reported gross NPAs in the Priority Sector "based on its understanding of the portfolios' profile" to arrive at the estimate of gross NPAs in the Priority Sector. For non Priority Sector's loans CRISIL has classified the top 100 borrowers of a Bank into different rating categories, used the resultant rating distribution and their default probability statistics to estimate the weak assets in non Priority Sector's loans portfolios. FITCH have reckoned assets which are 'performing assets' as per the RBI guidelines as 'deemed non performing' and added these to the reported NPAs.

(c) Non Performing Assets (NPAs) is a credit facility in respect of which the installment of principal and/or interest remained overdue for a period of more than 180 days. With a view to move towards international best

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) CRISIL have estimated

practices, it has been decided to adopt the '90 days overdue' norm for the year ending 31st March, 2004. In the case of financial institutions, a credit facility is classified as non-performing if interest is overdue for more than 180 days and/or the principal is overdue for more than 365 days. Banks are required to classify non-performing assets further into the three categories i.e. Sub-standard Assets, Doubtful Assets & Loss Assets based on the period for which the asset has remained non-performing and the realisability of the dues and make provision according to levels prescribed by Reserve Bank.

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has a mechanism in place to assess the extent of NPAs of individual Banks. RBI's assessment is aimed to ensure that the banks have correctly classified the loans assets and provisioning is done as per the prudential norms prescribed by it. Any discrepancy observed in this regard or omission of any NPA is brought out in the Annual Financial Inspection (AFI) report. Banks submit the position regarding the level of NPAs in their off-site returns to RBI. The movement of NPAs is also reflected in the Annual Report as a disclosure in the Notes on Accounts to the balance sheets.

Regional Rural Banks

844. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Working Group set up to suggest measures for reviewing Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 under the Chairmanship of Shri Chalapathy Rao, Managing Director of NABARD had submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Working Group;

(c) whether the Government have examined the recommendations made by the Group; and

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

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

(b) The major recommendations of the working group are briefly as under:

- Changes in capital structure and ownership pattern of RRBs.

- Structural consolidation of RRBs by way of amalgamation on socio-economic zone basis.
- Enlarged role of sponsor institutions.
- Regulatory frame work for RRBs to be on the lines of those for commercial banks.
- Introduction of capital adequacy norms for RRBs in a phased manner.
- Need for one Supervisory Authority without prejudice to the powers of RBI.
- Need for a strong self-supervisory system and computer-based management system.
- Introduction of appropriate Assets-Liability Management systems and Risk Management systems.

(c) and (d) The recommendations of the working group have been sent to State Governments, Sponsor Banks and others concerned for comments/suggestions. However, replies from several State Governments are yet to be received.

Border Trade between India and China

845. SHRI V. VETRISILVAN:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have signed a memorandum with China on opening border trade through Sikkim;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any blue print has been prepared for the items to be exported or imported between two countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the expected time by which border trade between the two countries likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a)

and (b) Yes, Sir. During the visit of Prime Minister to China from June 22-27, 2003, India and China signed, *inter alia*, a Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade. It adds another Pass on the India-China border and sets up an additional point on each side for border trade. The two sides agreed to use Nathula as the Pass for entry and exit of persons, means of transport and commodities engaged in border trade.

(c) and (d) Details about items for export to and import from China through Nathula pass are not included in this Memorandum.

(e) No time-frame has been set in the Memorandum for starting the border trade.

[Translation]

Discontinuing UTI Scheme

846. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to withdraw/discontinue certain schemes of the UTI;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which these are likely to be withdrawn; and

(c) the reasons for withdrawing/discontinuing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. 7 Assured Return Schemes, viz., MIP 99, MIP 98 (V), CGGF 86, RUP-II, CGGF 99, RUP 99 and GBVMIP are being foreclosed as the returns assured under these schemes are out of alignment with returns in the market and, hence, are not sustainable.

[English]

Sixth Pay Commission

847. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:
SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:
SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sixth pay Commission for Central Government employees is due for constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted; and

(d) the time by which it would submit its report?

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.

Expansion of Bilateral Trade with Pakistan

848. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:
SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to expand bilateral trade with Pakistan;

(b) if so, the areas identified so far; and

(c) the action-plan drawn up for the expansion of Indo-Pak trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) It is Government's policy to promote & expand trade with all countries including Pakistan.

(b) Trade is promoted in all the commodities and services of mutual interest.

(c) Government of India has continued to accord Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan. India has also been exchanging tariff concessions with South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) member countries under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangements (SAPTA). Other trade promotion measures include exchange of business delegation, participation in fairs, exhibitions and buyer-seller meets etc.

Handloom Products

849. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that large quantity of handloom products are lying in the godowns unsold in several States;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the rehabilitation of unemployed workers in this sector;

(d) whether there is any revival package for the handloom sector under the tenth Five Year Plan period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the information received from the various State Governments, over the months of June-July 2003, the position of unsold handloom stocks in the States have been compiled and placed in statement enclosed.

(c) The Government is implementing the following schemes for the overall development of the handloom sector and for the welfare of handloom weavers:

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).
- (ii) Design Development & Training Programme.
- (iii) Marketing Promotion Programme.
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme.
- (v) Weavers' Welfare Scheme.
- (vi) Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
- (vii) Handloom Export Scheme.
- (viii) Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn.
- (ix) Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

(d) and (e) Under the DDHPY, assistance is provided for restructuring of.

- (i) National Level Handloom organizations,
- (ii) State Handloom Corporations and.
- (iii) Apex Weavers Cooperative Societies/Federations.

with a view to making them viable by enhancing their credit limit/working capital. This support is shared on a 50:50 basis for the seed money required for such restructuring between the Centre and the State.

Statement

Details of approximate value of handloom stock with the States as per information received in June-July 2003.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Approximate Value of Handloom stock (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8450.57
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	**
3.	Assam	837.00
4.	Bihar	57.38
5.	Chhattisgarh	248.24
6.	Delhi	641.00
7.	Goa	Nil
8.	Gujarat	354.37
9.	Haryana	**
10.	Himachal Pradesh	388.83
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	2200.00
12.	Jharkhand	70.00
13.	Karnataka	3511.00
14.	Kerala	9500.00
15.	Madhya Pradesh	1097.10
16.	Maharashtra	995.04
17.	Manipur	**
18.	Meghalaya	29.87
19.	Mizoram	100.00
20.	Nagaland	1500.00
21.	Orissa	4476.18
22.	Pondicherry	48.27

1	2	3
23.	Punjab	510.00
24.	Rajasthan	696.91
25.	Sikkim	1.65
26.	Tamil Nadu	27500.00
27.	Tripura	461.71
28.	Uttar Pradesh	2812.06
29.	Uttanchal	36.40
30.	West Bengal	1987.90
	AIHFMCS	1650.00
	Total	70161.48

—**No information has been received from the State Governments of Arunachal Pradesh, Haryana and Manipur.

—The Governments of Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi have sent only partial information. Goa has no weavers, its report has been taken as NIL.

Competition with Countries in Handloom Sector

850. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian handloom has been facing competition with China and other South-East Asian countries in the international market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

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

(a) and (b) In the international market, the market segment is integrated in respect of Handloom and Mill-made products. In that sense, Indian handlooms, has been facing stiff competition in the international market from the powerloom and mill sector. Some of the major handloom items exported by India, particularly under the 'home furnishings' category, are also produced by China and other South-East Asian countries in the powerloom and mill sector. Therefore, these Chinese products are available at more competitive prices vis-a-vis those produced by us in the handloom sector. However, the

competition from the other South-East Asian countries is not as significant as that from China.

(c) The following remedial measures have been and are being taken by the Government to withstand the competition in the international market and to boost exports:-

- Organisation of Buyer-Seller Meets in important markets abroad;
- Participation in leading International fairs & exhibitions;
- Upgradation of looms and imparting of technical know-how in various production processes such as weaving, dyeing etc.;
- Development & diversification of the product range;
- Dissemination of market intelligence and trade information through the Handloom Export Promotion Council;
- Availability of incentives to exporters under the different export promotion schemes such as Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme/Duty Drawback Scheme etc.;
- Technology Upgradation Fund to upgrade technology;
- Supply of Hank Yarn at Mill Gate prices through the National Handloom Development Corporation;
- Financial assistance provided under the Handloom Export Scheme for development of exportable products and publicity & marketing thereof;
- Updating of website at frequent intervals to update information to the buyers about the handloom products; and
- Assistance to Handloom Export Promotion Council under the MDA Scheme for market promotion activities.

Value of Rupee

851. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of rupee against the major foreign currencies as on date;

(b) whether rupee reached a new two-year peak at Rs. 46.77 to a US dollar on July 10, 2003;

(c) if so, what was the rupee value of Pound Sterling and Japanese Yen at its peak during the last three months; and

(d) the factors contributed to the upward movement of rupee value?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The value of rupee against the major foreign currencies as on July 22, 2003 is given below:-

(i) Rs./US dollar	46.2600
(ii) Rs./Pound Sterling	73.9050
(iii) Rs./Euro	52.3825
(iv) Rs./100 Japanese Yen	38.8050.

(b) The value of rupee against US dollar was Rs. 46.21 on July 10, 2003, which reached a new two-year peak of Rs. 46.09 on July 14, 2003.

(c) The rupee value of Pound Sterling and Japanese Yen at its peak during last three months (April-June) is given below:

Currency	Rupee Value	Date
Pound Sterling	73.6050	07-04-2003
Japanese Yen (100)	38.8175	30-06-2003

(d) Exchange rate movements are market determined. The rupee moves against the various major foreign currencies in line with market forces determining the demand and supply conditions. RBI intervenes only occasionally for minimising volatilities in the forex market.

[Translation]

Development of Infrastructure

852. SHRIMATI RAJKUMARI RATNA SINGH:
SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious problems relating to the economic development of Indian economy have arisen due to lack of basic infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to overcome these problems;

(c) whether any expert committee has been constituted by the Government for core sector;

(d) if so, the recommendations thereof and the details about the schemes and the policy programmes prepared on the basis of the recommendations of such a committee;

(e) the roles offered to the domestic and foreign investors by the Government for the development of basic infrastructure in the country; and

(f) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Provision of efficient infrastructure is a key factor for overall economic envelopment. Despite considerable progress of infrastructure development over the years, there are constraints on both supply and quality of infrastructure services. In the Union Budget 2003-04, measures have been announced to encourage public-private partnership in infrastructure, principally in roads, railways, airports and seaports, through an innovative funding mechanism. This comprehensive initiative will cover:

- 48 new road projects at an estimated cost of around Rs. 40,000 crore.
- National Rail Vikas Yojana projects worth Rs. 8000 crore;
- Renovation/modernization of two airports, and two seaports at an estimated cost of Rs. 11,000 crore.
- Establishing two global standard international convention centers at an estimated cost of Rs. 1000 crore.

In the power sector the following announcements have been made:

- The mega power project policy to be liberalized further by extending all the benefits to any power project that fulfils the conditions already prescribed for mega projects.
- A special allocation of Rs. 20 crore to CSIR for launching incentive driven research in fields of solar energy, wind turbines, hydrogen fuel as alternative to fossil fuels.

(c) and (d) An Expert Group on the Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects was set up by the Ministry of

Finance in October 1994. The Expert Committee submitted its report to the Government on 22nd June, 1996. Its major recommendations included the following:

- For meaningful commercialization of infrastructure projects, the Government must ensure that project risks are clearly demarcated and allocated to different stakeholders.
- If infrastructure is to be financed through the capital market, it is necessary to initiate major reforms in the area of contractual savings institutions.
- India needs an institution to specifically provide credit enhancement to projects and activate the debt market.
- The existing sector specific enactments should be unified into a single statute and an autonomous regulatory body should be set up for each infrastructure sector.

Sectors specific reforms were also suggested for urban infrastructure, ports, roads, power, telecom and industrial parks. Most of the recommendations of the Expert Group have been accepted by the Government and appropriate policy measures have been announced.

(e) and (f) Most infrastructure sectors are open for private investment including foreign investment. Some of the infrastructure sectors like telecom, power and ports have attracted significant private investment.

[English]

FDI Estimation Procedure

853. COL. (RETD.) DR. DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether an informal Committee comprising representatives from RBI and the Department of Industrial Policy and promotion was constituted to bring India's Foreign Direct Investment estimation procedure in line with global practices;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the said committee has submitted its report;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the time by which the report is likely to be submitted by the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An informal Committee comprising representatives from Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) was constituted with a view to bringing India's Foreign Direct Investment (FCI) estimation procedure in line with global practices.

(c) The Committee, in its report submitted in October, 2002, has made recommendations to bring FDI statistics in accordance with international best practices.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Base Depots of FCI

854. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the base depots in the country from where foodgrains for below poverty line/above poverty line families are not supplied simultaneously;

(b) whether the said depots propose to supply the foodgrains simultaneously; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Food Corporation of India's base depots in different States supply foodgrains, both for Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families, except 10 Base Depots in Madhya Pradesh and 8 Base Depots in Chhattisgarh from where stocks for meeting the requirements of BPL, Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Mid Day Meal (MDM) are supplied.

(b) and (c) As the 18 depots referred to above are of small capacity i.e. 200 to 1000 MT, it may not be possible for the present to meet the requirements of APL or Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and other Welfare Schemes from these depots. However, these requirements are being met from other base depots in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

*[English]***Import of Sugar and Edible Oils**

855. SHRI KAMAL NATH:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) the total quantum of sugar and edible oils imported during the last three years, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) the countries from which such imports were made and under what terms and conditions;

(c) the justification of importing such a huge quantum of edible oils;

(d) whether the Government propose to encourage edible oil manufactures to boost their production; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(a) to (c) Sugar & Edible Oils have not been imported on Government account during the last three years. These items are under Open General Licence (OGL). The total quantum of sugar and edible oils imported during the last three years are as under:

	Year	Quantity (lakh MT)
Sugar	2000-2001	00.30
	2001-2002	00.27
	2002-2003	00.41
Edible Oils	2000-2001	41.77
	2001-2002	43.22
	2002-2003	42.66

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, Kolkata.

These item have been imported mainly from Brazil, Indonesia, Argentina, USA and Malaysia.

(d) and (e) Some of the steps taken by the Government to encourage edible oil, manufacturers to boost their production are:

(i) A technology Mission on Oilseeds is in place to harness appropriate production processing and management technology;

(ii) Vanaspati manufacturers' have been allowed to use 30% expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati. In addition, coconut oil has also been allowed to be used in the manufacture of vanaspati in order to enhance the availability of permitted edible oils for the industry.

BIS for Imported Products

856. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

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

(a) whether the BIS had decided to strictly implement Indian standards to the wide range of imported products;

(b) if so, the details of imported products on which BIS would strictly enforce their laws;

(c) whether BIS has failed to check fake/counterfeit ISI mark products including fast moving consumer goods in the country; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the steps to be taken in this regard?

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

(a) and (b) Mandatory Certification of BIS is applicable to 151 products for which Quality Control Orders have been issued by different Ministries under various Acts and Rules. The items in this list include milk powder, condensed milk, infant milk foods, infant formulae, cement, steel tubes, oil pressure stoves, electrical wires, cables, galvanized steel sheets, gas cylinders, multi purpose dry batteries, packaged natural mineral water, packaged drinking water and clinical thermometer etc. Central Govt. has issued notifications imposing mandatory certification for import of these 151 products into India. The responsibility for enforcing mandatory certification for imported products lies with Directorate General of Foreign Trade/Custom Department.

(c) and (d) No Sir. BIS regularly conducts raids on unscrupulous manufacturers/traders for misuse of ISI Mark on various products including fast moving consumer goods. In the last three years, BIS has registered

111 cases of misuse of ISI Mark and 11 cases have been registered in the current financial year, the details of which are as below:-

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	1st April 2003- 21st July, 2003
No. of cases of misuse of ISI mark registered.	41	36	34	11

Trade Meet between India and UK

857. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether the Indo-UK trade meeting was held in May, 2003 to explore the opportunities for expanding bilateral relationship between the two countries;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held and the extent to which the trade between the two countries are likely to improve as a result of these discussions; and

(c) the agreements signed for expanding the trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) During his visit to London in May, 2003, the Commerce & Industry Minister held discussions with the UK Secretary of State for Trade & Industry on matters of bilateral trade/economic interest and issues related to WTO.

(b) and (c) As UK is a major trading partner of India and an influential member of EU especially with reference to multilateral trade and economic matters, such interactions with UK side is expected to have positive effects on India's global trade. However, no agreement was signed during the above interaction.

Contribution Regulatory Authority

858. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for the setting up of Contribution Regulatory Authority (CRA) for keeping a watch on the illegal donations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The Law Commission has undertaken study of the subject of an appropriate legislation to regulate and monitor collection of funds from public by persons and organizations in the name of the welfare of victims of natural or other calamities and welfare and rehabilitation of the members of the bereaved families of soldiers killed in war. The Commission has circulated a Consultation Paper in May, 2003, to have views and comments of all the concerned persons/bodies. In the said Consultation Paper, the Commission has proposed setting up of a Contribution Regulatory Authority. The study is in progress. Recommendations of the Commission are yet not finalized.

(c) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

SC, ST and OBC Employees

859. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of personnel working in groups "A", "B", "C" and "D" in different departments and undertakings under the Ministry of Textiles;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Liquidity In Banks

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

(a) whether RBI has issued a warning note on the liquidity position on some banks in the last six months;

(b) whether RBI has pointed out that even banks like ICICI are facing potential problems; and

(c) if so, the measures suggested by RBI to ensure that major banks do not fail at any point of time and to ensure that banks maintain liquidity to meet any eventuality?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Credit Facilities to SSI Sector

861. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the norms set by the banking sector for providing credit to the small scale industries;

(b) the extent to which these norms have been applied for providing credit to this sector;

(c) the overall percentage of such loans disbursed by each bank during each of the last two years and steps taken by the Government to penalise banks for non-implementation of the policy;

(d) whether fall in interest rates during the last few years has led to a squeeze on the spread of the Indian banking sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India have issued the guidelines from time to time for providing credit to SSI Sector. Some of the norms set for financing of SSI Sector are given in the statement-I. The norms prescribed by RBI are generally followed by the commercial banks. The issues relating to credit flow to SSI Sector are critically reviewed from time to time at the highest level in the meetings of Standing Advisory Committee on flow of institutional credit to SSI Sector under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI wherein representatives of Ministries of Finance and SSI, Chief Executives of PSBs, representatives of SFCs and SSI Associations also participate.

(c) The information is placed in Statement II.

(d) and (e) Reserve Bank of India has reported that there was a decline in the spread (ratio of net interest income to total assets) during 2001-02 for Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs). The details of bank-group wise net interest income as percentage of total assets (spread) for 2000-01 and 2001-02 are as under:

Net Interest Income (Spread) as Percentage of Total Assets

	2000-01	2001-02
Public Sector Banks	2.86	2.73
Private Sector Banks	2.33	1.58
Foreign Banks	3.63	3.25
All SCBs	2.90	2.60

Statement-I

Norms prescribed for lending to SSI Sector by Banks.

- (1) Banks to ensure that out of their total funds lent to SSI Sector, at least 40% should be made available to the units with investment in plant and machinery upto Rs. 5 lakh and 20% should be made available to units with investment in plant and machinery between Rs. 5 lakhs and Rs. 25 lakhs. Thus 60% of the funds earmarked for SSI Sector should go to small units in tiny sector.
- (2) Increase in the borrowal limit for collateral free loan to tiny sector from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. In order to further improve the flow of credit to SSIs, RBI has announced that Banks may on the basis of good track record and the financial position of the units increase the limit of dispensation of collateral requirement for loans from the existing Rs. 5 lakhs to Rs. 15 lakhs.
- (3) Raising the Composite loan limit from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 25 lakh;
- (4) Raising the borrowal limit to Rs. 5 crores for computation of working capital on the basis of minimum 20% of the projected annual turn over.
- (5) Raising the limit of the projects to Rs. 50 lakhs for providing assistance under the National Equity Fund Scheme.

- (6) Earmarking of 30% of the Investment under NEF Scheme for the tiny Sector.
- (7) As per the announcement made by the Finance Minister in the Union Budget 2003-04, IBA has already advised the Banks to adopt the interest rate band of 2 percent above and below its prime lending rate (PLR) for secured advances.
- (8) Banks have been advised to accord SSI Units with a good track record the benefit of lower spreads over the PLR.
- (9) The individual credit limit to artisans, village and cottage industries for reckoning under advance to weaker sections is increased to Rs. 50,000/- from the present limit of Rs. 25,000/-.
- (10) Banks to fix self set target for the year on year growth in advances to SSI and also to consider budgeting their growth in advances to SSI Sector keeping in view the trends in growth of net bank credit less food credit.

Statement-II

S.No.	Name of the Bank	Credit to SSI		Credit to SSI (as percentage of Net Bank Credit)	
		31.3.2002	31.3.2003	31.3.2002	31.3.2003
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	State Bank of India	12582	12392	12.88	10.78
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	955	1104	16.93	16.06
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	922	983	11.41	10.26
4.	State Bank of Indore	584	668	13.74	12.88
5.	State Bank of Mysore	598	562	14.16	12.11
6.	State Bank of Patiala	810	881	10.58	8.92
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	777	772	19.35	17.00
8.	State Bank of Travancore	572	634	14.59	8.56
9.	Allahabad Bank	852	888	7.73	6.68
10.	Andhra Bank	889	1077	10.04	10.15
11.	Bank of Baroda	3281	3560	15.29	14.61
12.	Bank of India	3081	3555	13.86	14.15
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	941	970	11.49	9.85
14.	Canara Bank	3366	3884	13.07	11.07
15.	Central Bank of India	2330	2490	10.80	10.50
16.	Corporation Bank	610	642	6.83	6.77
17.	Dena Bank	1346	1377	17.75	16.58
18.	Indian Bank	990	1003	11.72	9.77
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	1616	1826	14.81	12.48

1	2	3	4	5	6
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1658	1670	11.71	10.45
21.	Punjab & Sindh Bank	860	935	16.45	15.65
22.	Punjab National Bank	4315	4793	12.94	11.99
23.	Syndicate Bank	1070	1087	9.94	8.30
24.	UCO Bank	1246	1458	10.66	9.46
25.	Union Bank of India	2440	2668	12.86	11.47
26.	United Bank of India	535	524	7.10	6.70
27.	Vijaya Bank	556	586	9.74	8.29
	Total	49782	52989	12.46	11.09

Source—Indian Banks' Association.

Upliftment of SCs/STs under Below Poverty Line

862. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the percentage of people below poverty line has reduced from 35 to 26 percent;

(b) if so, the percentage of people belonging to SCs and STs amongst the above;

(c) the measures being taken or bring SCs and STs at par with the people of other communities;

(d) the percentage of success achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes Sir. As per the information of Planning Commission, the percentage of people below poverty line has reduced from 35.97 in the year 1993-94 to 26.10 in 1999-2000.

(b) (i) Among total poor, 25.8% belonged to SCs and 12.5% to STs in 1993-94 and 25.3% belong to SCs and 14.5% to STs in the year 1999-2000.

(ii) However, the percentage of Scheduled Castes population living below poverty line out of total population of SCs has come down from 48.4% in 1993-94 to 36.7% in 1999-2000 in the country.

The percentage of Scheduled Tribes population living below poverty line out of total population of STs has come down from 50.8% in 1993-94 to 44.6% in 1999-2000.

(c) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs supplements the schemes of States and UTs by providing cent percent grant under the Scheme for Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan for filling critical gaps under income generating projects, granting loans through the National Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation and through State channelising agencies. Similarly Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment is also implementing certain schemes in this regard.

(d) Population of the SCs below poverty line has reduced by 11.7% over a period from 1993-94 to 1999-2000 and that of the STs below poverty line has reduced by 6.2% during the same period.

Functioning of State Election Commissions

863. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether each State Election Commissions (SECs) is following its own rules and regulations on issues such as conducting elections and preparing electoral rolls;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka have urged the Union Government to constitute a commission to bring in uniformity in the functioning of the State Election Commission; and

(d) if so, the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) to (d) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Allocation of Foodgrains

864. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Karnataka had asked the Union Government to enhance the allocation of foodgrains to that State;

(b) if so, the steps taken to meet the demand; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor alongwith the time by which the demand would be fulfilled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) No request for enhancement of allocation of foodgrains under TPDS has been received from the Government of Karnataka.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Strike Call by AIRRBEA

865. DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH:
SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH:
SHRI M.K. SUBBA:
SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Regional Rural Banking Employees Association had called a nationwide strike on May 21, 2003 to press their demands;

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

(c) the reaction of the Union Government to their demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The All India Regional Rural

Bank Employees Association decided to join the strike call given by Central Trade unions on 21st May, 2003. The strike call given by All India Regional Rural Bank Employees Association was to show solidarity with some of the Central Trade Unions in their protest mainly against the alleged privatisation of profit making and viable public sector undertakings, changes in labour laws in favour of employers, policies leading to unemployment etc.

Excise Duty Evasion by Johnson and Johnson

866. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI SADASHIV RAO DADOBA MANDLIK
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Union Government that Johnson & Johnson Company Limited has cheated the Government and public of Rs. 45.33 crore by evading central excise;

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

(c) whether the Government have ordered an inquiry in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against the company to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The Directorate General of Central Excise Intelligence, on the basis of information, investigated evasion of central excise duty by M/s Johnson and Johnson, Mumbai by undervaluing the drug bearing the brandname "Coldarin" and also getting it manufactured from a front company. The total amount of central excise duty evaded works out to Rs. 1,11,09,937/-. After completion of the investigation show cause notice was issued.

(d) and (e) The front company namely M/s N.R. Jet Enterprises, Mumbai on behalf of M/s Johnson and Johnson, voluntarily paid the entire amount of central excise duty of Rs. 1,11,09,937/- demanded in the said show cause notice.

Tax-GDP Ratio

867. DR. V. SAROJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the Tax-GDP ratio during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether the Tax-GDP ratio for Tamil Nadu has increased recently;

(c) how this compare with Union Government; and

(d) the reasons behind falling/stagnant ratio of Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A statement containing the latest

available data on States' own tax-GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product) ratio for the last three years is enclosed.

(b) and (c) While the tax-GSDP ratio of Government of Tamil Nadu has increased marginally, by 0.1 percentage point between 2001-02 and 2002-03, the tax-GDP ratio for the Union Government has increased by 0.9 percentage point during the same period.

(d) The tax-GDP ratio of the Union Government has been in the range of 8.15 to 9.05 percent during the last three years on account of fall in the ratio of customs duties and excise duties to GDP. This was not completely off-set by the growth in the direct tax revenue. Extension of service tax and Government's commitment to remove exemptions is expected to result in an improvement in the tax-GDP ratio. In 2003-04, the tax GDP ratio of Union Government is budgeted to improve to 9.21 percent from 9.05 percent in the previous year.

Statement

State's Own Tax Revenue as % of GSDP (Gross State Domestic Product at current prices)

(%)

States	2000-01 ACT	2001-02 ACT/RE	2002-03 RE/BE
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	7.8	7.8	8.1
Arunachal Pradesh	1.1	1.5	1.9
Assam	4.6	5.0	5.1
Bihar	3.8	2.9	3.1
Chhattisgarh	—	6.7	7.2
Delhi	7.1	7.4	7.6
Goa	8.3	8.5	9.9
Gujarat	7.6	7.2	6.6
Haryana	8.3	8.8	9.1
Himachal Pradesh	5.9	6.8	6.2
Jammu & Kashmir	5.1	5.5	5.5
Jharkhand	—	6.0	6.1
Karnataka	8.5	8.4	8.5
Kerala	8.2	7.7	8.7

1	2	3	4
Madhya Pradesh	5.8	5.7	5.6
Maharashtra	7.5	8.1	7.8
Manipur	1.1	1.5	2.2
Meghalaya	3.4	3.6	4.0
Mizoram	0.9	1.0	1.4
Nagaland	1.4	1.5	1.5
Orissa	5.3	5.6	6.3
Punjab	7.1	6.4	7.1
Rajasthan	6.4	6.3	6.6
Sikkim	5.2	6.1	4.6
Tamil Nadu	8.5	8.3	8.4
Tripura	2.8	3.0	2.8
Uttar Pradesh	5.4	4.7	5.1
Uttaranchal	—	4.6	4.9
West Bengal	4.1	4.7	4.8

Source: Finance Account/State Budget.

Note: Gross State Domestic Product (at current price) are estimated figures.

[Translation]

M RTP Commission

868. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the objectives of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission;

(b) whether the Commission has failed to achieve its objectives;

(c) if so, whether the Government are contemplating to wind up MRTP Commission; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be done?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) The Monopolies and

Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC) was created under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, 1969 to ensure that the operation of the economic system does not result in the concentration of economic power to the common detriment and to prohibit such monopolistic and restrictive trade practices as are prejudicial to public interest. A need was felt to shift the focus from curbing monopolies to promoting competition. Accordingly a new law has been enacted by Parliament i.e. "The Competition Act, 2002" that provides for repeal of MRTP Act and dissolution of the MRTP Commission. Commission has not been wound up as yet.

FCI Godowns

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

(a) the number of godowns of the Food Corporation of India in Bihar with locations and the quantity of foodgrains stored therein;

(b) the quantity of foodgrains found unfit for human consumption in the FCI godowns in Bihar during the last three years;

(c) whether the FCI godowns in Bihar are in a bad shape;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to improve the condition of those godowns and to construct more godowns in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The total number of godowns with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) in the State of Bihar are 43 (14 Owned and 29 Hired). The details relating to locations & quantity of foodgrains stored therein are given in the statement attached.

(b) The quantity of foodgrains found unfit for human consumption in the FCI godowns in the State of Bihar during the last three years as under:

(Figures in MTs)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Paddy	Total
2000-01	2450	965	15	3430
2001-02	11928	1159	01	13088
2002-03	1517	76	62	1655

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) FCI godowns are constructed as per prescribed specifications. The FCI has allocated 3 lakh MTs capacity for construction under Seven Year Guarantee Scheme by Central Warehousing Corporation/State Warehousing Corporation to augment the storage capacity.

Statement

(Fig. in '000' Tonnes)
(As on 30.6.2003)

Name of the Revenue District	Name of the Centre	Stocks Held
1	2	3
Bhaghalpur	Bhaghalpur	10.39
Jammui	Jammui	0.73
	Muger	1.41
	Munger	3.09

1	2	3
Lakhi Sarai	Lakhi Sarai	2.33
Chapra (Saran)	Chapra	3.42
Vaishali	Hazipur	2.12
Darbhanga	Darbhanga	6.45
Madhubani	Jai Nagar	4.47
Gaya	Gaya (FSD)	26.63
	Gayan (Bins)	—
Nawadha	Warsaliganj	3.39
	Nawadha	—
Rohtas	Sasaram	6.40
Chanpatia	Chanpati	1.99
	Raxaul	2.10
Muzaffarpur	Muzaffarpur	1.27
	Narainpur	14.46
Champaran	Chakia	0.28
Sitamarhi	Bettiah	3.61
	Sitamarhi	3.60
	Paunoura	0.25
Sheopur	Sheopur	0.09
Buxar	Buxar	12.60
Bhojpur	Arrah	3.55
Nalanda	Bihar Shariff	3.35
Patna	Dighaghat	11.19
	Mokameh	24.86
	Phulwari Sharif	41.07
Purnea	Belouri (Purnea)	0.35
	Forbesganj	2.15
Katohat	Katihar	9.93
Kishanganj	Kishanganj	6.47
Begu Sarai	Begu Sarai	1.19
	Begu sarai Road	0.61
	Tifra	0.72

1	2	3
Samastipur	Samastipur	9.09
	Barauni	1.59
Saharasa	Saharasa	1.23
Suppal	Raghopur	1.12
Madhepura	Madhepura	1.99
Total		231.54

[English]

Lok Adalats

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

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government propose to popularise the system of Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the States where the Lok Adalats were organised during each of the last three years, State-wise; and

(d) the number of cases settled through these Adalats during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P.C. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 has been amended through the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002 on 11.6.2002. Besides its original objectives of providing free and competent legal services to weaker section of the society and organizing Lok Adalats to provide for mechanism for pre-litigation, conciliation and settlement of cases, the Act now also allows setting up Permanent Lok Adalats for providing pre-litigative mechanism for consideration and settlement of cases relating to certain public utility services such as transport, postal, telegraph, power, water, sanitation, hospitals, etc. The State Legal Service Authorities are also popularising the system of Lok Adalats through public awareness programmes, advertisement in newspapers, etc.

(c) and (d) A statement showing number of Lok Adalats organised and number of cases settled during the last three years, is enclosed.

Statement

The number of Lok Adalats organized and cases settled during the last three years viz., 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03, based on the information furnished by the State Legal services Authorities

S.No.	Name of the State Authority	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
		Lok Adalats organized	Cases settled	Lok Adalats organized	Cases settled	Lok Adalats organized	Cases settled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	5,646	91,053	8,483	1,00,420	9,545	75,670
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3.	Assam	34	9,367	103	14,152	437	14,242
4.	Bihar	1,299	7,200	1,582	22,793	4,003	37,918
5.	Goa	75	540	61	460	8	333
6.	Gujarat	4,982	4,87,789	6,308	1,95,098	7,135	1,81,732
7.	Haryana	161	37,281	222	41,900	61	12,717
8.	H.P.	421	3,908	425	3,157	343	2,383

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9.	J&K	99	2,137	175	2,267	77	1,481
10.	Jharkhand*	—	—	—	—	56	13,109
11.	Karnataka	511	31,909	811	45,457	733	19,372
12.	Kerala	2,354	27,531	1,895	11,514	527	7,463
13.	M.P.	1,583	44,334	1,739	38,533	1,432	26,626
14.	Maharashtra	1,113	27,357	1,477	30,185	897	19,356
15.	Manipur	8	248	6	201	5	129
16.	Meghalaya	3	465	7	1,021	2	483
17.	Mizoram	37	40	47	30	38	43
18.	Nagaland	1	23	1	61	—	—
19.	Orissa	435	2,95,385	722	3,77,123	512	2,51,970
20.	Punjab	512	30,786	472	38,248	141	10,084
21.	Rajasthan	9,367	1,81,361	6,486	1,40,157	5,824	1,21,188
22.	Sikkim	55	199	39	128	15	179
23.	Tamil Nadu	1,015	10,020	1,745	12,155	3,409	8,629
24.	Tripura	Nil	Nil	1	250	22	958
25.	U.P.	1,313	3,39,469	1,363	3,45,698	1,047	2,41,897
26.	Uttaranchal**	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	59	16,746
27.	W.B.	309	4,328	278	4,821	202	4,951
28.	A&N Islands	—	—	—	—	—	—
29.	Chandigarh	All working days	10,960	All working days	7,073	7	3,164
30.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2	707	2	258	—	—
31.	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Delhi	585	10,464	665	12,825	475	5,139
33.	Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Pondicherry	5	369	6	270	4	226

**Uttaranchal State Legal Services Authority started functioning from June, 2002.

*Jharkhand State Legal Services Authority started functioning from March, 2002.

