

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Sixth Session
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

11.02 hrs.

Friday, April 20, 2001/Chaitra 30, 1923 (Saka)

*The Members then stood in silence
for a short while.*

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our esteemed former colleagues, Shri P. Kolandaivelu.

Shri P. Kolandaivelu was a Member of Eighth Lok Sabha from 1984 to 1989 representing Gobichettipalayam Parliamentary Constituency of Tamil Nadu.

Earlier, Shri Kolandaivelu was a Member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly from 1977 to 1980 and from 1980 to 1984. He also served with distinction as Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation from 1977 to 1980 and Rural Development and Local Administration from 1980 to 1984 in Tamil Nadu.

An active Parliamentarian, Shri Kolandaivelu served as a Member of various Parliamentary Committees and was also Chairman of public Accounts Committee during 1989-90.

A keen political and social worker, Shri Kolandaivelu was associated with Bhodan Movement.

A lawyer by profession, Shri Kolandaivelu was also the Special Representative for Tamil Nadu in New Delhi from 1993 to 1995.

Shri P. Kolandaivalu died in a road accident at Pollachi, Coimbatore on 12th April, 2001 at the age of 63.

We deeply mourn the loss of this friend and I am sure, the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed soul.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Bangladesh has attacked India . . . (Interruptions). There is no submission on behalf of the Government. There should be one . . . (Interruptions). The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present here.... (Interruptions) There people are creating pandemonium in the House on Tehelka issue . . . (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, you can raise it after Question Hour.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I had raised this issue two days ago also . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Mohan Rawale, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh also has given a notice to suspend Question Hour. The Speaker has disallowed it. Let us have Question Hour and you can raise it later on.

Now Q.No. 481, Shri Mansinh Patel not present. Shri Shivaji Mane.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have given a Notice. Our soldiers are being killed in Bangladesh . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Speaker has disallowed your Notice . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You may raise your issue in Zero Hour which will take place after the Question Hour.

Mr. Speaker has taken a decision in this regard, I won't allow you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : I will raise the JPC issue during the Zero Hour . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will get an opportunity during Zero Hour.

(Interruptions)

11.05 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

New Guidelines to Control Bourses

+

*481. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE:

SHRI MANSINH PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the wake of stock market crash and payment crisis in the Mumbai and Calcutta Stock exchanges, SEBI issued a set of new guidelines to control bourses and ensure that payments were settled immediately;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines so issued;

(c) whether the guidelines so issued have shown any positive results in the stock market and how these measures are different from the measures taken earlier; and

(d) the further steps being taken by SEBI to avoid such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that in order to ensure safety of the stock markets and timely completion of settlements SEBI has taken several measures which are given below:

- All the scrips in Modified Carry Forward System (MCFS) Automated Lending and Borrowing Mechanism (ALBM) and Borrowing and Lending securities scheme (BLESS) will attract additional margin of 10% on end of the day net outstanding sale position. This was increased to 25% with effect from 12th March, 2001.
- No exemption would be allowed in the

applicability of volatility margin to any class of investors and that the volatility margins would be applicable to sale positions of financial institutions, foreign institutional investors and mutual funds which up till now had not been subjected to any margins.

- The threshold limit of volatility margins was reduced from 80% to 60% so as to bring more scrips under the ambit of the volatility margin.
- All sales transactions effective from March 8, 2001 shall be backed by delivery unless a sale transaction is preceded by a purchase position of at least an equivalent amount in the name of the same client in the same or any other exchange. This will also apply to the proprietary trading by members. This will be on a self-certification basis and would be subject to exchange's off-site inspection up to sub-broker and client level. The exchanges would share information to facilitate the verification. It would be applicable to scrips in the MCFS and BLESS and other deferral products.
- The current margining system will be moved to the var scrip-wise model from July 01, 2001.
- The broker-wise end of the day outstanding position (aggregate of all securities) of a member on any stock exchange other than the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE)/ National Stock Exchange (NSE) shall not exceed Rs. fifty crore with effect from 12th march, 2001. The BSE and NSE have been excluded from the purview of this stipulation in view of the size of their trade and settlement guarantee funds.
- The gross exposure limit for the members of stock exchanges was reduced to 10 times of the base capital and the additional base capital in the case of NSE and to 15 times for other stock exchanges with effect from 12th March, 2001.
- Stock exchanges were permitted to use the settlement guarantee fund maintained by them for meeting the shortages arising out of the non-fulfillment/partial fulfillment of the funds obligations by the members in the settlement before declaring the concerned member defaulter. This is in line with the practice followed by NSE and it is also in accordance with the international practice.

In the context of price movements during late February and early March, 2001, there were apprehensions of possibility of distortion of price discovery by certain entities. On account of indications of prima facie involvement of entities relating to Ketan Parekh Group, in price manipulation of certain scrips, SEBI has debarred on 4th April and 11th April, 2001, these entities from undertaking fresh business activities as intermediaries either as brokers or as merchant bankers. Subsequently, on April 18th 2001, pursuant to the preliminary investigation into market manipulation, SEBI has also debarred certain entities relating to Nirmal Bang Group, Shanker Sharma and Devina Mehra Group and Credit Suisse First Boston (I) Securities Pvt. Ltd., from undertaking fresh business activities as intermediaries either as brokers/sub-brokers or as merchant bankers. Palombe Securities Pvt. Ltd., an unregistered sub-broker, has been debarred from dealing in securities market.

(c) and (d) According to SEBI the pay-ins and pay-outs of the recently concluded settlements on all the stock exchanges have taken place on time as a consequence of the above steps taken by SEBI. Further, Government has announced the following measures to improve institutional mechanisms and trading practices in the stock markets:

- (i) demutualisation of stock exchanges by which ownership, management, and trading membership would be segregated from each other. This would help towards:
 - further professionalisation of the management of the exchanges and elimination of conflict of interests;
 - improving adherence to the best practices of corporate governance;
 - enhancing the ability of stock exchanges to raise funds from the market to modernise the exchanges and provide better investor service.
- (ii) extension of rolling settlement to 200 category "A" stocks in Modified Carry Forward Scheme, Automated Lending and Borrowing Mechanism and Borrowing and Lending Securities Scheme by July, 2001. Following this, SEBI has directed all stock exchanges as follows:

- All scrips which are included in the ALBM/ BLESS/MCFS in a stock exchange will be traded only in the compulsory rolling settlement on a nationwide basis i.e. on all stock exchanges from July 2, 2001.
- * In addition, if there is any scrip which is included in the BSE 200 list, but not covered by the above list, will also be included in the compulsory rolling settlement on a nationwide basis.
- * Stock exchanges will have to develop software (if necessary), create suitable infrastructure for the same before July 2, 2001, if the stock exchange wants the scrips to be traded on their exchanges other than on spot basis.

- (iii) Proposing legislative changes in the SEBI Act, 1992 to appropriately strengthen SEBI.

Stock Market Crash

*486. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether soon after the presentation of budget by the Finance Minister there was crash of stock market in various stock exchanges;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, stock exchange-wise;
- (c) the reasons for the crash and the details of inquiry instituted by the Government in this regard;
- (d) whether several investigating agencies like IT, Revenue Intelligence, Enforcement Directorate and CBI have raided the residences of several stock brokers in various parts of the country;
- (e) if so, the details of document, jewellery, property deals etc., unearthed from these stock-brokers, stock-broker-wise;
- (f) whether the Government have initiated several measures to streamline the working of stock-exchanges; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) to (g) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) On 27th February, 2001 i.e., pre-budget, the BSE Sensex closed at 4069.68 NSF Nifty closed at 1295.55 and the CSE Fifty index closed at 128.94. Thereafter, the movement of the BSF Sensex, Nifty and the CSE Fifty was as follows:

DATE	SENSEX Close Value	NSE NIFTY Close Value	CSE INDEX Close Value
27-Feb-01	4069.68	1295.55	128.94
28-Feb-01	4247.04	1351.40	132.95
01-Mar-01	4271.65	1358.05	137.05
02-Mar-01	4095.16	1306.35	133.92
05-Mar-01	3998.12	1271.45	130.50
07-Mar-01	4046.89	1290.50	130.61
08-Mar-01	4056.94	1292.85	132.03
09-Mar-01	3881.96	1254.75	129.40
12-Mar-01	3767.89	1197.95	125.23
13-Mar-01	3540.65	1124.70	117.60

As can be seen there was a substantial fall on 2.3.2001 and thereafter the downward trend continued.

(c) In the context of market movements in late February and early March there were apprehensions about stock price manipulation by certain entities. SEBI has submitted a preliminary report in this regard to the Ministry of Finance on April 15, 2001.

(d) and (e) The Central Board of Direct Taxes has intimated that search actions were conducted on 23.3.2001 at the business and residential premises of the following brokers:-

1. Ketan Parekh 2. Nirmal Bang 3. Anand Rathii 4. Rakesh Jhunjunwala 5. Shanker Sharma 6. R.S. Damani

The details of seizures in consequence of search operations are mentioned as under:-

Unexplained Cash

1. Ketan Parekh	Rs. 0.60 lakh
2. Rakesh Jhunjunwala	Rs. 9.50 lakh
3. R.S. Damani	Rs. 3.00 lakh

Jewellery

Anand Rathii	Rs. 6.38 lakh
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Other assets : Shares

Anand Rathii	Rs.14.77 lakh
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Apart from the above, some incriminating documents have also been seized.

The Central Bureau of Investigation has intimated that on the basis of a specific complaint from the Chief Vigilance Officer, Bank of India Mumbai, a cash RC, 3/E/2001-BSFC/MUM was registered against Ketan Parekh and 10 others for defrauding Bank of India, Stock Exchange Branch, Mumbai of the tune of Rs. 137 crore by using the pay orders of Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd. Mandvi Branch, Mumbai. Searches were conducted at the official and residential premises of Ketan Parekh and associate firms in Mumbai. Several incriminating documents pertaining to the case were seized. No cash or Jewellery was seized.

(f) and (g) Government has announced the following measures to improve institutional mechanisms and trading practices in the stock markets;

- (i) demutualisation of stock exchanges by which ownership, management, and trading membership would be segregated from each other. This would help towards:
 - further professionalisation of the management of the exchanges and elimination of conflict of interests;
 - improving adherence to the best practices of Corporate Governance;
 - enhancing the ability of stock exchanges to raise funds from the market to modernise the exchanges and provide better investor service.

- (ii) extension of rolling settlement to 200 category "A" stocks in Modified Carry Forward Scheme, Automated Lending and Borrowing Mechanism and Borrowing and Lending Securities Scheme by July, 2001. Following this, SEBI has directed all stock exchanges as follows:

- All scrips which are included in the ALBM/ BLESS/MCFS in a stock exchange will be traded only in the compulsory rolling settlement on a nationwide basis i.e on all stock exchanges from July 2, 2001.
- In addition, if there is any scrip which is included in the BSE 200 list, but not covered by the above list, will also be included in the compulsory rolling settlement on a nationwide basis.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Q. Nos. 481 and 486 are similar Questions. Shri Raghunath Jha has asked the similar Question. So, I am clubbing both the Questions together.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what was the amount of investment made by the UTI in the K-10 shares, i.e. 10 favourite companies of Ketan Parekh. What was the amount (in crores) invested by the UTI for the purchase of shares?

As per my knowledge UTI invested Rs. 3200 crore in the purchase of shares whereas after the market crash, the value of these shares has dwindled to Rs.1600 crore only. I want to know whether it is true? I would also like to know as to who is responsible for these losses incurred by the UTI and what action the Government is going to take against the guilty?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right in what he has said about K-10 shares. UTI has invested approximately Rs. 4368 crore in these shares whose value have gone down due to decrease in their market cap but as the share value keeps on fluctuating as per the market trend it will not be fair to evaluate the worth of these shares as per the swing on a given day. We shall have to make an assessment of the profit and losses of UTI only after computing the total

business done by it throughout the year. Now that the financial year of the UTI is coming to an end . . .
(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him complete.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him reply. What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

[Translation]

He is giving the reply, you listen to his reply first.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the assessment year of the UTI will come to an end on 30th June and only then we will be able to assess as to whether the UTI has earned profit or incurred losses.

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask my second supplementary Question. SEBI was formed in 1991 and in the same year the Stock Market scandal involving Harshad Mehta took place but he has not been punished so far. In other countries financial cases are disposed of within six months. But 10 years have passed here in our country and no punishment has been awarded to the guilty persons so far. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to whether or not the Government propose to make amendments in the relevant laws for the expeditious disposal of cases pertaining to financial matters?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the 1992 share market scam, either charge sheets have been filed in 74 cases barring one case or some other action has been taken. Special courts have been set up for trying these cases and these cases are under adjudication in these courts. Conviction has taken place in three cases and appeal has been made in all these three cases. As these cases are sub-judice, we are trying our level best to dispose of these cases at the earliest and that is the maximum we can do in this regard.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, what has been the outcome of the SEBI probe into the steep escalation in prices of shares where by the share of Re.1 went up to Rs. 1500-1600 and a share of Rs. 10 climbed up to Rs. 5000/-? Whether this probe will cover every aspect and do justice to the small investors? Secondly in response to the reply of the hon. Finance Minister with regard to the UTI, I would like to disclose the correct figures before the House. The total network of UTI up to 31st March, 2000 was Rs. 76547 crores. After 12 months i.e. on 31st March, 2001 it was reduced to Rs. 58017 crore, hence a bungling of Rs. 18000 crore has taken place. I would like to tell the Finance Minister.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not give reply you better ask questions.

SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : The price of share purchased by UTI for Rs. 155 has been reduced to Rs.21 only. Will the hon. Minister of Finance order a comprehensive probe in to all the activities of the UTI?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the SEBI probe covers both the aspects of the market manipulation i.e. for raising the prices of shares as well as bringing them down. As I have repeatedly said, SEBI has also taken action against many persons. Action will be taken against every guilty person after the completion of the probe. As far as UTI is concerned, it indulges in purchase and sale of the shares under its various schemes. Enquiry can be conducted if we receive any specific complaint of a wrong doing. But to hold enquiry everyday on the general level and just because the market keeps on fluctuating up and down is not possible. Hence I have said that we can say anything only after UTI entire year's business is assessed. But we are ready to order a probe on any specific complaint of a wrong doing.

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister is aware, it was as early as 3rd March, I made a public statement that the Big Bull operator Ketan Parekh has taken exposure beyond sustainable limits by borrowing heavily and unscrupulously from the banks. But the Minister came to the House and said that there was no payment crisis. He needs to clarify that.

Secondly, we have a taped conversation of Anand Rathi. Anand Rathi, as the President of Bombay Exchange,

had no legal right access to this information and not only did he do that, he also misutilised it by taking recourse to insider trading.

Lastly, the Cabinet considered our demand for a JPC. Shri Pramod Mahajan, as the spokesman of the Government, told the country that the Government is prepared to have a JPC probe into the scam. Will the hon. Finance Minister announce his agreement for a JPC probe into the scam?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Hon. Shri Jaipal Reddy has raised three question. First is in regard to Ketan Parekh and the statement that he had made in this House on the 3rd of March. I had intervened then and I had said that there was no payment crisis. I am happy to be reporting to the House today, after a lapse of a few weeks, that indeed there is no payment crisis. There was some payment problem in Calcutta Stock Exchange, but that also had been sorted out. There is no payment crisis in the Bourses anywhere.

As far as Ketan Parekh is concerned, his entire affair is under investigation both by the SEBI and in respect of his link with Madhavpura Urban Cooperative Bank by the CBI.

As far as Mr. Anand Rathi's case is concerned, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Mr. Anand Rathi's taped conversation has been made available to SEBI. SEBI is looking into this conversation. I entirely agree with the hon. Member that this was a gross indiscretion on the part of the Bombay Stock Exchange President and that is the reason why, SEBI decided to remove him from that post.

As far as legality or illegality of this is concerned, this whole matter is being investigated at this point of time by SEBI. So, we will await the report of SEBI before we take any further action. Let me also say that he has not only been removed from the Presidentship of the Stock Exchange, his entities have been debarred from trading in the Exchanges by a SEBI Order. Further action will follow after the investigation of SEBI.

As far as the Joint Parliamentary Committee demand is concerned, I think, we, now, know the contours of the problem. SEBI has taken a number of steps already. The Government itself has announced a number of steps that we propose to take in the next few months and the action in regard to other delinquents in the bourses have all been taken. Therefore, as far as the Joint Parliament Committee

demand is concerned, my colleague and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister had responded to the Congress Party's demand in affirmative. It is up to the House to decide what they want to do . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is not up to the House. It is up to the Government . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please hear me?

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : How is the Government going back on this? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please hear me. Why do you not hear me? I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir the Government is trying to protect all guilty persons . . . *(Interruptions)* The Government is hushing up the matter . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the entire Opposition is ready for JPC. Let the Government agree to it . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Let the Question Hour be properly conducted. I do not like this.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do you want the Question Hour to go? What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, will you please resume your seat? I am on my legs.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Sir, the House is being mislead. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : For a moment, you hear me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, why do you not hear me first?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Again you are getting up. Why do you not resume your seat?

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : The case of Anand Rath . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Singh, will you please resume your seat? There is a limit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : When they sat down. You have got up.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You all will be getting a chance to put supplementaries on the same question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He is going back from the announcement which was made public by the Government. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Please listen to me. Let me make it absolutely clear. I am not going back on any announcement which has been made by my colleague, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please hear him.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : What is the sin that I have committed if I say that this is up to the House to decide? The House is going to decide.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Raghunath Jha.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the money which is being invested by foreign Banks or private Banks in stock market is in violation of rules over which Reserve Bank has no control. In a way, the Reserve bank has failed in this exercise. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to whether any arrests have been made in this regard? If so, would you like to tell the name of that individual in the House? . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Singh, you are going to get the Supplementary on the same question.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Sir, an attempt is being made to protect the main accused. Tape has been seized . . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, you will get a chance to ask a supplementary question. Why are you making noises here?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let the Question Hour be conducted properly.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has to answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You do not want the hon. Minister to answer the question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : There is a limit. Please resume your seat. He is answering the question already posed by the hon. Member.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Akhilesh, this is not zero Hours, How many times I will have to tell this thing to you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You speak whatever you want during zero Hour. Let the Question Hour be conducted properly.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except the hon. Minister's speech.

*(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You speak whatever you want during zero Hour not in Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will not allow you in the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Please take your seat. You even do not allow the Question Hour to go.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not disturb.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir regarding the Question asked by Raghunath Jha, I would like to say that . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister says.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : As per the creteria fixed by R.B.I. co-operative Banks cannot lend money for investing in stock market . . . (Interruptions) They were for bidder in investing money in stock market . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, will you resume your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Ranjan, I am viewing your conduct very seriously.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I am on my legs. Please resume your seat. Shri Pappu Yadav, please resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pappu Yadav, I am viewing your conduct very seriously.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What are you doing, you are treating Lok Sabha as Assembly.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir in reply to the Question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to say . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt the hon. Minister.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Kunwar Akhilesh Singh, I have to warn you. There is a limit for everything.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is the House meant for your interruptions.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It would be impossible to conduct the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are a senior Member.

[Translation]

Please raise this issue during zero Hour not in Question hour.

[English]

The hon. Minister is answering in the Question Hour and you are disturbing the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is such an important question.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHRICHAND KRIPLANI : Raghuvansh ji does like this in every matter (Interruptions). The House cannot run like this . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record except what the hon. Minister is saying.

(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in reply to the question asked by the hon. Member, I would like to say that as per the directions of RBI, Cooperative Banks were not allowed to invest in stock market. Therefore, the Banks, which have invested money in stock market, have openly violated the directions of RBI. As per our information, the Madhavpura cooperative bank, which is an inter-State cooperative bank invested money in stock market more than its deposits due to which it has to face many difficult situations. On the basis of all these, the RBI has filed a case with Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad as a result of which the Managing Director of that Bank was arrested. . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, what is this?

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will not reply to your question . . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Patel, please do not interrupt now.

[Translation]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Since the Bank of India had separately lodged a complaint with CBI, therefore, the CBI initiated investigation and has arrested Ketan Parekh. At present, the investigation is in progress.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whether the Government are aware that in Kolkata Stock

Exchange parallel speculations are going on and the officials of Government Department and Banking industry have failed to prevent it. Whether the Government propose to reveal the facts in this regard?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, SEBI has been set up to monitor the business of Stock Exchanges. Some people do business outside stock exchanges which is illegal and these problems arise there only.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : The Government is requested to take some actions against the business which is being done in Kolkata on a large scale.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : General laws of the country will be applicable on these because these activities are taking place outside the stock exchange.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that after the statement of the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs about the Government's intention to set up a JPC on this matter, which has taken lives of innocent people and ruined lakhs of people in the country, what actual steps the Government has taken in approaching the hon. Speaker and the Chairman of Rajya Sabha to set up a JPC.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have already replied to that question. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : No. Have you taken any steps, that was not clear from your answer.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, as far as the approach of the Government to setting up of the JPC is concerned, I have already replied.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Sir, my question is has the Government taken steps to approach the hon. Speaker and the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha for setting up of the JPC.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has repeated what he has already stated.

SHRI M.O.H. FAROOK : Sir, there is a lot of difference between what he has said and what the hon. Member is asking. Have you taken any decision on the setting up of . . . (Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, this Government is siding all the corrupt people. They are afraid of JPC.

[Translation]

SHRI RASHID ALVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been writing letters to the hon. Prime Minister, hon Finance Minister and Minister of Law for the last six months about SEBI to know whether the inside trading is an offence or not. The hon. Finance Minister has replied that inside trading is an offence. The Chairman of SEBI wrote a letter to me that inside trading was not an offence whereas the Chairman of RBI has written a letter to me that it is an offence. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether any action is being taken in this regard. A bungling to the tune of Rs. 10,000 crore has been committed by Reliance Company but I have not received any proper reply in this regard. The Chairman of SEBI has sent a letter to me in which he has stated that the matter which I had raised pertained to the period when neither he was the chairman of SEBI nor other officers were in SEBI. Is this an appropriate reply.

Sir, SEBI is an institution. It makes no difference whether he was chairman at that time or not. Regarding the offences which are being committed by SEBI and Reliance Company, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether inside trading is an offence or not? If it is an offence, then what action is being taken against them?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, inside trading is an offence. I am not aware of the correspondence which hon. Member had with others. I am only aware of the correspondence which he had with me. On the floor of the House, I would like to make it very clear that the Government is not interested in protecting anybody. The investigation is going on and the action will be taken against persons found guilty.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now-a-days, common man invests his entire saving in share market. Today they are very much scared. The common investors and the agents are committing suicide. Several people committed suicide as they incurred heavy losses. Overdrafts were made from Madhepura Bank. I have read it in the news paper that RBI has drawn attention of the said bank towards the making of overdraft. In spite of this overdrafts were made. This is a fraud. What is the policy of the Government in this regard? Generally the poor and ordinary people invest more money in cooperative banks.

How is it monitored and what are your guidelines? What is the overall loss due to the overdrafts. After borrowing money from various nationalised banks Harshad Mehta invested it in stock market and prices of shares shot up. What is your guidelines in this regard.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Member has asked a very good question. As regards first part of his question, I would like to say that as far as small investors are concerned, they are not day traders or brokers who sell propriety. If small investors are investing in stock market then it is their deliberate attempt because they know that it is high risk trade. It is such a situation where there can be high profit as well as heavy loss.

The people were fully aware of the fact while investing in it. However, I would like to submit in the House that small investors should not leave the market as ups and downs in the market is a common phenomenon and they will certainly suffer loss if they sell the share, while the market is going down. If they are generally a long term investors then I hope that there is no possibility of loss in the long term investment in the Indian Stock market.

(English)

They should stay in the market. They should not exit from the market when the market is down. The market is already improving.

[Translation]

Hon. Member has asked second question regarding the cooperative banks. I have replied that the order of the RBI is quite evident. If any one violates the instruction then action will be taken against him. The entire banks together set up clearing house for the clearing of the payment order. The RBI provide them with some facilities and daily lakhs of instruments are exchanged and crores of rupees are transacted. It is not the responsibility of the RBI to check all the transactions whether they have deposit balance in the bank or not? It is not the responsibility of the RBI. So whatever has been done by the Bank of Madhopura is surely a fraud. They have committed crime. That is why the legal action are being initiated against them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday, the Reserve Bank of India have released its new credit policy in which it has

given two types of suggestions about the Urban Cooperative Banks. First is that the norms have been made stringent. The second is that if the Urban Cooperative Bank is operating in only one State then it will be under the control of the State Government. If the bank operation is inter-state or multi-state then it will be under the Central Registrar and the Reserve Bank of India. So in order to remove this dual or triple control we should set up ethics organisation to superwise it. Along with this we will also conduct checking and will take appropriate action so that cooperative banks especially, the urban cooperative banks may function properly. I would like to tell that

[English]

we should not throw the baby out with the bath water.

[Translation]

If one Cooperative Bank commit any mistake then the entire Cooperative Banks must not be penalise for that as many of the banks are doing commendable works...

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, though the entire Opposition agrees for the JPC, the Government is not agreeing for the same....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Q. No. 482. Shri Sunil Khan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, this is Question Hour.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the Government is not agreeing for the JPC...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I have called the next question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already answered about the JPC. I cannot do anything now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. This is Question Hour now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry that I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, this is Question Hour. You asked the question and he has already answered it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already answered. He has said about JPC.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : During 'Zero Hour', you can take it up. Let the Question Hour be over

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, you have to protect us.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, how can I protect you? You asked a question and he has already answered. Then, you are asking me to protect you. What more protection do you need?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You also were the Speaker in the Assembly. A question is asked and answer is given.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not do like this. I am asking you not to interrupt.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, you have to protect me. You have to protect the Opposition.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How can I protect when the question is asked and answer is also given?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, I have to protect the questioner. You please allow me to protect the questioner.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, please sit down. Please resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, you can take it up during the 'Zero Hour' Only 15 minutes time is left to complete the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : They are going back on every commitment

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats? I told you that the Minister has already answered and he has nothing to add.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINGH : Sir, I am prepared to clarify further.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He wants to clarify, now resume your seats.

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir look at the Treasury Benches. The Treasury Benches are making the noise...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister can intervene at any time. Please do not ask like this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the next question has been taken up then from where did the first question come?... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is clarifying. He can intervene at any time. He says that he wants to clarify further.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Muniyappa, I am on my legs. I called the name of the person, Shri Sunil Khan, against whose name the next question was listed. In the meanwhile the hon. Minister said that he could clarify the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt me. I gave him the permission and the hon. Minister stood up to clarify the position.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Jos, please resume your seat. You happened to be the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly and this is the way you are treating the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Malhotra, what are you doing? Have you stood up with my permission? I gave him the permission because the hon. Minister can intervene any time. He wanted to clarify the position. After that both the sides have stood up.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : May I now appeal to both sides to resume their seats? If the hon. Minister wants to clarify the position, he can do so, so that we can proceed. Otherwise, if you do not want, then I cannot help.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, you have the longest experience in this House...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, from the limited experience that I have, I am not aware of any occasion where a JPC has been constituted during the Question Hour. (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Government is not going back on anything...*(Interruptions)* The Government is not going back on anything. But the hon. Members from the other side are also aware that there is a procedure to be followed in the constitution of JPC and that procedure would have to be followed in this case also if the House wants to have a JPC...*(Interruptions)* That is what I want to say ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister is misleading the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given the reply and he has repeated it. I cannot compel him to answer.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : If you can say something outside the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him. Only ten minutes are left in the Question Hour. It is an important question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Why can the hon. Minister not say it inside the House...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing, except what Shri Sunil Khan says, would go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

Slowdown in Industrial Growth

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*482. SHRI SUNIL KHAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mid -Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan of the Planning Commission has diagnosed the causes for slowdown in industrial growth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to monitor these causes; and

(d) the extent to which they have checked the slowdown of industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The main reasons identified by the Planning Commission, in its Mid-Term Appraisal report of the Ninth Five Year Plan, for the slow down in industrial growth are :

"Slackening in aggregate demand due to:

- (a) Falling export growth due to overall slump in world trade.
- (b) Erosion in competitive advantage of Indian exports on account of steep depreciation of South East Asian currencies.
- (c) Decline in rural demand owing to low agricultural output in 1997-98.
 - Slow off-take of actual investment in infrastructure projects.
 - Inadequacy of funds due to continuing sluggishness in capital markets (primary as well as secondary).
 - Persistence of infrastructure bottlenecks".

(c) and (d) Performance of industrial sector is dependent upon several internal and external factors. The Government has initiated inter alia, the following steps to improve efficiency and boost industrial growth.

- * Basic custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- * Excise duty has been rationalized, with one rate of Cenvat and one rate of SED.
- * Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme(TUFS) have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile.
- * Measures to reduce the cost of capital and increase liquidity for industry, including reduction

in Cash Reserve Ratio and Bank Rate by the RBI.

- In the new EXIM policy care has been taken to ensure level playing field to domestic producers vis-a-vis imports.
- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.

Decline in the Industrial Growth

*489 DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :

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

(a) whether the target of industrial growth during 2000-2001 could not be achieved due to sharp decline in the industrial production in several sectors;

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

(c) the sectors in which positive industrial growth has been registered during 2000-2001 as compared to the last year and upto what extent;

(d) the sectors which have shown negative growth during the above period particularly in the months of January-February, 2001 alongwith the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to boost the industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) The Planning Commission has set an annual average growth target of 8.2% for industrial sector, whereas, the cumulative growth rate of industrial production during April-February 2000-01 has been 5.1%.

(c) and (d) Sector-wise growth rates for the period April-February 2000-01 are given below :

	Jan 00	Jan 01	Feb 00	Feb 01	Apr-Feb 1999-00	Apr-Feb 2000-01
Mining	0.4	3.5	3.9	2.5	0.8	4.2
Manufac- turing	5.6	2.9	8.5	0.6	7.0	5.3
Electricity	3.2	1.4	8.8	-1.1	7.4	4.1
General	4.9	2.8	8.2	0.6	6.5	5.1

(e) The Government has initiated following steps to boost industrial growth;

- Basic custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- Excise duty has been rationalized, with one rate of Cenvat and one rate of SED.
- Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile.
- Interest rate on small savings has been reduced.
- RBI has reduced Cash Reserve Ratio and Bank Rate to increase liquidity and reduce the lending cost.
- In the new EXIM policy, care has been taken to ensure level playing field to domestic producers vis-a-vis imports.
- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Q. Nos. 482 and 489 are similar questions and I am clubbing them together.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, a Nepalese exporter can export an item if 50 per cent of that is manufactured in Nepal...(Interruptions) Nobody knows what they are manufacturing...(Interruptions) In case of edible oil our import duty is 75 per cent whereas in Nepal it is just one per cent...(Interruptions) They are sending their goods in the Indian market at 40 per cent...(Interruption) I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how can we compete with them in this scenario...(Interruptions)

Sir my second supplementary in in regard to leather chappals, soaps and detergents. How could we compete with the foreign traders vis-a-vis these items? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, what is the procedure by which a JPC can be constituted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Sir, my third point is that the hon. Minister has given protection for soda-ash but not for caustic soda. Granite and marble should also be at par...*(Interruptions)* Again, you have levied no import duty on import of second hand tractors and these could be imported freely from the foreign markets...*(Interruptions)* Our tractor industry would be ruined. What would happen to our own industry?...*Interruptions)*

If second-hand tractors are allowed to be brought into India, the Indigenous tractor industry will be ruined.

Does the hon. Minister know that puffed rice is produced in India by poor widows in the rural areas? In Hindi, puffed rice is called Moori. In Mumbai they call it Bhel. The poor widows make and sell puffed rice to earn their livelihood. If puffed rice is allowed to be imported, the poor widows would no longer be able to earn their livelihood. The imported puffed rice would be made with the help of the latest technology. However, poor widows living in the rural areas of our country make it in the traditional way. How can they compete with the foreign players in this field?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised many questions. The main question relates to industrial production while the hon. Member has asked questions about imports and exports. Anyhow, I would answer his question.

The hon. Member has said that a lot of things are coming into the country from Nepal. We have a porous border and we have a friendly Treaty also with Nepal. That Treaty is coming for review by the end of this year. Secondly, Nepal wants to become a member of the WTO, and it has to enter into an agreement with India for V. S. accession to W. T. O. We have to clarify certain things without harming our mutual interests. For example, there is no definition of manufacture at all, and there is no explanation for rules of origin. I think during those days we may take it up with Nepal Government. We have in mind the best interest of both the countries.

SHRI SUNIL KHAN : Quantitative Restrictions were removed on 715 items this year and on 714 items last year. The total of these items comes to 1429. In view of this, does the Minister believe that Indian small-scale industry would be protected?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, again the question does not relate to the main question. But I am ready to answer it.

We ourselves have autonomously removing quantitative restrictions since 1980. This is not the first time that this is done. So, no harm will be done to the small-scale industries.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Dr. Jaswant Singh Yadav, you ask your supplementary on No. 489.

[Translation]

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government are making efforts to achieve the target of industrial development and for this they are doing commendable work. However, from February to April it has achieved only 5.1 industrial growth rate against the target of 8.2. So my simple question is whether the Government are proposing to lift the restriction of 15 km per sugar mill so that the new sugar mill may be established within the 15 km area of sugar mill and the number of the existing sugar mills may increase because as per the restriction of the 15 km. area no new sugar mill can be established within the fifteen km area of an existing sugar mill? Though the licences have been issued for establishing sugar mills but the proprietors of the existing sugar mills are not allowing them to do so. So whether the Government are taking some steps to lift the restriction of 15 km area?

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, The last portion of the hon. Member's question is not related to the main question.

Regarding sugar mills, we have decentralised them. So, the Central Government has nothing to do with sugar mills now. Regarding the industrial situation, even though there was a small slow down, for the last three months our industry is looking up. Yesterday the Government of Reserve Bank of India had said that our GDP may grow at a rate of about six per cent. There is no doubt about it. CII too has estimated that our GDP will grow at 6 per cent.

12.00 hrs.

The ADB has said that it would go up by six per cent. If you take all these into account, I would say, if we attain a six per cent growth, we would be one of the top ten fastest growing economies in the world.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to ask second supplementary, you may do so.

DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have got my reply. The hon. Minister has given correct reply so I extend my thanks to him.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Agitation by Farmers against WTO

*483. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL:
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the country wide dharnas staged/being staged by the farmers organisations against the agreement with World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, whether the farmers organisations have demanded exclusion of agriculture from the WTO;

(c) if so, whether the farmers' organisations have also submitted any Memorandum to the Government in this regard;

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

(e) the action taken by the Government to ensure that farmers of the country are not put to loss?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Some representations have been received demanding that India should strive for the exclusion of agriculture from WTO to secure its food security and policy options for agriculture

and rural development. It has also been represented that WTO agreements have severely constrained our domestic policy options and have mainly benefitted the developed countries and the interests of domestic producers in developing countries have been seriously compromised.

(d) and (e) India is a founder member of WTO which came into being on 1.1.1995 as a successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade 1947 (GATT), of which also India was a founder member. The Agreement on Agriculture (AOA) is one of the Uruguay Round of Agreements which India had signed at Marrakesh in April 1994. WTO provides a predictable rule based multilateral trading system which protects the member countries from pressures of their stronger trading partners. By virtue of being a member of WTO, India is automatically entitled to get the Most Favoured Nation and National Treatment for its exports. WTO also has a strong Dispute Settlement Mechanism to resolve any disputes between members.

Under the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) India's domestic policy options for agricultural and rural development have not been constrained. The experience of the implementation of the AoA has brought out a number of issues, which deserve rebalancing and have already been flagged by India in its comprehensive proposals submitted in WTO as part of the continuing mandated negotiations. The Indian proposals aim at protecting its food and livelihood security and for creating opportunities for the exports of its agricultural surpluses.

In order to ensure that Indian farmers are not put to any hardship, the Government have put in place a suitable mechanism for monitoring of the imports of sensitive items and are committed to providing adequate protection to the domestic producers by resorting to various WTO compatible measures which include appropriate calibration of applied tariffs within the bound tariffs, imposition of anti-dumping, countervailing duties and safeguard action under certain specified circumstances.

Funds for Irrigation Projects

*484. YOGI ADITYA NATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD has provided any amount for irrigation projects under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund to various State especially Uttar Pradesh during the last three years;

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

(c) the number of projects on which the above amount has been spent, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide additional amount for irrigation projects to the State during the year 2001-2002; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development

(NABARD) has provided loan for irrigation projects under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to various States including Uttar Pradesh. The state-wise details of the total number of irrigation projects and loan sanctioned and disbursed there against under various tranches of RIDF during the last three years are given in statement I and II respectively.

(d) and (e) Union Finance Minister has announced in his Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002 that the corpus under RIDF-VII for the year 2001-2002 would be increased to Rs. 5000 crore. This would benefit and cover irrigation projects as well.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the total number of projects and loan amount sanctioned by NABARD for irrigation purposes under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund during the years 1998-99 1999-2000 and 2000-2001

(Rs. Lakhs)

S.No.	State	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
		No.	Sanctioned	No.	Sanctioned	No.	Sanctioned
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	11982.22	60	16861.12	38	14951.39
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
3.	Assam	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
4.	Bihar	1	11600.00	100047	14837.32	11	1479.00
5.	Goa	21	467.67	142	9642.61	5	501.70
6.	Gujarat	11	10788.30	6	3452.17	7101	24170.67
7.	Haryana	15	3425.80	6	9906.72	7	1280.14
8.	Himachal Pradesh	22	704.91	197	2811.27	206	2730.67
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	32	2538.76	3	149.19	13	1227.42
10.	Karnataka	18	2041.83	1	102.60	36	4722.62
11.	Kerala	86	1323.37	133	1480.35	95	4698.67
12.	Madhya Pradesh	100	14179.14	20	11210.48	52	21109.72
13.	Maharashtra	13	10047.53	0	0.00	38	17538.66

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14.	Manipur	0	0.00	0	0.00	157	833.05
15.	Meghalaya	0	0.00	0	0.00	5	262.64
16.	Mizoram	0	0.00	20	364.42	0	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0	0.00	17	382.30	1	112.90
18.	Orissa	15	8941.95	31	7101.21	16091	5953.88
19.	Punjab	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	19	13135.78	50	6925.32	2102	12525.89
21.	Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	62	2751.91	20	3720.46
22.	Tripura	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	2650.00
23.	Sikkim	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00
24.	Uttar Pradesh	39	1017.38	68	14538.04	1	2819.58
25.	West Bengal	2	174.36	873	4739.53	235	843.11
Total		438	92369.00	101736	107256.56	26215	124132.17

Statement-II

State-wise disbursements made by NABARD for irrigation sector under RIDF projects during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001.

(Rs. Crores)

S. No.	State	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	109.48	147.36	113.50
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00
3.	Assam	0.00	35.39	42.64
4.	Bihar	0.00	17.43	0.00
5.	Goa	0.89	2.21	1.32
6.	Gujarat	57.23	55.17	36.65
7.	Haryana	15.78	25.48	52.02

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	10.27	11.49	68.04
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	6.46	3.34	7.25
10.	Karnataka	24.04	32.97	45.90
11.	Kerala	16.65	19.80	9.03
12.	Maharashtra	20.57	56.89	4.22
13.	Madhya Pradesh	65.33	88.09	119.96
14.	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00
15.	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.66
16.	Mizoram	2.97	2.19	0.00
17.	Nagaland	0.00	1.71	0.18
18.	Orissa	34.41	79.78	35.62
19.	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00
20.	Rajasthan	58.72	43.35	97.55

1	2	3	4	5
21. Sikkim		0.00	0.00	0.00
22. Tamil Nadu		0.50	0.96	4.15
23. Tripura		0.00	0.00	0.00
24. Uttar Pradesh		53.49	97.11	148.29
25. West Bengal		14.16	26.71	28.91
Total		490.94	747.42	815.89

FCI Godowns

*485. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state;

(a) whether godowns of FCI in some of the States are in a dilapidated condition due to which storage of essential foodgrains has become very difficult;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to repair/reconstruct these FCI godowns?

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

(a) No, Sir.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir. A general survey to ascertain the condition of owned godowns was conducted by FCI during October-December, 1998.

(d) The godowns having capacity of 9,600 MT at Egmore (Tamil Nadu) and 10,000 MT at Shakti Nagar (Delhi) were found to be in dilapidated condition.

(e) These two godowns are beyond economical repairs. These godowns are being considered for demolition and the space is proposed to be utilised for construction of Regional Office. Regular maintenance/ repairs of all other godowns is being carried out effectively.

[English]

Cement Corporation of India

*487. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the related factors which led to the sickness of Cement Corporation of India;

(b) the number of workers/employees likely to be affected in the event of the closure of each Unit of CCI; and

(c) the ultimate re-employment/rehabilitation plan proposed for them?

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The performance of CCI showed a gradual decline due to various factors including glut in the cement market, decontrol of cement industry, endemic power shortage, high cost of production because of obsolete technology, excessive manpower, liquidity problems etc, which led to sickness of Cement Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) and its reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in April, 1996.

(b) The number of workers/employees in various units of CCI is given in the statement. Under the directions of BIFR, the Operating Agency, however, is currently exploring the possibility of sale of CCI units individually or collectively.

(c) In the interest of workers, Government has formulated a Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) wherever restructuring is required and Voluntary Separation Scheme (VSS) whenever winding up/closure of a unit is envisaged. VRS has already been introduced in CCI. Under the Scheme of National Renewal Fund (NRF), retraining and redeployment/of retired/separated workers is also undertaken.

Statement

Name of Unit	No. of Employees
1	2
Mandhar	431
Kurkunta	397

1	2
Nayagaon	525
Akaltara	428
Charkhi Dadri	393
Adilabad	404
Tandur	395
Delhi Cement Grinding Unit	145
Rajban	465
Bokajan	658
Corporate Office and Others	636
Total	4877

Defective Foreign Goods

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

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Not much legal remedy for users of defective foreign goods" appearing in 'Times of India' dated February 12, 2001;

(b) whether the defective foreign goods are openly available in various markets;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to amend the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 to check the sale of defective foreign goods; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

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

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government have no information regarding defective foreign goods being openly available in various markets.

(d) and (e) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 contains adequate provisions empowering consumer disputes redressal agencies to provide relief to any consumer against sale of defective goods, whether foreign or domestic, provided he has documentary proof evidencing purchase of such goods. These reliefs include removal of defects in goods, replacement of defective goods and award of compensation for loss or injury suffered by the consumer. The Govt. also propose to further amend the act for better Consumer Protection.

Interest Rate of GPF/EPF

*490. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the GPF/EPF interest rates have been reduced from 12 per cent to 9.5 per cent;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this step of Government would discourage the employees from savings; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Interest rates on GPF and other similar funds were reduced from 12 per cent to 11 per cent with effect from April 1, 2000 and further reduced from 11 per cent to 9.5 per cent from April 1, 2001. However, the revision of interest rates on EPF with effect from 1st April, 2001, is under consideration of the Ministry of Labour in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(b) The real rates of interest on Provident Fund and other small savings schemes were considered to be high, preventing the downward movement of other rates of interest in the economy.

(c) Provident Fund and other small savings schemes enjoy sovereign guarantee and tax incentives. Therefore, the risk-return equation continues to be favourable.

(d) Does not arise.

Corruption in PDS Outlets

*491. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is rampant corruption in the retail outlets of Public Distribution System in various States;

(b) if so, the number of complaints the Government have received during the each of last three years from the public in each State; and

(c) the action taken against the accused where the charges have been substantiated?

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

(a) to (c) Public Distribution System (PDS) is an operation of vast magnitude under the joint responsibility of the Centre and State Governments involving multiple agencies including about 4.63 lakh Fair Price Shops (FPSs) in the country. The Central Government is responsible for procurement, storage and transportation of the PDS commodities upto the designated depots and making them available to the States. The responsibility of distribution to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops and administration of the PDS rests with the State Governments and UT Administrations. As a large network of PDS outlets engaged in the system, the possibility of corruption at FPS and other levels cannot be ruled out.

Complaints received by the Government from public generally relate to non-availability and irregular supply of PDS items at FPS, overcharging by the FPS owners and black marketing of PDS commodities. The number of complaints received in the Ministry (State-wise) in respect of retail outlets received from public during the last three years is given below:

S.No	State	Year		
		1998	1999	2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	2	8	14
2.	Uttar Pradesh	—	6	24
3.	Madhya Pradesh	1	—	3

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Himachal Pradesh	—	—	4
5.	Haryana	—	—	5
6.	Bihar	2	6	16
7.	Rajasthan	1	—	14
8.	Punjab	—	—	2
9.	Kerala	—	—	1
10.	Chandigarh	—	—	1
11.	Maharashtra	—	—	2
12.	Karnataka	—	1	—
13.	Orissa	—	1	—
14.	West Bengal	2	—	—
15.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	—	—
		9	22	86

Such complaints generally involve criminal offence and have been forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UT Administrations for appropriate action as necessary. As per reports received, in case the charges of the complaints are substantiated, the State Governments take suitable action under the law.

Tax Holiday to Gujarat

*492. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has requested for a five year tax holiday and total income tax exemption for five years for the damaged industrial units in the quake hit parts of the State, as also the exemption of excise duty on building material other than cement and steel;

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

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on the request of State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) No such request has been received from the State Government of Gujarat.

(b) and (c) Do not arise

Duty Exemption for Rice Export

*493. DR. RAJESWARAMMA VUKKALA:
SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to State:

(a) whether the Government have examined the feasibility of exemption of duties and taxes to private parties for rice export in view of huge stocks in the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the decisions taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) Under article 286 of the Constitution, no law of a State shall impose or authorise the imposition of, a tax on the sale or purchase of goods where such sale or purchase takes place in the course of the export of the goods out of the territory of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Wasteful Expenditure in Government Departments

*494. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently taken any concrete steps to minimise the wasteful expenditure in Government Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the sectors have been identified in which wasteful expenditure is maximum in Government Departments;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such decisions were also taken by the Government in last year also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof with the achievements thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) Containing and curbing avoidable administrative expenditure has been a continuous priority of Government. Instructions have been issued in the past from time to time in this regard. Government recently issued guidelines on 24.9.2000, outlining a number of austerity measures. These measures, inter alia, relate to 10% mandatory cut in the budgetary allocation for non-plan non-salary expenditure of all Ministries/Departments and autonomous institutions, implementation of instructions relating to 10% cut in posts sanctioned as on 1.1.1992 and abolition of posts lying vacant for more than one year, ban on creation of new posts in all Ministries/Departments/autonomous institutions for one year, utmost economy in use of staff cars and official vehicles, foreign travel be restricted to unavoidable official engagements and 25% reduction in permissible per diem allowance for travel abroad, austerity in organising conferences/seminars/workshops.

For review of the whole gamut of expenditure of Government, an Expenditure Reforms Commission has also been set up to suggest a road map for reducing the functions, activities and administrative structure of the Government, review the adequacy of staff strength under Central Ministries/Departments etc. and suggest measures for rationalizing the staff and cadres of different services, review the procedure of setting up of autonomous bodies and pattern of funding and suggest measures for effecting improvement and reducing budgetary support.

