

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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Fourth Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



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CONTENTS

[Fourteenth Series, Vol. VIII, Fourth Session, 2005/1926 (Saka)]

No. 15, Friday, March 18, 2005/Phalgun 27, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 221-226 and 228	1-37
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 227 and 229-240	38-62
Unstarred Question Nos. 2376-2590	61-354
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	354-363
MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA	
AND	
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA	363-364
COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION	
Fourth & Fifth Reports	364
COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	
Third Report	365
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Status of Implementation of Recommendations of First Report of Standing Committee on Coal and Steel	
Dr. Dasari Narayan Rao	365-366
MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	366
PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2005	367-374
STATEMENT RE: PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE	
Shri Kamal Nath	374
MATTERS UNDER RULE 377	374-381
(i) Need to ensure payment of compensation of the victims of Tsunami in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country	
Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid	374-375

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

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(ii) Need to protect the interests of farmers by providing them adequate compensation for the land being acquired for setting up gas based power project at Masuri in Ghaziabad district, U.P.	
Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal	375
(iii) Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of roads in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency from Central Road Fund	
Shrimati Pratibha Singh	375-376
(iv) Need to lay a broad gauge railway line in Saurashtra and open more computerised reservation counters in Amreli district of Gujarat	
Shri V.K. Thummar	376
(v) Need to declare the birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidas ji renowned saint of Chhattisgarh falling on 18 December as 'Public Holiday'	
Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	376-377
(iv) Need to construct high dams in Katihar district of Bihar with a view to check recurring floods in the region	
Shri Nikhil Kumar Chowdhary	377
(vii) Need to set up an oil refinery in Rajasthan	
Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava	377-378
(viii) Need to rescind the decision to shift Bareilly Unit office of the Ministry of Water Resources to Ranchi	
Shri Santosh Gangwar	378
(ix) Need to grant adequate funds for modernisation of Jhanjra Mining Project in West Bengal	
Shri Sunil Khan	378-379
(x) Need to withdraw the move to transfer employees of Police Wireless Department of U.P. to Uttaranchal	
Shri Harikewal Prasad	379
(xi) Need to provide adequate funds for the construction and early completion of pending works on National Highway No. 104 in Bihar	
Shri Sita Ram Singh	379
(xii) Need to establish a railway workshop in Unnao Parliamentary Constituency, U.P.	
Shri Brajesh Pathak	380
(xiii) Need to declare Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri as most backward districts in Maharashtra and include them under the 'National Food for Work' programme	
Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu	380

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
(xiv) Need to take suitable steps to check increase in the rate of drop-outs among the Scheduled Tribe students of primary school level in Orissa	
Shri Sugrib Singh	380-381
(xv) Need to develop proper infrastructural facilities at Ghojadanga (Itinda Ghat) under Basirhat sub-division of North 24 Parganas Districts in West Bengal	
Shri Ajoy Chakraborty	381
GOA BUDGET, 2005-2006—GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS FOR GRANTS AND ACCOUNT (GOA), 2005-2006 AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GOA), 2004-2005	386-405
Shri Shripad Yesso Naik	395-401
Shri Alemao Churchill	401-402
Shri Mohan Singh	403
Shri P. Chidambaram	403-405
GOA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2005	405-406
Motion to Consider	405
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	406
Motion to Pass	406
GOA APPROPRIATION BILL, 2005	407-408
Motion to Consider	407
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	407
Motion to Pass	408
STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL OF PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF GOA	408—473
Shri Shivraj V. Patil	408-411, 477-482
Shri L.K. Advani	411-417, 476-477
Shri Alemao Churchill	417-420
Shri T.K. Hamza	420-422
Shri Mohan Singh	422-425
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	425-432
Shri Kharabela Swain	432-441

SUBJECT	COLUMNS
Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal	441-448
Shri Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy	448-451
Shri Braja Kishore Tripathy	451-454
Shri Ananth Kumar	454-459
Shri L. Rajagopal	459-464
Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaidu	464-466
Shri Madhusudan Mistry	467-469
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	469-473
ANNEXURE-I	
Member-wise Index to Starred Questions	483
Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	484-490
ANNEXURE-II	
Ministry-wise Index to Starred Questions	491-492
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions	491-492

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, March 18, 2005/Phalgun 27, 1926 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Hannan Mollah, Question No. 221.

Non-conventional Energy Sources

*221. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received proposals from various States for optimum utilization of non-conventional energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Ministry has several schemes/programmes for deployment support of renewable energy systems/devices across the country. Under some of these, it provides central financial assistance to state governments, promoters or households, the latter through the state governments. While proposals from promoters are received through the state nodal agencies for renewable energy, the identification and selection of households/individuals, distribution of central financial assistance, and installation of renewable energy systems/

devices for household/individual beneficiary schemes is entirely the responsibility of the state governments. The proposals for central financial assistance from promoters are essentially in the domain of grid-interactive renewable power projects. The estimated potential for power generation from renewable energy sources such as wind, small hydro and biomass in the country is about 80000 MW. About 5,500 MW grid-interactive renewable power generation installed capacity has been set up, as on 31.12.2004. The aim is to deploy around 10 percent of the additional grid-interactive power installed capacity from renewables during the 10th & 11th Plan periods. As much as 15% of the additional grid interactive renewable power capacity, i.e., 1990 MW was commissioned during the initial two years and nine months of the 10th Plan (upto 31.12.2004). Of this, two-thirds or 10% has come from wind power alone with the balance 5% coming from small hydro power (2%) and bio energy (3%).

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Sir, the reply that has been given is too general. Before I ask the supplementary, I would like bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that according to the reply given in July, during the NDA regime only five or six States ruled by their own parties got the maximum installed capacity and most of the other States were neglected. I would request the Minister to look into that. This kind of situation should never arise in the future.

As far as the generation of non-conventional energy is concerned, West Bengal was doing very well. Due to its success, massive proposals were coming from different parts of the State. The Government had submitted a large number of concrete proposals for generation of non-conventional energy. But in the last two years, the sanctioned amount is decreasing. I would like to know from the Minister whether all the proposals that had been submitted will be considered positively. In several States, isolated areas generally get special care. In West Bengal Sunderbans is a separate island. In that area, forty lakh people are living. They are not getting energy from the conventional sources. So, will you install more capacity in Sunderbans, which is an isolated area, to meet the energy needs of the people living there?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member on this point that certain

states are being neglected. As far as West Bengal is concerned, through you, I would like to congratulate the hon. Member and his State as his state has made considerable progress in the field of renewable energy. It can serve as a model state for other states. He has mentioned the ongoing schemes in West Bengal, I would like to inform, in that field also, the state has made considerable progress. The total potential of small hydro power in the state is 183 megawatt. Out of which the state has achieved 92.28 megawatt which is nearly 50 percent while the national average is 10 percent. Likewise, regarding remote village electrification programme, West Bengal has achieved 60 percent whereas the national average is seven percent. His state has also contributed a lot in achievements made by my Ministry. Total 1436 remote villages are to be electrified out of which work has begun in 897 villages, rest are in pipeline and action is being taken to begin work there. He has mentioned Sunderban. A power plant of 500 kilowatt has been set up in Gosava and Chota Mulakhali.

Sunderban is in itself an example for the country. As he has mentioned, my Ministry pays attention towards all the proposals received from the state government. My Ministry would definitely pay attention if the hon. Member would mention any particular scheme.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Another question is this. You know that technology in this field is very important. If we have to have much improved technology with lesser cost and more generation of power, what better technology is needed in this field? What is the Ministry doing to achieve better technology so that this activity can be increased in the economy?

Another problem is there in the border area. Darjeeling district is bordering Sikkim. It is also a hilly area. But one house on the other side of the border is getting the maximum concession and the other house just next to that house on the other side of the border districts of Sikkim and Darjeeling have to pay the full charges. So, this concession should be extended to the hilly region of Darjeeling district and the other isolated area also. That is my request.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: As far as technology is concerned, it is an ongoing process. Continuous efforts are being made all over in this field.

As far as supporting such proposals by our Ministry is concerned, we provide financial assistance and encouragement to such proposals that come before us. He has asked to include hilly region of Darjeeling among regions in the special category. It is up to the Planning Commission to include any region in the special category though I do feel that Darjeeling could be brought under this category and we would make efforts in this direction.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: I would like to know whether the Union Government have made any State-wise study of power potential from non-conventional sources of energy. If so, what are the specific steps taken to tap wind power and power through bio-mass potential in the State of Rajasthan which will supplement the power generation for our State? Mr. Minister, along with it, through the UPA Government's ideal of Bharat Nirman, you are going to provide power for every village which will be assisted through your non-conventional sources of energy. What are you doing for the State of Rajasthan?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, biomass is a device in the field of renewable energy and the proposals that come from the state governments for its development are scrutinised by my Ministry and if it has good recommendations then the Ministry approves it. Rajasthan has been given assistance in this regard and our Ministry would scrutinise and extend help regarding all the proposals that the Rajasthan Government has sent. If the hon. Member is interested in any special proposal, he can apprise us of the same.

[English]

SHRI K. FRANCIS GEORGE: Bio-energy, bio-gas is one of the most promising components of this non-conventional energy sources in our country. It can cater to the rural lighting, cooking and other energy needs. Now, we have a potential to construct at least one lakh bio-gas plants every year. We need to have at least Rs. 5 crore to energise our rural areas. Also, the slurry from the bio-gas plants is one of the best and excellent manures for organic farming. It is reported that the MNES is not very keen on this particular project. The next year's target is only 12,000 plants.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources is winding up this particular area of construction of biogas plants and also, if a decision has already been taken, whether the hon. Minister will reconsider restarting this particular project of construction of biogas plants throughout our rural areas.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, firstly, I would like to tell the hon. Member that the programme of biogas has not been stalled 35 lakh biogas plants have been installed in the country since 1984 till date out of which as per the census of 2001, 8 to 9 lakh plants are functioning. 13,000 plants are being commissioned under the said programme in which Kerala is contributing in a big way. This programme has not been scrapped, it is still operating and the Government propose to continue it.

[English]

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the proposal sent by the Government of West Bengal regarding Durgadwani mini tidal project is one of the important projects identified under non-conventional energy sources by the Central Government. If so, I would like to know the latest position of the financial assistance to be extended for this project from the Central Government.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Sir, Durgadwani mini tidal project of West Bengal is first of its kind in the country. My Ministry has extended help for preparing DPR regarding the proposal sent by the state government in this regard. The estimated cost of this project with the capacity of 3.65 megawatt is Rs. 38.03 crore and Rs. 5.75 crore would be required for grid expansion. We would provide financial assistance for this purpose but right now this project is under consideration of Pollution Control Board of the state government where environmental impact of the project are being studied. Thereafter, this project would come up before the Environment Ministry of the Union Government, it could be considered only when it gets approval from these.

SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Sir, there are several regions in Gujarat wherein windmills can be installed as source of energy. I want to ask the Government whether it would extend support or grant to

the farmer who installs a windmill with the capacity of 2HP, 5HP or 10HP in his farm with state of the art technology to meet his requirement?

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said earlier, be it from individual promoters or the state government, our Ministry considers the proposal for financial assistance only when it comes through the state government. It is true that there is ample wind potential in Gujarat and if any such proposal is submitted, we would consider it.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon. Minister whether his Ministry has received any proposal for setting up power projects in 37 farflung areas of Madhya Pradesh from the Non Conventional Energy Department of the state government? If so, the time by which it is likely to be given approval?

Whether it is true that as per the policy of rural electrification, financial assistance has been fixed as 40 percent in the form of grants and 60 percent as loans? If so, whether the Government propose to make the grants more than 40 percent in view of the geographical situation of Madhya Pradesh? If so, the percentage of grants proposed to be increased?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Three supplementaries.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the said scheme we provide 90 percent subsidy to remote villages in north eastern and hilly areas whereas other villages are given 50 percent subsidy. Farflung villages of Madhya Pradesh have also been electrified under the said scheme and work is still going on. The work was stalled due to certain shortcomings in few proposals but the task of electrifying farflung villages of Madhya Pradesh would continue.

[English]

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Sir, as per the reply, the estimated potential for power generation from renewable energy is 80,000 megawatt. As on 31.12.2004, only 5,500 megawatt has been achieved. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is carving any special programme with various State Governments to exploit the estimated potential

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said in my reply that my Ministry remains in contact with all the state governments in this regard. The responsibility of exploiting potential of renewable energy lies entirely with the state governments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have answered it.

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Once the proposal is received from the state government, if it is feasible and falls within the scope of the scheme it is approved. My ministry would be launching several schemes for enhancing renewable sources which is an alternative source of future power. We would make efforts to increase the present installed capacity of 5500 megawatt in future.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Munshi Ram, if there is any specific proposals, then you can please ask.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Uttar Pradesh is the biggest state of India but there are just eight such projects there. Out of them work is in progress only on one project. Are eight projects enough for such a big state? The yield in Western Uttar Pradesh is more than 50 percent in entire Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He said that he needs proposals.

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I like to know from the hon. Minister whether any new proposal is under consideration of the Government for Western Uttar Pradesh? Only 8 projects have been approved for Uttar Pradesh. Does the Government propose to launch any new projects in my constituency, Bijnaur?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, have you got the information with you?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said it is the responsibility of the state governments to send proposals. The proposals are approved if they are feasible and conform to the policy. I would give the details if he would just tell which are the 8 projects he has mentioned. He has asked about starting a project in his constituency. What kind of a project does he want to start? I would really extend my cooperation if he would tell his inclination.

[English]

SHRIMATI ARCHANA NAYAK: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Ministry is aware of the technology of Sulabh International in the field of conventional energy and that it has implemented it in any State.

MR. SPEAKER: Has Sulabh International any technology for power generation?

[Translation]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: It is my request to put on solar panels on the projects installed by Sulabh International and use them. For power requirements there, otherwise we do not have any such proposal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I compliment the hon. Minister. Very well handled.

[Translation]

Exploration of Minerals

*222. SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether mineral reserves viz. iron, gold, silver, diamond have been found in the country during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government to explore these minerals?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA):

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The exploration agencies like Geological Survey of India (GSI), State Directorates of Geology and Mining (DGMs) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) have established reserves of iron and gold, in different states.

(b) During the last 3 years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 reserves of iron and gold were estimated and extensive exploration for diamond, gold and silver were carried out as details given below:

Iron Ore

A total of 121.46 million tonnes of iron ore reserves has been estimated in the country during the last three years.

Gold

A total to 21.044 million tonnes of gold ore has been estimated containing approximately 40 tonnes of gold (metal) in the country during the last three years.

Diamond and Silver

No reserves were estimated during the last three years for diamond and Silver. There is no mine of silver in the country, however, silver is being recovered from the polymetallic deposits of copper, lead and zinc from Khetri and Zawar areas in Rajasthan and Malanjkhand in Madhya Pradesh as by product. It is also recover as a co-product in gold refining from Hutti Gold Mines, Karnataka.

(c) The Government implements its schemes for exploration of iron ore, gold, diamond and silver through its subordinate office, Geological Survey of India, besides State Governments and Public Sector Undertakings.

Geological Survey of India has finalized schemes for exploration of minerals in various parts of the country. Government also grants Reconnaissance Permits (RPs) and Prospecting Licenses (PLs) to interested private entrepreneurs for exploration of minerals. As per National Mineral Policy (NMP) 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan is very rich in minerals. 90 percent of the marble of the country is found in Rajasthan and it has unlimited reservoirs of oil and gas. Recently gold was also found there and it should be exploited properly which is not being done. I want to ask the hon. Minister as to what steps he proposes to take in this regard. Which are regions where gold has been found in Rajasthan and in what quantity? By what time mining work is likely to begin ?

As far as copper is concerned, Khetadi copper project is the biggest of this area. What is its present status? Which are the places where copper has been found in Rajasthan?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You can not put five questions together.

[Translation]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as gold is concerned, it was known during a GST survey that there is gold in Bhilwara and Banswara areas but as of now, It can not be said whether it is profitable or not. It would take some time to complete the survey. As far as Khetadi copper project is concerned, it is the policy of the UPA Government that if any government owned factory is profitable then it would not be closed. Khetadi copper project enjoys the same status and the same policy is applied to it. It is earning profit and the Government does not propose to close it.

SHRI RAM SINGH KASWAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is compulsory to take NOC from the Environment Department for the exploitation of minor minerals while it is not so in the case of major minerals. Why is there such a discrimination? In fact it should be quite the otherway round. NOC should be necessary for major minerals not for the minor minerals. I would like to know as to how this discrimination would be removed.

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question of the hon. Member does not arise from the original question. But if he wants this information I would definitely give it to him.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a specific question.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, recently from the Mining and Geological Department, one observation had appeared in some newspapers that it has explored gold deposits in some parts of Kerala, especially in Attapady Valley which is in my constituency. May I know from the hon. Minister through you whether it is true or not? If it is true, what are the measures taken by the Government for starting the mining process in that area? If it is in a private property, what are the steps being taken by the Government to take over the property?

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got any information?

[Translation]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is also not related to the main question. Nothing related to main question has been asked through this but still I will apprise the hon. Member after collecting information in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: That is right, but it is concerned with the main Question. How is it not concerned? If the information is not readily available, let him convey us. But it is very much concerned with the main Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are very co-operative.

[Translation]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I would like to read out the main question for the hon. member.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not required.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has got any knowledge about the large tracts of gemstones and Diamond found in the district of Kalahandi in the State of Orissa and State of Chhattisgarh. I would

also like to know whether the largest kimberlite vein, where the diamonds are found, has been exploited by the Chhattisgarh Government or not. Is the Central Government taking any step to exploit the same?

I would also like to know whether any international company like De Beers has applied for the Deobagh diamond mines and other mines in Kalahandi and Bolangir.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Deo, please put one question. I know, you are an expert!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You started your question from gemstones and went on to diamond. Which one would you want to be answered? Diamond comes within this Question.

[Translation]

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would repeat that the hon. Member's questions not concerned with the main question. Still I would called the information he has required and would apprise him subsequently.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Diamond is there in the main Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, he has referred to Deobagh in Chhattisgarh. You find out and let him know the position.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: He may also give me the information regarding the other gemstones in Kalahandi and Bolangir districts.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Matter relating to gemstones cannot be covered under this question.

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government have admitted that no estimate has been made of the reservoir of diamonds, gold, silver and iron during the last three years. I would like to know whether

the Government propose to formulate any special action plan for exploration of diamonds and silver. Another question relates to two gold mines found in two blocks of Jamui district in Bihar, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would formulate any special action plan for these two blocks in Jamui district in Bihar.

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I submitted earlier, I would apprise the hon. Member as soon as the required information is received.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Minister is very alert.

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Hon. Speaker, Sir, you must have heard that in Tamil Nadu, the officers of the Mines Department have been murdered. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. You should not raise a State matter here. You have to raise only Central matters.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN: Sir, the officers have been murdered by the sand lorry owners. I would like to know whether the Central Ministry would give strict instructions to the State Government on this?

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a Central matter. Your question is disallowed. I am very sorry.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, for every Supplementary, the hon. Minister is saying that he would send the answer.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, I have said that there has to be mutual co-operation. I have requested the hon. Minister and he has very kindly agreed to supply the latest information about the particular project you have mentioned. You are, of course, right in asking.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If he is saying that he would give the information later for every Supplementary, what is the need for Question Hour?

MR. SPEAKER: In India, there are a lot of mines. He is getting the information for you and for all hon. Members. He is very co-operative.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about conducting a survey through GSI, DGS, MECL. I want to know from the hon. Minister about the outcome of the surveys conducted earlier for various works. Will the Government submit the Statewise details thereof? My second question particularly relates to Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Second question is not allowed.

[English]

Do not ask anything about specific cases. Please put questions on general policy.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA: I want to know whether the Government has conducted any survey in Uttar Pradesh and whether the Government has received any information through those surveys as to what kind of mines would be found and in what areas of Uttar Pradesh?

MR. SPEAKER: Please reply only about four items. Has anything been found in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI SISH RAM OLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, information has not been sought regarding any special region in the main question, and survey. ...*(Interruptions)*

But GSI and our department conduct surveys all over the country. We would be able to give information only after getting the results.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is very good. Thank you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI: Sir, it is a very important question. It relates to my constituency which is concerned with mining. So, I may be allowed to ask a Supplementary. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will give you an opportunity some time later on.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

*[Translation]***Demand of Coal**

*223. +SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the demand for coal can be fulfilled by giving mining rights for many coal blocks in the country to the big coal consumers;

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

(c) whether many big coal consumers in the country have applied for captive coal mines;

(d) if so, the number of such applications and the date since when these applications have been under consideration; and

(e) the time by which a decision is likely to be taken on these applications?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes Sir. The projected demand for grades of coal available in the country can be substantially fulfilled by giving mining rights for coal blocks in the country to the big coal consumers.