Procurement by FCI

871. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has stopped procuring rice and paddy from farmers in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure the procurement of paddy and rice from the farmers in that State?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) With a view to enable the farmers to avail the benefit of the minimum support price of paddy and to avoid distress sale of paddy, the specifications for procurement of paddy in Orissa have been relaxed by the Government of India with effect from 11.6.2003 during the current Kharif Marketing Season. The FCI has opened 20 centres in the State for procurement of paddy and has so far procured 497 tonnes of paddy. A quantity of 7.28 lakh tonnes of levy rice has also been procured by the FCI in Orissa upto 22.7.2003.

Export of Textiles

872. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of different types of textiles has been on the decline since the beginning of 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons, product-wise;

(c) the countries to which textiles export has fallen short of the target;

(d) the corrective measures taken in this regard; and

(e) the present trend of the textiles export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: (a) to (e) A declining trend was noticed in textile exports during the year 2001, mainly due to general slowdown in

the economies of some of our major trading partners like the US; September 11 events; increased competition from countries like China, Bangladesh; and high production cost; low productivity due to lack of modernisation of textile industry. As per available DGCI&S data, the textile exports during the year 2002-2003 amounted to US\$ 11842.2 million as compared to export of US\$ 10764.7 million during the previous year 2001-2002 recording a growth of 10.0%. These latest trends show that the downtrend in textile exports has been reversed and they are back on path of export growth.

Country-wise export targets are not fixed.

Government have been taking a number of measures to boost textile exports. Some of the important initiatives are:

- (i) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores.
- (ii) 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 encourage backward integration, the custom duty on shuttleless looms has been brought from 15% to 5%.
- (v) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled merchandising and marketing.
- (vi) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the textile products pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.
- (vii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) has been launched.

[*Translation*]

Procurement of Wheat/Rice by FCI

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

(a) the State-wise quantum of wheat/rice procured by the Food Corporation of India specially in Chhattisgarh during the year 2002-03 and the current financial year;

(b) whether the Government propose to open more procurement centres in the State of Chhattisgarh;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) Statement-I and II showing the State-wise quantities of rice and wheat procured by the FCI (including in Chhattisgarh) are enclosed.

(b) to (d) The responsibility of procuring paddy in Chhattisgarh is with the State Government as it has opted for decentralized procurement. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has opened 1443 procurement centres during KMS 2002-03.

Statement-I

State-wise Procurement of Rice by the FCI during KMS 2002-2003 (Till 16.7.2003).

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	State/UT	Procurement of rice by FCI
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	25.19
2.	Bihar	0.15
3.	Chhattisgarh	2.22

1	2	3
4.	Haryana	3.69
5.	Himachal Pradesh	0.07
6.	Karnataka	—
7.	Madhya Pradesh	0.94
8.	Maharashtra	0.36
9.	Orissa	7.08
10.	Punjab	27.60
11.	Rajasthan	0.40
12.	Tamil Nadu	—
13.	Uttaranchal	—
14.	Uttar Pradesh	—
15.	West Bengal	1.01
16.	Chandigarh	—
17.	Delhi	—
18.	Pondicherry	—
Total		68.71

Statement-II

State-wise Procurement of Wheat by the FCI during RMS 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

(Figures in lakh tonnes)

S.No.	State/UT	Procurement of Wheat by the FCI	
		2002-2003	2003-2004
1.	Bihar	0.03	Neg.
2.	Chhattisgarh	—	—
3.	Haryana	9.99	8.18
4.	Himachal Pradesh	0.02	0.01
5.	Madhya Pradesh	0.75	0.27
6.	Punjab	30.00	25.48
7.	Rajasthan	2.17	1.37
8.	Uttaranchal	0.23	0.06
9.	Uttar Pradesh	—	—
10.	Chandigarh	0.16	Neg.
11.	Delhi	0.35	0.12
Total		43.70	35.49

Neg. Below 500 tonnes.

Outstanding Income Tax

874. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the top hundred industrial and commercial units against whom income tax and other taxes are outstanding as on date;

(b) the amount due against each of them; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to recover these taxes?

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

(c) Recovery of tax is a continuous process, involving the use of statutory provisions which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment and sale of movable/immovable properties. In respect of cases where stay orders against recovery have been passed by the appellate bodies, special measures are taken to file petitions for urgent hearing or for deciding the cases on priority. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also regularly undertaken at various levels and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes.

GDP Growth

875. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Governor of Reserve Bank of India has attribute the low annual growth rate of Gross Domestic Production due to inefficiency prevailing in the financial matters;

(b) if so, the reaction of the government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any special programme to increase efficiency in the financial matters; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and 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) The Governor, Reserve Bank of India in his inaugural address at the twenty-fourth Bank Economists' Conference on December 28, 2002 had emphasised the need for greater productivity and efficiency to achieve the target of 8 per cent growth in the Tenth Plan period and making the banking system strong, efficient and on par with international banks.

(b) to (d) The Government is conscious of the need for improving efficiency and productivity in the economy and has been taking initiatives from time to time in this direction. One of the five priorities addressed in the Budget for 2003-04 relates to fiscal consolidation through tax reforms and progressive elimination of budgetary drags.

[English]

Export of Sugar

876. SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of large production of sugar in the country, the Government propose to export sugar;

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

(c) the percentage of sugar exported as compared to its production during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government were unable to export sugar in large quantum as compared to wheat and rice exports to various countries;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (f) Due to high level of production during the last four consecutive sugar seasons as also in the current 2002-2003, sugar season, there has been considerable surplus stock of sugar in the country. In order to boost export of sugar, Government has taken the following measures:

(i) Sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

- (ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance freesale release, to be adjusted in the freesale stocks of the sugar mills after a period of 18 months.
- (iii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) at the rate of 4% of the F.O.B. value of the export of sugar has been allowed.

- (iv) Government has amended the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982, so as to enable it to defray the expenditure on internal transport and freight charges and to neutralize the Ocean freight disadvantage to the sugar factories, on the export shipments of sugar.

The percentage of sugar exported as compared to its production during the last three years is as under:

S.No.	Sugar Season (Oct. Sept.)	Production (in lakh tonnes)	Export* (In lakh tonnes)	Percentage of export over production
1.	1999-2000	181.93	0.23	0.13%
2.	2000-2001	185.10	9.87	5.33%
3.	2001-2002	185.25 (P)	8.91	4.81%
4.	2002-2003	197.10 (P) (upto 31.5.2003)	9.80 (P) (upto 31.5.2003)	4.97%

*Source: Export data on sugar season (October-September) basis has been compiled from the monthly data on export of sugar as published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, (DGCI&S), Kolkata. For the sugar season 2002-03, data upto the month of March, 2003 is as per DGCI&S, Kolkata and for the months of April and May 2003, as per trade circles.

(P) = Provisional.

The export of sugar is allowed under Open General Licence (O.G.L.), as per the existing EXIM Policy of the Government and various sugar mills/exporters are exporting sugar as per their commercial prudence.

Development of Export Infrastructure

877. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have provided any financial assistance to States for development of export infrastructure and allied activities in the States;

(b) if so, the grants provided to States including Maharashtra therefor during the last three years and current year;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government for the utilization of Central grants;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the States for their higher share to the country's export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government provides financial assistance to states for development of export infrastructure and allied activities under Critical infrastructure Balance/Assistance to states for Developing Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities scheme.

(b) The details of assistance in the last three years is as below:

	Total grant for all states (in crores)	Grant for Maharashtra (in crores)
2000-01	25.31	1.05405
2001-02	64.27	5.83
2002-03	239	16
Total	328.58	22.88405

In the current financial year an ad-hoc allocation of Rs. 130.5 crores has been made for all the states of

which Rs. 16 crores has been allocated to the State of Maharashtra.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) According to the guidelines issued to the states, each State/UT has to submit quarterly progress report in the prescribed format and also submit utilisation certificate for each installment in the prescribed format.

(e) and (f) Present Scheme aims at giving more funds to States having higher exports.

Fake Credit Cards

878. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the use of counterfeit credit cards has caused huge loss to the banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these banks have initiated corrective measures to check such misuse; 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 information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that banks have been advised to set up internal control systems to combat frauds like fraud at application stage, misuse of lost/stolen cards and cards not received by genuine applicants, counterfeit/alterd cards, etc. Fraud prevention committees/task forces are in existence which take proactive fraud control and enforcement measures. Banks are advised to actively participate in such fraud prevention committees/task forces.

Recommendations of Expenditure Reform Commission

879. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expenditure Reforms Commission has given certain suggestions regarding DGFT and also on Export-Import Policy of the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have prepared any action plan to implement these suggestions;

(d) if so, the outlines of the action plan; and

(e) the date from which it is proposed to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) In respect of DGFT, the Expenditure Reforms Commission has suggested expediting the staffing study which was being conducted by Administrative Staff College of India (ASCI), Hyderabad to reassess the staff strength. They also recommended that the Staff Inspection Unit (SIU) should concurrently be entrusted this task. ERC also suggested that Government should examine whether the task of grant of Advance Licence could be vested in the Customs Department. The responsibility for fixing the input-output norms in consultation with the other Ministries as also the policy issues could however continue to remain with the Department of Commerce.

ASCI have been advised to expedite their final report. Concurrently, the SIU have also been assigned the staffing study of DGFT.

Removal of Barriers on Agricultural Export

880. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Prime Minister during his visit to St. Petersburg has called the G-8 countries to phase out the trade distorting agricultural subsidies and removal of barriers to agricultural exports, while ensuring the livelihood security of billions of farmers in developing countries;

(b) if so, the specific barriers in agricultural exports sought to be removed; and

(c) the response of the G-8 countries thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Prime Minister made this statement at the G-8 Enlarged Dialogue in Evian on 1 June 2003, and not during his visit to St. Petersburg. Prime Minister expressed disappointment at the lack of progress so far on the Millennium Development Round since the Doha Meeting. Prime Minister underlined the need to rapidly eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers to developing country exports and to phase out all trade-distorting agricultural subsidies, while ensuring the livelihood security of billions of farmers in developing countries.

(c) The issues raised by the Hon'ble Prime Minister were also reflected in the statements of some of the other developing country participants in the Enlarged Dialogue. While there was no formal comment by the G-8 on the issues raised in the dialogue, some of the concerns were reflected in the G-8 Declaration adopted on 3rd June 2003. In particular, the Declaration reiterated the importance of improved market access for all World Trade Organisation (WTO) Members in all trade areas, including in agricultural and non-agricultural goods, in order to benefit economic growth, in particular, in the developing countries. The Declaration directs G-8 Members to work with WTO Members towards developing, inter alia, fairer and less distorted conditions for world trade.

Export of Readymade Garments

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

(a) the exports of readymade garments to the various countries during the last three years, country-wise;

(b) the target fixed for exports of readymade garments during the Tenth Five year Plan; and

(c) the actual position with regards to exports of readymade garments in monetary and quantitative terms during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)): (a) As per available DGCI&S data, the exports of readymade garments to all countries during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 have been as follows:

	(In US\$ million)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Readymade Garments	5087.0	4618.7	5031.5

(b) and (c) The Working Group on textiles & Jute Industry for the Tenth Five Year Plan has envisaged an export target of US\$ 14.33 billion in the terminal year (2006-07) of Tenth Five Year Plan period for readymade garments as against the actual exports of US\$ 4618.7 million in the terminal year (2001-02) of Ninth Plan. Quantity-wise exports data is not centrally maintained.

Plantation Sector

882. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) whether the Government have taken note of the pathetic state of affairs in the plantation sector of various States including Kerala where thousands are rendered jobless and many committing suicides;

(b) whether the State Governments including Kerala Government have requested the Union Government for any financial package for helping the poor workers of the plantation sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto;

(e) whether there is any proposal before the Government to take over the closed plantations;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Government is already seized of the problems

affecting the plantation sector in the country, including Kerala and a series of measures have been taken to mitigate their hardships.

(b) and (c) In view of the crisis being faced by the plantation sector, the Government of India have been receiving representatives from various quarters including the State Governments of Kerala and Karnataka highlighting the problems faced by the growers of plantation crops and tea growers in particular due to crash in prices and escalation in cost resulting in mounting heavy losses and closure of several tea states.

(d) to (f) To safeguard the interest of the growers of rubber Government of India undertook a series of measures which include market intervention through STC, fixing and notifying minimum price of rubber, enforcing quality standards formulated by Bureau of Indian Standards on imported rubber, restricting import of Natural Rubber through two ports viz. Vishakhapatnam and Kolkata etc. These measures have helped in improving the domestic price of Natural Rubber, which is presently around Rs. 45 per kg.

Similarly for the benefit of coffee sector the Government have taken a series of steps which includes re-phasing of the loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks, providing 5% interest relief to small growers and 3% relief to large coffee growers on their working capital loans taken from financial institutions, providing financial incentives for export of coffee and innovative marketing strategies in international as well as domestic markets to arrest decline in exports and also to increase domestic consumption.

To mitigate the problems of the growers of tea and workers of tea plantations, Expert Committees appointed by the Government have made an in-depth study of the closed tea gardens in the States of Kerala, West Bengal, Assam & Tripura. Based on the findings of the Expert Committees, Government and Tea Board are facilitating discussions of the management of these tea gardens with their bankers for working out a revival package for the potentially viable gardens.

In addition the Government of India has also set up a Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for providing relief to the growers of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco.

(g) Does not arise.

Export to EU and USA

883. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the share of Indian exports to the European Union and United States of America has declined during the last one year;

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

(c) the reasons for decline in the volume of export of EU and USA; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir. India's exports to EU and USA during the year 2002-03 registered a growth of 15.30% and 27.51% respectively over the previous year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Steps taken to increase our export to EU and USA markets include maintaining a continuous dialogue with these countries at Government and industry level, joint sectoral initiatives by the trade/industry to identify the constraints in enhancement of bilateral trade and investment opportunities and other trade promotional activities.

MFN Status to India

884. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan had offered to accord India the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status; and

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and the reaction of India Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Loans Written Off by Financial Institutions

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

(a) whether irrecoverable loans are written off by financial institutions under public sector;

(b) if so, the total amount of loans written off by these institutions during each of the last three years, financial institution-wise; and

(c) the year-wise amount granted as loans during the above years?

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

(b) Details of amounts written off by Financial Institutions under public sector during the years 2000-01, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003.

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of the Institution	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	IDBI	925.00	3142.28#	906.64
2.	IIBI	1.49	2.64	0.22*
3.	EXIM Bank	2.44	0.71	0.27
4.	SIDBI	45.44	102.02	178.47
5.	IFCI	52.21	17.13	20.60

#of this Rs. 2500.26 crores is in the nature of accelerated provisional/write offs.

*Provisional.

(c) Disbursements made by Financial Institutions under Public Sector during the years 2000-01, 2001-2002 and 2002-203.

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the Institution	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
IDBI	17474	11151	3924
Exim Bank	1896.4	3452.9	5320.3
SIDBI	6441	5919	6789
IIBI	644.20	283.93	51.52
IFCI Ltd.*	1100.49	515.75	116.76

*The loans disbursed in cash to assisted concerns by IFCI during the last three years.

Silk Technology Mission in Karnataka

886. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent a programme for expansion of bivoltine sericulture and overall development of the sericulture industry in the State to the Union Government;

(b) whether the Government of Karnataka has also sent a proposal to set up a Silk Technology Mission to plan strategies and monitor and implementation of programmes;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(d) the other steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the quality of Silk yarn in the country particularly in the State of Karnataka?

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

(a) The Govt. of Karnataka has sent proposals to Central Silk Board (CSB) under centrally sponsored plan scheme, namely, Catalytic Development Programme, for expansion of bivoltine sericulture.

(b) and (c) No proposal to set up a silk technology mission has been received from Govt. of Karnataka.

(d) To improve the quality of silk yarn in the country in general and particularly in the State of Karnataka following steps are being taken:

- Through Research & Development improved hybrid silkworm breeds and bivoltine breeds have been developed.
- A package of practices for food plant cultivation, silkworm rearing, disease management, reeling etc. have been taken to the field.
- Low cost reeling technologies have been commercialized.
- Silk conditioning and testing houses have been established for testing of quality of raw silk and suggest measures for improvement.
- Awareness programmes are organized for popularization of various technologies and practices.

[Translation]

Diversion of Funds

887. SHRI RAMSHAKAL: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that in certain cases the funds provided under the Tribal sub Plan have been utilized for other purposes during last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to hold an inquiry in such cases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. During last year, utilization of funds provided under the Tribal Sub Plan for other purposes has not come to the notice of the Government.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

Export of Handloom Items

888. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which handloom items were exported during each of the last three years, alongwith the foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(b) whether any specific scheme has been formulated by the Government keeping in view the increasing demand of Indian handloom items; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) The details of the top 25 countries to which handloom items were exported during the preceding three years (1999-2000 to 2001-02), alongwith foreign exchange earned therefrom, are enclosed as statement. The export data for the year 2002-03 is available only upto February 2003 and for the subsequent period, the same is yet to be made available by the concerned agency.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products, a scheme namely "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM)" had been in operation since 1996-97 till the end of the 9th Plan. The scheme continues to be implemented during the 10th Five Year Plan with minor modifications and under a modified nomenclature of "Handloom Export Scheme". The Handloom Export Scheme envisages provision of financial assistance to the handloom agencies such as National and State Level Handloom Corporations, Apex Cooperative Societies, Primary Handloom Corporations, Apex Cooperative Societies, Primary Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies and Private Handloom Exporters, recommended by Handloom Export Promotion Council, for development of export worthy handloom products, publicity & international marketing thereof and setting up of value addition/quality control units. Financial assistance is also provided under the scheme to Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) etc. for organising participation of their members in international fairs/exhibitions/Buyer-Seller-Meets.

Details of financial assistance provided under the scheme to the handloom agencies during the last three years are as under:

S.No.	Year	Financial assistance provided (Rs. In lakh)
1.	2000-2001	Rs. 400.00
2.	2001-2002	Rs. 325.02
3.	2002-2003	Rs. 300.00

Statement

Details of the top 25 countries to which handloom items were exported during the last three years (1999-00 to 2001-02)

(Rupees in Crore)				
Sl.No.	Name of the Country	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	2	3	4	5
1.	United States of America	583.10	635.85	613.46
2.	United Kingdom	235.25	212.99	215.10
3.	Japan	114.62	122.36	98.83
4.	Germany	130.32	129.98	123.06
5.	France	90.34	100.88	80.25
6.	Sweden	68.12	66.31	49.33
7.	Australia	61.72	59.04	52.39
8.	Italy	71.19	62.12	65.75
9.	Belgium	44.79	64.36	68.23
10.	Canada	37.31	48.42	47.38
11.	Spain	46.49	47.89	47.92
12.	Netherlands	32.30	34.18	30.83
13.	Singapore	22.37	24.14	21.45
14.	Malaysia	17.20	19.07	19.39
15.	Denmark	22.57	15.48	19.39
16.	South Africa	17.97	19.94	22.12
17.	U.A.E.	20.57	36.02	40.15
18.	Hong Kong	20.64	19.08	18.15
19.	China P. Rep.	12.09	14.03	13.04
20.	Sri Lanka	22.37	23.75	28.23

1	2	3	4	5
21.	Nigeria	20.39	12.36	28.57
22.	Togoland	3.92	24.37	25.81
23.	Portugal	18.75	16.04	16.61
24.	Norway	15.51	14.08	11.11
25.	Bangladesh	19.34	21.70	15.93

[English]

Consumer Rights

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

(a) whether the Government are aware that the people living in the rural areas of the country are unaware of the consumer rights and are cheated by the various agencies;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken/propose to take any steps to create awareness among the rural population about consumer rights; and

(c) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The consumer movement has gained considerable momentum in the country due to the persistent efforts made to create consumer awareness by the Central/State Governments, NGOs, consumer organizations, media and others with the special emphasis to rural and tribal areas.

To spread consumer awareness, Government has undertaken various programmes on consumer protection through audio, video and print media in addition to the observance of the National Consumer day on 24th December, World Consumer Rights Day on 15th March, involving all concerned, some of the important steps taken by the Department of Consumer Affairs to further strengthen consumer movement are:

- Amendment of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 made in December, 2002. Among others, the provision made to set up District Consumer Protection Council at district level is expected to strengthen consumer movement at grass root level.

- ii. Financial assistance is extended under the Consumer Welfare Fund (CWF) to promote and protect welfare of consumers and to strengthen the consumer movement in the country. Under the Fund a scheme namely District Consumer Information Centre (DCIC) has been launched to set up Centre in each district in a phased manner. Other schemes, i.e, Jagriti Shivar Yojana and Consumer Clubs have also been launched for spreading consumer awareness amongst the Below Poverty Line (BPL) categories of the population and the students of the schools respectively.

Utilisation Certificates Under PDS

890. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to ask for utilisation certificates and social audit of food items given to various States under Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, whether State Governments have in principle agreed to give utilisation certificates to the Union Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) to what extent the social audit of food items is going to check diversion of food items allocated under PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (d) Under the Public Distribution System (Control) Order, 2001, the State Governments are required to furnish Utilisation Certificates confirming that the foodgrains lifted from the Central Pool, have been distributed to the intended beneficiaries under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS). These Certificates are being received from all the States/Union Territories except a few States/UTs. The Order also provides for ensuring proper system of monitoring of Fair Price Shops (FPS), regular inspections of FPSs not less than once in six months by the designated authority and meetings of the Vigilance Committees on the PDS at the State, District, Block and FPS level to be held on a regular basis.

States/UTs have been asked to actively involve the Gram Panchayats in rural areas and the local bodies in

urban areas in monitoring of the functioning of the FPSs as a measures of social audit. These provisions are aimed at checking diversion of foodgrains allocated under the TPDS.

Inclusion in ST List

891. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased state:

(a) whether the Government have included many castes under the Schedule Tribes list during 2002-2003;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the demand to include several tribes of Karnataka to the list of STs has been pending for a longtime;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the present status of the request; and

(f) the reasons for delay in taking any decision on the matter?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 43 new communities and 66 communities as synonyms to existing Scheduled Tribes have been included in the list of Scheduled Tribes of various States by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2003.

(c) to (f) As per approved modalities, out of 54 proposals of Karnataka, five communities namely Medari, Gauriga, Burud, Haranshikari and Siddi (in Uttar Kannada district) only were found eligible for inclusion in the list of Scheduled Tribes of Karnataka, which were included by the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Act, 2003.

Trade Discussions between India and Bangladesh

892. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR:
SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

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

(a) whether any discussions have been held between India and Bangladesh to improve their trade relations

during the recently held inter active session organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which these discussions would help India to increase its export to Bangladesh and to make imports therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A business delegation from Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) from Bangladesh visited New Delhi during March 10-12, 2003 to participate in the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)-MCCI Joint Economic Council (JEC) meeting. The issues of concern to trade in both the countries were discussed.

(c) The discussion will help promote trade and economic co-operation between India and Bangladesh which cannot be quantified.

Non-Payment of Investors Money

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

(a) the details of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) which have defrauded the investing public and whose properties have been attached by the Union Government for non-payment of investors money during the last three years;

(b) the details of NBFCs who defaulted in payment of investor's money and whose properties have not been attached;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) the defaulted NBFCs which have been given relief by the Union Government, NBFC-wise; and

(e) the reasons therefor?

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.

Loan Through Vijaya Bank

894. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various loan schemes introduced by Vijaya Bank;

(b) the amount of loan sanctioned by Vijaya Bank under these schemes during last three years in the State of Karnataka; and

(c) the amount of loan given to farmers in that State during these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per information furnished by Vijaya Bank, various loan schemes introduced by Vijaya Bank are Trade Finance, Housing Loans, Jewel Loan, Loan to Road Transport Operators, Loan Motor Vehicles, V-Cash: Personal Loan for Salaried, Professionals & Self Employed, Advances against Shares, V-Rent against the rent receivables to owners of the commercial property to let out the same to reputed companies/industries/ Institutions, educational loan and V-Equip: loans to individual, salaried persons, professionals for purchase of equipments/consumer durables.

(b) The loan disbursed by Vijaya Bank under various loan scheme in the State of Karnataka during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03 are as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	Name of the Scheme	Loan Sanctioned		
		2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Trade Finance	19.90	19.45	39.31
2.	Housing Loans	33.39	33.96	233.40

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Jewel Loan	36.28	35.84	12.82
4.	Loan to Road Transport Operators	12.33	9.53	12.82
5.	Loan on Motor Vehicles	22.97	18.70	28.18
6.	V-Cash	61.22	67.04	130.47
7.	Advances Against shares	2.08	0.09	0
8.	V-Rent	4.87	41.49	66.24
9.	Educational Loan	0	0	8.44
10.	V-Equip	0	0	1.95
Total		192.94	226.10	562.74

(c) The loan provided to the farmers in the State of Karnataka by Vijaya Bank during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 & 2002-03 are as under:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	Loan disbursed
2000-01	163.31
2001-02	150.82
2002-03	392.39

Listing of Companies in Bourses

895. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has submitted fresh proposals to the Union Government for continues listing of companies on bourses for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto and

(d) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Organic Farming Standards

896. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether APEDA has formulated plan for farmers to switch over to 'organic farming' to boost the exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether APEDA has developed organic farming standards for various organic products; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Under the aegis of National Programme on Organic Production, APEDA promotes organic farming through various export oriented initiatives, including development of model organic farms, conduct of awareness programmes etc.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. APEDA has developed organic standards for four crops namely, rice, sugarcane, pineapple and passion fruits.

Ban on Creation of Hind Posts

897. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a ban has been imposed on the creation of Hindi posts also alongwith that of other posts in general;

(b) if so, whether the ban stood vacated to fill most essential posts required under most exceptional conditions including those required to fulfil the constitutional provisions as per the office memorandum No. 7 (1) E. (co-1)/84 dated 20.6.1984 of the Ministry of Finance while it also included the requisite number to be filled in the process to ensure compliance of the relevant official language acts and rules;

(c) if so, whether the Government have withdrawn the office memorandum referred to in above said post; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action proposed to be taken/being taken by the Government to create the official language posts in order to ensure compliance of constitutional provisions relating to official language?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) A ban has been imposed since 24.9.2000 on creation of new posts, without exception to any category or classification of posts. As such, it applies to Hindi posts also.

(b) and (c) In exceptional cases, proposals from Ministries/Departments for creation of new posts are considered based on their merit/functional justification including statutory requirement and matching savings etc.

(d) Department of Official Language has been advised to move, if necessary, a proposal seeking exemption from ban on creation of new posts.

[*Translation*]

New Definition to Bad Debts

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

(a) whether bad debts non-repayment of loans advanced by the financial institutions have been given a new definition by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a decline in the recovery of bad debts under the new definition;

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

(e) the objectives behind redefining bad debts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir. RBI has not made any change in the nomenclature of NPAs.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[*English*]

Clamp down of Chinese Investment

899. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to clamp down Chinese investments in sensitive sectors in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion has recently recommended that, China be placed on list of restricted countries under provisions of the Foreign Exchange Management Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the Chinese investments in the country have been tightened?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) The Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis, keeping in view the economic environment, strategic and safety/security considerations. The policy incorporated as Schedule-I of the Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) Regulations,

2000 does not restrict investments from China. FDI proposals, including proposals for investments from China, requiring prior Government approval are considered after necessary Inter-Ministerial consultations taking into account the sectoral policies as also strategic and security related considerations.

Procurement Target

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

(a) whether some State Governments particularly Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to increase the rice procurement target of Food Corporation of India in the States from the current 50% to 75%;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, State-wise; and

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto?

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

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for an increase in the percentage of levy rice from the existing 50% to 75%. The State Government of Punjab had requested for an increase from 75% to 100%.

(c) The proposal of the State Governments have been examined in the Ministry. In view of the drought condition in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the State Government has been permitted an adhoc increase of 3 lakh tonnes of levy rice during the current Kharif Marketing Season 2002-03, beyond the existing 50% levy percentage.

The proposal of the State Government of Punjab has not been agreed to in view of the adequate availability of stocks of rice with the Central Pool.

Export of Foodgrains

901. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

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

(a) the quantity and value of foodgrains exported by FCI during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the FCI had suffered losses on the exports of such foodgrains;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have set up a one-man inquiry commission to probe into a scam running into crores of rupees involving the FCI allegedly favouring private rice exporters;

(e) whether the inquiry committee has submitted its report;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) the action taken against those held responsible; and

(h) the further steps the Government propose to take to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Food Corporation of India (FCI) does not undertake exports of foodgrains directly. However, 20.43 lakh MTs, 39.65 lakh MTs and 67.93 lakh MTs of wheat have been lifted for export to 31 countries from the Central Pool by exporters during the years 2000-2001, 2001-2002 and 2002-2003 respectively. Similarly, 0.42 lakh MTs, 23.50 lakh MTs and 80.72 lakh MTs of rice have been lifted for export to 61 countries from the Central Pool during the above periods.

FCI has not suffered any direct loss on export of foodgrains as these are offered to exporters at Open Market Sale Scheme (Domestic) prices, fixed by the Government from time to time.

(d) to (h) An inquiry had been instituted taking note of the reports appearing in the press relating to the concession given to rice exporters as allowance for 'Broken'. The report has not been submitted.

The allowance for broken has been withdrawn with effect from 1st October, 2002.

Share of Service Sector in World Market

902. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state;

(a) whether IT services sector holds bright prospects for exports of services under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime under the World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government for promotion of exports of such services and protecting the interests of Indian professional and service providers under the WTO regime;

(c) whether India's potential for providing efficient services especially in Information Technology sector was also recognized and marketed at the recent WTO round of negotiations in Geneva; and

(d) if so, the success achieved in securing due share in these services in the world market under the GATS regime?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Information Technology is one of the service sectors where India has immense potential for exports, including under the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) regime.

(b) to (d) Under the GATS negotiations, Initial Requests have been placed on our trading partners for taking full sectoral commitments and removal of limitations and barriers experienced by the Information Technology industry and professionals for getting meaningful access in their markets. In addition, India had also submitted a negotiating proposal on Computer and Related Services for discussion in the Council for Trade in Services (CTS) of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) with the objective of bringing about deeper liberalisation and removal of barriers being faced by our IT professionals and service providers. Our keen interest in the Information Technology sector in providing more access for our service providers and IT professionals in markets abroad and the advantages that would accrue to other countries through liberalisation of this sector are duly emphasised during the ongoing discussions in the context of the mandated negotiations under GATS, through bilateral, plurilateral and multilateral initiatives. The success in these negotiations in securing a share for these Services in the world market under the GATS regime is not something that can be quantified.

Single Window Clearance for FDI

903. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to attract Foreign Direct Investment, Government had undertaken to provide a single window clearance for foreign investors;

(b) if so, whether such a single window is still out of sight; and

(c) the progress has so far been made in providing such single window clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) All items/activities for FDI/NRI/OBC investment upto 100% fall under the automatic route except:

- (i) proposals requiring industrial licences;
- (ii) proposal in which foreign collaborator has a previous venture/tie-up in India;
- (iii) proposals relating to acquisition of shares in an existing Indian Company; and
- (iv) proposals falling outside notified sectoral policy/caps.

Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is the nodal, single window agency for all matters relating to FDI as well as promoting investment into the country.

Strategy for WTO Services Negotiations

904. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved the broad strategy for the WTO services negotiations under which India would be willing to open up several services including professional health financial computer related architecture tourism and house keeping;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of countries to whom India has made its offer and how many countries have responded to it,

(d) whether this strategy enables the Commerce Ministry to make the offer in services in consultation with concerned Ministries;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the total trade likely to be made by India after opening these sectors to WTO services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The overall negotiating strategy being adopted by India in the context of the on-going services negotiations in the WTO in order to secure desirable concessions from other Member countries has been evolved in close coordination with all concerned stake holders including the Ministries and industry bodies. The final decision on the extent to which commitments would be offered by India in various sectors will depend on the assessment of the gains from commitments offered by trading partners.

(c) to (f) India has not submitted any offer in services in the context of the on-going round of negotiations so far. The offer, when made, will be based on an assessment of the balance of gains in the negotiations, which cannot be quantified in the form of increased exports at this stage.

Price of Compaq Disc.

905. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether inspite of cut in excise duty on Compaq Disc., the prices remain unchanged;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action so that the prices come down alongwith duty cut; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) As per information available with the Government, prices of compact discs of some leading manufacturers have come down after the excise duty exemption was announced in the budget of 2003-2004.

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

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The prices charged to the consumers are determined by market forces of demand and supply and depend on various factors like cost of inputs, product quality, sales promotion cost, trade commission, freight charges and taxes. Excise duty is only one of the elements in the price.

Trade in Mustard Seeds

906. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether trade in mustard seeds the country has been severely affected by hoarding and future speculations causing artificial scarcity leading to spurt in seed prices by 68%;

(b) if so, the steps being taken against the intermediaries holding buffer stocks of mustard oil or seeds;

(c) whether the traders have petitioned to the Government to curb future trading or cut import duty on mustard seed and oil to control price fluctuations; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No such petitions have been received.

(d) Question does not arise.