Prices of Cement

*495. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA:
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the MRTP has issued notice of enquiry against ten cement manufacturers for alleged cartelisation by cement companies;

(b) if so, whether these companies have also been directed to roll down their prices to levels prevailing on November 15, 2000;

(c) if so, to what extent these cement manufacturers have reduced the prices;

(d) the outcome of the enquiry conducted by the MRTP; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to keep the cement prices affordable?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The notices have been issued by MRTPC against cement Manufacturers Association and 10 other cement companies under Section 10(a)(i) and 36-B (a) of MRTPC Act, 1969.

(b) No, Sir. MRTPC has not issued any directive as yet in this regard.

(c) The cement prices reached their peak levels in December, 2000 and January, 2001. As on 13th April, 2001, these prices had come down ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 17 per bag at most of the centres.

(d) MRTPC proceedings are quasi-judicial. The case was listed for hearing on 10-4-2001 and the same has been adjourned to 26-4-2001.

(e) Government is seized of the situation and the prices are being closely monitored. Meetings have been held with cement manufacturers in this regard and the price rise has since been arrested. A marginal decline has also occurred in some places. Government have reduced import duty on cement from 35% to 25% with a view to stabilising prices. The Government will also not hesitate to take appropriate measures if anything is done against public interest.

[Translation]

'Smuggling of Narcotics'

*496. SHRI P.R. KHUNTE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the 'Narcotics Control Bureau' has not been able to check the smuggling of narcotics in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of cases of smuggling registered during the year 2000-2001 and quantity of narcotics seized;

(d) the number of persons arrested and convicted for smuggling;

(e) whether the Government propose to formulate any special scheme to strengthen the 'Narcotics Control Bureau';

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(c) 12655 cases of seizure of drugs were registered during the period 1st, 2000 to 31st March 2001 resulting in the seizure of 12,441.350 kgs. of Heroin, Morphine, Opium, Hashish, Cocaine, Methaqualone, Ephedrine and Amphetamine and 9.777 ltrs. of Acetic Anhydride.

(d) The number of persons arrested and convicted for drug trafficking during the period 1st Jan., 2000 to 31st March 2001 are 15,284 and 4,447 respectively.

(e) to (g) The future role of NCB has been examined by the Task Force on Intelligence Apparatus chaired by Shri Girish Saxena. Its recommendations were then examined by Group of Ministers and are presently under examination of the Government.

Recession in Indian Industry

*497. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian economy is gradually going into recession;

(b) if so, the sectors of industries which are in the grip of recession at present alongwith the reasons thereof;

(c) whether some more industries are likely to face recession during the next two years after the implementation of the agreement with the World Trade Organisation; and

(d) if so, the measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to overcome recession and prevent the industries from going into recession?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Indian economy has been recognized as one of the fastest growing economies in the world with a growth rate of 6% or over. As per the estimates released by CSO, GDP is expected to grow at the rate of 6% during 2000-01 over the growth rates of 6.6% and 6.4% during 1998-99 and 1999-2000 respectively. It cannot thus be said that Indian economy is in a recessionary phase.

(b) Overall industrial production has increased by 5.1% (Apr-Feb 2000-01) as compared to 6.6% during the corresponding period of the last year. All the major industry sectors have shown a positive growth rate in Apr-Feb 2001 for which the latest figures are available.

Sector-wise cumulative growth rates for industry are given below:-

	Apr-Feb 1999-00	Apr-Feb 2000-01
Mining	0.8	4.2
Manufacturing	7.0	5.3
Electricity	7.4	4.1
General	6.6	5.1

Two of the sectors, manufacturing and electricity have shown somewhat lower rate of growth than in the previous year. This is on account of persistence of Infrastructure bottlenecks, slow down in general investment climate, comparatively weaker monsoon this year having adverse impact on aggregate demand, which has slackened during the current year, exceptional increase in international oil prices, poor performance of Capital goods and Intermediate goods sector and recessionary trend in the US economy which is India's major trading partner.

(c) The removal of QRs has not altered either the overall rate of growth of imports or their composition. During the current year (Apr-Jan) the rate of growth of non-oil imports has been (-) 8.2%. Besides, in the new EXIM policy care has been taken to ensure level playing field to domestic producers vis-a-vis imports.

(d) Performance of industrial sector is dependent upon several internal and external factors. The Government has initiated inter-alia, the following steps to improve efficiency and boost industrial growth.

- Basic custom duty in case of raw materials and intermediate goods has been reduced.
- Excise duty has been rationalized, with one rate of Cenvat and one rate of SED.
- Budgetary provisions under Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) have been raised to speed up the modernization of textile.

- Interest rate on small savings has been reduced.
- RBI has reduced Case Reserve Ratio and Bank Rate to increase liquidity and reduce the lending cost.
- In the new EXIM policy, care has been taken to ensure level playing field to domestic producers vis-a-vis imports.
- Proposals have also been made for suitable legislative changes to improve the operating environment for industry.

[English]

Private Sector Participation in Rice Export

*498. SHRI GUTHA SUKENDER REDDY:
DR. MANDA JAGANNATH:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage private sector participation in export of rice, keeping in view the huge stock of rice in various States including Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) If so, the incentives proposed to be given including subsidy?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) As per EXIM policy, export of rice (basmati and non-basmati rice) are allowed freely subject to registration of contracts with Agricultural Processed Food Products Export Development Authority. In addition, for the year 2000-2001 the Government had also permitted export of 20 lakh MT of rice out of stocks held by FCI for the Central Pool. Some of the other incentives being provided, inter-alia, to exporters including exporters of rice include:-

- (a) Supply of product samples for the purpose of test marketing, product information and market promotion - Cost of samples or freight or both to be decided on case to case basis subject to a ceiling of Rs. 50,000 per beneficiary.
- (b) Publicity and promotion in preparation of product literature and publicity material - 40%

of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 2 lakhs per beneficiary

- (c) Brand publicity through advertisement-40% of the cost subject to a ceiling of Rs.1 lakh per beneficiary
- (d) Market Development Assistance
- (e) Grant of an EPCG Licence for import of capital goods related to Agriculture at a concessional customs duty of 5%.
- (f) Grant of an advance licence which entitles to duty free inputs for the export of agricultural products as per the Standard Input Output Norms.
- (g) The agricultural sector can also undertake exports under the EOU/EPZ/SEZ scheme.

[Translation]

Computerization of AIR

*499. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

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

- (a) whether the Government propose to computerize the Akashvani/Doordarshan centres in order to provide much better service;
- (b) if so, the details of estimated cost likely to be incurred for each centre; and
- (c) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Computerisation of Akashvani and Doordarshan Centres is going on in a phased manner, depending upon the availability of resources. A number of Akashvani Kendras, Doordarshan Kendras and offices are already provided with computers and computer based equipment/facilities for office work, programme production, online exchange of information etc. A scheme has been recently sanctioned for provision of 260 computers for various Doordarshan Kendras and offices, besides upgradation of 200 existing computers at a capital cost of Rs. 3.69 crores.

This scheme is targeted to be completed during the current financial year itself. In addition a number of schemes related to provision of computer based equipment/facilities at various Doordarshan Stations are envisaged to be taken up during 2001-2002.

As regards, All India Radio, out of 262 AIR stations/offices, 177 stations/offices have computer facilities. During the current five year plan, a provision of Rs. 9 crores has been made for computerization of AIR centres/offices.

[English]

Global Trust Bank

*500. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Global Trust Bank has invested much more money than permitted amount in the stock market;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that with the help of a share broker the bank pushed up its share value in the market; and
- (c) if so, the manner in which this will affect the merger of Global Trust Bank with UTI bank and the action the Government propose to take against the bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : (a) The regulatory norms regarding banks' exposure to capital markets are as follows: Banks are permitted to invest in shares, convertible debentures and units of mutual funds through primary or secondary market subject to a limit of 5% of the bank's total advances in domestic credit as on 31st March of the previous year. As regards advances against shares to individuals, stock brokers, market makers and for initial Public Offerings (IPOs), these should be within the ceilings set by the respective boards of the banks. The guarantees given to stock exchanges on behalf of such brokers are also to be included in the said ceiling set by the boards. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has intimated that Global Trust Bank has not violated the norms for investments. However, there appears to be a marginal violation of the limit set by the bank's board.

- (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that preliminary investigations carried

out so far has revealed that entities connected/controlled by Ketan Parekh were prime facie involved in rigging prices of Global Trust Bank shares during the period of October, 2000 to January, 2001. Further, it has been noticed that Global Trust Bank has provided loans and overdrafts to broking concerns and investment companies of Ketan Parekh to the extent of about Rs. 250 crores.

(c) A proposal for the merger of Global Trust Bank with UTI Bank was filed with RBI. One of the parameters for deciding the swap ratio of shares was the market price of Global Trust Bank and UTI Bank. RBI is the deciding authority in the matter of bank mergers and SEBI has informed RBI of prima facie price manipulation in the Global Trust Bank scrip. This merger has been called off now as Global Trust Bank has withdrawn its request for the proposed merger.

Employees Unions in Banks

5025. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to regulate the functioning of the Employees Union in the banks so as to bring more efficiency and discipline;

(b) if so, whether any negotiations have been held with the Union leaders; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Madhavpura Mercantile Bank

5026. SHRI BABUBHAI K. KATARA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of depositors have withdrawn their money from 22 branches of Madhavpura Mercantile Bank in Gujarat on 8th, 9th and 10th of March, 2001;

(b) if so, the amount withdrawn by the depositors, branch-wise;

(c) the reasons for withdrawal;

(d) the effect of such withdrawal on banks;

(e) whether the management of the said bank has withdrawn immediately rupees 5.25 crores from the currency chest of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor and the manner in which the same amount was distributed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that there was a rush for large scale withdrawal of deposits from the branches of Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank Ltd. (MMCB), Ahmedabad from 9th March, 2001 in which all the 26 branches of the bank in Gujarat and 2 branches in Mumbai were affected. Since the branches of the bank remained closed from 13th March, 2001 onwards, RBI has not been able to assess the branch-wise details of deposits withdrawn.

(c) and (d) : The withdrawal was caused by strong rumours that the guarantee extended by the bank to Shri Ketan Parekh, a share broker, has devolved on the bank. The large scale withdrawal of deposits from MMCB had affected other urban cooperative banks at Ahmedabad and other towns of Gujarat. Even though the intervention of RBI had brought the crisis under control, the exact impact on MMCB could not be assessed due to the closing of shutters of the bank.

(e) to (f) RBI has further reported that the bank had withdrawn an amount of Rs. 5.25 crore from the current account maintained by MMCB with RBI, Ahmedabad. RBI has not been able to ascertain the purpose for which the money was withdrawn and its utilisation thereof, due to the closure of the bank.

[English]

IDRC Activities in India

5027. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned ' IDRC widens activities in India' appearing in 'The Times of India' dated March 9, 2001;

(b) if so, whether the international Development Research Centre (I.D.R.C) over the years has provided 83 million Canadian Dollars for 350 projects;

(c) if so, the details of projects for which IDRC has provided funds; and

(d) the total funds likely to be provided by IDRC during the next three years?

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

(b) To date IDRC has provided grant assistance of around C\$ 82.913 million to about 350 projects of various institutions in India.

(c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) IDRC has not indicated the quantum of funds to be provided during the next three years as the funds are allocated after the finalization of Project Proposals during the years.

Excise Duty on Leather Products

5028. SHRI SUNIL KHAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether high excise duty on finished leather goods has created difficulty for small scale leather industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures propose to be taken to safeguard the interests of small scale leather industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Finished leather goods attract excise duty (CENVAT) at the general rate of 16 percent. However, small scale units whose annual turnover does not exceed Rs. 3 crore are not required to pay excise duty on clearances upto Rs. 1 crore in a financial year. As such adequate benefit in excise duty is available to such small scale leather units.

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

Procurement of Wheat

5029. DR. S. VENUGOPAL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce

a separate procurement policy for the superior durum wheat comparable with the best variety in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the incentive as proposed for international trading of this variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir, There is no such proposal with the Government. As per policy of procurement of the Government, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) and the State Agencies procure wheat as per Fair Average Quality specifications at the Minimum support price. There are no separate grades of wheat, and no differential prices. All varieties/grades conforming to the specifications are procured by the Food Corporation of India/State at Minimum Support Price.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.

National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology

5030. SHRI G.J. JAVIYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent by the Government on the setting up of National Institute to Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is any proposal to close-down the institute;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the fate of the employees already employed in the institute; and

(d) if not, the likely date by which the Institute is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) An estimated amount of Rs. 15.87 crores has been spent by the Government on National Institute of Sugarcane and Sugar Technology, Mau, from 1993-94 till 2000-01.

(b) and (c) The Central Monitoring Group of the Ministry of Finance, in its meeting held on 27th January, 2000 has recommended that as NISST has not yet fully

developed as an Institution, it may be wound up and the assets be transferred to any Central/State Agency looking for accommodation in that area. The Group has also recommended that the activities proposed to be taken up at NISST may be entrusted to National Sugar Institute, Kanpur.

In view of this recommendation, the Government is considering the feasibility of transferring the assets of NISST to the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) an Institute under the Ministry of Agriculture. A final decision from ICAR is still awaited.

As regards the employees already in position, the matter will be taken up with the ICAR after its comes out with a decision on taking over the assets of NISST.

(d) In view of the circumstances brought out in (b) and (c) above, no fixed date, can at present be intimated.

Long Term Fiscal Policy

5031. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a long-term fiscal policy as prevalent in many developed and developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have set up a committee for medium-term management of the fiscal deficit;

(d) whether the Government have also set up an expenditure commission for expenditure management and restructuring;

(e) if so, whether the said committee and commission have submitted their reports;

(f) if so, the details of recommendations made by said committee and commission separately?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) A statement is attached.

Statement

The Committee on Fiscal Responsibility Legislation was constituted on January 17, 2000 to go into the various aspects of the fiscal system and recommend a draft legislation on fiscal responsibility. For medium term management of the fiscal deficit the Budget for 2000-2001 had also proposed strong institutional mechanism embodied in a Fiscal Responsibility Act. To this end, a Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Bill, 2000 was introduced in the Lok Sabha in December, 2000. The Bill provides for a legal and institutional framework to eliminate revenue deficit, bring down the fiscal deficit and stabilise debt as a proportion of gross domestic product within a time frame.

The Expenditure Reforms Commission was constituted on February 28, 2000. Expenditure Reforms Commission has submitted five reports so far. These are as follows:

First Report on Food Subsidy.

Second Report in four parts covering:

Part-I : Rationalising Fertiliser Subsidy;

Part-II : Optimising Government Staff Strength-some general issues;

Part-III : Rationalising of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting and;

Part-IV : Rationalising of the Functions, Activities and Structures in the Ministry of Coal.

Third Report on Restructuring of the Department of Economic Affairs.

Fourth Report covering:

(1) Rationalisation of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Ministry of Small Scale Industries and Agro and Village Industries;

(2) Rationalisation of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Department of Heavy Industry and;

(3) Rationalisation of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Department of Public Enterprises.

Fifth Report in three parts:

Part-I : Rationalisation of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Department of posts;

Part-II : Rationalisation of the Functions, Activities and Structures of the Department of Supply and;

Part-III : Report on Autonomous Institutions.

With a view to reduce subsidy, the report on Food Subsidy among others has recommended better targeting, efforts to minimise Food Corporation of India overhead charges, encouraging State Governments and private sector to enter procurement, trade and export. The Report on Rationalising Fertiliser Subsidy among other things has recommended dismantling of the control system in a phased manner, certain steps to protect small farmers in the nature of dual price scheme and expansion of employment guarantee schemes and rural works etc. The Report on Optimising Government Staff Strength has recommended among other things a cut of 10 per cent of the staff as on 1.1.2000 to be carried out by the year 2004-2005, total ban on creation of new posts for two years, staff declared surplus to be transferred to the Surplus Cell to be redesignated as the Division of Retraining and Deployment. The Reports concerning Ministries/Departments of Economic Affairs, Information and Broadcasting, Coal, Posts, Heavy Industry, Supply, Small Scale Industries and Agro and Village Industries and Autonomous Institutions have mainly recommended rationalisation, restructuring and downsizing.

Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank

5032. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that RBI has filed a criminal complaint against the Chairman and Managing Director of the Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank under section 46 of the Banking Regulation Act;

(b) if so the main reasons therefor;

(c) whether RBI has scrutinized the books of several cooperative banks in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether RBI is going to tighten the licensing and exposure norms of these banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that a criminal complaint was lodged in the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Ahmedabad against the Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank (MMCB), its Chairman and Managing Director on 14th March, 2001 under Section 46 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 read with Section 58 (B) of the RBI Act, 1934 for having made false statements to RBI with respect to their call money borrowings and also for failing to meet its assurance for submitting the required information.

(c) to (f) Information is being collected from Reserve Bank of India and, to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

Weak Transmission at Gaya

5033. SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Doordarshan transmission at Gaya is weak consequent to which many of the people are deprived of the DDA facility.

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to strengthen the transmission tower;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether there is also any proposal to provide DD-2 in Gaya; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that a Low Power TV transmitter (DD1) at Gaya is functioning to its full power within its coverage range. In addition, parts of the Gaya district lie in the coverage zone of DD1 High power TV transmitters at Patna and Daltonganj. However, there is no approved scheme, at present to set up any other DD1 transmitter in Gaya district. Further, expansion of DD1 service in the district would depend on future availability of resources with Doordarshan.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Scheme for setting up of a Low Power Transmitter for DD2 service at Gaya has been sanctioned. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2002.

**Irregularities in New India
Assurance Company**

5034. SHRI SHAMSHER SINGH DULLO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 24th November, 2000 to the Unstarred Question No. 931 and state:

(a) whether the Vigilance Officer of Delhi Regional Office has submitted any report on the investigation on complaint dated 12.10.2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which the Vigilance Officer is likely to submit his report;

(d) the details of corruption complaints received after 12.10.2000 against the officers and subordinate staff of DO-310900 as on date and action taken thereon;

(e) whether the corruption complaints are likely to be referred to the CBI or other investigation agencies for investigation;

(f) whether complaints have also been received against the Vigilance Officer of Delhi R.O-I for not conducting the investigation in free and fair manner and deliberately delaying the investigation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and action taken or proposed to be taken against the erring Vigilance Officer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The New India Assurance Company Limited has reported that the Vigilance officer of Delhi Regional Office is yet to submit his report on the complaint dated 12.10.2000. Further to the said complaint, some more complaints dated 9.1.2001, 1.2.2001, 15.2.2001 and 12.3.2001 were also received from the same source. These complaints relate to alleged improper settlement of claims by the officials of Delhi Divisional Office-310900. The Insurance

Co. has deputed a senior officer of the rank of Deputy Manager from the Vigilance Deptt. of the Head Office who alongwith the Vigilance Officer from Delhi Regional Office-1 are now jointly investigating. The investigation is at the final stage. Appropriate action will be taken by the Company on receipt of the report which is expected shortly.

(e) A decision as to whether the complaints will be referred to the CBI or other investigating agencies can be taken only on receipt of the investigation report.

(f) and (g) The Company has received complaints against the vigilance officer of Delhi R.O-I, which are being investigated by a Deputy Manager of the Vigilance Deptt. of the Head Office. Necessary action will be initiated on receipt of the report.

**Soiled and Mutilated Currency
Notes in Karnataka**

5035. SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a major problem of soiled and mutilated currency notes in Karnataka region;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has decided to issue coins in exchange of soiled notes, in each district of Karnataka;

(c) whether Reserve Bank of India has identified Hassan and Raichur Districts as the worst affected districts of the State in terms of circulation of soiled notes;

(d) whether the help of local banks is being sought. and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Instances of circulation of soiled notes in some parts of the country including Karnataka have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) to (e) All public Sector Bank branches have been instructed to freely exchange soiled notes tendered over their counter by the public. Full powers have been

delegated to currency chest bank branches of Public Sector Banks for adjudication of mutilated notes presented by the public.

The help of local banks is sought for both exchange of soiled notes and adjudication of mutilated notes tendered by public. They have also been advised to open special counters in their branches for exchange of soiled notes with good notes/coins, commissioning mobile services at important market places/business centres to mop up soiled notes from circulation.

Also, the regional offices of Reserve Bank of India send remittance of fresh notes and coins to the currency chest branches under their jurisdiction to replenish their stock so as to facilitate the concerned chest branches to give in exchange fresh notes and coins

(c) No, Sir.

Storage Capacity of FCI Godown

5036. SHRI SWADESH CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI SUNIL KHAN:
SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU:

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

(a) whether the percentage utilization of storage capacity as on January 1, 2001 by Food Corporation of India has been ten per cent less; and

(b) the details of the steps being taken by Government to make optimum utilization of storage capacity by FCI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The percentage utilization of the total storage capacity available with Food Corporation of India as on 1.1.2001 has been an all time optimal at 90% and has further increased to 92% as on 1.2.2001.

(b) To increase the capacity utilization, the following steps are being taken by FCI:-

- (i) to liquidate the obsolete/dead stock item lying in depots.
- (ii) to increase the height of stacks.

(iii) to liquidate damaged foodgrains.

(iv) to closely monitor the available storage capacity in each depot.

(v) to liquidate part stacks.

[Translation]

Production of Opium

5037. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether opium growers have drawn the attention of the Government regarding decrease of production of opium due to chilly winds and a specific disease of opium plants; and

(b) if so, the response of the Union Government there to?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, some opium cultivators have applied for partial / full uprooting of crops damaged due to various reasons including damage by chilly winds, disease, water shortage etc.

(b) As requested, unlanded damaged crops are being uprooted under the supervision of the Central Bureau of Narcotics.

[English]

Houses for Employees of GIC

5038. SHRI BHERULAL MEENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3143 on December 8, 2000 and state:

(a) whether the information asked for since has been collected;

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

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

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

(b) The General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC) have reported that two flats were allotted in April and September, 1999 at Noida but were not occupied by officers because they were under extensive repairs. No rents were recovered by the company from the officers as the flats were not occupied by them. GIC have also reported that no flats were vacant for allotment at Noida and that 18 officials were staying in the Guest Houses either due to their recent transfer or while awaiting allotment of suitable accommodation, etc.

(c) Does not arise.

Appointment of Chairman of IDBI

5039. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether the Government have received the list of names recommended by Appointment Committee for the post of Chairman, IDBI;

(b) if so, whether the Government have examined the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have any reservations against the names proposed by the Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which the Chairman of IDBI is likely to be appointed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (f) The Appointments Board under the Chairmanship of Governor, Reserve Bank of India has made recommendations for appointment of Chairman and Managing Director, Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). The recommendations of the Appointments Board are under consideration of the Government. The post of Chairman IDBI is likely to be filled up soon.

[Translation]

Private Banks in Maharashtra

5040. SHRI RAMDAS RUPALA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the district wise number of Non-Government banks functioning in Maharashtra;

(b) the details of scheduled cooperative banks amongst these banks

(c) the details of proposals pending with regard to the opening of non-Government banks in the State; and

(d) the criteria adopted for giving approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Export of Onion

5041. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to export onion during 2001-2002 financial year;

(b) if so, the States from which onion is being exported; and

(c) the quantum of onion proposed to be exported and the export price fixed therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Export of onion is proposed to be allowed during the financial year 2001-2002 also.

(b) State-wise export statistics is not maintained. However, from available information the major States from which onion is being exported include Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Bihar and West Bengal.

(c) It has been proposed to allow a quantity of five lakh metric tonnes of onion for export during the financial year 2001-2002. The export price of onion is fixed on a monthly basis taking into consideration the market arrivals, the domestic and international prices of onion. The minimum export price of onion fixed for the month of April 2001 in respect of various destinations range from US\$ 150 to US\$ 300 CIF per metric tonne. The minimum export price for the southern varieties of onion range from US\$ 300 to US\$ 385 CIF per metric tonne.

Stamp Duty on Purchase of Property

5042. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Commissioner of Central Excise, Bangalore paid a sum of Rs. 1.58 Crores as stamp duty during March, 1996 on the purchase of property;

(b) whether the payment of stamp duty was exempted;

(c) if so, the reasons for making payment of stamp duty;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to get refund the stamp duty and to fix responsibility of officials for the same, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Yes, Sir, A sum of Rs. 1.58 crores was paid to Karnataka Government as Stamp duty and Registration fee by the Commissioner of Central Excise, Bangalore for purchase of Residential Quarters from Karnataka Housing Board in March, 1996.

(b) to (e) Since the State Government insisted upon the payment of Stamp duty and Registration fee as a pre-condition to execution of the Sale Deed, the same was paid. However, the matter was pursued with the State Government for getting refund of the above mentioned Stamp duty and Registration fees. The State Government has since granted the refund for the entire amount paid by the Central Government. The question of fixing responsibility does not arise as payment was made on the insistence of the State Government.

Noida Export Processing Zone

5043. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Development Commissioner of Noida Export Processing Zone failed to take eviction proceedings during 1998 against the allottee absconding from 1992 resulting into non-recovery of Rs.65 lakhs from lessee;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the recovery of the amount and eviction of the defaulter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Development Commissioner, Noida Export Processing Zone, Noida has already taken action in 1995 for recovery of the outstanding rental charges of Rs. 65 lakhs and the State Revenue authorities have been requested to recover the dues as arrears of land revenue. Further, the capital goods and raw materials imported/procured from the domestic market by the unit are still lying in their premises in the Zone. Customs authorities have initiated action for recovery of customs and central excise duties from the unit and the matter is pending before the appellate authority. The eviction proceeding can be initiated only when this is settled.

WTO Standards on Fisheries

5044. DR. N. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have rejected the proposal of WTO regarding standards on Fisheries;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the name of country against which the said price has been rejected; and

(c) the standards that Indian Government suggested or like to suggest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There is no proposal of WTO regarding standards on fisheries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Credit Card Business

5045. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the foreign banks have monopoly in credit card business in the country ;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make the public sector banks compete with the foreign banks in this business;

(c) whether guidelines have not been issued in respect of credit card business at central level and foreign banks are framing their own rules on the basis of the existing rules at international level;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to issue directions to foreign banks to bring transparency in their working or showing of rules etc. to safeguard the interests of the credit card holders; and

(e) if so, the time by which the Government are likely to take decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that on the basis of information received by it from the banks, the total number of credit cards issued by public sector banks and foreign banks, as on 31st March 2000, was 10.60 lakh and 23.83 lakh, respectively. RBI has further reported that the aggregate turnover on credit cards recorded by public sector banks and foreign banks, for the year ended 31st March 2000, was Rs. 1916.42 crore and Rs. 6198.40 crore, respectively.

(b) to (e) RBI has issued instructions to all scheduled banks, including public sector banks, private sector banks and foreign banks, that only those banks which have net worth of Rs. 100 crore or above should issue credit cards, with the approval of their Board of Directors. RBI have advised the banks to put in place effective systems for proper appraisal of applications and for follow up of dues to minimize the incidence of bad debts/frauds. The banks are also required to place review reports before their Boards of Director on their credit card business covering the number of cards average turnover per card, total turnover, cost-benefit analysis of the business, bad debts and provisions held there-against. The instructions issued by RBI to the banks regarding credit card business apply uniformly to all categories of banks, whether in public sector, private sector or foreign banks.

[English]

Budget Deficit of Assam

5046. SHRI M.K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether budget deficit of State Government of Assam and other North-estern States has been increasing year after year in 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

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

(c) the impact of the economic package offered to these States under the Prime Minister's accelerated development programme for the region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) A Statement is enclosed.

(b) The deficit is due to mismatch between receipts and expenditure of the respective State Governments, particularly due to a rise in establishment expenditure.

(c) The package for Socio Economic Development announced by the Prime Minister for North-East Region comprises of assistance in various areas, including banking and commerce; border roads and trade, health, education, power, civil aviation, flood control, Information Technology, horticulture etc. The time schedule will be as per plan schemes prepared by different agencies of Central Government and State Governments concerned. The implementation of the Schemes and Programmes in Agenda for Social-Economic Development of North-Eastern States and Sikkim are being monitored and reviewed in the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Statement

Budget Surplus (+)/Deficit(-) during 1998-99 to 2000-01

		(Rs. in crore)		
S. No.	State	1998-99 (Accounts)	1999-2000 (R E)	2000-2001 (B E)
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	25.59	18.58	29.24
2.	Assam	63.64	-876.98	-854.84
3.	Manipur	-60.61	-260.92	-260.50
4.	Meghalaya	73.14	-106.34	-219.14
5.	Mizoram	-66.08	-99.93	-62.08
6.	Nagaland	-59.83	43.81	29.48
7.	Tripura	29.94	-40.77	-223.70
8.	Sikkim	13.04	-17.16	-19.40

[Translation]

**Cent Percent Export Oriented
Units in Bihar**

5047. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal/application for setting up of cent percent export oriented units in Bihar;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the Year 2000-2001, one application, was received from M/s Bihar Global in the District of Munger, Bihar and has been granted Letter of Permission.

Import Duty on Litharge

5048. SHRI RAGHUVIR SINGH KAUSHAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of import duty on Litharge, and on Lead Ingote, raw material being used in its manufacturing;

(b) whether concession in the import duty has been given to some industrial units importing Litharge whereas no such concession has been extended to the Litharge manufacturing small industrial units on the import of Lead Ingot being used as a raw material in the manufacturing of Litharge;

(c) if so, whether as a result of this situation small units are being closed; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to save the small units from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) Litharge as well as lead ingots generally attract basic customs duty of 35%.

(b) Concessional basic customs duty of 15% is leviable on Litharge imported for use in the manufacture of Glass shells or parts for colour picture tubes.

(c) The office of the Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) does not maintain list of small scale units producing litharge. As such it is not possible to indicate whether any such units are being closed.

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

[English]

**Expenditure on Research and
Development of Industry**

5049. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether unlike Western and developed countries Indian business/industrial houses used to spend negligible amount for research and development; and

(b) if so, the amount spent on Research and Development (R and D) in industry for each sector by public and private sector units during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) India's national R and D expenditure was 0.66% of Gross National Product during 1996-97 compared to 2-3% by Western and developed countries.

(b) The R and D expenditure by 166 units of public sector industries during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was Rs. 414.61 crore, Rs. 427.58 crore and Rs. 536.05 crore respectively.

The R and D expenditure by 1270 in-house R and D units of private sector industries including 159 Scientific and Industrial Research Organisations and projected data for 121 in-house R and D units during the years 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 was Rs. 1318.87 crore, Rs. 1627.07 crore and Rs. 1796.96 crore respectively.

Fraud in Banks

5050. SHRI CHADA SURESH REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4157 in Lok Sabha on 15.12.2000 and state :

(a) whether the information asked for has since been collected;

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

(c) the time by which it is likely to be laid on the table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Information for fulfilling the assurance given to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4157 on 15.12.2000 is yet to be received from all the concerned banks and the same is expected shortly. The implementation statement for fulfilling the assurance is likely to be furnished by 15.06.2001.

Ways and Means Advance

5051. SHRI TRILOCHAN KANUNGO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of ways and advance/ overdrafts availed by each State Government during 2000-2001 alongwith the interest paid to RBI on these advances; and

(b) the number of days allowed by Reserve Bank of India on ways and means advance and overdrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The transaction between a State and the Reserve Bank of India is conducted as per an agreement between the two. Since, it is a matter of relationship between the banker and the client (between the Reserve Bank of India and the State Government), such information is not published/made public by Government of India.

(b) Though no time limit has been stipulated for the normal Ways and Means Advance (WMA), States are expected to clear WMA in 90 days. With regard to Special WMA (secured), which is extended against the States' holdings in Government of India dated securities/Treasury Bills, there is no time limit. Under the Overdraft Regulation Scheme applicable to the State Governments recently revised with effect from February 1, 2001.

(i) No State shall be allowed to run an overdraft with Reserve Bank of India for more than 12 consecutive (earlier 10) working days.

(ii) The overdraft shall not exceed 100 per cent of normal WMA limit. On the first occasion when this is exceeded in a financial year, Reserve Bank of India will advise the State that the Overdraft amount should not exceed 100 per

cent of normal WMA limit on any subsequent occasion. If it so exceeds on a second or any subsequent occasion during a financial year, the State is given five (earlier three) working days' notice to bring the overdraft amount within the level of 100 per cent of normal WMA limit.

[Translation]

Export of Agricultural Products

5052. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of export of agricultural products during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether the export has declined in comparison to the previous years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government are taking some steps for bringing qualitative improvements in these agricultural products to avoid rejection of these products abroad; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The total export of agricultural products (incl. Tea, coffee, marine, castor oil, cotton) for the year 1999-2000 and 2000-01 are given as below :

(Value:Rs. crores)	
Year	Agricultural exports
1999-2000 (Apr.-March)	23823
2001-01 (Apr.-Dec.)	18714
1999-2000 (Apr.-Dec.)	18097

Source: DGC & S, Calcutta.

The details of quantity and value of each of the agricultural product and the countries to which exported

are available in monthly/annual number of foreign trade statistics of India published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta copies of which are placed in the Parliament Library.

(b) The agricultural exports for the period (April-Dec.) 2000-01 have increased in comparison to the corresponding period of the year 1999-2000.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Some of the steps taken for qualitative improvement in agro products with a view to boost their exports and to avoid their rejection in the foreign markets include :-

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control including adoption of quality systems such as ISO 9000/HACCP of processing units.
3. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially mangoes for gaining access to overseas markets;
4. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits, vegetables and floriculture products;
5. Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centers, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
6. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination and ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.
7. Transfer of production technology through field

demonstration and farmers training for the use of critical inputs such as seed, implements contingencies, assistance for water saving devices like drip in cotton and sugarcane schemes, moist heat seed treatment unit in sugarcane etc.

8. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
9. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
10. Development of standards for export of agro products along with monitoring plans for permissible residue levels.

[English]

Essential Commodities in Super Bazar

5053. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in most branches of super bazar, essential commodities are not available;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to initiate action to ensure the availability of all items in grocery, medicines and general departments in every branch of super bazar in future;

(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 SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Super Bazar has reported that essential items like atta, sugar, salt etc. are available mostly in all branches of Super Bazar.

(b) to (d) The Government of India do not interfere in the business affairs of Super Bazar. Super Bazar is a Multi-State Cooperative society. All possible attempts are being made by management of Super Bazar to improve the availability of essential items in every branch of Super Bazar.

Relief Package for Paddy Farmers

5054. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Probe demanded into use of Funds: appearing in the Hindustan Times dated January 8, 20001;

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

(c) whether the Government have ordered high level probe into the utilisation of funds released by the Centre to Government of Haryana under Relief Package for paddy growing farmers of the State last year;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether investigations have been completed and report submitted to the Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, by what time the report is likely to be submitted alongwith reasons for delay in submitting the report?

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

(b) As per the news item, the Haryana unit of the Bharatiya Janta Party has demanded a high level probe into the utilization of funds released by the Centre to the State Government last year under the relief package for the paddy growing farmers of the State.

(c) Since the Government has not released any funds to the Government of Haryana under relief package for the paddy growing farmers of the State, the question of ordering high level probe does not arise.

(d) to (g) Does not arise.

Disciplinary Proceedings against AIR Engineer

5055. SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN :
SHRI RAMJIVAN SINGH :

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

(a) whether the disciplinary proceedings initiated against present Chief Engineer level-II of Civil Constuction Wing; All India Radio, in the case of "irregularities in the work of 2 x 500 KVA DG set at Narbal, Srinagar. Inquiry Officer had proved the charges in a report submitted in 1997-98.

(b) if so, whether no action has been taken by the Government on the inquiry report so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the same officer is facing major penalty charge sheets in other cases also and continues to hold the sensitive charge of exerising financial powers in respect of works and arbitration matter; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) The inquiry report in respect of the disciplinary proceedings initiated against the present Chief Engineer Level-II, Civil Construction Wing, All India Radio in the case of irregularities in the work of 2x500 KVA DG sets at Narbal, Srinagar, is under examination, on completion of which, requisite action will be taken thereon.

(d) and (e) This officer is facing charge sheets in other cases also. However, it is for Prasar Bharati to decide about the work to be allotted and powers to be exercised by him, keeping in view the administrative requirements of the organization and the nature of charges levelled against him

Closure of Sugar Mills

5056. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI T.M. SELVAGANPATHI :
SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE :
DR. V. SAROJA :

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

(a) the number of sugar mills lying closed in the country as on date;

(b) the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the details of the steps initiated to revive sick sugar mills and reopen closed mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide short term loans to sugar mills in addition to existing schemes to help farmers and sugar mills;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government has received any representation in this regard;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether due to non-procurement of sugarcane by the sugar mills farmers had to burn their sugarcane crops; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) a statement showing the statewise number of sugar mills which did not work during the current sugar season 2000-2001 is enclosed.

(c) The Government of India has taken the following steps to revive sick sugar mills/improve the health of sugar industry :-

1. The levy obligation of sugar mills which was reduced from 40% to 30% w. e. f. 1.1.2000, has been further reduced to 15% w.e.f. 1.2.2001.
2. To restrict the inflow of imported sugar in the country, custom duty has been increased to 60% w.e.f. 9.2.2000. The imported sugar has been brought under the release mechanism.
3. Monthly releases of freesale sugar are being made judiciously to ensure fair realization to sugar industry.
4. Export of 10 lakh tonnes of sugar has been permitted in the licensing year 2000-2001 (April-March).
5. Advanced releases of freesale sugar are being given to needy sugar mills to enable them to clear cane price dues of the farmers.
6. A Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (F & P D) to examine

the cases of sick Cooperative Sugar Mills and to recommend revival packages of potentially viable units.

7. The government is considering to amend the Sugar Development Fund Rules, 1983 for providing financial assistance at concessional rate of interest to potentially viable sick sugar mills.

(d) and (e) At present the Government is not considering to introduce any scheme to provide short term loans to the sugar factories for providing inputs to the farmers.

(f) and (g) No, Sir.

(h) and (i) No such incidence has come to the notice of this Ministry.

Statement

Statewise Number of Sugar Mills which did not work during the Current Sugar Season 2000-01.

(As on 28-2-2001)

State	No. of Sugar Mills
1	2
Punjab	1
Haryana	-
Rajasthan	2
Uttar Pradesh	17
Madhya Pradesh	3
Gujarat	5
Maharashtra	7
Bihar	18
Assam	2
Andhra Pradesh	7
Karnataka	4
Tamil Nadu	1

1	2
Kerala	1
Orissa	3
West Bengal	-
Nagaland	1
Pondicherry	-
Goa	-
Total	72

[Translation]

Teaching of Sanskrit through Akashvani

5057. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

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

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to teach Sanskrit through Akashvani/Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati has informed that major all India Radio stations broadcast language lessons in all the recognized languages including Sanskrit. No such lessons are telecast on Doordarshan channels.

[English]

Disinvestment in the N.F.L.

5058. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set July, 2001 as a deadline for disinvestment in the NFL;

(b) if so, the details of profit so earned from said disinvestment proposal;

(c) the extent to which National Fertilisers Limited is making profit as on date;

(d) whether the present cash flow of National Fertilisers Limited is totally dependent on the unit-wise policy of Government; and

(e) if so, the manner by which the Government protect the financial viability of National Fertilisers Limited under a new system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The completion of the disinvestment exercise depends on various factors like market conditions, time taken by the prospective bidders for due diligence, finalisation of the agreements, response from the investors to the stake offered etc. In view of such market related factors, it is not possible to set any deadline for completion of the process. However, it is the endeavour of the Government to complete the process at the earliest in accordance with the prescribed procedures and regulations.

(b) The realization from the proposed disinvestment would depend on various factors like market conditions, financial performance of the Company, terms and conditions of sale, interest of the prospective investors etc. As such, it is not possible to estimate the expected return from the disinvestment.

(c) During the year 2000-2001, National Fertilisers Limited has made a profit of Rs. 16.49 crores (Provisional).

(d) The cash flow is dependent on the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme (RPS), which is applicable to urea producing companies; 12% post tax return is provided on net worth and sales realisation.

(e) The Government is in the process of formulating a new pricing policy for urea units keeping in view the recommendations of Expenditure Finance Commission for replacing the existing RPS. The proposed new policy will aim at bringing in transparency and uniformity in

disbursement of subsidy to urea companies and will also induce manufacturers to take cost reduction measures on their own and be competitive.

Misappropriation of Gujarat Relief Fund

5059. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any administrative infrastructure to check and verify the accountability of the relief funds collected through various channels, media (Newspapers), public forums.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the amount received from various channels/T V Networks Newspapers till date, separately;

(d) whether some cases of large scale misappropriation of funds have come to the notice of the Govt; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the corrective measures taken by the Govt, to avoid such abuse of relief funds?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) This Ministry has received A/C Payee cheques/drafts amounting to Rs. 24,33,579/- from different sources drawn in favour of Prime Ministers National Relief Fund and Gujarat Chief Ministers Relief Fund. These were forwarded to the Prime Minister's Office and Chief Secretary of Gujarat for further necessary action at their end.

In addition, Cheques/Dafts amounting to Rs. 1, 84, 34, 576-has been sent directly to PM's office by AIR/Doordarshan Kendra's under intimation to this Ministry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Public Distribution System

5060. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the main policy of public Distribution depends on the promise that public would receive foodgrains at prices lower than free market prices;

(b) whether the domestic agricultural production has been rendered surplus stocks, which are beyond the absorption capacity of free market or FCI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to consider rationalizing the present policy by working out procurement prices to repair the mismanagement between the Minimum Support Price, acquisition cost of FCI and PDS issue price; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The main objective of the Public Distribution System is to manage scarcity and distribute foodgrains at affordable prices. However, in order to ensure availability of foodgrains to the families Below Poverty Line, the Government launched the Targeted Public Distribution System with its focus on the poor in June, 1997.

(b) and (c) The production of foodgrains is only marginally surplus to the country's normative requirement as a whole, as per the advance estimates of production during 2000-2001. FCI and the State Agencies procure whatever Fair Average Quality wheat, paddy and coarsegrains that are offered by the farmers for sale. The balance is purchased in the open market.

(d) and (e) A High Level Committee has been constituted to formulate a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the said committee include matters relating to Minimum Support Price and price support operations, functioning of Public Distribution System, policy regarding buffer stocks, Open market Intervention and Export/Import, allocation of foodgrains for rural development programmes and other welfare programmes and FCI related issues. The Committee is expected to finalise its report by end of May, 2001.

Export of Spices

5061. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of chillies and other spices exported during the last two years from each State, spices-wise and year-wise;

(b) the decrease/increase spotted by the Government in the export of these spices during the above period;

(c) the reasons for decrease, if any identified in respect of export of chillies;

(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to increase the export of spices;

(e) the hurdles surfacing in the process of exports of spices especially in case of chillies;

(f) the measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(g) its impact on the farm community?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) State-wise data for export of spices is not maintained. Export of chillies and other spices during the last two years is given in the table below :-

Quantity in tonnes (Source: Spices Board)

Item	1999-2000 (Provisional)	2000-01 (April-Feb) (Estimated)
1	2	3
Pepper	42806	16050
Cardamom (S)	646	975
Cardamom (L)	1211	1345
Chilli	64776	52500
Ginger	8773	5830
Turmeric	35556	29000
Coriander	13973	11250
Cumin	6145	11300
Celery	3497	4650
Fennel	2953	3600
Fenugreek	10901	8850
Other seeds (1)	2349	2150

1	2	3
Garlic	8542	10750
Other spices (2)	22012	31000
Curry powder	5814	5450
Mint oil	2820	3275
Spice oils & oleoresins	3368	3175
Total	236142	201150

(b) The export of spices has shown a marginal decline in terms of quantity during the last 2 years. However, the export of spices has declined by around 6% in terms of quantity and 24% in terms of value during April-February, 2000-01, as compared to the corresponding period of previous year.

(c) The export of chillies has declined on account of cheaper prices offered by Pakistan and presence of aflatoxin and pesticide residues in our exports

(d) Steps taken to increase export of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices; implementation of brand promotion schemes; product diversification; technology transfer, process upgradation and product development; developing organic spices and spice products; sending business delegations etc.

(e) The major hurdles faced in the process of export of spices including chillies include inadequate supply of exportable varieties of spices; non competitive prices; inadequate investment in high tech processing and value addition; and inefficiency in meeting the changing quality requirements of the importing countries. In case of chillies, the major hurdles are presence of aflatoxin and pesticide residues and varietal mix-up.

(f) The measures taken by Govt/Spices Board in this regard include regular conduct of training programmes benefiting the growers, extension workers, traders, processors and exporters; improving the infrastructure in processing and grading as well as setting up in-house testing facilities; acquisition of technology for upgradation of processing and manufacturing methods. Besides, steps have been taken for improving post harvest handling facilities including necessary infrastructure like construction of drying yards, supply of polythene sheets etc.

(g) The percentage share of export of spices including chillies out of the total production of spices in the country is quite small to make any substantial impact on the farming community. However, various steps taken by the Govt/Spices Board for improving post harvest activities, processing and value addition have given an impetus to the farmers to attain higher level of quality leading to better realisation for their produce.

National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission

5062. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the objectives of the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission;

(b) the number of cases pending before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to create regional offices of the Commission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, a three-tier quasi judicial machinery has been set up in the country, with the District Forum at the district level, State Commission at the State level and the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (National Commission) at the national level. The National Commission has jurisdiction to entertain complaints where the value of the goods or services and compensation, if any, claimed exceeds rupees twenty lakhs. It also has jurisdiction to entertain appeals against the orders of any State Commission. The National Commission also exercises administrative control over all the State Commissions with regard to calling for periodical returns regarding institution, disposal, pendency of cases, issue of instructions regarding procedures to be adopted, and generally overseeing the functioning of the State Commissions and District Fora.

(b) 9515 cases which include original complaints, appeals and revision cases were pending before the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission as on 1.1.2001.

(c) and (d) Proposal for various amendments to the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 is under consideration. This includes enabling provision for holding of circuit benches of the National Commission at such places as may be notified.

Functioning of Coffee Board in KBK Region

5063. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Coffee Board in undivided districts of KBK region is functioning effectively with regard to the Governmental interest thereto;

(b) if so, whether the Government have prepared 'status paper' 'as is, how is' basis;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the facilities/schemes/programmes/privileges conferred upon the coffee growers of the KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) region, considering the 'Backwardness' of the said region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Coffee Board's efforts are focussed on development of coffee in Koraput, Rayagada, Kalahandi, Kandhamal, Keonjhar and Gajapati Districts of Orissa. According to the survey conducted by the Board an area of 22, 257 ha. has been found suitable for coffee cultivation in these six districts.

The present status of coffee planted area, production and productivity in the Govt., private and tribal sectors of Orissa are as under :-

S. No.	Sector	Area Under coffee (ha)	Production (MT) *	Productivity Kg/ha **
1.	Govt. Sector	1321	59	68
2.	Private Sector	460	143	611
3.	Tribal Sector	49	1	83
	Total	1830	203	-

* Average production from 1998-99 to 2000-2001.