(b) Government companies/undertakings are being encouraged to carry out coal mining and companies engaged in generation of power, production of iron, steel and cement are allocated coal blocks for captive mining. This process has been expedited.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The total number of applications received in the Ministry for captive coal blocks upto 28.06.2004 and eligible for consideration is 140. The oldest application is of January 1998. To dispose of these applications the Screening Committee which considers allocation of coal

blocks, has met 5 times since November, 2004 and has decided on 98 applications. The remaining applications will be disposed of by April 2005.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister has replied to part (a) of the question—"yes, Sir, the projected demand for grades of coal available in the country can be substantially fulfilled by giving mining rights for coal blocks in the country to the big coal consumers". It is true that there is a shortage of coal in the country and the supply of coal is not as per the demand for it. Through you, I would like to know whether the Government is planning to make any changes in its policy regarding the demand and supply of coal.

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: It is true that the hon. Member says that we are not meeting the supply as per the demand. While the demand is growing, the production is also growing. To meet the gap between the demand and supply, 99 new coal projects were taken up during the current Tenth Five-Year Plan. After this Government has come to power, we have cleared three major projects. Actually, 28 major projects were waiting for the clearances. Now, after two years we have taken up allocating the captive blocks through Screening Committees. Out of 140 pending projects, we have cleared nearly 90 projects. With that, after five years, we are going to produce 190 million tonnes per year. This gap can be reduced in the Eleventh Five-Year Plan. So, this is the plan which is going on.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, a time limit should be set for completing these projects. We cannot remain in hotch-potch in such matter.

In his reply to parts (d) and (e) of the question the hon'ble Minister has stated that a total of 140 applications have been received by the Ministry for captive coal blocks upto 28.06.2004. The first one was received in January, 1998. Sir, the hon'ble Minister was not able to dispose of these 140 applications over a period of seven years which is a serious matter. 7-8 years have passed and the applications have not yet been disposed of. Seven-Eight years is not so a short period, it is enough. I would like to know as to what the Government is doing at present to take any effective action in this regard.

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: It is true that in 12 years we have allocated 49 captive blocks but only six blocks have come into existence because of the problems of clearance by the Department of Environment and because of the forest clearances. To clear one coal project, it is taking nearly 10 to 15 years. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is taking 10 to 15 years!

...*(Interruptions)*

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Yes, Sir. There are certain projects. Here, I would like to submit through you that after this Government has come to power, I think, within a duration of three months, we have completed six Screening Committee meetings. Out of 140 applications, 98 applications were decided for captive blocks.

Two more meetings are to be held. I think within one months to one-and-a-half months' time we are going to clear the balance applications.

MR. SPEAKER: You hope so. Do not say you will. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Hon'ble Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to tell the hon'ble Minister that there were a number of coal mines near Bikaner city in Rajasthan but those blocks have been closed down gradually. Is the hon'ble Minister considering to reopen those mines?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you have any information?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Actually when the commercial viability is not there or security problems were there, we have closed certain mines. I think those mines cannot be reopened because of the environmental problems.

SHRI BALASHOWRY VALLABHANENI: Sir, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 is still pending in the Parliament. The Bill provides for private participation in coal industry and the Bill has been before the Group of Ministers for final clearance. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the GoM has cleared the Bill and if so, by when the Bill is likely to be passed.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, this question does not relate to the original Question.

MR. SPEAKER: You are right.

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: For the information of the hon. Member I would like to tell that this Bill is pending in the Rajya Sabha. The problem is, there is a lot of protest from the trade unions and from the Left parties. If the Bill is passed and implemented, it is feared coal will be directly sold to the outsiders and the end users will be affected. So, at present this Government is not going to pursue the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Very good.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to say that there is a policy for allotment of coal blocks and coal blocks are allotted for promoting the industries. Is the Government aware that the screening committee appointed for allotment of coal blocks has been alleged for being partial. Besides this, there are many other industries which are running on papers whereas actually they have been allotted coal blocks. Is the Government aware of this? If so, will the Government investigate this and take further action in this regard?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Does it arise out of this? Have you any information?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, it does not arise from the main question. Still, I will try to give a reply to the hon. Member. This Screening Committee is not only from the coal industry. The Coal Secretary will Chair it. The representatives of Railways, Steel and Power Ministries are involved in the Screening Committee. They will process it in a perfect way and according to that only a decision will be taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal to ask the next supplementary. Please relate your supplementary to the main Question. I have been a little lax today.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, there is a report on illegal coal collection and transportation of the

coal to different stations in the country from the North East Coal Mines, Mergherita. In this regard the local Police have also arrested some of the senior officials of the coal field.

MR. SPEAKER: This has nothing to do with the main Question. I am sorry.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Sir, this is regarding the coal which is the national property. The hon. Minister should at least reply in this regard as to what measures he has taken to arrest those officers involved in this illegal coal collection and transportation to different cities.

MR. SPEAKER: I am sorry I cannot allow it.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon'ble Minister that coal is not mined out at many places because its quality is very degraded. This is the reason why Coal India Limited has taken up a project of producing electricity in partnership with ONGC and Neyvelli Lignite Corporation. Such type of coal is also available near Medhta in Rajasthan. Will you take up a similar project over there?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about captive mines. Ask about that.

SHRI BHANWAR SINGH DANGAWAS: They are all coal mines. I am talking about coal mines only.

MR. SPEAKER: This question talks about captive mines.

[English]

Hon. Minister, do you have any idea?

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, the hon'ble Member is asking about the ash contents. I think, that has nothing to do with this question.

[Translation]

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Sir, with your permission I would like to bring to the notice of the hon'ble Minister that there is a similar mine in our Kalakot which is lying closed. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as

to the time by when he will revive that mine so that the people of that region could benefit from it.

MR. SPEAKER: Captive mine is being discussed. Is there a captive mine there?

CHAUDHARY LAL SINGH: Yes, Sir, it is indeed a captive mine over there.

[English]

DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO: Sir, it is not captive mine.

Expert Committee on Small Savings

*224. +SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:
SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee headed by G.N. Bajpai has advised to link the rate of interest for small investors to inflation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), *inter alia*, enjoins upon the Government to ensure that the interests of small investors will be protected and they will be given new avenues for safe investment of their savings. The Government, therefore, decided to constitute an Expert Group under the chairmanship of Shri G.N. Bajpai, the then Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The terms of the Expert Group, *inter alia*, included suggesting appropriate measures for offering investors, including senior citizens, reasonable return through new savings instruments. The Group, in its report submitted in January, 2005, *inter alia*, recommended a new scheme, to be called "Senior Citizens' Inflation Protection Savings' Scheme" with the same features as the existing "Senior Citizens' Savings'

Scheme" on a *mutatis mutandis* basis, the difference being that the coupon rate will be pegged at 200 basis points above average annual rate of inflation, as measured by the WPI (base: 1993-94) of the preceding calendar year. The investor may have a combined ceiling of Rs. 15 lakh for his investment under the two senior citizens' savings' schemes. The coupon will be reset annually with effect from 1st April, each year.

(c) The report is under examination in the Government.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, in the statement, the Minister has said that on the recommendations of Shri G.N. Bajpai, a new scheme has been introduced, which is for senior citizens, which is pegged with the inflationary rate. That inflationary rate is as measured by the WPI (base: 1993-94), 200 basis points above the average annual rate of inflation. When a small investor invests his money, especially a senior citizen, he would like to get a certain definite income by way of interest. I would like to know whether this new scheme would assure him a definite income by way of interest for the deposit he made.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said in the answer, no decision has been taken on the recommendation of G.N. Bajpai Committee, but purely academically, if interest rate is pegged to the inflation rate, there can be no certainty about the returns.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Then, by way of introduction the Minister says:

"The National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), *inter alia*, enjoins upon the Government to ensure that the interests of small investors will be protected and they will be given new avenues for safe investment of their savings."

When he says that safe investment avenues are offered, that safe investment avenue should offer a reasonable return to the investor, and especially the old people who have nothing else to depend upon. Now, the Minister says that there is no guarantee about it. In this context, I would like to know whether he is implementing in letter and spirit the NCMP and then he is coming to this conclusion that they cannot expect any safe return.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are two separate issues. We are implementing the NCMP and it is because we are implementing the NCMP, we have introduced the

Senior Citizens Savings Scheme which offers a fixed return of nine per cent. The question is this. What did the G.N. Bajpai Committee recommend? The G.N. Bajpai Committee recommended that in addition to the Senior Citizens' Savings Scheme, there should be another Senior Citizens' Inflation Protection Savings Scheme. No decision has been taken. Suppose we accept that recommendation and introduce in addition the Senior Citizen's Inflation Protection Savings Scheme, my answer is correct, namely, that if it is linked to inflation, there can be no certain return. It will be a variable return.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, has the expert group, under the Chairmanship of Shri G.N. Bajpai, recommended only the Senior Citizen Inflation Protection Scheme or has it recommended any other scheme with regard to suggesting appropriate new saving instruments? What are those other schemes suggested for the small investors?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in respect of savings schemes, the only savings scheme that they have recommended is the Senior Citizen Inflation Protection Scheme. There is another term of reference regarding measures for protecting the interest of small investors by improving regulation, and supervision. They have made a series of recommendations for improving the regulation, and supervision of the financial markets.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, the rate of interest on the Postal Savings Scheme, the Postal Monthly Income Scheme, and the Individual Deposit Scheme is being considered to be increased? If any person makes deposit in a bank or any other scheme out of the tax-paid income, then income tax should not be deducted from the interest earned by him.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a suggestion.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Government consider this to avoid double taxation? I am saying this because most of the middle-class people, and poor people keep their money in banks. This will also reduce the creation of black money. Is the Government going to consider it?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you need not answer it if you do not want to.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, answer to the first part of the question is 'No'. The answer to the second part is that if tax is paid on a certain income, then there

is no doubt, a tax. If that money invested in an instrument that earns a further income, then there is no double taxation. If you examine carefully, then you will find that there is no double taxation in this.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Sir, only the poor, and the middle-class people keep their money in banks. How can not it be considered?

MR. SPEAKER: I am aware that you are always concerned for them.

FDI in Banks

*225. +SHRI D. VITTAL RAO:
SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to allow up to 74 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in public sector banks/private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) In pursuance of a Budget announcement made on February 28, 2003, the Government issued a notification on March 5, 2004 raising the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit in private Banks from 49% to 74%. This includes investment by Foreign Institutional Investors (FII). No change has however, been made in the existing statutory ceiling of 20% FDI in public sector banks.