Interest on Taxes and Duties

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

(a) whether the Government are considering a proposal to benchmark interest rates on delayed payments of taxes and duties; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons for this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As far as Direct Taxes

are concerned, the Government rationalizes the interest rates payable or chargeable, as are considered necessary from time to time. In respect of Indirect Taxes, the Government is reviewing the issue. The existing rates of interest under different provisions of Central Excise Act, 1944, Customs Act, 1962, Chapter V of the Finance Act, 1994 and the Rules framed thereunder are being reviewed keeping in mind the change in the rates of interest offered and charged by the RBI and other Commercial Banks on different kind of loans.

Import of Pulses

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

(a) whether the Government have imported pulses in the country during the past few years;

(b) if so, the countries from which pulses are imported and under what terms and conditions;

(c) whether the irregularities in the import of pulses have come to the notice of the Government; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and further corrective steps Government have taken/proposed to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) and (b) The Government had imported one lakh tonnes of pulses from Myanmar and Australia during 1999-2000 through the State Trading Corporation to augment availability and contain the price rise of pulses in the country.

(c) and (d) There were no irregularities in the import of pulses. The imported pulses could not be disposed-off by the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) of India Ltd. in time due to changed market conditions in the country resulting in losses. With the liberalization of trade, the imports of essential commodities have been placed under OGL.

Capital Infusion In RRBs

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

(a) whether the Government has finalised a policy to ensure that more capital is injected into regional rural banks;

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

(c) whether commercial banks have been directed to invest more capital in such regional rural banks; and

(d) if so, the norms prescribed in respect of the amount of funds which have to be invested by commercial banks into the RRBs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Rice to Tamil Nadu

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

(a) the production of rice in the country and share of Tamil Nadu out of it during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have demanded additional allotment of three lakh tonnes of rice in view of the depleting stock level;

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

(d) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu had lifted almost all the quantity allotted to it under the Centrally sponsored schemes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The production of rice in the Country and share of Tamil Nadu out of it during the last three years was as under:

(In lakh tonnes)

Year	Production of Rice		
	All India	Tamil Nadu	% Share
1999-2000	896.83	75.32	8.40%
2000-2001	849.77	73.66	8.67%
2001-2002	930.85	68.73	7.38%

(b) and (c) The Government of Tamil Nadu recently requested for additional allocation of 6.00 lakh tonnes of rice for relief employment in the wake of drought. As against this request, the total quantity allocated to the State under the Special component of Sampoorna Gramin Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) during 2003-04 is 3.25 lakh

tonnes, which includes 1.00 lakh tonnes allocated on 2.7.2003.

(d) and (e) A statement showing allocation and off take of foodgrains in respect of Tamil Nadu under various schemes during 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed.

Statement

Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains in respect of Tamil Nadu under Targeted Public Distribution System and Welfare Schemes

(In '000 Tonnes)

			Allocation			Offtake		
			Rice	Wheat	Total	Rice	Wheat	Total
			1	2	3	4	5	6
2002-2003								
1.	TPDS	AAY	290.50	0.00	290.50	287.55	0.00	287.55
		BPL	1751.88	0.00	1751.88	1316.73	0.00	1316.73
		APL	3741.95	100.00	3841.95	0.00	21.27	21.27
		Total	5784.33	100.00	5884.33	1604.29	21.27	1625.56
2.	Annapurna		8.64	0.00	8.64	8.64	0.00	8.64
3.	Mid Day Meal		108.03	0.00	108.03	78.79	0.00	78.79
4.	SGRY		384.99	0.00	384.99	342.56	0.00	342.56
5.	Spl. Companent of SGRY		125.00	0.00	125.00	84.00	0.00	84.00
6.	SC/ST/OBC Hostels/ Welfare Institutions		91.15	0.00	91.15	25.57	0.00	25.57
7.	Nutrition		0.00	18.76	18.76	0.86*	13.58	14.44

NB: *This includes offtake against backlog quota.

2003-2004 (April-June, 2003)

1.	TPDS	AAY	75.01	0.00	75.01	73.50	0.00	73.50
		BPL	435.59	0.00	435.59	353.99	0.00	353.99
		APL	917.00	30.00	947.00	33.62	6.44	40.07
		Total	1427.59	30.00	1457.59	461.11	6.44	467.56

	1	2	3	4	5	6
2. Mid Day Meal	110.59	—	110.59#	8.66	—	8.66
3. SGRY	77.00	—	77.00	7.53	—	7.53
4. Spl. Comoponent of SGRY	325.00	—	325.00*	276.16	—	276.16
5. SC/ST/OBC Hostels/ Welfare Institutions	87.12	0.00	87.12#	0.00	0.00	0.00

NB: #Annual allocation.

*Allocation upto July 2003.

Directives of SEBI

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

(a) the details of the companies against whom the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received complaints of gross violation of market regulation or who have failed to redress the investors grievances during the last three years;

(b) the action taken against these companies, Company-wise;

(c) whether the SEBI has also appointed any adjudicators (s) to pursue further action against some companies for failing to comply with the SEBI's directives;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the details of companies who have been let-off; and

(f) the reasons therefor?

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

Branches of Canara Bank

912. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of existing branches set up by Canara Bank in the country;

(b) whether several branches are proposed to be opened by Canara Bank during 2003-04; and

(c) If so, the States where these new branches are proposed to be set up in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The State-wise number of branches set up by Canara Bank in the country so far are given in the Statement.

(b) and (c) Canara Bank has proposed to set up branches during the current financial year 2003-2004 in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Statement

The State-wise Number of Branches set up by Canara Bank in the Country so far

Sl.No.	Name of the State/UT	Total
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109
2.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1
3.	Assam	16
4.	Bihar	79
5.	Chandigarh	11
6.	Chhattisgarh	9

1	2	3
7.	Delhi	86
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
9.	Goa	21
10.	Gujarat	39
11.	Haryana	52
12.	Himachal Pradesh	11
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	7
14.	Jharkhand	38
15.	Karnataka	524
16.	Kerala	237
17.	Madhya Pradesh	40
18.	Maharashtra	190
19.	Meghalaya	2
20.	Orissa	39
21.	Pondicherry	3
22.	Punjab	100
23.	Rajasthan	23
24.	Sikkim	1
25.	Tamil Nadu	454
26.	Tripura	1
27.	Uttar Pradesh	179
28.	Uttaranchal	23
29.	West Bengal	71

GDP Growth

913. DR. M.V.V.S. MURTHI:
SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:
SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE:
SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GDP growth in 2002-03 was 4.3 per cent, against 5.6 per cent in 2001-02 according to the revised annual growth estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO);

(b) if so, the reasons given by the CSO for the same;

(c) the Government's response thereto; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targeted GDP growth in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) As per the revised estimates released by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at factor cost in 2002-03 was 4.3 per cent compared with 5.6 per cent in 2001-02. The lower growth of GDP in 2002-03 was mainly attributed to the negative growth rate of 3.2 per cent in 'agriculture, forestry and fishing' sector on account of drought conditions that prevailed during the year. Growth in 2002-2003 would have been higher but for the drought.

(d) The growth targets are not fixed annually. The Tenth Five Year Plan aims at an annual average growths rate of 8 per cent for the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07).

The Union Budget for 2003-04 has proposed a number of initiatives such as promoting infrastructure development by leveraging public money through private sector participation, promoting private investment and measures aimed at fiscal consolidation. These initiatives are expected to have a positive influence on the growth of the economy.

Vanished Companies

914. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY:
DR. CHARAN DAS MAHANT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Company Affairs have formulated any strategy to ensure that companies may not indulge in unfair means;

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

(c) the number of companies declared as vanished/ disappeared as on date and the total amount of investors money involved therein;

(d) whether the Government have also launched prosecution against vanished companies in the country; and

(e) if so, the names of such companies?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The Companies Act, 1956 itself contains several provisions to protect the interests of the shareholders and depositors, also to deal with mismanagement of the affairs of the companies. However, it has been felt necessary to provide greater protection to investors, shareholders, creditors, employees and other concerned persons to ensure that corporate wrongs are quickly and effectively rectified and those responsible are punished thereby bringing about good corporate governance. Accordingly, the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 2003. The Bill, inter-alia, contains provisions which are based on certain recommendations made by the Committee on Corporate Audit and Governance and the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) which examined the recent stock market scam.

(c) At present, 185 companies stand identified as vanishing companies. In these companies, the monetary exposure involved is approximately Rs. 1150 crores.

(d) and (e) Prosecutions have been launched against 161 vanishing companies under various provisions of the Companies Act. The list of these companies is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Sl.No.	Names of the Companies
1	2
1.	Aditya Alkaloids.
2.	Aqua Dev India Ltd.
3.	Kamakshi Housing Finance Ltd. name changed to Kisha Impex Ltd.
4.	Premier Aqua Farms Ltd.
5.	Canara Credit Ltd.
6.	Deccan Petroleums Ltd.
7.	Prism Foods Ltd.
8.	Raam Tyers Ltd.

1	2
9.	Rank Industries Ltd.
10.	Sai Gruha Finance & Engg. Ltd.
11.	Shakti Sai Flowers & Tissues Ltd.
12.	SSP Polymer Industries Ltd.
13.	Sunrise Oleochemicals Ltd. (formerly Sunrise Oils Ltd.)
14.	Vinimeta Spin Steels Ltd.
15.	Midwest Iron & Steel Co. Ltd.
16.	Royce Marine Products Ltd.
17.	Shree Vaishnavi Dyeing & Printing Ltd.
18.	Ambuja Zinc Ltd.
19.	Cilson Organics Ltd.
20.	Bodh Gaya Ceramics Ltd.
21.	Alps Motor Finance Ltd.
22.	Chirau Finance Invest. & Leasing Ltd.
23.	Cilson Finance & Invest. Ltd.
24.	Grivs Hotels Ltd.
25.	ICP Securities Ltd.
26.	Lakshya Securities & Credit Holdings Ltd.
27.	Patliputra Credit & Securities Ltd.
28.	Simplex Holdings Ltd.
29.	Star Electronics Ltd.
30.	Star Exim Ltd.
31.	Tactful Invest. Ltd.
32.	Welcome Coir Industries Ltd.
33.	Goga Foods Ltd.
34.	Kalyani Finance Ltd.
35.	Pariksha Fin-Invest-Lease Ltd.
36.	Rajgarh Investments Ltd.
37.	Zed Investments Ltd.
38.	Big Star Films Ltd. Formerly Moon Holdings & Credit Ltd.

1	2
39.	Dee Kartavya Finance Ltd.
40.	Hari Parvat Merry Land and Resorts Ltd.
41.	Hoff Land Investment Ltd. (Vadra Investment Ltd.)
42.	People Entertainment Works Ltd. (Vatsa Infotech Ltd.)
43.	Saimoh Auto Links Ltd.
44.	Little Kingdom Worlds Ltd.
45.	Zodiac Cement Ltd.
46.	Selfridge Automobile Leasing and Industries Ltd.
47.	Vermani Steel Strips Ltd.
48.	Advance Bio-Coal (India) Ltd.
49.	Maa Leafin & Capital Ltd.
50.	Shubham Granites Ltd.
51.	Bhavna Steel Cast Ltd.
52.	Ankush Finstock Ltd.
53.	Arrow Securities Ltd.
54.	Charms Ceramics Ltd.
55.	Frontline Financial Services Ltd.
56.	Naisargik Agritech (India) Ltd.
57.	Nilchem Capital Ltd.
58.	Shreeji Dye-Chem Ltd.
59.	Shree Surgovind Tradelink Ltd.
60.	Spil Finance Ltd.
61.	Dhruv Makhan (India) Ltd.
62.	Ami Ganga Infrastructure Ltd.
63.	Integrated Amusement Ltd.
64.	Girish Hotels Resorts and Health farm Ltd.
65.	Growth Agro Industries Ltd.
66.	Hi-Tech Winding Systems Ltd.
67.	Ishaan Infrastructures & Shelters Ltd.
68.	Kesar Greenfield International Ltd.
69.	Kome-On Communication Ltd.
70.	Mobile Tele-Communications Ltd.

1	2
71.	Shri Mahalaxmi Agricultural Developments Ltd.
72.	Shivam Apparels Exports Ltd.
73.	Naturo Pest Ltd.
74.	Aashi Inds. Ltd.
75.	Manav Pharma Ltd.
76.	Nisu Fincap Ltd.
77.	Super Domestic Machines Ltd.
78.	Citizen Yarns Ltd.
79.	Dhavanil Chemicals Ltd.
80.	Genuine Commodities Development Co. Ltd.
81.	Lyons Industrial Enterprises Ltd.
82.	Mrug Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
83.	Perfact Weavers Ltd.
84.	Rahil Investment & Finance Ltd.
85.	Tirth Plastic Ltd.
86.	Sushil Packagings (India) Ltd.
87.	Swastik Nitro Aromatics Ltd.
88.	Shree Yaax Pharmaa & Cosmetics Ltd.
89.	Marine Cargo Co. Ltd.
90.	Blossom Breweries Ltd.
91.	Protech Circuit Breakers Ltd.
92.	Protech Switchgears Ltd.
93.	Parth Industries Ltd. (Dizny Metaplast Ltd.)
94.	Cromakem Ltd.
95.	Topline Shoes Ltd.
96.	Gujarat Bonanza Auto.
97.	Nuline Glassware Ltd.
98.	Ready Foods Ltd.
99.	Winfarm agro Industries Ltd.
100.	Acme Spinners Ltd.
101.	Ocean Knits Ltd.

1	2
102.	Flora Wall Covering Ltd.
103.	Southern Herbals Ltd.
104.	Suraj Stone Corpn. Ltd.
105.	South Asian Mushrooms Ltd.
106.	Rajadhiraj Ind. Ltd.
107.	Hi-Tech Drugs Ltd.
108.	Madhyavart Exxoil Ltd.
109.	Sterling Kalks and Bricks Ltd.
110.	Caldyn Aircon Ltd.
111.	Harbar Network System Ltd. (formerly Digital Leasing & Finance Ltd.)
112.	Hitesh Textile Mills Ltd.
113.	Ichalkarnjee Soya Ltd.
114.	Pashupati Cable Ltd.
115.	Realtime Finlease Ltd.
116.	Sparkle Foods Ltd.
117.	Vipul Securities Ltd.
118.	G-Tech Infor Training Ltd. (Gazi Securities Ltd.)
119.	Brakes Auto (India) Ltd.
120.	AVI Industries Ltd.
121.	Rusoday & Co. Ltd.
122.	Shree Neelachal Laboratories Ltd. (Neelachal Technologies Ltd.)
123.	Prime Capital Market Ltd.
124.	Orissa Luminaries Ltd.
125.	Universal Vita Ailment Limited.
126.	Carewell Hygiene Products Ltd.
127.	Seema Industries Ltd.
128.	Suckchain Cement Ltd.
129.	Hallmark Drugs & Chemicals Ltd.
130.	Hindustan Tools & Forgings Ltd.

1	2
131.	Novel Finance (India) Ltd. (formerly P.K. Vaduvammal Finance & Investments Ltd.)
132.	Crest World Marine Ltd.
133.	Sangeo Services Ltd.
134.	Panggo Exports Ltd.
135.	Maa Capital Market Services Ltd.
136.	Kayesvee Education Ltd.
137.	Nagarjuna Jiyo Industries Ltd.
138.	AVR Securities Ltd.
139.	Navakkarai Spinners Ltd.
140.	Pappilon Exports Ltd.
141.	Shyam Prints & Publishers Ltd.
142.	Bafna Spinning Mills & Exports Ltd.
143.	Denmur Fax Roll Ltd.
144.	Global Property Ltd.
145.	Rich Captial & Fin. Ser. Ltd.
146.	Swarnima Oil Inds. Ltd.
147.	Danin Leather Ltd.
148.	Siddhartha Pharmaceuticals Ltd.
149.	Shefali Papers Ltd.
150.	Rizvi Exports Ltd.
151.	Rayned Labs Ltd.
152.	Vidiani Agro Tech Industries Ltd.
153.	Auroma Coke Ltd.
154.	Esskay Telecom.
155.	Saket Extrusion Ltd.
156.	Kiev Finance Ltd.
157.	Oriental Remedies and Herbals Ltd.
158.	SSK Fiscal Services Ltd.
159.	Grapco Mining Co. Ltd.
160.	Asian Vegpro Industries Ltd.
161.	Global Finance Corpn. Ltd.

Foodgrains Stocking Policy

915. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the starvation deaths at a time when there was overflowing granaries of foodgrains in the country, the Government have decided to examine the option of drastically changing the policy of stocking foodgrains;

(b) if so, whether the Government have set up a Committee to look into the policy of foodgrains;

(c) if so, whether these recommendations have been approved by the Planning Commission; and

(d) the extent to which the new policy ensures that interests of the producers are not hurt and to ensure foodgrains stocks to be used in such a manner as to check price rise and prevent hunger death?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) At present there is no proposal for any change in the procurement and stocking policies of foodgrains in the country.

(b) and (c) A High Level Committee was constituted by this Department to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy. The Department has examined the major recommendations made by this Committee. The comments of the Planning Commission have also been obtained.

(d) Does not arise as there has been no change in policy.

Balance of Payments

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

(a) whether the overall balance of payments position for the year 2002-03 have shown some improvement over the earlier years;

(b) if so, the present balance of payments position as on June 30, 2003; and

(c) its impact on the trade deficit of the country?

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

VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The overall balance in the balance of payments for the country showed a higher surplus of US\$ 17 billion during 2002-03 compared with US \$ 11.8 billion in 2001-02. The current account balance had a higher surplus of US\$ 3.7 billion (compared with US\$ 0.8 billion in 2001-02) due to better performance by merchandise exports, imports, and invisible earnings. Net inflows under the capital account were US\$ 12.6 billion, compared with US\$ 10.5 billion in 2001-02, on account of higher increase in banking capital (excluding non-resident deposits) and other capital. At present, balance of payments position is available only for the fiscal year 2002-03 (till end March 2003) since balance of payments data is compiled with a time lag of one quarter. Data for 2002-03 indicates a marginally lower trade deficit (on payments basis) of US\$ 12.5 billion in 2002-03 compared with US\$ 12.7 billion in 2001-02.

Trade Discussion with China

917. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

SHRI V. VETRISELVAN:

SHRI J.S. BRAR:

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA:

SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

SHRIMATI PRABHA RAU:

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

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

(a) the total volume of bilateral trade between India and China during the last three years as well as on date;

(b) whether the balance of trade is favouring China during the above period;

(c) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase India's export to China, and to enhance its trade with that country;

(d) whether many trade related matters including trade in services and information technology under GATS have been discussed with Chinese Government during the recent visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister to China;

(e) if so, the details of issues discussed;

(f) the response of Chinese Government thereto;

(g) the details of trade related agreements signed by the two countries;

(h) the likely impact of these agreements on India's trade volume on domestic industries and Indian economy; and

(i) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent domestic industries from adverse impact of these agreements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The level of trade between the two countries during the last three years has been as under:

	(US\$ million)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (P)
Export	828.68	951.95	1961.11
%age growth	+53.81	+14.87	+106.01
Import	1492.49	2036.39	2782.50
%age growth	+15.99	+36.44	+36.44
Trade volume	2321.17	2988.34	4743.61
%age growth	+27.15	+28.74	+58.73
Trade balance	-663.81	-1084.44	-921.39

(Source DGCI&S)
(P)-Provisional.

(c) Steps being taken, on an ongoing basis, for increasing India China trade include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, exchange of delegations at both governmental and business levels etc.

(d) to (f) Many trade related issues, including trade in services were discussed between Commerce and Industries Minister and his counterpart during Prime Minister's visit to China. It was generally agreed that there was scope for the two countries to co-operate on issues of common interest in the World Trade Organisation such as Trade Related Intellectual Property (TRIPS) and Public Health, Agreement on Agriculture etc.

(g) During Prime Minister's visit to China during June 22-27, 2003, the following Agreements relating to Trade were signed:

- (i) A Memorandum on Expanding Border Trade.
- (ii) A Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for Exporting Mangoes from India to China.
- (iii) A Declaration on Principles for Relations and Comprehensive Cooperation including inter-alia the following elements pertaining to trade:
 - The importance of the Ministerial meeting of the Joint Economic Group (JEG).
 - Setting up of a compact Joint Study Group (JSG) composed of officials and economists to examine the potential of complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation.

(h) It is expected that bilateral trade will expand rapidly with the signing of the above agreements, with the result the India industry an economy would get a boost.

(i) No adverse impact is expected on domestic industry as a result of the signing of agreements with China.

[Translation]

Production of Sugar

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

(a) whether India is the largest producer and consumer of sugar in the world as on date;

(b) if so, the total production of sugar in the country during the last year; and

(c) the quantity of sugar exported during the current financial year so far and the names of the countries to which it has been exported alongwith the country-wise rates?

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

(a) During the current sugar season 2002-2003, as per the estimates made by International Sugar Organisation, India is the second largest producer of sugar in the world. However, India is the largest consumer of sugar in the world.

(b) The total production of sugar in the country during the last sugar season 2001-2002 (Oct.-Sept.) was 185.25 lakh tonnes (provisional).

(c) According to trade circles, during the current financial year 2003-2004 (Upto June 2003), a quantity of about 4.79 lakh tonnes has been exported mainly to Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Dubai, Egypt, Eritheria, Georgia, Indonesia, Iraq, Srilanka, Massawa and Yemen. Since the export of sugar is allowed under O.G.L. (Open General Licence), under the present EXIM policy, the details about the rate at which sugar is being exported by the private exporters/sugar mills, is not maintained by the Government.

[English]

Tarapore Committee on UTI

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

(a) the action taken against UTI officials and corporates who have been exposed by the Tarapore Committee in January 2002;

(b) whether the Government have taken any action on the JPC report on UTI which was presented in Parliament in December 19, 2002;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which the action is likely to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) After detailed audit, and as recommended by the Tarapore Committee, 19 cases were referred to the Advisory Board for banking, Commercial and Financial Frauds (ABBCFF); which is a pre-investigative body under the Central Vigilance Commission. As the transactions/investment decisions commented upon by the Tarapore Committee are essentially capital market related transactions, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is the regulator in this regard. Therefore, the Government, in consultation with SEBI have referred 89 cases for inquiry by them (SEBI).

In addition based on the recommendation of the Tarapore Committee, a departmental enquiry against officials of UTI was conducted, consequentially a former ED indicted, against whom a complaint was then lodged

with the CBI. Two additional cases, inquired internally by the UTI, have also been lodged with the CBI.

Debt Swap Scheme for Banks

920. SHRI BHASKARRAO PATIL:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:
SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH:
SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have recently announced a Debt Swap Scheme for banks and public sector financial institutions to help them to improve their balance sheets and make provisions for Non-Performing Assets;

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

(c) whether the interest burden on the Union Government would be reduced by implementing the scheme; and

(d) if so, the what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) The Union Government have accepted 131 offers for buyback of 19 high coupon relatively illiquid securities amounting to Rs. 14434 crore from banks and financial institutions on the basis of multi-security, screen-based auction conducted on July 19, 2003. The participating banks have been allowed additional deduction for income tax purposes on premium received to the extent that such premium is used for provisioning for their non-performing assets.

(c) and (d) The interest burden of the Union Government is estimated to decline by about Rs. 750 crore per annum during the next two financial years due to implementation of the buyback scheme. The estimated decline in the subsequent years would be lower due to maturity dates of the securities bought back.

Consolidation of Food Security

921. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Canadian International Development Agency has proposed to provide assistance to Tamil Nadu

Agricultural University, Coimbatore for a project titled "Consolidation of Food Security in South India";

(b) if so the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) Yes. Sir There is a project proposal on "Consolidation of Food Security In South India—a University Partnership for Cooperation and Development-Canadian International Development Agency Tier Project" in partnership with Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, and the University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore. The project period is stated to be five years.

The project proposal relates essentially to post harvest activities and is not directly connected with food security or the Public Distribution System.

[Translation]

Survey of BPL Families

922. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

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

(a) whether the Government have conducted survey with regard to all the families living below the poverty line;

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

(c) the quantum of foodgrains supplied to the families living below poverty line during the last three years; and

(d) the quantum of foodgrains likely to be supplied in the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development conduct the BPL Census in all the rural areas of the country in the beginning of

each Plan period, through the State Governments/UT Administrations for identification of persons living below the poverty line for targeting them under the Programmes of the Ministry. Accordingly, the last BPL Census was conducted in the year 1997 in all the States and Union Territories. The BPL Census 2002 for the 10th Plan period is in progress.

(b) The statement showing State-wise number of households identified as BPL as per 1997 Census is enclosed.

(c) The quantum of foodgrains allotted to BPL families (including Antyodaya families) during the last three years are as under:

Year	Allocation in lakh tonnes
2000-01	160.27
2001-02	198.26
2002-03	268.99

(d) As per norms the allocation for 2003-04 works out to 270 lakh metric tonnes approximately.

Statement

S.No.	States/UTs	No. of Rural families Below the Poverty Line
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	4184628
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	80627
3.	Assam	2164416
4.	Bihar	9399281
5.	Goa	23101
6.	Gujarat	1980879
7.	Haryana	503019
8.	Himachal Pradesh	286112
9.	J&K	606545
10.	Karnataka	2202756
11.	Kerala	1723556
12.	Madhya Pradesh	5111874

1	2	3
13.	Maharashtra	3860675
14.	Manipur	246980
15.	Meghalaya	163812
16.	Mizoram	74154
17.	Nagaland	88541
18.	Orissa	4445736
19.	Punjab	650209
20.	Rajasthan	2097560
21.	Tamil Nadu	2737921
22.	Tripura	397798
23.	Uttar Pradesh	7541494
24.	West Bengal	4918296
25.	A&N Islands	4383
26.	D&N Haveli	17231
27.	Daman & Diu	395
28.	Lakshadweep	885
29.	Pondicherry	63262
		55576126

[English]

Status of India as Aid giving Country

923. SHRI NITISH SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the status of India has now changed from being a net aid receiving country to that of a net aid giving country;

(b) if so, whether some of the traditional aid-giving countries are objecting to recognizing this status;

(c) whether some of these countries have a vested interest in retaining their status as aid-giving country and not allowing countries like India to get into this club; and

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

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.

Natural Disaster Management Mechanism

924. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI C.N. SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Bank had warned that natural disaster posed a major threat to India's economic development, inflicting losses amounting to \$13.8 Billion during 1996-2001 and eroding two per cent of the GDP;

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

(c) whether the World Bank had also criticised the Government for inadequate disaster management mechanism and proposed further liberalisation of insurance market to enable public and private insurers to take care of such colossal risks; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto and the further steps likely to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) In a seminar on Natural Disaster Management organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on June 25-26, 2003, a presentation entitled "Financing the Risks of Natural Disasters" by Eugene N. Gurenko, Senior Insurance Officer of the World Bank, contained yearly estimates of Catastrophe Losses in India during the period 1965-2001.

(b) Government has been making concerted efforts to minimise the damages caused by natural disasters through appropriate policy interventions such as rescheduling of releases from the National Calamity & Contingency Fund (NCCF) and Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and implementation of programmes such as Special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP), Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) etc.

(c) In the above mentioned seminar, Gurenko of the World Bank in another presentation on "Catastrophe Risk Management in India" mentioned that the "Do Nothing" approach is no longer viable risk management strategy and advocated comprehensive catastrophe risk management framework at the country level to deal effectively with risk of natural disasters.

(d) The suggestions made by professional organisations and individuals are kept in view by the Government while formulating appropriate policies.

Advance Tax

925. SHRI J.S. BRAR:
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the direct tax assesses made over-payments in the last financial year while paying advance tax in order to get better return by way of interest at the time of refunds;

(b) if so, the total amount of refund and interest thereon paid on this account during the last financial year along with the number of persons who have been listed for refund; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent overpayment of advance in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) No such finding has been arrived at. Under the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961, Interest is payable in the excess of tax paid over the tax-liability assessed. Such Interest is only compensatory in nature. The Government have nevertheless, periodically reduced the rate of Interest payable on Refunds from 18% per Annum in 1989 to 12% per Annum in 1991 to 9% per Annum in 2001 to the current rate of 8% per Annum with effect from 1.6.2002.

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

(c) The Government rationalizes the various tax laws, including interest payable or chargeable, as are considered necessary from time to time.

Relative Prices of Foodgrains

926. SHRI PRAKASH YASHWANT AMBEDKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of certain foodgrains under the PDS and that in the open market are the same;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to reduce the prices of foodgrains under PDS;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the Government Intends to implement PDS scheme through cooperative societies formed by State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Wheat and rice are issued from the Central Pool to State Govts./UTs at uniform Central Issue Prices (CIP) for distribution under the TPDS. In the case of Below Poverty Line (BPL) households, wheat and rice are issued at highly subsidized rates, which are lower than the prevailing open market rates. The CIPs in the case of households covered by the Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) are even lower i.e. at Rs. 2/- per Kg. for wheat and Rs. 3/- per Kg. for rice. In the case of Above Poverty Line (APL) households, the CIPs of wheat and rice are marginally lower than the prices in most of the open marketing centers.

(d) The responsibility for distribution of foodgrains to the consumers under PDS through the network of Fair Price Shops (FPSs) rests with the State Governments. Several State Governments have already involved Cooperative Societies for distribution of foodgrains under the PDS.

Direct Tax Collection

927. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the net direct tax collection of the Union Government at the end of the first quarter of 2003-2004;

(b) whether this is 16 per cent less than the amount collected in the same period last year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to achieve the targeted tax collection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) The Net Direct Tax Collections of the Union Government at the end of the First Quarter of 2003-2004 are Rs. 9052.63 crores.

(b) No, Sir. The net collections of Direct Taxes in the First Quarter of 2003-2004 are 13.74% less than the amount collected during the corresponding period of last year.

(c) The reason for decline in the amount of Direct Taxes collected in 2003-2004 is an increase of 86.86% in the amount of Refunds issued in the First Quarter of 2003-2004 over the amount of Refunds issued in the corresponding period of last year. As a result of this, though there has been 25.88% increase in the Gross Collections, the Net Collections have declined by 13.74%.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to achieve Budget Targets include closer monitoring and supervision of Collections, Computerization, Scrutiny, Surveys and Search in select cases, better taxpayer's service etc.

Category	Total No. of employees	OBC	ST	SC
Group A	1216	39	134	132
Group B	9301	449	393	1499
Group C	35744	2597	1712	7604
Group D	19425	1518	1453	6465
Total	65686	4603	3692	15700

[Translation]

Representation of Personnel

928. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under this Ministry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBC's, STs, and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) to (c) The statement indicating the group-wise number of personnel in the Department of Food and Public Distribution and Department of Consumer Affairs and undertakings under this Ministry is given as under:

[English]

Export/Import of Agro Products

929. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total foreign exchange earned from export during 2002-03 when compared to previous year;

(b) the agri items on which export earnings have reduced;

(c) whether the country's imports have registered a record 40% jump in April, 2003 and whereas the exports were sluggish;

(d) if so, whether the export performance is in sharp contract to the impressive 18.05% growth at \$51.7 billion posted during 2002-03;

(e) if so, the main reasons for the same;

(f) whether the Government are considering to provide farm regime to push up agro exports; and

(g) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to push up the agri exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The total foreign exchange earnings from export during 2002-03 was US \$52.23 billion as compared to US \$43.83 billion in 2001-02.

(b) The total agro export increased by US\$ 443.58 million in 2002-03 as compared to 2001-02. Most agro items show an increase in earnings and some important agro items for which export earnings have reduced in 2002-03 as compared to the previous year are Basmati rice, Sesame Seeds, Oil meals, Sugar & Pulses.

(c) to (e) No sir. Though imports grew by 39% in April 2003, during April-May, 2003 they grew only by 19.55% compared to the corresponding period last year. Exports during April-May, 2003-04 grew by 11.12% which is over the 18.27% achieved in April-May, 2002-03 over 2001-02. In fact the growth rate of exports in May, 2003 was 13.53%. Thus exports are near the target of 12% fixed for 2003-04. This is despite the Iraq war and SARS which has affected exports globally.

(f) and (g) To promote agricultural exports in the world market, the Government provides a variety of incentives in the form of financial and other assistance through its different agencies for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, market development and creation of Agri export zones (AEZs).

Foodgrain Storage

930. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to assign creation storage facilities of foodgrains in the country to private sector including foreign MNCs;

b) if so, the names of the private sector companies/MNCs which have shown interest to take over such a job;

(c) whether the Government have fixed any terms and conditions on the involvement of private sector in this field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) The names of the private sector companies/MNCs which have shown interest to take over such a job are as follows:

Sl.No.	Name of the private sector companies/MNCs which have shown interest in creation of bulk grain storage facilities.
1.	Consortium led by Chambal Fertilisers and Chemical Ltd.
2.	Consortium led by Adani Exports Ltd.
3.	Consortium led by Reliance Industries Ltd.
4.	Consortium led by Escorts Ltd.
5.	Consortium led by Aban Lyod.
6.	Cargill Inc. USA and Cargill India Pvt. Ltd.
7.	Consortium led by Central Warehousing Corporation.
8.	Consortium led by Jagson International Ltd.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The storage facilities would be created through private sector participation on Build-Own and Operate (BOO) basis for which FCI will give business guarantee for a period of 20 years. These facilities would be created at locations identified by the FCI.

[Translation]

Representation of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes

931. SHRI BAL KRISHNA CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the group-wise number of personnel working in groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' in different departments and undertakings under his Ministry;

(b) the number of personnel belonging to Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes separately, out of total number of personnel; and

(c) the group-wise number of personnel belonging to OBCs, STs and SCs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (c) The group-wise number of personnel and number of persons belonging to SCs and STs out of total number of personnel in the Ministry of Finance are as under:

Group	Total No. of employees	Scheduled Caste	Scheduled Tribe
Group 'A'	6529	904	357
Group 'B'	13957	2134	896
Group 'C'	70363	10815	4460
Group 'D'	35967	8785	3120

The classification of groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' do not exist in Undertakings. The information with regard to OBCs is not maintained centrally.