** Productivity based on bearing area.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Coffee Board has been implementing a Special Area Programme for development of coffee in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa during the 9th Plan with the objective of weaning away the tribal growers from 'Podu cultivation', traditionally practiced by them and settle them on a permanent footing in an agro-based enterprise like coffee and thereby improve their socio-economic status. A subsidy of Rs. 15000/ha. is provided by the Board for expansion and consolidation of coffee. Subsidy is also provided for installation of coffee processing machinery like pulpers and hullers.

The Board's Extension unit at Koraput as well as the Coffee Demonstration Farms provide the require technical support for coffee expansion and consolidation programmes taken up in the State of Orissa from 9th Plan.

Vacant Posts in AIR

5064. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebrations Committee has recommended to fill the backlog of vacancies reserved for SCs/STs in the year 1993;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) the total number of 'AIR News Readers' appointed during the last three years, Year-wise;

(d) the total number of persons from SC/ST community among them and their percentage as compared to the total appointments during the last three years, year-wise; and

(e) the reasons for non implementation of the recommendation satisfactorily?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry had initiated special recruitment drives to fill up backlog vacancies and the vacancies were also intimated to respective recruitment agencies like UPSC, SSC and Employment Exchanges.

(c) and (d) :

	1998	1999	2000
Total number of News Readers appointed :	1*	1	Nil
Total number of News Readers belonging to SC/ST	SC : Nil ST : Nil	1 Nil	Nil Nil
Percentage of SC/ST as compared to the total Appointments :	SC : Nil ST : Nil	100% Nil	Nil Nil

*This was a general category vacancy.

(e) Does not arise.

New Accounting Standards

5065. DR. D.V.G. SHANKAR RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has submitted its new accounting standards for dotcom firms to SEBI;

(b) whether such firms are listed in Indian and Overseas bourses; and

(c) if so, since when?

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

(b) A few dot com companies are listed on Indian stock exchanges. Some are listed in overseas stock exchanges.

(c) Some dot com companies were listed in 1999 and others thereafter.

Outstanding Taxes

5066. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of outstanding amount to be recovered in the form of various taxes by the end of March, 2001; and

(b) the details of the taxes for which the outstanding

amount is to be recovered and the quantum of outstanding amount thereof, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) The amount outstanding is as follows :

Central Excise Duty Rs. 8323 crore (as on 31.3.2001)

Income Tax and Corporation Tax Rs. 53050 crore (as on 28.2.2001)

Customs Duty Rs. 1836 crore (as on 31.1.2001)

Additional Metro Channel in Tamil Nadu

5067. DR. V. SAROJA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is proposed to start additional Metro Channels in Tamil Nadu considering the fact even though smaller States have more than one metro channel;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) There is only one Metro Channel of Doordarshan for the entire country. For terrestrial coverage of this Channel, a number of transmitters of varying powers throughout the country are presently operational including, a High Power transmitter (HPT) at Chennai in Tamil Nadu. For further expansion of this facility in the State, an HPT at Kodaikanal and 9 Low Power transmitters one each at Tiruchirappalli, Vellore, Salem, Tuticorin, Madurai, Coimbatore, Erode, Tirunelveli and Tirupattur are under implementation.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Removal of Restrictions on Export of certain Items

5068. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :

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

(a) whether there are restrictions on export of certain items from the country at present;

(b) if so, the details of such restrictions along with the benefits of these restrictions and the names of items on which these restrictions have been imposed so far;

(c) whether the Government are contemplating to lift such restrictions imposed on the export of some of these items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for which these restrictions are proposed to be removed?

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

(b) The list of items on which export restrictions are in existence are given in Table A and Table B of Schedule 2 of "ITC (HS) Classification of Export and Import Items (incorporating amendments made upto 31st August, 1998)" and as amended from time to time, the copy of which is available in Parliamentary Library.

(c) and (d) The question of lifting restrictions on export of certain Agricultural Products like Wheat, Coarse grains, Rice Basmati, Whole and instant Milk Food, Gum Karaya, Niger Seeds etc. is under consideration of the Government. The proposal for removal of restrictions on exports is in line with the policy of economic liberalisation being followed by the Government since 1991. The proposal aims at promoting India's exports of these commodities.

World Bank Funding to States

5069. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the loan approved by the World Bank for each State during the last three years and names of the project/scheme for which this loan has approved;

(b) the scheme for which maximum amount of fund was approved during the said period; and

(c) the State-wise details of the progress of the approved schemes in the said years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Details of State-wise loans approved by the World Bank during the last three years along with the financial progress made are given in enclosed Statement.

Maximum amount of loan approved was in respect of the 3rd National Highway project, at US \$ 516 millions.

Statement

(in US \$ million)

(Data Provisional)

No.	Project Name	State	FY 98-99		FY 99-2000		FY 2000-2001		Cumulative financial disbursement (as on 31st March 2001)
			IBRD	IDA	IBRD	IDA	IBRD	IDA	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1.	AP Eco Restructuring	Andhra Pd.	301.30	241.90					137.382
2.	AP Power APLI	Andhra Pd.	210.00						96.292
3.	AP Dist. Poverty	Andhra Pd.					111.00		3.227
4.	Women and Child Dev	Bihar		19.50					1.567
5.	Nat Agr Tech	Central	96.80	99.40					31.773
6.	TA for Economic Reforms	Central					45.00		1.169
7.	Immunization Strengthening Project	Central					142.60		22.964
8.	TA for Telecom Sector	Central					62.00		3.620
9.	National Highway	Central					516.00		30.160
10.	IREDA II	Central					300.00	50.00	0.000
11.	Technical Education-III	Central					64.90		2.151
12.	Gujarat State Highway	Gujarat					110.00		33.000
Gujrat Emergency Earthquake									
13.	Reconstruction Project	Gujarat					97.00	303.00	0.000
14.	Kerala Forestry	Kerala		38.80					10.535
Kerala Rural WS and Environmental									
15.	Sanitation Program	Kerala					65.50		1.575
16.	MP District Poverty Initiative Project	Madhya Pd.					110.10		2.718
17.	Maha Health Systems	Maharashtra		134.00					3.290
18.	Integrated Watershed Dev. Project	Multi-States			85.00	50.00			19.909

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
19. Women and Child Dev	Multi-States					300.00			26.548
20. Orissa Health Systems	Orissa			76.40					5.063
21. Rajasthan DPEP I	Rajasthan					81.90			5.321
22. AIDS III	Rajasthan					194.75			31.800
23. Rajasthan District Poverty	Rajasthan							100.00	2.878
Rajasthan Power Sector									
24. Restructuring Project	Rajasthan						180.00		15.000
25. Tamil Nadu Urban Development	Tamil Nadu				100.00	5.00			62.871
26. UP Diver Agr Supp	Uttar Pd.	79.00	49.50						16.641
27. UP Sodic Land II	Uttar Pd.		194.10						19.586
28. UP DPEP III	Uttar Pd.					182.40			17.720
29. UP Power Sector Reform	Uttar Pd.						150		13.947
30. UP Health Development Project	Uttar Pd.							110.00	2.254
31. UP Fiscal Reforms	Uttar Pd.						126.27	122.97	219.570
Total			687.10	853.60	185.00	814.05	963.27	926.47	
Year Total			1540.70		999.05		1889.74		

*[English]***National Film Awards**

5070. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHI :

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

(a) whether some members of the Jury for National Film Awards had expressed serious objections against the procedure followed for making the selections and have tendered their resignation;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) the procedure prescribed, if any for nominating members of the Jury; and

(d) the details of the composition of the present Jury including their background, qualifications and the persons recommending their names for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Out of 17-member jury constituted by the Government for deciding the 48th National Film Awards for the Feature Film category, 3 members disassociated themselves at the last stage of the deliberations, as they did not agree with the views of the majority of the members. Two of these members later sent their resignation from the jury. No communication has been received from the third jury member. As per the regulations of the National Film

Awards, the jury functions independently and determines its own work procedure. The Government does not interfere in the functioning or deliberations of the Jury.

2. As per the National Film Awards Regulations, the Jury is constituted by the Directorate of Film Festivals

with the approval of the Government from among persons distinguished in the field of cinema, other allied arts and humanities.

3. The names and qualifications of the members of the Jury under Feature Film Category are as under :-

S.No.	Name	Background/field
1	Mrs. Vijayantimala Bali, Chairperson	Leading actress of Hindi Cinema/Dancer/Ex-MP
2.	Smt. Chitra Desai	Lawyer and Poet
3.	Shri Mac Mohan	Actor from Hindi Cinema
4.	Mrs. Sonali Kotnis	Editor of a Cinema magazine/column
5.	Ms. Madhu Mita Raut	Eminent Odissi dancer
6.	Ms. Nivedita Pradhan	Lawyer and MLA
7.	Shri Sushant Mishra	Award winning film director
8.	Smt. Parvati Indusekar	Lawyer
9.	Shri Kothandaramainah	Film graduate from Chennai Film Institute, Producer, Director, Exhibitor, President of the South Indian Film Chamber of Commerce.
10.	Shri Hariharan	Award Winning Film Director
11.	Shri Shashi Ranjan	Film graduate from Pune Film Institute/Actor/TV Producer
12.	Shri Tarun Vijay	Editor of a leading Hindi News Paper; Film Critic; has served as jury member previously
13.	Shri Pawan Kumar	Producer from Hindi Cinema
14.	Shri Pradeep Kishan	Award winning Film Director
15.	Shri Dhritiman Chatterjee	Actor from Bengal Cinema
16.	Shri Shashi Anand	Film graduate from Pune Film Institute/Cinematographer
17.	Shri R. Lakshman	Film Producer from Bangalore

CBI Raids on Jewellers

5071. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA :
DR. BALIRAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "50 karor ke sona ghotala mein CBI chhape" appearing in Dainik Jagran, on March 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of assets alongwith the

designation and department of persons indulged in the said scam; and

(c) the details of action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government against guilty officers/jewellers/bank officials?

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

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that it has come to its notice that some banks had to face difficulties in realization of Pay Orders issued by certain co-operative banks tendered by bullion traders in Ahmedabad. RBI has no information about the quantum of gold involved in the transactions. However, likely loss to State Bank of India, Bank of India and Standard Chartered Bank is Rs. 39.70 crores, 4.80 crores and 9.30 crores respectively. RBI has advised all the banks authorised to import gold that while they are required to ensure normal banking prudence in respect of all financial instruments, in the context of trading in bullion they should release gold only against full realization of value or proceeds of instruments. In respect of gold sold on unfixed basis, banks were advised to collect 100 per cent margin in cash for the provisional value of gold and a suitable additional margin to take care of likely price fluctuations and transactions in such cases should be settled within 5 days. The State Bank of India has reported that they have lodged an FIR with the Central Bureau of Investigation. Banks will also be taking action against officials found guilty.

Disinvestment Models

5072. SHRI SAHIB SINGH : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's policy of disinvestment is being discussed in detail at various levels;

(b) if so, types of different physical and financial models of disinvestment;

(c) out of these, which are successful models and main advantage of this model; and

(d) the expected disinvestment target likely to be achieved by the end of the Tenth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Disinvestment involves sale of the equity held by the Government in various Public Sector Enterprises with or without financial/capital restructuring. This process of sale of Government equity in Public Sector Enterprises can be undertaken through different modes. The mode and extent of disinvestment in one particular PSU may not be applicable in other company. Similarly the mode and extent of disinvestment considered appropriate in a company at one point of time may not be advisable in the same company at a different point of time. Further, the methods of disinvestment, their applications etc. vary from country to country, sector to sector of the economy and company to company in the same sector. Sometimes, a combination of methods is considered appropriate. Disinvestment through public offering in domestic or international market, sale of equity to financial institutions, open auction, employee buyout, trade sale and strategic sale are amongst the methods available. Based on the spirit of recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, sale of equity to a strategic partner (strategic sale) is now considered the preferred model of disinvestment, in most PSUs.

(d) The annual budget indicates that for 2001-2002 Rs. 12,000 Crore are expected to be realised from disinvestment. No target for the period ending Tenth Five Year Plan has been fixed.

[Translation]

Paper Industries

5073. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of paper industries existing as on date in each State particularly in Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas;

(b) whether the present progress of paper industry is not up to the expected level;

(c) whether huge amount of funds are required for paper industry to meet the increasing demand of paper and "Paper Board" in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent of funds likely to be provided by the Government to promote the paper industry particularly in scheduled caste and tribal dominated areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The details of Paper Industries in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes dominated areas of each State is not centrally maintained. However, the Statewise breakup of the total mills are given in enclosed statement.

(b) Despite a number of problems being faced by the industry, it has maintained a steady growth rate of 5.51% in 1997-98, 6.34% in 1998-99, 10.11% in 1999-2000. However, the growth rate has come down to -9.89% during the period April, 2000 to February, 2001 over the period April, 1999 to February, 2000. Fluctuation in growth rate of paper and paper board is governed by market forces.

(c) to (e) Paper Industry which includes Pulp, Paper and Paper Board is a delicensed one. This is one of the High Priority Industries where Foreign Equity participation upto 51% is permitted on an automatic basis. Entrepreneurs are required to file Industrial Entrepreneur Memorandum with Secretariat for Industrial Assistance in this Ministry as for setting up a Paper Mill no licence is required except in terms of locational policy or that the proposal does not envisage manufacturing of items reserved for small scale sector. The induction of technology is also allowed both through FDI and through Foreign Technology Collaborations.

Statement

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of Paper Mills.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	22
2.	Assam	04
3.	Bihar	07
4.	Chandigarh	08
5.	Chhattisgarh	02

1	2	3
6.	Gujarat	68
7.	Haryana	15
8.	Himachal Pradesh	15
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	01
10.	Jharkhand	02
11.	Kerala	07
12.	Karnataka	17
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19
14.	Maharashtra	115
15.	Meghalaya	01
16.	NCT Delhi	06
17.	Nagaland	01
18.	Orissa	09
19.	Pondicherry	03
20.	Punjab	37
21.	Rajasthan	08
22.	Tamil Nadu	22
23.	Uttar Pradesh	100
24.	West Bengal	26
Total		515

Deviation of Prudential Norms

5074. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has asked certain banks to submit details of their exposure in stock market;

(b) whether it is also a fact that some banks have

deviated from following the prudential norms in this regard;

(c) whether stock market has suffered any loss due to this deviation of prudential norms.

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action the Government propose to take against those banks; and

(e) the remedial steps taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that as a follow-up measure to the announcement made in the Credit Policy, it had called for detailed information from 101 banks in regard to their investments in shares/debentures etc., as well as advances against shares/debentures as on 31st January, 2001.

(b) RBI has reported that according to the data received from the banks, it was found that by and large, the banks had complied with RBI's norms for investments in shares, debentures etc. as well as the ceiling stipulated by the respective Boards of banks for advances against shares/debentures etc.

(c) and (d) RBI has asked the Banks to explain the position and will be taking appropriate action after receiving their response.

(e) In the light of the recommendations of a RBI-SEBI Technical Committee which has submitted its report on 12th April, 2001, RBI proposes to revise the guidelines issued earlier in November, 2000 on bank's investments in shares as also advances against shares and other connected exposures.

[English]

PF/Pension Schemes

5075. DR. (SHRIMATI) SUDHA YADAV :
SHRI SHRINIWAS PATIL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to revamp the Provident Fund and Pension Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to set up a Committee on PF and Pension; and

(d) if so, the modalities of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In his Budget Speech for 2001-2002, the Finance Minister had announced constitution of a High Level Expert Group to review the existing pension scheme and to provide a roadmap for devising a new pension system based on defined contributions in respect of those who enter Central Government service after 1st October, 2001. The Group is to give its recommendations within three months. Action to constitute the Expert Group has been initiated.

[Translation]

Merger of Bank Branches

5076. SHRI JAIBHAN SINGH PAWAIYA :
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :
SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India is pondering over any proposal to merge all the branches of Indian banks abroad;

(b) if so, the specific reasons for which the proposal of such merger is being pondered over; and

(c) the details of the decision taken, if any, by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Trade and Commerce with Neighbouring Countries

5077. SHRI. P. R KYNDIAH :
SHRIMATI JAS KAUR MEENA :
SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL :

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

(a) whether the Government are aware of the rich potential of the North-East region of the country in the matter of trade and commerce with the neighbouring countries, namely, Bangladesh, Myanmar and China;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far to increase the Indo-border trade and commerce;

(c) the quantum and amount of products exported and imported to and from the aforesaid neighbouring countries during the last one year;

(d) whether the Government are considering to declare certain areas of the North-East region as a special economic zone; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Central Government has taken specific steps to promote trade and commerce in the North Eastern region with its neighbouring countries. Minimum 10% of the budgetary provision of various schemes of Department of Commerce is earmarked for development of trade related infrastructure in the North East. Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, 16 different projects relating to the development of trade related infrastructure and removal of bottlenecks in exports have been approved in the NER and Rs.39.92 crore has been sanctioned for the purpose. As per the PM's Action Plan for the development of North East Region, four border townships at Zokhawthar (Mizoram), Moreh (Manipur) Dawki (Meghalaya) and Sutarkhandi (Assam) have been indentified for development of trade related infrastructure. An Export Development Fund has been set up with an initial contribution of Rs.5.00 Crore for assisting trade promotion activities in the North East. The border trade and inter country trade issues in the North East. The border trade and inter country trade issues in the North East have been studied by a Task Force and an Empowered Committee has been set up in Department of Commerce to, inter alia, monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force. A separate Cell has been created in the Department of Commerce for promoting exports from the North East.

(c) The export to and imports from the neighbouring countries by the NE region during 2000-2001 are as follows:-

	(Rs. In crore)	
	Exports	Imports
Bangladesh	109.32	8.01
Myanmar	5.60	12.37

India has no formal trade with China in the North Eastern Region.

(d) No Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

[Translation]

Serial on Tukdoji Maharaj and Gadge Baba

5078. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to make serial on great saints, Tukdoji Maharaj and Gadge Baba of Maharashtra;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sent any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Programme matters of Doordarshan including production of serials fall within the purview of Prasar Bharati and Government does not interfere with them. Prasar Bharati have intimated that they have not received any proposal for making a serial on Tukdoji Maharaj. As regards Gadge Baba, it has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that a serial in Marathi on Saint Gadge Baba was telecast from Doordarshan Kendra, Mumbai on weekly basis from 6-1-1997 to 13-3-1997 and it was re-telecast under the sponsored category from 24.6.1999 to 16.9.1999.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Review of Coffee Retention Plan

5079. SHRI C. SREENIVASAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the Coffee Retention Plan; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Originally the Government of India had approved India's participation in the Coffee Retention Plan of Association of Coffee Producing Countries. However considering the fact that the efforts made so far by some of the leading coffee producing countries to implement the retention scheme have not impacted appreciably on the market prices of coffee, the Government of India is closely monitoring the global price situation of coffee before committing financial resources for implementation of the retention plan.

[Translation]

Privatisation of MMTC

5080. DR. ASHOK PATEL : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal regarding privatisation of the public sector Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. situated in Bailadila of Baster area is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (c) It has been decided that Government shareholding in Minerals and Metals

Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC), which is situated in Delhi, be reduced to 26% through strategic sale to a strategic buyer, after resolving certain matters related to MMTC. Out of this 26% equity, 16% would remain with the Government for the present and the balance 10% would be used for issue of Employees Stock Options (ESOPs).

[English]

Cooperative Banks

5081. SHRI A. BRAHMANAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have asked State Governments to review the working of all cooperative banks within their jurisdiction;

(b) if so, specific aspects of working of cooperative banks which will come under examination;

(c) the response of State Governments of this suggestions;

(d) whether State Governments have made any suggestions to improve the working of cooperative banks;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Government had appointed a Task Force to study the cooperative credit system in the country and to suggest measures for its strengthening under Chairmanship of Shri Jagdish Capoor, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Task Force has submitted its report in July, 2000. The recommendations of the Task Force are wide ranging and would require action on several issues by several agencies including the State Governments.

(c) to (f) The recommendations of the Task Force are under active consideration of the Government in consultation with Reserve Bank of India (RBI), National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and State Governments. Their suggestions would be taken into consideration before final view on these recommendations are taken.

[Translation]

Investment in Agriculture Sector

5082. DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the average capital investment made by the public sector out of the total capital investment made in the agriculture sector of the country has been rapidly declining during the last few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of investment made out of the total investment in the agriculture sector by the public sector in the sector in the year 1995-96;

(c) the percentage of capital investment in agriculture by the public sector in the year 1999-2000; and

(d) the reasons for the decline in the capital investment by the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes Sir, whereas total investment in agriculture at current prices rose from Rs.13523 crore in 1993-94 to Rs. 29574 crore in 1999-2000 (Quick Estimates) the percentage share of public investment in agriculture has declined to 28.79 per cent in 1999-2000 from 33.03 per cent in 1993-94.

(d) The decline in public investment in agriculture is mainly due to the diversion of resources into current expenditure in the form of subsidies for food, fertilizers, electricity, irrigation, credit and other agricultural inputs rather than on creation of assets.

Profit/Losses of Banks

5083. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the profit/losses incurred by each public sector bank during the last three years;

(b) whether an amount of Rs. one lakh crore of these banks is outstanding from the borrowers;

(c) whether the Government have declared them as "Non-performing Assets" instead of recovering the outstanding loan amount; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) The bank-wise profit/loss position of public sector banks for the years 1997-1998, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) In accordance with the prudential norms on capital adequacy, income recognition, asset classification and provisioning requirements issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the advances of public sector banks which are categorized as sub-standard assets, doubtful assets and loss assets, are classified as non performing assets (NPAs). According to the information available with RBI, the gross NPAs of public sector banks as on 31st March 2000 was Rs.53294 crores, which constituted 14% of their gross advances. However, Efforts are on to affect recoveries from these accounts.

Statement

Public Sector Banks-Net Profit/Loss Position

(Rs. Crores)

Name of the Bank	As on 31.03.1998	As on 31.03.1999	As on 31.03.2000
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	1861.80	1027.80	2051.55
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	90.48	91.88	120.42
State Bank of Hyderabad	97.12	111.53	127.80
State Bank of Indore	27.71	31.04	45.25
State Bank of Mysore	50.54	33.58	48.24
State Bank of Patiala	143.01	101.20	130.69
State Bank of Saurashtra	126.41	25.36	88.79
State Bank of Travancore	63.30	43.27	66.44
Allahabad Bank	129.21	135.00	69.33
Andhra Bank	75.25	90.04	120.59
Bank of Baroda	458.73	421.44	502.77

1	2	3	4
Bank of India	364.51	201.14	172.82
Bank of Maharashtra	56.29	51.89	90.14
Canara Bank	203.02	225.06	236.05
Central Bank of India	174.89	146.25	150.69
Corporation Bank	166.87	192.03	232.44
Dena Bank	105.04	110.09	62.87
Indian Bank	-301.50	-778.50	-426.97
Indian Overseas Bank	113.06	55.34	40.34
Oriental Bank of Commerce	210.00	230.12	278.62
Punjab & Sind Bank	65.09	60.45	61.44
Punjab National Bank	477.35	372.12	408.14
Syndicate Bank	82.66	142.58	215.65
Uco Bank	-96.22	-67.77	36.64
Union Bank of India	250.10	160.22	101.24
United Bank of India	9.62	14.70	31.36
Vijaya Bank	23.31	30.23	52.84

**Non-Procurement of Wheat and
Paddy at MSP**

5084.SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complains of non-procurement of wheat and paddy at support price due to their surplus production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments are extending cooperation in the procurement of wheat and paddy at support price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has not received any complaint of non-procurement of wheat and paddy at Minimum Support Price due to their surplus production. During the Kharif and Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001, a quantity of 114.24 lakh tonnes of paddy and 163.55 lakh tonnes of wheat respectively has been procured.

(c) and (d) The State Governments are extending all cooperation in the procurement of wheat and paddy at support price. During the Kharif and Rabi Marketing Season 2000-2001, out of the total procurement, 73.30% of paddy and 78.91% of wheat was procured by the State Governments through their various agencies for the Central Pool.

[English]

Meeting of US-India Business Council

5085.SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a meeting of US-India Business Council (USIBC) organized by the CII has been held in New Delhi on March 5, 2001;

(b) if so, the outcome of the said meeting;

(c) whether an MOU to exchange information regarding bilateral trade and business cooperation has been signed by the Chairman of USIBC and CII, Director-General;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the areas where US and India look forward for co-operation and bilateral trade?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) There has been no meeting of the US-India Business Council (USIBC) in New Delhi. However, an MOU has been signed between Director General, CII and Chairman, US-India Business Council on 5/3/2001 agreeing, inter alia, to the following:

- * To exchange information regularly in regard to bilateral trade and business co-operation.
- * To facilitate one-to-one interaction between representatives of business and government in the United States and India.

- To facilitate visits between members of the two organizations and organize programmes, meetings, conferences and seminars as appropriate..
- To support relevant promotional activities (such as trade fairs).

ATM and Credit Card Facilities of Banks

5086. SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY :
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Banks vulnerable to cyber crimes" appearing in the Statesman dated March 5, 2001;

(b) if so, whether software experts have expressed concern over ATM and Credit Card facilities vulnerable to cyber crimes;

(c) if so, whether the Government have taken any remedial steps in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The concerns expressed over vulnerability of ATMs and Credit Cards have been noted by the Reserve Bank of India.

(c) and (d) The use of information technology (IT) for customer related facilities is not yet wide spread in India. ATMs and credit cards are confined to a few urban centers and they are subject to strict safeguards. They are not yet online, and cards are all for a stored value (debit cards) or up to predetermined limits (credit cards). However, necessary guidelines on use of ATM's and Credit Cards have been issued by Reserve Bank of India to public sector banks.

Disinvestment of BALCO

5087. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor-General of India (CAG) has been asked to conduct an audit of the

disinvestment of 51 percent equity in BALCO to the Sterlite Industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Report of CAG is likely to be received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. At the request of the Department of Disinvestment, the CAG has agreed to conduct a detailed audit of every disinvestment. The audit by the CAG of the BALCO disinvestment has already begun.

(c) Time by which the report of CAG is likely to be received has not been intimated. However, CAG had been requested earlier to consider ways by which the period of conducting the audit and submitting the reports on disinvestments can be shortened to a minimum.

[Translation]

Pending Proposals of State Governments

5088. DR. BALIRAM :
SHRI JAI PRAKASH :

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

(a) whether several projects of various State Governments are pending with his Ministry for approval;

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

(c) the date since when these projects are pending and the estimated cost of each project;

(d) the time by which the said projects are likely to be cleared; and

(e) the reasons of delay in according clearance to the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) No

projects from State Governments are pending for grant of Industrial Licence in this Ministry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

Foreign Visit

5089. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited Germany in second week of March this year;

(b) if so, the main objectives of his visit; and

(c) the achievements made during the visit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Finance Minister was in Germany for a day i.e., March 9, 2001 as the Chief Guest and keynote speaker at the Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV), Hamburg on the invitation of its President, OAV is a prominent German business association engaged specifically in promotion of economic and commercial cooperation between Germany and Asian countries and supports promotional activities devoted to India in Germany and neighbouring EU countries.

(c) The fact that the Finance Minister was the first ever non-German dignitary to be invited as the guest of honour and the main speaker at the Asia-Pacific Business Association (OAV) Liebesmahl strongly demonstrates the importance being attached to India by German Business and Industry. As was expected, the visit of the Finance Minister evoked great interest among the members of the OAV and other participants. The event for the first time focused exclusively on India. Exposition of fast reforming, developing and liberalising economy in India given by Finance Minister is expected to give a boost to the investment, trade and economic ties between India and Germany.

Inspection by RBI

5090. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has undertaken some key changes in the procedures to be followed by the Central Bank's teams while inspecting financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful for the purpose?

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

(b) The modified procedure for inspection of financial institutions includes the following :

(i) The information requirement of the Inspection Team would be advised to the FIs at least a month before the commencement of inspection.

(ii) Before the commencement of the inspection, the management of the FI would be requested to make a presentation to the Inspection Team on the FIs perspective of its own risk exposures, and the manner in which these risks were addressed in the past and the future strategy of the FI in this regard.

(iii) During the course of inspection, the Inspection Team would meet the internal and external auditors to appreciate the scope of their work and the results of their audit. On conclusion of the inspection, the Principal Inspecting Officer, along with his team members, as considered necessary, would meet the Audit Committee as also the CEO of the FI to discuss the major findings of the inspection.

(iv) A system of discussing the provisioning shortfall, owing to the objective as well as subjective factors, by the Inspection Team with the statutory/external auditors in the presence of the management of the FIs, would also be followed.

(c) The above procedure is expected to ensure better time management and efficiency of the inspection process. Further, this will also assist in enhancing transparency and minimising the element of subjectivity.

Repayment of Debt

5091. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of debt repayments due to nationalised banks from corporate sector, as on March, 31, 2000 and 1999;

(b) the total amount of such debt repayments written-off during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001, indicating sector-wise details of written-off debt repayments and reasons for writing off; and

(c) the comparative total debt repayments written-off due from agriculture sector during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Income Tax Search on Hotels and Restaurants

5092. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department made thorough searches on the premises of some hotels and restaurants in Delhi in the year 2000 to unearth huge income-tax evasion by these hotels and restaurants;

(b) if so, the details of hotels and restaurants whose premises were searched;

(c) whether the documents seized by the Income-Tax Department reveals that these hotels and restaurants have evaded income-tax to the tunes of crores of rupees;

(d) if so, the total income-tax estimated to have been evaded by these hotels and restaurants during the last three years; and

(e) if so, 'the total recovery made from these hotels and restaurants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) During the Financial Years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 searches were conducted in respect of three Hotels/ Restaurants and the details are mentioned as under;

Case I

Name of the Hotel/Restaurant	M/s Bikaner wala Group
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Date of Search	9.3.2000
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Total Seizure	Rs. 35.39 lakh
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Case II

Name of the Hotel/Restaurant	M/s Evergreen Sweet House
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Date of Search	3.11.2000
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Total Seizure	Rs. 20.57.lakh
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Case III

Name of the Hotel/Restaurant	M/s Sunair Hotels Ltd.
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Date of Search	21.11.2000
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Total Seizure	Rs. 267.41 lakh
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(c) to (e) As a result of search and consequential investigation in the case of M/s Bikanerwala Group., the concealed income has been estimated at Rs. 183 lakh. This group has paid taxes of Rs. 1, 08, 20, 000/- so far. In the other two cases investigation is under progress.

Proceedings under Chapter XIV B of the Income Tax Act are being initiated in all the cases for taxing the unaccounted income.

Effect on Export/Import due to Destruction of Free Port at Kandla

5093. SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether country's import/export has been adversely affected to a large extent due to destruction of free port and port trust at Kandla and Paradeep by the cyclone;

(b) if so, whether any study has been conducted in this regard;

(c) the total loss of revenue and the foreign exchange suffered by the country due to the destruction; and

(d) the measures taken by the Government to make up this loss?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) There was no decline in the international trade at Paradeep and Kandla ports following the cyclone. The international trade increased by 1.54% (in value terms) at Kandla Port in the remaining period of the year 1998-99 (following the cyclone which hit the port in June 1998) as compared to the same period during 1997-98. The international trade at Paradeep port, which was hit by the cyclone in October 1999, increased by 18.36% (in the value terms) during Oct 1999 to March 2000 as compared to the same period during 1998-99.

(d) To reduce the adverse impact of such calamities in future, disaster management plans of the ports are being updated and the communication and warning system has also been strengthened. Four additional berths for handling general cargo are being constructed at Kandla port and measures for replacement of obsolete equipments have been taken.

At Paradeep port, mechanical coal handling system at a cost of Rs. 850 crores has been set up. Two clear cargo berths are also being constructed.

Dumping of Titanium Dioxide Pigment

5094. SHRI V.S. SIVAKUMAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the multinational companies are dumping Titanium Dioxide Pigment in India at lesser costs, which adversely affected the domestic companies manufacturing Titanium Dioxide Pigment;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the import duty on Titanium Dioxide Pigment;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to protect the domestic companies?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The domestic industry has not filed any petition in the prescribed proforma to the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties, till date, to enable the

Designated Authority to initiate investigations for imposing Anti-Dumping Duty on import of Titanium Dioxide Pigment.

New National Broadcasting and Information Policy

5095. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate a new National Broadcasting and Information Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it would be formulated; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As convergence in Communication, Information Technology and Broadcasting is taking place due to development of technology, it is not considered necessary at present to formulate a separate Information and Broadcasting Policy.

Increase in Prices of Levy Sugar

5096. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the levy sugar price has been enhanced recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reimbursement of freight, insurance, transport and handlings charges have been included therein;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the manner in which the Government propose to reimburse the same to the State agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The Government of India announces the zonal ex factory levy

sugar prices for every sugar season based on the recommendations made by the expert body. The zonal ex factory levy prices for the current sugar season 2000-2001 have been notified by the Government of India on 31.1.2001 and are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) to (e) The freight, insurance, transport and handling charges for transporting the levy sugar is not included in the fixation of the ex-factory levy sugar prices. However, an additional amount of Rs. 1.57 per quintal of sugar is provided in the levy sugar prices for transportation of levy sugar from factory gate to railway station upto a distance of 5 km and where the distance exceeds 5 km, besides Rs. 1.57, an additional amount of Rs. 0.13 per km is also allowed. In addition, margin is paid to the State lifting agencies which, inter alia, covers transportation and handling charges. The margins are periodically revised by this Ministry, on proposals received from the State Governments based on audited expenditure data.

Statement

Ex-Factory levy Sugar Prices for 2000-2001 Sugar Season

(Rs./Qtl.)

S. No.	Zone	Season 2000-01
1	2	3
1.	Punjab	1278.57
2.	Haryana	1150.08
3.	Rajasthan	1210.14
4.	West Uttar Pradesh	1135.75
5.	Central Uttar Pradesh	1160.81
6.	East Uttar Pradesh	1263.48
7.	North Bihar	1165.24
8.	South Gujarat	1104.90
9.	Saurashtra	1130.92
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1265.34
11.	Central Maharashtra	1119.42

1	2	3
12.	South Maharashtra	1169.54
13.	North Maharashtra	1186.40
14.	N.W. Karnataka	1190.72
15.	Rest of Karnataka	1147.24
16.	Andhra Pradesh	1239.02
17.	Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry	1220.49
18.	Assam/W.B./Orissa/Nagaland	1171.63
19.	Kerala/Goa/Co. Karnataka	1283.56

Import of Hot Rolled Coils

5097. SHRI DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Anti-Dumping Directorate had rejected the petition submitted by the HR Coil producers since it did not justify even the initiation of Anti-Dumping proceedings;

(b) if so, the justification on the part of the Government for by-passing the Anti-Dumping Directorate, while imposing the Non-tariff barriers on the imports of HR Coils and other steel products vide DGFT notification No. 44 dated November 14, 1999; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to delete the Iron and Steel product from DGFT Notification No. 44 and to issue import licences to the actual users for the import of HR Coils?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties (DGAD) had recommended imposition of anti-dumping duty against import of HR Coils from Russia, Kazakhstan and Ukraine on 18.11.98 and the duty was imposed by the Central Government on 27.11.98. Another application was received in 1999 against imports of HR Coils from South Korea, South Africa, Japan, China and Australia but the case was not initiated since it was not a fully documented petition and sufficient evidence of dumping of the foreign goods, injury of the domestic industry and causal link between the two could not be established.

(b) and (c) Import of 131 items in India has been made subject to mandatory compliance of Quality Standards as specified by Bureau of Indian Standards vide Notification No. 44 dated 24.11.2000. This condition was imposed as the domestic producers are already under obligation to comply with these Standards. The quality standards is enforced on national treatment basis and, therefore there is no question of either deletion of these items or issue of import licences for grounds, which are not as per the specified quality standards.

Credit Deposit Ratio of Banks

5098. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large gap between deposit and credit ratio of commercial banks in various States particularly in Orissa during last three years;

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

(c) the steps taken to bridge the gap between deposit and credit ratio of commercial banks in Orissa and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) State-wise Credit Deposit (CD) ratio of scheduled commercial banks including for the State of Orissa for the last three years are given in the Statement. The CD ratio of banks varies from State to State. The credit flow in a State/Region depends upon various factors like availability of adequate infrastructural facilities, credit absorption capacity of the region, development of medium and large industries, properly developed marketing facilities, conducive atmosphere for investment, entrepreneurial initiatives, law and order situation in the region, satisfactory recovery position of the bank dues etc.

(c) Banks have been taking various measures for increasing the flow of bank credit as indicated below :

(i) Annual Credit Plans (ACPs) are prepared for each district every year and implementation thereof is monitored by various fora created under the Lead Bank Scheme viz. Block Level Bankers Committee at block level, District Consultative Committee at district level and State Level Bankers Committee (SLBC) at State level.

(ii) To go into the reasons for low credit deposit ratio and suggest measures for improving the same, Reserve Bank of India had appointed Task Forces in some states. The implementation of the recommendations made by these Task Forces is an on going process and progress in this regard is being monitored by the SLBCs.

(iii) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has constituted Rural Infrastructure Development Funds for granting loans to the State Government for development of infrastructure projects in the rural areas.

These measures are expected to increase flow of bank credit and improve the CD ratio of the banks.

Statement

Credit Deposit Ratio of Scheduled Commercial Banks

(In per Cent)

S. No.	State/Union Territory	March 1998	March 1999	March 2000
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72.1	68.5	63.6
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	13.1	14.1	16.6
3.	Assam	32.9	31.5	31.5
4.	Bihar	27.5	25.2	22.5
5.	Goa	24.6	25.0	24.2
6.	Gujarat	48.2	48.9	49.8
7.	Haryana	42.9	42.2	41.4
8.	Himachal Pradesh	21.6	22.0	22.9
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	37.4	38.7	40.5
10.	Karnataka	68.2	64.5	61.0
11.	Kerala	44.3	41.1	42.3
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51.4	48.4	49.2
13.	Maharashtra	72.3	72.8	83.8

1	2	3	4	5
14. Manipur		58.8	41.7	36.4
15. Meghalaya		15.2	16.7	15.7
16. Mizoram		23.2	20.6	24.3
17. Nagaland		18.3	15.7	15.4
18. NCT of Delhi		61.9	73.6	76.9
19. Orissa		45.2	42.5	39.8
20. Punjab		38.6	38.7	39.1
21. Rajasthan		47.4	45.1	46.7
22. Sikkim		20.7	20.2	13.8
23. Tamil Nadu		96.1	93.0	88.0
24. Tripura		34.0	29.4	25.8
25. Uttar Pradesh		28.6	27.2	27.5
26. West Bengal		46.1	43.8	45.2
27. Andaman & Nicobar		15.1	16.6	16.8
28. Chandigarh		58.0	83.8	52.6
29.. Dadra & NH.		21.4	21.3	21.7
30. Daman & DIU		20.6	17.6	15.8
31. Lakshadweep		9.9	7.7	7.7
32. Pondicherry		35.9	33.8	32.8
All India		55.5	55.5	57.1

*[Translation]***Transfer of Salt Industries**

5099. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and location of salt industries transferred by the Central Government to Rajasthan alongwith their status;

(b) whether private producers to whom small plots

have been allotted at various places by the said industry, are earning profit and moreover they are providing employment to thousands of local people inspite of their location in remote areas;

(c) whether the Union Government have been requested to transfer a public sector undertaking M/s Sambhar Salt Limited which is running in loss due to constant administrative and financial mismanagement to the Government of Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, the action taken at the level of State Government and Central Government on the said proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHABHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Central Government has not transferred any Salt Industries to Rajasthan Government or to private producers.

(c) and (d) The Government of Rajasthan had requested the Government of India for retransfer of the leased out area of Sambhar Salt Limited. The request was, however, not agreed to as it was not in the overall interest of the company.

*[English]***Consumer Protection Act**

5100. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY :
SHRI A. NARENDRA :

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

(a) whether the Government have any plan to spend 28 crore for setting up consumer awareness centres across the country in the next five years to ensure expeditious settlement of over 16 lakh consumer grievances pending at various platforms;

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

(c) if so, the time by which amendment are likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) There is a proposal for setting up of District Consumer Information Centres

(DCIC) in each district in the country in a phased manner over a period of five years. Each center will be run by the Zilla Parishad or Voluntary Consumer Organization identified and recommended by the concerned State Government/UT Administration. The State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to recommend applications accordingly. The financial requirement for the establishment of these centres is estimated at around Rs. 28 crores and will be met from assistance to be provided from the Consumer Welfare Fund.

The DCICs are intended to provide guidance and information to the consumers and their work will have no bearing on the disposal of complaints filed before the Consumer Disputes Redressal Agencies under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

Ad-hoc Chairman of PSUs

5101. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be

pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1065 on November 24, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has since been collected by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay and the time by which the information is likely to be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) to (c) The information has been collected from all but three administrative Ministries/Departments and the same is given in the enclosed Statement. The three Ministries/Departments have been advised to furnish the relevant information at the earliest.

Statement

Sl. No.	Number and details of ad-hoc Chairman and Managing Directors in PSUs	Number and details of cases in which the previous Chairman/Managing Director has been asked to continue	Details of formal orders issued in each case	Details of Chairman/Managing Director functioning without formal orders
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1.	Chairman, Central Warehousing Corporation.	—	Order No. 6-47/97-SG	Nil
2.	Joint Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution has been given additional charge of the CMD Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation.	—	—	do
3.	Dir. (Fin.) North Eastern Electric Power Corporation has been entrusted the additional charge of the post of CMD of the Corporation.	Shri Arun Gupta, CMD, Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation is continuing after expiry of his term on 13.6.2000. Proposal for extension of his tenure upto 31.3.2001 is under process.	Office Order No. 7/3/99—Hydel-II dt.3.11.2000 and office order No. 13/2/2000—Hydel-II dated 13.6.2000	—
4.	Director General, Software Technology Parks of India has been assigned the dual charge of CMD, ET & T Ltd. as it has been decided to wind up this Corporation.	—	—	Nil

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
5. Chief Engineer of Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has been holding the additional charge of CMD, IRCC.	—	—	Nil
6. The additional charge of the post of CMD, India Tourism Development Corporation is held by the Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Tourism from 16.2.2000.	—	—	Nil
7. Secretary, Ministry of Non Conventional Energy Sources is the ex-officio part time Chairman of Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency.	—	—	Nil
8. Secretary Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation is holding charge of the post of part-time Chairman, State Farms Corporation of India.	—	—	Nil
9. Special Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation is holding the additional charge of post of part-time Chairman of National Seeds Corporation.	—	—	Nil
10. Joint Secretary, Deptt. of Agriculture and Cooperation is holding additional charge of Managing Director of National Seeds Corporation.	—	—	Nil
11. The post of CMD, Engineers India Ltd. is being held on additional charge basis.	—	—	—
12. —	After completion of his tenure on 28.11.1999, CMD, Hindustan Prefab Ltd. had been asked to continue upto 27.2.2001		Nil
13. A Senior officer of the Min. of Railways is holding the charge of MD, Indian Railway Finance Corporation.	—	—	Nil
14. One full time Director of Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation is holding the charge of MD of the Corporation.	—	—	Nil

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
15. Regional General Manager, Shipping Corporation of India has been entrusted the charge of CMD, Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	—	—	Nil
16. CMD, Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd. has been entrusted the additional charge of the post of MD, Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	—	—	Nil
17. Director (Finance), Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. has been given the additional res-ponsibility of MD, Bengal Immunity Ltd.	—	—	Nil
18. Joint Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals has been entrusted the charge of CMD, Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd.	—	—	Nil
19. Director (Tech.), Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd. has been given additional charge of CMD of this Corporation.	—	—	Nil
20. CMD, Hindustan Insecticides Ltd. is holding additional charge of MD, Southern Pesticides Corporation Ltd.	—	—	Nil
21. Chief Secretary, Govt. of Tripura is holding the post of Chairman, North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corporation on ex-officio basis.	—	DOPT OM No.9(3)/ EO/99 (ACC) dated 27.1.99	Nil
22. CMD, NTC (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) Ltd. has been given additional charge of CMD, NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	—	—	Nil
23. CMD, British India Corporation Ltd. has been given additional charge of CMD, NTC (UP) Ltd.	—	—	Nil
24. Director (Technical), NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd. has been given additional charge of the post of CMD of the Corporation.	—	—	Nil

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
25. CMD, NTC (West Bengal) Ltd. has been holding the post of CMD, National Jute Manufacturers Corporation on additional charge.	—	—	Nil
26. CMD, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. looks after the current duties and responsibilities of MD, Bharat Process and Mechanical Engineers Ltd. as additional charge.	—	No.4(1)/2000-PE.III dated 30th October, 2000.	Nil
27. MD, Burn Standard Company Ltd. looks after the current duties and responsibilities of MD, Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd. as additional charge.	—	No.2(1)/2000-PE.III dated 31.7.2000.	Nil
28. MD, Braithwaite, Burn and Jessop Construction Co. Ltd. looks after the duties and responsibilities of MD Bharat Ophthalmic Glass Ltd. as additional charge.	—	No.2(20)/99-PE.II dated 5.8.1999.	Nil
29. CMD Hindustan Cables Ltd. is holding additional charge of the post of CMD, Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.	—	DHI letter No. 8-6/96-PE. V dated February, 2001.	Nil
30. Director (Personnel), Andrew Yule and Co. is holding additional charge of the post of CMD, Rehabilitation Industries Corporation Ltd.	—	DHI Order No.2 (20)/99-PE-II dated 5.8.1999.	Nil
31. Director (E.R and D), Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. is given additional charge of the post of CMD, Cement Corporation of India.	—	DHI letter No.10 (6)/88 PE. XII dated 29.6.99	Nil
32. Chief Manager (P and A), Hindustan Salts Ltd. has been given temporary charge of the post of CMD, HSL/SSL as additional Charge.	—	DHI letter No. 19 (19)/97-PE-V dated 1.8.2000	Nil
33. Director (Finance), Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd. is given additional charge of the post of CMD, Tannery and Footwear Corporation Ltd.	—	DHI letter No.12 (8)/91-PE.XII dated 28.4.2000.	Nil
34. —	Shri D. Ray Moulik, CMD, Tyre Corporation of India Ltd. appointed for a further period of six months.	DHI Order No. 27 (13)96-PE.VI dated 8-1-2001.	Nil

Housing Finance Companies

5102. SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several Housing Finance Companies with dubious credibility are functioning in the country and are cheating the people;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have conducted an enquiry into it; and

(d) if so, the action taken against such companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The National Housing Bank (NHB) which regulates and supervises Housing Finance Companies (HFCs) has reported that some cases of dubious housing finance companies have come to notice. Since the establishment of NHB, 83 HFCs have been found to have committed irregularities and/or have failed to comply with the provisions of NHB Act and Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directions, 1989.