(c) and (d) To implement the above decision, Reserve Bank of India has announced a Road Map on 28.02.2005 for presence of foreign banks in India. This Road map is available on RBI's website i.e. www.rbi.org.in/notification.

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Sir, has the Government taken any steps to protect the interest of the domestic investors of the private banks? I would like to know about the steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, investors in all banks are protected by the RBI's regulations, and by various laws in this behalf. In private banks, we have weak banks, and we have strong banks. I think, the strong banks protect the interest of the investors to a large degree, but it is the weak banks about which the investors feel unsafe.

The banks become weak for a variety of reasons. The roadmap of the RBI was announced on the 28th February, and it was intended to strengthen weak private sector banks. There are paragraphs in the roadmap, which indicate how the interest of depositors in weak private sector banks will be safeguarded if the weak private sector banks are made strong. The best protection for depositors are to make those weak banks stronger.

SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Has the Government prepared any guidelines in this regard? If so, the details thereof.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I have already stated, these guidelines were announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). They are available on the RBI's website, namely, "www.rbi.org.in." But I am willing to send a copy of the same to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India had decided a year back that Foreign Banks and Foreign Financial Institutions could make 74% foreign investment in Private Sector banks and 20% in the public sector banks. The question was whether the Government is planning to raise the FDI limit in public sector banks also upto 74%, but this has not been replied. The second question is whether any efforts have been made to acquire information about the Reserve Bank's road map regarding capital investment. In reply thereto the hon'ble Minister has stated that the information is available on the website. We do take information from the website but if we have to visit website only, then what is the relevance of asking a question in the House? We want to bring this to the notice of the House and on record. I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister the number of such foreign banks which would want to invest their capital in the public sector banks of India after the declaration of the road map of the Reserve Bank and the reactions of the Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India to their applications.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in my main answer, I have said that no change has been made in the existing statutory ceiling of 20 per cent of FDI in public sector banks. The road-map announced by RBI regarding FDI concerns private sector banks. The draft guidelines were put out by the RBI nearly eight or nine months ago; then, various comments were received. After considering all the comments, the RBI has, after consulting the Government, published the road-map on the 28th of February. We are, I believe, a technologically savvy Parliament today. Therefore, this road-map is available on the website. It has also been published in all the newspapers, but I am willing to send you a copy of it. It runs into several pages. After the road-map was announced, I had a word with the Governor, RBI. After 28th of February, there has been no formal proposal so far from any foreign banks.

SHRI MILIND DEORA: Sir, the Government has been very categorical about the fact that they will control a minimum of 51 per cent in public sector banks, there would not be a retrenchment of employees, and that they will actually strengthen the nationalised banks. As the hon. Finance Minister pointed out, the norms issued recently by the RBI, around the time of Budget, were quite different for private sector banks. When the limit on individual foreign ownership in private sector banks has been reduced from 14 per cent to 5 per cent, can the Government still expect to see more interest from potential foreign strategic partners?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Not all foreign investors can be looked at with the same frame of mind. What we are talking here is investment by foreign banks in weak Indian private sector banks. Now, there are, of course, foreign investors who are not banks. There are foreign investors who may be industrial houses; there may be foreign investors from various tax havens. I do not think you can regard all foreign investors in the same manner. So, the RBI guidelines are very clear about what kind of foreign investment will be allowed in Indian private sector banks, and RBI guidelines make a distinction between foreign banks in well regulated jurisdictions and other foreign investors. I do not subscribe to hon. Member's view that we should allow any foreign investor to come into Indian private banks. The road-map, I think, rightly recognises that foreign banks in well regulated jurisdictions alone will be allowed to come into the Indian private sector banks subject, of course, to regulatory approval.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 226.

Shrimati Jayaprada—not present.

Dr. Chinta Mohan.

*[Translation]***Fluctuation in Share Prices**

*226. +DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether share market of the country experienced steep and sudden fall in the prices of shares on several occasions between the period from April to January during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the dates and the details of such shares and the percentage fall in their prices separately;

(c) whether this fall was due to irregularities done in the capital market;

(d) if so, whether the facts have been ascertained in this regard; and

(e) the estimated loss suffered on account of the aforesaid fall in share prices on each of the above said days?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that during the period April 2004 to January 2005, market witnessed more than 5% fall on May 14, 2004 and May 17, 2004. On May 14, 2004, Sensex fell by 329.6 points (i.e. 6.10%) and closed at 5069.87. Nifty fell by 135.1 points (i.e. 7.87%) and closed at 1582.4. On May 17, 2004, Sensex fell by 564.71 points (i.e. 11.14%) and closed at 4505.16. Nifty fell by 193.65 points (i.e. 12.24%) and closed at 1388.75. Except for these two dates, there were no such steep and sudden falls between April, 2004 and January, 2005. Month-wise changes in the indices for the period April, 2004 to January, 2005 are given below:

Monthly Changes in Indices

	Sensex	Percentage change over the previous month	Nifty	Percentage change over the previous month
Apr-04	5809.005	3.49	1848.388	3.86
May-04	5204.646	-10.40	1640.2	-11.26
Jun-04	4823.867	-7.32	1506.116	-8.17
Jul-04	4972.875	3.09	1568.084	4.11
Aug-04	5144.165	3.44	1615.302	3.01
Sep-04	5423.271	5.43	1691.957	4.75
Oct-04	5701.608	5.13	1794.98	6.09
Nov-04	5960.747	4.55	1873.935	4.40
Dec-04	6393.83	7.27	2021.943	7.90
Jan-05	6306.988	-1.36	1977.829	-2.18

(b) The details of top five scrips, which declined steeply and contributed to the market fall on 14th May, 2004 and 17th May, 2004 are given in Annexure.

(c) and (d) Price movements and fluctuations in markets are market phenomena which depend upon several factors such as domestic and international events, economic fundamentals, market sentiments, corporate performance, etc.

However, for the fall observed in May, 2004, SEBI, during its course of investigation, has observed certain irregularities and appropriate proceedings have been initiated against the entities, who have been prima facie found to have violated the provisions of SEBI Act, 1992 and SEBI Regulations, in terms of the SEBI Act, 1992 and SEBI Regulations. Show cause notices have so far been issued to 12 entities.

(e) The loss suffered on account of the fall in the market price will depend on the composition of the portfolio and the cost of acquisition of securities and subsequent corporate benefits comprising the portfolio. Therefore, it is not possible to quantify the extent of the loss, if any, on account of the aforesaid fall in share prices.

On May 14, 2004, the market capitalisation of BSE was down by 8.49% and of NSE by 8.38%. On May 17, 2004, the market capitalisation of BSE was down by 11.26% and of NSE by 12.10%. However, the market capitalisation of BSE, which was Rs. 12,01,207 crores on 31st March, 2004, went up to Rs. 16,61,532 crores on 31st January, 2005 and the market capitalisation of NSE, which was Rs. 11,20,976 crores on 31st March, 2004 went up to Rs. 15,57,444 crores on 31st January, 2005.

*Annexure**Top Five Scrips Contributing for Fall in the Sensex on May 14, 2004*

Scrip Name	Price Variation Over Previous Day's Closing
SBI	-14.77%
ONGC	-12.47%
HDFC	-7.98%
ICICI Bank	-6.95%
Reliance	-6.77%

Top Five Scrips Contributing for Fall in the Nifty on May 14, 2004

Scrip Name	Price Variation Over Previous Day's Closing
GAIL	-19.32
SBIN	-16.4
SAIL	-15.71
BHEL	-14.12
BPCL	-12.62

Top Five Scrips Contributing for Fall in the Sensex on May 17, 2004

Scrip Name	Price Variation Over Previous Day's Closing
Reliance	-15.35%
HLL	-15.02%
SBI	-13.18%
ONGC	-12.84%
INFOSYS	-12.92%

Top Five Scrips Contributing for Fall in the Nifty on May 17, 2004

Scrip Name	Price Variation Over Previous Day's Closing
REL	-27.98
HDFC Bank	-23.15
BHEL	-21.24
WIPRO	-19.77
GAIL	-19.19

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: In reply to part 'c' of my question, the hon. Minister has given a reply saying that certain irregularities were observed by SEBI. May I know from the hon. Minister what are those irregularities which were observed by SEBI?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When the market dramatically declined in May, 2004, SEBI, during the

course of its investigation, observed certain irregularities: irregularities, of course, in who bought and who sold and within what period of time.

These irregularities led SEBI to conclude that *prima facie*. I repeat, *prima facie* there was a violation of SEBI Act and SEBI Regulations. Twelve entities have been identified. Show-cause notices have been issued. The matter is *sub judice*. When the matter is *sub judice* before SEBI, it would not be appropriate for me to discuss the alleged irregularities. After investigation, if the irregularities are established, SEBI, of course, will pass a *quasi judicial* order giving its findings. It would be completely inappropriate for me now to comment on the alleged irregularities.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN: People of this country are expecting some 'share tsunami'. How is the hon. Finance Minister trying to stop these things?

MR. SPEAKER: Share tsunami!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Even a tsunami, I believe, hits the coast only once in a hundred years. Therefore, let not my learned friend spread any alarm. There is no 'share tsunami' or anything like that in the horizon. Our surveillance systems have improved. We are a vigilant Government. We have a stronger regulator today. We will do our best to ensure that there is no tsunami, and I do not believe there a tsunami on the horizon.

MR. SPEAKER: Developing Mexican!

Q. No. 227. Shri S.K. Kharventhan—Not present.

Q. No. 228. Prof. Mahadeorao Shiwankar—Not present.

Shri Munshi Ram.

[Translation]

Kutir Jyoti Yojana

*228. +SHRI MUNSHI RAM:
PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kutir Jyoti Yojana under the rural electrification was launched by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of villages benefited so far under the Scheme, State-wise;

(c) the share of expenditure to be incurred by the Union Government and each State in the said Yojana;

(d) the number of villages targeted to be covered under the said programme during the year 2004-05; and

(e) the total number of villages benefited under the said Yojana during current year so far?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) The Government of India in 1988-99 had launched programme called Kutir Jyoti for extending single point light connection to the households of rural families Below Poverty Line (BPL) to improve the quality of life of such poor families.

Under this Programme one time cost of internal wiring and service connection charges is provided by way of 100% grant to the State Governments/State Electricity Boards. The grant is released to them through Rural Electrification Corporation (REC).

The Programme aimed at extending single point light connection to rural households below poverty line. State-wise number of such households benefited under the Programme upto 31.3.2004 is given at Annexure-I.