[English]

Vanishing of NBC Companies

932. SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Like a dream, he raise 1100 crores and made it vanish into thin air as appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated the May 26, 2003;

(b) if so, whether investigation into the said affairs has since been completed;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps that have been taken so far to settle and clear the dues of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had carried out necessary investigation into the affairs of the CRB. Based on the findings of the said investigation, RBI has filed a criminal complaint against the company and its directors in the court of Metropolitan Magistrate, New Delhi on June 2, 2000. The case is pending before the court.

Besides, the RBI has also filed a winding up petition before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi on April 21, 1997. A Provisional Liquidator has been appointed by the Hon'ble Court on May 22, 1997 who has been assigned the task of realisation of the company's assets and discharging its liabilities. All the bank accounts of CRB and its associates were frozen as per the orders of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi.

The company has filed a fresh repayment scheme seeking Court's approval. The above petitions are pending before the Court.

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, on behalf of Shri Jaswant Singh, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 1-CA (7)/64/2002 in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2003 under section 30-B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT.-7808/03]

- (2) A copy of the Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 479(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th June, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT.-7809/03]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES [SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)]: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT.-7810/03]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7811/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the following papers:

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi for the year 1999-2000, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7812/03]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 649(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2003 seeking to amend notification No. S.O. 477(E) dated the 25th July, 1991 issued under sub-section (2B) of section 29B of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O. 680(E) dated the 12th June, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7813/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Sir, on behalf of Shri Sreenivasa Prasad, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Sugarcane (Control) Amendment Order, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 113 (E)/Ess. Com./Sugarcane in Gazette of India dated the 20th February 2003 under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7814/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 749(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 2003 containing Presidential Order regarding appointment of Shri G.C. Srivastava, Secretary in the Finance Commission as Member Secretary of the Finance Commission on 1st July, 2003 upto 31st July, 2004 under the proviso of article 280 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7822/03]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:

- (i) G.S.R. 371(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two notifications mentioned therein.

- (ii) G.S.R. 374(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on D (-) Para Hydroxy Phenyle Glycine Base, originating in, or exported from, the European Union, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (iii) G.S.R. 375(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 79/98-Cus., dated the 22nd October, 1998.

- (iv) G.S.R. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on vitrified and porcelain tiles, originating in, or exported from China and UAE, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (v) G.S.R. 377(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 50/2002-Cus., dated the 2nd May, 2002.

- (vi) G.S.R. 380(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2003 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 69/2000-Cus., dated the 19th May, 2000.

- (vii) G.S.R. 418(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 7/2003-Cus., dated the 7th January, 2003.
- (viii) G.S.R. 435(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 88/98-Cus., dated the 17th November, 1998.
- (ix) G.S.R. 436(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 113/2001-Cus., dated the 1st November, 2001.
- (x) G.S.R. 440(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 23/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xi) G.S.R. 469(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Borax decahydrate, originating in, or exported from, Turkey and the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xii) G.S.R. 470(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Potassium carbonate, originating in, or exported from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Taiwan, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 478(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on import of ferro silicon, originating in, or exported from South Africa and Macedonia, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

- (xiv) G.S.R. 492(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind notification No. 78/2002-Cus., dated the 13th August, 2002.
- (xv) G.S.R. 512(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 23/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 454(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on ball bearing and parts and components thereof, originating in, or exported from, the People's Republic of China, Poland, Russia and Romania, at the rates recommended by the designated authority.

(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. 363(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give turnover based Central Excise duty exemption to Readymade Garments upto Rs. 25 lakhs in a financial year.
- (ii) G.S.R. 364(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give turnover based Central Excise duty based exemption to unprocessed fabric woven on powerlooms upto Rs. 20 lakhs in a financial year.
- (iii) G.S.R. 365(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to give turnover based Central Excise duty exemption to specified textile articles upto Rs. 25 lakhs in a financial year.
- (iv) G.S.R. 366(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (v) G.S.R. 367(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 7/2003-CE dated the 1st March, 2003.
- (vi) G.S.R. 389(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 115/75-CE dated the 30th April, 1975.
- (vii) G.S.R. 396(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (viii) G.S.R. 409(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (ix) G.S.R. 410(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe effective rates of duty on specified tobacco products.
- (x) G.S.R. 411(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification Nos. 12/2003-CE and 13/2003-CE dated the 1st March, 2003.
- (xi) G.S.R. 412(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt green tea and tea manufactured by bought leaf factory belonging to co-operative society from additional duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (xii) G.S.R. 413(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt crude oil from National Calamity Contingent Duty leviable thereon.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 419(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt National Calamity Contingent Duty on specified goods as mentioned therein.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 420(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend three notifications mentioned therein.
- (xv) G.S.R. 443(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking exempt excisable goods of specified industries when manufactured in the units located in the State of Uttaranchal or Himachal Pradesh from the whole of the basic and additional duties of excise leviable thereon.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 472(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt excisable goods manufactured in certain units in Industrial Growth Centre, Industrial Infrastructure Development Centre or Export Promotion Industrial Park or Industrial Estate or Industrial Area or Commercial Estate, or Scheme Area in the State of Uttaranchal or Himachal Pradesh from the whole of the basic and additional duties of excise leviable thereon.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 482(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 64/95-CE dated the 16th March, 1995.
- (xix) G.S.R. 493(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xx) G.S.R. 494(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt cars for the physically disabled person from the whole .of the National Calamity Contingent duty leviable thereon, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) The CENVAT Credit (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No.

- G.S.R. 355(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxii) The CENVAT Credit (Tenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 361(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 362(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 13/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxiv) The CENVAT Credit (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 378(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxv) The CENVAT Credit (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 392(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxvi) The CENVAT Credit (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 406(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 407(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification Nos. 42/2001-CE and 43/2001-CE dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 408(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 40/2001-CE and 41/2001-CE dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 421(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 35/2003-CE dated the 10th April, 2003.
- (xxx) The Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 422(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxxi) G.S.R. 423(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 11/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (xxxii) The CENVAT Credit (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 460(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxxiii) G.S.R. 464(E) published in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 36/2001-CE dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (xxxiv) The CENVAT Credit (Fifteenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 465(E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxxv) G.S.R. 506(E) published in Gazette of India dated 20th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification Nos. 49/2003-CE and 50/2003-CE dated the 10th June, 2003.
- (xxxvi) G.S.R. 510(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2003.
- (xxxvii) G.S.R. 513(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt excisable goods of specified industries when manufactured in the units located in the State of Sikkim, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) The CENVAT credit (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 516(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxxix) G.S.R. 518(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend

notification No. 6/2002-CE dated the 1st March, 2003.

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:
- (i) G.S.R. 368(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 369(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 23/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (iii) G.S.R. 370(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 25/2002-Cus dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (iv) G.S.R. 394(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe concessional rates of basic customs duty on specified goods imported from Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in pursuance to the Preferential Trade Agreement entered into, between India and Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan.
 - (v) G.S.R. 414(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt specified goods from so much of the additional duty of customs as is equivalent to the National Calamity Contingent duty leviable thereon.
 - (vi) G.S.R. 415(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt tea and tea waste from so much of the additional duty of customs as is equivalent to the additional duty of excise leviable thereon.
 - (vii) G.S.R. 416(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt green tea from the additional duty of customs leviable thereon.
 - (viii) G.S.R. 417(E) published in Gazette of India dated 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind certain notifications mentioned therein
 - (ix) G.S.R. 428(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 105/99-Cus., dated the 10th August, 1999.
 - (x) G.S.R. 439(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xi) G.S.R. 444(E) published in Gazette of India dated 29th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (xii) G.S.R. 483(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 39/96/Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
 - (xiii) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Amendment Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 457(E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (xiv) G.S.R. 511(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
 - (xv) G.S.R. 714(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th June, 2003 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 208/77-Cus., dated the 1st October, 1977.

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:
- (i) The Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 536 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (ii) The Income-tax (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 550 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) The Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 634 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 29th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iv) The Income-tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 665 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (v) The Income-tax (Ninth Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 705 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th June, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (6) 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. 403(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to amend notification No. 59/98-ST dated the 16th October, 1998.
 - (ii) The Service Tax Credit (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 404(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.
 - (iii) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 405(E)

in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (7) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 473(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2003 seeking to amend Notification No. 2/2003-M&TP dated the 1st March, 2003 issued under section 8 of the Medicinal and Toilet Preparations (Excise Duties) Rules, 1956.
- (8) A copy of the Insurance (Amendment) Rules, 2003 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 724(E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2003 under sub-section (3) of section 114 of the Insurance Act, 1938.
- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:
- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Current Account Transaction) (Second Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 397(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003.
 - (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency account by a Person Resident in India) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 398(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003.
 - (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of any Foreign Security) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 399(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2003.
 - (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Account by a Person Resident in India) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 452(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2003.
 - (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Currency Account by a Person Resident in India) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 453(E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 2003.

(vi) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 531 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2003.

(vii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Foreign Exchange Derivative Contracts) (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 532 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2003.

(viii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing or Lending in Foreign Exchange) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 533 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 9th July, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7823/03]

(10) A copy of the statement (Hindi and English versions) indicating the results of Market Borrowings by Central Government during the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7815/03]

(11) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Mumbai, for the year ended the 31st March, 2003 along with Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7816/03]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India and Export Inspection Agencies for the year 2001-2002.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India and Export Inspection Agencies for the year 2001-2002, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the export Inspection Council of India and Export Inspection Agencies for the year 2001-2002.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7817/93]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:

(i) The Export of Live Fish (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 490(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7818/03]

(ii) The Export of Bivalve Molluscs (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 668 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2003.

[Placed in Library, *See* No. LT.-7819/03]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under sub-section (2) of section 8 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:

(i) S.O. 639 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2003 relaxing the operation of provisions of section 10 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 in the State of Andhra Pradesh for the period mentioned in the notification and also permit the sale of excess FCV tobacco of the registered growers and unauthorized tobacco crop at the auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board.

(ii) S.O. 640 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th May, 2003 authorising the Tobacco Board to admit, from the date mentioned in the notification, the regular and registered traders and dealers of the

Tobacco Board to purchase, at its auction platforms in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the excess tobacco produced by the registered growers and the unauthorized FCV tobacco produced by the unregistered growers in the State of Andhra Pradesh subject certain conditions.

- (iii) S.O. 644(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2003 authorising the Tobacco Board to admit, from the date mentioned in the Notification, the regular and registered traders and dealers of the Tobacco Board to purchase, at its auction platforms in Andhra Pradesh, the unauthorized tobacco product by unregistered farmers in the State of Andhra Pradesh, Subject to certain conditions.

- (iv) S.O. 645(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd June, 2003 relaxing the operation of the provisions of section 10 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 in the State of Andhra Pradesh, from the date mentioned in the Notification and also to permit the sale of FCV tobacco crop at the auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT.-7820/03]

- (5) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2003-2004.

[Place in Library, See No. LT.-7821/03]

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 28th July, 2003 will consist of:

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from the List of Government Business for Friday, the 25th July, 2003.

2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills:

- (i) The Repatriation of Prisoners Bill, 2002.
- (ii) The Foreigners (Amendment) Bill, 2003 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills after they have been passed by Rajya Sabha:

- (i) The Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
- (ii) The Marriage Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2003.
- (iii) The Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

4. I may also inform the House that the Constitution (Ninety fourth Amendment) Bill, 2002 will be taken up for consideration and passing on Tuesday, the 29th July, 2003.

[English]

DR. V. SAROJA (Rasipuram): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Need to allocate adequate funds for the completion of Salem-Auttur Sector of the Salem to Cuddalore gauge conversion railway project.
- (ii) Need to discuss the road map to the 5th Ministerial Conference on W.T.O. at Mexico from 10-12th September, 2003.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, many revenue villages and large hamlets and 'majras' in Ajmer District have still not been electrified. The whole of the Panchayat was declared electrified with the electrification of only the Panchayat headquarters while many hamlets and 'Majras' are still deprived of electrification. A survey and subsequently the electrification of all the hamlets-'majras'-revenue villages is, therefore, required to be carried-out soon. Need to provide a stay of 2 minutes of the New Delhi-Ajmer Shatabdi Express in the larger public interest at the important town of Ajmer district and the prominent center of marble business-Kishangarh.

[English]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Nagpur): Sir the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Japanese Encephalities fever in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra and other State.
- (ii) Failure of the telephone system in most parts of Delhi.

SHRI M. CHINNASAMY (Karur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

Tamil Nadu Government's order of 25 per cent reservation in admission for rural students in all professional colleges in the State has been stayed by the Supreme Court. The Government of India should come forward to bring a suitable constitutional amendment to enable the rural students to get 25 per cent seats in professional colleges all over the country.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Need to consider the problems of paddy cultivators seriously and take effective remedial action on a war footing by implementing various assistance schemes.
- (ii) Need to take up measures for rehabilitation of persons who have returned from abroad, especially Gulf countries, on account of disturbances, termination of employment, cheating, etc.

PROF. A.K. PREMAJAM (Badagara): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Consideration of the Constitution Amendment Bill for 33 per cent of reservation for women in Parliament and all State Legislative Assemblies.
- (ii) Expediting the establishment of Night Landing System at Kariapur (Calicut) Airport.

[Translation]

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. It is a matter of great happiness that the Planning Commission has approved the construction of a Railway Station in line with the Nijamuddin Railway Station and New Delhi

Station with a cost of approximately Rs. 225 crore at Anand Vihar in may constituency-East Delhi out of which Rs. 75 crore are proposed to be spent this year itself. But the construction work thereon has not started so far. It may be started urgently.

2. Likewise, recently a new Railway halt has been provided at Mandawali in my Constituency due to my continuous efforts from where thousands of people commute to the areas like New Delhi, Ghaziabad, Morad Nagar, Modi Nagar, Meerut etc. It has highly benefited people but it has not been fully developed. Therefore, its proper development is urgently required.

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

- (i) Need to set up Forestry and Environment Research Institute under the Council for Forest Research and Education of India under the Ministry of Forest and Environment at Bilaspur in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- (ii) The need to give approval for setting up a thermal power station at Chirai Pani village of Manendgarh assembly constituency in the state of Chhattisgarh by the Government of India as the survey thereof has already been carried out.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I request that the following items may be taken up for next week's business:

- (i) It has been revealed that the managements of BALCO and Modern Food, two divested PSUs, have not protected the interests of workers and employees of those companies. Just after completion of one year of disinvestment of these two companies, the number of workers in the two companies has been reduced by 50 per cent. The new management is violating the agreement. The VRS amount has also not been paid to the employees who have been given VRS.
- (ii) Government of India has decided to close down BIL, a premier life saving drug manufacturing Public Sector Unit of West Bengal, without making any effort to revive the company. Government of India should review the decision of closure of BIL.

12.09 hrs.

**RE: CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Atrocities on Dalits in various parts
of the country**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to the Calling Attention notice, item No. 10—Shri Rattan Lal Kataria, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Shri Ram Chandra Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Home Affairs is not present in the House.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Hajipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point or order. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may please go through the 'Calling Attention Motion' that reads, "the attention of the Deputy Prime Minister be called towards the situation arising out of atrocities on Dalits in various parts of the country especially at Telhan village in Punjab, Jhajjar in Haryana and Gaya in Bihar and the steps taken in this regard by the Government." Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Deputy Prime Minister is not here.

[English]

Where is Up-Pradhan Mantri?

[Translation]

You had rather withdraw the 'Calling Attention Motion' if such a serious issue is taken so lightly will the people of the Scheduled Castes be wronged even here too. Either call the Deputy Prime Minister or postpone it.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, while sharing the view-point of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I would like to make one submission. This is an issue in which Members of all parties would be intensely interested and the Congress Party Members are even more intensely interested. I, therefore, make a suggestion for your consideration that this may be considered under Rule 193 so that the Deputy-Prime Minister can answer and Members of all parties can participate.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no problem in converting it provided the whole House agrees to that.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, we all agree. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious issue. Every day, there is an increase in the incidents of atrocities on Dalits throughout India. The issue needs to be discussed threadbare. The most distressing fact is that atrocities on Dalits are on increase in the entire country. The Deputy Prime Minister ought to have been present here on the Calling Attention Motion of Shri Paswanji. It simply means that this Government are not serious on the issue concerning Dalits. It should be thoroughly discussed. The Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister both should have been present here. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Sir, what about my point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Let me know what the Government has to say. I want to listen to the Government first. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no objections as the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I want to remind just this much that we had a full fledged discussion on atrocities against Dalits in the previous session which lasted upto midnight. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let the reply of the Minister come out first. First I will have to hear the Minister and only after that you can speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am not accepting your point of order, still the Minister can say what she wants to say.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Bansalji, you are a senior Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: The Government have no objection to accept the suggestion put forth by Shri Jaipal Reddyji. I am saying only this much that since it is a specific matter and the notice of the Calling Attention Motion has been given by Katariaji, the opposition wants a separate debate on it Under Rule 193. The Government have no objection to it. We can have a full fledged discussion but the 'Calling Attention Motion' which is moved on a specific incident gets totally diluted during the discussion. Since we had sat in the House till midnight to discuss the issue, in spite of that the House so wishes, the Government have no objection to having a discussion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wholly agree to what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has stated. It is a serious matter. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, you might remember that you had stated that the matter would be placed in the Business Advisory Committee. I had met you personally. I had told you this that in the B.A.C. it becomes generalized. The Government say what suits them and not that which does not suit them. We cannot insist upon that. You accepted the notice of the Calling Attention Motion given the gravity of the matter. My charge is only this that it is a serious matter which is under the Ministry of Home Affairs and it is referred to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Who can become the Deputy Prime Minister—There is no one here—neither the name of the Minister of Home is written here, only the Deputy Prime Minister is written.

MR. SPEAKER: He will be present at the time of the discussion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this matter is under you and matters linger on when they are referred to the B.A.C. as it goes beyond your jurisdiction. The discussion was held on the last day of the session. I would, therefore, like to request you to schedule it for Monday if the matter is to be raised Under Rule 193 as has been suggested. This should be decided in the House itself and not in the B.A.C. since the matter is pushed into the back burner there. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You all take your seats, please. I shall give the floor to Shri Katariaji as he has given the

notice. Akhileshji, please sit down, you have not given the notice.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria. Only what Shri Rattan Lal Kataria says will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shivraj V. Patil, I will allow you to speak after Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no objection to cover this issue Under Rule 193 but when this issue has been included in the List of business then I would like it should be discussed just now.

MR. SPEAKER: How both can be discussed simultaneously.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. I can hear all of you one by one day.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shrimati Sushma Swaraj presented her view point before you, but I am to say that the issues included Under Rule 193 came before the B.A.C. and the priority was given to those issues for which opposition party requested. All accepted that thing and we too accepted that. They were asked to decide the priority and that issue has been taken up for which priority was decided by them. First of all Taj Heritage Corridor issue was considered. We do not have any objection, if this issue is taken up for discussion.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Please tell us whether you are prepared or not. There is no need to go in its details.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a need to go in its details as they did not bring this issue before the B.A.C. ...(Interruptions) Mr. Speaker,

*Not recorded.

Sir, there is no doubt in it that grave atrocities are being committed on dalits. Today itself it has appeared in the news-papers that in Madhya Pradesh in a village falling under the Constituency of the Chief Minister with a dalits woman ...*(Interruptions)*. I am to say that after the discussions held during the last session on atrocities being committed on dalits, such incidents have occurred in which there is an incident of Telhan in Punjab wherein the Chief Minister as tried to protect those who had committed atrocities ...*(Interruptions)*. We want that there should be an open discussion on this issue and B.A.C. should take a decision in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Members from our party are very sensitive about the atrocities being committed on dalits and want that there should be a discussion on this issue. The suggestion made by Shri Jaipal Reddy is a good one and I would like to urge that there can be a discussion on it. The House should decide that this issue will be taken up for discussion in the next week. The B.A.C. will not defer it if it is decided here. Therefore it is my request that Members from our party want to have a discussion on this issue.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time when this issue was discussed in the House it was discussed till late night. The situation of deadlock on an issue arises only when Government do not react meaningfully on that issue. The incidents of atrocities on dalits in the country are increasing now-a-days. The atrocities on dalits have been committed in the district to which Ms. Mayawati, the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh belongs. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Why you are going into the merits of this issue. There is no need to tell such thing now. Please make a mention of such things when there is a discussion on it.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this motion has been moved by me. There is a storm of atrocities on dalits in all the Congress ruled states including Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: So, the House agrees that this subject should be given priority in the Business Advisory Committee and as far as possible, this should be discussed in the next week. I totally agree with it.

Now, I go to the next item. The next item is an important item.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: When I give a ruling Members do not want to listen, what should I do in such a situation. Members continue to talk even when I am on my legs. This is not the way. Please take your seats. I have given a ruling on this issue. Some Member think that they can say whatever they want. But it will not go in the House.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am coming to that. I am giving the ruling once again for the information of the House. If the Members keep silence in the House, they can listen to it. My ruling is quite clear that this issue has to be taken, as far as possible, in the next week and the Business Advisory Committee must give top priority to this subject. This is the ruling.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: A Censure Motion against the Deputy Prime Minister should also be taken up. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We will see when this issue comes for discussion.

...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: He has not given his statement. Why is he not here in the House?

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: At the time of discussion I would request him to remain present personally.

12.21 hrs.

ADJOURNMENT MOTION

Re: Reported intrusion of Chinese Army in Arunachal Pradesh

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we go to the notice of Adjournment Motion. There are a number of subjects of great importance particularly, the subject of intrusion by the Chinese army in Arunachal Pradesh was the subject which was raised here, which is of great importance. Shri Chandra Nath Singh and Shri Ramji Lal Suman had already raised this issue. I want to know from the Government what the present position is.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Minister of External Affairs herself is present here. He will reply to it.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, before allowing him, please give us two minutes time for speaking. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please allow that Member to speak first by whom this Motion has been moved.

[English]

If you allow him, we will also speak.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: After his reply I will see to allow you to speak or not. Now, the Minister of External Affairs will speak. Please take your seat. It is a very important issue and all the notices are with me.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government is aware of the transgression of the Line of Actual Control by a Chinese patrol on 26th June 2003 in the Asaphila area of Upper Subansiri District of Arunachal Pradesh. This is an area where there are differences in the perception of the Line of Actual Control between the two sides, confidence building measures in the military field along the LAC on the India-China border areas contains

a specific provision for the manner in which situations involving face to face contact between personnel or patrols of the two sides are to be handled. In this case, these provisions do not appear to have been observed by the Chinese side. This matter has already been taken up through the diplomatic channels and a response from the Chinese side is awaited.

Sir, I would also like to mention here that from time to time, on account of differences in perception with regard to the Line of Actual Control, situations have arisen on the ground that could have been avoided if we had a common perception of the Line of Actual Control. Such isolated incidents can occur sporadically. As the hon. Members are aware, the process of clarification of the LAC is underway. The government of India regularly takes up with the Chinese authorities the violations of the Line of Actual Control, according to our perception, by the Chinese side through the established mechanism.

This is what I would like to say on behalf of the Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar, I would permit you also to speak later.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice on this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: I have already received your notice. I will permit you to express your views.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my humble submission is that the hon. Prime Minister visited China and some other countries and he made a statement in the House. We would like that there should be a detailed discussion on that statement. I would like to tell you about what is published in today's newspapers. I have a copy of 'Amar Ujala' newspaper. It writes that 'Atal Cheen Mein, Cheeni Fauj Arunachal Pradesh Mein'. The other statement published in the Times of India is—

[English]

"Official Chinese site says Sikkim, not part of India."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit this much only regarding the statement of the hon. Minister of External Affairs. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, when a statement is made by a Minister, no discussion takes place on that statement.

MR. SPEAKER: I must tell you for your information that the discussion is not on the Minister's statement. Shri Ramjilal Suman had given a notice for an Adjournment Motion. I had asked for the facts from the hon. Minister. The facts have been placed before me and before I give a ruling, I want to listen to Shri Suman.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: My submission is that in today's newspapers there is a news item in which China has said that Sikkim is not a part of India. Secondly, during the hon. Prime Minister's China visit, Chinese army intruded in Arunachal Pradesh. Whatever the hon. Minister of External Affairs has said recently, in this context I would like to say that Chinese army intruded an area of 14 Kms. from the line of actual control. I would like to urge the hon. Minister of External Affairs that it is the report of Intelligence Bureau and not my own and your armed forces have confirmed the report. Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh Government have also received a copy of the report. It is a very serious issue. The issue of Tibet is also very complicated one. Whenever the hon. Prime Minister talk about Tibet issue, they talk about TAR only. What is our policy regarding the two third's area which had been occupied by China in 1965? Through you, I urge the government that Tibet issue, Arunachal Pradesh issue and Sikkim issue all these three issues are very sensitive. The government should make arrangement in this regard. My submission is that the House should have a detailed discussion on the statement of the hon. Prime Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI J.S. BRAR (Faridkot): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister have made a short sighted statement and the same statement was issued by their Ministry yesterday. The question is that what is the policy of the government about the national security? It is clear from this policy that when the hon. Prime Minister went to Pakistan by Lahore Bus, Kargil was broke out and thereafter the hon. Prime Minister is making various statements on Sino-India relations that Kailash Mansarovar is being opened for the pilgrims, there is no controversy on Sikkim and our stand remains the same on Tibet issue, even after that hon. Minister has not told about the border of Arunachal Pradesh.

[English]

there were ten Intelligence Bureau officers who were interrogated and told that they should never enter that territory. We are aware from the statement of the Minister that there is a 4,000 Km. border. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

In the present scenario of national security, the Leader of Opposition has made a statement that Rs. 4200 crore accumulated during Kargil have not been incurred on the security forces. There are lapses—

[English]

The basic question is of the lapses in the National Security and the Government is not taking this matter seriously ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhlishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. I have given a notice for Adjournment Motion because it is the question of National Security and it is a very important issue. Therefore, I would like to request you to suspend all other business and the discussion should be held on this issue in the House because it is a very weak government and it does not have any policy in this regard. I am also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Ministry of External Affairs. I had also raised this issue earlier before the hon. Minister in the meeting of the Committee. Therefore, I would like to have a discussion on this issue in the House.

Sir, on the one hand we are not able to put a check on Pakistan because one or other incident takes place almost everyday. The intruders are entering in our country and killing the innocent civilians and the soldiers of our country. Lok Sabha unanimously passed a resolution that India should retaliate Pakistan, the whole opposition will remain with the government for whatever action government desires to take. But the government remained a mute spectator and could not take any action. Therefore, through you, I would like to know about the outcome of the hon. Prime Minister's China visit because even today, China have occupied vast area of the country. It has deployed its military there. Under those circumstances the land occupied by China is an integral part of India. What is the policy of the Government in this regard? I would like to have a discussion on this issue in the House. I would like to know from the hon. Minister of

External Affairs as to how much territory of our country.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have heard the arguments from different Members on admissibility of the Adjournment Motion. After listening to the hon. Minister of External Affairs statement on the issue, I have not been able to accept the Adjournment Motion nor the other Adjournment Motions, which have been placed before me. Now but I am going to the 'Zero Hour'. Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav has given a notice for 'Zero Hour'. Therefore, he is allowed to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my submission is that discussion should be held in the House on the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue and the hon. Minister of External Affairs have given the reply on it. This subject is such that there should not be any misunderstanding on this issue because it also involves the issue of relations between the two countries. Therefore, my submission is that this issue should not be discussed by moving an adjournment motion.

Sir, it was mentioned in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee that if you like you would have a discussion on the issue of hon. Prime Minister's China visit. The hon. Minister is going to present the report of the Business Advisory Committee. It would be better if this issue is also included in the report.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as stated by hon. Patilji that it was stated in the sitting of the Business Advisory Committee that discussion could be held on this issue, it is right, sir, but my submission is that some government business should also be disposed off.

MR. SPEAKER: I think your suggestion is also useful.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I mean to say that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Ramji Lal Sumanji do not you feel tired?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Rawale, Shri Suresh Ramrao Jadhav and Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat have given similar notices.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We can keep it for the Business Advisory Committee for consideration. There is no problem.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have submitted a notice for Zero Hour. The issue that I am going to raise is very important. Supreme Court has given a historic judgment. The two Member bench headed by the Chief Justice Shri Khare has come out with a historic judgement that a uniform civil code should be implemented in the country to ensure unity and integrity of the country.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): It is not a verdict it is a recommendation ...(Interruptions). We strongly oppose this, article 44 should be removed from the Constitution. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Jadhavji, it is not a verdict but a recommendation.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Article 44 should be removed from the Constitution ...(Interruptions).

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI (Khajuraho): Firstly, tell us what is Uniform Civil Code ...(Interruptions).

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: "Saman Nagrik Sanhita" ...(Interruptions). Please listen to me first ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Chaturvedi, please sit down. He will speak as per his own knowledge.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYAVARAT CHATURVEDI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Law is same for everyone ...(Interruptions).

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: You do not have to tell me anything, I can speak on the subject. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir I too have submitted a notice ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: All notices have been rejected.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will I not be heard ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot allow to speak against every notice. We cannot discuss each notice. I have rejected all the notices.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Sir, won't I get opportunity to express my views?

MR. SPEAKER: You might speak during the Zero Hour.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Will I be given time to speak in the Zero Hour.

MR. SPEAKER: Definitely.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: It is essential to implement Uniform Civil Code. Shiv Sena is the only party and Shri Bala Saheb Thakrey is the only leader to have raised the demand for Uniform Civil Code. We have always demanded to put in place Uniform Civil Code. It is not for the first time that Supreme Court has made this recommendation. Earlier in 1985-86, during Shahbano Case and in 1991-92 also Supreme Court recommended this and now on 23rd the Chief Justice of Supreme Court recommended a Uniform Civil Code in the country. As per the provisions of article 44 of our Constitution Common Civil Code should have been implemented in the country earlier itself. It has been 55 years since independence and the Common Civil Code has not been implemented as yet. The Chief Justice objected to this. The Chief Justice has stated that it is a matter of regret that article 44 has not been implemented. The Parliament will have to take initiative to get Uniform Civil Code implemented in the country ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Jadhavji, please conclude.

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give me one or two minutes more. ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: You have to make your points clear in one or two minutes in the Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Please listen to me. Law should be same for every citizen if unity and integrity of the nation is to be sustained ...(Interruptions). Religion may differ—one may be a Hindu or a Muslim but there should be a Uniform Civil Code in the country, this is our demand ...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (Aurangabad, Maharashtra): We also support this ...(Interruptions).

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also have submitted a notice ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: A member from your party is speaking, please let him speak.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I want to say that there should be a consensus in the House. ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: At least let a Member from your own party finish.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Congress leader Shrimati Sonia Gandhi is our colleague ...(Interruptions). I have submitted a notice in this regard ...(Interruptions).

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhannharpur): There is no consensus in this regard that is why this issue should be discussed ...(Interruptions).

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Why is there no consensus. There are different laws for people in the country while law should be same for all the people all over the country. These people want to politicise the issue. ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I have called upon Prof. Raza Singh Rawat. Please sit down.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: A woman is a sister, a mother and a daughter ...(Interruptions).

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is not in the NDA agenda ...(Interruptions).

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): If you accept the decision of the Supreme Court. ...(*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: This is on the agenda of the Shiv Sena ...(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: I have now Rasa Singh Rawatji's notice and I have allowed him to speak. Nothing will go on record except Rasa Singh Rawatji's speech.

...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the one hand the entire opposition says that it will comply with the Supreme Court's verdict and it would be acceptable to them and now when the Supreme Court has given its verdict about the provision of Uniform Civil Code in the Article 44 of the Constitution, then you all are criticising its verdict. Banatwallaji has gone to the extent of expunging article 44 from the Constitution. It amounts to an insult of the makers of Constitution of India. We believe that it is essential to implement Union Civil Code for the followers of various religions, creeds and sects all over the country to establish unity amongst them and strengthen the unity and integrity of the country.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I agree with you that if the House desires, we can take up this issue also for discussion. I have no problem. There can be a detailed discussion if the House so desires.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let the Business Advisory Committee decide it.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, in 'Zero Hour' you cannot have an impromptu discussion. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is why, I am stopping him.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon'ble Members have been supporting you, let him speak.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: There should be uniform Civil Code in the country. I would like to say one thing to Shri Reddy Sahib that I too have the right to speak. They swear by the Supreme Court ruling regarding the Taj Corridor but that is a very significant ruling. The Constitution of India should be upheld. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I go to the next subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ratilal Vermaji, it is your turn after this.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: I have also given a notice in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: You were not present when I called your name. I had called you first.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already given a ruling on this subject that if the House so desires, they can take it to the Business Advisory Committee. There can be a detailed discussion. During 'Zero Hour', this subject cannot be discussed in detail.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: You please give a notice. There is a notice from Shri Chandrakant Khaireji on it.

[*English*]

I will put it before the Business Advisory Committee.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: I have given a notice. It is to be referred to the B.A.C. and there should be a detailed discussion on it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Let us have a discussion on it. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am also saying this.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: (Maharajganj, U.P.): The hon'ble Speaker, Sir, the stand of the Samajwadi Party on the uniform Civil Code is that there should be discussion under Rule 184.