(c) and (d) NHB has issued the Housing Finance Companies (NHB) Directors, 1989 which specify the conditions for accepting deposits, interest rate payable on deposits, maturity period of deposits, credit rating of deposit instruments, quantum of deposits that can be accepted and compliance with Advertisement Rules. As and when non-compliance of any of the provisions of the Directions issued by NHB are observed, NHB initiates action eg. issuing show cause notice prohibiting the errant companies from accepting deposits from the Public and publishing particulars of such companies in various national and regional newspapers in the interest of public awareness. The powers to deal with such cases have recently been strengthened with the passing of the National Housing Bank (Amendment) Act, 2000. Under this Act, NHB can order repayment of deposits in case of default by HFCs. Further, if continuance of a HFC is detrimental to the public interest or to the interest of the depositors, NHB can file an application for winding up of the company. So far, 32 HFCs have been prohibited by the NHB from accepting public deposits.

[Translation]

Prize Money to Informers

5103. PROF. DUKHA BHAGAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many cases relating to award of prize money to the informers on the basis of whose information raids were conducted by the Income Tax Department and additional taxers reward are pending with the Department of Income Tax for the last several years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of pending cases wherein prize money has not been paid finally even five years after the raids conducted on the tip of informers;

(d) the details of rules regarding time limits for payment of prize money to said informers; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take for making speedy payment of such prize money?

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

(b) The interim reward is generally paid soon after the conclusion of search on the basis of recoveries made during the course of search. However, according to the Guidelines for grant of reward to the Informants, final reward can be paid only on completion of assessments and decision in appeals and also after realisation of taxes in full due on such completed assessments. Since the finality of assessments is reached after substantial time, the pendencies of rewards have increased over last several years.

(c) The number of such pending cases in which the prize money has not been paid finally to the informers even after five years of conducting raids is 1186.

(d) No time limit has been prescribed in the guidelines for grant of reward to informants. The existing guidelines for grant of reward to informants provide for payment of final reward only after all the assessments have become final and no appeal is pending or filed and the time for filing of appeal has expired. Moreover, the final reward can only be granted after the extra taxes levied are actually realised.

(e) Speedier payment of reward to informants is ensured by regularly reviewing such cases and facilitating prompt payment after the conditions prescribed by the existing guidelines are satisfied.

[English]

Financial Assistance to States

5104. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assistance has been provided to States during last financial year keeping in view their export performance;

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

(c) the steps mooted to involve States to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Department of Commerce does not provide assistance to the States on the basis of their export performance. However, the State Governments have been provided assistance of Rs. 25.31 Crores under Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme (CIB) and Rs. 20 Crores under Export Promotion Industrial Parks (EPIP) scheme during the last Financial Year. An Export Development Fund with initial contribution of Rs. 5 crore has also been set up last year for promotion of export related activities in North Eastern Region. Various other steps taken to involve State Governments in export promotion include setting up of Export Processing Zones in the Government and private sector, Export Promotion Industrial Parks, Inland Container Depot and Air Cargo Complexes and Special Economic Zones. The schemes are intended to develop export related infrastructure and are taken up on the basis of proposals received from the State Governments in accordance with laid down criteria. Such assistance is need based and not performance based.

Foreign Exchange

5105. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have detected several cases of illegal transaction of foreign exchange in the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the amount of foreign exchange unearthed during the above period, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the illegal transaction of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMCHANDRAN) : (a) Sir, 97 cases of illegal transactions of foreign exchange have been detected by the Directorate of Enforcement during the last six months.

(b) The Directorate of Enforcement maintains details zonal office wise. Such details are as under :-

Name of the Zone	Amount involved
Ahmedabad	Nil
Bangalore	Rs. 9.46 lakhs
Calcutta	Rs. 32.12 lakhs
Chennai	Rs. 7.18 crores
Delhi	Rs. 5.50 crores
Jalandhar	Rs. 22.65 crores
Mumbai	Rs. 295.02 crores.

(c) Steps such as gathering intelligence, maintaining surveillance etc. are taken to check illegal transaction of foreign exchange.

[Translation]

Bank Funds for Establishment of Libraries

5106. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Punjab National Bank has donated a large amount for the establishment of libraries, so that they may function as centre for rural literacy and public awareness;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if so, whether other national banks are also considering to establish such centres in backward States like Bihar;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has reported that it has donated a sum of Rupees five lacs to Gramin Swabhiman (Regd.) for establishment of Library Literacy Centres in the following identified rural areas of Delhi where PNB Branches are already functioning :

1. Maidan Garhi (IGNOU)
2. Burari
- 3.. Mewla Maharajpur
4. Qutabgarh
5. Paprawat

(c) to (e) Decisions with regard to donation are taken by the managements of various banks themselves keeping in view the guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India from time to time.

Manpower Reduction

5107. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during budget speech reduction of manpower has been proposed in the Ministries and Departments of Union Government;

(b) if so, the Ministry-wise and designation-wise details of proposed manpower reduction; and

(c) the time by when this proposal is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In his Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002, the Finance Minister announced that the Expenditure Reforms Commission, which was set up last year, has presented reports concerning downsizing in 6 Ministries and Departments. These include Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Ministry of Coal, Department of Heavy Industry, Department of Public Enterprises and Ministry of Small Scale Industries. So far as the Department of Economic Affairs is concerned, the Finance Minister announced that he proposes to abolish three Secretary/Special Secretary level and two

Joint Secretary level posts apart from 44 posts of Directors and below, 1675 posts are being abolished in the Currency and Coinage Division, which will be restructured and corporatised; the National Savings Organisation is to be downsized from the level of 1191 staff to about 25. These decisions would be implemented in phases by July 31, 2001. In respect of remaining 5 Ministries/ Departments also, the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission will be implemented by July 31, 2001 and the exact details of the posts to be abolished would be known only thereafter.

[English]

Collection of Taxes

5108. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the various central taxes collected during the last financial year 2000-2001, State-wise/zone-wise;

(b) the percentage of growth over the previous year;

(c) whether still a large number of owners of private enterprises are evading Income Tax; and

(d) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by Income Tax department to bring into income tax net those tax evaders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMCHANDRAN) : (a) The details of Chief-Commissioner region-wise/zone-wise collection during 2000-2001 (upto 28th February) of corporation tax and income tax, and central excise and customs duty, are given in the Statement I and II respectively.

(b) The total collection of direct and indirect taxes upto 28th February, 2001, have registered a growth of 11.67% over the collection during the corresponding period in the previous year.

(c) Certain assesseees, including the owners of private enterprises have been found to be evading Income tax.

(d) Government has been taking necessary legislative, fiscal and administrative measures from time to time to bring the tax evaders into the income tax net. Rates

of taxation as well as procedures have been progressively rationalised. Income Tax Act, 1961 contains a number of provisions for bringing tax evaders into the tax net. These include, inter-alia, compulsory filing of returns by persons who satisfy any one of the six specified economic criteria, compulsory quoting of the PAN in prescribed transactions, compulsory maintenance and audit of accounts in specified cases, pre-emptive purchase of properties, surveys and searches, penalties and prosecutions for punishing tax evaders, and investigation in cases selected for scrutiny.

Statement-I

Chief Commissioner-wise Collection of Corporation Tax and Income Tax during 2000-2001 (up to Feb 2001)

(Rs. In Crores)

CCIT	CT	IT	Total
Ahmedabad	593.94	1558.98	2152.92
Bangalore	998.32	1901.10	2899.42
Bhopal	644.61	588.42	1233.03
Mumbai	10286.18	5950.16	16236.34
Kolkatta	998.47	1359.68	2358.15
Cochin	284.84	458.75	743.59
Hyderabad	790.18	1060.63	1850.81
Jaipur	46.75	436.89	483.64
Chennai	1356.40	1974.65	3331.05
New Delhi	4368.33	3472.67	7841.00
Chandigarh	481.85	1193.13	1674.98
Kanpur	3033.80	644.67	3678.47
Lucknow	43.63	436.93	480.56
Pune	579.43	1619.71	2199.14
Patna	543.11	1050.72	1593.83
CTDS	11.87	760.57	772.44
	25061.71	24467.66	49529.37

Statement-II

Zone-wise Excise and Customs Revenue Collection Statistics during 2000-01

Excise-Zone-wise revenue position upto February' 2001

(Rs. crore)

Zone	Collection Upto February 2000-2001
1	2
Mumbai	5858.34
Pune	6060.92
Vadodara	8967.39
Bangalore	6095.48
Hydrabad	4479.77
Chennai	5854.48
Lucknow	7606.71
Delhi	7746.73
Jaipur	4292.06
Calcutta	5096.65
ExDbk by Cus. Comm	2550.00
Total	59508.53

\$ Exclusive of cesses not administered by D/O Revenue

B. Customs-Zone-wise revenue position upto February' 2001

Zone	Collection Upto February 2000-2001
1	4
Mumbai Cus	13132.33
Mumbai Cx	58.66
Pune	965.76
Vadodara	6917.30

1	4
Bangalore	3392.02
Hyderabad	1618.84
Chennai	6627.56
Lucknow	804.27
Delhi	5475.80
Jaipur	155.45
Calcutta	3470.79
Total	42618.78

[Translation]

IDBI Assistance to Industrial Houses

5109. SHRI RAMSHAKAL Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether IDBI has given financial assistance to the big and joint industrial houses;

(b) if so, the year-wise details alongwith the assistance provided during the last three years;

(c) the terms fixed by IDBI in this regard;

(d) whether there is any default in the repayment of loans; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Total assistance sanctioned and disbursed by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) during the years 1997-98, 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 to 15 large industrial houses are as under :

(Rs. in crores)		
Year	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Disbursed
1997-98	7595	6560
1998-99	5054	3833
1999-2000	5533	3909

(c) Financial Institutions including IDBI while extending loans to projects stipulates certain terms and conditions i.e. rate of interest, repayment period, security creation, personal and corporate guarantee etc. to ensure timely implementation of the projects within the estimated cost and to enable the lenders to monitor the project. Certain project specific conditions are also stipulated.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Some of the big industrial houses financed by IDBI had defaulted in repayment to IDBI for small amounts but as per the practices and usages customary amongst banks and in conformity with the provisions of statutes governing public sector banks and financial institutions as also the provisions of public Financial Institutions (obligation as to Fidelity and Secrecy) Act, 1983, further details relating to individual constituents cannot be divulged.

[English]

Consignment Tax

5110. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are differences of opinion between the States and Union Government on consignment tax; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) There is difference of opinion within the States. While the developed States are in favour of consignment tax, the less developed States are against it. Union Government has not taken any decision regarding levying of consignment tax.

Manufacture of Tractors

5111. SHRI RAJ NARAIN PASSI : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of tractors manufactured by the Hindustan Machine Tools (Tractor Division) Pinjore during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details thereof alongwith its price;

(c) whether the price of the tractors manufactured

by the HMT division is higher as compared to private manufacturers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have taken into consideration the important aspect to compete in the market;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the details of profit/losses of HMT (tractor division) during the last three years, year-wise and the steps taken to reduce the losses, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) (a) The number of Tractors manufactured by the HMT (Tractor Division), Pinjore is as follows :-

Year	No. of Tractors Manufactured
1998-99	18700
1999-2000	16355
2000-2001	13544

(b) The details of the Tractors manufactured alongwith their price are as follows :

Tractor Model	House Power Range	F.O.R. Price (Rs.)
HMT-2522	25	201386
HMT-3022	30	212851
HMT-3522	39	234241
HMT-4511	45	271391
HMT-5911	58	335755
HMT-7511 (Regular)	75	438350

(c) to (f) The prices of HMT Tractors are competitive in the market and are equal to or lower compared to that of the competitors.

(g) The profit made by HMT (Tractor Division) during the last 3 years are as follows :-

Year	Profit before Tax (Rs. in Cr.)
1998-99	34.38
1999-2000	7.91
2000-01	4.05

NABARD Loan for Construction of Roads/Bridges

5112. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether NABARD has sanctioned Rs. 96.86 crore to Karnataka under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund for the completion of roads, bridges and minor irrigation projects;

(b) if so, whether the State Government has decided to work out the details of utilise this fund for the purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) by what time these roads and bridges are likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1174.69 crore to Karnataka till 31 March 2001 under various tranches of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for completion of roads, bridges and minor irrigation projects.

(b) and (c) The project proposal submitted for sanction to NABARD indicate details of utilisation of the loan for individual project/purposes like rural roads, bridges, minor irrigation, etc. together with phasing of project implementation. Disbursements are effected by NABARD against actual work done and the implementation is periodically monitored by NABARD. The progress of implementation is also review by the State Level High Power Committee under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary So far, NABARD Has disbursed Rs. 621.33 crore to the Karnataka State under RIDF for various projects.

(d) NABARD has reported that most of the roads and bridges sanctioned under RIDF-II, III and IV have been completed. The roads and bridges sanctioned under RIDF-V and VI are Likely to be completed by 31 March 2002 and 31 March 2003 respectively.

Transmitters at Maharashtra

5113. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL :
SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR :

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

(a) the details regarding HPTs/LPTs VLPTs installed and functioning in Maharashtra as on December 31, 2000. district-wise;

(b) the total area and percentage of population of Maharashtra has so far been covered by National as regional network;

(c) the details of proposals received from Maharashtra for setting up of Doordarshan Kendras during the last two years; and

(d) the proposals out of them cleared so far?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) 105 Doordarshan transmitters of varying powers were functioning in Maharashtra as on 31.12.2000. District-wise locations of these transmitters are given in the enclosed statement. One more VLPT at Sakoli in Bhandara district has been commissioned recently.

(b) 79.6% area and 88.6% population of Maharashtra are Presently covered by TV service (National and Regional programmes). The above coverage figures are inclusive of fringe areas.

(c) and (d) Request for establishment of Doordarshan Kendras are received from time to time from various quarters. Such requests are taken into consideration while formulating future expansion plans of Doordarshan depending upon availability of resources, existing coverage in the area, resultant coverage from the proposed transmitter, terrain condition in the area, inter-se priorities etc. For further expansion of hitherto uncovered areas in the State, 18 transmitters projects (DD1-7, DD2-11) are presently under implementation.

Statement

Doordarshan Transmitter Network in Maharashtra

(as on 31.12.2000)

District	Type	Location
1	2	3
Ahmadnagar	LPT	Ahmednagar
		Sangamner
		Acot
		Akola
Akola	IPT	Karanja
		Rissod
		Washim
		Achalpur
Amravati	LPT	Amravati
		Chandur
		Daryapur
		Morshi
Aurangabad	VLPT	Chikaldhara
		Tivsa
		Aurangabad
		Aurangabad
Bhandara	LPT	Bhandara (DD II)
		Gondia
		Tumsar
		Arjuni
Bid	VLPT	Ambajogai
		Ambajogai (DD II)
		Bid

1	2	3
Buldana	LPT	Buldana
		Chikhli
		Khamgaon
		Mehekar
Chandrapur	LPT	Brahmapuri
		Chandrapur
	VLPT	Chimur
		Sindewahi
Dhule	LPT	Dhule
		Nandurbar
		Navapur
		Shahad
		Shirpur
	VLPT	Pimpalner-Sakri
Godchiroli	LPT	Aheri
		Garhchiroli
		Sironcha
	VLPT	Kurkhera
Greater Bombay	HPT	Bombay
		Bombay (DD II)
Jalgaon	LPT	Amalner
		Bhusawal
		Jalgaon
Jalna	LPT	Jalna
Kolhapur	LPT	Ichalkaranji
		Kolhapur
	VLPT	Malkapur

1	2	3
Nagpur	HPT	Nagpur
		Nagpur (DD II)
Nanded	LPT	Dharmabad
		Diglur
		Kinwat
		Nanded
	VLPT	Bhokar
Nashik	LPT	Malegaon
		Manmad
		Nashik
		Satana
Osmanabad	LPT	Osmanabad
		Umerga
Parbhani	LPT	Hingoli
		Parbhani
Pune	HPT	Pune
	VLPT	Junnar
Raigarh	LPT	Khopoli
		Mahad
		Mangaon
		Mhasle
	VLPT	Karjat
Ratnagiri	LPT	Chiplun
		Devrukh
		Rajapur
		Ratnagiri
	VLPT	Khed

1	2	3
Sangli	LPT	Khanapur
		Sangli
Satara	LPT	Karad
		Patan
		Phaltan
		Satara
	VLPT	Koregaon
		Wai
Sindhudurg	LPT	Kankauli
	VLPT	Malwan
Solapur	LPT	AkalKot
		Akluj
		Barshi
		Mangalwedha
		Pandharpur
		Solapur
Thane	VLPT	Badlapur
Wardha	LPT	Arvi
		Hinganghat
		Pulgaon
		Wardha
	VLPT	Ashti
		Karanja
Yavatmal	LPT	Pandharkawada
		Pusad
		Umarkhed
		Wani
		Yavatmal

Debt Securities

5114. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has allowed companies to issue debt securities to the public without listing equity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility is at present available only to infrastructure companies and municipal corporations;

(d) if so, the reasons for allowing companies to issue debt securities; and

(e) the other conditions laid down for allowing companies to issue debt securities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) decided in March 2001, to allow all companies to issue debt securities to the public without listing equity, subject to fulfilling certain conditions.

(b) The details and conditions for issuing of such debt securities include inter alia, as follows. The securities proposed to be issued shall carry an investment grade rating. The issuer has to comply with existing provisions for listing regarding the size of the public offer of debt securities. The promoters have to bring in an equity contribution of 20% and lock-in the same for a period of 3 years from the date of allotment of the public issue. Disclosure standards prescribed for public issue of equity will be applicable. Further, there are provisions under the Companies Act to safeguard the interests of investors in such securities.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) This has been done with a view to further developing the debt market.

(e) As in (b) above.

Compulsory Uplinking Policy

5115. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have no policy

regarding compulsory uplinking of foreign T V channels from India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will make any provision in the proposed Convergence Bill for compulsory uplinking of foreign T V channels from India; and

(d) if not, the manner in which the foreign TV channels would be brought under the jurisdiction of Indian law in the absence of any specific legal provision?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) As per policy, it is not mandatory for TV channels including foreign channels to uplink from India.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Convergence Bill is still in the drafting stage.

(d) The programmes of foreign TV channels, when transmitted through cable networks, are required to adhere to the programme/advertisement code prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995.

Import of Coffee

5116. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of coffee from overseas countries;

(b) if so, the quantity of the coffee to be imported and from which countries and at what price;

(c) the channel through which the coffee is to be imported i.e. private or Government;

(d) whether the Indian Coffee producers have expressed apprehensions about the loss of their business as a result thereof; and

(e) if so, the reasons for import and the steps proposed to be taken to protect the Indian growers against the inferior quality of imported coffee?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) Consistent with

WTO regulations, quantitative restrictions (QRs) on import of various commodities including coffee have been lifted w.e.f. 1.4.2001. With the lifting of QRs anybody can import coffee from any country by paying the custom duties.

Since India itself is a coffee exporting country and import of coffee has been insignificant, the threat of material injury on account of removal of QRs is not likely to be felt in the domestic coffee industry. However, to discourage import of coffee, import duty on coffee has been increased from 35% to 70%. Further, in order to ensure that cheaper/inferior quality coffees are not dumped in India and also to protect the domestic industry, the Govt. of India will not hesitate to invoke all tariff and non tariff measures available to it, if situation so warrants.

Refund of Matured Amount to NRIs.

5117. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether non-banking financial Companies like M/s CRB Capital Market Limited and M/s Prudential Capital Market Limited were authorised to accept deposit for a limited period on repatriation basis from NRIs and OCBs in 1993 and 1995 respectively by the Reserve Bank of India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of foreign money converted into rupees accepted by the said Companies in 1994 and 1996 respectively;

(d) whether these Companies have refunded the matured amount in respect of the amount deposited in 1994 and 1996 to the NRI investors;

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

(f) whether these Companies have violated provisions enshrined in FERA; and

(g) if so, the details of action taken by the government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (g) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that approval

granted by RBI to M/s CRB Capital Markets Ltd. for acceptance of deposits from NRIs expired on 29th April, 1994. Thereafter, the company applied for extension of time for acceptance of deposits from NRIs which was not granted. Nevertheless, despite the above non-granting of extension of time, the company collected deposits from NRIs to the extent of Rs. 46.98 lakh during the period April 1994 to July 1995 in violation of relative provisions of the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act, 1973 as per the inspection findings of the RBI. The company was issued prohibitory order on April 9, 1997 from accepting deposits and also against alienation of its assets/property. RBI also filed a winding up petition against the company in the Delhi High Court on May 21, 1997. The High Court on May 22, 1997, appointed the official liquidator of the Delhi High Court as provisional liquidator. The Court petitions, which have been pending for a long time, have been heard/adjourned from time to time.

As regards M/s Prudential Capital Markets Ltd., RBI has reported that the company was granted permission for acceptance of remittances from NRIs/OCBs on both repatriation/non-repatriation basis through the State Bank of India, Ezra Street branch, Kolkata on August 30, 1995 for a period of one year from the date of issue of the approval letter. As per a statement submitted by the company, amount received under the above scheme by the company was Rs. 21.75 lakh during the year 1996. As several complaints have been received by RBI against the company for non-repayment of deposits in violation of CLB order, RBI has filed a criminal case against the company and its directors for non-compliance with the CLB order in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court, Calcutta on 16.11.1999 and the matter is sub-judice. RBI has further reported that no record of FERA violation by the company is available with them.

Services Provided by ICICI

5118. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that ICICI Limited has signed an agreement with Sharjah Airport Free Zone;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement;
- (c) the services which are likely to be provided by ICICI to Sharjah Airport Free Zone;
- (d) whether 40 percent of the companies in Sharjah Airport Free Zone are from India;

(e) if so, the extent to which this agreement is likely to increase the Indian industries to operate from Sharjah Airport Free Zone by signing this agreement with ICICI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir. ICICI Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Government of Sharjah's Free Zone Authorities (GOSFZA).

(b) to (e) The details of MoU inter-alia includes the following

- ICICI Group will endeavour to assist in accessing a wide Indian client base of such corporations and business houses as may wish to establish a presence in the free zones in Sharjah.
- To enable the Free Zone Authorities to market for such trade and investment flows effectively.
- GOSFZA will refer all requests for banking facilities from business units that are or propose to establish in the free zones to the ICICI Group.
- The ICICI Group will also examine and help establish in Sharjah (U.A.E), a call centre, a data centre and an incubation centre, subject to detailed project reports being prepared by ICICI and the initiatives found to be viable on the scale and scope to be mutually agreed. This will also be subject to receipt of specific internal, regulatory and statutory approvals.

Mid-day Meal Scheme for School Children

5119. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

- (a) whether rice is being supplied to States free of cost for being provided to school children under the mid-day meal scheme;
- (b) if so, the quantum of rice supplied to various States during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001; and
- (c) the quantum of rice actually lifted by each State for the above purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. The foodgrains (rice and wheat) are supplied by the Central Government free of cost to all States/UTs from nearest FCI godowns under National Programme for Nutritional

Support to Primary Education (Mid-Day-Meal Scheme).

(b) and (c) the allocation and offtake of foodgrains during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 under Mid-day-meal scheme are as per given in the enclosed Statement-I and II respectively.

Statement-I

*Allocation and Lifting of Food-Grains Under NP-NSPE (Mid-Day Meals Scheme)
(MTs) during the Period 1999-2000*

(In MT)

S.No.	State/UT	Allocation of Food-grains			Lifting of food-grains		
		Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh		228544	228544		148021	148021
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		4531	4531		152	152
3.	Assam		70042	70042		6823	6823
4.	Bihar	179408	101189	280597	7073	5508	12581
5.	Goa		2343	2343		1838	1838
6.	Gujarat	44059	44059	88118	16066	14352	30418
7.	Haryana	26653	26653	53306	13495	13734	27229
8.	Himachal Pradesh		20826	20826		14017	14017
9.	Jammu & Kashmir		18611	18611		0	0
10.	Karnataka	47812	121947	169759	34441	86148	120589
11.	Kerala		49853	49853		52741	52741
12.	Madhya Pradesh	155707	119887	275594	105629	78330	183959
13.	Maharashtra		288718	288718		214307	214307
14.	Manipur		7637	7637		6202	6202
15.	Meghalaya		9615	9615		150	150
16.	Mizoram		2918	2918		2044	2044
17.	Nagaland		2920	2920		3640	3640
18.	Orissa		108151	108151		59279	59279

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
19.	Punjab	52992	0	52992	1938	0	1938
20.	Rajasthan	166046	0	166046	87147	0	87147
21.	Sikkim		2550	2550		547	547
22.	Tamil Nadu		118735	118735		60184	60184
23.	Tripura		1427	1427		1427	1427
24.	Uttar Pradesh	291379	166478	457857	141590	69443	211033
25.	West Bengal	3061	260535	263596	3294	150291	153585
26.	A & N Islands		1106	1106		221	221
27.	Chandigarh	394	0	394		0	0
28.	D.N. Haveli		700	700		223	223
29.	Daman & Diu		446	446		93	93
30.	Delhi	18101	0	18101	200	0	200
31.	Lakshadweep@		0	0		0	0
32.	Pondicherry		1218	1218		1177	1177
	India	985612	1781639	2767251	410873.0	990892.0	1401765.0

Note : Lifting figures as reported by FCI

@ Exempted.

Statement-II

*Allocation and Lifting of Food-Grain Under NP-NSPE (Mid-Day Meals Scheme) (MTs)
during the Period 2000-2001 (Upto February 2001)*

(In MT)

S.No.	State/UT	Allocation of Food-grains			Lifting of Food-grains*		
		Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh		234614	234614	0	114692	114692
2.	Arunachal Pradesh		3434	3434	0	372	372
3.	Assam		70149	70149	0	7747	7747
4.	Bihar	132519	54466	186985	25030	32206	57236

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Goa		2616	2616		1754	1754
6.	Gujarat	60177	59401	119578	18236	17321	35557
7.	Haryana	20555	20079	40634	12477	10506	22983
8.	Himachal Pradesh		16609	16609		15377	15377
9.	Jammu & Kashmir		22632	22632	0	0	0
10.	Karnataka	46927	114572	161499	36845	85460	122305
11.	Kerala		46557	46557		46184	46184
12.	Madhya Pradesh	138089	80531	218620	113702	73747	187449
13.	Maharashtra		280692	280692	0	229455	229455
14.	Manipur		6751	6751		6379	6379
15.	Meghalaya		8911	8911		1807	1807
16.	Mizoram		2918	2918		2336	2336
17.	Nagaland		3038	3038		2676	2676
18.	Orissa		101193	101193	0	50311	50311
19.	Punjab	39827		39827	3405	0	3405
20.	Rajasthan	130306		130306	90302	0	90302
21.	Sikkim		2264	2264	0	1377	1377
22.	Tamil Nadu		107475	107475		63853	63853
23.	Tripura		1533	1533	0	4300	4300
24.	Uttar Pradesh	232418	132695	365113	49743	36723	86466
25.	West Bengal		218859	218859	929	203631	204560
26.	A & N Islands		1128	1128		444	444
27.	Chandigarh	394		394	156	0	156
28.	D.N. Haveli		719	719		586	586
29.	Daman & Diu		443	443		318	318
30.	Delhi	17982		17982	3290		3290
31.	Lakshadweep			0			0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
32.	Pondicherry		1233	1233		698	698
NEWLY CREATED STATE							
33.	Jharkhand	2037	21426 ,	23463	127	2283	2410
34.	Uttaranchal	2236	9387	11623	595	2349	2944
35.	Chhatisgarh		30899	30899		10871	10871
	India	823467	1657224	2480691	354837	1025763	1380600

Note : Lifting figures as reported by FCI

* Lifting is upto February 2001.

@ Exempted.

Cash Compensatory Support by DGFT

[Translation]

5120. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether DGFT, New Delhi provided project assistance amounting to Rs. 2.45 crore during 1992 to a firm under cash compensatory support scheme, which was not eligible for the same;

(b) if so, whether the matter has been investigated and staff responsibility has been fixed;

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

(d) the steps taken to recover the amount from the firm with penal rate of interest and to proceed against the negligent officials now?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d) Rs. 2.45 crore was provided in 1992 to a firm under the CCS Scheme. The C and AG has held this payment to be incorrect in their Report No. 2 of 1999. In the Action Taken Note (ATN) on the C and AG's Report, it has been pointed out to the C and AG that the project assistance had been correctly provided as per the extant rules even though the claimant was unable to produce some of the documents because all his records had been seized by the host country due to war. Since the matter is under the consideration of the PAC, no steps have as yet been initiated to recover this amount.

Recognition of Basmati Rice for Exports

5121. SHRI JAI PRAKASH Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to recognise the Basmati rice grown only in Punjab, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh for export;

(b) if so, whether the Government have given another grade to the 'Basmati' grown in other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) The Department of Commerce, considering it necessary and expedient for the development of export trade of basmati rice have published a Notification, inviting objections or suggestions for subjecting basmati rice to quality control and inspection prior to export. In the said order, it has inter-alia been indicated that "the specifications given in Schedule I (Traditional Indian Basmati Rice) and Schedule II (Evolved Indian Basmati Rice) apply to Basmati Rice varieties grown in Haryana, Punjab and Western part of Uttar Pradesh, all forming part of Indo Gangetic Plain beneath the Himalayan range in the designated areas". This however, does not preclude the possibility of including or excluding geographic areas, based on merit where basmati rice is grown.

- (b) No, Sir.

families of the deceased/injured in these incidents; and
- (c) Does not arise.

(c) the State-wise details of employment given by the each public sector banks to the dependents of the deceased persons during the above period?

Bank Dacoities

5122. SHRI RAJO SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the State-wise, number of persons including bank officials killed and injured in dacoities in public sector banks during the last three years.
- (b) the amount of compensation given to the

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) A statement showing state-wise number of persons killed/ injured in robberies/dacoities in public sector banks and the details of compensation/reward paid including compassionate appointment to dependents of deceased employees during the period 1998 to 2000 as reported by Reserve Bank of India is at Annexure.

Statement

State-wise number of persons killed/injured in robberies/dacoities in Public Sector Banks and the details of compensation/reward paid including compassionate appointment to dependents to deceased employees during the period 1998 to 2000

Name of the State	No. of persons		Compensation/reward paid/compassionate appointment given
	Killed	Injured	
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	—	07	Rs 1 lakh + medical expenses
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Assam	03	06	Rs. 5.60 lakhs + medical expenses
Bihar	06	29	Rs. 1.5 lakhs + medical expenses
Delhi	01	—	—
Gujarat	—	—	—
Goa	—	—	—
Haryana	—	—	—
Himachal Pradesh	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
Karnataka	—	01	—
Kerala	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	01	02	—

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	—	07	Rs. 792 spent on an outsider
Manipur	01	02	—
Meghalaya	06	11	Rs. 12.5 lakhs
Mizoram	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—
Orissa	01	11	—
Punjab	02	—	Rs. 7.2 lakhs
Rajasthan	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—
Tamil Nadu	—	—	—
Tripura	—	—	—
Uttar Pradesh	08	18	Rs. 9.2 lakhs + employment to family members + educational expenses of children of a deceased upto graduation + promotion.
West Bengal	01	12	—

(Data provisional)

Currency Notes of Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/-

5123. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to print currency notes of Rs. 2/- and Rs. 5/- denomination in the near future;

(b) if so, the reasons for again starting printing of these currency notes;

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred thereon; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be circulated in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) In order to mitigate the problem arising out of shortage of

coins in the country, it has been decided to re-start the printing of Rs.5 denomination currency notes. The estimated expenditure to be incurred is likely to be between Rs. 650/- and Rs. 700/- per 1000 pieces (approximately).

(d) The Rs. 5 denomination note is expected to be put into circulation in June, 2001.

*[English]***Quotation of Rates by NCCF**

5124. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Cooperative Consumers Federation of India Ltd. New Delhi is not quoting the rates and brand names of the lowest priced items against the 'inquiry of rates' received by them from the Government offices, undertakings, corporations etc.;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that the NCCF quotes the lowest rates of all registered authorised distributors with brand names against all such inquiries of rates received by them from the Government, corporations and undertakings;

(d) whether the NCCF is not giving full specifications and brand names of the items in their invoices; and

(e) if so, the measures taken to ensure to given proper and accurate specifications of the items sold with brand names?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The rates and brand names of the lowest priced items are generally quoted by the NCCF against the queries received from the Government offices. In a few cases, however, brand names etc. were not mentioned against such quotations submitted by the NCCF. As per the procedure followed in the NCCF, rates of specific items required by the indenting organizations are quoted. In respect of query of products without brand names, the rates of at least three of them are required to be quoted by the NCCF, with whom NCCF has supply arrangements. The instructions to this effect have again been issued by the NCCF, Head Office to its Branches, for its compliance.

(d) and (e) Full specifications and brand names are usually mentioned in the sale invoices of the NCCF. However, in a few cases, these were not mentioned. Instructions have been issued by The NCCF to the concerned officials to invariably mention the full specifications of the goods, brand names etc. in the invoices and other related documents.

Role of Tobacco Board in Cultivation of Tobacco

5125. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the role of Tobacco Board in the promotion of cultivation of tobacco in the country particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the quantum and value of manufactured and un-manufactured tobacco exported from each State

particularly from Andhra Pradesh during 2000-2001 and the targets fixed for 2001-2002;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the exports of tobacco; and

(d) the various welfare measures initiated by "Tobacco Board" for the welfare of tobacco farmers in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The Tobacco Board promotes the cultivation of FCV tobacco in the country by regulating the production and curing of FCV tobacco on the basis of an assessment of the domestic and international demand for the commodity. The Board fixes the crop size each year in each of the tobacco-producing States, including Andhra Pradesh, registers the growers, curers and traders and arranges the auction of tobacco on its platforms. In addition, the Board helps the tobacco growers to improve yield and quality of FCV tobacco by rendering assistance in obtaining loans from banks, insurance coverage for the curing barns and arranging supply of inputs like high-yielding varieties of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, etc. It also fixes a Minimum Guaranteed Price for the FCV tobacco grown in different soil regions each year in consultation with the traders and growers.

(b) The quantum of manufactured and unmanufactured tobacco exported from India during 2000-2001 is 15023 tonnes and 99432 tonnes respectively. The value of these exports is Rs. 210.06 crores and Rs. 648.74 crores respectively. The share of Andhra Pradesh in unmanufactured tobacco exports is 80% while that of Karnataka is 15%. The export target for tobacco for 2001-02 is in the process of finalization.

(c) Government, through the Tobacco Board, is considering ways of improving the productivity and quality of FCV tobacco, including through timely supply of inputs like high quality seeds, fertilizers etc. to the farmers so as to increase India's share in global tobacco exports.

(d) The Tobacco Board has initiated various welfare and developmental schemes for the benefit of farmers in the FCV tobacco-producing States, including Andhra Pradesh. It supplies important inputs like high quality seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation and spraying equipment, coal and briquettes to the farmers. It also advises and trains the tobacco growers on the use of

improved varieties and farming practices so as to enhance productivity. Transfer of technology to the farmers is carried out through group meetings, training programmes, field visits, on farm demonstrations etc. It also assists the farmers in obtaining bank loans and extends financial assistance to those farmers whose crops/burns have been damaged due to natural calamities.

Procurement of Hardware for Computers by the Income Tax Department

Sply of Stationery

5126 SHRI RAMJEE MANJHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the suppliers making supplies of stationery and other items in the NCCF and Super Bazar have registered themselves in different names in these organisations to be able to have different price tags of their items and the institutions have failed to detect the modus operandi; and

(b) if so, the steps the Government propose to take to identify such suppliers which have floated more than one firm in these organisations and compare the rates of supplies to check supply of items at exorbitant prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The NCCF and the Super Bazar, Delhi have both informed that they are not aware of this.

(b) In view of the reply given at (a) above, does not arise.

Procurement of Hardware for Computers by the Income Tax Department

5127. SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Directorate of Income Tax has procured hardware for computers costing several crores from Tata Information System Limited and Tata without inviting fresh tenders in 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) Against Tender No. HW/1/3/97-DIT(S) finalised on 27.3.97, orders were placed on M/s Tata Information Systems Limited (TISL) for 525 PCs and 525 DMPs at a cost not exceeding Rs. 4,36,01,250/- (Rs four crore thirty six lakh one thousand two hundred and fifty only on 29.3.97 and 552 PCs and 552 DMPs at a cost not exceeding Rs. 4,58,43,600/- (Rs four crore fifty eight lakh forty three thousand and six hundred only) on 30.6.1997 with the approval of the Competent Authority. The order dt. 30.6.97 was placed in view of the following :

- (i) the decision of the Committee on Non-Plan Expenditure (CNE) to provide computers to 50% of the officers in the financial year 1996-97 and the balance in the next financial year.
- (ii) in the relevant Tender document, though the quantity mentioned against PCs, DMPs etc was 525, nevertheless, against the figure 525, an “**” was put and note was given to the effect that the quantity of these items was likely to increase substantially.
- (iii) the contract was still valid, as only three months had elapsed since the placement of order in 1997 after obtaining Government approval; and
- (iv) it was ascertained from M/s TISL that there has been no change in the prices, taxes etc.
- (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Maintenance of Appu Ghar, Delhi

5128. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether IFCI Financial Services had floated global tenders on behalf of Indian Tourism Development Organization for running, installing and maintaining amusement parks in Appu Ghar, Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that IFCI has out-dated, old, second hand Amusement Rides;

(d) whether these amusement rides were ever checked to ensure their fitness;

(e) whether the Government are aware that use of these joy rides is accident prone;

(f) if so, the reasons for floating tender with the same company; and

(g) the measures the Government propose to initiate to guard against accident?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) has engaged M/s. IFCI Financial Service Ltd (IFCIFSL) as the consultancy agency for preparation of global tenders and assisting in the selection of a company for developing and managing a state-of-the-art amusement park at Appu Ghar site. ITPO had floated Pre-Qualification Global Tender Application Form. Ten firms/consortia submitted pre-Qualification Tender application form. Of these, 5 parties have been shortlisted for the next stage i.e. submission of technical and financial bids.

(c) to (f) IFCIFSL is a consultancy firm and not connected with the running of amusement rides in Appu Ghar. As such, the question of their having out-dated, second hand amusement rides and prior checking with a view to ensuring their fitness does not arise. As stated above, IFCIFSL has been engaged only as the consultancy agency for preparation of global tenders and assisting in the selection of a company for developing and managing a state-of-the-art amusement park at the Appu Ghar site.

(g) Under Regulations for Licensing and Controlling Places of Public Amusement (Other Than cinemas) and Performances of the Public Amusements, 1980, the licence and its renewal for organizing amusement activities are given by the office of Deputy Commissioner of Police (Licencing) to the Licensee. Licensee is required to conduct periodical technical maintenance of rides from safety point of view. The licensing authority periodically renews the license after satisfying itself about the safety of the rides.

Funding Through NABARD

5129. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether National Bank for Agriculture and Rural

Development has recently launched any scheme for rural infrastructure including drinking water scheme for 14 States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the name of States;

(c) the amount of loan sanctioned by NABARD in this regard; and

(d) the extent to which it is likely to help in developing the rural areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes. Sir. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has sanctioned rural drinking water supply projects to Sikkim under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)-V and to Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab under RIDF-VI respectively. The details of the amount sanctioned for these States are given below;

State	Tranche	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. lakh)
Sikkim	RIDF-V	2	237.12
Andhra Pradesh	RIDF-VI	8	4511.14
Goa	RIDF-VI	9	216.86
Haryana	RIDF-VI	58	3938.67
Himachal Pradesh	RIDF-VI	30	1991.35
Punjab	RIDF-VI	148	5375.74
Total		255	16270.88

(d) It is expected that the water supply projects would provide safe drinking water to the villages in the States. This would check the spread of water borne diseases in these villages to a large extent. The projects would also improve the health of milch cattle due to availability of safe drinking water for the animals and improve milk yield and boost dairying activities. The time saved from fetching water would be utilised for on-farm and off-farm activities and education purposes by children.

Export of Foodgrain

5130. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are no taker of Indian foodgrains in the export market for its quality being poor;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of foodgrains exported to various countries in the last two years and the quantity that was re-exported to India; and

(d) the measures initiated by the Government to improve the quality of foodgrains?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The quantity of foodgrains exported to various countries in the last two years is as indicated in enclosed Statement-I. Data for re-exports to India is not maintained separately.

(d) The information is as indicated in enclosed Statement-II please.

Statement-I

Item	1999-2000 (Prov.) Quantity (in MT)	2000-2001 (April-Dec. 2000 Prov.) Quantity (in MT)
Basmati Rice	606468	638434
Non Basmati Rice	1216681	407157
Wheat	20	795
Coarse grains	7618	26880

(Source: DGCI & S Calcutta)

Also nearly 16 lakh MTs of wheat has been exported during the year 2000-01 from the Central Pool.

Statement-II

- A large number of wheat varieties currently under cultivation viz., HP 977, HI 1074, Raj 2184, Raj 1482, Raj 3077, DWR 195 etc. have grain characteristics of international standards. Wheat produced in dry areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Western MP contain 12-13% protein and is suitable for export purpose(s).
- High quality protein composite maize, Shakti-1, containing valuable amino acids such as tryptophan and lysine are already under cultivation.
- High yielding varieties of rice with the quality characters meeting the export requirements haven been developed. These are Pusa Basmati-I Kasturi, Haryana Basmati and Taroari Basmati. Efforts are also being made to meet the Quality requirement of Japonica Rice for export purposes.
- Development of rice varieties rich in Vitamin-A and iron through molecular breeding and genetic engineering is also under consideration in collaboration with the Department of Biotechnology.

Disinvestment of Ports

5131. SHRI CHINTAMAN WANAGA : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to disinvest in some ports of the contry;

(b) if so, the names of such ports, State-wise and Union-Territory-wise with reasons for disinvestment;

(c) whether such disinvestment process will benefit the development of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND

PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) The major port trusts are run as autonomous bodies set up under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 enacted by the Parliament. They are not companies and do not have any equity base or share capital. As such, the question of disinvestment of port trusts does not arise.

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

[Translation]

NABARD Loan for Construction of Godowns

5132. YOGI ADITYA NATH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted any proposal to the NABARD for construction of godowns in the State under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund scheme;

(b) if so, the places where NABARD has given approval to construct godowns; and

(c) the amount sanctioned for the said purpose during the year 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has not submitted any proposal so far for construction of godowns in the State under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

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

[English]

Super Bazar

5133. SHRI PRABHAT SAMANTRAY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Super Bazar set up in Delhi has been running at a loss;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the exact loss as on date;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to improve the performance of Super Bazar; and

(d) if so the details thereof?

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

(b) Losses in Super Bazar are inter alia due to over-staffing in comparison to the volume of business, inadequacy of working capital compared to the requirements, lack of credit based supplies, non-recovery of outstanding, increasing level of fixed costs and wage bills, as well as lack of professionalism in supervision and management. The Super Bazar has reported that the accumulated losses upto 31/3/2000 are Rs. 22.99 crores (audited). The exact loss as on date cannot be given because the Accounts for the year 2000-2001 have not been audited.

(c) and (d) Govt. of India is examining various options in the matter. Being a Cooperative Society, it is for the management of Super Bazar to take appropriate steps to improve its financial position and sales performance of Super Bazar during current year.

[Translation]

Relay of DD Programmes

5134. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the programmes of the Doordarshan Kendra are not being properly relayed in Nasik district of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are taking any concrete steps for proper relay of programmes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) There are four Low Power TV transmitters (LPTs) presently operational at Malegaon, Manmad, Nasik and Satana in the Nasik district. Prasar Bharati has informed that there had been no reports of any major breakdown in service from these transmitters during the last three months, and that all these transmitters are functioning

satisfactorily. Parts of Nasik district lie in the coverage zone of High Power transmitter at Aurangabad. In addition, installation of one LPT at nasik is under implementation for relay of DD2 programmes.

[English]

Ban on LTC

5135. SHRI R.S. PATIL :

SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has banned LTC facilities to the Central Government employees for two years;

(b) the total amount likely to be saved by this measure;

(c) whether his Ministry has any proposal to restore the Home Town Concession for the benefit of the employees who are hailing from distant States; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) As announced in the Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002, LTC facilities to Central Government employees have been suspended for a period of two years w.e.f. 02.03.2001 except to those who have less than two years service before retirement as a measure to effect economy in the non-plan expenditure. Likely savings on this account is estimated to be about Rs. 200 crore per annum. No proposal is under consideration at this stage to restore the Home Town Concession.

Export Promotion

5136. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission had identified bio-technology in leather industry, garments, herbal plants and other products besides Information Technology as the areas in which the country had rich potential for exports; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to utilize the potentialities of various items for export promotion item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The importance of Biotechnology and Information Technology has been well recognised. The Extreme Focus Products considered to have rich potential for exports inter alia include Ready-made Garments, Synthetic man-made textiles, Computer software, Footware, etc. The task force constituted by Planning Commission for the promotion of medicinal plant sector has inter alia recommended establishment of 'Medicinal Plant Board' for an integrated development of the medicinal plants sector, identification of one million hectares of forest area rich in medicinal plants, proper storage of germplasm of all medicinal plants in the gene bank created by Dept. of Biotechnology etc.

Major initiatives taken in information technology sector include setting up of a new Ministry of Information Technology, Setting up of Indian Institute of Information Technology by the various State Governments, etc. Besides these, Market Development Assistance, Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme, Brand Equity Schemes and Income Tax Concessions have been extended to software exporters. Export promotion being a constant endeavor of the Government, a number of steps have been taken to further enhance the export growth which include reduction in transaction costs through de-centralisation, simplification of procedures and various other measures as enumerated in the Exim Policy.

Steps have also been taken to promote exports through multilateral and bilateral initiatives, identification of thrust sectors and focus regions. Special Economic Zones are being set up to further boost the exports.

CAG Report on Power Grid Corporation of India

5137. DR. SANJAY PASWAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether CAG has in its audited report for the financial closing year, 2000 in respect of Power Grid Corporation of India has pointed out irregularities committed in the said referred PSU;

(b) if so, the details thereof in terms of nature of corruption and scale of money involved;

(c) whether any legal action is pending in any court of law pertaining large scale irregularities and corruption in the said PSU;

- (d) if so the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government propose to investigate the matter through investigating agency like CBI;
- (f) if so details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Power Grid Corporation of India (POWERGRID) is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power and the CAG Report for the financial closing year 2000 has not been received by the Ministry. The Report is yet to be laid in the Parliament before its release.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) to (g) Do not arise.

[Translation]

FCI Base Depots

5138. SHRI SUNDER LAL TIWARI :
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI :
SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :

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

(a) the number of Food Corporation of India's base depots in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for supplying foodgrains under the targeted Public Distribution System;

(b) whether the above base depots are sufficient to meet the requirement of the States;

(c) the names of the districts of the States which do not have FCI base depots; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) In Madhya Pradesh, there are 25 base depots for issue of foodgrains

under APL/BPL in addition to 14 BPL centres. In Maharashtra, there are 74 base depots for supply of foodgrains under Targeted Public Distribution System.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) In the following revenue districts, Food Corporation of India is not having any depot:

Madhya Pradesh

1. Bhind
2. Shivpuri
3. Badwani
4. Mandsaur
5. Shajapur
6. Neemuch
7. Sehore
8. Raisen
9. Rajgarh
10. Harda
11. Panna

Maharashtra

1. Nandurbar
2. Osmanabad
3. Latur
4. Washim
5. Yeotmal
6. Bhandara
7. Cadchiroli
8. Himgoli

(d) There is no proposal to open base depots in such revenue districts as the supplies to these districts are being arranged from the nearest depots of the neighbouring districts.