(d) and (e) The Kutir Jyoti Yojana programme was subsumed under the programme launched by Government of India for "Accelerated Electrification of one lakh villages and one crore households" in May 2004 with 40% capital subsidy which is being replaced by a new scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and Household Electrification for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with on 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/

habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).

(iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

Funds have been sanctioned in current year for coverage of 525434 BPL households in electrified villages and for coverage of another 12,30,592 households in villages to be electrified. State-wise details are given at Annexure-II & Annexure-III.

Annexure I

Cumulative progress of Kutir Jyoti Programme ending 31.3.2004

Sl.No.	State	Connections reported as released
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1034408
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	41336
3.	Assam	53492
4.	Bihar	517786
5.	Goa	1050
6.	Gujarat	78972
7.	Haryana	38935
8.	Himachal Pradesh	28427
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	1421
10.	Jharkhand	39018
11.	Karnataka	1476574
12.	Kerala	174491
13.	Madhya Pradesh	778779

1	2	3
14.	Chhattisgarh	95446
15.	Maharashtra	295780
16.	Manipur	16066
17.	Meghalaya	35332
18.	Mizoram	47400
19.	Nagaland	45271
20.	Orissa	101824
21.	Punjab	44806
22.	Rajasthan	169974

1	2	3
23.	Sikkim	21185
24.	Tamil Nadu	576282
25.	Tripura	62046
26.	Uttar Pradesh	283980
27.	Uttamachal	40450
28.	West Bengal	192170
29.	U.T.s.	1724
Grand-Total		6294425

Annexure II*Schemes sanctioned for electrification of BPL households in the electrified villages during 2004-2005*

(Amount in Rs. Lakh)

As on 10.3.2005

Sl.No.	State	State Power Utility	Schemes Received During 2004-05		Grant amount sanctioned
			No. of districts covered	No. of BPL HH covered	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Kerala	KSEB	14	100000	1500
2.	Andhra Pradesh	APTRANSCO	22	100000	1500
3.	Punjab	PSEB	17	20000	300
4.	Rajasthan	(i) Jaipur VVNL	11	15000	225
		(ii) Jodhpur VVNL	11	15000	225
		(iii) Ajmer VVNL	11	15000	225
5.	Chhattisgarh	CSEB	16	80000	1200
6.	Haryana	UHBVNL	7	5000	72
7.	Gujarat	GEB	25	3000	45
8.	Madhya Pradesh	MPSEB	45	22634	339.51
9.	Tripura	Power Deptt.	4	12000	216

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Assam	ASEB	26	20000	360
11.	Bihar	BSEB	36	24300	364.5
12.	Himachal Pradesh	HPSEB	11	1000	18
13.	Arunachal Pradesh	Power Deptt.	14	25000	450
14.	Uttaranchal	UPCL	13	40000	720
15.	Mizoram	Power Deptt.	9	3500	63
16.	Maharashtra	MSEB	33	8000	120
17.	Jharkhand	JSEB	13	16000	240
Total			338	525434	8186.01

Annexure III

Electrification of BPL Households Covered in the Projects Sanctioned by REC under the Programme "Accelerated Electrification of One Lakh Villages and One Crore Households" during 2004-05

As on 10.03.2005

Sl.No.	Name of State	Projects Sanctioned		
		No. of Projects	No. of villages covered for electrification	No. of BPL Households covered for electrification
1.	West Bengal	11	2404	54716
2.	Bihar	13	7604	488450
3.	Uttar Pradesh	61	28857	685813
4.	Rajasthan	3	175	1613
Total		88	39040	1230592

[Translation]

SHRI MUNSHI RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether Kutir Jyoti Yojana was launched by the Union Government under the Rural Electrification Programme? What are its details and how many villages have been benefited under this scheme, State-wise?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How many villages have been benefited under the Kutir Jyoti Yojana?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Member for having given me this opportunity to answer this question. Unfortunately, this is a supplementary taken from the main Question.

This Kutir Jyoti Programme was envisaged in the year 1988-89.

MR. SPEAKER: Next time I may call you first.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Kutir Jyoti Programme was initiated in 1988-89, in the last two years of the Seventh Five-Year plan when the late Rajiv Gandhi was leading the nation. That reveals his concern for the rural poor in general, and BPL families in particular. From 1998-99 to 2003-04, the total number of BPL households electrified under the Programme was 63 lakh, and the amount spent was Rs. 561 crore. That is an impressive performance of 92 per cent. However, in 2004-05, in one single year, we have provided electrical connections to 17 lakh BPL families for which an amount of Rs. 270 crore was spent. It is our intention to see that the Kutir Jyoti Programme which was initiated by the late Rajiv Gandhi succeeds 100 per cent. However, in the case of electrification of BPL households, the bottleneck is on the implementation side. In the distribution sector, Constitutionally mostly the States will have to come forward. As far as funds for Kutir Jyoti are concerned, there has not been any funds constraint and we shall never allow it to be a constraint.

As far as implementation is concerned, we have made available public sector undertakings also, along with the REC, to the service of the State Governments. It is up to the State Government. Along with our quantum shift of the work. I think, we will succeed in providing Kutir Jyoti Yojana throughout the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you. Question Hour is over.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing else will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am extremely grateful to all the hon. Members for their cooperation during the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Problems of Handloom Sector

*227. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantum of handloom textiles in the country have stagnated due to the influence of powerloom and lack of sufficient marketing facilities;

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

(c) whether the families depending upon this industry are facing unprecedented penurious situation; and

(d) if so, the steps/schemes proposed to be taken by the Government to mitigate the sufferings of these people?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There has been some accumulation of handloom textiles in the country in general, which is due to the influence of powerlooms.

(b) Requisite State-wise information in regard to the above is being collected.

(c) and (d) In order to mitigate the problems faced by the handloom weavers, the Government of India is implementing following developmental and welfare schemes:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
2. Marketing Promotion Programme.
3. Handloom Export Scheme.
4. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
5. Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth.
6. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.
7. Weavers' Welfare Scheme comprising of (i) Health Package Scheme; (ii) Thrift Fund Scheme and (iii) New Insurance Scheme.
8. Bunkar Bima Yojana.

* Not recorded.

9. Integrated Handloom Training programme.
10. Implementation of Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985.

Tax Evasion Under FERA and FEMA

*229. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of evasion involved under erstwhile Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) and present Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) cases;
- (b) the percentage of evasion rendered irrecoverable;
- (c) the number of cases pending for more than six months;
- (d) the reasons for delay;
- (e) whether a timeframe has been fixed to dispose of the long pending cases; and
- (f) if so, the action taken to dispose of the long pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No tax/duty was levied under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) 1973 or is levied under Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA), 1999. Therefore, the question of evasion and the percentage of irrecoverable evasion does not arise.

(c) The number of adjudication cases pending as on 1.3.2005 for more than six months under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 is 4469 and under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 is 268. Out of 4469 cases pending under FERA, in about 2645 cases there are stay orders by various Courts. Therefore, effective pendency of FERA adjudication cases is 1824 as on 1.3.2005.

(d) Adjudication proceedings are quasi-judicial proceedings. Reasonable opportunities are required to be given to the opposite party for being heard.

(e) and (f) It is not possible to indicate any specific time frame to dispose of the pending adjudication cases.

For expeditious disposal of pending FERA adjudication cases, Government has appointed additional Adjudicating officers.

Modernisation of Textile Sector

*230. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY:
SHRI RANEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has a proposal to modernize powerloom, handloom and textile units in the country;
- (b) if so, the specific programmes drawn up for the purpose;
- (c) the funds proposed to be spent thereon during Tenth Five Year Plan and during the last three years;
- (d) whether some foreign assistance has been provided for modernization of the aforesaid units; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Government is implementing the following schemes for the modernization of Powerloom, Handloom and Textile units:

Powerloom:	Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS); and Group Workshed Scheme (GWS).
Handloom:	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY).
Textile Units:	Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS).

(c) During Tenth Five Year Plan there is a provision of Rs. 1,270.00 cr., Rs. 19.27 cr. and Rs. 257.00 cr. for implementation of Technology Upgradation Funds Scheme (TUFS), Group Workshed Scheme (GWS) and Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY), respectively. The Group Workshed Scheme has been approved in June 2004, and so far no funds have been released. The details of the funds released during the last three years are as under:

Year	Name of schemes and Funds released	
	TUFS (Rs. in crores)	DDHPY (Rs. in crores)
2001-2002	198.88	59.35
2002-2003	202.66	81.20
2003-2004	249.07	63.64

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

PMGSY

*231. SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA:
SHRI HITEN BARMAN:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that most of the villagers are loosing their land due to implementation of PMGSY;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the policy of the Government for paying compensation to the villagers whose land has been taken to construct roads under PMGSY;

(d) whether the Government has paid any compensation to those villagers whose land has been taken for construction of PMGSY;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Rural Roads is a State subject and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) is a special Central intervention to assist State Governments. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that lands is available for taking up the road works.

PMGSY aims to provide connectivity to habitations of designated population size through construction of a good quality all weather road built to specifications given in the Rural Roads Manual (IRC-SP-20: 2002). Generally, the alignment follows and existing track and while some

additional land may be required at a few places to meet the roadway width specified in the Manual, State Governments minimize this by careful selection of alignment in order to avoid land acquisition.

Since rural roads is a State subject and PMGSY is executed by State Government agencies, information regarding acquisition or use of private lands required for construction of roads under PMGSY is not maintained by the Central Government.

[*Translation*]

Proposal under SJGSY

*232. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals from several States under Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana were received by the Union Government for approval during the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for not clearing them so far and the time by which they are likely to be cleared;

(c) whether many State Governments have not properly utilized the funds sanctioned by Union Government for the scheme and that complaints regarding misuse of funds have also been received by the Ministry;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last two years;

(e) whether cooperation from NGOs is also being taken for implementation of Swarn Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (f) Under the main scheme of Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SJGSY) the Ministry of Rural Development does not sanction individual projects to States. Only allocation is released in favour of the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) on a normative basis for implementation of the scheme. However, under the Special Projects component of SGSY, the Ministry of Rural Development has received 253 proposals from several States for approval during the last two years. The proposals received under SGSY Special Projects are first scrutinized to verify whether the minimum requirements prescribed in the guidelines such as forwarding of projects by the State Governments, Commitment of the State

Government for meeting 25% State share, Bank's commitment, if credit is involved; focus on the Below Poverty Line (BPL) population, consistency and viability of the concept etc. are being met by the proposals. If the project proposals do not fulfil the above requirements, they are returned to the concerned State Governments. There is a two tier of approval process for these project proposals. The proposals, which meet the prescribed requirements, are first screened by the Project Screening Committee (PSC). Proposals recommended by the Project Screening Committee are placed for consideration of the Project Approval committee (PAC). Both these committees are inter-Ministerial committees with representatives from the Planning Commission. The approval of the proposals is a continuous process and different proposals are at various stages of approval. In total 40 proposals during 2003-04 and 20 proposals during 2004-05 (so far) have been approved.