[English]

SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI: Let it be under Rule 184. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA (Dhandhuka): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India provide a quota of rice and wheat under the Public Distribution System to families living the below poverty line as determined by the Planning Commission of India in 1993-94. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record except what Shri Ratilal Vermaji says.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Nothing goes on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA: Under the above programme the quota allocated to Gujarat is provided for the 21.20 lakhs families identified earlier but in the meanwhile it is evident from the revised surveys undertaken by the departments of urban development and rural development that the number of needy families has increased year after year and at present the number of such families in Gujarat is about 35.52 lakhs while it is still being allocated the quota in proportion to 21.2 lakh families. I, therefore, would like to request the Minister of Public Distribution through you sir, to increase the quota of foodgrains in proportion to the increase in the number of families living below poverty line in Gujarat. It is our demand that you please satisfy fully those people of Gujarat who are living below poverty line by providing adequate quantity of wheat and rice. It is our demand. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it needs to be discussed. The number of people living below poverty line is one the rise there. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given notice. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I know that you have given a notice to speak during the 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: I have to leave by 1 P.M. So, kindly give me opportunity to speak now ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall allow you to speak after him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a very important issue on 20th of this month, I had gone to the House of late Shri Haren Pandya in Ahmedabad. His father has written letters to you, the Prime Minister, the President, the Leader of the Opposition, Shri Chandra Shekharji and the leaders of all the political parties. His father has alleged that an effort is being made by the State Government to save the real culprit through the ongoing enquiry. ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Shri Ram Vilas Paswanji, you might have read in yesterday's newspapers or might have heard that his assassin has been arrested. ... (Interruptions) You are saying this to mislead the House. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: His killers have not been arrested so far. ... (Interruptions) None of the M.L.A.'s or M.P.'s. of the B.J.P. has visited the House of Shri Haren Pandya. ... (Interruptions) I would like to request you that. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: These people have been invariably defaming a particular community. ... (Interruptions). He should make a statement here. ... (Interruptions). It is a political murder ... (Interruptions). The inquiry into this murder should be conducted by this House ... (Interruptions).

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: You speak when he is not speaking.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, has Shri Paswanji not any other work except visiting Gujarat. ...(Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, you have made your point very clear. Now, I give the floor to Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that Shri Haren Pathak who had been a Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, had written a letter to the Home Minister of Gujarat apprehending a threat to his life in the month of January. The Minister of State for Home Affairs of the Government of India writes a letter to the Home Minister of a State ...(Interruptions). The Home Minister of the State kept that letter in his pocket. He did not forward that letter to the Ministry and not even to the Secretary. The Minister of State for Home Affairs of a State keeps with him the letter of the Minister of State for Home Affairs of the Government of India. ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot give you more time. You should conclude in just two minutes.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: I would like to request you only that late Haren Pandya's father says that so long as Shri Narendra Modi is the Chief Minister, there will be no impartial enquiry. If an impartial enquiry is to be made, Shri Narendra Modi should be removed from the Chief Ministership. All of us demand ...(Interruptions). We all demand that Shri Narendra Modi be removed from the Chief Ministership. After this an enquiry by the CBI may be conducted ...(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, Haren Pandya's father says that so long as Shri Narendra Modi is the Chief Minister, there will be no impartial enquiry ...(Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Prabhunath Singhji says, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan and Sumanji ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: This subject is being discussed. Bansalji it is not proper.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please keep silence in the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, kindly hear us. It is a very important matter that Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has raised.

MR. SPEAKER: You can raise the issue under some other rule.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Shri Haren Pandya's father says that.* Shri Haren Pandya's father is an record saying repeatedly and publicly that*... He says further that so long as Shri Narendra Modi is the Chief Minister, there will be no impartial inquiry. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Jaipal Reddyji is a senior Member. How can he point out names like this while the enquiry into the case is still underway? Nobody should be named unless one is proved guilty. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has written to you. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, this is a matter of urgent public importance. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to hear him for a minute.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he stands up when somebody else speaks, how it can be possible that all should sit silently when he speaks.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Anybody can rise after having requested me. He has requested me. I would ask those Members to sit down who rise without requesting me.

...(Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: All will stand up after that ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall not permit all.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has raised a matter of urgent public importance. This is about the killing of Shri Haren Pandya over which all sides of the House are concerned. Shri Haren Pandya's father said repeatedly on record, publicly, that so long as Shri Narendra Modi is the Chief Minister of Gujarat, there can be no impartial inquiry into the killing of Shri Haren Pandya. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry, you cannot speak like this. I now call Shri Prabhunath Singh.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: How can you speak like this? I have called Shri Prabhunath Singh.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: The Government of India must take note of this.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Ramji Lal Suman and Shri Ram Vilas Paswan are raising the issue of atrocities on Harijans ...(Interruptions).

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: We have been raising the issues of Dalits and not of Harijans. ...(Interruptions).

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Alright, we are not able to speak due to their tyranny. Who is perpetrating more excesses than they do ...(Interruptions). These two commit the most atrocities in the House. I would like to submit that Sir, instructions are issued time to time by the Lok Sabha to the effect that there will be no meeting in the States or the districts, howsoever important it may be, when the session is going on. The 'Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana' is being run throughout the country under the

Department of Rural Development, a lot of development is taking place in the villages and good roads are being constructed. But in our State of Bihar, the meeting of the Zila Parishads are held only when the Parliament is in Session. The Government has stated in the guidelines issued by you that the recommendation and approval of the Member of Parliament would be required. But, the Members of Parliament are not even aware of the list sent from there. The Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana is implemented up to 10-15 kilometres in one block of the district and in the other block of the same district it is nowhere to be found. Similarly, the list has come from our districts of Chhapra and Siwan. When Shri Shanta Kumar was the Minister, he constituted a Committee for their monitoring. The Government of Bihar did not recognize it and no meeting is being held. We would like to request the Government through you, Sir, that the State Government is depriving the Members of Parliament of their powers which the Government had announced in the Lok Sabha. You are the custodian of this House as well as our rights. We would like to request you Sir, that any such list which comes from the States or districts should not be accepted and at the same time the districts which send such a wrong proposal be deprived of the Central Funds allocated for the development of such districts until it is reviewed ...(Interruptions).

SHRI C.N. SINGH (Machhalishahar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should respond ...(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you interrupting.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: We would like to request that an instruction be issued by the Government that the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana should not be sanctioned unless it is recommended by the Members of Parliament. It is also one of the guidelines of the Government. ...(Interruptions).

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The Government should give information.

MR. SPEAKER: Here the government is listening and the information will reach to the hon'ble Minister.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): Mr. Speaker, Sir, information regarding the topic raised by the hon'ble Member will be conveyed to the concerned Minister ...(Interruptions).

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information will be conveyed to the Government but you may please order for it from the Chair ...(*Interruptions*). This is a very serious issue. ...(*Interruptions*) Directions should be given from the Chair. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a very serious issue. The government should seriously pay heed towards this subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government will take this issue seriously, which he has raised here and I would convey his point to the concerned Minister. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Raghuvansh Prasadji, please listen, now.

[*English*]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (*Mahabubnagar*): Sir, I am raising a very important issue. Already, an inter-state water war has started in the country. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my notice is given four days back. It is on that freedom fighter whose services have helped us come to sit here. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, a water war has started between the inter-States. Today, Tamil Nadu is fighting with Karnataka; and Karnataka is fighting with Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, today, I would like to bring it on record that the Andhra Pradesh Government is encouraging inter-District water war. This is a very important issue for the Telengana region and especially for Mahabubnagar district from which I hail. There is a Rajolibanda Diversion

Scheme which is a joint project of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh. It was built on Tungabhadra river which gives water to Mahabubnagar district in Andhra Pradesh. Bachawat Tribunal, which looks after sharing of Krishna river water, has allotted 15.90 TMC of water to Alampur and Gadwal villages through Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme, to irrigate 87,500 acres of land.

But in 1952 when the partition took place, Tungabhadra River Board went to Karnataka. At that time, Nizaam who had built a bound to divert water to Alampur and Gadwal for not going to Kumool, had left construction of some sluices. Construction of three sluices are still open today. But the State government is taking no action on this. Instead of 15.90 TMC, only 7.8 TMC of water is coming to the allotted Mahabubnagar district.

Hence, I request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to intervene. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I am from the same district. I should also be allowed to say a few words on this. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Your name will be associated with him.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, I request the hon. Minister of Water Resources to intervene in the matter and see that water sluices are closed, and Gadwal and Alampur villages get the water flow for the said 87,500 acres of land immediately. ...(*Interruptions*).

Sir, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is till encouraging the inter-District water war between both these districts. So, I want the Centre to intervene and see that the construction of sluices is closed immediately. Thank you.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I also want to say a few words on this.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri S. Jaipal Reddy, your name is associated with him.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (*Miryalguda*): Let me say it, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV (*Purnea*): Sumanji, if you will get up to speak on every

matter then you will not be able to speak once I get up to speak. *...(Interruptions)* you people will get disturbed. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY: Sir, I represented that constituency 10 times. I completely agree with my colleague. Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy. I would like to associate myself absolutely on this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the minorities are not safe in Bihar for the last 15 years. Recently, two days back a fatal attack was carried out on Md. Ajimuddin Saheb, the newly elected Legislative Council Member and his son who is the Chairman of the District Council at their home. *...(Interruptions)* The petrol pump of Ghulam Rasul Saheb who is his first cousin has been robbed. Bullets were fired at the residence of Shri Haider Yasim who is a former MLA and whose son is now a member of the District Council. The bullets were fired by the son of the Minister of House building and many people were beaten up by lathis. This incident has not occurred only for once. Our hon'ble Minister Shri Shahnawazji is sitting here, he has also been fatally attacked in that district itself. The condition of Bihar for the last 15 years at a stretch. *...(Interruptions)* If you go there you can see the condition, be it the issue of students agitation or of elections. Yesterday the seven year old son Siddharth of the Sugarcane Minister has been kidnapped. Several other people were kidnapped in Fatua. Dr. Bharat Sharma was also kidnapped. In Danapur Dr. Verma was murdered. *...(Interruptions)* The Government is not going to pay any heed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: I want to know that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is a matter of the State Government. This issue can not be raised here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether attacks will take place at the residence of the Member of the Legislative

Council? Whether anyone will remain secured or not? *...(Interruptions)*

13.00 hrs.

This is not the State subject. The people sitting on 'dharna' were fired at by the Police.

MR. SPEAKER: If all of you will co-operate, I can give time to five six more Members. But if one Member continues to speak for ten minutes, then it would not be possible.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: I was also fired at.

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you permission because I thought that you would conclude your speech in two minutes. During the Zero Hour one should conclude one's speech in just two minutes.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: I was also fired at and was subjected to lathi charge. I just wanted to raise the question of kidnapping case of Alok.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble M.P. Should be protect. You should ask the Government for this because he has been fired at. *...(Interruptions)* The hon'ble Minister should give a reply in this regard.

SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN: I would convey to the concerned hon'ble Minister the feelings expressed here by the hon'ble Member. The issue of security of the hon'ble Member is very important. I would convey it to the concerned hon'ble Minister.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, he has also been fatally attacked. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Conclude your speech in one-two minutes. Otherwise you will not get the opportunity.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Production in the three units of Hindustan Cables Limited which is the only premier cable manufacturing firm in the public sector has been stopped for the last five months. All the three units—one unit is at Rupnarainpur in West Bengal, another at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh and the third is in Naini in U.P.—are today closed because of non-placement of order by the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited.

Sir, as you know, when you were the Minister of Heavy Industries, you took certain initiatives. There was also a joint meeting with the Minister of Information Technology, where some decision was taken and production also started. An order was placed and an advance up to 75 per cent was also given. Since March 2003, again production was stopped because the agreement which was there among the Ministry of Heavy Industries, the Ministry of Information Technology and BSNL has not been implemented.

The Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh have written to the Prime Minister for immediate placement of order along with advance. I urge upon the Government to do this. In order to save more than 3000 workers and also to save the premier cable manufacturing public sector unit of our country, the Government should direct BSNL to place order with the Hindustan Cables Limited so that production could be started and the industry could be saved whereby the workers could also be saved. A number of telephone exchanges are not being commissioned because of shortage of cables. There is an urgent need to take steps to start production in the Hindustan Cables Limited by placing orders for the manufacture of cables. Thank you.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: If you people will complete your speech in two minutes each, I would give chances to others as well.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The manner in which you are taking time in this way in causing loss of time. Your time itself will be lost.

SHRI SAIDUZZAMA (Muzaffarnagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you that you gave me opportunity to speak. Sir, the whole House is well aware about the law and order situation prevailing in entire Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh looting, dacoity, rape and atrocities on the dalits is going on. Today in Uttar Pradesh there is not a single such district where atrocities on dalits are not being committed. In Jammu and Kashmir there are lesser incidents that are taking place whereas in Uttar Pradesh more incidents are taking place. At the same time the government is also involved in those incidents. In our area the three innocent people were encountered

by the police who were identified as Shri Kushalpal, Shri Bhopal and Bijendra, they belonged to Salawa and Samauli villages etc. of Meerut. They had come to attend the hearing on the date and the police brought them and subsequently they were killed in the encounter. Today there is not a single such district of UP where the innocent people are not being killed in encounters. An MLA of Bharatiya Janata Party has also staged a 'Dhama' against this but the guilty officials have not been suspended and they have not been tried. No action was taken against them. Today this condition is prevailing in the entire state. It is my submission to you that these incidents should be got investigated by the CBI and attention should be paid towards the deteriorating law and order situation in the whole state. ...(*Interruptions*). The High Court has contended that there is anarchy (*Jungle Raj*), in Uttar Pradesh. Therefore, Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh should resign.

DR. MAHENDRA SINGH PAL (Nainital): Mr. Speaker, Sir, more than five people have lost their lives due to cloud burst in Didihat, district Pithoragarh in Uttaranchal. 14-15 houses and a number of animals have been swept away. As a result, the people of that area have suffered a heavy loss. I demand that the Central government should compensate those who have suffered loss of lives and property, a compensation of Rs. 20 lakh, a house at an appropriate place and agricultural land should be provided to each affected family at the earliest. Alongwith it, compensation should also be provided to the people who have suffered loss of lives and property due to natural calamity in Himachal Pradesh.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the freedom fighters sacrificed their lives to liberate the country from British rule, a result of their meaningful efforts we are present in the temple of democracy today. In the past, hon. Chandershekhar ji and hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav raised the issue of not according state honour to the freedom fighter Late Shri Jagdish Bhai posthumously, who belonged to district Ballia of Uttar Pradesh. Taking the issue seriously you condemned the government action and the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs assured us that state honour would definitely be accorded to the freedom fighters.

Sir, Shri Raghuvar Yadav of Fareda Khurd village of Fareda tehsil of my own district was a freedom fighter, he remained in Congress party and he died on 2 June, 2003 in Gorakhpur Medical Collage. His funeral rites were performed on Karmani Ghat on the bank of river Tapti

on 3 June, 2003. I am to say with regret that the SDM and the Sub-Inspector performed their duty by merely paying Rs. 2000 to the family of the freedom fighter. They did not take part in their funeral and state honour was not accorded to him. If we do not have a feeling of respect towards the freedom fighters, then we would definitely bring disrepute to them. I urge upon you that the government of Uttar Pradesh have not accorded State honour to Shri Raghuvar Yadav, who was a resident of village Farida Khurd of district Maaharajganj, you should recommend the government to take stringent action against those officers.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I through you, would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister that Shri Rohit Kumar Jha, Estimate Official of our area, who was posted at Saharsha, has been kidnapped on 3 December, 2002. A case has already been registered in Saharsha Police Station in this regard but till now his whereabouts is not known. In this regard a news was published in the 'Times of India' dated 8 March in which the DGP of Bihar apprehended that the kidnappers have kept Shri Rohit Kumar Jha in Nepal. Members of Legislative Assembly discussed this issue in the Legislative Assembly and after lengthy discussion, the government of Bihar recommended that the case be transferred to the CBI for further probe because Bihar police is not in a position to solve the above case.

I, through you, would like to urge upon the hon. Prime Minister that instructions be issued to the CBI without any further delays so that the case, which has already been recommended by the government of Bihar, be taken up early and he should be traced out ...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN *alias* PAPPU YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government should take up the case which has already been recommended by the state government. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has noted it.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: The House has some rules. I have allowed Shrimati Jayaben Thakkar to express her views. Regarding whatever she expresses that will go on record.

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Sir, I want to raise a very important matter pertaining to my

State. This is regarding allocation of Indus Basin water to Gujarat. The Government of Gujarat had written repeatedly to the Central Government for allocation of Indus Basin waters to Gujarat. However, water is not allocated to Gujarat even though it falls in the Indus Basin and has the similar conditions as Rajasthan which is included for water allocation.

I urge upon the Government to review the matter to allocate Indus Basin water to Gujarat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Narcotics Control Bureau conducted raid at the residence of Dr. U.N. Biswas, Joint Director of CBI, in Calcutta on April, 16. Sir, they have not conducted this raid by their own sweet wish but America, China, FBI and Inter-Pol informed the government of India that drug racket is being operated there for many years and in this racket smuggling and preparation of heroine and other psychotropic substances was involved. Dr. U.N. Biswas is a favourite officer of the government of India and he has been appointed to the post of Special Director by giving extension repeatedly. The reason of doing all this is only that he may arrest Shri Laloo Yadav, illegally frame charges and put him behind the bars. As a reward, he has been promoted, protected and extension has also been given to him. A foreigner had been living in the house of the above mentioned favourite officer for the last five years. There is a rule that one should inform the government if a foreigner is living with anyone. He showed the forged paper of a class four muster roll employee of Mizoram. I would like to read in the House whatever is published in the 'Tribune' in this regard.

[English]

Shri N.C. Patra, the Assistant Director, Narcotic Control Bureau has said:

"they had concrete evidence of the involvement of Shri Biswas in the drug racket but he has not been arrested due to certain formalities. He hinted that the former Joint Director could be arrested any time and the Police has been told to keep his movement under observation."

[Translation]

Sir, when he became underground and took refuge in the house of Shri George Fernandes, then Shri George Fernandes advocated with Shri Advani that he is a

favourite officer and he has implicated Shri Laloo Yadav. He should be rewarded. The government of India and the hon. Ministers are making efforts to shield him directly. I demand that this case should be probed. He kept foreigners in his house. Whenever any vegetable is cooked in the house then all members of the family know what is being cooked and they get it to eat. Heroine was being smuggled from the house of senior officer for the last five years and even after this he has not been arrested but a plot is being hatched to produce him a witness in the case. It is a serious case. Such misdeed was taking place in the house of a CBI officer and the government of India is rewarding him. The government should make a statement in this regard otherwise the same question would be raised here again.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 P.M.

13.16 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at four minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

**MOTION RE: CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS
OF IMPLEMENTATION OF PARTS IX AND IX-A
OF THE CONSTITUTION DEALING WITH
PANCHAYATS AND MUNICIPALITIES—Contd.**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further discussion on the motion moved by Shri Kashiram Rana yesterday. Now Shri Vinay Kumar Sorake will lay his speech on the Table and thereafter Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh will speak.

*SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): While welcoming the Bill on Rural Development Panchayati Raj, which is long overdue, I would like to add my conservations.

Our late Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, had envisioned this project of empowering the local bodies, especially Panchayats. His vision encompassed all aspects of rural development—water, road, education, sanitation and communications links etc. The Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission had made rapid strides in providing safe drinking water to rural population which has now been re-named as Swajaldhara.

As far as my constituency—Udupi is concerned allocations under Rajiv Gandhi Water Technology Mission projects were not earmarked as the allocations were made when Udupi was a part of Dakshina Kannada District. After bifurcation from Dakshina Kannada District as a separate district, it has not received any substantial allocation of grants under Rural Development scheme.

Udupi Zila Praishad has done pioneering work on many such schemes mainly drinking water supply. It had undertaken a thorough survey of the ground water/river water potential of the region and has drawn a detailed project for implementation under the Swajaldhara Scheme which has already been forwarded to the Centre for approval and sanction of grants. The Zila Panchayat has mobilised community support for the project by undertaking to provide 10% of the total estimate mainly through public contributions. Now that there has been undue delay in the approval of the project by the Centre, the people of Udupi have become restless and even questioned the Zila Panchayat of the utilisation of fund mobilised for the purpose (10%) of the project. Because of the delay at the Centre's level, the Panchayat has lost trust and goodwill among its communities.

Empowering local bodies like Panchayats is laudable but adequate funds should be made available to Panchayats and also the power and discretion to spend such allocations without any bureaucratic interference. Complete freedom should be given to Panchayats and their bodies confederate like Zila Parishad both in terms of prioritising the projects and also controlling the funds allocated for them.

Local community is ever willing to involve itself with any projects undertaken under the overall supervision of Zila Praishads—be it sanitation, cleanliness, road connectivity, healthcare centres and primary educational centres. Apart from schemes/projects sponsored by Rural Development Ministry, the local Panchayats/Zila Praishad should also be made the nodal agency for implementation of schemes/programmes by other Ministries like Health and Family Welfare, Social Justice and Empowerment, Women and Child Development of HRD etc.

*Laid on the Table.

The Government should come out open heartedly to lend support to local institutions (Panchayats) who have shown their readiness to undertake responsibilities concerning their own welfare and development. This calls for trust on the part of the Government in the ability of the local institutions to manage their own affairs. This is the key and crucial factor in any endeavour involving the local communities at grassroot level.

Discrimination against local bodies on political considerations should be discouraged. Despite being an elected body, the Panchayats should be considered as non-political insofar as developmental aspects are concerned. Thus, it is essential for the Government to de-politicise the process of empowering Panchayats and in the matter of allocation of funds.

Panchayati Raj as truly envisaged by Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi should aim at providing equal and dignified rights for SC/ST, backward and other deprived sections including minorities. He also envisaged the new Panchayati Raj dispensation should be democratic and secular. If this measure is aimed to achieve these goals even in parts, it is welcome.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ten years have passed since the 73rd and 74th amendments to the constitution of India and keeping in view the importance of these amendments, the hon. Rural Development Minister has moved a motion to review them for which I thank him as he has done a commendable job. History shows that Panchayat Raj existed in all the eras be it the pre-vedic era, vedic era, the era of Lord Buddha and Mauryas. At time it is mentioned as "Sabha". Atharvaveda too speaks about "Sabha" and Samiti. The tradition of Panchayat in India has its roots way back in past ages. In this regard. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI (Chittorgarh): You should ask him about the state of Panchayat Raj in Bihar. Elections were conducted there after 23 years and that too under pressure. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to his speech, then put up your questions.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: He has raised a good point. I will give certain facts about Bihar. There was Panchayat Raj in Bihar even when he was not born. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please do not ask questions in this way, you can ask later on. You have asked a question and you will get an answer.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Our ancestors set up democracy in Vaishali in Bihar when it did not exist elsewhere in the World. Democracy was founded there. The foundation stone of democracy was laid in Lichchavi State three thousand years ago. We have not learnt the tenets of democracy from Abraham Lincoln. Democracy was set up by our ancestors in Bihar. This goes to the credit of Bihar. The resolution of Congress in 1935. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Why are you shouting at the top of your voice, you are harming our eardrums. ...*(Interruptions)* We see "no horn" written everywhere and here he is shouting at the top of his voice. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are having a serious discussion on a good subject and they are interrupting in this fashion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: You need good men to discuss good subjects. ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: It may not affect your eardrums but it would definitely affect your mind.

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: We are not against Congress, infact we are praising it. Why does she mind! There is no one from your side in the House.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Kriplani, do not reduce the discussion to that level.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Unless he yields, you can not stand up and say anything. Let us have some orderly discussion here.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh says.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mahatma Gandhi and our ancestors were fighting for freedom those days and in 1935 Congress passed the resolution that Panchayati Raj should be introduced. Bihar was the first State to set up Panchayati Raj after independence. Shri Babu was the then Chief Minister. I know that Panchayati Raj has been implemented in Rajasthan, it is functioning effectively in Karnataka, Bengal, Kerala and Madhya Pradesh etc. It has been initiated in many other places and it is working properly in some places.

Sir, Balwant Rai Mehta Committee was constituted before Panchayati Raj. After that came Ashok Mehta Committee. L.M. Singhvi Committee, Hanumantha Rao Committee and SV Rao Committee, and Dilip Singh Bhuria Committee. All these committees were constituted before 73rd and 74th amendment and all these committees made their recommendations. When the Ashok Mehta Committees made their recommendations after the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee, it had late Karpuri Thakur from Bihar and Shri Jyoti Babu from Bengal for its members. The Committee submitted its report and mixed response to it was seen in 1992 when Late Rajiv Gandhi convened Panchayati Raj Conference and passed the above amendments.

In Article 40, it is mentioned in the directive principles of the State that the State would implement Panchayati Raj but it got its constitutional status only after 73rd and 74th amendments which were initiated by Late Rajiv Gandhi. It could not be implemented in his time but it was done in 1992 and work started in this direction in 1993.

Sir, our stalwarts Gandhiji, Lohiaji and Jaiprakashji had a vision about "gram swaraj". This vision was there already but emphasis is being laid on this now. Constitutional provisions are being made and now there are talks of bringing in amendment once more to make things even better. Why is it so? When the problems of the poor rural populace and agricultural labourers could not be solved at the Central level and the State level then it was felt that administrative system should be

decentralised and they should be given rights to sort out their problems at their own level. The vision of Panchayati Raj has been nurtured on this philosophy itself that there should be decentralised governance system and there should be a local self government so that they can solve their own problems at their own level. But there are certain anomalies and discrepancies in it which need to be addressed by the Government.

I would like to say that so many committees have been constituted in this regard and 10 years have passed since its implementation, now the Government of India should constitute a study group to find what type of situations have developed in each State. Situation is not same in each State. At some places the head of the Panchayat is addressed "Mukhiya" and at other places it is 'Sarpanch' or 'gram adhyaksha'.

In north east, the 'mukhiya' 'pradhan' is addressed as 'gaon boddha'. There are various names for the head and similarly there are various systems also. Generally three tier system has been implemented, constitution has been amended in this regard which has improved the system and we are moving in the right direction. I would like to tell in brief the anomalies that have crept in it.

Sir, in the 73rd amendment of the constitution it was provided that there would be reservation for schedule castes, scheduled tribes and women but reservation for the backward castes is the responsibility of State Government. The State Government can make such a provision but putting in place Panchayati Raj Act. The State Government of Bihar passed a law in 1993 that reservation would be provided to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes. Backward castes and women regarding all the posts in the Panchayat. Later on it was challenged in Patna High Court. Hon. Member is raising questions about the situation in Bihar. The story of Bihar can be understood only after getting access to full facts. The constitution provided for reservation regarding all posts. Patna High Court gave a ruling that there would be no reservation regarding the posts of Gram Pramukh, 'Block Pramukh' and 'Zila Pramukh. There will be no reservation for backward classes and also for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and women for these three posts. The Patna High Court ruled against Reservation clause of 73rd Amendment of the Constitution. We do not know whether Patna High Court has any right to quash the clause of the Constitution. The Patna High Court refused to accept it and then under compulsion the State Government had to appeal in the Supreme Court. The matter is still pending in the Supreme Court. The

Governments of India and many other State Government are parties in this case. Due to this no reservation has been given for Mukhiya, Block Pramukh and Zila Pramukh Reservation was given to all States of the country but in Bihar no reservation has been given for these three posts.

Sir, why did it not happen? The State Government enacted the law and made a provision to give reservation to people belonging to backward classes, scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and for women but no reservation was given to these three posts there and the Patna High Court quashed absolutely the reservation of backward classes and all other categories. The Government of Bihar went to the Supreme Court against the ruling of Patna High Court and that matter is still pending in the Supreme Court. Therefore election did not take place. According to 73rd Amendment in the year of 1993 Panchayati Raj Regime came into being but the Patna High Court quashed that by its ruling. A crisis was created before the Government of Bihar. If the State Government abides by the Constitution then it flouts the ruling of Patna High Court and a case of contempt of court is framed and if the State Government follows the ruling of Patna High Court then there is a risk of it being unconstitutional. Nobody understands this situation and everybody says that Panchayat elections did not take place in Bihar. But the fact remains that this matter is still pending in the Supreme Court so election was postponed.

Sir, there was no option before Government of Bihar except to postpone or cancel the election. If the State Government goes by the Constitution, it will be held as the contempt of High Court and if State Government goes by the ruling of High Court, it will be declared unconstitutional and in this situation what can be done by Government of Bihar? The State Government filed a petition in the Supreme Court against the ruling of the High Court. This matter is still pending in the Supreme Court. Hon'ble Minister will tell that what the matter is but it is not fair to talk about false points.

I am citing an example how injustice is done by the Government of India. You should do justice. The Tenth Finance Commission had recommended that Panchayati Raj funds should be given to local bodies. The Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission and accordingly one year's funds for the year 1996-97 was given to Bihar. At that time Jharkhand was also in Bihar but after that upto four years not a single paise was given. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Do you know how much money lapsed in Bihar under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. You can not get it done there and blame the Central Government. You blame the Central Government whereas your Government do not get it done there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nagmaniji, you are a Minister.

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Nagmaniji used to do good work here, he went there by mistake.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI NAGMANI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government of Bihar did not conduct elections of Panchayati Raj institutions and then other thing is that it was necessary to open an account separately for that purpose in the bank which was not done. That's why the Government of India did not provide money ...*(Interruptions)*

(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Nagmaniji has been made the Minister of State in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The bribery is rampant. Sir, it is unfortunate for Bihar that Nagmaniji won election from there and ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Do you forget fodder scam? ...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when I speak from that side they interrupt me and members speak who are never given any chance from the party to speak in the House toward problems regarding public interest. The party of Shri Kriplani hasn't given him any opportunity to speak and to raise the problems of the people. Similarly (Prof.) Reeta Verma also didn't get any chance to speak to focus people's problems. That is why they are disturbing us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI (Khagaria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever they may say but they can not hide the fact I request to the hon'ble Member Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh that he should not make personal allegation on other members. You may hid the

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

grim situation in Bihar, but you should not speak untruth
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Renu Kumariji, whatever
you want to speak you should speak with my permission.

SHRIMATI RENU KUMARI: Mr. Deputy Speaker,
Hon'ble Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji is a senior member.
He should not use false words. ...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, among them no member is such whom I
may criticise, or I can say that no member can earn the
privilege of my criticism. I want to raise problems of the
people. It is about the pain and suffering of 8 crore and
30 lakh people of Bihar* which I raise here. Those people
who are sticking to power would not be able to understand
the pain and sufferings of 8 crore 30 lakh public of Bihar?
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker,
Sir, they are using unparliamentary language.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will look into the records.
If it is unparliamentary, it will be expunged.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am raising
the issue regarding the people of Bihar and Panchayati
Raj System. ...(Interruptions) Nobody can prevent me from
raising these issues. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, hon'ble Member uses unparliamentary
language, it is unfortunate. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If any unparliamentary
remark has crept in, I will expunge it. Please resume
your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR: They were involved in looting
spree by not conducting panchayat election for 22 years.

...(Interruptions) What are they saying for others.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record
now except Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh's speech.

*...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is not much time
left now. The Minister has to reply now. Please resume
your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, it was not granted for a period of three
years we are to state that the Government approved it
in the wake of the recommendations made by the Tenth
Finance Commission. Of four years merely one year's
corpus was offered and why is it that three years' grant
was not given? If it was for the reasons of the Panchayat
elections, the elections were not held for a period of
13 years long from 1983 to 1996 and the allocations
were made in 1996-97 as the Central Government
sanctioned the amount of one year and withheld the fund
to be allocated for three years time. While given the
circular issued by the Minister of Finance the funds will
be withheld in case of the State not going for the
elections. That will be placed as a non-lapsable amount.
My point is whether the same will be allocated after their
elections are held.

The second issue is that the State Government of
Bihar parted with the amount meant for Jharkhand in the
year 1996-97. Panchayat elections have not been
conducted there so far. The amount was allocated to
Jharkhand in the year 1996-97 and an amount of Rs. 4
hundred and twenty five crore due to be allocated to
Bihar for three years time has been withheld. I have
never ever seen such gross injustice anywhere else. One
lakh forty thousand people have been elected there, of
which one lakh 37 thousand have been elected in the
Panchayats while nearly as many as three thousand
persons have been elected in the Municipalities and
corporations and one lakh 37 thousand persons have
been elected in the Panchayati Raj. Out of them, one
third seats have been occupied by women and one fourth

*Expunged as ordered by the chair.

*Not recorded.

has gone to the basket of people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and others. In this way, a ward-councillor has been elected out of the population of 500. I would like to ask the government as to why our amount has not been allocated to date. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Nagmani, the concerned Minister is there to reply to the debate. Please resume your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when an hon'ble Minister is speaking, no Minister should behave this way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad ji. Please conclude now. Hon'ble Minister is there to reply.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If these people do not interrupt me, I had five minutes time to deliver the speech but they are continuously interrupting the debate. I do not think their wards are in favour of the public.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, nobody will interfere.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Therefore, I am going to speak quickly. If nobody interferes I will take the least chunk of time. My first issue is related to the Tenth Finance Commission. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): First he has one issue to raise, then comes the second one and again he jumps to the first issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Why is it happening again and again? In case of being it unparliamentary.

[Translation]

I will expunge it from the record. Please give him a patient hearing.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Please listen and comprehend too. At present your amount is also due and so is the case with Jharkhand. Issue no one during the fiscal year 2002-2003, these people cut the amount by Rs. 132 crore out of the allocations made for the cause of Indira Awas Yojana Houses are constructed for the poor masses. The government should clarify the reason as to why it was reduced. Funds are allocated in terms of the DRDA, the details of expenditure were not furnished here and having cut our share you allocated the same to the other States. The Government of India takes pleasure to cut the funds to be allocated to Bihar as their supporters are being especially taken care of. Suppose, the DRDA did not spend the amount properly, then given our performance. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad says.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All those things will not go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: If funds were not allocated to the DRDA, it should be transferred to the other DRDA. Out of total share of Bihar the details of the cutting exercises are as follows: An amount of Rs. 130 crore from Indira Awas Yojna, Rs. 98 crore from Sampurna Gramin Rojgar Yojna, Rs. 38 crore from Swamajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojna and Rs. 37 crore from the amount allocated for safe-drinking water. An Amount of Rs. 301 crore was cut from the Rural Development Schemes in Bihar.

Ever since there began Panchayati Raj Institutions. An amount of Rs. 1400 crore has been cut from our share, in Panchayati Raj, then how will there be development of Bihar, how will it do good to Bihar? The people elected in villages are faced with severe trouble these days and the amount is not being paid to them. They should make it clear as to why cutting exercise is being done in case of Bihar and as to wherein lies the fault of the public of Bihar? After division, I had apprised the PM of the fact that out of 40 persons, 5 to six of us

are in your opposition sitting in the rear front, the rest of them are supporting you. A number of Ministers are there who nod in agreement but wherein lies the fault of the public? One may get the conflicts with the government, if there arises a political conflict, the ball of fair-justice will move onto the court of the Public—however cut in the funds meant for Public Welfare will in no way be accepted.