[English]

VRS in Public Sector Undertakings, HMT

5139. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.4959 on the August 25, 2000 and state :

(a) whether the requisite information has been collected;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the time by which the required information is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) (a) to (d) The requisite

information has been received from 213 public enterprises (inclusive of subsidiaries) out of 240 PSUs on details of VRS optees till 1999-2000. Details are given in enclosed Statement I. 97 PSUs have furnished 'NIL' information. The information received so far for the year 2000-2001 are given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

Number of Employees (Category-wise) Who took Voluntary Retirement in PSUs during 1999-2000 and the Amount spent on Implementing VRS

S. No.	Name of the PSU	No. of employees (Category-wise) Who took VRS during 1999-2000			Amount spent during 1999-2000 (Rs. in crores)
		Workers	Executives	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andrew Yule and Company Ltd.	43	3	46	—
2.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	41	22	63	—
3.	Bengal Immunity Ltd.	13	3	16	—
4.	Bharat Aluminium Co. Ltd	119	47	166	—
5.	Bharat Brakes and Valves Ltd.	6	4	10	0.34
6.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	8	8	16	0.68
7.	Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	273	97	370	15.51
8.	Bharat Electronics Ltd.	783	134	917	80.81
9.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	37	1	38	1.01
10.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	4732	3542	8274	289
11.	Bharat Heavy Plate and Vessels Ltd.	—	—	110	5
12.	Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.	8	4	12	—
13.	Bharat Pumps and Compressors Ltd.	10	9	19	0.94
14.	Biecco Lawrie Ltd.	16	10	26	0.68
15.	Bridge and Roof Co. Ltd.	—	—	31	0.84
16.	British India Corporation Ltd.	—	—	2358	26.42
17.	Burn Standard Company Ltd.	817	41	858	17.04
18.	C.M.C. Ltd.	—	—	46	0.57

1	2	3	4	5	6
19.	Cawnpore Textiles Ltd.	26	1	27	—
20.	Cement Corpn of India Ltd.	135	—	135	—
21.	Central Cottage Industries Corpn. of India Ltd.	12	30	42	1.88
22.	Central Electronics Ltd.	66	52	118	3.82
23.	Central Inland Water Transport Corpn. Ltd.	—	—	146	3.89
24.	Coal India Ltd. (Including 8 subsidiaries)	—	—	11634	254.6
25.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	55	91	146	7.11
26.	Electronics Trade and Technology Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	4	—	4	—
27.	Engineers India Ltd.	1	2	3	0.89
28.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	19	18	37	—
29.	Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	11	10	21	—
30.	Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd.	55	2	57	2.91
31.	H T L Ltd.	19	—	19	0.64
32.	Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corp. India Ltd.	13	28	41	2.49
33.	Heavy Engineering Corpn. Ltd.	87	74	161	7.5
34.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	716	206	922	19.84
35.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	75	25	100	—
36.	Hindustan Cables Ltd.	370	15	385	35
37.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	2888	250	3138	140
38.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	67	46	113	3.79
39.	Hindustan Insecticides Ltd.	37	34	71	2.02
40.	Hindustan Latex Ltd.	—	—	83	3.47
41.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	24	3	27	0.54
42.	Hindustan Organic Chemicals Ltd.	61	62	123	2.92
43.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	1	2	3	0.07
44.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	824	320	1144	34
45.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	—	—	28	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
46.	Hindustan Salts Ltd. (Including One subsidiary)	68	2	70	3.96
47.	Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.	273	11	284	—
48.	Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corpn. Ltd.	19	5	24	1
49.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	—	—	463	19.96
50.	HMT Ltd.	485	415	900	50.25
51.	Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Ltd.	52	5	57	—
52.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.	85	5	90	—
53.	I T I Ltd.	185	148	333	11.41
54.	I B P Co Ltd.	77	30	107	4.68
55.	Indian Oil Blending Ltd.	7	9	16	—
56.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	52	108	160	—
57.	Indian Petro Chemicals Corpn.Ltd.	32	29	61	1.82
58.	Indian Road Construction Corpn. Ltd.	—	—	2	0.08
59.	Instrumentation Ltd.	325	37	362	22.5
60.	Jessop and Co. Ltd.	—	1	1	0.06
61.	Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	95	104	199	4.04
62.	Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	6	1	7	0.02
63.	Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	16	5	21	0.88
64.	Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	35	107	142	6.39
65.	Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	178	19	197	—
66.	Mazagon Dock Ltd.	—	—	237	8.53
67.	Metallurgical & Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd.	68	208	276	12.39
68.	Mineral Exploration Corpn. Ltd.	147	25	172	2.84
69.	MMTC Ltd.	35	61	96	—
70.	National Aluminium Company Ltd.	1	1	2	0.04
71.	National Bicycle Corpn. Ltd.	253	—	253	6.05
72.	National Bldgs. Constrn. Corpn. Ltd.	48	38	86	—

1	2	3	4	5	6
73.	National Film Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	2	—	2	0.04
74.	National Hydro Electric Power Corpn. Ltd.	63	15	78	3.05
75.	National Industrial Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	16	61	77	—
76.	National Instruments Ltd.	57	1	58	2.75
77.	National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd.	3406	128	3534	42.88
78.	National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	136	74	210	—
79.	National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	8	1	9	0.29
80.	National Small Scale Industries Corpn. Ltd.	5	7	12	—
81.	National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd.	125	4	129	—
82.	NEPA Ltd.	216	50	266	7.14
83.	Neyveli Lignite Corpn. Ltd.	289	74	363	—
84.	North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	1	1	2	0.05
85.	North Eastern Regional Agricultural Marketing Corpn. Ltd.	17	1	18	0.38
86.	NTC (A. Pradesh, Kamataka, Kerala and Mahe) Ltd.	344	69	413	—
87.	NTC (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) Ltd.	130	26	156	2.38
88.	NTC (Uttar Pradesh) Ltd.	949	25	964	—
89.	NTC (West Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa) Ltd.	39	16	65	—
90.	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.	276	1066	1342	—
91.	Oil India Ltd.	1	—	1	0.03
92.	Praga Tools Ltd.	127	19	146	5.23
93.	Projects and Development India Ltd.	—	4	4	—
94.	Pyrites, Phosphates and Chemicals Ltd.	267	10	277	7.99
95.	Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.	1	—	1	0.02
96.	RBL Ltd.	10	1	11	0.28
97.	Richardson and Crudas (1972) Ltd.	—	—	165	7.95
98.	Scooters India Ltd.	10	5	15	0.34

1	2	3	4	5	6
99.	Smith Stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	14	8	22	—
100.	Sponge Iron India Ltd.	85	21	106	3.14
101.	State Farms Corporation	51	8	59	1
102.	State Trading Corpn. of India Ltd.	3	31	34	2.9
103.	Steel Authority of India Ltd (Including One subsidiary)	—	—	14121	316.43
104.	Tannery and Footwear Corpn. of India Ltd.	511	39	550	15.13
105.	Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	9	—	9	—
106.	Vignyan Industries Ltd.	4	1	5	0.18

Statement-II

*Number of Employees in Central Government PSUs
who Retired on VRS during 2000-2001*

1.	Balmer Lawrie and Co. Ltd	124	17.	Fertilizer Corpn. of India Ltd.	25
2.	Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	65	18.	Fertilizers and Chemicals (Travancore) Ltd.	5
3.	Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	86	19.	Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corp. India Ltd.	17
4.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd.	636	20.	Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.	1115
5.	Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.	600	21.	Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd.	32
6.	Bharat Leather Corpn. Ltd.	9	22.	Hindustan Copper Ltd.	1455
7.	Bharat Refractories Ltd.	154	23.	Hindustan Fertilizer Corpn. Ltd.	9
8.	Bharat Wagon and Engineering Co. Ltd.	102	24.	Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.	20
9.	British India Corporation Ltd.	144	25.	Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd.	3
10.	C.M.C. Ltd.	2	26.	Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Corpn. Ltd.	343
11.	Cement Corpn. of India Ltd.	57	27.	Hindustan Prefab Ltd.	61
12.	Central Electronics Ltd.	7	28.	Hindustan Salts Ltd.	138
13.	Dredging Corpn. of India Ltd.	115	29.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	770
14.	Electronics Corpn. of India Ltd.	397	30.	ITI Ltd.	537
15.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	9	31.	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd.	1457
16.	Engineers India Ltd.	71	32.	Instrumentation Ltd.	244
			33.	IRCON International Ltd.	32
			34.	Jessop and Co. Ltd.	1248

35. Jute Corpn. of India Ltd.	27	62. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	52
36. Kamataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	9	63. State Farms Corporation	359
37. Kudremukh Iron Ore Co. Ltd.	74	64. Tungabhadra Steel Products Ltd.	106
38. Madras Fertilizers Ltd.	9	65. Tyre Corporation of India Ltd.	172
39. Mandya National Paper Mills Ltd.	650	66. Vignyan Industries Ltd.	5
40. Manganese Ore (India) Ltd.	54	Total	14332
41. Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants (India) Ltd.	158	Loans to Agriculture Sector	
42. Minig and Allied Machinery Corpn. Ltd.	528	5140. SHRI BHUPENDRA SINH SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :	
43. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	56	(a) the State-wise, loan provided by each public sector bank for agriculture sector during the last three years;	
44. MMTC Ltd.	355	(b) whether 18 percent of the loan operation of the public banks are earmarked for agricultural sector as per the RBI guidelines;	
45. National Bldg. Constrn. Corpn. Ltd.	49	(c) if so, whether it is being strictly followed by all the banks; and	
46. National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Ltd.	6	(d) if not, the positive action taken by either RBI or Government against defaulting banks?	
47. National Mineral Development Corporation Ltd.	207	THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) (a) The State-wise details of total loans provided by public sector banks for agriculture sector during the last three years as on March 1997, March 1998 and March 1999, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), are given in the enclosed Statement.	
48. National Projects Construction Corpn. Ltd.	261	(b) and (c) As per the standing guidelines issued by RBI to all scheduled commercial banks in India, they are required to lend 18 per cent of their net bank credit to the agricultural sector. RBI has reported that as on the last reporting Friday of March 2000, five out of twenty seven public sector banks have achieved this target.	
49. National Seeds Corpn. Ltd.	32	(d) Scheduled commercial banks with shortfall in achievement of priority sector lending targets or sub-sectoral targets under priority sector have to contribute to the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) which was set up in 1995-96 with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD). Banks contribute to its various tranches in proportion to their shortfall. RBI also	
50. National Small Scale Industries Corpn. Ltd.	14		
51. North Eastern Handicrafts and Handloom Dev. Corp. Ltd.	5		
52. NTC (Delhi, Punjab and Rajasthan) Ltd.	112		
53. NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.	149		
54. NTC (Madhya Pradesh) Ltd.	120		
55. NTC (Maharashtra North) Ltd.	365		
56. NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd.	274		
57. P E C Ltd.	18		
58. Rajasthan Electronics and Instruments Ltd.	1		
59. Sambhar Salts Ltd.	1		
60. Scooters India Ltd.	13		
61. Smith Stanistreet and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	2		

takes up the issue of non-achievement of targets with the concerned banks and advises them to make concerted efforts to achieve their targets.

Statement

State-wise details of outstanding advances of public sector banks to agriculture under agriculture as on March 1997, March 1998 and March 1999

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	State/Union Territory	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A & N Islands	568.30	315.13	372.75
2.	Andhra Pd.	388031.66	415879.14	466837.29
3.	Arunachal Pd.	932.98	999.44	1245.26
4.	Assam	38168.51	26002.33	29080.46
5.	Bihar	105720.93	107573.94	122532.69
6.	Chandigarh	23166.50	20073.11	22110.22
7.	D & N Haveli	132.68	132.38	129.72
8.	Daman & Diu	99.15	87.25	82.25
9.	Goa	5862.80	6608.46	6643.61
10.	Gujarat	169276.26	192359.56	217143.84
11.	Haryana	102326.41	119036.63	130993.50
12.	Himachal Pd.	12494.31	13449.59	15700.11
13.	J & K	3897.74	4630.07	4605.74
14.	Karnataka	269520.36	306677.56	395916.23
15.	Kerala	130944.47	130446.77	138010.25
16.	Lakshadweep	46.17	54.02	57.46
17.	Madhya Pd.	199074.12	224251.58	256614.39
18.	Maharashtra	312853.05	340292.28	419425.37
19.	Manipur	1725.14	1991.85	1909.33

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Meghalaya	1488.65	1647.07	1650.57
21.	Mizoram	403.17	413.63	506.63
22.	Nagaland	2792.65	2025.54	2201.21
23.	NCT of Delhi	50916.91	74070.15	60311.75
24.	Orissa	62899.98	67814.28	72982.14
25.	Pondicherry	5179.74	5002.68	5026.17
26.	Punjab	198699.75	225224.09	273432.39
27.	Rajasthan	122773.26	142676.27	169372.69
28.	Sikkim	718.70	853.76	753.93
29.	Tamil Nadu	394362.45	410153.83	417703.03
30.	Tripura	4691.27	4835.74	5243.23
31.	Uttar Pd.	275359.82	303790.58	343754.61
32.	West Bengal	145413.08	164834.51	180810.40
Total		3030540.87	3314204.82	3763149.22

Funds of Nizam in London Bank

5141. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH :
SHRIMATI D.M. VIJAYA KUMARI :
SHRI K. BALARAMA KRISHNAMURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge fund belonging to the erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad is lying in a London Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to claim the money being successor to that state?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) A sum of Pound Sterling 1,007,940.09 was maintained in an account in the National Westminster Bank of London in September 1948 in the name of Nizam of Hyderabad's Government. This amount was transferred into an account in the name of the then High Commissioner for Pakistan in London on the instructions of the erstwhile Nizam's

Finance Minister, The funds currently amount to Pound Sterling 24,454,350.18. Government have made several attempts in the past with the Government of Pakistan and the late erstwhile Nizam of Hyderabad and his legal heirs to resolve this issue. Government's efforts continue to address this matter.

[Translation]

Agricultural Trade among Member Countries of WTO

5142. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA :

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

(a) whether the Government have held any discussion with the member countries of the World Trade Organisation to improve the agricultural trade among them;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the date on which the discussion was held and outcome of the discussion;

(c) the extent to which the agricultural trade among the member countries of WTO has improved thereafter;

(d) whether the member countries of WTO are clearly divided in the matter of future improvement programme relating to the agricultural trade; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and proposed scheme of the Government to have future round of discussion?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) In accordance with the mandate of Article 20 of the WTO Agreement on Agriculture (AoA), negotiations to further the reform process in trade in agriculture have commenced in the year 2000. These negotiations are taking place in the Special Sessions of the WTO Committee on Agriculture. The 6th Special Session of the WTO Committee on Agriculture was held in March, 2001. India has been actively participating in the discussions taking place in the Special Sessions of the Committee on Agriculture. The ongoing negotiations are in its initial phase and it may take considerable time before these negotiations are concluded.

It would be, therefore, rather premature to arrive at any conclusion as to whether any improvement in agricultural trade has taken place due to these negotiations.

India has also submitted its proposals in the areas of Market Access, Domestic Support, Export Competition and Food Security with the main objective of protecting its food and livelihood security and also for creating opportunities for exports of its agricultural surpluses.

(d) and (e) The proposals submitted by member countries reflect varying objectives of the member countries in accordance with their positions in world trade in agriculture as well as their domestic policy requirements. The developing countries are, by and large, unanimous that the AoA has not enhanced their market access opportunities. Most of the developing countries have sought substantial reductions in tariffs and in trade distortions being practised by the developed countries before undertaking any further commitments. However, the net-food-importing developing countries have proposed only gradual reductions in subsidies. Many developed countries, on the other hand, have been emphasising that as trade is a two way process, developing countries also have an equal obligation to open their markets without any preconditions, for establishing a fair and market oriented agricultural trading system. There is, however, no unanimity of approach either amongst all the developed countries or amongst all the developing countries.

The Government propose to continue to actively participate in the ongoing negotiations under AoA with a view to project its view and safeguard its interests.

Composition of Board of Directors

5143. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT :
SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

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

(a) whether the Government have amended the guidelines regarding composition of Board of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings issued by them in March, 1992:

(b) is so, the details thereof and the reasons therefore; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for financial restructuring and modernisation of PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The guidelines dated 16.3.1992 regarding composition of Board of Directors of Public Sector Undertakings were amended vide O.M. dated 13.11.1995. When the Navratna/Miniratna schemes were introduced in 1997, it was decided that the boards of these public sector undertaking will be restructured by inducting at least four non official directors in the case of Navratnas and at least three non-official directors in the case of Miniratnas. The general guidelines dated 16.3.1992 do not provide any minimum number of non-official directors but only state that the number of such directors should be at last one-third of the actual strength of the board. Copies of guidelines dated 13.11.1995 and 22.7.1997 are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) Enterprise specific measures are taken for financial restructuring and modernisation of PSUs. Sick Industrial PSUs are referred to BIFR for formulating appropriate revival/rehabilitation schemes under the provisions of SICA. For other loss making PSUs administrative Ministry of consultation with management and workers of PSU concerned explore various options and devise appropriate measures for restructuring. Other measures taken by the Government include delegation of enhanced powers to Board of Directors particularly of Navratna and Miniratna, professionalisation of Board of Directors, reduction of surplus manpower through VRS, technology upgradation and research and development.

Statement

- I. Copy of Department of Public Enterprises Office Memorandum No. 18 (6)/91-DPE (GM) dated the 13th November 1995.

Subject :- Composition of Board of Directors of Public Sector Enterprises.

1. Reference is invited to this Department's O.M. of even number dated the 16th March, 1992 on the above mentioned subject. In para 2(B) (ii) of the said O.M., it was, inter-alia, mentioned that the choice of the Nominee Director would vest with the Secretary of the concerned Department. The matter was reconsidered in

this Department and it has now been decided that the choice of the Nominee Director would vest with the administrative Ministry of the concerned Department.

2. All Ministries/Departments concerned with Public Sector Enterprises are requested to take note of the above decision and follow the same at the time of composition of Board of Directors of PSEs under their administrative control.
- II Copy of Department of Public Enterprises Office Memorandum No. DPE/11 (2)/97-Fin. dated the 22nd July, 1997.

Subject : Turning selected Public Sector Enterprises into Global Giants-Operational and administrative modalities-Restructuring of the Boards.

The Common Minimum Programme of the Government states, inter-alia, that Government will identify public sector enterprises that have comparative advantages and support them in their drive to become global giants. In pursuance of these objectives, the Government have decided to grant enhanced autonomy and delegation of powers to nine selected public sector enterprises, namely, BHEL, BPCL, HPCL, IOC, IPCL, NTPC, ONGC, SAIL and VSNL.

2. The exercise of the enhanced autonomy and authority shall be exercisable only after the Boards have been restructured, as indicated below. It must be ensured that each of these PSEs inducts in the first instance at least four non-official part-time Directors of an impeccable stature and background. This number should be more for those PSEs which have a very large number of functional Directors. It should also be ensured that within six months, the number of non-official part-time Directors is increased to reach at least 1/3rd of the total strength of the Board.
3. The above is in partial modification to the general guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises vide O.M.No. 18 (6)/91-GM dated 16th March, 1992.

4. While selection of full-time Directors and part-time Government nominee Directors would continue to be done as per the existing procedures, for selection of the non-official part-time Directors in these companies, a Search Committee comprising Chairman-PESB, Secretary-DPE, Secretary of the administrative Ministry and an eminent person(s) to be nominated by Industry Minister has been set up.
5. The above decision of the Government may please be brought to the notice of the enterprise concerned for taking immediate actions.

[English]

National Film Awards

5144. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure prescribed for receiving entries for National Film Awards and for making the final selections;

(b) whether each member of the Jury is called upon to see films continuously for upto 12 hours a day for three weeks for selection purposes;

(c) if so, whether this requirement is quite onerous and affects the quality of decision making/selection process;

(d) if so, the remedial steps taken in this regard;

(e) the honorarium paid to the members of the services rendered by them;

(f) whether there is a proposal to raise the same commensurate with the work of requirements; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The National Film Awards are governed by the Regulations

notified vide Public Notice No. 303/10/86-F (F) dated 24.11.1987, as amended from time to time. For inviting entries of films for the Awards, the Regulations are circulated to various trade bodies of the film industry, Directors of Information in the State Governments, Film Institutes and are also provided to individual Film Producers who ask for the same. Publicity is also given through the National/Regional newspapers and on Doordarshan and Aakashvani.

(b) to (d) As per National Film Awards Regulations, the Jury determines its own work procedure and the Chairman of the Jury may constitute Panels from amongst the members of the Jury.

(e) The Jury Members are provided (i) economy class air-travel, (ii) local transport, (iii) stay in hotel, (iv) working lunch/refreshments, (v) daily allowance of Rs. 130/- per day (vi) a sitting fee of Rs. 300/- per day and (ii) services of Interpreter for regional languages films.

(f) and (g) There is no proposal at present to raise the honorarium.

Losses to UTI

5145. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK :
SHRI C.N. SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Unit Trust of India under the US-64 have lost Rs. 840 crore owing to meltdown; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) According to the Unit Trust of India (UTI), from 28th February 2001 till 18th April, 2001, UTI has sold equity shares worth Rs. 3.51 crore under the US-64 Scheme and booked a loss of Rs. 23 lakh.

The market values of the Scheme's equity investments move in line with the stock markets. UTI has intimated that, as such, the decrease in the market value of the shares in the portfolio of the Scheme is not considered a loss in an accounting sense.

Recommendations of Dhanuka Committee*[Translation]*

5146. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dhanuka Committee has made certain recommendations to strengthen the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has since examined the recommendations/proposals of the Dhanuka Committee: and

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

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

(b) The Dhanuka Committee set up by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) in February, 1997 had, inter-alia, recommended that SEBI should be the regulatory agency for regulating the securities market and in relation to certain provisions of the Companies Act.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Some of the recommendations of the Committee have been given effect by suitable amendments through the Securities Laws (Amendment) Act, 1999, Securities Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 1999 and the Companies (Amendment) Act, 2000. Further, it is the endeavor of the Government to adequately strengthen SEBI with a view to enabling it to discharge its functions effectively.

Old Stock of Foodgrains in FCI Godowns

5147. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether old stock of rice/grains are lying in the godowns of Food Corporation of India in Maharashtra and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Food Corporation of India is putting pressure on the States to procure this inferior quality rice and wheat; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The State-wise details, as on 28.02.2001, are given in enclosed Statement.

(c) No, Sir. The State Governments or their representative are provided facility of joint sampling of foodgrains while taking delivery from Food Corporation of India and only on their satisfaction about the quality of food grains are the same issued to them along with a joint sample for record and comparison.

(d) Question does not arise.

Statement

Regionwise, Agewise Position of Wheat, Rice/Paddy as on 28-02-2001

(Figures in MTs)

S.No.	Region	Upto 1 Year			1-2 Year		
		Wheat	Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Rice	Paddy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
EAST ZONE							
1.	Bihar	260181	204758	6969	31727	3552	0
2.	Orissa	45784	506013	0	11976	14018	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
3.	West Bengal	259160	290726	0	97401	48390	0
	Zone Total	565125	1001497	6969	141104	65960	0
	NEF ZONE						
4.	Assam	7446	119982	0	4011	38550	0
5.	NEF States	916	43388	0	0	5223	0
	ZONE TOTAL	8362	163370	0	4011	43773	0
	NORTH ZONE						
6.	Delhi	103218	15049	0	235645	11844	0
7.	Haryana	162263	1233588	30011	3558	554523	0
8.	H.P.	10552	5270	0	1465	37	0
9.	J & K	14055	35516	0	3353	7975	0
10.	Punjab	1164760	2761186	1664767	23503	2724278	28012
11.	Rajasthan	819513	7923	26949	400420	44236	0
12.	U.P.	497637	819185	9	613845	294071	0
	ZONE TOTAL	2771998	4877717	1721736	1278586	3636964	28012
	SOUTH ZONE						
13.	A.P.	73370	3101021	28027	297428	19786	0
14.	Kerala	6803	424783	0	40130	106993	0
15.	Karnataka	103544	512394	0	95206	71462	0
16.	T. Nadu	155814	669696	0	190584	102457	0
	ZONE TOTAL	339531	4707894	28027	623348	300698	0
	WEST ZONE						
17.	Gujarat	241399	42155	0	288360	50121	0
18.	Maharashtra	450005	164823	0	522893	190962	0
19.	M.P.	301104	517367	0	444164	173775	0
	ZONE TOTAL	992508	724345	0	1255417	414858	0
	COUNTRY TOTAL	4677524	11474823	1756732	3302466	4462253	28012

S.No.	Region	2-3 Year			3-4 Year			4-5 Year		
		Wheat	Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Rice	Paddy
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
EAST ZONE										
1.	Bihar	3019	2594	2751	3574	0	1392	0	0	78
2.	Orissa	0	1584	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3.	West Bengal	3726	1988	0	0	7162	0	17	3156	0
	ZONE TOTAL	6745	6166	2751	3574	7162	1392	17	3156	78
NEF ZONE										
4.	Assam	0	13741	0	0	1338	0	0	334	0
5.	NEF States	0	131	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	ZONE TOTAL	0	13872	0	0	1338	0	0	334	0
NORTH ZONE										
6.	Delhi	16406	1893	0	0	3492	0	0	72	0
7.	Haryana	13745	4095	17309	0	430	0	0	2877	2186
8.	H.P.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9.	J & K	0	4119	0	1	1739	0	0	0	0
10.	Punjab	38933	702888	2704	1172	30637	0	0	22537	0
11.	Rajasthan	192907	7845	0	15580	467	1911	1060	727	0
12.	U.P.	347715	39934	0	33628	8792	0	0	2040	0
	ZONE TOTAL	609706	760774	20013	50381	45557	1911	1060	28253	2186
SOUTH ZONE										
13.	A.P.	28236	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Kerala	9719	27799	0	0	14195	0	0	517	0
15.	Karnataka	4440	33425	0	497	3183	0	0	0	0
16.	T. Nadu	6230	3768	0	0	2809	0	0	1767	0
	ZONE TOTAL	48625	64992	0	497	20187	0	0	2284	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
WEST ZONE										
17.	Gujarat	91315	7952	0	15834	9	0	0	0	0
18.	Maharashtra	276117	19047	0	72316	7460	0	5131	0	0
19.	M.P.	129989	21330	0	4985	5276	0	116	7158	0
ZONE TOTAL		497421	48329	0	93135	12745	0	5247	7158	0
COUNTRY TOTAL		1162497	894133	22764	147587	86989	3303	6324	41185	2264
		More than 5 Year				Total				
S.No.	Region	Wheat	Rice	Paddy	Wheat	Rice	Paddy			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8			
EAST ZONE										
1.	Bihar	0	4474	193	298501	215378	11383			
2.	Orissa	0	0	0	57760	521615	0			
3.	West Bengal	0	5723	0	360304	357145	0			
Zone Total		0	10197	193	716565	1094138	11383			
NEF ZONE										
4.	Assam	0	112	0	11457	174057	0			
5.	NEF States	0	0	0	916	48742	0			
Zone Total		0	112	0	12373	222799	0			
NORTH ZONE										
6.	Delhi	0	450	0	355269	32800	0			
7.	Haryana	0	0	0	176363	1795513	49506			
8.	H.P.	0	0	0	12017	5307	0			
9.	J & K	0	0	0	17409	49349	0			
10	Punjab	0	57305	0	1228368	6298831	1695483			
11.	Rajasthan	0	30260	0	1429480	91458	28860			
12.	U.P.	0	52974	0	1492825	1216996	9			
ZONE TOTAL		0	140989	0	4711731	9490254	1773858			

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
SOUTH ZONE							
13. A.P.		0	0	0	399034	3120807	28057
14. Kerala		0	10217	0	56652	584504	0
15. Karnataka		0	0	0	203687	620464	0
16. T. Nadu		0	10179	0	352628	790676	0
Zone Total		0	20396	0	1012001	5116451	28027
WEST ZONE							
17. Gujarat		0	0	0	636908	100237	0
18. Maharashtra		54042	0	0	1380504	382292	0
19. M.P.		0	4706	0	880358	729612	0
Zone Total		54042	4706	0	2897770	1212141	0
Country Total		54042	176400	193	9350440	17135783	1813268

*[English]***Voluntary Retirement Scheme**

5148. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE :
 SHRI M.V. V. S. MURTHI :
 SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
 SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to introduce new VRS for the Central Government employees as reported in media;

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

(c) the main features of the new VRS;

(d) whether the new VRS is on the lines of banks; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (e) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to introduce a VRS for the Central Government

employees in general. However, the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech for 2001-2002 had, inter-alia, announced that:

"The Surplus Pool under the Department of Personnel will be streamlined and equipped to re-deploy and retrain surplus staff. Employees in the Surplus Pool will also be offered an attractive VRS package."

Action has been initiated to formulate a VRS package to be offered to the employees in the Surplus Pool.

*[Translation]***Export of Sports Material**

5149. SHRI ZORA SINGH MANN :
 SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

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

(a) whether the export of sports material has been constantly declining during the last few years;

(b) if so, the total value of sports material exported from the country during 1995-96 and 1999-2000 respectively;

(c) whether signing of agreement with the World Trade Organisation is one of the reasons for lesser exports; and

(d) if so, the way in which this agreement has affected this industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) (a) and (b) Exports of Sports goods has shown an increase during the period 1995-96 to 1997-98 but has shown a declining trend during years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 as indicated below :-

Year	Exports in US \$ M	% age growth
1995-96	77.93	36.62%
1996-97	78.30	0.47%
1997-98	80.76	3.14%
1998-99	73.23	-9.32%
1999-2000	64.50	-12.28%

(Source : DGCI & S)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

Loan Under Pradhan Mantri Rozgar Yojana

5150. SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed youth, who have applied for loan under the PMRY scheme during the last three years from each State;

(b) the State-wise, target fixed by each bank for providing loan under PMRY and the amount actually sanctioned and disbursed by the said banks during the above period and the number of youth benefited therefrom;

(c) the State-wise, number of applications pending as on date and the reasons for delay in sanctioning loans to them; and

(d) the steps taken to simplify the procedure in respect of loan and remove the problems being faced by the youth in getting bank loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India, the State-wise details of number of unemployed youths who have applied for loans under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) to all Scheduled Commercial Banks during last three year ending March 1999, March 2000 and February 2001 are given in column (3) of Statement-I

(b) State-wise target for providing loan under PMRY, the amount sanctioned and disbursed by all scheduled commercial banks during the last three years are also indicated in the Annexure-I. The bank-wise target for providing loan under PMRY, amount sanctioned, amount disbursed, number of youth benefited during the last three years in given in Annexure-II. However the data generating system of RBI does not provide the information in the manner asked for in part (b) of the question.

(c) State-wise number of applications pending with all Scheduled Commercial Banks as on 28.02.2001 are given in page 3 of Statement-I and Bank-wise details of pending applications are given in page 3 of Statement-II. The reasons for delay in sanctioning of loans to the unemployed youth inter-alia include inability of borrowers (i) to obtain license power connection in time to commence the activity, (ii) to secure premises, (iii) to complete the pre-formalities sanction loan requirements and (iv) borrowers preference for secured Government jobs instead of taking self employment ventures.

(d) The steps taken to simplify the procedure in respect of loan and remove the problem faced by the youth in getting bank loan with the requirements/documentation etc., for early sanction/disbursement of loan amount and the problem faced by the beneficiaries are reviewed on a continuous basis and appropriate remedial measures are taken at various forums viz., District Level Consultative Committee/State Level Banker's Committee.

Statement-I

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY)— Programme Year
Report showing cumulative position as at the end of March 1999*

Name of the Bank. All Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Rs. lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Target	No. of applns. recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No	Amount	No	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NORTHERN REGION						
Haryana	8300	13577	7888	4408.18	5742	3168.47
Himachal Pradesh	2400	3610	2340	1413.49	1913	1178.85
Jammu & Kashmir	5000	2685	1473	1243.49	835	651.00
Punjab	9000	17342	9733	6190.45	8075	4640.57
Rajasthan	16300	26181	14005	7393.38	10059	5105.31
Chandigarh	100	193	105	83.46	75	56.09
Delhi	4700	3077	691	394.44	508	288.64
NORTH EASTERN REGION						
Assam	15000	17139	10267	8395.65	5525	3968.14
Manipur	1350	1039	828	461.00	407	176.11
Meghalaya	550	469	368	281.86	202	129.71
Nagaland	250	191	165	152.17	40	33.67
Tripura	1300	1546	974	570.24	110	59.05
Arunachal Pradesh	500	253	205	175.83	166	125.39
Mizoram	350	478	163	145.15	37	30.05
Sikkim	150	144	87	44.48	45	20.95
EASTERN REGION						
Bihar	20500	24975	10852	9056.31	8364	6493.81
Orissa	10100	16444	8684	6837.43	3106	2146.50
West Bengal	23000	12281	3780	2469.77	2726	1717.85

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Andaman & Nicobar	100	200	94	75.51	77	53.88
CENTRAL REGION						
Madhya Pradesh	30800	62332	31169	19725.78	19102	11691.18
Uttar Pradesh	51600	83312	44682	27795.02	35023	21052.55
WESTERN REGION						
Gujarat	14600	19918	11437	4949.79	10607	4543.55
Maharashtra	42500	65586	37106	19442.64	26346	14146.98
Daman & Diu	50	38	25	17.08	21	14.05
Goa	600	580	369	265.29	300	212.88
Dadra & Ngr. Haveli	50	46	37	24.40	28	18.67
SOUTHERN REGION						
Andhra Pradesh	34200	38508	24218	13394.14	15186	8320.93
Karnataka	21900	30490	17351	9804.91	13188	7274.26
Kerala	20000	28974	16031	8792.86	11749	6348.19
Tamilnadu	18500	28909	15723	7637.75	11422	5523.55
Lakshadweep	50	62	33	27.20	31	25.59
Pondicherry	550	833	453	171.25	330	126.33
NOT SPECIFIED		6	6	1.66	6	4.48
All India	354350	501418	271342	161842.06	191351	109347.21

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY)- Programme year
Report showing cumulative position as at the end of March 2000*

Name of the Bank. All Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Rs. lakhs)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Target	No.of applns. recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No	Amount	No	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NORTHERN REGION						
Haryana	8600	13315	7191	4485.05	5468	3173.25

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Himachal Pradesh	2500	3778	2300	1538.19	1943	1311.69
Jammu & Kashmir	1300	2818	1270	1108.74	868	735.27
Punjab	9000	18399	9563	6613.18	8188	5253.00
Rajasthan	16600	28875	15170	8631.28	10154	5443.31
Chandigarh	100	126	67	51.57	49	39.50
Delhi	5000	4715	858	564.88	553	346.07
NORTH EASTERN REGION						
Assam	6600	16372	9029	6526.37	4088	2545.98
Manipur	1000	1329	881	690.10	228	161.50
Meghalaya	300	639	538	528.05	318	206.92
Nagaland	200	97	78	84.00	72	68.21
Tripura	650	1562	1041	642.94	200	107.68
Arunachal Pradesh	250	523	412	325.98	112	73.13
Mizoram	250	542	220	198.00	38	29.20
Sikkim	50	119	58	27.74	44	25.43
EASTERN REGION						
Bihar	21900	19425	10382	9157.34	7009	5529.16
Orissa	15500	15133	8349	6589.42	1578	951.76
West Bengal	22500	12358	3579	2351.99	2348	1521.85
Andaman & Nicobar	150	340	129	103.07	100	73.82
CENTRAL REGION						
Madhya Pradesh	32400	62797	29591	22185.87	15863	11077.42
Uttar Pradesh	52200	84069	44065	29467.37	34501	22078.73
WESTERN REGION						
Gujarat	14700	18001	10723	5061.78	10028	4694.49
Maharashtra	45000	67231	35185	20304.66	23985	13696.51

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Daman & Diu	50	30	17	8.67	16	8.27
Goa	625	797	481	452.65	404	378.86
Dadra & Ngr Haveli	50	42	36	20.62	25	19.12
SOUTH REGION						
Andhra Pradesh	33800	25046	16409	9611.09	10633	3256.76
Karnataka	22000	31099	18088	11473.82	13391	8394.71
Kerala	23700	28469	16454	9440.73	11907	6704.73
Tamilnadu	18500	28507	13896	7797.31	11140	5844.59
Lakshadweep	50	88	33	28.76	33	22.89
Pondicherry	525	669	381	174.20	238	111.88
NOT SPECIFIED						
All India	356150	487310	256474	166245.42	175522	106885.69

Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) Progress under PMRY for the month ended 28.02.2001

Nane of the Bank. All Implementing Bank.

					(Rs. lakhs)		
State/Union Territory	PMRY 2000-2001				Appli. disbursed		Application Pending
	Target	Appli. Recd.	Appli. Sanc.				
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
NORTHERN REGION							
Haryana	8600	10976	5279	3312.94	2956	1717.16	1632
Himachal Pradesh	2500	2808	1553	1040.56	1194	794.14	500
Jammu & Kashmir	4000	2011	701	610.59	428	358.32	569
Punjab	9000	13590	6677	4397.43	4198	2517.70	2887
Rajasthan	16600	25520	11629	6897.33	5391	2936.94	7742
Chandigarh	100	152	47	36.46	34	23.78	30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Delhi	5000	4605	683	482.87	519	353.53	1724
N. EASTERN REGION							
Assam	6600	5669	1133	836.69	498	292.24	3718
Manipur	1000	745	365	277.80	355	246.13	260
Meghalaya	600	534	377	263.40	361	236.17	104
Nagaland	200	32	20	23.20	13	16.40	2
Tripura	1300	1522	431	283.97	369	231.27	809
Arunachal Pradesh	500	153	2	1.60			143
Mizoram	250	466	251	326.70	245	274.00	0
Sikkim	50	86	34	20.59	21	11.41	43
EASTERN REGION							
Bihar	21900	16215	6620	5725.97	3593	2860.85	6017
Orissa	15500	16605	1979	1586.71	586	322.09	13324
West Bengal	22500	7413	1746	1171.33	1046	647.39	3022
Andaman & Nicobar	150	261	105	90.97	75	60.09	25
CENTRAL REGION							
Madhya Pradesh	32400	50091	15637	10998.01	5041	3264.26	14330
Uttar Pradesh	52200	59546	27347	18513.25	16873	10650.71	14916
WESTERN REGION							
Gujarat	14700	12175	7005	3508.48	6254	3154.89	1340
Maharashtra	45000	47877	17766	10424.34	10061	5976.75	18239
Daman & Diu	50	30	22	14.22	22	14.22	2
Goa	625	414	236	196.19	211	171.97	4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	50	58	19	13.60	19	13.60	27
SOUTHERN REGION							
Andhra Pradesh	33800	20463	10811	6192.93	5154	3106.38	6512

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Karnataka	22000	24378	9734	5685.81	4444	2869.15	9785
Kerala	23700	19256	9639	5529.18	5884	3392.93	5745
Tamilnadu	18500	20652	9162	4535.36	5941	3050.54	3563
Lakshdweep	50	51	8	5.82	7	4.67	31
Pondicherry	625	428	190	71.35	75	29.91	97
Not Specified		2780	1143	1072.03	690	598.59	868
All India	360050	367562	148358	94147.68	82558	50198.18	118080

Statement-II

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY) – Programme Year
Report showing cumulative position as at the end of March 1999*

Name of the Bank. All Scheduled Commercial Banks

(Rs. lakhs))

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of Applns. recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No.	Amount	No.	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS						
State Bank of India	73498	102123	55051	34013.00	29823	16332.00
State Bank of B & J	5613	8640	5034	2607.60	3803	2006.12
State Bank of Hyd.	8746	9788	7241	3587.45	6169	2877.91
State Bank of Indore	4353	7030	4283	2859.14	3212	2029.36
State Bank of Mysore	3695	4500	3198	1763.15	1894	1004.74
State Bk. of Patiala	3654	5707	3424	2058.80	3046	1726.82
State Bk. of Saurash	1881	1697	1360	612.62	1165	565.48
State Bk. of Travan	4670	7631	4359	2426.78	2839	1549.20
Allahabad Bank	15594	21545	10365	6961.11	7001	4656.54
Andhra Bank	8794	11466	7110	3750.97	3670	1997.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Bank of Baroda	21719	28704	17939	9825.72	15210	8124.37
Bank of India	16284	28683	13440	7912.21	11822	6934.83
Bank of Maharashtra	7350	15776	9434	4984.58	5177	2799.58
Canara Bank	16012	24636	13131	6660.28	9969	5070.31
Central Bank of India	25174	36314	18129	11779.97	15623	9598.21
Corporation Bank	3378	4470	2597	1629.41	2272	1419.67
Dena Bank	8157	10685	4998	2836.13	3555	1884.20
Indian Bank	8934	13726	6179	3313.28	4705	2441.75
Indian Overseas Bank	7906	12348	7130	4019.50	3585	2062.36
Oriental Bk. of Commerce	5536	8454	4476	2788.21	3898	2408.03
Punjab National Bank	26332	39893	21210	13685.01	16755	10187.08
Punjab & Sind Bank	4431	6369	2791	1803.75	1849	1222.33
Syndicate Bank	11500	14267	7416	4404.97	4299	2487.51
Union Bank of India	17129	19956	12532	8148.42	8945	5332.07
United Bank of India	11211	10993	4474	2970.16	2156	1297.95
UCO Bank	11742	16359	6795	4477.83	4848	3240.69
Vijaya Bank	5847	7780	4891	2825.02	4002	2326.79
Total of Public Sector Bank	335140	477540	258987	154705.07	181292	103583.82

PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS

Bank of Madura Ltd.	702	0	375	171.87	368	167.34
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1836	3140	1508	857.64	1028	555.89
Bharat Overs Bank Ltd.	197	89	68	38.53	61	34.10
Benares St. Bank Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Catholic Syr. Bank Ltd.	1405	1863	649	378.94	393	216.51
Dhanalakshmi Bk. Ltd.	771	634	191	113.29	191	111.10
Federal Bk. Ltd.	2222	2901	1482	884.43	1450	848.12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
J & K Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Karnataka Bk. Ltd.	1618	1674	581	356.51	464	288.27
Karur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	944	993	582	321.87	553	307.20
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	975	276	104	62.16	104	28.23
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	909	1115	695	405.96	629	368.60
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	404	397	285	168.82	273	161.92
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	1456	1146	461	216.19	234	108.49
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	1729	1824	936	513.52	736	419.82
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	819	1365	500	325.59	411	269.05
United West. Bk. Ltd.	2392	2773	1444	877.19	1099	682.31
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2479	2549	1751	1003.81	1403	810.90
Bareilly Cor. Bk. Ltd.	429	653	143	93.44	104	65.36
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	3	5	278	167.30	267	158.89
City Union Bk. Ltd.	0	149	149	75.06	148	74.76
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	322	332	173	104.87	143	86.53
Total of Pvt. Sector Bks.	21612	23878	12355	7136.99	10059	5763.39
Total of all Banks	356752	501418	271342	161842.06	191351	109347.21

*Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for Educated Unemployed Youth (PMRY)- Programme year
Report showing cumulative position as at the end of March 2000*

Name of the Bank. All Scheduled Commercial Banks.

(Rs. lakhs)

Name of the Bank	Target	No. of applns. recd.	Total loans sanctioned		Total loans disbursed	
			No	Amount	No	Amount
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS						
State Bank of India	77406	100635	56317	37057.00	33857	20432.00

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of B & J	5916	9350	5076	2905.51	3601	1941.35
State Bank of Hyd.	8962	8768	6577	3322.08	4972	2430.4
State Bank of Indore	4565	9638	4352	3709.75	2670	2168.61
State Bank of Mysore	3812	4494	3259	1984.14	1966	1193.09
State Bk. of Patiala	3787	5984	3288	2212.85	2897	1913.67
State Bk. of Saurash	1866	1735	1252	559.72	1207	541.04
State Bk. of Travan	5308	7798	4459	2557.39	2892	1576.60
Allahabad Bank	15872	19419	8788	6495.93	5474	3789.70
Andhra Bank	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Bank of Baroda	18067	29663	17448	10941.14	13914	8142.33
Bank of India	15672	26467	13508	9320.07	10301	6524.52
Bank of Maharashtra	11288	16176	9004	5400.21	4793	2781.23
Canara Bank	16084	25342	13452	7599.78	9202	4984.41
Central Bank of India	26230	38203	17584	11829.80	12340	8085.24
Corporation Bank	3352	4098	2446	1591.58	2067	1289.44
Dena Bank	8225	9355	4556	2636.02	3411	1948.90
Indian Bank	8416	12884	5230	3102.47	4255	2384.42
Indian Overseas Bank	7787	13829	7383	4356.20	4295	2376.31
Oriental Bk. of Commerce	5618	9196	4805	3328.30	4081	2670.66
Punjab National Bank	27337	39037	20301	13997.10	14931	9342.80
Punjab & Sind Bank	3993	5917	2751	1869.00	1816	1188.00
Syndicate Bank	11771	15693	7974	4981.29	6164	3723.29
Union Bk. of India	16776	20830	11670	8142.76	8052	5193.07
United Bk of India	11127	10904	4067	2803.63	1496	995.64
UCO Bank	12336	12540	6302	4298.75	3390	2143.13

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Vijaya Bank	5754	7287	3938	2617.91	3138	2058.08
Total of Pub. Sector Bk.	337327	465242	245787	159620.38	167182	101817.98
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS						
Bk. of Madura Ltd.	702	0	214	102.52	174	85.46
Bk. of Rajasthan Ltd.	2041	3437	1654	1024.24	826	452.67
Bharat Overs Bk. Ltd.	146	83	52	32.73	45	27.91
Benares St. Bk. Ltd.	204	13	2	1.70	2	1.70
Catholic Syr. Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Dhanlakshmi Bk. Ltd.	835	1038	543	308.28	408	226.42
Federal Bk. Ltd.	2578	2349	1072	793.29	990	714.45
J & K Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Karnataka Bk. Ltd.	907	2468	902	554.63	679	423.17
Karur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	825	996	512	268.98	483	244.73
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	0	917	389	223.02	321	181.02
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	1052	1220	661	378.99	588	341.16
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	462	461	315	207.03	270	179.60
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	1936	2128	736	388.38	672	349.93
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	626	1168	553	381.02	474	316.46
Uniter West. Bk. Ltd.	2491	2844	1143	729.82	858	541.04
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2496	2359	1427	910.18	1077	690.23
Bareilly Cor. Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00
City Union Bk. Ltd.	377	307	307	181.27	306	179.97
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	396	280	205	138.96	167	111.79
Total of Private Sector Banks	18074	22068	10687	6625.04	8340	5067.71
Total of all banks	355401	487310	256474	166245.42	175522	106885.69

**Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) Progress under PMRY for the
month ended 28.02.2001**

Nane of the Bank. All Implementing Banks.