Utilization of funds under the sanctioned projects differ from project to project. Whenever funds utilization is not satisfactory, the project implementation authorities are advised to take necessary remedial action. No complaints have so far been received in the Ministry regarding the misuse of funds.

Special projects are implemented by Government, Semi governmental organizations which may in turn seek the help of credible NGOs for effective implementation.

[English]

Autonomy to Banks

*233. SHRI ARJUN SETHI:
SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new autonomy package has been announced for the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact on NPA and FDI as a result of greater autonomy;

(d) whether the precaution has been taken by the Government for safety of public money while granting greater operational freedom to public sector banks; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a), (b), (d) and (e) Yes, Sir, After due consideration a package on Management and Operational Autonomy to Public Sector Banks has been announced on 22.02.2005. These autonomy measures *inter alia* include the following:

- (i) Pursue new lines of business as part of overall business strategy.
- (ii) Make suitable acquisition of companies of businesses, close/merge unviable branches, open overseas offices, set up subsidiaries and exit a line of business.
- (iii) Decide all Human Resource issues relating to the Bank, including staffing pattern, recruitment, placement, transfer, training, promotions, etc.
- (iv) Prescribe standards for categorization of branches, based on volume of business and other relevant factors.
- (v) Prescribe essential academic qualifications, minimum qualification standards and modalities of promotion/recruitment to various categories.
- (vi) Undertake visits to foreign countries to interact with investors, depositors and other stakeholders.
- (vii) Lay down policy of accountability and responsibility of Bank officials and take action against erring bank officials in conformity with such policy. The policy framework should provide for stringent punishment for all malafide actions but, at the same time, recognize that bona fide errors do occur while making decisions relating to commercial judgement.

(c) No change has been brought in the existing statutory ceiling of 20% FDI in public sector banks. Greater operational autonomy is expected to improve the overall performance of banks including recovery of NPAs.

Functioning of RRBs

*234. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made a study of functioning of Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps the Government proposes to take to make the RRBs function effectively in rural sector;

(d) whether the public sector banks would iron out their differences and reduce the number of RRBs to function under one public sector bank in a region;

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

(f) whether RRBs are providing all banking facilities to their customers like public sector banks;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen Regional Rural Banks in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The following working groups/committees constituted from time to time have examined various aspects of RRBs including their functioning.

1. Committee on Rural Banks (Dentwala Committee, 1978).
2. Committee to review arrangement for institutional credit for agriculture and rural development (CRAFICARD, 1981).
3. Working Group on Regional Rural Banks (Kelkar Committee, 1984).
4. Agriculture Credit Review Committee (ACRC, 1989).
5. Committee on financial system (Narasimham Committee, 1991).
6. Committee on Restructuring RRBs (Bhandari Committee, 1994).
7. Working Group on funds management in RRBs (Misra Committee, 1995).
8. Committee on revamping of RRBs (Basu Committee, 1996).
9. Expert Group on RRBs (Thingalaya Committee, 1997).

10. Expert Committee for review of supervisory role of NABARD (U.K. Sarma Committee, 1998).

11. Committee on Banking Sector reforms (Narasimham Committee, 1998).

12. Committee on manpower norms in RRBs (Agrawal Committee, 2000).

13. Experts Committee on Rural Credit (ECRC, 2001).

14. Working Group to suggest amendments in RRBs Act, 1976 (Chalapathi Rao Committee, 2001).

15. Group of CMDs of select public sector banks (A.K. Purwar Committee, 2004).

16. Advisory Committee on flow of credit to Agriculture and related activities from the banking system (Prof. Vyas Committee, 2004).

(c) The Government has taken the following initiatives to make the RRBs function effectively in the Rural Sector:

1. Package for doubling the flow of credit to agriculture and debt relief measures for restructuring accounts of farmers in circumstances of extreme distress due to successive natural calamities or farmers in arrears.
2. One time settlement scheme for small and marginal farmers and a scheme for redemption of debts of farmers taken from non-institutional sources.
3. Freedom from service area approach to those RRBs which were having accumulated losses as on 31-3-2004.
4. Recapitalisation support to those RRBs which fulfil the prudential norms and norms of good governance.
5. Then sponsor banks have been made fully responsible for the performance of RRBs sponsored by them.

(d) and (e) As a step towards consolidation of RRBs, the Government has initiated the process of amalgamation of RRBs on contiguous districts sponsored by the same bank within a State in consultation with the respective State Governments.

(f) and (g) RRBs are providing normal banking services in the field of deposits & credit or advances. However RRBs are not providing high end banking services like foreign exchange/opening letters of credit/foreign guarantees etc. A few RRBs are providing draft services with the support of their sponsor banks as the operational spread of RRBs is restricted to select districts.

(h) In order to strengthen the capital base of RRBs recapitalisation support has been provided to 158 RRBs, fully and to 29 RRBs partially to the tune of Rs. 2188 crore. Further, the Reserve Bank of India has been advised to evolve suitable criteria for financial assistance to RRBs, assess its quantum and the manner in which it should be disbursed for revitalising the RRBs on a sustainable basis.

Indo-German Cooperation in Power Sector

*235. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Germany provides both financial and technical assistance for Power projects in the country;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of such assistance;

(c) the projects assisted by Germany during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) the target fixed for power generation for these projects and achieved during the period; and

(e) the outstanding debts against these projects as on date and the time by when such debt is likely to be repaid?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) provides both Financial and Technical Assistance in Power Sector under Indo-German Bilateral Development Cooperation Programme. Financial Assistance is provided as mixed credit consisting of soft loan, grant and commercial credit.

The soft loan is generally available at an interest rate of 0.75% p.a. with a repayment period of 40 years including a grace period of 10 years. The loan also carries a commitment charge of 0.25% on the un-disbursed amount. Commercial credit is provided at the prevailing market rate with a repayment period of 10 years including a grace period of 5 years. Technical Assistance is provided in the form of grant.

(c) and (d) FRG has assisted following power projects during last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04):

(i) Renovation and Modernization of Units 3 & 4 of Hirakud HEP, Orissa, with a loan assistance of Euro 11.89 million.

Both the units are under shut down for renovation and modernization.

(ii) Technical Assistance to Bureau of Energy Efficiency under Indo-German Energy Programme (IGEN) with the grant of Euro 9.93 million.

(e) As on 10.03.2005, Euro 11.77 million (Rs. 64.68 Cr.) is the outstanding debt against R&M of Hirakud HEP. The debt is to be repaid in accordance with terms and conditions of the loan by June 30, 2035.

Special Jute Development Fund

*236. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had set up a special jute development fund for the revival and integrated development of the jute industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the amount released from the SJD Fund to the Jute Corporation of India for disbursement of subsidy to state level cooperative procurement agencies was lying unutilised;

(d) if so, quantum thereof during the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to utilize the unutilized fund?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government had set up a Special Jute Development Fund (SJDF) on 17th December, 1986 with a corpus of Rs. 100 crores for the integrated development of the jute sector. The aim of the Fund was the holistic development of the jute sector by providing financial support through various schemes for improving the productivity of raw jute and jute goods, development of indigenous machinery, and research & development for product diversification, and ensuring a better market for them. After the IX Plan, the allocation

under the SJDF is made in the Annual Plan, depending on the requirement under various projects. The allocation under the SJDF and the Jute Technology Mission for the X Plan is Rs. 40 crores.

(c) No Sir. However, the Government had provided Rs. 2 crores to the Jute Corporation of India (JCI) for creating infrastructural facilities in jute growing areas under the Special Jute Development Fund in the year 1987-88. JCI, in turn, released Rs. 83.44 lakhs to the Apex Cooperative Societies of jute growing States. There was inadequate requisition of funds by the Apex Cooperative Societies for fresh projects, and JCI returned the unutilised funds, along with interest, amounting to Rs. 152.98 lakhs, to the Government of India, in the year 2001-02.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

Road Map for Rural Electrification

*237. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved a road map to light up the entire country by 2012;

(b) if so, the details of the plan prepared by the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the above road map has been prepared with the consent of States, Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and other stakeholder;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the role assigned to the PSUs as well as the private sector for generating additional power as per policy document; and

(f) the effective steps taken and monitoring system set up to achieve the target to make available electricity to all households?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Under the provisions of section 3 of the Electricity Act, 2003, Central Government has notified the National Electricity Policy on 12.2.2005. Main objectives of the policy are mentioned below:

- Access to Electricity—Available for all households in next five years.

- Availability of Power—Demand to be fully met by 2012. Energy and peaking shortages to be overcome and 5% spinning reserve to be available.
- Supply of Reliable and Quality Power of specified standards in an efficient manner and at reasonable rates.
- Per capita availability of electricity to be increased to over 1000 units by 2012.
- Minimum lifeline consumption of 1 unit/household/day as a merit good by year 2012.
- Financial Turnaround and Commercial Viability of Electricity Sector.
- Protection of consumers' interests.

(c) and (d) Yes Sir, the National Electricity Policy has been prepared in consultation with the State Governments and other stake holders after also considering the comments of the Central Electricity Authority and advice of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission. Regional meetings were also organized with the State Governments for facilitating the consultations.

(e) To meet the objective of rapid economic growth and "power for all" including household electrification, it is estimated that an investment of the order of Rs. 9,00,000 crores at 2002-03 price level would be required to finance generation, transmission, sub-transmission, distribution and rural electrification projects. Government has initiated several reform measures to create a favourable environment for addition of new generating capacity in the country. The Electricity Act 2003 has put in place a highly liberal framework for generation. There is no requirement of licensing for generation. The requirement of techno-economic clearance of CEA for thermal generation project is no longer there. Captive generation has been freed from all controls.

The National Electricity Policy stipulates following for encouraging investments for creating additional generation capacity:

- Power being most crucial infrastructure, public sector investments, both at the Central Government and State Governments, will have to be stepped up. Considering the magnitude of the expansion of the sector required, a sizeable part of the investments will also need to be brought in from the private sector.