My second issue is. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: How many issues you are yet to raise?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have already raised the issue of rupees 1600 crore. In the budget of 2002-2003, a provision of Rs. 3.60 crore was made for imparting training to 1.37 lakh people who have been elected recently—why is it that this amount got reduced this year? What about Rs. 3 crore whether it was siphoned off? The newly elected representatives should necessarily be imparted proper training. Otherwise, there have been instances when a Mukhiya stepped into the Principal's chamber to mark his/her attendance. Why is it that training was not imparted to them?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please ask your last question?

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I have bitter experience of ten years. Head of the village Panchayat was elected, Chairman of the Zila Parishad was elected. The Government must enquire into the fact whether the election for the post of Chairman was held based for the exchange of Rs. 1 lakh, 2 lakh, 3 lakh and even for the vehicles such as Qwalis, Bollero etc. No confidence Motion is often on course still the exchanging exercise is going on unchecked. It is known to all. It does not require much investigation. It is quite known everybody, knows that there is horse trading for becoming Gram Pramukh and Zila Pramukh.

I asked why have you been elected in the Panchayat elections? He said that an MP enjoys power and becomes a Minister. These boxes are received and they change hands. What is wrong with it if we take that. We were astonished to hear the way that local man was speaking. I forbade him to speak so. Being an elected representative you should safeguard the rights of the people. ...*(Interruptions)*. There is rampant corruption and mess there.

I would like to voice the demand of the elected representatives that there should be a provision for salary

and allowances for them as it is in the case of an MLA, an MP or a Minister. The thirty lakh people engaged in this work are demanding salary and allowances. They say that they are also elected representatives, therefore, they should also be entitled to the salary and allowances. Apart from it, they are also demanding Rs. 25 or 50 lacs being elected representatives on the lines of MPLADS under which an MP or an MLA gets nearly 2 crores of rupees. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have allowed him alone to speak. It is a party of only three Members. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, an MP is the ex-officio member of a Panchayat Samiti or a Zila Parishad. I would say that nowadays all the elected people align themselves against an MP and an MLA. Some funds of the Government of India reach there and they distribute the same among themselves. If we say something, they respond that we MP's get a quota and hence it is their quota. They themselves get inaugurations done and foundation stones laid. We do not have any intimations in that respect. The people who do not go there, do not have any knowledge about that. Those who reach out to the grass-root level are well aware of all these things and know how the regime of Panchayat has been implemented and to what extent distortions and deformities have crept in there. I would like to know how will these be rectified? There is rampant corruption over there. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude. Distortions should not creep in here also.

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am just stating the present circumstances. I would like to put forth some suggestions. Have a study conducted in 10 years.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will have to ask you also to sit down if you dwell on it so long.

...(Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I am just giving suggestions. It will benefit the Government. Gram Sabha is a constitutional institution under article 243. The Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies can be dissolved after every five years but the Gram Sabha are never dissolved. There is no law for dissolution of the Gram Sabha. The number of sittings of the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies are decreasing but the sittings of the Gram Sabha are not decreasing rather they are not being held at all. A Task Force has been set up to find why the meeting of the Gram Sabha are not being held. Notices of sittings are not issued. The Documents and registers are forged. What is passed before the people is different than it is being implemented. This is the state of affairs in the Gram Sabha. We are in favour of strengthening the Gram Sabha but that requires stringent laws. There are voter Lists in the Gram Sabha which contain the names of every citizen. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: I want to say that action should be taken to ensure regularity in the sittings of Gram Sabha. The inquiry report should come of the Committee which has been set up. Some 'Panchayats' consist of one village, some consist of two and there are some which have 12 villages and therefore they will have 12 Gram Sabha. They cunningly hold a general assembly. Panchayats are constituted in proportion to the villages. There are small villages as well as large villages. There are 10-12 small villages in a panchayat. The meetings of Gram Sabha of all the villages will be held separately. There is everything in the report of the Gram Sabha. Therefore, there should be direct elections to contain the horse trading in the elections of 'Gram Sabha' and Zila Pramukh ...(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, please conclude.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The points we have raised, should broadly be incorporated in the constitution. It will be implemented in some states and in some states it will not be implemented if it is left to the States. Therefore, it should be seen whether it is being properly implemented or not. It is the responsibility of the Government of India. I understand that the Government of India are not serious in this matter, rural development is not in their agenda. Frequent sacking of Ministers,

their re-induction proves it as the people who were weaving clothes in villages have been called here. ...(Interruptions) The Government is not serious. The Panchayati Raj should be empowered, the dream of Jaiprakashji should be materialised, the Panchayati Raj should be strengthened.

With these words I would like to urge upon the Government to make constitutional provisions in all these matters.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have talked all about Bihar now you do not want to say anything.

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the hon. members who since yesterday have expressed their views in the House regarding empowering the Panchayats. 73rd and 74th amendments were carried out regarding Panchayati Raj. The manner in which it has been implemented during the last 10 years has been reviewed quite comprehensively. 39 hon. Members participated in the discussion which lasted for around 8-8 1/2 hours. Cutting across the party lines, hon. Members have suggested how we can strengthen panchayati raj and how we can use the constitutional amendments for rural development particularly. I want to assure the House that proper attention would be paid towards the valuable suggestions. One Member has said that this is only a ritual and thus it is a discussion. I want to say that the Government is very serious about this. The Government feels that unless we strengthen the Gram Panchayat and panchayati raj institutions, the efforts to strengthen democracy at the level of Vidhan Sabha and Lok Sabha would not fructify. Thus several hon. Members have mentioned about Mahatma Gandhi and Jai Prakash Narayan that this was their dream.

Further, I would like to mention that Pandit Deen Dayalji too had a dream that if we want to sustain our freedom with pride and dignity then we have to strengthen the gram panchayat. Mahatma Gandhi's vision of gram Swarajya included the around development of villages and the empowerment of panchayats, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan and Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay too thought on the same lines. Former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi too thought along the same lines and moved in the directions of empowerment and strengthening of panchayats and now our Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee is taking steps to strengthen panchayati raj

institutions. We will take all the necessary steps to strengthen panchayats and we will not revert backwards.

Many suggestions have been given here. I will mention only those suggestions regarding which the Government may take concrete steps. Be it Mani Shankar Aiyarji or Ramji Lal Sumanji or Pradeep Yadavji or Suresh Jadhavji or Mulayam Singh Yadavji or Pandaji or Ramjivan ji, all the members have mentioned one fact with imbibed unity and with one word that keeping in view the financial and administrative situation of the panchayats, they should be endowed with more powers. We should give more powers to panchayats. We all know that the Government of India has taken steps come what may to give more financial powers the panchayats may it be 'Swajal Yojana' or Hariyali or SGRY. We give the funds to panchayats and through Zila Panchayat it reaches to the gram panchayat. Taluka or block panchayat we want that all the 29 subjects in the 11th Schedule of the Constitution which have been mentioned by the hon. Members should be handed over to the panchayats. I regret to mention that even after 10 years of implementation all the States have not implemented all the 29 subjects. Though there are several states, which have implemented them fully. Karnataka has implemented all the 29 subjects, Kerala 26 out of 29, Orissa 21, Gujarat 15, Maharashtra 18, West Bengal 12, Uttaranchal 11 and Madhya Pradesh 9 subjects have been implemented.

Similarly several states have implemented only 8-10 subjects out of 29 subjects.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Please give the details about Union Territories.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I will give the details. I would like to thank the Karnataka Government for trying to implement all the 29 subjects and I want that it should not remain on papers only. It should be implemented so that in letter and spirit the gram panchayats may be benefitted. This should be the effort.

Sir, we want that all the states of the country to implement all the 29 subject given in the 11th schedule. It was thus decided in the All India Speaker's Conference that all the subjects given in the 11th schedule should be implemented by all the states. Thereafter the meeting of National Development Council was convened. The hon. Prime Minister and all the Chief Minister of all the States attended it. It was decided in that meeting that the State Governments should come forward and make efforts to implement all the 29 subjects. An empowerment sub-committee was constituted to proceed further. Recently a

meeting of the sub-committee was held in June and I am calling another meeting in the next week. We want to give financial and administrative powers to the panchayats. The Government is ready to amend the Constitution in this regard if need be. Constitutional provision must be there since it was the dream of our national leaders. Most of the members have accepted this. Panchayats should atleast be given financial powers on this basis. Many hon. Members have expressed their concern about the pathetic conditions of the gram panchayats. It is pitiable and how can they function in these situations. Sometimes they have to look towards the State Governments, and some times towards Union Government and Zila Panchayats for funds because Panchayats do not get funds and thus they can work without funds and they cannot function without administrative powers. Panchayats have been placed in such a pathetic condition. It would be very difficult to strengthen the foundation of democracy unless the situation of Panchayats is reformed. As regards the means of Constitutional reforms I would like to emphasise that since the House is unanimous in this regard, the Government would take an initiative in this direction and very soon efforts will be made to bring about reforms.

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): The main reason for the pathetic condition of panchayats is that there is overlapping of funds at several places. This is the main reason you should specify it. Huge funds are earmarked for MLA's, panchayats and Mukhiyas which is not used because of over lapping. We have to take concrete steps in this direction.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we will think over this suggestion. Panchayats should be given financial and administrative powers. It is a big achievement for our country that be it brothers or sisters that we have around 30 lakh representatives who work in panchayats we have 10 lakh women representatives. We should import proper training to 30 lakh representatives which are part of panchayats if we want to improve public life and strengthen democracy. If they learn the nuances of administration then it might improve public live more.

It is a major achievement that universally we have given 1/3rd representation to women. On this basis 10 lakh women are sitting in panchayats as people's representatives. The Government and the House and myself take pride of it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 10-15 days earlier I had gone to Geneva to participate in a global event. The

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

event was regarding market access for rural development. Everybody was surprised when I told them that on the basis of a constitutional amendment in our country 30 lakh persons have been elected as members of panchayats and out of which 10 lakh representatives are women. They were surprised because they feel that in such big number it is difficult to execute a task by them, but it can be smoothly executed in India.

I would like to say that we have enormous strength and that strength is arising from village level. The question is, if this power is used prudently to strengthen the democracy then the problems we have to face in public life will be soon resolved.

Shri Ramjilal Suman, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, Shri Arun Kumar and Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary raised a issue regarding the chairman of Zila Panchayats and said that election should be conducted directly. The chairman is elected by elected Members and a lot of irregularities happen and later on serious problem arise. In this regard a suggestion was given that this job should be assigned to the Chairman of Panchayats and direct election should be conducted and if entire House argue then the Government has no objection. They can get conducted direct elections. The Chairman, is elected amongst the members by the members through indirect elections in Zila Panchayat. The irregularities can be overcome by this amendment. The Government would take steps in this direction.

Several members raised a point that either it is panchayat, Gram Panchayat, Block, Panchayat or Zila Panchayat, injustice should not be done to them. Just now, Raghuvanshji has said that injustice is done with Bihar. I must reply this point. The funds released to Panchayati Raj institutions, go to the Chairman of Zila Panchayat, Taluka and village Panchayat. We would ensure that the funds must reach those institutions. We want that the Panchayat of the country should work properly. We have decided to award those Panchayats who work properly and are excellent Panchayat. It was also decided to provide financial help to such Panchayats. We will choose 6 district Panchayats, 12 Taluka Block Panchayats, 50 Village Panchayats across the country every year and award them as excellent Panchayats.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): What is the parametres for that.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mahtabji, you will get that. 30 lakh rupees, 20 lakh rupees and 10 lakh rupees will

be given for excellent district Panchayats, intermediate Panchayats and village Panchayats respectively. The Government of India will give that funds only for development works. We will try to strengthen Panchayats more by giving this type of help and sorting out the problem of scarcity of funds.

Many suggestions were given here but I would not like to repeat them here but I would like to say one thing that some-times several complaints come from the member of Parliament regarding the way Panchayats are working now and about the proposals which are either not taken up or are rejected. We are thinking in this direction that our elected representatives—MPs, MLAs or elected representatives of panchayats should not face injustice regarding district scheme and justice should be done to them. Sometimes it happens that the funds of our schemes ultimately go to district Panchayats but a particular proposal is not accepted. Several hon'ble Members have given suggestion against it. It is also my suggestion that if executive officer of a Panchayat alongwith the Chairman of district Panchayat is authorized, whether they may also be the member of other party, I think feeling of injustice among public representatives will be removed and the proposals sent by them for the development of their area will definitely be beneficial for their areas.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, several hon'ble members have an issue pertaining to provide training to Panchayat members. It is a very good suggestion for that purpose we want that training should be given to Panchayat Members to implement the development works in rural areas. We want to utilize the efficiency of trained members in other fields. Training is to make their optimum utilization for development of the country, training is essential. Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singhji has also this issue. I would like to tell you through the House that we spent 5 crore rupees for training of Panchayat members during the last year and 16 crore rupees have been earmarked for this year. It is not that we have shown it on papers only, we impart training in every state and district. Dr. V. Saroja, who is not present in the House, Shri Laxman Singhji and Shrimati Abha Mahato had given this suggestion that our sisters could get training in Panchayats. We are sincerely thinking to give training to our sisters who are Panchayat members under this suggestion and we have taken some steps also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have said that sometimes the State Governments discriminate with the Panchayats. The State Governments should transfer funds as soon as possible to the Panchayats but they do not

transfer. Shri Madhusudan Mistry had raised this issue and Shri Ram Jivan Singh and Dr. Ramakrishna Kusmaria have also raised this issue that the State Governments are indifferent towards the Panchayats. Sometimes it is seen that majority of members of Panchayat belong to a party which is not the ruling party of state. Shri Mistry has cited the example of Gujarat State where injustice is being done by the State Government with the Panchayat. I would like to say him that cordial atmosphere should be created by way of Panchayat elections and they send elected representative. Gujarat is a state who has guided the nation. Gujarat has put up a new concept of social harmony on the basis of it 50 percent village Panchayats have elected their own Sarpanchs unanimously. They might have faced difficulties but the State Government is not indifferent to panchayats. I would like to say through you that all State Governments should understand the sentiments of the House and they should not discriminate with Panchayats on party basis.

15.00 hrs.

The fund should be given to these panchayats who are entitled for it. It may not happen that again the Ministry of Rural Development or the Government of India be compelled to stop the funds or the instalment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as has been said that discrimination is done with the panchayats. Hon'ble Member Kharabela Swain had said that somewhere in panchayats, Sarpanch is the contractor. Suppose, any work has to be done under MPLADS or any work has to be done there under our scheme then sometimes sarpanchs became contractor. Several hon'ble Members have said this. It is very bad thing and we would see that how these sarpanchs should be suspended and we are very sincere in this regard and we will take it very seriously.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH (Mandi) There is a tradition in Himachal Pradesh that the stamp paper of Rs. 2.25 is purchased and the Pradhan is asked to do agreement, and after agreement money will be given and that money is granted on fifty percent agreement and that amount is not deposited in any hand in panchayat account. So I had said that those panchayat members must have their say. But nobody gives them any weightage.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I agree with the views expressed by Shri Maheshwar Singhji that such things are happening in the panchayats and hon'ble Members Dr. Raghuvansh Babu had also said in this regard that

a study group should be formed for that purpose. But I assure you that we would take necessary step to remove this contractorship with available resources either it is sarpanch's contractorship or other representatives' contractorship. Just now as has been said about Himachal Pradesh, the Government would not hesitate to take step in Himachal Pradesh but in other states also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a lot of things have been said about Bihar. Smt. Kanti Singh, Shri Ramjivan Singh and Raghuvansh said that injustice is done with Bihar. I don't agree with you that injustice is being done with Bihar. Time and again I have requested the State Government of Bihar to undertake proper and timely utilization of funds allocated. It would indeed create a very gloomy picture if the funds allocated to Bihar Government does not reach the poor villagers for their development due to the idleness of the State Government of Bihar. I share my feelings with Raghuvansh Babu. Whether it be the Swajal Dhara Yojna, or SCRY Yojana or Hariyali Yojna, we allocated a sum ranging from Rs. 10 thousand to 11 thousand crore for these yojnas. The rational behind such allocation of funds is that the people living in villages are faced with severe poverty as no developmental work has been executed in their area even after the lapse of 55 years of Independence. In some villages there is dearth of potable water while in some areas there is no school for imparting education. Whatever fund is being allocated by the Centre, it must be fully utilised for the development of the Panchayats and for the eradication of poverty in villages as well. But, lots of funds go unutilised in Bihar. We shall talk of Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. As much as 300 crore of rupees was allocated last year but it remained unutilised. Similarly, we dispensed with funds in various schemes, we released the first instalment but the utilisation certificate was not forwarded to us. How can we release the rest of the amount without the reception of utilisation certificate (U.C.). While all the states are subjected to this system, how can there be exceptional treatment with any individual state. Unless the U.C. is received, we just can't release funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in so far as the point was raised regarding the Panchayat, there is no state in the country for which we made allocations of funds and that didn't reach them. How will funds be allocated to those where panchayat elections have not been held. On the recommendations of the tenth Finance Commission, the Ministry of Finance had made a policy to transfer funds into non-lapseable funds in case of those panchayats where elections are not held. Our motive is very clear on that count. The funds will be withheld for you only. You may

[Shri Kashiram Rana]

utilize it the way you like but the same exercise should be undertaken in time, there is no lack of funds. By no accounts it is fair that the villagers are starving even after 55 years of independence and we live in clover. The dream of national prosperity will continue to be a distant dream if merely five to seven percent of the total population will lead life in luxury. We won't put our foot backwards in giving away the funds released by the Ministry of Rural Development to Bihar and the other states. We have already done the same in special cases. We have dispensed lots of rupees as an aid to the state Governments in special cases like drought, flood and cyclonic situation. I hope, Bihar Government will also make an immediate use of the funds allocated by the Ministry of Rural Development. We are ready to release more instalment of funds.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, one issue is not related to the panchayat, however, a few points were such as deserve dilation. The point of vigilance monitoring has found its mention here. Many of our MPs are showing their inability that nobody concedes their proposal and in most of the cases these are turned down. If a representative winning elections with the votes of 10 to 15 lakh voters finds himself incompetent, it will lead to quite embarrassing situation. The same is the case with the Ministers. The Ministers too, find themselves in the same boat. They have been appointed chairman of vigilance and monitoring Committee but the State Government don't even hold their meetings, it's not fair. It is heartening to note that in a letter received from the leader of opposition I've been requested to appoint one chairman in a district in his constituency and Vice Chairman in one more district. I am very pleased at the receipt of the letter. If all the political parties confine to extend their co-operation this way, this vigilance monitoring Committee can function well, on the one hand, hon'ble Member maintains that there is corruption in it, amount is not being utilized while on the other hand the MP says that meetings are not called for, proposals are not put forward, Proposals are not accorded priority. Given these existing state of affairs it appears to me that every state should call for meetings of vigilance Committee. As MP Chief Minister wrote me a letter. He called on me. He alleged me of repealing the rights of the panchayat. expressed my disagreement. We are not at all in favour of repealing the rights given to the panchayats. Whether or not our funds were properly utilized, will be decided in the meeting of the Committee.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Hon'ble Minister has referred to the vigilance Committee. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Maheshwar Singh, I'll give you a chance, let the Minister complete his reply.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: This is a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I will call you for clarification after the Minister completes his reply.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (Parbhani): In this context I would like to ask something about Maharashtra. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Jadhavji, if you have any clarification to seek, you may do so after the Minister completes his reply. Please take your seat for now.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir hon'ble Minister didn't talk of the Municipalities at all. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He will talk of the Municipalities also. The reply is yet to be completed.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: So far the reply is not complete. Till now he is referring to the panchayats only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can seek clarification after the Minister's reply is over. As I told you earlier, you would be given time.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I have tried to answer all of your points. So far as the issue of Vigilance and Monitoring Committee is concerned, steps will be taken to ensure their functioning. This apart, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other MPs have raised the demand that allowance should be given to the people elected in the Panchayat elections. This can be decided by the State Governments. Hon'ble MP Shri Mehboob Jahedi conveyed to us that allowance is being given in West Bengal, it's fair. In so far as the grant of allowance is concerned if any state Government gives allowances on its own part, we have no objection whatsoever, but I would like the Panchayats to function well. The State Government should take keen interest in it. The State Governments should also carry out this responsibility.

Sir, after all, it's enshrined in the constitution that it's the State subject and it is on that basis that I happened to remark that the states should be keenly interested in strengthening these institutions and this was the reason why our hon'ble Member Shri Mani Shankar Aiyer and Shri Bansaljee also said that. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He talked of transferring it to the concurrent list.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many other Members have also agreed on the point that this is state subject and should be included in the concurrent list. This is a being issue. This can be discussed at length in the House and can be debated further in detail. In this context I have to submit that the State Governments will have to carry out their responsibility properly for the upliftment of village and for strengthening the Panchayats. The Central Government may act as a supplement to the exercise to be undertaken at their level. I said that the Panchayats are such institutions which hold its significance even after the lapse of 55 years. In view of the necessity of these institutions for the development of the States it would be unfair to ignore them. We would never want that these institutions should be ignored. Rather we want to strengthen the Panchayats. We would like to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system. So far as the Government of India is concerned, it would provide as much as possible assistance to the State Governments to strengthen these institutions. We are ready to provide assistance but it is also the responsibility of the states. This is not only our dream but it is your's also. However, 5,10,15, or 25 members are get elected from urban areas but they are also supposed to pay attention towards the development of villages as they are also concerned with the villages.

Sir, ten years have passed. We have reviewed the working of the Panchayati Raj institutions. On the basis of the suggestions made during this debate, the government would also bring amendments in the Constitution like providing financial and administrative powers to the Panchayati Raj institutions and conducting direct elections to the posts of Chairman of the Zila Parishads etc. Our ultimate objective in this regard is to make these institutions successful. But these institutions have not become so much successful during the last ten years as these should have been. These institutions have not been made effective upto the desired extent. It can be assumed that these have done something than nothing. Now, we will have to make them effective upto the desired extent. On the basis of above discussion, the Government would make an effort to solve all the problems. The

Government will review the election processes and it will also consider the 74th Constitution Amendment about which some hon. Members have mentioned and also made a mention of municipalities falling in the Union. Hon. Shri Bansal Ji has raised a question about municipality. I would like to say that there is a scope of discussion on this issue also.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I said one thing that the Union territories are governed by the Central Government. Therefore, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to implement the provisions of the Act in the Union territories in such a way that the Central Government emerges as an ideal example for the State Governments to follow it. We talk about the remaining states that there are so many subjects, so many subjects have been implemented, so many have been transferred. Why not the same are implemented in the Union territories which are small in size and are governed by the Central Government. None else but you are to act there according to the provisions of law. You are to do it and you are not to depend on others for this work. Why do you not develop such a system there through which the municipalities and the Panchayats can be operated in a good way. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a good question and I was also going to express the same thing. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: We have been repeatedly making pleas, because nothing has been done in this regard for the last ten years.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Bansal Ji, I respect your feelings—same thing applies to Panchayats as well as municipalities of the Union territories. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As Andaman and Nicobar, Daman and Diu, Chandigarh are Union territories. My own constituency is also a Union territory.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given an example of Chandigarh that the Gram Panchayat and the Zila Parishad of Chandigarh have not been empowered to act even under one subject out of the 29 subjects. ...(*Interruptions*) This is to be done by the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, you have already put your question. Let him reply now.

[Translation]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I said that I have got so many suggestions like this and I have put forth these suggestion before the House. Definitely steps will be taken in this regard. Lastly, I would like to say that this nine hours discussion was very useful. The House was apprised of the steps taken in this regard during the last ten years. Discussion was held on the success and failure of the Government in this regard. Some good suggestions were made to make further progress in this regard. We will pay attention towards these suggestions shortly. Keeping in view the suggestions made here, we will bring amendments concerning financial and administrative reforms. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, mention has not been made about District Planning Committees, which is an important part of that. In this regard the hon. Minister would like to inform the House that they will raise the issue of District Planning Committee with all the State Governments and also ensure that District Planning Committees are constituted at the district level in every state. The plans prepared by them and also metropolitan planning etc. are implemented accordingly.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: We will definitely find a solution to the suggestion made by Shri Bansal Ji in this regard.

SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI (Bijnor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has himself admitted that the work has not been done properly under the Pradhanmantri Sadak Yojana and lesser work has been done under the above mentioned Yojana. There has been under utilization of amount allocated for the Yojana. Even the Hon. Minister feels that the Monitoring Committees is not implementing the scheme properly. There is a Managing Director to bring about improvement in it. The Government of India will try to send its representative in each district of the country. The positing and other functions of the representative should be monitored by the Ministry of Urban Development. ...*(interruptions)* But, the Congress Party do not support this proposal. I want that Centre should send a Managing Director there. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has himself said that so far as the Monitoring Committee is concerned, Government will see as to how it can be constituted. I, through you, would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that on July, 2 the Government of Himachal Pradesh has also

issued a letter to all the Deputy Commissioners, I would like to quote it.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, can you note down the clarifications one-by-one? Then, at the end, you may reply to them.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I am noting them down.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: It writes—

[English]

"I am to refer to this Department's letter of even number dated 31st May, 2003 vide which you were requested to..."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Maheshwar Singh, please ask your clarification straight. Do not make a statement.

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Sir, let me quote a few lines. I have a very small clarification.

This letter reads as follows:

"I am to refer to this Department's letter of even number dated 31st May, 2003 vide which you were requested to reconstitute the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee. In this context, you are requested not to reconstitute the District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in your district till further orders. If the Committee has been reconstituted, this Committee may not be convened till further directions."

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): Who has said this?

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: It has been said by the Government of Himachal Pradesh. ...*(interruptions)*

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, if you permit, I can even lay this letter on the Table of the House. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, I hope, you are noting down all these points raised by them.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Yes, Sir, I am noting them down and I will reply them also. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please resume your seats. I will allow you one-by-one to ask your clarification.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR (Vadodara): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether we are thinking to provide incentives to those District Panchayats, Taluka Panchayats and Gram Panchayats which are doing well development work. But it has been our experience that the elections of Gram Panchayats from the economic point of view are very expensive. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Do not make a speech, please ask your question or clarification. It is not the time to make a speech.

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: I would like to say that even enmity prevails there due to elections. In this Connection, I would like to suggest that the experiment of Samrath Gram Panchayat which we had implemented in Gujarat, should be implemented in whole of the country and some incentive should be fixed for this purpose. By going so, we would be able to defuse enmity, malice and all ill wills, in 30 lakhs Village Panchayats. It is my suggestion.

[English]

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: I asked a specific question yesterday about funding of training programmes particularly for women who are elected to local bodies.

[Translation]

Funds are not being provided, when you go through the budget that so much funds are meant for training in the budget. ...*(interruptions)*.

[English]

The women elected Members need it. Normally men claim that they are very good and they do not need any training, but women are very backward and are not capable of doing their job. I therefore asked this question. but he has not replied to that.

[Translation]

No assistance is being provided from here. I got all the women in my Constituency trained by getting funds from the national commission and UNESCO. Even a single penny was not received from the Government.

[English]

We are asking as to how it is possible to carry on training for women who are at the grassroots, if there is

no funding from the Central Government side. I raised it in my speech yesterday, but it has not been replied to.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: I stated in my reply that we spent nearly Rs. 3 crore last year and this year, an amount of Rs. 16 crore has been allocated for training of women.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it only to train women representatives?

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: No. It is to train the entire *panchayat* members, where women members are also included. ...*(interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Have you earmarked some money exclusively for training of women? The Committee on Empowerment of Women has submitted a report to Parliament on training of women in local bodies. Our report is before the Government. We have seen throughout the country that nothing is happening. That is why, I wanted you to look at our report and take some action. ...*(interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister said that last year an amount of Rs. 3 crore had been spent on training of members who are elected to *panchayats* and that this year, an amount of Rs. 16 crore has been allotted.

...*(interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar): This morning, MPs have got a D.O. letter from the hon. Minister which is very disturbing. The reason is this. Originally, MPs were the ones who were the final authority to select and recommend the names. Now, MLAs are being brought in; *Zila Parishads* are also there. I do not object to that. But what is happening is that some roads are half-constructed which are not completed and they are neglected. Suppose there is a ten km. road in which seven km. is constructed and the rest is left as it is. Such roads should be completed first and then, a new policy should be taken up. Whenever a new Minister comes in, new policy is being taken up; it disturbs the area. Some works which are already started under the PMGSY must be completed first and then, you can do the rest. It is not clear in that letter. He may kindly clarify this.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I think that the hon. Minister has given a very meaningful

[Shri Ramjilal Suman]

speech on the Panchayati Raj, on which discussions were held yesterday. So far as the policies are concerned, the hon. Minister is having very clear view on that. I have to say that the real question is implementation thereof. He told about the improvements to be made therein. I through your goodself, would like to request that a vigilance and monitoring committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the member of Parliament. This Committee will monitor and review the schemes being formulated and funds being provided therefore by the Union Government. It appears that this is like a reform committee. I would like to say that this Committee should have the right to take action against the top officials in case they show some indifferent attitude or misuse the funds provided by the Union Government so as to put a psychological impact on them. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that this Committee cannot fulfil at any cost the very purpose for which it has been constituted, if there would not be such a psychological impact on the bureaucrats and top officials posted there. Therefore, I request you to tell us whether this will have any psychological impact on such officials of the vigilance and Monitoring Committee if there would not be proper implementation of the schemes and whether this Committee would have the right to recommend for taking action against such officials, so that the Government can take action thereon.

SHRIMATI ABHA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): I want to ask something different. I belong to Jharkhand state. The Panchayat elections have not been held there till date. I want an assurance from him for holding panchayat elections early in one area by sorting out the problems of the Scheduled area.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): The Motion which was moved yesterday by the hon. Minister was to discuss about the implementation aspect of the progress that has been made within the last ten years. My question was very specific yesterday and today also I want to repeat that question relating to the social audit aspect related to the *Gram Sabha*. Instead of identifying the project which is to be implemented, why not give that responsibility of social audit to the *Gram Sabha*?

Secondly, if you are going in for second generation of *Panchayati Raj* institution reforms, if anything being done to have audit in an independent manner? As we have C&AG and Accountant General in other States, we should have independent audit organisations for *Panchayati Raj* institutions.

[Translation]

DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA (Damoh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the district Committee, which has been formed in Madhya Pradesh, is unconstitutional one. As the hon. Minister has just now admitted that the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has said that as the Vigilance Committee violate the rights of panchayats, therefore, we do not recognize it, whereas reality is that in the district committee which has been constituted there, whosoever is the C.O. i.e. Chief Executive officer of the district Panchayat, is answerable to the Government and not to the district panchayat. I request that the rights of panchayats there be restored by testing this arrangements.

[English]

SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH (Aurangabad, Bihar): In view of the fact that we should get full benefits of this *Panchayati Raj* system, one very important thing we have to think about is the overlapping of so many schemes that keep going from the Centre. Enormous schemes are in the pipeline. There are four tiers and by the time it travels down it gets delayed. We are earmarking a particular scheme. Four different bodies are involved and there is enormous corruption. Is there any method by which this money can be properly utilised instead of going into the pockets of *Thekedar*, contractor, middlemen and so on? Should not there be a Central monitoring system by which from time to time at least the Government could see whether the *Panchayati Raj* money is being utilised properly or not?

At least, there will a sense of fear in the minds of the people.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a Committee has been constituted for monitoring the projects for which funds are provided by the Union Government and the Members of Parliament and representative of the public of that district are included in that committee constituted at every district level. The Members of Parliament have been appointed in such committees as the Chairman. But till date the Madhya Pradesh Government is not following that order. I think, it is totally violation of the order issued by the Union Government. It is to be looked into. Otherwise, there is no justification for constituting the Committee which has been constituted by the Union Ministry of Rural Development. Maheshwar Singh ji has said just now that a reverse situation has emerged in his State. If the State

Government do not want, I think that it is a serious issue and it should be looked into by the Union Government.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what will happen, if a MP has given proposal for construction of some roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sarak Yojna and the same has not been accepted by the District Council? Whether he will include the same if given in writing?

My second proposal is that as the hon. Minister has said that he would bring forward the proposal of direct election for the post of Chairman of District Panchayat, district council and Panchayat Samiti as a constitutional amendment. I have to say that it is not a unanimous proposal. It has been given only by some of the Members of Parliament belonging to Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. We do not agree with it. First of all hold a debate, if you want to get constitutional amendment for this proposal.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I have only one question. I would like to know whether the present three-tier system should continue in this form or not. I think a two-tier system will be sufficient. Why do we need block level in between *Zila Parishad* and *Gram Sabha*? I think there is no need to have a Block President in a State like ours. We can easily manage with the *Panchayat* and the *Zila Parishad*. So, the two-tier system will be sufficient.

SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE (Udupi): This time the Central Government announced a new drinking water scheme, namely, *Swa-Jal Dhara Yojana*. We all are involved in this. We have motivated the *Panchayat* people and they have collected Rs. 2.6 crore towards 10 per cent margin money. We all have recommended for this through *Zila Parishad* and *Panchayat* as also through the State Government. This proposal came to the Central Government seven months ago. Till now, no decision has been taken on this proposal. Now the *Panchayat* has collected ten per cent margin money. Therefore, there is a little confusion as to who will give the approval, whether it is the State Government or the *Zila Parishad* or the Central Government.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Sir, I have noted all the suggestions and I will definitely consider them seriously for taking a decision.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, let us go to the Private Member's Business. He has noted down all the suggestions and he will write to the Members also.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Yes, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up the Private Members' Business. We have already encroached upon its time by five minutes.

15.35 hrs.

MOTION RE: THIRTY-FOURTH REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

SHRI DENZIL B. ATKINSON (Nominated): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd July, 2003."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-fourth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 23rd July, 2003'."

The motion was adopted.

15.36. hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, the House would take up Bills for introduction.

Shri H.G. Ramulu	—	Not present.
Dr. S. Jagathrakshakan	—	Not present.
Shri Vijay Sankeshwar	—	Not present.
Dr. Nitish Sengupta	—	Not present.