							(Rs. lakhs)
State/Union Territory	PMRY 2000-2001				Appli. disbursed		Application Pending
	Target	Appli. Recd.	Appli. Sanc.		No.	Amount	
			No.	Amount			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS							
State Bank of India	74574	73675	29445	19009.00	16100	10070.00	28317
State Bank of B & J	5637	8296	4206	2564.32	2209	1200.12	3374
State Bank of Hyd.	8634	6061	3786	1959.44	2189	1202.21	1358
State Bank of Indore	4565	11891	2709	1918.91	1203	884.27	0
State Bank of Mysore	3689	3620	1138	665.61	358	269.08	2482
State Bk. of Patiala	3814	5054	2675	1742.94	1792	1112.07	0
State Bk. of Saurash	1892	1495	1040	524.81	980	495.87	134
State Bank of Travan	5053	6687	3351	1782.66	2011	1180.11	2167
Allahabad Bank	16030	11625	4065	2879.15	1997	1410.26	4781
Andhra Bank	7860	2719	1055	636.00	419	257.47	1274
Bank of Baroda	19493	22084	10670	6846.56	5979	3492.74	4732
Bank of India	14460	20689	8327	5605.15	4118	2513.34	6849
Bank of Maharashtra	12202	15284	5038	2104.84	2265	1274.58	7717
Canara Bank	16597	20727	9948	5454.98	5096	2829.67	4660
Central Bank of India	25391	20379	5719	3937.90	2922	1853.27	9275
Corporation Bank	3455	3413	1703	1093.09	1052	668.59	957
Dena Bank	7823	6701	3001	1779.23	2213	1303.93	1469
Indian Bank	8970	11078	3785	1934.83	2184	1124.24	0
Indian Overseas Bank	8517	7931	3842	2191.27	2352	1316.19	3566
Oriental Bk. of Com.	6003	7471	3706	2546.48	2538	1630.55	1550

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Punjab National Bank	27791	31966	13766	9566.08	7320	4553.87	8153
Punjab & Sind Bank	3876	3551	1251	870.60	886	592.03	1401
Syndicate Bank	11949	13320	5533	3186.66	3100	1764.97	3201
Union Bk. of India	16562	15684	6761	4480.07	4213	2606.96	4795
United Bk. of India	11265	6411	942	702.78	569	342.53	4081
UCO Bank	11646	8790	2576	1770.68	1291	875.92	4721
Vijaya Bank	5630	5110	2201	1484.63	1259	845.57	1930
Total of Pub. Sector Bk.	343378	351712	142206	90038.67	78575	47670.41	112944
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS							
Bk. of Madura Ltd.	114	71	59	30.48	59	30.48	11
Bk. of Rajasthan Ltd.	1970	3485	1213	735.79	505	278.72	1383
Bharat Overs. Bk. Ltd.	88	73	49	27.87	44	24.60	3
Benares St. Bk. Ltd.	16	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Catholic Syr. Bk. Ltd.	1612	1764	427	235.57	370	203.93	671
Dhanlakshmi Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Federal Bk. Ltd.	2459	1468	707	419.64	432	261.69	761
J & K Bk. Ltd.	1960	2780	1143	1072.03	690	598.59	868
Karnataka Bk. Ltd.	638	736	277	181.14	192	113.54	0
Karur Vysya Bk. Ltd.	907	695	205	108.97	198	101.43	234
Lakshmi Vilas Bk. Ltd.	623	736	258	164.83	200	123.14	242
Nedungadi Bk. Ltd.	995	649	163	90.33	127	69.42	0
Ratnakar Bk. Ltd.	488	214	131	95.75	87	61.62	49
Sangli Bk. Ltd.	0	178	6	3.26	3	1.29	146
South Indian Bk. Ltd.	0	166	104	55.39	104	55.39	44
Tamilnadu Mer. Bk. Ltd.	631	1008	456	310.55	377	254.38	171
United West. Bk. Ltd.	1559	635	243	147.42	198	115.32	209

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Vysya Bank Ltd.	2503	787	351	236.26	124	85.82	285
Bareilly Cor. Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
Nainital Bk. Ltd.	0	0	0	0.00	0	0.00	0
City Union Bk. Ltd.	360	185	183	94.29	185	94.09	0
Lord Krishna Bk. Ltd.	358	220	148	99.44	88	54.32	59
Total of Private Sector Bank	17281	15850	6080	4109.01	3983	2527.77	5136
Total of all Banks	360659	367562	148358	94147.68	82558	50198.18	118080

**Programmes Through Satellite Channels At
Daltonganj D.D Kendra**

5151. KUMARI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the programmes of satellite channels have not been started from the Daltonganj Doordarshan Kendra in Palamu district of Jharkhand State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to start these channels immediately in such areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the Government are contemplating to start these programmes?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) Programmes of all channels of Doordarshan in satellite mode are available throughout the country and can be received by using appropriate dish antenna system or through cable network.

[English]

Revival of Regional Rural Banks

5152. PROF UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the RRB's are given a revival package by the Government to make them viable;

(b) if so, when and the salient features of the package;

(c) the number of RRB's that have attained viability level after extension of the package, State-wise;

(d) how many are still to become viable and which are those RRBs;

(e) whether the Government are considering any further revival package and make them viable; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) With a view to facilitate strengthening and revitalizing of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) following policy changes have been initiated in the recent past.

– Recapitalisation measures were initiated in 1994-95. Till date, Rs.2188 crores has been provided as additional share capital to 187 RRBs out of 196 RRBs. Of 187 RRBs, 158 stand fully recapitalised whereas 29 RRBs have been partially recapitalised;

– Introduction of Development Action Plans and Memoranda of Understanding (DAPs/MOU) on an annual basis for bringing improvement in the performance of RRBs in a planned way;

- Introduction of prudential norms covering income recognition, assets classification and provisioning norms;
- Diversification of business portfolios and activities;
- Increased avenues for investment of surplus Non-SLR funds;
- Rationalisation of branch net work including relocation and merger of loss incurring branches;
- Deregulation of interest rate structure;
- Providing greater role to the sponsor banks in the management of RRBs.

(c) State-wise number of RRBs which have attained viability as on 31st March, 2000 are given in the enclosed Statement-I

(d) Names of the RRBs who are still to become viable are given in the enclosed Statement-II

(e) and (f) The sponsor banks have been entrusted with monitoring of performance and exercising ownership functions of RRBs since 1997 to achieve single-entity management for continued appraisal planning and strengthening of RRBs.

Statement-I

State-wise viability status of Regional Rural Banks

S. No.	State	Total No. of RRBs	No. of RRBs attaining viability
1	2	3	4
1.	Haryana	4	4
2.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	3	1
4.	Punjab	5	5
5.	Rajasthan	14	11
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1

1	2	3	4
7.	Assam	5	4
8.	Meghalaya	1	1
9.	Manipur	1	-
10.	Mizoram	1	1
11.	Nagaland	1	1
12.	Tripura	1	-
13.	Bihar and Jharkhand	22	12
14.	Orissa	9	5
15.	West Bengal	9	6
16.	Madhya Pradesh and Chattisgarh	24	18
17.	Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal	40	38
18.	Gujarat	9	9
19.	Maharashtra	10	9
20.	Andhra Pradesh	16	16
21.	Karnataka	13	13
22.	Kerala	2	2
23.	Tamil Nadu	3	3
Total		196	162

Statement-II

S.No. Name of the RRBs yet to attain viability

1	2
1	Eliaqui Dehati Bank
2	Kamraj Rural Bank
3	Marudhar Ksh. Gramin Bank
4	Aravali ksh. Gramin Bank
5	Thar Aanchlik Gramin Bank

1	2
6	Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank
7	Mahipu Rural Bank
8	Tripura Gramin Bank
9	Champaran Ksh. Gramin Bank
10	Kosi Ksh. Gramin Bank
11	Vaisali Ksh. Gramin Bank
12	Monghyr Ksh. Gramin Bank
13	Madhubani Ksh. Gramin Bank
14	Nalanda Gramin Bank
15	Mithila Ksh. Gramin Bank
16	Ranchi Ksh. Gramin Bank
17	Saran Ksh. Gramin Bank
18	Bhagalpur Banka Ksh. Gramin Bank
19	Bolangir Anchlik Gramin Bank
20	Cuttack Gramin Bank
21	Baitarani Gramin Bank
22	Balasore Gramin Bank
23	Gaur Gramin Bank
24	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank
25	Uttar Banga Ksh. Gramin Bank
26	Surguja Ksh. Gramin Bank
27	Bastar Ksh. Gramin Bank
28	Jhabua-Dhar Ksh. Gramin Bank
29	Mandla-Balaghat Ksh. Gramin Bank
30	Shahdol Ksh. Gramin Bank
31	Mahakaushal Ksh. Gramin Bank
32	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank

1	2
33	Ranilakshmi Bai Ksh. Gramin Bank
34	Solapur Gramin Bank

Inquiry Into Insider Trading

5153. SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Investors grievances Forum (IGF) said that Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) would institute an inquiry into the alleged 'Insider Trading' in the shares of software company Cyberspace Limited;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that its share prices have come down to mere 10-15 percent in the month of March, 2001 to that of its prices one month back;

(c) if so, whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome of the inquiry conducted;

(e) the action taken against those held responsible; and

(f) how the affected investors would be compensated by the persons responsible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that the Investors' Grievances Forum, vide their letter dated 23rd March, 2001 to Chairman, SEBI, urged SEBI to look into the matter to protect the interests of small investors and sub brokers.

(b) Yes, Sir. At the Stock Exchange, Mumbai (BSE) the closing prices of the scrip on 28th February, 2001 and 30th March, 20001 were Rs. 147.45 and Rs.11.65 respectively. At the National Stock Exchange, the closing prices for the same two dates were Rs.147.55 and Rs.8.05 respectively.

(c) to (e) SEBI and stock exchanges have initiated investigations into the matter.

(f) As per existing Rules, when a broker member of a stock exchange is declared defaulter, the investor's

claim against the said defaulter broker is paid out of the investor Protection Fund of the exchange as per the limits prescribed by the exchange concerned.

Antyodaya Scheme

5154. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of funds made under Antyodaya Scheme to each State;

(b) whether the Government have released any funds under this Scheme so far during this year;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the State Government have utilised part of these funds so far; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Funds are not allotted under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. Foodgrains at highly subsidized rates of Rs. 2 per kg for wheat and Rs.3 per kg for rice are allotted to the State Governments/UT Administrations for distribution to the poorest of the poor families @ 25 kg per family per month. A statement showing the number of Antyodaya families to be identified in each State/UT is enclosed.

Allocation of foodgrains is made to the States/UTs after completion of task of identification and issue of distinctive ration cards to the beneficiaries by the State Governments /UT Administrations.

The scheme has been implemented in Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Kerala, Mizoram and UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli. Allocation of subsidized foodgrains to the above States except Mizoram has been made w.e.f March, 2001. The allocation to the State of Mizoram has been made with effect from April, 2001.

(c) to (f) Do Not arise.

Statement

The Number of Antyodaya Families to be identified in each State/UT

(in lakhs)

Sl. No.	State/UT	No. of Antyodaya Families
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6.228
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.151
3.	Assam	2.815
4.	Bihar	10.000
5.	Chattishgarh	2.874
6.	Delhi	0.626
7.	Goa	0.073
8.	Gujarat	3.250
9.	Haryana	1.209
10.	Himachal Pradesh	0.787
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.129
12.	Jharkhand	3.665
13.	Karnataka	4.797
14.	Kerala	2.382
15.	Madhya Pradesh	6.324
16.	Maharashtra	10.017
17.	Manipur	0.255
18.	Meghalaya	0.281
19.	Mizoram	0.105
20.	Nagaland	0.189
21.	Orissa	5.055
22.	Punjab	0.717

1	2	3
23	Rajasthan	3.726
24	Sikkim	0.067
25	Tamilnadu	7.455
26	Tripura	0.452
27	Uttaranchal	0.763
28	Uttar Pradesh	16.371
29	West Bengal	7.939
30	Andaman and Nicobar	0.043
31	Chandigarh	0.035
32	D&N Haveli	0.028
33	Daman & Diu	0.006
34	Lakshdweep	0.004
35	Pondicherry	0.128
Total		99.954

Loss Making Banks

5155. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR: Will be Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Bank and UCO Bank have incurred heavy losses during 1999-2000 as compared to the previous two consecutive years;

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

(c) whether it is a fact that the profit of the most of the nationalised banks has been decreasing during the past few years;

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

(e) whether the Government have issued any guidelines to the banks to involve the staff in developmental efforts of the banks; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that UCO Bank had earned operating profit during the last three financial years. RBI has further reported that Indian Bank had earned operating profit in the year 1999-2000 and suffered operating losses during the two previous years due to high level of non performing assets (NPAs) and higher operating costs.

(c) and (d) No Sir. RBI has reported that the operating profits of Public Sector Banks have, in fact, increased from Rs. 3135.42 crore in 1992-93 to Rs.13066.36 crores in 1999-2000.

(e) and (f) While the Government and RBI have not issued any such specific guidelines, the banks employees are required to discharge their duties diligently to ensure proper functioning of the banks, and are always involved in all aspects of the working of the banks.

Closing Down of Profitable PSUs

5156. SHRIMATI SHYAMA SINGH :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

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

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the press news item captioned "Government moves to close down profitable public sector undertakings" as reported in the 'Times of India' dated February 23, 2001

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

(c) the reasons and justification for closing down the PSUs which are profitable;

(d) whether the existing policy of the Government to close down PSUs would be reviewed; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The news item refers to closure of ET and T. ET and T for past many years has been incurring losses. During 1999-2000, it incurred a net loss of Rs. 16.93 crores. Based on the

recommendations of the Disinvestment Commission, Government have decided to wind up the company.

(c) to (e) The present policy of the Government on disinvestment is to restructure and revive potentially viable PSUs and close down only those PSUs which cannot be revived.

FDI Proposals

5157. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE :
SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN :
SHRI M.V.V.S.MURTHI :
SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE :

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

(a) whether the Japanese Ambassador has stated during an interactive session with Bengal Chamber of Commerce that three impediments are affecting foreign investment in India inspite of its huge potential;

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

(c) the number and details of Foreign investment proposals received and cleared by the Government during the last three years, till date, year-wise, sector-wise and country-wise alongwith the names of States for which these proposals have been approved;

(d) the amount of foreign investment involved in each project, country-wise and State-wise;

(e) the names of foreign country leads FDI inflow into India;

(f) the names of industrial sector which attract FDI most and which shows declining trend;

(g) the comparative figure of FDI inflow of other developing countries;

(h) the numbers of proposals still pending with Government for approval; and

(i) the further steps being taken by the Government to improve infrastructure to attract more foreign investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b)

Government has not received any information on this from Bengal Chamber of Commerce, which is a private organization.

(c) to (f) During the period from 1-1-98 to 28-2-2001 4992 proposals amounting to FDI worth of Rs.1,01,342.33 crore have been cleared. Year-wise, sector-wise State-wise and country-wise details of projects are published in Monthly SIA Newsletter which is widely circulated including to the library of the House.

Mauritius followed by USA, Japan and Germany leads in the FDI inflow to India.

(g) As per the World Economic Report 2000, India ranks 8th among developing countries in the South-East Asia region for the year 1999 so far as FDI inflow is concerned.

(h) Receipt and disposal of proposals for foreign direct investment is a continuous process. As per FDI guidelines, such proposals are cleared within the prescribed time frame of 30 days in consultation with the concerned administrative Ministries/departments.

(i) Government has, interalia, permitted FDI upto 100% in infrastructure sectors like ports, roads, highways, generation and distribution of electric energy (except atomic power plants), oil refinery, etc., with a view to improving infrastructure. Foreign investment in these sectors is dependent on several factors such as the FDI policy framework, market size and market potential, manpower skills, regulatory frame work and dispute settlement mechanism.

Setting Up of Agro-Based Industries by Foreign Companies

5158. COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received by the Government regarding setting up of Agro-based industries in the country with foreign investment, in each State, during the last three years;

(b) the details of proposals approved and implemented so far State-wise;

(c) the details of proposals approved but not yet implemented; and

(d) the reasons for non-implementation thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) The Government has approved a total number of 86 Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) proposals in Agro-based industries including Sugar/Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati/ Horticulture/ Agriculture/ Floriculture during the period 1.1.1998 to 28.2.2001, involving Rs.322.80 crore. A

statement showing the State wise break-up of the approvals is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The data regarding Project-wise implementation is not centrally maintained. Moreover, the implementation of the project lies with State Government where the project is located. However, for facilitating speedy implementation and for removal of problems faced by investors during implementation stage, a foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) comprising representatives from various Departments and State Governments has been set up at Central Government level.

Statement

State wise breakup of Foreign Direct Investment Approved for Agro-based Industries during the Period 01/01/1998 to 28/02/2001

(Amount in Rs Crore)

State	1998		1999		2000		2001	
	No	FDI Amt	No	FDI Amt	No	FDI Amt	No	FDI Amt
Andhra Pradesh	0	0.00	5	9.49	6	109.45	0	0.00
Bihar	1	0.30	1	0.10	0	0.00	0	0.00
Gujarat	0	0.00	3	13.95	2	0.05	1	0.00
Haryana	2	5.21	1	0.13	2	0.11	0	0.00
Himachal Pradesh	0	0.00	3	9.98	0	0.00	0	0.00
Karnataka	2	5.36	6	10.52	3	1.28	0	0.00
Kerala	0	0.00	2	29.55	0	0.00	0	0.00
Maharashtra	4	1.34	10	35.29	2	0.80	1	0.57
Punjab	0	0.00	0	0.00	2	2.06	0	0.00
Rajasthan	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	4.20	0	0.00
Tamil Nadu	0	0.00	4	5.98	2	0.00	0	0.00
Uttar Pradesh	2	0.97	1	0.47	0	0.00	0	0.00
West Bengal	0	0.00	1	17.83	0	0.00	0	0.00
Delhi	1	0.20	3	15.77	3	7.00	1	32.50
Goa	0	0.00	0	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00
(State Not Indicated)	3	1.81	3	0.08	1	0.45	0	0.00
Grand Total	15	15.19	43	149.13	25	125.41	3	33.07

Note : Figures for 2001 updated upto February, 2001.

Interest Rate on Small Savings

5159. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY :
SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :
SHRIMATI MINATI SEN :
SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
SHRI J.S. BRAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to reduce further the rates of interest on small savings and on provident funds;

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

(c) the reasons for such reduction, which are detriment of the working and salaried class and the weaker sections; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of small investors and senior citizens, who invest their money in these sectors for their maintenance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) At present there is no proposal to further reduce the interest rates on small savings schemes including Public provident Fund and General Provident Fund beyond the reduction already notified on March 1, 2001 and March 13, 2001 respectively. However, the revision of interest rate on EPF with effect from 1st April, 2001 is under consideration of the Ministry of Labour in Consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

(c) The real rates of interest on small savings schemes and Provident Funds were considered to be high, preventing the downward movement of other rates of interest in the economy. The decision was necessitated in the larger interest of the economy.

(d) The small savings schemes of the Government of India which bear sovereign guarantee, continue to enjoy investor confidence as the risk-return equation of these schemes is favourable. These schemes offer the additional benefits of significant tax incentives, easy liquidity and accessibility.

Credit for State Governments

5160. SHRI C.N.SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fall in the growth rate of small

savings by five to six percent over the current fiscal year has jeopardised the availability of cheap credit for State Governments;

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

(c) whether the fall in collection can put the States in major fiscal problems;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Gross collections in 2000-2001 are estimated at Rs. 86,000 crore against Rs. 75,435 crore in 1999-2000 (provisional), indicating a growth rate of 14%. Gross collections in 2001-2002 are expected to increase to Rs. 93,500 crore.

(c) to (e) Eighty percent of the net collections under small savings are re-lent to the State Governments for financing their developmental expenditure. The net outflow to State Governments in 2000-2001 (RE) is Rs. 31,799 crore, which is expected to increase to Rs. 36,000 crore in 2001-2002. The reduction in interest rate on small savings is being passed on to State Governments. This would help the States in reducing their interest burden.

[Translation]

Import of Edible Oil from Malaysia

5161. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fact India proposed to purchase edible oil worth three crore Dollar from Malaysia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India is unable to meet its domestic requirement of edible oils from the oil produced within the country; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to increase the domestic production of edible oil?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There has been a persistent gap between demand and domestic availability of edible oils.

(d) Some of the steps taken/efforts made to increase the indigenous production of oilseeds and hence of edible oils are :-

- (i) Centrally Sponsored Oilseeds Production Programme is in implementation in 25 States covering 395 selected districts to increase the production of Oilseeds/edible oils in the country. Under the programme financial assistance is provided for the critical inputs like production and distribution of seeds, distribution of seed minikits, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, gypsum/pyrites, micronutrients, rhizobium culture etc. to the farmers through State Govt's. In addition to this, frontline and general demonstrations are also organized on the farmers fields to disseminate the improved production and protection technologies.
- (ii) A technology Mission on Oilseeds was established in May 1986 for harnessing the best production, processing and management technology.
- (iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing production of oilseeds.
- (iv) Increasing the areas under non-traditional oilseeds crops like soyabean and sunflower, exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, ricebran etc.
- (v) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme of oilseeds.
- (vi) Assistance for oil palm development.
- (vii) Better incentive to producers through fixation of Minimum Support Price (MSP) of major oilseeds.
- (viii) Use of indigenous oils in the manufacture of vanaspati to at least 25% of the production on a monthly basis has been made mandatory. Also, higher use of expeller mustard oil in the manufacture of vanaspati up to 30% has also

been allowed. The objective is to incentivise the farmers in terms of better returns for their produce.

- (ix) In order to harmonise the interests of domestic oilseeds growers, consumers and processors and to regulate large import of edible oils to the extent possible, the duty structure on edible oils has been revised four times in a span of 14 months. The latest revision was effected on 1.3.2001. The custom duty on CPO meant for vanaspati industry manufacture has been raised from 25% to 75% except in the case of sick vanaspati industry where the duty has been kept at 55%. The duty on CPO for other than manufacture of vanaspati has also been raised to 75%. The duty on refined oils has been raised to 85% (basic) except in the cases of refined Soyabean Oil and refined Mustard Oil where the duties are 45% (basic) and 75% (basic) respectively. Special Additional Duty (SAD) is levied on import of refined oils at the rate of 4%

[English]

Appointment of Retired Officials

5162. SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Doordarshan/ AIR have appointed retired officials on contract basis recently;
- (b) if so, the details of specialisation for which they have been re-employed;
- (c) whether there are hundreds of adhoc and casual employees who have the same specialisation waiting to be appointed on regular basis; and
- (d) if so, the reasons for appointing retired officials on contract basis?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Advertisement Revenue

5163. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE :
SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK :

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

(a) the State-wise details of revenue collected by each centre through commercial advertisements on AIR/Doordarshan in the country during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-01, separately;

(b) whether the collection could not be made as per target fixed in this regard;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to increase the revenue collection from commercial advertisements during 2001-02 alongwith the target fixed, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Prasara Bharati has informed that they have initiated a number of steps, within the parameters of Public Broadcaster, to increase its revenue generation. The steps include adopting a proactive and market friendly approach towards producers, advertisers, advertising agencies and sponsoring bodies, functional autonomy to regional centres with regard to commercial matters, establishment of an in-house Marketing Wing in Mumbai to ensure effective marketing of programmes, etc. The revenue collection of Prasara Bharati during 2001-02 is targeted to be Rs.750 crores.

[Translation]

TV Serial on Rana Pratap

5164. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI :
Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the serial Rana Pratap being telecast on Doordarshan has been discontinued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any request to re-start this serial; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Prasara Bharati has intimated that the serial 'Rana Pratap' which was telecast on weekly basis on Thursdays at 9.30 p.m. with effect from 1.1.1998 was discontinued by the producer as he could not muster requisite sponsorship for the serial

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. A request to restart the telecast of the serial was received by the Government and the same was considered in consultation with Prasara Bharati. Prasara Bharati has intimated that the producer of the serial was asked to fulfil the requisite formalities which he has not done so far.

[English]

Export of Seafood

5165. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the item-wise total value of seafood exported to different countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the contribution of different coastal States thereon;

(c) whether there is a vast scope to increase the export of seafood from Orissa; and

(d) if so, the details of proposal mooted in this regard in the coming years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The item-wise value of seafood exported to different countries during the last three years is given below :

(Value in Rs. Crores)			
Items	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
1	2	3	4
Frozen Shrimp	3140.56	3344.91	3645.22

1	2	3	4
Frozen Fin Fish	726.73	495.03	537.34
Fr. Squid	270.89	268.93	296.80
Fr. Cuttlefish	323.41	273.31	286.22
Dried items	33.89	40.30	42.77
Live items	29.34	47.08	37.99
Chilled items	44.31	29.18	44.97
Others	128.35	128.13	225.36
Total	4697.48	4626.87	5116.67

Source: MPEDA

(b) Value of seafood exports effected through different ports located in various maritime State for the last three years is given below:

(Value in Rs. Crores)

State	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000
Gujarat	637.85	367.45	389.38
Maharashtra	636.14	655.79	660.81
Goa	53.93	36.82	36.55
Karnataka	5.67	18.67	1.70
Kerala	948.03	816.55	1146.96
Tamil Nadu	1220.05	1379.01	1462.70
Andhra Pradesh	774.96	876.53	906.50
West Bengal	420.69	476.05	512.07
Total	4697.32	4626.87	5116.67

Source: MPEDA

(c) Yes, Sir. There is good scope for increasing export of cultured shrimp from Orissa.

(d) To facilitate promotion of shrimp culture in Orissa, the MPEDA has set up their regional centre in Bhubaneswar which is implementing various promotional

schemes in the State, which include undertaking survey for identification of suitable area, implementing various subsidy schemes, organising training programmes and extending technical assistance for farmers and entrepreneurs on shrimp farming etc. MPEDA has taken up two new schemes for extending subsidy assistance for i) setting up PCR labs in private hatcheries and ii) setting up of effluent treatment units in shrimp farms for implementation during 2001-02.

External Commercial Borrowings

5166. SHRI VINAY KUMAR SORAKE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether External Commercial Borrowing accruals continue to be low;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the sectors that rank high in ECB approvals; and

(d) the current rating accorded to India by Standard and Poor's on long-term foreign currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Disbursement of funds on account of External Commercial Borrowings in India during the last three financial years are as under :-

Period	Amount (in USD million)
1. 1998-99	2,723.00
2. 1999-2000	1,517.00
3. 2000-01 (up to December 31, 2000)	1,997.00

(The above figures exclude disbursements under Resurgent India Bonds during 1998-99 and India Millennium Deposits during 2000-01)

(b) The demand for external commercial borrowings in India depends, inter-alia, on conditions prevalent in international financial markets, the Indian economy and interest rates in the domestic and international markets.

(c) Power sector has accounted for the highest ECB approvals during the last three financial years.

(d) The current rating accorded to India by Standard and Poor's USA on the long term foreign currency sovereign credit rating is "BB".

Investment of Provident and Pension Fund

5167. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are planning to permit provident and pension funds to be invested in the Venture Capital Business;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the strategy to be adopted for such investment; and

(c) the steps taken to frame certain standard guidelines for evaluation of venture Capital Fund in order to avoid any risk of loss to the provident and pension funds, which is hard earned money of workers?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Tax on LIC Policy

5168. SHRI A.VENKATESH NAIK
SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to lower the tax on life insurance policy to increase the spread of the insurance cover in the country;

(b) whether the expert committee set up to study taxation on life insurance sector has also asked the Government to lower the tax on income of Life Insurance Policy holders from 12.5 percent to 5-7 percent; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendation made by the Expert Committee and the reaction of the government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) to (c) An Expert Committee on Taxation of Life Insurance Sector was constituted by the Government during the financial year 2000-2001, inter alia, to recommend the taxation structure in respect of profits of life insurance business. The Committee has since submitted its report and has, inter alia, recommended that-

(i) the basic method for determination of taxable income in respect of the life insurance business should be the valuation surplus' methods;

(ii) the policy holders' share of surplus and the shareholders' profits (including the shareholders' share of surplus) must be separately assessed to tax;

(iii) the shareholders' assessable income should be fully taxed at the rate applicable to corporates; and

(iv) the policyholders' assessable income should be taxed at a comparatively lower rate

The report of the Committee is under examination.

Foreign Investment Implementation Authority

5169. SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up Foreign Investment Implementation Authority in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith duties and powers conferred with the Authority.

(c) whether the Authority would be able to overcome flows in FDI in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) The Government has set up a Foreign Investment Implementation Authority (FIIA) on 9-8-1999 to facilitate quick translation of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) approvals into implementation, provide a pro-active one stop after care service to foreign investors by helping them obtain necessary approvals, sort out operational problems and meet with various Government agencies to find solutions to problems as well as maximizing opportunities through a partnership approach. The functions of the FIIA is to expedite various approvals/permissions, foster partnership between investors and Government agencies concerned, resolve difference in perceptions, enhance overall credibility, review policy framework and liaise with the Ministry of External Affairs for keeping India's diplomatic missions abroad informed about translation of

FDI approvals into actual investment and implementation. So far FIIA has convened eight meetings to sort out implementation problems of foreign investors.

French Assistance In Digital Transmission

5170. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether after according the approval to Direct-to-Home television in the country, Government are working to make Indian television telecasting in digital mode;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to take the services of and expertise of Finance to implement this scheme; and

(c) the time by which the action would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) Transition to digital technology is being pursued by Prasar Bharati. For this purpose, Doordarshan is setting up four digital terrestrial transmitters at Delhi, Calcutta, Mumbai and Chennai on an experimental basis. These transmitters are likely to be set up during 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) While Doordarshan is open to any valuable input from any quarter, no proposal from France has been received. Switch over from analog to digital terrestrial broadcasting is dependent on availability of resources and market response, and as such no firm time frame can be indicated.

1000 Rupee Currency Note

5171. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced high denomination currency note of thousand Rupees;

(b) if so, whether the Government have considered the impact of such big currency on generation of more black money and "Hawala" transaction before introduction; and

(c) if so, the manner in which the Government propose to combat such situation?

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

(b) and (c) The Rs.1000 note has been introduced in order to contain the high volume of notes in circulation and to facilitate transactions. The law enforcing authorities are constantly working elimination of illegal transactions and black money in the system.

Upgradation of Patent Office at Chennai

5172. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any plan to upgrade Patent Office at Chennai;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) the details of the proposal received in Chennai office, in the last three years;

(d) the proposal cleared for the same period;

(e) whether more than 10,000 applications are yet to be cleared in Chennai office alone as on March, 2001; and

(f) if so, the remedial steps taken by the Government to expedite the clearing of such large number of proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Government has taken up a project to modernise all the Patent Offices, including Chennai. This includes infrastructure development, human resource development, computerization and re-engineering of work procedures, networking of all the offices and elimination of backlog of pending applications, awareness creation activities, etc. For the Chennai Patent office, additional office space of nearly 12,500 sq. ft. at Anna Salai has been acquired and furnished with all necessary infrastructural facilities including computers to ensure efficient patent administration.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. In order to clear the backlog of unexamined patent applications, action has been taken to recruit and train adequate number of technical officers and support staff, providing computerised search and other facilities in the office.

Guidelines to Media Policy

5173. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Government propose to issue fresh guidelines relating to levels of officials who are allowed to brief the media on matters of policy;
- (b) if so, the details of existing and new guidelines;
- (c) whether existing guidelines are being followed by the officials; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor and the action taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

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

- (b) The existing guidelines for briefing media are given in the enclosed statement.
- (c) Yes, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Statement

*In the Manual of Office Procedure
(Para 113) entitled*

"Communication of information to the press ", it is envisaged as follows:-

- (1) Official information to the press and other news media, i.e., radio and television, will normally be communicated through the Press Information Bureau.
- (2) Only Ministers, Secretaries and other officers specially authorized in this behalf may give information or be accessible to the representatives of the press. Any other official, if approached by a representative of the press, will direct him to the Press Information Bureau.
- (3) Whenever it is proposed to release on official information to the press, or to hold a press conference or press briefing, or to give publicity

to an official report, resolution or any other publication, the department concerned will consult the accredited Information Officer in advance.

[Translation]

Disinvestment of BSNL and MTNL

5174. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government are contemplating disinvestment in the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd. and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd;

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

(c) the estimated value of the assets of the above mentioned companies as on March 31, 2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES OF THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal for disinvestment in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. However, the Government had in July, 1999 accorded approval to the disinvestment of upto 19 million of Government's shares in MTNL through an institutional offerings in GDR, domestic market. This GDR issue has not taken place. There is no decision for further disinvestment in MTNL.

(c) In view of above, question does not arise.

[English]

Bank Loan Defaulters

5175. SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the position regarding defaulting borrowers with outstanding one crore or above from public sector banks and financial institutions as on 31st March, 2000 and 2001, bank-wise and institution-wise; and

(b) the stringent measures being taken/proposed to be taken for the recovery of loan from these borrowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The position regarding gross non-performing assets (NPAs) of Rs. One crore and above of public sector banks, for the year ended 31st March 2000, bank-wise, is given in the statement. The position regarding net NPAs (including those above Rs. one crore) of financial institutions viz. Industrial Development Bank of India, IFCI Ltd., ICICI Ltd., Small Industries Development Bank of India and Industrial Investment Bank of India, for the year ended 31st March, 2000, financial institution-wise, is also given in the statement. The position regarding NPAs of public sector banks and institutions as on 31st March, 2001 are not available as they are yet to finalise their accounts.

(b) Government of India and RBI have advised the banks and financial institutions to take several steps for recovery of bank dues such as evolving and implementation of recovery policy, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non-performing accounts at various levels in the bank/financial institutions. RBI vide its circular dated 27th July, 2000 has framed non-discretionary and non-discriminatory guidelines for settlement of NPAs upto Rs.5 crore and advised banks to evolve their own policy for loan outstandings of above Rs.5 crore. Effective action by banks for rehabilitation, one-time settlement for filing of suits in all necessary cases by 31.3.2001 has to be ensured by the chief executives. Action has also been initiated to bring in a legislation that will facilitate foreclosures and enforcement of securities in cases of default, in order to enable the banks and financial institutions to realize their dues.

Statement

Gross Non-performing Assets, of Rs. One Crore and above, of Public Sector Banks for the year ended 31st March 2000

Name of the Bank	No. of Accounts	Total NPAs (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3
State Bank of India	1320	8579.96

1	2	3
State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	106	433.01
State Bank of Hyderabad	135	576.80
State Bank of Indore	41	140.40
State Bank of Mysore	63	266.72
State Bank of Patiala	112	393.72
State Bank of Saurashtra	74	287.12
State Bank of Tavanore	98	575.15
Allahabad Bank	200	983.83
Andhra Bank	36	108.77
Bank of Baroda	541	1868.86
Bank of India	306	1984.00
Bank of Maharashtra	95	331.80
Canara Bank	551	1692.60
Central Bank of India	311	1449.99
Corporation Bank	52	203.09
Dena Bank	161	1097.59
Indian Bank	564	2281.98
Indian Overseas Bank	161	955.00
Oriental Bank of Commerce	61	224.77
Punjab & Sind Bank	102	366.62
Punjab & National Bank	390	1874.87
Syndicate Bank	113	388.96
UCO Bank	163	760.25
Union Bank of India	242	895.79
United Bank of India	141	626.00
Vijay Bank	69	235.40

Net Non-Performing Assets of Financial Institutions for the year ended 31st March 2000.

Name of the Financial Institution	Total NPAs (Rs. in Crores)
IDBI	7675
ICICI LTD.	3959
IFCI LTD.	4084
IIBI LTD	641
SIDBI	197

[Translation]

Kisan Credit Card Holders

5176. SHRI RAMSHAKAL :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the bank-wise and State-wise details of number of Kisan Credit card holders in the country as on 31-3-2001;

(b) the bank-wise and State-wise details of the amount of loan taken by the farmers through this card as on 31-3-2001;

(c) the target fixed for 2001-2002 in this regard;

(d) whether the Government are considering to

waive-off the loan of farmers in view of the loss of crop due to natural calamity; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The bank-wise and State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Card holders in the country as available with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) is given in enclosed Statement.

(b) The information is being collected and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No targets have been fixed for banks for issue of Kisan Credit Cards for the year 2001-2002. However, as announced in the Budget Speech for the year 2001-2002, banks have been advised to accelerate the programme and cover all eligible farmers within the next three years.

(d) and (e) Government and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are not in favour of any loan waiver scheme as it would adversely affect the recovery process and financial discipline and could lead to similar demands from other sectors. However, as per the standing instructions issued by RBI banks have been advised to convert the short term agricultural loans of affected farmers due to natural calamities into medium term loans and also rephase/ reschedule the outstanding instalments of medium term loans.

Statement

State-wise and agency-wise details of Kisan Credit Cards issued (As on 20th March, 2001), since inception of the scheme

Sr. No.	State/Union Territory	Commerical Banks	Cooperatives	Regional Rural Banks	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	A & N Islands	223	269	0	492
2.	Andhra Pradesh	714294	2534273	151920	3400487
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	45	0	82	127
4.	Assam	2924	0	645	3569

1	2	3	4	5	6
5.	Bihar	122976	150744	17385	291107
6.	Chandigarh	0	0	0	0
7.	D & N Haveli	1	0	0	0
8.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0
9.	Goa	1091	315	0	1406
10.	Gujarat	225973	277475	19688	523136
11.	Haryana	94610	330317	14677	439604
12.	Himachal Pradesh	14327	15192	761	30280
13.	Jammu & Kashmir	534	12191	830	13555
14.	Karnataka	419888	202872	125673	748433
15.	Kerala	189845	127224	111209	428278
16.	Lakshadweep	63	0	0	63
17.	Madhya Pradesh	139094	185346	18531	342971
18.	Maharashtra	242648	1495521	23342	1761511
19.	Manipur	280	0	43	323
20.	Meghalaya	727	322	597	1646
21.	Mizoram	4	0	0	4
22.	Nagaland	12	0	0	12
23.	NCT of Delhi	281	1030	0	1311
24.	Orissa	69841	780306	39785	889932
25.	Pondicherry	4169	799	0	4968
26.	Punjab	250332	202735	10396	463463
27.	Rajasthan	100700	1390267	22730	1513697
28.	Sikkim	178	0	0	178
29.	Tamil Nadu	375389	411147	21338	807874
30.	Tripura	388	355	607	1350
31.	Uttar Pradesh	582814	727024	168975	1478813
32.	West Bengal	72428	15945	7433	95806
Total		3626081	8861669	756647	13244397

[English]

Reimbursement from European Union

5177. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have asked for reimbursement of around Rs. 4000 crore from the European Union, which was charged under the anti-dumping duties and which has been termed as illegal under the WTO agreement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the items on which European Union imposed Anti-Dumping Duties and which have been termed illegal under the WTO agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) At India's request the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) of the World Trade Organization (WTO) had established a Panel in the dispute regarding imposition by European Communities of final anti-dumping duties on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India. The Panel as well as the Appellate Body have concluded that the European Communities did not act consistently with its obligations under certain provisions of the Agreement on Anti-dumping and have recommended that the Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) request the European Communities to bring its measures into conformity with its obligations under the Anti-dumping Agreement. The reports of the Panel and that of the Appellate Body were subsequently adopted by the DSB.

In the meeting of the DSB held on 5th April, 2001, EC has expressed its intention to implement the recommendations and rulings of DSB. India, in its statement made in the above meeting of DSB, has emphasized that it expects EC to revoke the anti-dumping duties in force and to refund the duties already collected.

Funds for Panchayati Raj

5178. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount recommended by Tenth Finance Commission for Panchayati Raj Institutions, State-wise;

(b) the amount released by Union Government for the purpose, State-wise;

(c) whether full amount was not released to States;

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

(e) whether the remaining amount is likely to be released by the Union Government;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons for the same ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (g) A statement showing the total amount of grants recommended by the Tenth Finance Commission for Panchayati Raj Institutions of States and grant released during 1996-2000 is enclosed

The balance grant could not be released to several States due to non-fulfillment of the requirements prescribed in the guidelines. The award period of the Tenth Finance Commission has expired on 31st March, 2000.

Statement

Grants for Panchayati Raj Institutions recommended by Tenth Finance Commission and released during 1996-2000

(Rs. in Crores)		
State	Recommended	Released
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	351.00	335.94
Arunachal Pradesh	4.51	1.41
Assam	133.36	41.67
Bihar	507.19	126.80
Goa	5.91	2.59
Gujarat	192.01	192.01
Haryana	82.64	82.64
Himachal Pradesh	32.18	28.16

1	2	3
Jammu & Kashmir	37.59	37.59
Karnataka	221.77	221.77
Kerala	178.81	178.81
Madhya Pradesh	348.69	342.86
Maharashtra	347.01	216.88
Manipur	9.31	4.07
Meghalaya	8.65	3.78
Mizoram	2.94	2.94
Nagaland	4.65	2.04
Orissa	200.99	200.99
Punjab	103.35	45.21
Rajasthan	212.22	212.22
Sikkim	1.90	1.90
Tamilnadu	287.34	287.34
Tripura	13.94	8.71
Uttar Pradesh	759.52	664.58
West Bengal	333.45	333.45
Total	4,380.93	3,576.36

**SEBI Guidelines for betterment of
Stock Exchange**

5179. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether SEBI has debarred top stock exchange office bearers from trading while holding office;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether SEBI has also decided to introduce a code of ethics for directors and functionaries to Stock Exchange.

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any improvement has been shown in the stock market after taking these steps; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and further steps being taken by SEBI for betterment of stock exchanges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has formulated a code of ethics for directors and functionaries of stock exchanges aimed at establishing professional and ethical standards for creating a fair and transparent market place. The salient features of this code of ethics includes (i) Fairness and transparency in dealing with matters relating to the exchange and investors, (ii) prohibition on dealings in securities in proprietary accounts by elected office bearers such as President, Vice President, Treasurer, (iii) disclosure of dealings in securities by functionaries and directors of the exchange, (iv) avoidance of conflict of interest in decision making and (v) compliance with the regulatory laws and exercising due diligence in the performance of duties.

(e) SEBI has initiated action to implement the code of ethics. When it is implemented, the code is expected to help towards improving the professional and ethical standards of stock exchanges.

(f) The other measures proposed include, inter-alia, demutualisation of stock exchanges by which ownership, management and trading membership would be segregated from each other. This would help towards:-

- further professionalisation of the management of the exchanges;
- improving adherence to the best practices of Corporate Governance;
- enhancing the ability of stock exchanges to raise funds from the market to modernise the exchanges and provide better investor service.

Guidelines for D.T.H.

5180. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have issued guidelines for DTH broadcasting on 15 March, 2001;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether as per the guidelines, no broadcasting or cable network company should be eligible to own more than 20 percent of the equity;
- (d) if so, the percentage of the equity distributed for FDI/NRI/OBC/FIT;
- (e) the fee prescribed for entering into DTH broadcasting;
- (f) whether her Ministry has finalized the technical details relating to open architecture set top box for this purpose; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (g) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has laid down detailed guidelines for DTH on 15.3.2001. The salient features of the guidelines are as follows :-

(i) Eligibility Criteria :

- Applicant Company to be an Indian Company registered under Indian Companies Act, 1956.
- Total foreign equity holding including FDI/NRI/OCB/FII in the applicant company not to exceed 49%
- FDI component of the foreign equity not to exceed 20%
- The quantum represented by the portion of the paid up equity share capital to the total issued equity capital of the Indian promoter company held or controlled by the foreign investors through FDI/NRI/OCB investment shall form part of the FDI limit of 20%
- The applicant company must have Indian Management Control with majority representatives on the board as well as the CEO of the company being a resident Indian.

- Broadcasting companies and/or cable network companies shall not be eligible to own more than 20% of the total equity of Applicant Company at any time during the licence period. Similarly, the applicant company not to have more than 20% equity share in a broadcasting and/or cable network company.

(ii) Number of licensees :

- There will be no restrictions on the total number of DTH licenses and these will be issued to any person who fulfils the necessary terms and conditions and subject to the security and technical clearances by the appropriate authorities of the Govt.

(iii) Period of licence :

- Licence will be valid for a period of 10 years and is not transferable without prior approval of licensor.

(iv) Basic conditions/obligations :

- The licence will be subject to terms and conditions contained in the agreement which inter-alia, provides that:
- licensee shall adhere to programme and advertisement code,
- set up earth stations in India, give non-discriminatory access to various contents providers,
- carry channels of Prasar Bharati on most favourable terms,
- maintain recordings of programmes and advertisement for a period of 90 days.

(v) Protection of Consumer Interest :

- The licensee shall use the open Architecture (non-proprietary) Set Top Box, which will ensure technical compatibility and inter-operability among different DTH service providers, and shall

have such specifications as laid down by the Government from time to time.

- The Conditional Access System (CAS) to be used will be compatible with open architecture Set Top Box.
- The licensee shall ensure subscribers' interest through the subscriber management system, which is efficient, responsive and has accurate billing and collection system.
- The licensee shall adhere to regulation, which may be laid down in the interest of consumer such as pricing of bouquet(s) or tier(s) of channel etc.

(vi) National Security Concerns :

- Immediate termination of licence may be done if facility or service is used for anti national activities. Access to all facilities to licensors or its authorized representative to be provided by licensee.
- Right of Government to take over the entire service in the interest of national security.
- Requirement that all foreign personnel deployed shall obtain security clearance.

(vii) Procedure for application and grant of licences :

- Application to be submitted to the Secretary, Ministry of I and B, in triplicate, in the prescribed proforma.
- On the basis of information furnished in the application form, if the applicant is found eligible for setting up of DTH platform in India, the application will be subjected to security clearance by the Ministry of Home Affairs and for clearance of satellite use by the Department of Space.
- After these clearances the applicant would be required to make non-

refundable entry fee of Rs. 10 crore to Ministry of I and B and obtain from Wireless Planning and Coordination (WPC) Wing of Ministry of Communications, SACFA clearance.

- After this clearance is obtained, the applicant would be required to furnish a bank guarantee for Rs. 40 crores and sign a licensing agreement with the Ministry of I and B as per prescribed proforma.
- Within one month from the date of the signing the licensing agreement with the Ministry of I and B, the licensee shall apply to WPC for seeking Wireless Operational Licence for establishment, maintenance and operation of DTH platform.
- The licensee shall commission DTH within one year of SACFA clearance.
- The licensee shall pay an annual fee equivalent to 10% of its gross revenue within one month of the end of every financial year to the government in addition to licence fee and royalty for the spectrum used.
- For any additional value - added service, separate licence to be obtained from competent authority.

[Translation]

Export of Wheat Products

5181. SHRI JAI PRAKASH : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the export of wheat products apart from wheat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Current EXIM Policy, wheat products are freely exportable,

subject to quantitative ceiling as and when notified by DGFT and registration with APEDA.