- Under the provisions of section 63 of the Act, Central Government has also issued the guidelines for competitive bidding for determination of tariff for procurement of power by distribution licensees.
- Maximum emphasis on full development of feasible hydro potential. Debt financing of longer tenure envisaged for hydro projects.
- Need to provide return on investment in a manner that the sector is able to attract adequate investments at par with, if not in preference to, investment opportunities in other sectors.
- Need for Central and State Governments to develop workable and successful models for public private partnership. This would also enable leveraging private investment with the public sector finances.

(f) A new scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been approved for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years. Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
- (iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

According to the National Electricity Policy, the Rural Electrification Corporation of India (REC) will be the nodal agency at Central Government level to implement the

programme for achieving the goal set by National Common Minimum Programme of giving access to electricity to all the households in next five years and would ensure timely implementation of rural electrification projects.

Seizure of Fake Currency Notes

*238. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:
SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether DRI has recently seized fake Indian currency worth several lakhs from foreign nationals in the capital of India;

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

(c) whether some of the neighbouring countries are routing fake currency to weaken the economy of the country;

(d) if so, the impact of fake currency on the economy of the country; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to check circulation of fake currency in the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (e) As per information furnished by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), they have recently seized Fake Indian Currency Notes (FICN) worth Rs. 45.98 lakhs from two Bangladeshi nationals in the capital. The Bangladeshi nationals and two local persons of Delhi, to whom the FICN were to be delivered, are in police custody and the case is under investigation by the CBI.

Instances have come to notice of the Government pointing to the involvement of some neighbouring countries routing FICN through their borders. However, FICN detected at RBI offices and bank branches in the country is minuscule as compared to the total volume of Indian Bank notes in circulation.

A number of steps have been taken to curb circulation of FICN in the country which include stepping up of vigilance by BSF/Custom authorities to prevent smuggling of fake notes in the country, training and sensitisation of law enforcement agencies, dissemination of information on security features through print and

electronic media for the benefit of public etc. Further, based on the recommendations of a High Level Committee some additional security features have been approved for incorporation in the Indian Bank notes which shall make counterfeiting a difficult task. In addition, the Government of India has nominated CBI as the Nodal agency to monitor investigation of fake currency note cases and in tackling such crimes.

Lok Adalats

*239. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the States/UTs have not established permanent Lok Adalats;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government to make available speedy, inexpensive and substantial justice to common man?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Due to non-availability of enough funds from the State Governments for creation of infrastructural facilities such as provision for buildings/furniture, creation of posts, payment of salary for the staff and other administrative expenses, the State Legal Services Authorities are experiencing difficulties to establish Permanent Lok Adalats.

(c) Legal Aid Schemes and Programmes have been evolved and are being implemented throughout the country to make justice available at door-step of common man. Free Legal Services have been extended to the weaker sections of the society such as, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Women, Children, handicapped, disabled workmen and persons in custody, under the provisions of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. The free legal aid and advice and other services are provided to the aforesaid category of persons in respect of their cases right from the munsif court to Supreme Court.

Lok Adalats are being organized by State Legal Services Authorities throughout the country. These Lok Adalats have been set up for speedy disposal of the cases.

National Legal Services Authority is also monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Legal Aid

Schemes & Programmes in the country and is taking appropriate measures for spreading legal literacy & legal awareness amongst the common man, poor and the weaker sections of the society in particular, so as to strengthen the legal aid movement.

Twelfth Finance Commission

*240. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the 12th Finance Commission to various States under different schemes;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to improve financial position to mobilize additional resources for all round development;

(c) whether the 12th Finance Commission has worked out the cost of wages and salaries of the State Government employees; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) Twelfth Finance Commission (TFC) has recommended a total estimated transfer of Rs. 613,112.02 crore to States as share in the net proceeds of all sharable union taxes and duties and has recommended grants amounting to Rs. 142,639.60 crore, aggregating to a total transfer of Rs. 755,751.62 crore to the States over the period 2005-10 as against a total estimated transfer of Rs. 440,209.26 crore by Eleventh Finance Commission for 2000-05. Government of India has accepted the recommendation of the TFC. State-wise details of estimated share in taxes and in each of the grants recommended are enclosed at Statement-I.

Government of India has taken measures to increase tax-GDP ratio, rationalise expenditure and prudently borrow to improve the financial position. States get additional resources when Govt's tax collections improve.

Twelfth Finance Commission has reported details of number of employees and per employee salary expenditure of State Governments, State-wise for the period 1994-95 to 2002-2003, which is enclosed as Statement II and III.

Statement I**Total Finance Commission Transfers to States (TFC)****(Rs. in crore)**

States	Share in Central Taxes & Duties (2005-10)	Grants in-aid											Total Transfers (Col. 2 + Col. 13)
		Non-Plan Revenue Deficit (2005-10)	Health Sector (2005-10)	Education (2005-10)	Mainten- ance of Roads & Bridges (2006-10)	Mainten- ance of Buildings (2006-10)	Mainten- ance of Forests (2005-10)	Heritage conservation (2006-10)	State Specific Needs (2006-10)	Local Bodies (2005-10)	Calamity Relief (2005-10)	Total (Col. 3 to Col. 12)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Andhra Pradesh	45138.68				980.12	242.53	65.00	40.00	500.00	1961.00	1425.93	5214.58	50353.26
Arunachal Pradesh	1767.34	1357.88			44.36	57.42	100.00	5.00	10.00	71.00	112.56	1758.22	3525.56
Assam	19850.69	305.67	966.02	1107.37	330.12	230.64	40.00	20.00	130.00	581.00	767.89	4478.71	24329.40
Bihar	67671.04		1819.69	2683.76	309.36	359.61	5.00	40.00	400.00	1766.00	592.37	7975.79	75846.83
Chhattisgarh	16285.76				262.40	183.09	85.00	10.00	300.00	703.00	444.45	1987.94	18273.70
Goa	1589.14				39.48	24.18	3.00	20.00	10.00	30.00	8.73	135.39	1724.53
Gujarat	21900.47				895.20	203.61	20.00	25.00	200.00	1345.00	1019.47	3708.28	25608.75
Haryana	6596.46				182.72	151.80	2.00	15.00	100.00	479.00	515.46	1445.98	8042.44
Himachal Pradesh	3203.22	10202.38			261.64	147.60	20.00	10.00	50.00	155.00	400.52	11247.14	14450.36
Jammu & Kashmir	7441.71	12353.46			117.68	164.54	30.00	10.00	100.00	319.00	343.89	13438.57	20880.28
Jharkhand	20624.02		360.98	651.73	409.04	159.61	30.00	10.00	330.00	580.00	501.46	3032.82	23656.84
Karnataka	27361.88				1458.12	205.12	55.00	50.00	600.00	1211.00	475.16	4054.40	31416.28
Kerala	16353.21	470.37			642.32	103.50	25.00	25.00	500.00	1134.00	354.32	3254.51	19607.72
Madhya Pradesh	41180.59		181.64	459.56	586.88	443.02	115.00	20.00	300.00	2024.00	1011.27	5141.37	46321.96
Maharashtra	30663.19				1189.68	223.61	70.00	50.00	300.00	2774.00	923.77	5531.06	36194.25
Manipur	2221.44	4391.98			76.96	37.71	30.00	5.00	30.00	55.00	22.11	4648.76	6870.20
Meghalaya	2276.61	1796.86			86.40	35.02	30.00	5.00	35.00	58.00	44.88	2091.16	4367.77
Mizoram	1466.52	2977.79			42.12	23.29	25.00	5.00	65.00	30.00	26.19	3194.39	4660.91
Nagaland	1613.67	5536.60			120.88	46.17	25.00	5.00	45.00	46.00	15.19	5839.74	7453.41
Orissa	31669.47	488.04	196.37	323.30	1475.08	389.14	75.00	50.00	170.00	907.00	1199.37	5273.30	36942.77
Punjab	7971.00	3132.67			420.96	151.80	2.00	10.00	96.00	495.00	605.16	4913.59	12684.59
Rajasthan	34418.56			100.00	633.32	213.09	25.00	50.00	450.00	1450.00	1722.50	4843.91	39062.47

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sikkim	1392.94	186.67			18.84	32.15	8.00	5.00	100.00	14.00	69.74	436.20	1829.14
Tamil Nadu	32552.74				1214.40	242.53	30.00	40.00	300.00	1442.00	866.46	4135.39	36686.13
Tripura	2626.09	5494.20			61.48	50.11	15.00	5.00	49.00	65.00	51.12	5790.91	8417.00
Uttar Pradesh	118209.45		2312.38	4454.07	2403.16	600.28	20.00	50.00	800.00	3445.00	1177.11	15262.00	133471.45
Uttaranchal	5762.22	5114.68	50.00		324.56	97.60	35.00	5.00	240.00	196.00	369.28	6432.12	12194.34
West Bengal	43303.91	3044.72		391.36	412.92	181.23	15.00	40.00	890.00	1664.00	933.64	7573.37	50877.28
Total States	613112.02	56855.87	5887.08	10171.65	15000.00	5000.00	1000.00	625.00	7100.00	25000.00	18000.00	142639.80	755751.62

*Statement II**State-wise Number of Government Employees*

(Number)

States	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	560138	564583	568907	697619	589998	581456	543147	514163	545859
Arunachal Pradesh	33222	36325	37420	39222	39606	39445	40231	40322	41165
Assam	413464	422690	430357	441590	459701	453245	447424	441634	435534
Bihar	627990	613440	595612	570241	548075	531633	515684	470825	462137
Goa	31241	31880	33807	34056	34230	35341	35379	34276	34499
Gujarat	209873	208680	204355	197768	215874	206036	205935	211008	203286
Haryana	300963	309795	315120	313790	316472	320515	319027	322217	325439
Himachal Pradesh	131497	138307	142934	148163	159542	168551	175324	177000	180540
Karnataka	593878	632117	654002	665072	606478	627973	619518	618062	622547
Kerala	357203	362540	361115	367572	377037	389563	385234	385881	352730
Madhya Pradesh	523583	526378	514677	513475	518381	516230	510115	505882	497985
Maharashtra	736607	747392	736591	736969	729546	707326	710802	695870	692265
Meghalaya	36194	38014	39613	42830	44928	46644	47427	48776	49813
Orissa	407290	426786	458295	468941	475791	458458	433452	426885	419468
Punjab	385703	367935	373468	371462	373270	378147	373702	376222	NA
Rajasthan	512224	531235	551054	569575	586452	596143	600835	611583	607469

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sikkim	19522	20158	20138	21701	20395	22728	22859	23426	23873
Tamil Nadu	690546	691515	691644	691644	708201	708699	708986	709599	NA
Tripura	90300	89242	96310	96725	96673	105038	103736	101604	98379
Uttar Pradesh	873351	865254	815213	809507	803801	705368	702686	705803	705803
West Bengal	432503	432403	433705	431599	436285	437018	441160	442544	439300
Total (21 states)	7947292	8056669	8075237	8129521	8140736	8035557	7942643	7863382	6738191

N.A.-Not Available.