(I) *Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2003*
(Omission of Section 16, etc.)

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI (Salem): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the *Advocates Act, 1961*.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 25.7.2003.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Advocates Act, 1961."

the motion was adopted.

SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.36½ hrs.

(ii) Working Journalists' and other Non-Journalist Media Employees' Welfare Fund Bill, *2002.

[Translation]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Welfare Fund in every State and Union Territory for the benefit of Working Journalists and other Non-Journalist Media Employees and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Welfare Fund in every State and Union Territory for the benefit of Working Journalists and other Non-Journalist Media Employees and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(iii) High Court at Patna (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Bhagalpur) Bill, *2003.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of Bhagalpur of the High Court at Patna.

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dt. 25.7.2003.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench at Bhagalpur of the High Court at Patna.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

**(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, *2003.
(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)**

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY (Bhagalpur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUBODH ROY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(v) Protection of Farmers Bill, *2003.

[English]

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for schemes and their implementation for the protection, benefit and

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dt. 25.7.2003.

welfare of farmers, for the establishment of a Corporation for Protection of Farmers and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for schemes and their implementation for the protection, benefit and welfare of farmers, for the establishment of a Corporation for Protection of Farmers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

(vi) **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill,* 2003.**
(Amendment of the Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE (Sarangarh): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to further amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI P.R. KHUNTE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2000
(Amendment of Articles 81 and 170)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further consideration of the Bill. Shri G.M. Banatwalla

*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part-II, Section 2, dt. 25.7.2003.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

was on his legs on the previous occasion. He may continue his speech.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, our country follows the 'first-past-the-post' or the majoritarian electoral system. A candidate who gets the highest number of votes among all the candidates in a constituency is declared elected. It will be appreciated that it is not just the polls which have to be fair and free, but also the electoral system must be just and fair in its outcome.

In this respect, our system suffers from serious and several deficiencies. In the first place there is a considerable wastage of votes. The votes cast in favour of the defeated candidates are a total waste, but it must be realised that the votes in favour of the defeated candidates are also a part and parcel of the national vote and they must be allowed to reflect upon the composition of the legislature.

15.41 hrs.

(SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA *in the Chair*)

Secondly, another important deficiency of our present voting system lies in the fact that there is no relationship between the total number of votes cast and the number of seats won by a political party. This disproportionality is a great weakness and contributes to the weakness of the representative democracy that we have.

A third great weakness of our present electoral system is that the weaker sections are at a great disadvantage. Here, I would like to quote Tribhuvan Nath Jaiswal and Ram Kumar Dahal in the book *Ethnicity, Nations and Minorities*, edited by Bonita Eliaz, Lipi Gosh and Achintya Kumar Dutta at Page 143.

"A democratic society allows enough scope and opportunities to its weaker sections to mobilise on the basis of their social identities in a concerted effort to cut through the dominance of certain privileged groups and create a space for themselves in their social picture."

Our system fails very badly in this particular respect and in order to ensure this position, my Bill seeks to introduce the List System, a proportional representation system. In fact, the Bill suggests a mixed electoral system. The present number of Members of Parliament or Legislature will be elected as per the present system. But, a further 50 per cent of this total strength will come

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

according to the List System. Therefore, it is being ensured that there is some proportionality between the votes cast and the seats won by a political party. It is being ensured that the political parties get as many seats as their proportion to the number of votes political parties get as many seats as their proportion to the number of votes polled by them. A just ratio between the seats won and the votes obtained has also to be maintained.

Madam Chairperson, you will realise that the List System is more representative in character. It is acknowledged the world over. It avoids wastage of votes. It will reduce the disproportionality which is inherent in our present system of voting.

I may draw the attention of the House to two important experiments that have been made. In the case of South Africa, we find that South Africa used a classical proportional electoral system for its first democratic elections of 1994 and, with 62.65 per cent of the popular vote, the African National Congress won 63 per cent of the national seats. The party got 62.65 per cent of the votes and won 63 per cent of the national seats. That shows the just and fair outcome of the electoral system and here, in the case of South Africa, the number of wasted votes was only 0.8 per cent of the total. On the other hand, we have the case of Lesotho in the neighbourhood. Lesotho had a classical majoritarian system like our system of voting. Basotho Congress Party won every seat in the 65-member Parliament with 75 per cent of popular votes and there was no Opposition whatsoever. With 75 per cent of votes, 100 per cent of the seats were taken over by one party and the Parliament was deprived of even an Opposition. We have had such outcome.

Now, it is necessary that we have an electoral system which is just and fair in its outcome. I do realise that a criticism is often made that the List System of proportional representation system of voting leads to multiplicity or proliferation of political parties. This is often the criticism that is levelled. I may respectfully submit that even with our present system of voting, there is multiplicity of political parties. In this House, we have more than nearly 40 political parties.

You will realise that the party system in a democratic polity is the natural product of issue dimensions in a country. The party system depends upon the issue dimensions in the country. Here, I would like to quote D. Miller, a social scientist. D. Miller, in his article in *Economics and Political Weekly* dated 25th July, 1987, at page PE-61, states:

"Whereas the action and non-actions of the State are necessarily political, whatever they are, they will have, and must have, political consequences. And the most significant consequence is undeniably different impact on the different segments of the society. This, of course, is so everywhere. But because of the heterogeneity of Indian society, the impact of the State there has to be even more uneven."

We, therefore, see that party system is a natural product of issue dimensions in our country. These political parties really depend upon the number of issue that are there.

I may also point out to this House that great social scientists like Arend Lijphart, Lorwin, Daldar, Steiner, Yogendra K. Malik, all speak of various devices and mechanisms that help multiple societies to resolve conflicting and competing claims within the democratic society. Among these institutions are the proportional system of representation in legislature and civil services, coalition Governments and various others. All these are institutional devices and mechanisms that are essential conditions for the success of democracy.

Madam Chairman, I have, in my Bill, suggested the introduction of the List System along with the present system. Our Law Commission, in its 170th Report, also recommends adoption of proportional system, adoption of the List System. Of course, in my Bill, there are certain variations. The Law Commission wants that the present strength of the Members of the House will be elected according to the present system of voting and 25 per cent extra will be voted or will come to the House under the List System. I have, instead of 25 per cent, suggested fifty per cent.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: That extra 25 per cent can go to women.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have in all fairness, Madam Chairman, referred to the variations that I have made in the recommendation of the Law Commission. A deeper understanding of the subject will also suggest that there should be no threshold whatsoever. There should be no elimination of any political party from being assigned the seat if its vote falls below a particular percentage. Otherwise, there will be again wastage of vote; and wastage of national vote will be a serious weakness of democracy.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: Do you suggest that this 25 per cent of the List System should go to the women?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I was only pointing out to the recommendation of the Law Commission. You should know that the Law Commission did not make any such recommendation.

Here we are discussing the question of the List System. Along with the List System, my another suggestion in the Bill is that the electoral system must so operate as to result in an elected body which is truly representative of the multiple character of our society. It is necessary that every section in our society is represented in the legislatures. Otherwise, frustration sets in and this frustration creates, at times, national crisis.

I have also stated that proportional representation, that is representation in proportion to the population, has to be given to the Muslims, to the Christians, to other minorities, to the OBCs, and, of course, it has to be there for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This recommendation is also there. In the case of Muslims, I need not point out to you, Madam Chairperson, that the representation of the Muslims here in the Lok Sabha is continually on the decline.

Madam, the Muslim representation in the Lok Sabha is continually on the decline. The women representation in the Lok Sabha is continually increasing.

MADAM CHAIRMAN: No. It is coming down.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I have the figures here. But the Muslim representation in the Lok Sabha is continually declining. It has declined from 8.10 per cent in 1980 to only 5.78 per cent in 1999. There are various other figures also with me. The House is well aware of them and I need not take the time of the House in giving out all those figures. The fact remains that we were so conscious about the composition of the House that it holds a mirror to the society, we were so conscious of the fact that the House must be truly representative of the society having representation of all sections that in the Draft Constitution of free India, there was a clause for 10 per cent reservation for the Muslims. Earlier, there was a separate electorate. ...*(Interruptions)* These were abolished and I am not going into the history of them.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of this House to what Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, who was the then Congress President, said in the Constituent Assembly. I quote him from the Constituent Assembly debate-Volume IX, dated 25th November, 1949, page 948:

"It is a gentleman's agreement that we have entered into, a terrible responsibility that we have taken upon

our shoulders, when we asked them (Muslims) to give up their reservations and their separate electorates. We have to find out as many representatives from the Muslim community through the medium of joint electorate as would have been their legitimate share, if they had their separate electorates. Even so (was the case) with the Indian Christians and others.'

But it is unfortunate that this system, the noble sentiments are not reflected today. The weakness lies in our present system. I have, therefore, come before the House with a Bill with the main objective of making the legislatures truly representative of our society. Therefore, I have suggested in my Bill a mixed electoral system. The present strength of the Parliament and the Legislatures will be elected according to the present system and an additional 50 per cent will be elected under the proportional List System so that the political parties have seats in proportion to the votes that they secure.

Secondly, I have provided in my Bill for proportional representation to each of the minorities and OBCs according to their population.

I may submit that the adoption of the List System is now much overdue. There is a proliferation of parties in our society. This multiplicity of parties has further reinforced the several grave deficiencies of our present first-past-the-post system or the majoritarian system of voting. The adoption of the List System is very much overdue and I make a fervent appeal to the Government and to all the hon. Members in the House to rise above all considerations, meet the situation and see to it that the composition of the various Legislatures throughout the country and the Lok Sabha is truly representative of the society.

With these words, I commend my Bill for the unanimous adoption by this House. Madam Chairperson, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity to speak.

16.00 hrs.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Madam Chairman, I rise to oppose the Constitution (Amendment) Bill piloted by the hon. Member, Shri G.M. Banatwalla. Basically he has recommended two things through this Bill. One is that instead of direct election there should be a mixture of direct election and election through a List system. The second suggestion he has made is that

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

there should be reservation not only for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, but also for the Minorities including Sikhs, Muslims and Christians.

Madam, in India, we are having two chambers in Parliament, namely the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. In most of the States we are having only one chamber, that is, the Vidhan Sabha; but in some States we are having both the Vidhan Sabha and the Vidhan Parishad. For the Rajya Sabha and the Vidhan Parishad, Members are elected indirectly. But Shri Banatwalla insists that if we follow the List system, then all the parties will be represented. In this system, the parties will just publish a list of candidates whom they want to send from their parties and according to the percentage of votes they get in the election, proportionally their candidates will be elected. If a party gets five per cent of votes in the election, then the first five per cent of Members from that list will be elected. This is an indirect election. That means, the people are not voting for a particular candidate, but he will be sent to the Parliament or the Legislative Assemblies because his party has got some votes.

My submission is, we are already having the Rajya Sabha in some States where Members are already elected in an indirect way. So, do we want that another 50 per cent of the Members to be elected indirectly? Now, since a Member is elected directly by the people to the Lok Sabha or to the Vidhan Sabhas in the States, he represents a particular constituency and, so, he is responsible to the people of that constituency. They go to him and ask him to get some work done for them. He is duty-bound to listen to their grievances and redress them. But will those Members elected through the List system have any accountability? Whom will they represent and who will go to them? Why should they be interested in solving the problems of the people.

Madam, in our *Shashtra* we have the *Ganesh Panikrama* system which is known to everybody. When there was a competition between Ganesh and Kartikeya as to who is the greatest among them, Kartikeya said that whoever goes around the world faster is the greatest. So, Kartikeya went in his *Mayur vahan* and very quickly encircled the world. But Ganesh with his *Mooshaak vahan* went around his father and mother and said that father and mother are greater than the world and so I have encircled them much quicker than you. So, once we have the List system, what will happen is that instead of going to the people, the candidates will always be sitting in Delhi, going around only their leaders.

Whosoever is very close to the leaders will also become a leader. Do you want such a system in this country? I do not know whether such a system is prevalent anywhere in the world. There are two things. There is a list system. There is also the second Chamber to which the people are elected indirectly. India is a country where a Member of Parliament represents more than 15 lakhs of people. Is there any country in the world where a representative represents so many people? Is it possible to do so? Nowhere it is possible. There are countries where MPs represent 10,000, 5,000 or even 1,000 people. So, this is the first thing. I say that the list system is very cumbersome and not suitable to our country.

Hon. Shri Banatwalla has raised another point that in Lesotho, only one party ruled. All the Members were elected from one party. Does it happen in India? We are having so many parties. May I know which is the party that remains unrepresented? Is it not true that in spite of proliferation, of parties all the parties in India are represented? They may not come to power. But all the parties are represented. How many one-member parties are there in our Parliament? So, all the parties are represented. There is hardly any party that never gets any representation. So, I do not agree with his contention that there should be list system and through that any party-any type of people-and people of any region should get represented.

Secondly, I come to the process of reservation with regard to minorities. Do you believe that reservation for the minorities will actually help a minority community? Take the example of Sikhs or Christians. They hardly constitute two or three per cent in this country. But a Sikh has become the President of this country. Do you think that if you give them reservation, they will ever come up. Take the example of Punjab. The Sikhs in Punjab do not constitute a very vast majority. The Hindus are almost equivalent in number there. Sikhs are hardly 52-54 per cent in Punjab and Hindus are about 48 per cent. But right from the inception of that State, all the Chief Ministers have been Sikhs. That State was created for the Sikhs because of their sentiments. That is why the Sikhs have been able to become Chief Minister all the time. Nobody has objected and nobody could object to it. But if you confine it to their percentage of two or three per cent, the Sikhs will never become anybody in this country.

Now, take the example of Christians also. They belong to a very great and meritorious community in this country. They have risen very high. Nobody says that

our hon. Minister of Defence, Shri George Fernandes, is a Christian. He is a leader of India. He has been a great trade union leader among the workers.

Madam Chairperson, if you have risen so high, it is not because you are a Christian, but because of your qualities. Until I came here, I never knew that you were a Christian. I knew that you were a Minister. You are a front-rank leader of the Congress Party.

Now, take another example. Shri Banatwalla has mentioned that the representation of Muslims is reducing day-by-day. Why is it so? I am not hesitating to tell these things. Let these Muslim leaders search their own souls. Whenever they try to present themselves, they do so as representatives of the Muslim community. There is hardly any Muslim leader who tries to present himself as a leader of this country. Most of the time, he is only involved in the Babri Masjid structure and whether there shall be a uniform Civil Code. He is very touchy about it. Should there be cow slaughter? He is very touchy about it. Why is this thing there? He will represent all the time only one particular community and one particular mindset. He will perform his duties in a manner as if he is trying to satisfy his own community. But does he try to satisfy the thought process of other community?

You take the example of the Babri structure. You take the example of Kashi and Mathura. Yes, the Muslim community think that 'it is a question of prestige, it is a question of dignity and that we will never give up our demand of Kashi and Mathura.' But anybody, particularly a Hindu, who goes to Varanasi or to Kashi Vishwanath Temple, the Brahmins and Purohits show him that the Nandi is facing a Masjid. The Nandi is supposed to look at Lord Shiva. But he is looking at the Masjid. What does he feel? Does he feel very happy about what has happened? Does he feel that in Mathura and Kashi the Muslims and Hindus came together about 300 or 400 years before and they decided that they will have Masjid and Mandir side by side? Does anybody believe this?

When any Muslim leader says, 'I will not give up my prestige and dignity and that if I give up my Masjid there, I give up my prestige and dignity', does it not hurt the Hindu sentiments? You do it and you accept that you will also get the Hindu votes, which is 85 per cent in this country. So, I appeal that if anybody wants to get the dignity and prestige in this country, if anybody wants that the majority community should give respect to the mindset of a minority community, the minority community also should see that the majority community mindset is also satisfied.

When Pakistan became an Islamic country, Hindus in this country never wanted that this should be a Hindu country. They wanted that this should be a secular country. India is secular because of Hindus. It is there in the history, we never wanted that it should be a theocratic State. Now, also the BJP is called a Hindu Party, but our leaders never wanted that India should be a theocratic State or it should be a Hindu Rashtra. We never wanted that. We also follow what our leaders say. We also want that our thought process, our belief, our culture should also be respected.

Finally, Madam, my conclusion is that there should be no extension of reservation. All the time, simply going for reservation for women, for the backward classes, for the minorities means that India has not progressed anywhere. Madam, talking about further reservation for anything, for anybody is a mere greed and nothing else.

With these words I conclude and say that there should not be a list system and that there should be no further reservation.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Madam, I rise to support the Bill in principle. Proportional representation has many advantages, politically, socially and economically. In that perspective I am welcoming it, but not the perpetual reservation.

Reservation is only a temporary process. The reservation will disappear or wither away when equality is obtained. Reservation is not a rule of perpetuity, as I have already put it. So, proportional representation, where we stood far and near, quite far, used to give adequate representation to all secular ideas, secular ideologies and secular thoughts.

That is the purpose for which we support it. I support it. I support Shri Banatwalla's Bill in that perspective.

There may be difference of opinion. But one thing is clear that India is always a secular country, a secular nation and we are maintaining a secular fabric. In that perspective, the minorities have to play a very dominant role in the freedom movement as well as in the social set up.

What my hon. friend has said is that Muslims have had a detached way of life and they do not form a part of the social strata. That is not correct. Muslims do play an important role in the development of this country. We cannot forget that. There are Muslim leaders in every political party who can rise up to the occasion in

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

defending our country and at the same time they do justice to everybody. So, simply for the reason that a person is born as a Muslim, he should not be treated as a second-rate citizen. He is as equal as anybody in this country. That is the law of our land. Our Constitution also is in that perspective. So, they may have some sentiments, they may have some religious feelings and they may have some particular rights to be maintained. In those respects, the majority community shall take a lenient view. We should not treat or we should not look upon Muslims or the people of the minority communities as strangers to our nation. They form a part and parcel of our nation and we will have to respect their sentiments also. In the converse, the minority communities should also respect the sentiments and the feelings of the majority community. They should not treat each other with the sense of enmity or with the sense of prejudice between the two communities. That is the aim on which our democratic set up should develop.

So, in our experience for the last 50 years, now our system has been that no one-party rule is possible in our land even at the Centre. In Kerala, some decades before, we had this one-party rule. Only multi-parties or a united front of political parties alone can rule the State. That has become the law of the State. So, such a situation has developed at the Centre also.

Now, at the Centre we have this NDA, a coalition of so many parties, regional parties with regional sentiments and regional thinking. So, we do not have a major party having roots throughout the country. That is the position. This is one of the offshoots in our electoral system, which has to be remedied and this could be remedied through adopting proportional representation in the proper perspective.

Majority should also be represented and at the same time minority should also be duly represented in the Legislature. So, 50 per cent is being assured for the people who are the majority and for others, we will have to adopt the proportional representation system giving due representation to the people who could not come to the front because of the defect in the electoral system. So, with that point in view, I am supporting him and not to make communal representation or communal reservation a perpetuity. That is not the aim. The aim is to have a secular perspective a secular approach and an all-embracing approach in our democratic functioning. That is why, I am supporting him, not to give representation to all the communities on communal basis just like what we fought against the special reservation for a special community.

So, in that perspective, I am supporting the principle of the proportional representation to make our democratic society more secular, more reactive to the sentiments.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur, Orissa): Madam, before I go into the Bill which has been presented by Shri Banatwalla, may I, with your kind permission, say a Sanskrit adage? The Sanskrit adage in *Panchatantra* says: "*Ajha Galastana Sheyava Nirathakam.*" That means, attaching two nipples to the wreck of the goat, which is unnecessary and it does not yield any milk. That is what for the bill has been brought forward and that is the comment that I would like to make before I go into the Bill itself.

Madam Chairperson, this Constitution (Amendment) Bill would not harbinger communal harmony, rather it is a pernicious desire to keep on creating problems for this country. May I request Shri Banatwalla to see the leaders of the Muslim community, namely Shri Hannan Mollah or Shri Mahboob Zahedi or Shri Abdullakutty? They have been elected because of their political ideology and not on the basis of communal feelings. This country had enacted the Constitution in spite of the vituperative campaign that was taken up by Jinnah and his coterie right from 1947 to 1950. This country was so good, so broad in heart that the secular image was brought forward in its Constitution that was enacted in the year 1950, thanks to leaders like Pandit Nehru and all those great stalwarts.

Shri Banatwalla has tried to quote from the Constituent Assembly debate itself. The matter regarding representation to minorities particularly to the Muslims came up during discussion in the Constituent Assembly itself. Shri Kazi Syed Karimuddin, who was from C.P. Berar, had prophesied at that time that if there is no proportional representation with multi-member constituencies for the minorities with cumulative votes, it would lead to chaos. He said, "I prophesy that if this is not done, it will lead to chaos." Madam Chairperson, has it led to chaos within the last 53 years after the enactment of the Constitution of India? Rather, on the other hand, we have elected three Muslim Presidents and one Sikh President. I do not call the Sikhs as minorities at all. But we have elected persons to that lofty cost, not because of any religious considerations, but because of their work for the society. That has to be kept in mind whenever we think of this society itself, this political establishment itself which has stood now the test of time and we have been progressing in a very good manner.

Now, I would invite Shri Banatwalla to go through the representation of Dr. Zakir Hussain in 1951 to Mr. Graham, the representative of the U.N, who had come to India. What did he say? Dr. Zakir Hussain had said: "Let us get assimilated in the political ethos of this country and let us see that the Muslim community is able to progress in a good and progressive manner so that there is no feeling of hatred among the communities themselves."

Shri Banatwalla has tried to stress upon the point that there should be proportional representation. Again, I would invite his attention to the Constituent Assembly debate in which Shri B.N. Rao had circulated a questionnaire. A number of questions were there in the questionnaire. One of them related to the proportional representation to the Muslim Community.

Many other things were there but one of them was representation to different communities including the Muslims. I would like to reiterate the point that the questionnaire which was sent to the State Legislatures and to the Central Legislature was also rejected outright.

Shri K.T. Shah had also distributed a general directive paper inviting response from different people for providing 15 seats in the Second Chamber, that is, the Rajya Sabha, on the basis of religious considerations but that was not accepted at all by anyone. I would like to say that when Shri Kazi Syed Karimuddin had said that it should be given, it was opposed by another Muslim gentleman, Shri Mohammed Tahir who had piloted the amendment but said that he did not want to press for the amendment. This is what has been the political idea at the time of framing of the Constitution and it is there now also. To ask for any different attitude with a view to get some facilities, as I said, is a pernicious desire.

We have a multi-party system. We have regional parties. We have different ideologies and objectives among the political parties and they are being properly represented in the State Legislatures and in Parliament. Shri G.M. Banatwalla has given references of South Africa and Lesotho. Lesotho is an insignificant country to my mind. It is true that proportional representation to some extent has been introduced in France and Germany but that proportional representation is based on political ideology. After the communist inroads and beginning of socialistic attitudes in those countries, it became necessary to give some sort of a representation to the political ideologies. That is why a certain amount of representation was given but nowhere in this world is proportional representation given to minorities, particularly on a

communal basis. Let us not think of any such thing that would create problems for this country.

I am not going into the details of the Bill itself, which he has very assiduously tried to place before us. I, from the very beginning, would say that this is pernicious and should not be tolerated at all.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack): I stand here to oppose the Motion, which has been moved by Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

At the outset, I should say, the Motion is not only misleading but it also bears the germ of disintegrating the society. The issue that has been raised today is nothing new. It has been debated 55 years ago. It was also debated in the early 1930s. A decision was arrived at in the Constituent Assembly when it was in Session. I think, it is time that before we all deliberate we should go into the details of how different ideas were formulated and decisions were taken.

The hon. Member who spoke earlier, Shri Anadi Sahu, has very rightly referred to the Constituent Assembly debates and also very rightly mentioned about Shri Kazi Syed Karimuddin, a Muslim Member from Central Province—Berar, where he had elaborately discussed about this aspect. I am sure, Shri Banatwalla must have gone through those debates.

This has been an idea which was floated not only by the Indians but I would say, this was the idea which was floated when India was a dominion by the British, when they started giving proportional representation on communal lines. But again in early thirties, proportional representation was advocated on caste basis. It was during that time, Mahatma Gandhi rose to the occasion and it ended in Poona Pact. There was a great agitation also by Mahatma Gandhi, which was called '*Harijan Andolan*' and it continued for more than six years. It was a social revolution to bring all those Scheduled Caste people into the Hindu fold. Late Shri B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi agreed upon which is known in history as the Poona Pact. We should not forget these aspects when we discuss about the proportional representation. The division of Indian society was effected during the British in the first half of 20th Century and the seed of mistrust was sown there which fructified in 1947 when a different State was conceived on purely communal lines—religious lines.

[Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab]

But India, as my previous speaker, Shri Kharabela Swain, has said, remained a free society. The founding fathers of our Constitution never thought that they should mention the word 'secular' into the Constitution. It was later in 1975 that this word was incorporated by Parliament. But from 1947 to 1950 and even from 1950 to 1975, nobody thought that this word is required because every body believed and practised that. But the baggage of past history was there and their experience, and that is the main reason why, irrespective of our beliefs on different ideologies, different political leaders thought that this Parliament and different Legislatures of different Provinces will be the true representatives of the society. That was the idea through which the Constitution was to be implemented.

Kazi Syed Karimuddin, of course, had mentioned one sentence:

"Evil of democracy is the tyranny of majority."

I also recollected and many hon. Members of this House may recollect the same words, 'tyranny of majority'. Shri Madhu Limaye again mentioned it in this House and later on when the Anti Defection Bill was being debated, the same coinage also was discussed in this very House. But we have accepted one thing, first past the post; and 'FPP' as it is commonly said that is the best-accepted democratic system of getting people elected. Which are the countries in this world, which have a functional democracy have the list system, proportional representation system? Germany and France, which have fought two World Wars and which were ravaged in the first part of the 20th Century, have accepted this system, as has been rightly said by my colleague, Shri Anadi Sahu for different political and ideological differences, not for religion and not on communal lines. That situation do not exist here in this country.

As far as South Africa is concerned, of course, the history is not very distant. Why have they a proportional representation? It is an African country, dominated for many years by Europeans, and that is the main reason why they have proportional representation. I need not mention about Losetho, which is very minuscule. Hardly you find a dot in the whole African Continent, if you have to identify Losetho.

But, I would come to the other aspect. We have bicameral system and the bicameral system can give actual representation to those people who do not get representation in a popular mandate and there the responsibility lies with the major political parties and

different political outfits and that is why it behoves on the part of political leaders of different political parties to get those people elected to the Upper House—both in the State Legislative Councils or to the Rajya Sabha.

Very frankly, today I would like to mention here that if at all there is any minority in this country, it is the intelligentsia who are in a minority. They do not get representation. They do not get chance to have their say. They are rarely heard at any other places other than writing some articles in different newspapers or discussion in the media.

16.36 hrs.

[SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV *in the Chair*]

In the law-making system, the intelligentsia are seldom consulted or they get chance to give their inputs. I would rather suggest that when that if we have a bicameral system, the responsibility lies with the political leaders of different, major political parties to see them get elected. I say 'seldom' and I am mentioning the word 'seldom' because invariably, at great length, certain corrections have been made though and very lately we have a very enlightened President, the hon. President of this country. At different times also this has been done though. But, at times, very different kind of people get elected to the Upper House and it is time that miniscule who should get represented do not get represented. For that, of course, the political parties are responsible. At the same time, I should say that the intelligentsia also keep away; they keep themselves aloof from the decision-making process for different other reasons.

Success of a democracy depends on the proper representation of the society. That is why I would suggest, through this House, to the different political parties that we should continue with the present system. But the major question which arises from this Bill is also to be addressed.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to an incident which had happened in Ireland and also in the United States of America. Of course, this was also mentioned in this House and also outside. In the late Sixties, a situation prevailed when a Party getting less than 50 per cent of the votes polled came to power and where the percentage of other parties, if their vote percentage is taken together, was much more sat in the opposition. Again in the Nineties a party getting minority vote comes to power and other parties, when their percentage taken together, getting majority of votes, sat

in the opposition. This is the position when we accept the first-past-the-post system. It so happened that today Ireland is divided into Northern Ireland and Ireland because of a flaw of this system because the minority view was not accepted by the party in power. That is the main reason why Ireland was divided and we have Catholic Ireland and Protestant Ireland which is still a sore point for British Isles.

When we go into the history, we should also understand that our country has tried, the political system as such has tried to give representation to different sections of the society. The Indian society has tried to give representation to different sections—be it weaker sections, oppressed sections or *Dalits* or tribals—whichever sections the Indian society belonged to.

Similarly, it is only in this country, because of the political system, that adequate representation is also being given to different leaders of different communities. I do not think that it is necessary that we should go in for list system nor is it necessary to do away with first-past-the-post system.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN KUMAR (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I express my gratitude for the time you have given me to speak on the discussion being held on the constitutional amendment. Initiating the discussion hon'ble Member Banatwalla Sahib submitted some points. I fail to understand as to why this constitutional amendment has been moved and what is its objective? The name of democracy was taken, the various communities of India were mentioned, the diversity of the country was cited and thereafter the period of history concerning the formulation of constitution was put forth, but nothing comes out from it. The constitution which has stood the test of time and in the history of the world, has provided strength to the country as a democratic system, I think, this amendment would have an adverse effect. I do not think that the integrity of the country would be strengthened by having a provision of separate voting right. Under the secular system of the constitution the temple of democracy has been got erected and in that Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Doctor Jakir Hussain and several such other greatmen have contributed and their contributions have been responsible for bringing the nation and the constitution to a meaningful place.

I don't think that the present context under which we are discussing upon will lead us to any meaningful contribution in the constitutional process and in the

democratic system of the country. This will create problems so for the country which has been brought upto here after fighting with various problems communal forces, and various other difficulties. Swain Sahib was just speaking that there are people of a particular mind set. This has neutralised all such people whether they belong to Hindu mind-set, Muslim mind-set or Christian mind-set. We look at the system which has been set-up here with a sense of respect. This society which is divided into communities, caste, sub-caste, religion and it's offshoots has successfully come to this stage by checking all these things. The hon'ble Member and Defence Minister of the country, Shri George Fernandes is sitting here.

The country has never felt that he belongs to the minority community. He often gets elected from such a constituency in Bihar where the question of any role of Christians does not arise. So the person possessing leadership quality for the country and the person who tackles the problems of the country is acceptable to this country. It appears to the frustrated people that there should be a separate voting system so that they could enter Parliament through shortcut. The system of bicameral Parliament has been provided in our country where persons of capability can make an entry. If by some reason they fail to make an entry in the Lok Sabha, they should get representation. For such people Legislative Councils and the Council of States (*Rajya Sabha*) exist where there place is got ensured. Therefore, through you, I would like to submit that this amendment is uncalled for and it has got no practical aspect. On behalf of my party I oppose this constitutional amendment.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I strongly oppose the constitutional amendment moved by Shri Banatwallaji. We all are Indians and Indian brothers and sisters. The constitution which was given to us by the constitution makers is sacred document for us. An amendment could be made in the constitution if required in the national interest of the country. It would be ridiculous for us if after 55 years of independence of the country we make a demand for a separate electoral system or proportionate representation system. It would be a suicidal step.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am unable to resist myself from telling a story which I remember. There were thousands of birds living on a big tree. A foolish man was going through that route. He had got a can of kerosene oil and a match box. He was blinded with foolishness. He poured the kerosene can on that tree and threw a lighted match stick. The tree caught fire. Thousands of bird living on

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

the tree began crying. Meanwhile a sensible man was crossing through that route. He saw that the tree had caught fire and was burning. He told the birds "Aag Lagi Is Ped Ko Jalne Lage Pat, Tum Kyon Jalte Pakheruo Pankh Tumhare Sath." Why are you getting burnt when you have got wings? The tree was burning. At that time a gritty patriot bird replied—"Fal Khai Is Ped Ke, Gande Kine Pat, Yehi Hamara Dharma Hai Jalne Isike Sath." I think, today that type of nationalism and patriotism is required. Hon'ble Banatwallaji is a very intelligent constitutional expert, a knowledgeable person and a very efficient parliamentarian. We respect him. But the kind of amendment he has moved, we thought that it would be a good amendment in the electoral system i.e. it will talk of checking muscle power or it will suggest reforms in the expensive electoral system or it will talk of restraining the increasing number of candidates in the elections. But seeing the jugglery of wards it appeared "Vish Kumbham Payo Mukham." Mr. Speaker, Sir, a Sanskrit philosopher has used these words to denote that the pitcher is full of venom but its mouth has been anointed with nectar. I had to read between the line to know the intention of this constitutional amendment and I feel sorry for quoting this saying. But no one can deny the fact which has been said here. No one can refute that there should be a good electoral system. The basic texture should also be such as may remove all inequality, nobody can deny it. But at present a mention has been made here in of the List System and the system of proportional representation having taken inspiration from precedents of Germany, France and South Africa. I would like to point out that the entire world have acknowledged that India is the biggest democracy of the world and the entire world has appreciated that the extent to which impartial, authentic and fair elections are held in India, are not held in any other country of the world. What sort of a drama during the election of George Bush was created in full view of the world during the counting of votes of the presidential election held recently even in a country like the U.S.A. It might have led to creating a suspicious situation. But here in our country we have so much clarity in our election and voting system which is having everybody's representation and reliable system we have the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha represented by all parties and communities. If somebody is worthy, he can contest the election and the peoples can elect him not withstanding his community or sect. All know that Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Dr. Zakir Hussain became the Presidents of India, there were Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Sahib and Mohammed Karim Chhagla or at present we have Shri Kalam Sahib who has ascended the highest post of the nation by virtue of his ability and enjoys respect of

all sections. It reminds us of the franchise system proposed by Zinnah against which Mahatma Gandhi had to go on fast unto death. When the demand for separate electorates for the Harijans was raised, Mahatma Gandhi had exposed the policy of 'divide and rule' adopted by the Britishers by observing fast unto death and in a way the idea of common electoral system for all was mooted at that time. I understand that this system is the most suitable for the country. I understand that now it does not look good to talk like that about our electoral or democratic system after 55 years of independence.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the whole world has taken note of the elections held recently in Kashmir. Muslims are in majority in the Kashmir valley, the other community is in majority in Jammu and yet another is predominant in Laddakh but the elections were held so efficiently and in such a systematic way and were so inclusive of all communities that the entire world has acknowledged it. Though, the terrorists might have tried to shoot the innocent people yet the people involved in conducting the elections rose to the occasion in the face of death and discharged their duty so excellently, by conducting elections which were appreciated by the whole world. I, therefore, like to quote the section mentioned herein with regard to the proportionate and the list system and which I have gone through. I would like to change it. Whatever he has stated that provisions should be made for the Schedule Castes and the Scheduled Tribes by the law in the Lok Sabha but there is already the provision for the SC's and STs. Wherever, there are sections of people too weak to be elected there is already the provision for them. Where they are in large number they already have Constitutional provisions for them but other weaker sections were also to be taken resort to. But, the spirit and the mentality behind whatever has been mentioned further for every minority community regarding the number whether it is muslims or christians is reprehensible in my view and I would like to submit to the House that the Constitution Amendment Bill presented by Shri Banatwallaji is unacceptable and it is no use raking the old issues. We are now required to strengthen the national as well as emotional unity of the country. At such point of time we should speak in one voice that from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Nagaland to Gujarat the entire country is one, we all are one and religion and community are secondary. Our national interest is supreme and above everything. With these words I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Banatwallaji is a senior Member of this House. He has presented a private Member's Bill to

amend the article 81 and 170 of the Constitution in support of which I have stood to speak.