Financial Assistance to Sugar Mills

5182. SHRI RAJO SINGH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation propose to provide financial assistance to sugar mills for co-generation of powers in various States;

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

(c) the amount likely to be provided by the International Finance Corporation to each State; and

(d) the time by which this assistance is likely to be approved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) IFC has "in-principle" agreed to extend financial assistance for co-generation, bagasse based power projects with sugar mills in Maharashtra provided: (i) a viable and credit worthy offtake arrangement exists for the purchase of power, and (ii) IFC is satisfied with all project specific risks and issues during the course of IFC's detailed appraisal.

(b) Does not arise at this stage.

(c) Generally, upto 25% of the Project Cost.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

[English]

AIR/DD Centres of the Country

5183. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the number of All India Radio Stations/Doordarshan centres in the country, State-wise;

(b) the expenditure incurred on these stations by the Government during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(c) the income generated by AIR/DD during the last three years, year-wise and State wise;

(d) whether the most of the AIR stations/DD centres have surplus staff;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government propose to reduce the number of unnecessary radio stations/Doordarshan centres; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) The state-wise details of All India Radio Stations and Doordarshan installations presently functioning in the country are given in the statement statement I and II respectively.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) and (e) Prasar Bharati Corporation have informed that there is no surplus staff in All India Radio stations and Doordarshan kendras as compared to the sanctioned strength.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement-I

S. No.	State	No. of AIR Stations
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	12
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5
3.	Assam	10
4.	Bihar	5
5.	Chhattisgarh	5
6.	Goa	1
7.	Gujarat	7
8.	Haryana	3
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6

1	2	3
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6
11.	Jharkhand	5
12.	Karnataka	13
13.	Kerala	7
14.	Madhya Pradesh	14
15.	Maharashtra	20
16.	Manipur	1
17.	Meghalaya	5
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	4
20.	Orissa	11
21.	Punjab	3
22.	Rajasthan	17

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	9
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttaranchal	6
27.	Uttar Pradesh	14
28.	West Bengal	5
	Union Territory	
29.	Port Blair	1
30.	Chandigarh	1
31.	Delhi	1
32.	Pondicherry	2
33.	Kavaratti	1
34.	Daman	1
	Total	208

Statement-II*Doordarshan Network (as on 01.04.2001)*

Sl. No.	State/UT	Studios	Primary Coverage (DD1) Trs.					Metro Channel (DD2) Trs.			
			HPTs	LPTs	VLPTs	Trp	TOTAL	HPTS	LPTS	VLPTS	TOTAL
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1.	Assam	3	3	20	1	1	25	2	1	—	3
2	A.P.	2	8	64	6	1	79	2	3	—	5
3	Arunachal Pd.	1	1	3	41	1	46	—	1	—	1
4	Bihar	2	3	29	—	—	32	2	—	—	2
5	Chhatisgarh	2	2	14	7	—	23	1	—	—	1
6	Goa	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
7	Gujarat	2	4	60	3	—	67	1	1	—	2

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
8	Haryana	—	—	12	—	—	12	—	4	—	4
9	H.P.	1	2	8	32	2	44	1	1	—	2
10	Jharkhand	2	2	17	1	1	21	1	—	1	2
11	J & K	2	5	10	42	1	58	2	2	—	4
12	Kerala	1	3	19	2	—	24	2	2	—	4
13	Karnataka	2	5	44	4	—	53	1	—	—	1
14	M.P.	3	4	62	4	—	70	2	—	—	2
15	Meghalaya	2	2	2	2	1	7	1	1	—	2
16	Maharashtra	3	5	77	19	1	102	2	2	—	4
17	Manipur	1	1	1	5	—	7	—	1	1	2
18	Mizoram	1	2	—	2	1	5	—	2	—	2
19	Nagaland	1	2	2	6	1	11	—	2	—	2
20	Orissa	3	4	60	17	1	82	2	6	2	10
21	Punjab	1	4	5	—	1	10	—	1	—	1
22	Rajasthan	1	5	66	17	2	90	2	1	—	3
23	Sikkim	—	1	—	5	—	6	—	1	—	1
24	Tamil Nadu	1	4	40	5	2	51	1	—	—	1
25	Tripura	1	1	2	1	1	5	1	1	—	2
26	U.P.	6	8	52	3	1	64	5	7	1	13
27	Uttaranchal	—	1	13	29	2	45	1	—	—	1
28	W.B.	3	5	20	3	—	28	3	1	—	4
29	Delhi	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	1
30	A & N Islands	1	—	2	10	—	12	—	1	—	1
31	Daman & Diu	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	0
32	Pondicherry	1	—	2	2	—	4	—	1	—	1
33	L'Dweep Islands	—	—	1	8	—	9	—	—	1	1

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
34	Chandigarh	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1
35	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	0
Total		51	89	711	277	21	1098	37	44	6	87

Note: 1. In addition to above transmitters, two LPTs at Delhi for relay of LS and RS proceedings and one HPT each at Srinagar, Calcutta and Chennai for relay of Regional channel programmes are in operation.

Total No. of transmitters-1190

Food for Work Programme

5184. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the " Food For Work" programme launched by the Government; and

(b) the quantum of foodgrains allocated under the programme to each State during the last one year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) The Food for Work programme aims at to provide wage employment in rural areas in the notified drought affected districts in eight States. The Scheme will form a part of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and part of wages will be paid in the form of foodgrains, the cash component of the wages will be provided by the State Government from their resources. The details of the scheme are given in enclosed Statement-I

(b) The quantum of foodgrains allocated released during last one year (2000-2001) is given in enclosed Statement-II

Statement-I

Food for Work Programme

Introduction

During the year 2000-2001, the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Orissa and Rajasthan have received deficient rainfall during the South-West

monsoon period leading to Drought like situation. The rainfall during the post monsoon period (1.10.2000 onwards) has also been scanty. Gujarat and Rajasthan were affected by severe drought last year also. It is reported that districts in Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Uttaranchal are also facing a drought like situation. In this context, to ensure food security to the needy rural poor, the Government of India are introducing the Food for Work Programme. This Programme will be in operation till 30th June, 2001, and may be extended at the discretion of the Government of India.

Objective

- The Food for Work programme, aims at augmenting food security through wage employment in the drought affected rural areas in Eight States viz, Chattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttaranchal after due notification. It will be in operation in rural areas that are notified by the State Government as Drought affected.
- The Government of India may extend the Food for Work Programme to the other areas as may be affected by the Natural Calamities such as Flood, Cyclone or Earthquake.

Funding

- The Food-for-Work Programme will form a part of Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS). Part of the wages will, however, be paid in the form of foodgrains, as indicated in Para 5 below. The cash component of

the wage as well as the Material cost of the work will be provided by the State Governments from the EAS funds.

Scope of the Programme

5. Government of India will make available appropriate quantity of foodgrains to each of the Drought affected States. The food grains will be supplied free of cost of the States, as an additionality, with a view to enabling the State Government to provide adequate wage employment opportunities to the needy rural poor. The Department of Food and Public Distribution will supply the food grains free of cost to the States/UTs. The States may make payment of wages partly in kind (up to 5 kgs. of food grains per manday) and partly in cash. The State Governments will be free to calculate the cost of food grains paid in wages, at either BPL rates, or APL rates or any where between these two rates. The workers will be paid the balance of wages in cash, such that they are assured of the notified Minimum wages. The free foodgrains will be treated as an additionality to the on-going Scheme of EAS.

Plan of Action

6. A Plan of Action for the Food for Work Programme, indicating the works to be taken and total requirement of food grain for five months (months-wise and district-wise) from February, 2001 to June, 2001, will be prepared by the State Government and sent to the Ministry of Rural Development. Rice/Wheat will be supplied as per the request of the State Government. The Ministry will scrutinize the requirement and then forward it to the Department of Food and Public Distribution with its recommendations. After scrutiny, the Department of Food and Public Distribution will duly send an appropriate advice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to release the food grains at the District Headquarters from its existing depots under intimation to the Ministry of Rural Development as well as the State Government. Food grains to be supplied to the State Government will be free of cost. Transportation of food grains from FCI godowns to the worksites would be the responsibility of the State Governments. The transportation and distribution cost will be borne by the State Government.

Supply of Foodgrains

7. Supply of food grains will be made to the workmen at site. The official supervising the work (to be decided by the State Government) under the Food for Work Programme, will be responsible for the distribution of food grains at the work-site. The food grains will be supplied daily. In the event of the workmen are from one Habitation and if they choose to receive food grains in their village, the same could be organized. The Public Distribution System (PDS) outlets shall not be used for this Programme.

Quality Control of Foodgrains

8. The normal procedure by way of joint sampling as is done in case of PDS will operate. In case of any complaint, the sample from the field will be compared with the sample packet retained at FCI depot and action will be initiated against the concerned, if any discrepancy is established.

Works to be taken Up

9. The Food-for-Work Programme being an integral part of the Employment Assurance Scheme, all the provisions of the EAS will apply. However, keeping in view the need to immediately respond to the exigencies of the situation, sanction of the works may be issued by the District Collector instead of Zilla Parishad. All the works taken up under this programme will however be included in the Annual Action Plan.
10. Since the objective of the Food for Work Programme is to provide wage employment, preference shall be given to labour-intensive works, particularly those that which would help drought-proofing such as moisture conservation works, watershed development works, water harvesting, digging up of ponds/tanks/de-silting of village Ponds/tanks and of water courses, etc. Works sanctioned should be such that they can be completed within 90 days.
11. Muster Rolls will be maintained for every work separately showing the details of wages (including food grains) given to the workers. All provisions of EAS shall apply in this regard.
12. Signboards should be displayed at the work site giving the details of the cost of the work, date of completion,

funds actually utilized, name of the implementing Agency etc.

13. The assets created under the Programme would be maintained by the State Government or any agency to be designated by them. No funds will be provided by the Union Government for their maintenance.

Supervision

14. While the provisions under EAS relating to supervision and monitoring will continue to be applicable, the State Government shall issue necessary guidelines designating appropriate authorities and detailing procedures to oversee the receipt, storage, transport and distribution of food grains under the Food for Work Programme.

Statement-II

Allotment of Rice and Wheat under Food for Work in drought affected areas during 2000-2001

FREE OF COST (Figures in Tonnes)

STATE	ALLOTMENT		
	RICE	WHEAT	TOTAL
1	2	3	4
CHHATTISGARH	207000	0	207000
GUJARAT	20000	70000	90000
HIMACHAL PRADESH	11549	0	11549
MAHARASHTRA	2000	8000	10000
MADHYA PRADESH	20079	43000	63079
ORISSA	100000	0	100000
RAJASTHAN	0	118145	118145
TOTAL	360628	239145	599773

AT BPL RATES

ORISSA	90600	0	90600
GUJARAT	15000	60000	75000

1	2	3	4
RAJASTHAN	0	150000	150000
ANDHRA PRADESH	36160	0	36160
CHHATTISGARH	96600	0	96600
RAJASTHAN	0	252500	252500
TOTAL	238360	462500	700860

Tea Plantation

5185. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether NABARD has been extending fund for promoting tea plantation to some States; and

(b) if so, the States which are funded by NABARD for growing tea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE RATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that it has been extending refinance facilities to banks for on-lending to borrowers for promoting tea plantation for all viable schemes in States. The details of the States where NABARD refinance has been made available for tea plantation during the last two years are as under:

(Rs. Lakhs)

State	1998-99	1999-2000
Kerala	95	248
Tamil Nadu	87	47
West Bengal	15	—
Assam	54	186
Arunachal Pradesh	99	50
TOTAL	350	531

Modernisation of Sugar Mills

5186. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the expenditure for modernisation of sugar mills with capacity less than 2500 TCD has remained much below the loan sanctioned for modernisation/rehabilitation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the concrete steps being taken by the Government to formulate any plan or policy to persuade the sugar mills with less than 2500 TCD to modernise/rehabilitate the mills and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) The number of sugar mills with capacity upto 2500 TCD, to whom loans for modernisation/rehabilitation have been sanctioned from the Sugar Development Fund till date, is higher than the sugar mills with capacity beyond 2500 TCD who have also been sanctioned loan from SDF for the said purposes.

(c) The sugar industry has been delicensed w.e.f. 11.9.98 and the entrepreneurs are free to undertake expansion/modernisation/rehabilitation of the mills keeping in view the techno-economic viability of their project.

Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Company Limited

5187. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV :
SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV :

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

(a) whether the Government have announced revival package of Hindustan Photo Film Manufacturing Limited.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether entire loan of the company has been written-off; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the total amount written-off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Software Technology Parks of India

5188. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ :
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI :

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to sell-off the Software Technology Parks of India to Videsh Sanchar Nigam Ltd. (VSNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by what time final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

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

(c) Does not arise.

Import of Edible Oil

5189. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the domestic production of edible oil has been severely affected due to import of edible oil has been severely affected due to import of edible oil through unfair means;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such cases unearthed during each of the last three years; and

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

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

Entering of Terminator Seeds into India

5190. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether terminator seeds are being dumped legally or illegally in India;

(b) if so, whether the Government could not prevent terminator seed from entering into India; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to be taken against the "seed of sorrow" from entering into India ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Imports of genetically modified seeds which include terminator seeds, require authorization of the Government of India under the provisions of Indian Environment (Protection) Act (EPA), 1986 and the Rules, 1989. Considering that terminator seeds are not beneficial for the Indian environment, an Order has been issued by the Ministry of Agriculture in May 1998 banning the import of such seeds. The Indian EPA has adequate provisions for taking punitive action against parties introducing any such seeds without authorization.

[Translation]

International Financial Institutions

5191. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :
DR. SUSHIL KUMAR INDORA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several State Governments had approached the International Financial Institutions/ World Bank for direct loan during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the names of such State Governments and the International Financial Institutions, World Bank institution-wise amount of direct loan taken by these State Governments during the above period;

(c) whether the Government have recently imposed certain restrictions on obtaining direct loan by the State Governments; and

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

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) In view of reply given to part (a) and (b), do not arise. It may be mentioned that under the provisions of the Constitution, the executive powers of a State extend to borrowing only within the territory of India. Also, under the VII Schedule of the Constitution, 'Foreign Loans' come under the Union list.

[English]

Import of Gold and Silver

5192. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some overseas branches of State Bank of India have been allowing import and sale of gold and silver to domestic customers against payment orders or cheques issued by banks including those issued by co-operative banks and jewellers and have been found running gold import racket in Ahmedabad and Mumbai;

(b) if so, the quantum of amount of gold involved in the scam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has informed that it has authorised 18 scheduled commercial banks (including State Bank of India and a few foreign banks operating in India) to import gold/ silver/platinum under Exim-Policy 1997-2002 for sale to jewellery manufacturer-exporters and also for domestic sale. Import is effected by designated Indian branches of banks. It has come to the notice of RBI that some banks had to face difficulties in realization of Pay Orders issued by certain co-operative banks tendered by bullion traders in Ahmedabad.

(b) RBI has no information about the quantum of gold involved in the transactions. However, likely loss to State Bank of India, Bank of India and Standard Chartered Bank is Rs. 39.70 crores, 4.80 crores and 9.30 crores respectively.

(c) RBI has also informed that it has advised on 4th April 2001 all the banks authorised to import gold that while banks are required to ensure normal banking prudence in respect of all financial instruments, in the context of trading in bullion they should release gold only against full realization of value or proceeds of instruments. In respect of gold sold on unfixed basis, banks were advised to collect 100 per cent margin in cash for the provisional value of gold and a suitable additional margin to take care of likely price fluctuations and follow the uniform practice of settling the transaction within 5 days. State Bank of India has also lodged a complaint with Central Bureau of Investigation.

Export of Basmati Rice

5193. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand of basmati rice is expected to boost the Indian exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof?

(c) the total quantum of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during 2000-2001 in comparison to the previous two years and the foreign exchanges earned therefrom; and

(d) the efforts being made by the Government to increase the export of basmati rice ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of basmati and non-basmati rice exported during the last three years is as under :-

Qty : MT				
Value: Rs. Crores				
Basmati rice		Non-basmati rice		
Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	
1	2	3	4	5
1998-99	597793	1876.91	4365888	4403.85

1	2	3	4	5
1999-2000	606468	1735.94	1216681	1369.73
Apr.-Dec. 2000	638434	1583.78	407157	517.92
Apr.-Dec. 1999	438913	1282.03	1029542	1088.98

(Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Some of the steps taken to increase the export of basmati rice, include conducting publicity campaigns, sending delegations abroad, Participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products and for conducting market surveys.

Low Quality of PDS Items

5194 SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state

(a) whether the quality of foodgrains including sugar available under public distribution system is of inferior quality;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to further strengthen its monitoring mechanism in coordination with State Governments to ensure that foodgrains including sugar available under PDS are of good quality; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) No Sir, Good quality foodgrains and sugar strictly conforming to the specifications laid down by the Government of India are issued to the State Governments or their authorised representatives for distribution under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) through Fair Price Shops (FPS).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The following steps have been taken by the Government to further strengthen the monitoring of the quality of foodgrains available under PDS:

- (i) Ample opportunities are provided to the officers/officials of the State Government to inspect the stock prior to issue from FCI godowns.
- (ii) Instructions have been issued by this Department to all the State Governments that an officer not below the rank of Inspector should be deputed to check the quality of foodgrains before issue from the FCI godowns.
- (iii) The samples of foodgrains are jointly drawn and sealed by the officers of the State Government and FCI from the stock to be issued under TPDS for displaying at the counters of Fair Price Shops for the benefit of consumers.
- (iv) The officers of the State Governments' and the Ministry pay surprise checks of the FPSs, to over see the quality of foodgrains being distributed through PDS.
- (v) The officers of the Department designated as 'Area Officers' for monitoring the TPDS work in the respective States also undertake visits to the storage depots and the FPSs, during their visit to the States to check the quality of foodgrains and sugar being issued.

Merger of GTB and UTI Bank

5195. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Valuation Report on the merger of Unit Trust of India Bank and Global Trust Bank (GTB) have been submitted to the Reserve Bank of India for a decision on the merger of two banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the difference of swap ratio between the first Valuation Ratio and the second Valuation Ratio as suggested by the two valuers;

(c) whether the Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) have launched an investigation into the GTB's alleged roll in price rigging into its scrips;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the two Banks have not yet decided on the fate of UTI's insurance venture before deciding the merger; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) The valuation and structuring reports on various aspects of the proposed amalgamation of Global Trust Bank Ltd. (GTB) and the Unit Trust of India (UTI) Bank were prepared by SBI Capital Markets Ltd. and M/s. Deloitte, Haskins and Sells. The two valuers arrived at the same swap ratios in their valuation reports although they had used different methodologies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Preliminary investigations by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) revealed that, prima facie there appeared to be manipulation behind the rise in the share price of GTB during the period under reference.

(e) Global Trust Bank Ltd. has since called off their proposed merger with the UTI Bank.

(f) Does not arise.

Lending Norms for RRBs

5196. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lending norms are relaxed even to RRBs at par with nationalized banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether they are also switched over to investment portfolio; and

(d) if so, the proportions of their investments, priority sector lending, agriculture, lending and other sector as compared to nationalized banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) As per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) are required to lend 40% of their outstanding advances to priority sector with a sub target of 10% to the weaker sections as in the case of Commercial Banks.

(c) and (d) The comparative investments and advances to priority sector as well as to agriculture made by public sector banks and RRBs are given in the inclosed Statement.

Statement

Details of Lending and Investments of RRBs and Public Sector Banks

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Particulars	(As on last Friday) Public Sector Banks*			(As on 31st March, 2000 (Regional Rural Banks)		
		1998	1999	2000	1998	1999	2000
1.	Investments	22652500	27680200	33341400	14,90,365	18,94,412	22,94,475
	Growth rate (%)	#	(22)	(20)		(27)	(21)
			#	#			
2.	Outstanding Credit (NBC)	21821900	24620300	29294300	986081	1135585	1318440
	(Growth Rate)		(13)	(19)		(15)	(16)
3.	Priority Sector Credit o/s (Pr. Sector as % to o/s Credit)	9131900 (41.8)	10720000 (43.5)	12780700 (43.6)	786856 (80)	900214 (79)	1010679 (77)
4.	Agriculture (% to o/s. Credit)	3430500 (15.7)	4007800 (16.3)	4619000 (15.8)	457494 (46)	538927 (47)	611701 (46)

O/s. outstandings

* Source Report on trend and progress of Banking in India 1999-2000

Figures reported as on March 31.

@ Data provisional

Transfer Pricing Norms

5197. SHRI K.E. KRISHNAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are some constraints in India's Transfer Pricing Norms, which cripple the FDI flows into the country;

(b) whether it will not lead to gradual reduction in country's revenue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the stand of the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The proposed Transfer Pricing Norms are meant to curb tax avoidance and they will have no adverse impact on the FDI flows into the country.

(b) and (c) The proposed norms would curb erosion

of tax revenues and provide a statutory framework for computation of income in case of multi-national enterprises. This will lead to increase in tax revenue.

(d) The Government is committed to curb tax avoidance by stopping the abuse of transfer pricing.

Most Favoured Nation Status to Pakistan

5198. SHRI RAMSHETH THAKUR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has granted Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to Pakistan;

(b) if so, whether the Pakistan has also granted the same facilities to India;

(c) if not, whether the Government have taken up the matter with the Pakistan Government;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the number of items being exported to Pakistan at present ?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Even though the matter has been taken up with the Government of Pakistan at various levels/ for a time to time, Pakistan is yet to accord MFN status to India.

(e) During the year 2000-2001 (April-October, 2000), 52 major items were exported to Pakistan (Source: DGC&S).

Outstanding Tax against Sterlite Industry

5199. SHRI SHIVAJI MANE :
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether more than 100 crore of rupees are outstanding against the Sterlite Industries as income tax, excise duty and other taxes;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately;

(c) the period from which it is due, and

(d) the steps taken to realise the same ?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Consumption of Cement

5200. SHRI C.N. SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cement Manufacturers Association of India has projected a negative growth rate of 1.5 per cent in cement consumption during 2000-2001;

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

(c) the factors responsible for affecting the cement industry; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the performance in the said sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) Cement consumption has fallen to 90.17 million tonnes in 2000-01 as compared to 92.05 million tonnes in 1999-2000. This has resulted in a negative growth of 2.04%.

(c) The shortfall has been on account of

(i) Sluggish demand in the market; and

(ii) drought conditions in different parts of the country.

(d) To encourage growth in infrastructure areas and housing, which would boost cement demand, the Government had already instituted several incentives like 10 years tax holiday on investment in infrastructure areas; and tax concession for housing loans and others.

Government is also providing infrastructural support to cement industry to maximise cement production. Rail wagons are provided to cement plants on priority basis to supply cement to deficit areas.

[Translation]

Sale of Commerical Vehicles

5201. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the sale of commerical vehicles has come down by 12 percent during last year.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether such decline has also been noticed in the sale of two wheelers, three wheelers and other vehicles; and

(d) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir; as per information available from Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), the sale of Commerical Vehicles during April-February, (2000-2001) has come down by 12% due to increase in Sales Tax, slow down in industrial production and increase in fuel prices.

(c) Except for passenger cars there is no decline in the sale of other segments of automotive sector.

(d) Does not arise.

Outstanding Taxes

5202. SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of income tax, property tax and other trade taxes outstanding against first hundred industrial trading units and their respective owners till 1999-2000;

(b) the outstanding taxes for the last five years, ten years and fifteen years;

(c) the year-wise details of the amount recovered during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) the reasons for non-recovery of the remaining outstanding amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) The total amount of Income Tax outstanding in respect of the top 100 cases as on 31.3.2000 was Rs. 23840 crore. Property tax and trade taxes are State subjects. Central Government does not maintain information in respect of these taxes.

(b) and (c) Such details are not maintained.

(d) Taxes remain outstanding because of several reasons, such as stays granted by appellate authorities/ departmental authorities, and cases where recovery is difficult.

[English]

Indo-Asian Bilateral Investment Treaty

5203. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry has suggested for setting up of an Indo-Asian bilateral investment treaty and entering into selective trade agreements with countries like Singapore and Thailand to facilitate India's integration with Asian;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to set up Indo-Asian bilateral investment treaty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) To focus on promoting India's economic cooperation including increased bilateral trade and investment with ASEAN countries, the Confederation of Indian Industry has reported that they had undertaken a study titled "India's Integration with ASEAN - A strategic perspective" last year and interim presentations were made to CII-ASEAN Committee Members in October, 2000 and March, 2001 suggesting for establishing India's integration with ASEAN for India's Asian Identity. While outlining the strategy (in the above presentation) the suggestions made in the study includes:

- Trade is where the focus should-be Need to constitute a Trade Policy Group with Focused Agenda on removing trade barriers.
- Selective Free Trade Arrangements may be thought of (Singapore, Thailand).
- Indo-ASEAN Bilateral Investment Treaty may be considered for ASEAN Investment in India.
- Build on facilities and networks.

(b) and (c) So far no formal presentation has been made to the Government.

Pension System for Government Employees

5204. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reform the pension system for Government employees;

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

(c) the reasons therefor and benefits to be achieved as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) In his Budget Speech for 2001-2002, the Finance Minister had announced constitution of a High Level Expert Group to review the existing pension scheme and to provide a roadmap for devising a new pension system based on defined contributions in respect of those who enter Central Government service after 1st October, 2001. The Group is to give its recommendations within three months. Action to constitute the Expert Group has been initiated.

NABARD Funding for Tamil Nadu

5205. SHRI P.D. ELANGO VAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of proposals received by the NABARD from Tamil Nadu under the RIDF and other schemes for providing loans for various infrastructure development works in the State during the last three years.

(b) the details of the proposals cleared and the amount disbursed for the same so far;

(c) whether the Government have taken note on the unnecessary delay in clearing the proposals; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government for speedy disposal of such projects ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) The details of the proposals received from Tamil Nadu and sanctioned by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for providing loans for various infrastructure developmental works in the State during the last three years are given below:

Year	Tranche	Number of Projects Sanctioned	
		Rural Roads/ Bridges	Irrigation
1998-1999	RIDF-IV	3	-
1999-2000	RIDF-V	4	2
2000-2001	RIDF-VI	5	2
Total		12	4

(b) The details of the amount sanctioned and disbursed for the last three years are given below:

(Rs. Crore)

Projects covered	RIDF-IV (1998-99)	RIDF-V (1999-2000)	RIDF-VI (2000-2001)
Amount Sanctioned	179.66	255.61	264.68
Disbursements	113.64	114.03	63.50

(c) and (d) The RIDF proposals are to be prepared and submitted by the State Government to NABARD for sanction. NABARD has reported that there has been no instance of undue delay in clearing the projects. As soon as adequate information/necessary clarifications are received from the State Governments, the proposals are sanctioned and intimated to the State Governments.

**Posts Vacant in Indian
Investment Centre**

5206. SHRI A. NARENDRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the category-wise number of posts of SC/ST, and physically handicapped lying Vacant in the Indian Investment Centre and since when;

(b) whether the persons other than the SC/ST working on these posts;

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

(d) whether the Government are taking any steps to fill up these entire backlog; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Category-wise vacancy position is as follows:

GROUP	SC	ST	Physically handi- capped	Remarks
'A'	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
'B'	01	01	Nil	Vacant since 1988
'C'	02	02	Nil	Vacant since 1988
'D'	Nil	Nil	Nil	There are excess SC/ST employees in the Strength due to appointments on compassionate grounds

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Government are currently examining the recommendation of the Expenditure Reforms Commission on downsizing of the Department of Economic Affairs including the Indian Investment Centre. Pending a decision on the above, no vacancies are being filled up.

Import of Tea

5207. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Tea manufacturers are finding it very difficult to compete with other major tea producing countries in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total quantity of tea imported by the country during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise;

(d) whether most of the tea imported by the country is qualitatively inferior; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to effectively combat import of such inferior quality tea in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Indian tea manufactures are facing competition from other tea producing countries like Sri Lanka, Kenya, Indonesia and China due to higher cost of production.

(c) The total quantity of tea imported during the last three years are as follows :-

Country	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kenya	0.11	0.72	0.44	4.61	1.70	15.24

(Quantity in Mn. kgs)
(Value in Rs. Crores)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
U.K.	—	—	0.13	0.91		
U.S.A.	—	—	0.04	0.67		
Indonesia	0.71	4.68	4.36	37.05	3.17	17.65
Bangladesh	0.26	1.53	0.44	2.96	0.49	2.64
Sri Lanka	0.25	2.22	0.39	2.91	2.91	17.42
Nepal	0.20	0.93	0.03	0.21	0.16	0.54
China	0.52	4.15	0.12	0.57	0.22	0.93
Vietnam	0.34	2.41	0.15	1.01	0.48	2.08
Germany	—	—	0.12	0.73	0.04	0.19
U.A.E.	—	—	Negligible	Negligible	0.09	0.45
Iran	—	—	—	—	0.49	1.74
Sierra Leon	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.04
Tanzania	—	—	—	—	0.02	0.15
Others	0.22	1.15	2.71	13.08	—	—
Total	2.61	17.79	8.93	64.71	9.78	59.07

(d) and (e) No Sir. Import of tea is subject to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act (PFA) which state that no person shall import tea into India which is adulterated/misbranded and/or not in conformity with the standards laid down in Appendix B of PFA Rules.

Creation of New Media Council

5208. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the Phenomenal growth of electronic media and internet there is an urgent need for new Media Council in place of Press Council of India.

(b) if so, whether Government are actively considering the proposal of replacing the present Press Council of India by a new body with the representative from every segment.

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether any meeting has been held in this regard and if so, the details of strategy finalised; and

(e) the time by which this new body is likely to be constituted ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) Chairman, Press Council of India, has in November 2000, suggested setting up of a Media Council to cover both Print and Electronic Media. No decision on the said proposal has been taken by the Government as yet.

[Translation]

Rural Banks

5209. SHRI JAI PRAKASH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any study of the programmes run by the Rural Bank of Bangladesh which has been honoured by the peace prize so that such programmes may be introduced/implemented in our country also;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has conducted a few studies on the programme of Bangladesh Grameen Bank. The general pattern followed by the Grameen a Bank are as under:-

- Small homogeneous groups of 8 to 10 beneficiaries are nurtured for developing saving habits and self development through use of credit;
- Four to five such groups are combined to form a bigger group. The group is required to meet once in a week to discuss the group activities and also to share each other's problems;
- Taking into account the savings mobilized by different groups in the first six months of their existence grameen bank supervisors assess the credit needs of different members and depending upon the activities proposed to be undertaken by them provide them credit facility.
- In the beginning, the loan amounts generally range between 500-1000 Takka. The loans are required to be repaid within a period of one year so that the member becomes eligible for next loan in the next year which is generally of a higher amount (1000-2000 Takka). The loan eligibility increase with each passing year and also the growth in savings.
- Cent percent recovery is ensured through the peer pressure since default by any member makes the entire group ineligible for any further financial support;

The cost of the loans is observed to be of less

relevance for the borrowing members as the lending rates of Grameen Bank range between 20 and 30% per annum.

In contrast to the above, in India, keeping in view presence of a large network of Bank branches in the rural areas, the concept of Self Help Group (SHG) - Bank linkage approach with active policy support has been evolved. As on 31st March, 2001 cumulatively 2.63 lakh SHGs were credit linked with 318 banks in the country. This has given a coverage of approximately 44.6 lakh rural poor families accessing financial services from the Banking system in a more cost effective manner. This is increasingly being accepted as the programme of all the banks in the country. The programme has been targeted to reach to at least 6 crore rural poor families by 2007-2008.

[English]

Export of Wheat

5210. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any quota for export of wheat for 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the countries to whom wheat is likely to be exported;

(d) the rate fixed for export of wheat; and

(e) the earning likely to be achieved as a result thereof ?

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

(b) It has been decided to export 50 lakh MTs of wheat, to begin with, from the Central Pool.

(c) Wheat will be exported in the international market.

(d) Wheat will be made available by FCI for exports through the designated Agencies @ Rs. 4300/- per tonne. After 31.5.2001, the price will be determined by the process of open tendering by FCI.

(e) The earnings will depend on the volumes and prices at which wheat is exported.

[Translation]

Swarnajayanti Gram Swarojgar Yojana

5211. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise, target fixed by public sector banks for providing loans under the "Swarnajayanti gram Swarojgar Yojana" during the last three years alongwith the loan actually disbursed;

(b) whether the nationalised banks have rejected a maximum number of applications under this scheme especially in Rajasthan;

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

(d) the steps taken by the Government to providing loans without any difficulty under the above scheme ?

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

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 3557 applications under the SGSY were rejected by the nationalised banks during the year 2000-2001 (upto February, 2001) in the State of Rajasthan out of the 11134 applications. A study conducted by banks reveal that excess sponsoring of applications to the bank branches in relation to the targets, sponsoring of application for non-key activities, sponsoring application of defaulters, etc. have been some of the reasons for rejection of applications.

(d) In order to facilitate obtention of loans under the scheme, RBI has given wide publicity to the scheme. Sensitisation workshops were held with nodal officers of banks. The progress under the scheme is continuously monitored through meetings in various fora like District Consultative Committee and State Level Bankers Committee. Difficulties impeding the progress are discussed in detail in these meetings for taking necessary steps for their removal.

[English]

Export of Wheat

5212. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA :
SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether India's wheat exports have touched 10.6 million tonnes in the year upto March, 2001;

(b) if so, the countries who have purchased this wheat;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom;

(d) whether in view of the great response, India has decided to export additional quantity of wheat; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard with price, quantity and countries ?

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

(b) Wheat has been exported to Bangladesh, Malaysia, Philippines, UAE, Yemen, South Korea, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sudan, Vietnam and Oman.

(c) The total foreign exchange earned was US\$ 165,129,470 (approx).

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) In addition to the ceiling of 20 lakh MTs fixed for the year 2000-2001, Government has decided to export 50 lakh MTs of wheat from the surplus stocks available with it during the years 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 each. Exports for the period 1.4.2001 upto 31.5.2001, will be @ Rs. 4,300/- per MT. All parties will be allowed to lift wheat from the Central Pool for the purpose of export after 31.5.2001. The process of open tendering will determine the price at which the FCI will make available wheat to exporters. The tenders will be invited by FCI. Wheat will be exported to the international market.

Non-Payment of Salaries to the Employees of HMT

5213. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES be pleased to state:

(a) whether employees of HMT Limited in various units of the Country have not been paid their salaries for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor unit-wise; and

(c) the measures taken/propose to be taken by the Government to release their salaries at the earliest ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Foreign Training

5214. DR. MANDA JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India nominates officers for training to the reputed Foreign institutions for improving their academic, managerial and administrative capabilities in the field of General/Public Administration and MBA courses at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad during each of the last three years;

(c) the number of officers belonging to the SC/ST category among such officers sent abroad for the said training abroad; and

(d) the reasons if adequate number of SCs/STs Officers have not been nominated for the said training ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Foreign Training Programmes to which officers of various Services are nominated/deputed by the Deptt. of Economic Affairs for training in foreign countries are under the Technical Cooperation Programmes such as Colombo Plan, Indo-Australia Training and Capacity Building Project in

accordance with various bilateral/multi-lateral arrangements between the donor countries and Govt. of India and the entire cost thereon is borne by the foreign donor country. Under these programmes, the cost of training is not required to be borne by the public exchequer/Government of India. However, since no such funding by the Government of U.K. was forthcoming for the training of officers in U.K. Universities during the year 2000-2001, 26 officers, whose nominations had already been finalized for training in U.K., have been deputed with funding by Government of India (Department of Personnel and Training) for the MBA (Master of Business Administration) Programmes in the University of Hull and the University of Birmingham, and for Queen Elizabeth House Visiting Fellowship at Oxford University.

(b) to (d) The required information is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Section	1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001	
	Total	SC/ ST	Total	SC/ ST	Total	SC/ ST
Colombo Plan	406	75	255	43	183	16
EEC*	28		35		21	
Japan and Australia	179	13	226	25	27	3
Dopt	-	-	-	-	26	7
Fund Bank*	141	-	90	-	43	-
Total	754	88	606	68	300	26

It is not possible to indicate how many of the above mentioned officers selected by the IMF Institute and World Bank Institute/other donor countries belong to SC/ST category mainly because of the following reasons:

*There is no column seeking the caste/tribe/general status of the individual applicant either in the application forms of IMF Institute/World Bank Institute or in the format prescribed by the training division.

*In the absence of any slot(s) for India under the training programmes conducted by IMF Institute/WBI, the

nominations of all eligible officers, irrespective of the fact whether general or reserve, recommended by the sponsoring Ministry/Department /State Government/ Organisation, within the stipulated date, are short listed in this Department based on their eligibility and the relevance of the course to them and the nominations of the short listed candidates are forwarded to the IMF Institute/WBI/ other donor agencies for final selection, which is done by these agencies based on their own parameters. These agencies are not expected to follow the GOI guide lines on reservations, etc.

[Translation]

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

5215. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI:

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

(a) whether the Government have received several complaints regarding misuse of export promotion schemes during the past few years;

(b) if so, the number of cases regarding misuse of these schemes reported during 1998-99 and 1999-2000; and

(c) the amount of loss suffered as result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Government has been receiving some complaints regarding misuse of export promotion schemes from time to time which inter alia include misuse of advance licence, EPCG, DEPB Schemes etc. In addition some complaints have also been received in the past about over-invoicing of exports, mis-declaration, submission of forged documents and suppression of facts etc..

Every such complaints is investigated and dealt with under the provisions of Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992, and Rules and Orders made thereunder. The Customs authorities also take action under Customs Act, 1962 in such cases for recovery of duty and penalty. Enforcement proceedings by DGFT and recovery proceedings by Customs in such cases are at various stages and the position keeps changing.

[English]

Ban on Indian Sugar

5216. SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan has recently banned import of sugar from India;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) its impact on the domestic sugar industry as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, as per information available, letters of credit opened till March 7, 2001 would be honoured.

(b) Pakistan Government imposed the ban on the import of sugar from India reportedly in view of the availability of adequate stock and price stability of sugar in Pakistan.

(c) Due to the ban on import of sugar by Pakistan, the advantage of lower freight in sugar exports to Pakistan would not be available to the domestic sugar exporters.

Suggestions made by the Board of Trade to Enhance Export

5217. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Trade has suggested some measures to increase India's competitiveness in the global market in the wake of lifting of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details of the measures suggested by the BOT to increase India's share in world trade;

(c) the step taken by the Government to improve India's competitiveness to counter China in the world's market;

(d) whether the India's trade and industry would be able to meet the challenges; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (e) The Board of Trade had recommended certain measures to make the Indian economy competitive. These include availability of raw materials at competitive prices, lowering of cost of power and cost of capital, strengthening of Special Economic Zones (SEZ'S), increased efficiency at the ports, computerization of offices to reduce transaction cost etc. The current set of export promotion schemes such as Advance Licence, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme and Duty Free Replenishment Certificate (DFRC) ensure that the raw materials for export products are made available at internationally competitive prices. The SEZ scheme provides for duty free imports/procurement from DTA of goods/machinery for development and setting up of factories in the SEZ's including development of SEZ. DGFT and Customs Houses are being computerized to bring down the transaction costs. These steps are aimed at improving the competitiveness of Indian products in the international market.

Export of Mango

5218. SHRI RAM MOHAN GADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether bumper mango crop is expected this year particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have drawn up an action plan to export the mango to foreign countries to save the farmers from selling their crop for unremunerative prices; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) According to crop forecast report received by the National Horticulture Board, bumper mango crop is expected this year in Krishna district and coastal mango producing belt of Andhra Pradesh.

(b) and (c) The Government have taken various measures for improving quality production and export of mangoes. The steps taken in this regard include the following:

- (i) In order to educate farmers/growers for production of high quality mangoes, integrated training programmes have been initiated for pre and post harvest management in selected mango producing areas and belts in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh and UP. Such training programmes have been organised

in Vijayawada, Ranga Reddy districts and other mango producing belts in Andhra Pradesh for Banganapalli variety. Selected orchards are being monitored for progress in quality improvement. Post harvest manuals have been prepared in regional languages for promotion of mangoes.

- (ii) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially mangoes in overseas markets. Research efforts are on for the use of modern technologies such as Controlled/ Modified Atmosphere technologies in transportation for increasing the shelf-life of perishable fresh fruits including mangoes. This year it is proposed to arrange shipment of mangoes from Andhra Pradesh in Controlled Atmosphere containers. This is expected to reduce freight cost and make exports competitive.
- (iii) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, and strengthening of quality control including installation of latest ISO 9000/HACCP equipments at exports units;
- (iv) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (v) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items including mangoes;
- (vi) Providing technical advisory services and other support services to, trade and industry including of farmers for export production, quality control packaging, transport, etc.

Production of Spices

5219. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of spices in the country during last three years, State-wise and Spices-wise;

(b) the State which has contributed maximum revenue to the Spices Board in terms of excise duty from spices;

- (c) the total revenue earned by the Spices Board;
- (d) the amount out of the total revenue derived by the spices, is being allocated to different State for spices development;
- (e) whether the allocations are disproportionate to revenue realisation; and
- (f) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Board to set right this anomaly ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Statement indicating latest available figures regarding production of major spices in the country during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) States do not contribute directly to the revenue of the Spices Board in terms of excise duty from spices.

(c) Spices Board does not earn any revenue of its own. Government provides budgetary support to the Spices Board for carrying out developmental activities and also the day to day expenses of the Board. Government of India also collects cess on export of spices. The cess collected on export of spices for the last three years is as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Estimated cess collection
1997-98	1134.05
1998-99	1115.62
1999-2000	1012.54

Source: Spices Board.

Apart from releases and grants from Government, the Spices Board generates about Rs. 40-50 lakhs from its internal resources.

(d) to (f) The amount allocated to different States from spices development under Centrally Sponsored Scheme/ Integrated Programme for development of spices for the year 1999-2000 is given below:-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of State	1999-2000
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	253.54
Arunachal Pradesh	87.65

1	2
Assam	42.39
Bihar	73.95
Goa	3.2
Gujarat	94.6
Haryana	85.78
Himachal Pradesh	31.89
Jammu & Kashmir	5.41
Karnataka	361.35
Kerala	872.98
Madhya Pradesh	110.09
Maharashtra	135.23
Manipur	26.85
Meghalaya	48.67
Mizoram	64.56
Nagaland	22.31
Orissa	128.53
Punjab	25.2
Rajasthan	147.9
Sikkim	112.73
Tamil Nadu	234.76
Tripura	43.02
Utter Pradesh	35.7
West Bengal	51.73
Pondicherry	3
A & N Island	20
Total	3123

Source: Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Co-operation.

As may be seen from the above statement Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are the highest recipients of the funds, who are also the major producers and exporters of spices from India.

Statement

(Thousand tonnes)

Item	Year	Kerala	Andhra Pd.	Karna- taka	Orissa	T.Nadu	West Bengal	M.P.	Rajas- than	Arunachal Pd.	Megha- laya	Mizoram	Maha- rashtra	Gujarat	U.P.	Others	All India
Black	1996-97	53.8	-	0.9	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	55.6
Pepper	1997-98	55.52	-	0.92	-	0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.09	57.33
	1998-99	64.34	-	1.04	-	0.52	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.09	65.99
Turmeric	1996-97	9.1	292	26.2	38.5	92	22.5	0.7	0.8	1.2	6.4	3.6	9.2	11	1.7	14	528.9
	1997-98	9.1	273	24.1	62.9	110.7	23.6	0.8	1.4	1	7.1	3.6	9.1	7.4	1.3	14.1	549.2
	1998-99	9.1	308.4	23.6	64.3	126.6	21.5	0.8	0.3	1.1	7	3.6	9.1	7.4	1.4	12.2	598.4
Coriander	1996-97	-	24.5	2.6	5.7	11.2	-	50.8	154.8	-	-	-	-	-	4.5	1.4	255.5
	1997-98	-	28.3	2.9	3.9	8.8	-	73.5	214.9	-	-	-	-	-	3.9	1.5	337.7
	1998-99	-	26.9	2.9	3.9	6.4	-	64.6	179.6	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	1.3	290
Cardamom	1996-97	5.4	-	1.4	-	0.5	0.7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.6	12.6
	1997-98	4.57	-	1.21	-	0.48	0.75	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.64	11.65
	1998-99	5.3	-	1.21	-	0.31	0.69	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.28	8.79
Ginger	1996-97	48.5	9	5.8	10.6	14.5	17.9	5.4	1.1	24.3	46.2	2.8	1	2.2	7	36.2	232.5
	1997-98	49.75	6.77	4.75	25.86	18.22	18.85	5.34	0.65	32.08	45.26	22.18	1.19	2.6	5.41	13.3	252.11
	1998-99	49.95	8.77	5.26	26.91	19.01	18.84	5.57	0.42	31.09	49.06	20.5	1.21	4.76	6.41	17.41	263.17
Chillies	1996-97	0.5	562	161.2	40.7	38.2	49.7	17.4	59.7	1.5	1.1	3.3	59.6	18.8	18.8	34.1	1066.4
	1997-98	0.6	338.3	130.8	72.4	42.4	55.6	23.7	66.4	1.6	1.1	3.3	60.8	21.3	17.1	34.7	870.1
	1998-99	0.6	403.3	142.6	76.6	39.7	51.3	19.7	49.2	1.6	1.1	3.3	57.7	18.2	15.5	40.9	921.3
Garlic	1996-97	-	1.1	3.7	38.6	6.8	-	155.8	31.6	-	-	-	44.6	102	32.2	21.5	437.9
	1997-98	-	1	3.8	50.6	5.9	-	165.8	30.1	-	-	-	43.6	134.2	28.6	20.8	484.4
	1998-99	-	1.1	3.2	55.1	10.6	-	188.8	33.5	-	-	-	43.6	134.2	30.6	17	517.7

Source: Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture

Tax Policy

5220. SHRI K.E.KRISHNAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Board Direct Taxes has received any memorandum from Indian Broadcasting Foundation regarding tax policy being implemented in India is ambiguous and complex nature;

(b) if so, the details of suggestions made in the memorandum; and

(c) the measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b) Following the withdrawal of the circular issued by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) laying down guidelines for presumptive taxation of advertisement income of Foreign Telecasting Companies (FTCs) in India, CBDT has received a proposal from Indian Broadcasting Foundation for introducing a new section in the Income-tax Act to provide a Tax Deduction at Source (TDS) rate of 4.8% on the net advertisement revenue earned from India by FTCs. The above proposal has been made apprehending delays in issuance of withholding certificates for remittance by tax authorities.

(c) CBDT has issued instructions to Chief Commissioner of Income-tax, Delhi and Mumbai to ensure expeditious issuance of such certificates to FTCs u/s 195/197 of Income-tax Act, 1961.

Corporatisation of Stock Exchanges

5221. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to corporatise all stock exchanges;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the other steps proposed to maintain transparency in the market operations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) and (b) With a view to improving institutional mechanisms and

trading practices in stock markets, Government proposes to demutualise stock exchange, by which ownership, management and trading membership would be segregated from each other. This would help towards:

- further professionalisation of the management of the exchanges and elimination of conflict of interests;
- improving adherence to the best practices of Corporate Governance;
- enhancing the ability of stock exchanges to raise funds from the market to modernise the exchanges and provide better investor service.

(c) The other measures proposed to maintain transparency include, inter-alia, appropriate strengthening of SEBI.

Response for DTH Services

5222. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the date when Direct-to-Home services introduced in different cities in the country;

(b) the response to DTH since then;

(c) the approximate number of DTH Customer and the market size of the DTH at the moment;

(d) whether the DTH potential has not been fully tapped;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) the financial packages proposed to be introduced if any to popularise DTH; and

(g) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (g) Government has issued detailed guidelines for operation of Direct-to-Home Services in the country on 15.03.2001. However, no application for issue of licence for DTH Service has been received so far.

Role of EPCs in India's Export

5223. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the role played in India's export efforts by the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, various Export Promotion Councils and the Government officers nominated to the Committee of Administration, Managing or Executive Committees of these Bodies;

(b) whether any guidelines have been issued to reorganise their Articles of Association to become more transparent and members friendly; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and results thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) There are 20 recognised Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) in the country. Federation of Indian Export Organisation (FIEO) is the apex body of EPCs and other Trade Promotion Organisations and its objectives, inter-alia, includes coordinating export promotion activities of its constituent members, to promote the development of export trade etc. Each EPC is responsible for the promotion of a particular group of products, projects and services with the objective to promote and develop the exports of the country. Their main role is to project India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high quality goods and services. In particular, they are charged with the responsibility of encouraging and monitoring the observance of international standards and specifications by exporters and keeping themselves abreast of the trends and opportunities in the international markets with a view to assisting their members in taking optimum advantage of such opportunities in order to expand and diversify exports. Government officers as nominated members to the Committee of Administration, Managing or Executive Committees of these bodies advise them about the need of various exports promotion initiatives required to be taken for promotion of exports of their group of products.

(b) In view of the significant changes that had taken place in the international trade environment in recent years, especially after the conclusion of the Uruguay Round and the establishment of the WTO, it was felt necessary to restructure the EPCs and FIEO with a view to making them more responsive to the needs of their members as well as to introduce greater professionalism for improving

the quality of services being provided to their members. The Government has accordingly prescribed a set to Model Bye Laws/Articles of Association for adoption by EPCs. Draft Model Bye-Laws for adoption by FIEO have been sent to FIEO for their response. Adoption of the Model Bye Law/Articles of Association by EPCs and FIEO will lead to rationalisation of their administrative and election procedures thereby ensuring that real exporters have more effective say in the management of EPCs and FIEO, thus contributing greater efficiency and transparency in their functioning.

(c) Guidelines issued concerning membership norms of EPCs and measures proposed to streamline/strengthen EPCs are:

1. Membership Norms:

With a view to giving the voting rights and right of standing for election to various positions in the EPCs only to such members as are having an established standing over a minimum period of 3 years, it has been stipulated that there will be two categories of members namely: Associate Members and Ordinary Members. A person shall be eligible for admission to the Council as Associate Member on receiving the Import Export Code number from Directorate General of Foreign Trade in respect of the product with which the Council is concerned. An associate member of the Council for atleast three continuous years would be eligible for ordinary membership of the Council provided the company represented by him has to its credit during the three financial years, immediately preceding, average exports in respects of the product of not less than Rs.10 lakh for SSI and Rs. 25 lakh for other than SSI companies. The ordinary member shall have the right to vote at the meetings of the Council and offer himself as a candidate at elections to various positions in the Council.

2. Greater attention to important existing and emerging industry segments:

With a view to giving greater attention to some important segments within an existing industry group and also to provide coverage to commodities or sectors presently not covered by any of the EPCs, creation of a new vehicle

viz. Export Promotion Forum (EPF) has been proposed. Permission for creation of an EPF may be considered on fulfilling the prescribed conditions. However, such permission shall be subject to:

- (i) The members agreeing to build up a corpus of Rs. 1.00 crore when the society is registered which should increase to Rs.3.00 crore within 4 years. The principal amount of the corpus shall be maintained intact and the EPF shall manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fees etc.
- (ii) The members of the EPF shall continue to be members of concerned EPC and shall continue to pay the membership fee to the concerned EPC till such time as the EPF is not converted into an EPC. (This will not be applicable to industry segments not covered under any EPC).
- (iii) The staffing structure should be purely professional and as far as possible, the staff should be engaged on contract terms. The EPF shall meet its administrative expenses from its own resources. No funding shall be provided to them by the Government for this purpose.

Subject to satisfactory performance on the basis of guidelines to be laid down by the Ministry of Commerce, the EPF will be eligible to be converted in a full-fledged EPC on completion of four years of its registration as an EPF. However, in the case of an EPC for industry segments not covered under any existing EPC, there will be no minimum waiting period. On conversion into an EPC, it shall be eligible for MDA grants for its export promotion activities only. It shall also be entitled to all other benefits/facilities available to the existing EPCs.

3. Principles to be adopted by existing EPCs:

Guidelines have been issued to the existing EPCs to engage the staff on contract terms as far as possible and to make the staffing

structure purely professional over a period of five years. The existing EPCs have also been advised to build up a minimum corpus of Rs. 3 crore over a period of five years as applicable to the EPFs and to maintain the principal amount of the corpus intact and to manage its expenses from the interest earnings, membership fee etc.

4. Umbrella EPF for service industry:

For important segments of Services Industry, an Umbrella EPF may be constituted. As and when individual service export industry builds up adequate demand and resources for a separate EPF, it may be allowed to break away from Umbrella EPF.

5. Creation of a Service Cell:

A Service Cell may be created in the Ministry to provide focussed attention to the needs of service industries with an export potential. The Service Cell would also, inter-alia, advise regarding constitution of EPFs for individual service sectors.

6. Election:

It shall be the responsibility of the EPCs to ensure that the elections for the vacant seats are conducted well before the expiry of the term of the retiring members. The elected members shall automatically retire on the completion of their tenures.

7. Voting Rights:

Only elected members of the Managing Committee of EPCs shall have voting rights and the nominated/co-opted members shall not have such rights.

The Model Bye-Laws/Articles of Association sent to EPCs have already been adopted by 10 EPCs (Capexil, G and J EPC, Shellac EPC, OCCI, SGEPC, Plastics EPC, TEXPROCIL, Indian Silk EPC, SRTEPC, Handloom EPC), 9 EPCs (Cashew EPC, CLE, ESCEPS, EEPC, Powerloom Development EPC, Carpet EPC, AEPC, EPC for Handicrafts, W and WEPC) are in the process of adopting

these Model Bye-Laws/Articles of Association. Basic Chemicals, Pharmaceutical and Cosmetics Export Promotion Council. Mumbai has not so far intimated its stand regarding adoption of Model Articles of Association/ Bye-Laws. The Department is in touch with them for early adoption of Model Articles of Association/Byelaws.

[Transiation]

Export of Leather and Leather Products

5224. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Government to promote the export of leather and leather products; and

(b) the details of target and achievements with regard to the production, domestic consumption and export of leather and leather products during each of the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At the initiative of the Government, the Council for Leather Exports has formulated a plan for a more focussed approach for exports of leather products by identifying specific products to be marketed in specific countries.

(b) The details of indicative target and achievement with regard to export of leather and leather products are given below:

Exports

(Value in Million US\$)

Period	Finished Leather		Leather Footwear		Footwear Components		Leather Garments		Leather Goods		Non-Leather Footwear		Details	
	Target	Export	Target	Export	Target	Export	Target	Export	Target	Export	Target	Export	Target	Export
1997-98 (%Achieve ment.)	311	295.83	397	281.90	246	240.48	476	425.21	350	413.28	NF	15.21	1780	1656.69
		95%		71%		98%		89%		118%				93%
1998-99 (%Achieve ment.)	305	264.67	327	320.25	264	237.72	438	376.66	443	438.07	NF	17.52	1777	1637.37
		87%		98%		90%		84%		99%				92%
1999-2000 (%Achieve ment.)	250	238.79	250	330.80	280	229.49	380	318.56	540	420.75	25	37.73	1725	1576.12
		96%		132%		82%		84%		78%		150%		91%

No such target are fixed for production and domestic consumption.

[English]

Bank Loan for Power GRID

5225. SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has extended a partial credit guarantee for commercial loan sanctioned to the State Governments by ABN Amro Bank for power GRIDS;

(b) If so, the amount of loan sanctioned to the State Government so far; and

(c) the manner in which such loan is likely to be used ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

Eastern Coalfields Limited

5226. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether BIFR has declared the public sector Eastern Coalfields as sick and asked the State Bank of India to examine the viability of the company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total accumulated loss of the company at present as against the total net worth;

(d) whether the State Bank of India has started evaluation of the ailing company and measures for rehabilitation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and time by which SBI is likely to come out with the rehabilitation and viability package ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL) has been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) vide its order dated 23rd February, 2001. State Bank of India (SBI) has been appointed as Operating Agency (OA) to examine the viability of the company. The promoters were directed to submit a comprehensive rehabilitation scheme within four weeks. If the proposal of the company is found viable, the OA would hold a joint meeting to evolve an agreed package and submit its report to BIFR within eight weeks.

(c) The total accumulated losses of the company as on 31st March 2000 were Rs. 2929.31 crores against net worth of Rs. 2227.77 crores.

(d) and (e) State Bank of India has reportedly received a Rehabilitation Scheme from ECL. The Bank (OA) is making all efforts to evolve a rehabilitation and viability package expeditiously.

Expenditure Reforms Commission

5227. SHRI A. NARENDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Expenditure Reforms Committee (ERC)

has submitted its reports to the Government in regard to Indian Investment Centre;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendation made in the report;

(c) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations suggested by the Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) The Expenditure Reforms Commission (ERC) has presented reports concerning restructuring of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) in the Ministry of Finance. This report also covers the redefined role, functions and restructuring of the Indian Investment Centre (IIC). The recommendations of the ERC are under the consideration of the Government.

Irregularities in NCCF

5228. SHRI SHEES RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irregularities and corruption are taking place in the sale and purchase of stationery and other items and selection of suppliers in the National Cooperative Consumers Federation;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal to separate the stationery Department from this organisation from the main bodies and to corporatise them for direct proper control and supervision of the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the number of complaints received from the Government departments by the Government relating to supply of poor quality goods/items, higher rates, lack of consumer satisfaction etc. during each of the last three years and the action taken thereon;

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

(b) and (c) There is no such proposal under contemplation of the Government at this stage.

(d) The NCCF has informed that they have not received any major complaint from the Government Departments relating to supply of poor quality of goods, charging of higher rates and lack of consumer satisfaction etc. during the last three years.

Meeting of Heads of Banks

5229. SHRI G. PUTTA SWAMY GOWDA:

SHRI THIRUNAVUKARASU:

SHRI C. SREENIVASAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister held a meeting of all the heads of public sector banks recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the points which were discussed in the meeting;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India's failure to effectively monitor the performance of Cooperative Banks such as Madhavpura Cooperative Mercantile Bank was also discussed in the meeting; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) Finance Minister addressed a meeting of the Chief Executives of all the public sector banks organised by Indian Banks' Association on 7th April, 2001 in New Delhi. The following points were inter alia discussed in the above meeting:

- (i) Management of Non Performing Assets (NPAs) with particular reference to the recoveries under One Time Settlements Scheme of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- (ii) Manpower Planning and Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) in public sector banks.
- (iii) Recruitment Procedures after abolition of Banking Service Recruitment Boards (BSRBs).
- (iv) Priority Sector Lending with particular reference to Agriculture Credit and the Kisan Credit Card Scheme.

(v) Customer service in public sector banks and impact of VRS thereon.

(c) The impact on Banks of recent developments in the Stock Market including the failure of Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank to honour its Pay Orders discounted by Bank of India, were also discussed in the meeting.

(d) RBI is issuing fresh guidelines regarding exposure of banks to stock market and brokers. Banks were asked to streamline and tighten their internal controls against settlement risks and counter party risks and ensure complete adherence to RBI exposure norms regarding stock market.

Banning Use of Gelatin

5230. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many countries like USA, China have banned use of Gelatin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several States including Andhra Pradesh have requested to amend the Indian Explosive Act, 1884 and rules thereunder to stop manufacture and banning use Gelatin based explosive in favour of slurry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) and (b) As per available information Nitro-Glycerine based Gelatin Explosives have not been banned in countries like USA and China.

(c) and (d) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh alone has requested the Central Government to amend the Explosives Act, 1884 and the Rules thereunder to ban manufacture, sale and use of Nitro-Glycerine based explosives in favour of slurry.

Given the special and continued usage of Nitro-Glycerine based explosives in high precision, under water and low temperature situations, an immediate ban may not

be feasible. The long term phasing out of Nitro-Glycerine based Explosives is being examined by a Committee consisting of Chief Controller of Explosives and Chairman, Development, Council for Explosives Industry in consultation with all concerned. In addition, the Chief Controller of Explosives has been asked to examine in the short term the proposal of banning the sale and use of Nitro-Glycerine based explosives in Andhra Pradesh in consultation with various stake holders.

Tax Deducted at Source by MNCs

5231. SHRI ASHOK N. MOHOL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 103 multinational companies have not deducted tax at source in respect of part of the salaries paid to their employees abroad for services rendered in India during the financial year 1998-99;

(b) if so, the amount of tax evaded by these companies alongwith the names of such companies;

(c) the amount out of total tax evaded recovered so far;

(d) the further steps being taken by the Government to recover the entire amount of tax from these companies;

(e) whether any inquiry has also been conducted in this regard; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) During the financial year 1998-99, it was noticed that a number of multinational companies did not deduct tax at source in respect of part of the salaries paid to their employees abroad for services rendered in India.

(b) to (d) The entire amount of tax, including statutory interest thereon, amounting to more than Rs. 640 crores has already been recovered by the Income Tax Department. The names of the companies are given in enclosed statement.

(e) and (f) Surveys u/s 133A of the Income Tax Act, 1961, have been conducted on a number of multinational companies. Statutory interest has also been charged in all the cases. Further, penalty u/s 271C of the Act for failure

to deduct tax at source has since been levied in a number of such cases, wherever applicable.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Company
1	2
1.	All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd.,
2.	M/s Anritsu Corporation
3.	M/s I.H.I.
4.	M/s Denso India
5.	M/s Fuji Bank Ltd.
6.	M/s EPDC
7.	M/s Japan Broadcasting Cor.
8.	M/s Ericsson Communication Pvt. Ltd.
9.	M/s Alcatel Modi Networks Systems
10.	M/s Alcatel South Asia Pacific Ltd.
11.	M/s Cegelec India Ltd.
12.	M/s Cegelec India Ltd. (Noida Office)
13.	M/s Hyundai Engg. and Constn. Co.
14.	M/s Daewoo Motors India Ltd.
15.	M/s Banque Pariba
16.	M/s Aeroflot
17.	M/s Japan Radio Co. Ltd.
18.	M/s Asahi Glas Co. Ltd.
19.	M/s Casio Bharti Mobile Communication Ltd.
20.	M/s Fujitsu Limited
21.	M/s Itochu Corporation
22.	M/s Chori Co. Ltd.
23.	M/s Escorts Yamaha Motors Ltd.

1	2
24.	M/s Fuji Photo Film (Singapore)
25.	M/s Hitachi Cables Ltd.
26.	M/s Exedy Ceekay Ltd.
27.	M/s Honda Motors Co.
28.	M/s Kenwood
29.	M/s Juky Singapore
30.	M/s Hitachi India Trading Pvt. Ltd.
31.	The Bank of Tokyo
32.	The Sakura Bank Ltd.
33.	Japan Airlines
34.	M/s Sanwa Bank Ltd. New Delhi
35.	M/s National Panasonic
36.	M/s Nissho Iwai Corpn.
37.	M/s Mitsubishi Corpn.
38.	LG Electronics
39.	M/s Samsung Electronics
40.	M/s Commercial Bank of Korea Ltd.
41.	M/s Bank of Nova Scotia
42.	M/s Nokia Pvt. Ltd.
43.	M/s Liffhansa Airlines
44.	M/s Tokyo Motors Corpn.
45.	M/s Sony India Pvt. Ltd.
46.	M/s Sony Gulf
47.	M/s Sony Corpn. Ltd.
48.	M/s SWS India Holding Ltd.
49.	M/s Sumi Motherson Innovative Engg. Ltd.
50.	M/s Sumi Motherson Integrated Technologies Ltd.

1	2
51.	M/s Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd.
52.	M/s NEC Corpn.
53.	M/s Marubeni Corpn. New Delhi
54.	M/s YKK India Pvt. Ltd.
55.	M/s Mitsui Construction Co. Ltd.
56.	M/s Mitsui Kensetsu India Pvt. Ltd.
57.	M/s TS Tech Co. Ltd.
58.	M/s Sumitomo Corpn.
59.	M/s Sandan Vikas India Ltd.
60.	M/s Toshiba Corpn.
61.	M/s Marubeni Corpn. Project Office
62.	M/s Marubeni India Pvt. Ltd.
63.	M/s Mitsui Marine and Fire Insurance Co. Ltd.
64.	M/s Terumo Corpn.
65.	M/s Mitsubishi Electronic Corpn. India Liaison Office
66.	M/s Showa Corpn. (Munjai)
67.	M/s Morirqko Corpn. Ltd.
68.	M/s Mitsui and Co.
69.	M/s Keihn Corpn.
70.	M/s Subros Ltd.
71.	M/s Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd.
72.	M/s Riso Kagako Corpn.
73.	M/s Kenwood Corpn.
74.	M/s Lumax Industries Ltd.
75.	M/s Yasuda Fire and Marine Insurance Co. Ltd.
76.	M/s Matsushita Television and Audio India Ltd.

1	2
77.	M/s Satake Corpn.
78.	M/s Matsushita Electric works Ltd. (National Panasonic)
79.	M/s Nissho Iwai Corpn. (Bombay Office)
80.	M/s Toyota Tsusho Corpn.
81.	M/s Pioneer Electric Corpn.
82.	M/s Sumitomo Electric Industries Ltd.
83.	M/s ICI India Ltd.
84.	Nomura Trading Co. Ltd.
85.	Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd.
86.	Kinsho Matai-chi Corporation
87.	Sumikin Bussan Corporation
88.	The Asahi Bank Ltd.
89.	The Sumitomo Marine and Fire Insurance Corpn.
90.	The Sumitomo Bank Ltd.
91.	Nichimen Corpn.
92.	Tomen Corpn.
93.	Hitachi G. Motor Eng. Ltd.
94.	Sakura Capital Market
95.	M/s Kawasho Corpn.
96.	M/s Nagase and Co. Ltd.
97.	M/s Murate Machinery Ltd.
98.	BPL Sanyo Ltd.
99.	BPL Sanyo Finance
100.	Yokagawa Bluestar
101.	Indo Nissin Foods Ltd.
102.	Juki Singapore Ltd.
103.	Hitachi Koki.

Insurance Scheme for Journalists

5232. DR. JASWANT SINGH YADAV:

SHRI SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV:

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

(a) whether the Government have announced insurance cover scheme for journalists;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (c) It is proposed to set up a Journalists Welfare Fund. The objective of the fund is to provide relief to the family of journalists who suffer loss of life or disability due to unnatural causes during the course of their duty. The details of the operation of the fund are being worked out.

Revamp of Information Management System

5233. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUNAPPA

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJ

SHRI SHIVAJI MANE

SHRI M. V. V. S. MURTHI

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI

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

(a) whether in view of the militant violence in Kashmir, the Government are all set to revamp its information management system in a big way;

(b) if so, whether the Kashmir Media Cell likely to be revived;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main reasons for this revamp; and

(e) by what time, this process is likely to be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) to (e) All the Media Units of Ministry of Information and Broadcasting as also Prasar Bharati are engaged in carrying out responsibilities for dissemination of information regarding the policies and schemes of the Government amongst the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Under the J and K special package, expansion and upgradation of AIR and Doordarshan establishments is under implementation, which will increase the electronic media coverage in border areas. Doordarshan has launched the Kashmir Channel on 26.1.2000. Special programmes are launched by Media Unites to counter the propaganda from hostile countries and to maintain communal harmony and peace in the State. Though no Kashmir Media Cell has been formed in the Ministry, it is the constant endeavour of the Government to make its information management system more effective.

[Translation]

NPA of Finance Institutions

5234. SHRI RAMJILAL SUMAN :

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount outstanding in the form of non-performing assets of the Government financial institutions as on date;

(b) the details of the efforts made and the amount recovered as a result thereof during the year 2000-2001; and

(c) The proposed scheme to recover the remaining amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Non Performing Assets (NPAs) of Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) viz. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), IFCI Ltd., ICICI Ltd. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), and Industrial Investment Bank of India (IIBI) for the financial year ending March 2000 (latest available) Rs. 16959 crores.

(b) As and when an Asset on completion of 180 days starts defaulting on interest payment and/or on

completion of 365 days starts defaulting on principal, it is classified as NPAs. Amount realised out of NPAs is mostly through One Time settlement (OTS). The amount received out of OTS cases during the year ending March 2000 (latest available) was Rs. 1214.99 (excluding IFCI).

(c) The Government of India and RBI have advised banks/Financial Institutions to take several steps for recovery of their dues i.e. framing and implementation of Recovery Policy by banks, filing of suits with civil courts, filing cases with Debt Recovery Tribunals, compromise settlement through Settlement Advisory Committees and monitoring and follow up of non performing accounts.

[English]

Impact of Food Subsidy on BPL

5235. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has reduced the food subsidy;

(b) if so, the details during 2000-2001 as compared to last three years and the effect thereof on the below poverty line population; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure that the families below Poverty Line of the country are not burdened ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The total food subsidy released during the last four years to the FCI as well as to the State Governments under decentralized procurement has increased. The consumer subsidy under BPL category from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 has increased by 171.58% as is evident from the details of subsidy from 1997-98 to 2000-2001 given below:

(Rs. in crores)

	97-98	98-99	99-2000	2000-01
1	2	3	4	5
BPL	—	1828.72	3985.34	4966.40
APL	5735.30	3712.90	1607.81	—

1	2	3	4	5
Others	—	482.40	486.78	1836.90
Arrears	828.00	1123.67	1123.67	1498.57
Buffer	936.70	1552.31	1753.71	3740.13
Total	7500.00	8700.00	9200.00	12042.00

(c) To ensure further that BPL population of the country is not burdened, the following steps have also been taken:

- (i) The CIP of wheat and rice were revised downwards from 25.7.2000;
- (ii) The allocation of foodgrains for BPL families @ 20 kg per family per month is now been made on the basis of population projections of the Registrar General as on 1.3.2000 instead of projected population of 1995;
- (iii) Food grains at BPL rates are available for allotment to State Government @ 5kg per head per month for covering categories of indigent people living in welfare institutions such as beggar homes, hostels for SC/ST/Backward Students/Nari Niketan etc., sponsored by the State Governments and the concerned administrative Ministry of the Government of India. Foodgrains can now be allocated, under the Annapoorna scheme, to indigent old persons even in the case of those receiving old age pension from the State Governments;
- (iv) Foodgrains at CIP applicable for BPL families will be allocated for welfare schemes implemented by the various Ministers of the Government of India;
- (v) Food grains will be allocated for development schemes (where the beneficiaries belong to BPL category), implemented by NGOs sponsored by the State Governments and endorsed by the administrative Ministry in the Government of India, as also by International Organisations like the World Food Programme;
- (vi) Government have also launched Antyodya

Anna Yojana on 25.12.2000 under this scheme Government will release wheat and rice @Rs. 2/- and Rs.3/- per kg respectively subject to 25 kg per family per month to approximate one crore poorest families all over the country, and the State Governments have accordingly been requested to identify these families.

CBI Raid on Income-Tax Officials

5236. SHRI KIRIT SOMAIYA:

COL. (RETD.) SONA RAM CHOUDHARY:

SHRI RAMANAIDU DAGGUBATI;

SHRI B. VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether CBI raided some Income Tax Officials in the second week of March, 2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of the raids;

(c) the number of raids conducted by CBI on the Income Tax Officers during the last three years;

(d) whether it is a fact that the number of such corrupt officials in income tax, customs and excise departments are on the increase;

(e) if so, whether there is any machinery excluding departmental to check the misuse of official powers by these officials; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the step being taken by the Government to keep check on the assets of these officials ?

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

(b) Raids were conducted on one Addl.CIT and one ITO on 6.3.2001 and 13.3.2001 respectively. Both the Officers have been placed under suspension.

(c)	Year	Number of raids
	1998-1999	7
	1999-2000	7
	2000-2001	

(d) The available data (number of disciplinary cases and prosecution) do not show that the number of corrupt officials in these departments is on the increase.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Department of Supervision of NABARD

5237. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NABARD management has taken a decision to shift the office of the Department of Supervision (DoS) from Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh to Mumbai;

(b) if so, the reasons for such decision;

(c) the area of jurisdiction of this DoS; and

(d) its impact on the regular work in the area, of its jurisdiction ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it proposes to shift the Department of Supervision (DoS) to Mumbai to ensure close proximity to all Head office departments and to have a coordinated approach for efficient functioning of the bank.

(c) and (d) The jurisdiction of DoS, Head Office is all-India in nature and is concerned with matters relating to policy, monitoring of the inspections, ensuring quality of supervision, capacity building of staff of DoS besides coordinating with the various other head office departments of NABARD and Department of Banking Supervision and Rural Planning and Credit Department of Reserve Bank of India. The shifting of the head Office of DoS, NABARD would in no way affect the functioning of other work of NABARD.

Working of Public Sector Banks

5238. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) wheather Devidayala Committee which was set up to review the working of the public sector banks has submitted its report;

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

(c) the suggestion made by the Committe on the weak banks; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) Government of India had set up on December 22, 2000, a High Level Group headed by Shri S.P. Talwar, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to examine the restructuring plans prepared by three weak banks viz. Indian Bank, UCO Bank and United Bank of India The report of the High Level Group has been submitted on 31st January, 2001 to the Government.

(b) and (c) The Group considered various options and concluded that restructuring of the weak banks with requisite capital infusion by the Government of India is the best alternative for turn-around of the three weak nationalized banks. It has, inter-alia, recommended recapitalisation assistance of Rs.2300 crores over two years for the three weak banks to enable them to achieve/ maintain prescribed capital adequacy ratio.

(d) The recommendations of the Group are under examination of the Government.

[Translation]

Charging of Money by SBI on Cheque Books

5239. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several banks including the State Bank of India have started charging money for providing facilities like free cheque books to customers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the names of banks which are charging money for such facilities provided to customers and the directions issued by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check for charging money in the arbitrary manner by the banks in the name of privatization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c)

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in September 1999 have given freedom to banks to prescribe their individual service charges for various services rendered by them with the approval of their Board of Directors. However, banks have been advised by RBI that while fixing service charges, they should ensure that charges are reasonable and not out of tune with the average cost of providing these services. They should take care to ensure that the customers with low volume of activities are not penalized.

[English]

Growth Rate

5240. SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the growth rate proposed by the Government for the next two years and the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the same;

(b) the sectors of Indian economy in which growth rate is more than the national average growth during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the sectors which has less growth than the national average growth during the last three years, year-wise and steps being taken/proposed to be taken to achieve optimum growth in these sectors; and

(d) the growth rate achieved by the country during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (d) Growth targets are not fixed annually. However, the annual average growth target for the Ninth Five-Year Plan (1997-2002) is fixed at 6.5 percent. The Planning Commission has just initiated the exercises for formulating the Tenth Five-year Plan (2002-2007). The sector wise and overall growth in real gross domestic product during the last three years is given in the statement attached. The trends in the economy are closely monitored and under constant review and appropriate measures taken in the light of emerging trends as and when necessary. The various economic reforms undertaken and policy measures contained in the Budget 2001-2002 particularly in the area of agriculture and rural development, infrastructure, financial sector,

external sector, fiscal management, taxation, structural reforms etc. are expected to have a favourable impact on the overall growth and sectoral profile of the growth as well.

Statement

*Sectoral real growth rates in GDP (at factor cost)
(percentage change over the previous year)*

Item	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
	(P)	(Q)	(A)
I. Agriculture and allied	7.1	0.7	0.9
II. Industry	3.4	6.4	6.6
1. Mining and quarrying	1.3	1.7	4.5
2. Manufacturing	2.5	6.8	6.4
3. Electricity, gas and water supply	6.4	5.2	5.6
4. Construction	6.1	8.1	8.7
III. Services	8.2	9.6	8.3
5. Trade, hotel, transport and communications	7.1	8.0	8.0
6. Financial, real estate and business services	8.4	10.1	9.6
7. Community, social and personal services	9.9	11.8	7.6
IV. Total GDP	6.6	6.4	6.0

A: Advance estimate; Q: Quick estimates; P: Provisional

Resignation of Elected Members of Calcutta Stock Exchange

5241. SHRI SHEESH RAM SINGH RAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the elected members from Calcutta Stock Exchange have resigned and there is a proposal for separating the governance of the bourses from the trading activities; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has intimated that eight elected members of the Committee of Culcutta Stock Exchange (CSE) tendered their resignation on March 30, 2001. One other elected member of the Committee, who was declared a defaulter, had already resigned. With these resignations, the Board of the Exchange now consists of the Executive Director and nine non-elected Directors.

With a view to improving institutional mechanisms and trading practies in the Stock Markets, Government proposes to demutualise all stock exchANGES, by which ownership, management and trading membership would be segregated from each other.

Eleventh Finance Commission's Recommendations

5242. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Maharashtra alongwith the other States Chief Ministers have submitted a joint memorandum to the Prime Minister on August 21, urging him to reject the recommendation of the Eleventh Finance Commission which they claimed as indiscriminatory to the States with good financial management;

(b) if so, whether the number of other States including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu had also submitted the memorandum to the Prime Minister in this regard;

(c) if so, whether some of the State Governments had called a meeting of Chief Ministers showing displeasure with the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission;

(d) if so, the steps Government has taken to mitigate their grievances;

(e) whether any amendments are being considered so that the views of the Chief Ministers are accommodated in the Eleventh Finance Commission; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALA SAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The Finance Commission makes an assessment of finances of each State, on the basis of historical data made available to it. While working out the scheme of devolution of funds to States, the Finance Commission has to keep in view the vertical equity between the Centre and States as well as the horizontal equity amongst the States Keeping in mind also the needs of each State.

The Government of India has accepted the recommendations of Eleventh Finance Commission as contained in its main report 2000-05.

The Eleventh Finance Commission in its supplementary report on additional terms of reference has recommended constitution of an Incentive Fund for release of fiscal performance based grants to all States. Pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission, the guidelines on 'The States Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05)' have been circulated to the States.

STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4025 DATED AUGUST 18, 2000 REGARDING "SETTING UP OF NEW AIR/DD KENDRAS"

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : The error in the above mentioned question was noticed on 8th January, 2001. Therefore, it was not possible to lay a correcting Statement in the House during the Monsoon Session or the Winter Session.

The correcting Statement is now being laid on the Table of the House in the current Session of Parliament.

In reply to part (c) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4025 answered on 18th August, 2000, the following was stated:

"For the 9th plan period, 103 radio stations including relay transmitters and 259 new TV transmitters were proposed to be set up. These projects were in addition to the spill over projects of the 8th plan."

The corrected part (c) of the reply will now read as:

"For the 9th plan period, 18 new radio stations including relay transmitters and 259 new TV transmitters were proposed to be set up. These projects were in addition to the spill over projects of the 8th plan."

The inconvenience caused to the Lok Sabha is regretted.

(Interruptions)

12.01 hours

(At this stage, Sardar Buta Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

(Interruptions)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Export and Import Policy (1 April, 1997-31 March, 2002) (incorporating amendments made upto 31st March, 2001)(Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3550/2001]

- (2) A copy of the Handbook of Procedures (volumes 1) (1 April, 1997- 31March, 2002) (incorporating amendments made upto 31st March 2001) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3551/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): Sir, I Beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Coffee Board General Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules 2001 (Hindi and English versions) published in notification No. G.S.R. 120 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2001, under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Coffee Act, 1942.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3552/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.
- (ii) Annual Report of the National Centre for Trade Information, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3553/2001]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II) for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council and Export Inspection Agencies (Volume-I and II) for the year 1999-2000.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3554/2001]

- (6) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the State Trading Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3555/2001]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Department of Commerce, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3556/2001]

- (iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the PEC Limited and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Commerce, for the year 2001-2002.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3557/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune for the 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Automotive Research Association of India, Pune 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-3558/2001]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Thane, for the year 1999-2000.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3559/2001]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cement and Building Materials, New Delhi, for the year 1999-2000.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3560/2001]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873:-

- (i) The Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (ii) The Post Office Recurring Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 152 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (iii) The Post office (Monthly Income Account) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 153 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001.

- (iv) The National Saving Scheme (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 154 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3561/2001]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3)

of section 12 of the Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959:-

- (i) The Kisan Vikas Patra (Amendment) Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 155 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001
- (ii) The National Saving Certificates (VIII Issue) Amendment Rules, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 156 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3562/2001]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Rule 6 of the Post Office Savings Account Rules, 1981:-

- (i) S.O. 190(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1(E) dated the 1st January, 1999.
- (ii) S.O. 191(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001 notifying the reduced rate of interest in respect of the schemes.

[Placed in Library See No.LT-3563/2001]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 192 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001 notifying the rate of interest applicable on the subscriptions made to the fund on or after the 1st March, 2001 issued under section 5 of the Public Provident Fund Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3564/2001]

- (5) A copy of the Notification No. F.No. 18-3/2000-NS.II (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001 making certain amendment in the Deposit Scheme for retiring Government Employees, 1989.

[Placed in Library . See No.LT-3565/2001]

- (6) A copy of the Notification No. F.No. 18-3/2000-NS.II (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2001 making certain amendment in the Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies, 1991.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3566/2001]

- (7) 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. No. 219 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Hydrozyl Amine Sulphate, originating in or exported from the United States of America, Japan and the European Union from the date on which provisional anti-dumping duty was imposed.
- (ii) G.S.R. No. 220 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 125/2000-Cus. dated the 29th September, 2000
- (iii) G.S.R. No. 230(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Choline Chloride, originating in or exported from China PR and the European Union.
- (iv) G.S.R. No. 240 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to prescribe the rates of additional duty of customs on alcoholic liquors.
- (v) G.S.R. No. 251 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Analgin, originating in or exported from the China PR and Taiwan.

- (vi) G.S.R. No. 252 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on High Styrene Butadiene Copolymer/ High Styrene Resin/Rubber (HSR), originating in or exported from Poland and territory of European Union, and imported into India, as recommended by the designated authority.
- (vii) G.S.R. No. 253 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on Zinc Oxide, originating in or exported from the China PR.
- (viii) G.S.R. No. 254 (E) published in gazette of India dated the 9th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-dumping duty as per the recommendation of the designated authority, on the lead acid batteries, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea and Japan and imported into India.
- (ix) G.S.R. No. 257 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose provisional anti-dumping duty on partially oriented Yarn (POY) of polysters, originating in or exported from Taiwan, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia and imported into India.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3567/2001]

- (8) A copy each of the following Notification (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

- (i) G.S.R. No. 161 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making

certain amendments in the Notification No. 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999.

- (ii) The Central Excise (Fourth Amendment) Rule, 2001 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 183 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 2001 together with explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) G.S.R. 191 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/2001-CE, 9/2001-CE dated the 1st March, 2001.
- (iv) G.S.R. 211 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2001 seeking to exempt Cement and Steel, supplied for reconstruction or repair of private buildings-residential or non-residential in the earthquake affected areas in the State of Gujarat, from the whole of the Excise Duty leviable thereon.
- (v) G.S.R. 238 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in three Notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3568/2001]

- (9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R. 223 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus, dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (ii) G.S.R. 239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2001 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in these Notification No. 17/2001-Cus, dated the 1st March, 2001.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT-3569/2001]

(Interruptions)

Public Distribution (Ministry of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution).

12.02 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR AND
WELFARE ELEVENTH, TWELFTH AND
THIRTEENTH REPORTS

[Translation]

DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH (Bhind) Mr. Deputy
Speaker, Sir, I beg to present one copy each of the
following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the
Standing Committee in Labour and Welfare :

1. Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Labour.
2. Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.
3. Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(Interruptions)

12.2¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CIVIL
SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Tenth and Eleventh Reports and Minutes

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) :
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move the following
Report and Minutes (Hindi and English Version) of the
Standing Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public
Distribution:-

1. Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Consumer Affairs, (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution)
2. Eleventh Reports on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Food and

12.2½

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN AND
RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Twenty-first, Twenty-second, Twenty-third, Twenty-
fourth and Twenty-fifth Reports**

[English]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir I
beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English
versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban and Rural
Development (2001):-

- (1) Twenty first Report on Demends for grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Drinking Water Supply (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (2) Twenty Second Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (3) Twenty Third Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Urban Development (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation).
- (4) Twenty Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Urban Employment and Poverty Alleviation (Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation).
- (5) Twenty Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).

12.2¾ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND
TECHNOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT
AND FORESTS

Eighty-eighth and Eighty-ninth Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKALIA
(Junagarh): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of

the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

- (1) Eighty-eighth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Ocean Development.
- (2) Eighty-ninth Report on Demands for Grants (2001-2002) of the Department of Science and Technology.

(Interruptions)

12.03 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Pramod Mahajan.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 23rd April, 2001 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants of the following Ministry/Department:-
 - (i) Ministry of Rural Development
 - (ii) Department of Disinvestment
3. Submission to the Vote of the House outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2001-2002 at 6 p.m. on Tuesday the 24th April, 2001 and introduction, consideration and passing of the related Appropriation Bill.
4. Consideration and passing of the Finance Bill 2001.
5. Further Consideration and passing of the

Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmer's Rights Bill, 2000 as reported by Joint Committee.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (Balaghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following subjects should be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Landing of helicopters in naxal infested areas of Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh is suspicious and seems to be part of a conspiracy. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to issue a white paper in this regard.
2. W.W.F. International has admitted of having committed the offence of publishing an erroneous map of India. Therefore, the Union Government is requested to start legal proceedings against W.W.F. International. The Union Government should ensure that such an action is taken against them and issues of national honour should not be ignored.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following subjects may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. A fresh survey should be conducted to identify the people living below the poverty line and such people should be issued cards. One member of such family should be employed in a Government or Semi-Government organisation and each of such family should be provided loans to start some business enterprise.
2. All the educated unemployed, who have crossed the age of 35 should be given employment in Government or Semi-Government organisation before they turn 40 and a scheme of providing educated persons bank loans between Rs. 3 lakh to 5 lakh at 4% interest should be implemented.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now the House will take up 'Zero-Hour'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH (Satna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Satna district is severely affected from drought and drinking water crisis. Drinking water crisis is most acute there...(Interruptions) I request the Government of India to make arrangement of drinking water in Satna district through the Government of Madhya Pradesh. . . (Interruptions) Satna city is facing unprecedented drinking water crisis. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p.m.

12.06 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Fifteen of the Clock*

15.00 hours

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fifteen
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twentieth Report

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Item No.10(a), Shri Pramod Mahajan.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): I beg to present the Twentieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH (Jalore) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Government has failed to defend our country. Our own Jawans are being killed within the country...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with the Chair. Now we have to pass the Railway Budget.

[Translation]

SARDAR BUTA SINGH : We have been repeatedly raising the issue, but Government is not responding. This Government has become deaf...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI A. C. JOS (Trichur): You should listen to our difficulties also...(Interruptions) You have to protect us.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : We would like to have the Government's response on this. Did they have any rethinking on this ? We are saying that through the democratic process...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Is passing of the Budget by the House not an important business ?

(Interruptions)

SHR MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There has to be 'give and take' between the Opposition and the Treasury Benches. That has always been the case. There can be no absolute use of power. Democracy is virtually a partnership. It is the give and take. There can not be absolute use of power. In the past also there have been precedents when the JPC was established when Parliament was not even in Session. There have been such precedents...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : If we are not allowed to speak in Parliament where else we can speak.

MR. SPEAKER : What has happened to you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been past precedents when the JPC had been established in spite of the fact whether the Government enjoyed majority or minority. In fact, it has never been looked in those terms. It has been looked only in terms of the seriousness of the issue involved. There is no absolute use of power in democracy. It is the antithesis of democracy.

There is no absolute use of power in a democracy. It is anti-thesis of democracy. There is no absolute use of power in a parliamentary form of Government. I would appeal to the Government to be statesman-like. Let them rise to the occasion...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): We are ready for the discussion...*(Interruptions)* We were ready for the JPC also. But you do not want to discuss it ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, we are appealing with all humility. We would like a complete discussion on the financial business. We would like a complete discussion on the Railways. We believe in the parliamentary form of Government...*(Interruptions)*. I would like to have a discussion in Parliament. Sir, a parliamentary form of Government is essentially give and take...*(Interruptions)*. It is up to Government to run Parliament and we want to cooperate. But it has to be in the spirit of give and take...*(Interruptions)*. But there cannot be absolute use of power.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): Sir, I appreciate the concern of Opposition that the discussion should take place on Railway Budget and General Budget. I totally agree that there is a partnership between the Ruling Party and the Opposition to run the House. So, my request to the hon. Members from the Opposition is that 'give and take' does not mean either you give JPC or else we will not allow the House to run. This is not 'give and take'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Sir, it is their proposal to have JPC...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, on the contrary, it is: Either you give me, what I am asking or I will not allow the House to run in a proper manner...*(Interruptions)*. Sir, I think this is not 'give and take'. But this is just 'take and take' and nothing more than that...*(Interruptions)*. My request to the Members from the Opposition is that as we have a Constitutional obligation to finish the Budget business before 25th of April. And as the Session is going to continue up to 11th of May, our dispute over JPC can be resolved even after 25th of April. They can make a break for these four days because Railway Budget is a prime Budget where every Member would like to participate in the discussion.

Sir, yesterday, you may recall when the hon. Prime Minister made a statement on GSLV, hon. Leader of the Opposition also made a small speech. So, for those 10 minutes, we did not create any problem because it was a unique achievement. Similarly, Budget is a unique thing which all of us have to pass. Every Member sitting here will be glad if the Opposition will allow to start the discussion immediately so that we can sit throughout the night to put up our views on the Railway Budget. Same is the case with matters relating to the Ministry of Rural Development, Department of Disinvestment, and the Finance Bill, 2001.

Sir, I would request that let us discuss what can be done about JPC afterwards. But up to 25th of April let us complete our Constitutional obligation. If they want to continue the same agitation, they can continue it from 26th onwards up to 11th May. So, there is ample time. Therefore, they should not create problem today and should not stop the House to function.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I concur with the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs as far as 'discussion' is concerned. I would request the Government to be statesman like, rise to the occasion, agree on a JPC, and allow us to discuss the Railway Budget. They are not allowing us to discuss the Railway Budget...*(Interruptions)*. Why do they put it on us? Sir, I do not want to quote anything but there have been reports about JPC.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Sir, I am ready to share the honour of statesmanship. That is why, I said let us have a small break for these four days...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There have been reports about JPC. In some forums, there have been Government functionaries who have also said that discussion or no discussion our mind is closed on JPC and that JPC is ruled out whether there will be a discussion or not. There have been such reports. You know that very well. So, I would request the Government to take a statesman like approach and allow all of us to discuss the Railway Budget by accepting our demand for JPC...(Interruptions)

SARDAR BUTA SINGH: The Government is responsible to the House. The House is supreme. It is only the House which can give a verdict in the matter...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: There have been occasions when we were in the Government, though the Government was in a minority, even then No Confidence Motion was accepted. This is a parliamentary form of debate. Let the Government rise to the occasion. This is my appeal. Let them understand their responsibility. Primarily it is their responsibility to run the House and we would very much like to cooperate with them.

MR. SPEAKER: Passing of the Railway Budget is also an important item of business. I am appealing to both the sides to please cooperate with the Chair.

So, hon. Members, I am now taking up the Railway Budget.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: No, Sir, This is not right.

MR. SPEAKER: No, I am now taking up the Railway Budget because there is no unanimity in the House.

15.11 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 2001-2002* DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a number of cut motions to the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for the year 2001-2002 have been circulated.

Since, under the prevailing atmosphere in the House, it does not appear possible either to have a discussion on the Demands for Grants or to move cut motions, I am constrained to straightaway put the Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (Railways) for the year 2001-2002 to the vote of the House. I shall now put the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2001-2002 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India out of the Consolidated fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in the course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2002, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 16."

Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2001-02 submitted to the Vote of the Lok Sabha (Vide List of Business for.....)

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 20.3.2001	Amount of Demand for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House
1	2	3	4
1.	Railway Board	10,71,36,000	53,56,79,000
2.	Miscellaneous Expenditure (General)	31,52,14,000	157,60,71,000

*Moved with the Recommendation of the President.

1	2	3	4
3.	General Superintendence and Services on Railways	253.13,25,000	1265,66,25,000
4.	Repairs and Maintenance of Permanent Way and Works	497,20,89,000	2486,04,43,000
5.	Repairs and Maintenance of Motive Power	286,02,99,000	1430,14,92,000
6.	Repairs and Maintenance of Carriages and Wagons	551,82,92,000	2759,14,62,000
7.	Repairs and Maintenance of Plant and Equipment	276,76,39,000	1383,81,95,000
8.	Operating Expenses-Rolling Stock and Equipment	459,76,06,000	2298,80,31,000
9.	Operating Expenses-Traffic	2097,23,97,000	4430,19,85,000
10.	Operating Expenses-Fuel	1235,84,68,000	6179,23,37,000
11.	Staff Welfare and Amenities	206,42,86,000	1032,14,31,000
12.	Miscellaneous Working Expenses	243,03,72,000	1215,18,62,000
13.	Provident Fund, Pension and other retirement benefits	970,27,04,000	4851,35,21,000
14.	Appropriation to Funds	1555,86,61,000	7779,33,06,000
15.	Divided to General Revenues, Repayment of loans taken from General Revenues and Amortization of Over-Capitalisation	3,85,33,000	1348,14,67,000
16.	Assets-Acquisition, Construction and Replacement Revenue	5,83,33,000	29,16,67,000
	Other Expenditure		
	Capital	2382,24,33,000	11911,21,66,000
	Railway Funds	730,66,67,000	3653,33,33,000
	Total	11798,24,54,000	54264,10,73,000

The motion was adopted

15.13½ hrs.

(Interruptions)

APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 2 BILL*

15.13 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Nitish Kumar to seek leave of the House for introduction of the Bill.

(At this stage, Sardar Buta Singh, Shri Sunil Khan and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): I beg to move for
 *Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 20.4.2001

[Shri Nitish Kumar]

leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002 for the purposes of Railways.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002 for the purposes of Railways."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I introduce** the Bill.

(Interruptions)

15.14 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Sunil Khan and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2001-2002 for the purposes of Railways, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clauses I, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, 23rd April, 2001 at 11 a.m.

15.16 hours.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, 23rd April, 2001/
Vaisakha 3, 1923. (Saka)*

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

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