Sir, it does not occur to me that he has brought in this Bill to disintegrate this country. I do not also feel that it is poisonous as Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat ji has alleged I think it is not a poison, it is a wave of national unity instead. The suggestion which has been put forth for providing representation to the weaker sections in the democracy should be supported. I know that Baba Saheb Ambedkarji had drafted the constitution of this country. Being chairman of the Draft Committee, he thought about the well being of the country and took care of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians alike. The democracy of our country sounds vibrant to the entire world because the communal forces cannot raise their heads here in spite of the fact that believers of various religions reside in this country. We visited Pakistan recently. We told the people in Pakistan that their country had seen military rule for 2-3 times but our democracy is so strong that there had never been any military rule despite of our country being a large country. We enjoy the freedom to carry out amendments in our constitution whenever desired. As Shri Banatwallaji has made some submissions regarding the need to provide representation to the minorities of the country, I do not think that he is talking of disintegrating the country. Muslims here, immensely love the country. The muslim population of Pakistan is 14 crore while in India there are 18 crore muslims. Sometimes, you commit mistakes. At some time you demolish the Babri Masjid and at the other do something else. Such things should not be done. Neither Babri Masjid, nor the church, nor temple should be demolished. India's position is so exalted that it is inhabited by people of all castes and religions. So, we protect them and it is a matter of pride for our country. I would like to tell such people only this much that the constitution has to be strengthened, the country has to be strengthened and the Hindus and the Muslims have to be strengthened. If you demolish a mosque a temple may also be demolished. If a mandir is demolished, then at some other time a Budh Vihar may also be demolished. We should not talk like this. That is not the issue today. Now, Shri Banatwalla ji has proposed that there should be 118 seats for the SCs and STs in the Lok Sabha. Baba Sahib Ambedkar had demanded a separate electorate. The Dalits would vote for the Dalit candidate in that constituency. The Dalits would also vote for the General candidate. It would mean that there would be one Dalit candidate and one general candidate and a Dalit would have the right to double franchise. We can be benefitted only when such an electoral system is in place.

With these words, I support the Bill brought in by Shri Banatwallaji and would like to add that the support of these people is also required if you want to move ahead. Otherwise, your apply cart is bound to turn after one year. ...*(Interruptions)* First, we shall turn your apple cart and later sit over that side. We have to say only this that the minorities are also required to be taken care of if you want to rule through secularism. You should not always harbour suspicion regarding the minorities.

17.00 hrs.

Sir, the Muslims of this country will remain here. They will not go anywhere leaving India. Christians, Buddhists and Sikhs of this country will remain here. They will not go anywhere leaving India. Therefore, we should live in unity and strengthen the country. We should strengthen our Constitution. I therefore, support the Constitution Amendment Bill brought in by Shri Banatwallaji. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister to accept this good Bill. He is one of our best friends. He should accept it. This is my submission.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN (Sangrur): Mr. Chairman, I thank you very much for allowing me to speak on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

Minorities always live in fear of being merged into the majority. Secondly, the minorities should be taken along and should not be expected to go along. This is the cardinal principle of all civilised societies where minorities live.

But to suspect the *Bona fides* of Shri Banatwalla because he has just brought forward this Bill is not fair and there can be no greater tyranny or terrorism on this Earth. Some hon. Members suspect the very motives for bringing forward this Constitution (Amendment) Bill. What does Mohammed Ali Jinnah have to do with this Bill? Why has his name been brought in? He was a great man for Muslims, as Nehru, Gandhi, Rajendra Prasad and Patel were for the Hindus and as Ambedkar for the dalits.

It is a fact of history that in 1947, there were three parties that were brought to the Round Table Conference for talks and to decide about the future Constitutional system of India. Mohammed Ali Jinnah led the Muslim League; the Hindu leaders like Gandhi, Nehru, etc. led the Congress Party and Ambedkar led the dalits. The third party was of the Sikhs who were led by Master

[Sardar Simranjit Singh Mann]

Tara Singh and Baldev Singh. Mohammed Ali Jannah, Gandhi and Nehru were very competent lawyers, having studied in England and they had got something for their communities. But the Sikhs, because of illiterate leadership, were left high and dry. So, to suspect the motives of minorities in asking for representation, is not fair.

Now, what would happen if the BJP came to power with a brutal majority? They would put in the *Hindutva* agenda. That would mean scrapping of article 370 of the Constitution and bringing in Uniform Civil Code. The minorities are not ready for all these changes. Why do they want to steam-roll the whole Constitution by a majority which may come into power? If they like the majority representation in Parliament, why is it unfair for the minorities to ask for a little representation? Can India split if there are more minorities in this Parliament? We have such a brutal majority that India cannot split on the basis of allowing minorities to have special representation or proportional representation. That is my firm view. More you trust the minorities, the greater will be the strength with which India will be built. But to distrust and mistrust the minorities, and also to impute motives to what Mr. Banatwalla says since he brought forward this Bill, I do not think, it is fair.

Hon. Members have given reasons saying that there had been Sikh Presidents and that there had been Muslim Presidents. We know that there had been Sikh and Muslim Presidents. We do not have to be reminded about that. But that is also window-dressing, Mr. Chairman. What powers does the President of India have? Could President Zail Singh prevent Mrs. Indira Gandhi from marching her forces into the Golden Temple and destroy the Hindu-Sikh amity that was built over the centuries?

We are still not satisfied or reconciled to the fact of what Shrimati Indira Gandhi did in 1984. Shri Zakir Hussain was the President of India. He wanted to introduce Urdu in UP. There is a Constitutional provision, I think in article 349, that if a certain minority wants a certain language, they can have it. But was Shri Zakir Hussain able to get Urdu recognised for the Muslims? Members have given the example of Shri George Fernandes being a Christian in the Union Cabinet. I have always respected Shri George Fernandes but I want to ask him—since as a Christian he is represented in the House—what could he do for the Christians when they were not allowed to hold meetings in Punjab during Shri Badal-BJP regime. What did Shri Fernandes do when the Pondicherry Church was brought down? What did he

do when nuns were being raped? What did he do to the Australian Missionary when he and his two sons were burnt alive?

So, Sir, minorities, when they come into power, are window-dressings. They cannot really assert themselves because they are there on a condition that they will go along with the majority. So, if you do have minorities represented in the Union Parliament, I think it will be good. We do not have any Sikh representative in the Supreme Court at present. We are not members of the Security Committee of the Union Cabinet. We have nothing to do with the Nuclear Command and Control System. The cardinal principle is that there shall be representation. When you elect Members, you give them participation. How can we defend India's policies when we are not members of the policy making?

You may just read today's *Times of India*. The Government has disallowed the Head of Amnesty International to come to India. Firstly, India has disallowed the Amnesty International, the International Society of Red Cross, UN rapporteur on torture to visit Gujarat, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir and now it has banned, not given a visa, to the Head of Amnesty International in London. She was just going to probe what happened in Gujarat, Punjab and in Kashmir.

The NDA Government says, its manifesto says, that it is going to have a transparent Government. What harm will come to it, if the Chief of Amnesty International is allowed to come into India? We just want transparency ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

AN HONOURABLE MEMBER: Army personnel are killed due to people like you.

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: The army personnel are not killed due to us. People like you receive bribes for the purchase of Kaffans and bofors guns. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you entangle with those things. Now please conclude.

[English]

SARDAR SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN: Let him not interrupt into this business of getting the soldiers killed, Sir, I am asking what power does the National Human Rights Commission has. The security forces and the armed forces are outside its purview. Its verdict, its

decision do not have the force of law. Just yesterday or day before yesterday the Supreme Court Chief Justice had given a suggestion that there should be a Uniform Civil Code. This is stealing the agenda of BJP and saying it through of the Supreme Court. What else is this? So, we, the minorities, want some representation. We feel that the heavens are not going to fall if we have a few more Members sitting in this Parliament and giving our point of view and stopping repression. Please do not suspect our motives or our patriotism when we ask for more seats. We are asking for our rights. If the majority over here denies us this opportunity, then let this thing go to a Commission. Let the Commission decide. But why do you suspect our motives when Shri Banatwalla has raised a very valid point. I congratulate Shri Banatwalla for his brave and intrepid stand because minorities are so subdued that they do not have the guts to bring a Bill of this nature into Parliament itself.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill which Shri Banatwalla has moved before this House has led to a very interesting debate on how democratic polity in India really is to function. Before opposing his suggestion, let me, first of all, recognise that even when for the last three to four decades a debate on the List System has gone on as a part of a larger debate on electoral reforms, one argument which is laudable, which has some merit in it and which has been given in favour of the List System is that the list system enables a more mathematical precession between the votes cast in favour of a political party and its representation in Parliament or in the State Assembly.

17.12 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

A disparity that with 37 per cent of the votes, you can have 65 per cent of the seats is something that the List System negates. Historically, all those who have been the champions of the cause of List System have recognised the merits of this argument which in effect means that every vote will carry the same weightage in the matter of selection of a Government. But as we have seen our democracy function, there are several arguments giants this also. This was one of the principal arguments in favour of the List System with which Shri Banatwalla started very eloquently when he opened the debate.

Sir, amongst the criticism of the List System—I must confess that I personally do subscribe to that criticism; when the Law Commission was in the process of formulating its proposal in this regard, I was then neither

in Parliament nor a Member of the Government; I had even at that stage sent this suggestion to the Law Commission, which is one of the essential aspects of a List System—even if part of Parliament is to be elected by a List System—would be to completely reduce and eventually eliminate the impact of the leadership of the candidates in their constituencies and overwhelmingly increase the role of the patronage of the political parties. The political parties will have to decide the list of candidates and in proportion to the number of votes which are cast in favour of the political party, they would have a right to nominate those many candidates. Now, immediate impact of this would be, the creation of leadership which is essential in a democracy at the level of grassroots—which is the constituency—would be completely eliminated and rather than be in constituencies, in order to become elected representatives, you will have a large number of leaders moving in Lutyens' Delhi, around the houses of leaders, and the offices of the political parties so that they can find a place within the list that the party is going to nominate. Therefore the decimation of the creation of a leadership at the level of constituencies—which is vital to a democracy like India and which is a volatile and a very active democracy—would be a great disadvantage which a List System could do as far as our democracy is concerned.

The second disadvantage of a List System would be that there would be a considerable gap between the constituents and the constituency on the one hand and the Government on the other. After all, whether it is an MLA or a Member of Parliament, he/she has to get elected from a constituency; he/she serves the constituency; he/she makes sure that the schemes of the Government are implemented in his/her constituency; he/she voices the grievances of his/her constituency in the House of which he/she is a Member and not only has he/she to be active in New Delhi or in the State Capital or in the House; but he/she also has to be a link between his/her constituents and the Government. Now, the moment there is a dis-connect between the constituency and the elected representative—because an elected representative does not have to seek votes for his/her own performance from the constituency, his/her party has to seek votes, whichever party gets votes on whatever considerations—he/she has to make sure that he/she carries enough favour either in New Delhi or in the State Capital to be a part of the List System. So, there would be a gap created between the Members of the House and the constituency itself.

Sir, the third disadvantage of this system would be—that is the kind of a churning out in Indian democracy

[Shri Arun Jaitley]

we are seeing; we may use phrases such as social representation and composition of the society which takes care of various caste interests, various social and religious interest—that there has been an increased tendency, which has been witnessed, to have the creation of political parties which have a certain social constituency as their support base and therefore when you seek votes in the name of that particular political party rather than the candidate, there would be some increased tendency for a further bifurcation in the polity. The creation of such political parties that would have sectional appeal and therefore, an appeal to have a particular section or a combination of those sections could then be created. That is one of the social realities of Indian polity. The immediate impact of this would be that you would have a further bifurcation in the polity. Not only would bifurcation in the polity take place, you would have a large number of small groups of political parties that would come into existence. The impact of this—one may argue that they answer the aspirations of the people—would be to bring in a great amount of instability as far as the polity is concerned. Instability in a country like India would not only hurt governance, but it is also capable of putting back the ideological issues into the background, the programmes into the background and promoting those sectional appeals which these new generation political parties in this particular system would try and create. It is for this reason—even though we had discussions with regard to the merits of the List system, which I admittedly conceded that the List System has one advantage essentially that it is capable of bringing an arithmetic precision Parliament; as against this there would be several factors that would be detrimental and from the nature of the debate in the House also it is clear that there does not seem to be any consensus on this particular issue—I would express the inability of the Government today to agree to a proposal of this kind.

Sir, as far as reservations based on religious lines is concerned, let me first of all rebut one criticism which was made by the last speaker. We have had social tensions in India. But we also have a very powerful civil society in India which is quite capable of emerging out of this tension and finding a political answer to these tensions itself. I was a little surprised when it was mentioned that when Gandhiji and Pandit Nehru went for the Round Table Conference, they went as representatives of a religious denomination. One may agree or disagree with that but this country as a whole would rebut any suggestion of this kind that they went to the Round Table Conference as representatives of any particular religious group. They went representing India's national interest

for the cause of our freedom and therefore, any suggestion, as was made by Shri Mann, that they went as representatives of a religious group, has to be completely rebutted.

We have had cases, as some of the Members pointed out, where there have been some unfair treatment or even atrocities in a given case on the members of a particular religious community. We are ashamed of them. We have also had such cases where communities, which may even be majority communities, have also suffered. We have had cases where two of our former Prime Ministers have been assassinated. We have had cases where the members of the majority community were brought down from buses and shot *en mass* after segregating them from others. We have had cases where from one State a particular community has almost been driven out because of the situation that exists in that State. But this society, because of its inherent strength and the kind of sovereignty and integrity that exists in India, because of the power of the civil society in India, has the capacity to live with each of these crises to eventually put them into the background and then finally bring this country together. As a result of it, we do not turn back and say that because such unfortunate incidents have taken place, whether against the minority or the majority community, we must think in terms of this country disintegrating. That has never been the entire spirit. Our elected representatives who represent constituencies on the basis of their secular character and not on the basis of the reserved character as far as religious denominations are concerned, actually function on this basis.

Speaking for myself, I see a danger—and I am not attributing any motive as this is an honest and intellectual debate which has been going on—if we start having constituencies reserved on religious denomination. Today when a Member of Parliament belonging to any religious denomination formulates his stand, his party's stand, when he speaks within his party on what the stand of his party is going to be, when he speaks in this House, when he functions in his constituency, he knows fully well that he has to go back to his constituency and he knows that he has to get the votes of his constituents who may be belonging to any particular religion. His stand is driven by this market place reality of the Indian democracy because he is accountable to his constituency. He is concerned with regard to minority in his constituency, he is concerned with regard to the majority in his constituency, he is concerned with regard to the weaker sections in his constituency. So, his stand is tailored accordingly. That is the strength of India's democracy. His stand is determined by the market place reality of Indian politics.

If we start constituencies reserved on religious considerations where only one religious denomination can contest, we may well be leading for a situation where two, three or more candidates of a religious constituent knowing fully well that nobody else can contest here, will then attempt to contest as to who can speak a language which will please that particular constituent the most because he knows that nobody else with a different ideology, with a different attitude is going to come into it. Therefore, in the present system, our Members of Parliament have always tailored their personalities, their ideological stand, their constituency performance, their stand within their political party, keeping the composite character of their constituencies in mind. If we destroy that and instead convert into a situation where constituencies are reserved on religious ground, perhaps this kind of a healthy functioning that we have seen in the last over five decades may cease to exist. Therefore, I do believe and I think there is a larger consensus in this House, that to think in terms of reserving them on religious consideration is perhaps not the answer. The answer would be, we would like to see people from all religious denominations representation in this House.

In fact, one of the strengths of this House is, when the last hon. Member was speaking, I could see the sense of the House that most of us were in disagreement with him, we all heard him in rapt attention because we do permit in our legislative process even such views to go through. We do not stop them. This is one of the strengths of our democracy. Therefore, we would like to see representatives of all religious groups come into this House. To come to this House, they will have to play the basic rule of Indian democracy. You will not have to think of one religious denomination. You will have to think of different groups within your constituency. It is this kind of politics that the present system seeks to encourage. I do see that there is no reason why we should think in terms of changing this system and go in for religious constituencies.

For this reason, I would appeal to Shri Banatwalla to consider withdrawing his Bill.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Canara): But this was the recommendation of the Dinesh Goswami Committee which was set up by the Government.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): I am thankful to all the hon. Members who have participated in this debate on my Bill. I am also thankful to the hon. Minister for his very illuminating intervention and observations. Indeed, we have set in motion a very good dialogue on

the electoral system suited for our country. Electoral reforms are a continuing process.

Now, there was an accusation from an hon. Member that they had expected Banatwalla's Bill to address the question of money power in the elections, that it will address the question of muscle power in the elections and it will address so many other problems. Yes, these problems are there. We are much concerned about them and the electoral reforms have to take stock of those situations. But here is a Bill with a particular objective with respect to our electoral system.

There has been, I am afraid, a lot of confusion about my Bill. The hon. Minister has very clearly understood the Bill. I may reiterate and clarify that the Bill has two distinct parts, as was very eloquently brought out by the hon. Minister to whom I am grateful on this point.

One part of the bill deals with List System. It is the other distinct part which deals with the question of reservation for the minorities. Take up the question of the List System first. We have been asking for proportional representation or the List System. We have been asking for this for the past several decades, since Independence of our country. The Law Commission has also recommended this system. In its 170th Report, the Law Commission has dealt with the various objections which can be raised against the List System. Some of the were enumerated by the learned Law Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley and discussed by the Law Commission in its 170th Report. If I take them up and start rebutting the criticism levelled against the List System, it will be a mere repetition of what the Law Commission has already said in its 170th Report.

I will draw the attention of the House to a study of the 170th Report of the Law Commission. For example, it is said that the relation between the elected representative and the constituency is snapped under the List System. But, it is for this particular purpose that my Bill and also the 170th Report of the Law Commission suggested a mixture of the system that the present strength of the Parliament and the Legislatures be elected under the present system.

But in order to reduce the dis-proportionality which is the inherent weakness of our representative democracy, the Law Commission and also my Bill suggested that in addition to this, a particular percentage of additional Members will come to the legislatures under the List System.

[Shri G.M. Banatwalla]

Sir, a very important point comes up. A person elected from a particular Constituency may be a very high person in the governance. He may even be the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister or a Minister. With the loaves of that Office, he tries to nurse the constituency. This is a great disadvantage, this is an unfair competition. The Law Commission has referred to all these things at page 72. At page 72 of its 170th Report, the Law Commission says:

"It is indeed a case of misuse of authority and public money. It is not a good idea that one particular constituency should be rewarded unduly merely because the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister happens to contest from that constituency."

Sir, a detailed discussion is there in the Law Commission Report on all these aspects. It was for this purpose that the Law Commission came forward also to endorse the idea of the List System.

Now, I will have to remind our friends in the ruling party, especially the BJP friends, of an important thing. Before coming to power, it was the demand of the BJP to bring the List System in our country. It was before coming to power. I have had the opportunity, honour and the privilege of participating in the Leaders meeting, meetings called by the then Prime Minister or the Election Commission at different levels. I have heard very eloquent defence of the List System and the demand that the system of proportional representation be adopted, from no less a person than Shri L.K. Advani, who is the Deputy Prime Minister at present. I find that today the BJP is repudiating the thoughts presented all these years by Shri L.K. Advani, the present Deputy Prime Minister. I do not want to go into the views and thoughts of Shri L.K. Advani. I should be happy that even the BJP Members who have spoken today have repudiated this personality. I should be happy because I consider that it is a misfortune for the largest democracy which our country is to have a Home Minister or a Deputy Prime Minister who stands accused before the court for a heinous crime of the demolition of the *Babri Masjid*. I will, therefore, be happy if the BJP today comes forward and their eloquent Members come forward to repudiate the advocacy that was being made by the BJP for the adoption of the proportional system.

17.34 hrs.

[DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY *in the Chair*]

If certain reservations were coming, they were, perhaps, coming from the then ruling parties. However, what I am saying at present is not to enter into an encounter. I express my happiness that an intellectual debate should take place; a very good dialogue should take place on the present deficiencies of our electoral system so that we can come forward with solutions. Let us not dismiss the recommendations made by the Law Commission and others in such a fashion. Let us study them further.

I am thankful to the hon. Law Minister that he has conceded that there are certain advantages in the List System. He has brought out certain difficulties with the List System, namely, the proliferation of the political parties, the instability in the governance as a result of the multiplicity of political parties and so on and so forth. I have already dealt with these matters while moving the Motion. Today, my disadvantage is that my speech got divided into two parts. A part of the speech was made while moving the Motion in the last Session. then so much inter-Session time passed. Today, I had listed the other part. I am sure, *Insha Allah*, wiser counsel will prevail and it will be seen in proper perspective. I have pointed out the experiments of other countries. I have pointed out the experiments of Germany, of France, of the Scandinavian countries and various others. I am sure, this will be studied and the parties will remember that it is not good, it is not fair and it is a betrayal of the nation to take one stand before coming to power and take another stand after coming to power.

This was one aspect of my Bill covered by the recommendations of the Law Commission in its 170th Report. I must say that it is with all sincerity that I come to this House with this particular Bill. I am left with no doubt in my mind that, *Insha Allah*, the system as suggested in my Bill will lead to strengthening of national unity and consolidation which is the need not only of the hour but it also will remain the need for ever.

It is with this honest intention that I come to the second part of my Bill. It is the second distinct part of my Bill which says that the minorities be given certain reservations. I hope the hon. Minister has a little bit confused himself about the provision that I have suggested. He has confused the point of reservation of minorities with the question of separate electorates by advancing his various arguments. The various arguments

that he has advanced—though faulty they are—may be with respect to the separate electorates. I will support even the separate electorate system and say that it will go towards furthering the national unity. But then that is not the point. At present I have been talking of the reservation. I welcome the noble sentiments expressed by the hon. Law Minister that they want the various classes and all the sections of our society to get representation in the House.

This is a noble sentiment. I welcome it but then I would like to say that we have to find out a way to see that proper representation is given to all the various section of our society including the Minorities, the Other Backward Classes, the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes and so on and so forth.

Sir, if we get reservation and if we come here, where do we come? We come to our own House, we come to our own brethren. If we have certain grievances, where do we go to present them? We present them in our own National Assembly. We present them before our own brethren. If we are not to present them here, where should we go to present our grievances, if any? Why, therefore, is this stubborn attitude that "no, they will be thrown out of the mainstream by the operation of the present electoral system"? I am asking for the Minorities not to be debarred from the mainstream. *...(Interruptions)* What is the harm if a few more persons belonging to the Minorities come before you? If it is not before you, before whom can we go? I have figures which show that the representation of Muslims in the Lok Sabha from several States is 'nil'. This is leading to frustration and this frustration should not be allowed to accumulate.

Sir, I have referred to a number of social scientists and they have all said that there are several devices and mechanisms in order to resolve the conflicting and competing claims of the various sections and that these devices are a means to strengthening our democracy.

Sir, I am happy that a discussion has taken place today. I am sure that with such a dialogue there would be light-bearing and fruit-bearing results. I am sure that this House would consider and ponder over the realities of the situation and, therefore, in order that this process of dialogue continues, in order that the process of electoral reforms that are urgently needed, including what has been suggested by me in this Bill, continues, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw the Bill. I seek this leave not because I am influenced by certain irrelevant and prejudicial remarks that have been made over here. But I hope that better counsel will prevail upon them. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you disturbing?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara): Sir, Let there be voting on the Bill. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is going to withdraw the Bill. Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Banatwalla, are you going to withdraw this Bill?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Sir, I am explaining why I am seeking leave of the House to withdraw the Bill. I do it with the hope that in future this dialogue will continue and better counsel will prevail and the realities of the situation will be felt. The time is not far off, I am sure, when according to the principles of my Bill, the ruling party, whoever they may be, will come forward for their adoption.

With this hope, I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: I withdraw the Bill with the remarks I have made.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, item No. 26, Shri Vilas Mutterwar. He is not present. Item No. 27. Shri Ramdas Athawale.

17.47 hrs.

SLUMS AND JHUGGI-JHOPRI AREAS (BASIC AMENITIES AND CLEARANCE) BILL, 2001

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that:

"the bill to provide for the basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health facilities in

[Shri Ramdas Athawale]

slums and jhuggi jhopri clusters and for the clearance of such areas in larger public interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration?

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on this issue. Poverty is increasing in the country. If we did not try to prohibit it then slums will be increasing in the cities this way. 56 years of independence is going to be completed on 15th August but still many of the people are facing poverty. Whatever Government comes in power, talks about alleviating poverty but poverty is not being alleviated. Economic equality is talked about. Baba Saheb Ambedkar presented the constitution to the country and talked about bringing economic equality but still no efforts were made in this regard. Today still many people are facing poverty and poverty is increasing day by day. According to Government data 26 per cent people are living below poverty line. We see that more than 40 per cent people are living below to poverty line. Due to this slums in the city are increasing. Today there are no employment opportunities in the villages. Land is there but there is want of rains. Due to this village farmers are underfed. The people having 10-20 or 40-50 acres of land, are also not in good condition because their land is not irrigated land. Today several people come to city for employment, they come to Mumbai, Delhi, Calcutta, Chennai for employment. They also go to other cities like Lucknow etc.. That is why population of the cities is increasing. The village is come to seek a job in city's municipality. They work there where development work of city is going on. The contractors take these people to cities and engage them in difficult work. They are neither provided any room to live in nor given any shelter. However, they settle either in the land of Central Government, State Government, municipality, airport authority, railway or private land and make their houses in slums. The municipality is required to look after them but neither power, water, sanitation nor lavatory facilities are available in those slums. When it is difficult to construct a road, the Government says that encroachment has been made on this land but during elections the politicians depend on the votes of these slum dwellers. When the Government is formed then it is said that they are living there illegally. The Government makes efforts to remove them from there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has regularised slums constructed upto 1.1.1995. I met the Chief Minister to know what will be done with the people who have come after 1995. Would you proceed to demolish their hutments and remove them forcefully. They are also citizens of the country. They have a right

to live. Efforts should be made to rehabilitate them. The Government should give them legal protection. I have put up a demand that the hutments of the people who have cast vote in the general elections and assembly elections of 1999 should be regularized. There is a scheme of 2.5 in Mumbai. Slum builders develop the slums. It is my demand that people should be given 400 square feet instead of 225 square feet. The poor, dalits, tribals, muslims, Hindus all come to cities. Efforts are being made to harass such poor persons.

Mr. Chairman, Sir irrespective of the party forming the Government, the Municipality should make efforts to rehabilitate them. In Mumbai slums have been removed from the land belonging to forest department. Thousands of hutments have been removed. It is my request to the Union Government that the poor who are living on such land should not be removed. We all should make efforts so that justice is meted out to people living in slums.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I suggest that industries should be set up in villages so that people may get employment in village itself and there is no migration from villages. Every family should be given five acres of land so that they can build their houses and earn their bread and live in the rural areas and do not migrate to the urban areas. People live in very difficult conditions in slums. There is a slum named Dharavi in Mumbai. The *chawls* there measure 10x10 and 8x8, the lanes are narrow and the conditions are such that people are generally sick with various diseases. People over there are very poor. People residing in slums should be rehabilitated properly. There are around 7-8 lakh people who live in slums in Mumbai. Most of them come from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. More than 55 per cent people are Marathi. We had suggested that legally we cannot accommodate those who have come from outside. A floating population from Maharashtra come to Delhi, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, we just can't accommodate them. We can't check their arrival on some legitimate ground, but we shall hold talks with Delhi Govt. We will also talk to Ataljee, we will let them know that a substantial amount of money is drained from Mumbai, hence, we should grant a sum of Rs. One thousand crore every year for the development of slums. We shall also hold talks with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. A large number of people are coming to Mumbai from this side, if they can be employed there, they must be offered an opportunity for employment. I am of the view that we need to ponder over the issue of slums in a serious way. There are many slums in Delhi. As in Mumbai, we have prepared schemes for slums in the same manner, schemes for the construction of buildings need to be made in Delhi also. Mere eviction of slums

won't serve the purpose. The ruling party which tries to remove the slum-dwellers is thrown out of power by them. Therefore, what we need is to provide them protection. We need to think about them. I have moved a motion in this House which demands for more and more facilities for them and I firmly believe that the elections will be held after a year therefore the Govt. should take a decision in favour of slum-dwellers, not just that, there is also an urgent need to give them protection legally. It's not good for them these slums are illegal. They are also the citizens of this country and every time, getting a go-ahead from the court they are forced by the officers for eviction. It's unfair to evict them like this. They have also been guaranteed bread, clothing and housing in the Constitution of India. It is their Constitutional right. The right to education should also go to them. If we do not provide them with all such things, they build their houses wherever the area of land is vacant. Therefore, they should be given protection.

I have introduced this Bill on these specific demands in the House. They should be enabled to find access to potable water, there is a need to provide them healthcare facilities. Arrangements should be made to provide them with the facility of electric-supply as they live in the dark. We will discuss on all these issues in the House. Other Honourable Members will also place their suggestions in the House and Hon'ble Minister will reply to them. All of you will support but we have two and a half minute before the house is adjourned and I don't think that you will be able to extend your support in such a little time. Your speech should be effective. We need to seriously think over the plight of slum dwellers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, poverty is on the rise even after 56 years of Independence. We should alleviate poverty and should reconsider the criterion fixed for the people falling within the purview of below poverty line. We should bring them above the poverty line. There should be an arrangement that a provision should be made in the Union Budget for the upliftment of the poor. On the contrary, our budget is making the rich, richer. Hence all of us should take pains for upliftment of the poor. I hope, justice will be done to those living in slum-areas. It is my belief and you too will forward suggestions for the same. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the basic minimum amenities of water, electricity, sanitation and health

facilities in slums and Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters and for the clearance of such areas in larger public interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Ramdas Athawale has introduced a bill for the upliftment of the poor living in Jhuggi-Jhopri. There are JJ Clusters in all the major cities of the country and the poor live in these areas. In 1912, the population of Delhi was 4 lakh people when it became the capital of the country. Today, the population of Delhi is 1 crore 44 lakh people. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) Mr. Chairman, Sir, both the Members are speaking from that side. One Member each from the treasury benches and the opposition should be allowed to express his views turn by turn.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: What will you speak on the issue of 'Jhuggi Jhopri'? It is a question of poor people. What will you speak on this issue?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: You do not know, I am more poor than you. You can get it probed by Mr. Chairman.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: You are a poor man, but the party you belong is against the poor.

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Our Party is protecting the interests of the poor people.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: Of which people?

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: It is protecting the interests of the poor people.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH: The population increased, the population of every city increased manifold. What is the reason behind it? It should be probed as to why the population of these cities is increasing speedily and the people are getting attracted towards the cities.

18.00 hrs.

The people are not getting work in the villages. Poverty is the main reason for the migration of poor and hard working people from rural to urban areas. The people

[Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh]

migrating in the cities do not get work. The unemployed and under-employed people do the work on daily wages basis and they get less wages. This is the reason that hard working people are migrating from villages to the cities. they earn Rs. 1000-1500/-per month in the cities. Where will they live in the cities? The rent of the houses in the cities is higher than their wages. As a result of which they are residing on the Government land lying vacant. They make their jhuggi-jhopri with the help of plastic, kharpet or iron sheet and protect themselves from the sunshine and rain. Those people who have constructed places in Delhi and other major cities, do not have their own houses to live in. If they had, would they live in jhuggi jhopri? Sir, under the convenorship of Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, a famous poet of the country, a 'Kavi Samelan' was organised in Delhi. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was also present in that 'Kavi Sammelan.' Poet Gopal Singh Nepali recited a poem in that Samelan. The first line of his poem was—"Jab Chandra Kiran Se Mahelo Ki Divar Chamakti Rahti Hai, Chandi Jhopri Me lipet lipetkar Raatbhar Sisakti Rahti Hai." What message the poem conveyed? It conveyed a message that there is full moon night, when the moon light falls

on the huge building like Le Meredian, which is situated near my residence, it seems that a different type of light is sprouting out of it. All the huge buildings shine in the moon light, but the same moon light is also going in the hut. Moon light is sobbing there.

There is no arrangement for drinking water, toilet and light. The poor are spending their lives in the jhuggi jhopri.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Raghuvansh ji, when we will take up this issue again, you can continue your speech at that time.

[English]

The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 28th July, 2003 at 11 a.m.

18.03 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, July 28, 2003/Sravan 6, 1925 (Saka).

© 2003 BY LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha
(Tenth Edition) and Printed by M/s. Jainco Art India, New Delhi.