*Statement III**Per Employee Salary Expenditure**(In Rupees)*

States	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	35138	38033	40899	37991	49282	63562	75365	75897	80909
Arunachal Pradesh	48040	51369	57119	67613	81229	88462	94136	93558	98221
Assam	36895	41614	45720	51198	57860	73070	77432	81745	83720
Bihar*	54900	62482	67950	79987	97094	125763	125198	97677	105125
Goa	43989	51333	61566	76501	83729	89573	92510	100053	102491
Gujarat	46501	58745	62631	74892	84218	90795	94320	96782	108095
Haryana	38922	44201	50667	50027	68620	81960	84196	92624	101355
Himachal Pradesh	45542	50975	56717	66669	83728	84695	91691	101907	110582
Karnataka	36314	38344	42800	58445	61759	71788	73864	80491	81000
Kerala	40554	42762	48599	50699	59504	79187	79443	72359	85961
Madhya Pradesh*	46205	52963	60517	67392	85515	94208	99718	92114	106000
Maharashtra	43053	49083	53015	57885	64797	99119	87452	90126	86281
Meghalaya	53434	62001	70568	77378	82668	89471	96181	108088	113808
Orissa	33262	36040	44441	51104	66479	81272	82980	78748	92876
Punjab	45432	51659	62492	77198	98641	101137	114726	109846	NA
Rajasthan	41745	47682	53057	57281	78153	81548	81777	83651	87115

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Sikkim	42665	49012	54430	62041	125552	114852	109817	113651	121684
Tamil Nadu	45173	52731	61775	71807	91394	102509	101463	102998	NA
Tripura	34891	50654	42277	49915	58755	70292	77736	89609	99631
Uttar Pradesh*	40045	45998	56940	74581	79486	100010	105592	94971	108602
West Bengal	41846	45838	52430	57728	84631	93809	100265	98601	103714
Weighted Average (21 states)	41968	47398	53631	61377	75116	89600	92214	90353	94603
Growth Rate (Average Salary)		12.94	13.15	14.44	22.38	19.28	2.92	-2.02	4.70

NA-Not Available.

*These States were bifurcated in 2000. Data in 2000-01 and 2001-02 relate to the position after bifurcation.

[Translation]

Contributory Insurance Scheme

2376. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI ANNASAHEB M.K. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce economical contributory insurance scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the number of people likely to be benefited every year under the said scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No such scheme is contemplated for introduction.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Contribution to AARDO

2377. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has been contributing a large sum as membership to the Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO);

(b) if so, the details of annual contribution of AARDO for the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the name and number of activities of AARDO, in which India participated during the last three years; and

(d) the aforesaid contribution helped India in developing understanding among member countries and eradicating poverty among rural people in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The annual membership contribution of India to Afro Asian Rural Development Organisation (AARDO) is US\$ 106,000.

(b) The year wise contribution for five years to AARDO is as under:

Year	Annual Contribution
2004	US \$ 106,000
2003	US \$ 106,000
2002	US \$ 106,000
2001	US \$ 106,000
2000	US \$ 106,000

(c) AARDO in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs has organized various training courses with the participation from different countries on subjects such as (i) Promotion of Micro Enterprises (ii) Assessment and Transfer of Indian Technology (iii) Information Storage and Retrieval System (iv) Small Enterprises Management Consultancy (v) Small Enterprises policy and promotion (vi) Total Quality Management and ISO 9000/QS 9000 (vii) Empowerment of Women through Enterprises (viii) Rural Industry Promotion in Developing Economies (ix) Data Warehousing and Data Mining (x) Adoption of Indian Technologies for sustainable Industrial Development (xi) Training Methods and skill for managers (xii) Promotion of Export oriented Agro Industries (xiii) Small Industry Financing—Approaches and Strategies (xiv) Strategies for sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (xv) Textile Training Quality Control, Textile Extension etc.

(d) AARDO is a forum with which India is closely associated so as to further cooperation in the field of rural development in the member countries. Our contributions have helped the Organisation to sustain its main activities such as human resource development and development of pilot projects through partnership with the rural beneficiaries, addressing the basic physical and social infrastructure, transfer of technology and poverty alleviation programmes through income and employment generating activities.

Facilities to Trade Unions in RRBs

2378. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government in its order on November 5, 1989 has allowed check off facility to any registered trade union in Regional Rural Banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such benefits has been allowed by all the RRBs;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reasons for not providing such facilities to the management of Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank and Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development

(NABARD) had advised Sponsor Banks of all RRBs to extend check off facility, if so requested, to the registered unions whether recognized or otherwise in their sponsored RRBs.

(e) State Bank of India the sponsor bank of Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank and Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank has reported that the management of Santhal Pargana Gramin Bank and Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank have disallowed such benefits only to the officers in terms of clause 31 (1) of the RRBs officers and Employees Service Regulation-2001.

[Translation]

Review of Handicraft Scheme

2379. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has reviewed the schemes related to handicrafts being implemented in the country speedily in Jharkhand and Gujarat;

(b) if so, the shortcomings in the above schemes as well as the lapse on the part of the Government authorities in the implementation of the said scheme;

(c) the other schemes formulated or propose to be formulated by the Government;

(d) whether offices of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) have been showing non-cooperation in the matter of upliftment of craftsmen;

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in the matter; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The schemes being implemented for promotion & development of handicrafts in the country are not state specific and are being implemented as grant-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporations/Apex bodies and NGOs etc. These schemes are reviewed periodically with a view to assess their outreach and impact and based on the review, corrective measures are taken wherever

required, in the form of modification/amendment of the schemes to make the delivery and outreach more effective. During the course of implementation if any such lapse comes to notice, necessary action is taken as per rules.

(c) The schemes currently in operation to promote handicrafts in the country include: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); Design & Technology Upgradation; Marketing & Support Services; Export Promotion; Training & Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana & Special Handicrafts Training Project.

(d) The Government provides full cooperation and support for upliftment of artisans.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

World Bank Assistance for Poverty Alleviation

2380. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh District Poverty Initiative Project was started in the State of Andhra Pradesh with the help of World Bank in the year 2000;

(b) if so, the present position of the project;

(c) the closing date of the said project;

(d) the total amount allocated under this project and the amount spent so far;

(e) whether a large portion of allocated amount is still lying unspent;

(f) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that the project is completed by the scheduled date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Project, the World Bank has rated the project as satisfactory. Substantial progress has been made in organising and strengthening Self Help Groups and their federation, development of business plans by federations, grounding of new sub-projects, increased volumes of commodities traded by communities, new partnerships between communities and private sector, and new initiatives for social intermediation.

(c) The present closing date of the project is 31.12.2005.

(d) to (g) The total amount allocated under the project is US \$ 134.8 million with a credit of US \$ 111.00 million. The project has utilised US \$ 70.872 million upto January, 2005. Keeping in view the progress made so far, it is expected that the project will utilise the total credit by present closing date.

[Translation]

UBI Office in Bangladesh

2381. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether United Bank of India (UBI) proposes to open its first representative office in Dhaka the capital of Bangladesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, sir. Reserve Bank of India has given permission to United Bank of India to open its first representative office in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 11.02.2005. The bank is taking necessary steps to operationalise this office.

Outstanding Royalty of BCCL

2382. SHRI JAI PRĀKASH (MOHANLAL GANJ): Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the details of coal royalty outstanding on various coal companies during the last three years, State-wise and unit-wise;

(b) the States which have taken action for recovery of arrears of royalty from these coal companies during the said period;

(c) whether any State Government have taken steps to attach the assets of any coal company for recovery of royalty; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) There is no coal royalty outstanding payable by the subsidiary coal companies of Coal India Limited (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. (SCCL) to any State Government during the last three years. However, Government of Jharkhand have raised various demands of royalty on account of stock shortage/non vendable coal relating to earlier periods on Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL). All such cases involving total amount of Rs. 48.87 crores are subjudice. CCL has paid an amount of Rs. 13.40 crores under protest against the above demands to the state authorities on the basis of court orders. The disputed royalty dues of Bharat Coking Coal Limited to the Government of Jharkhand which have not been paid, are Rs. 5.19 crores, Rs. 8.26 crores and Rs. 9.57 crores for 2001-02, 2002-093 and 2003-04 respectively.

(b) Only State of Jharkhand has taken action for recovery of arrears of royalty from CCL. No other State has taken any action against any coal company for recovery of arrears of royalty.

(c) and (d) From time to time steps have been initiated by Government of Jharkhand to attach the assets of CCL against the pending/subjudice cases. However, till date no attachment has been done in CCL.

Hydro Power Projects in H.P.

2383. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Hydel-Power projects proposed to be constructed or under construction on the rivers of Himachal Pradesh during the years 2004-05 and 2005-06 river-wise;

(b) the number of Hydel Power Projects under construction on the Pabar river in the district of Shimla along with their total power generation capacity in megawatt;

(c) whether any company or individuals including NRIs have been invited or any applications have been received by the Government of Himachal Pradesh for the purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The details of hydel projects proposed to be constructed or under construction of the rivers of Himachal Pradesh during the year 2004-05 and 2005-06 river-wise are as per enclosed Statement.

(b) Amongst the projects mentioned in part (a) above, only Sawara Kuddu Hydro Electric Project is on Pabbar river and its installed generation capacity is 110 MW.

(c) As informed by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board, no Company or individuals including NRIs have been invited nor any applications have been received by the Government of Himachal Pradesh for Sawara Kuddu Hydroelectric Project on Pabbar river.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Hydel Project proposed to be constructed (subject to various clearances) or under construction on the rivers of Himachal Pradesh during the years 2004-2005 and 2005-2006, river-wise

Sl.No.	Name of the Khad/River	Name of the Project	Installed Capacity (MW)	Sector
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Beas	Larji	126	State
2.	Khauli/Beas	Khauli	12	State
3.	Uhl/Beas	Uhl Stage-III	100	State

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Parbati/Beas	Parbati-II	800	Central
5.	Parbati/Beas	Parbati-III	520	Central
6.	Malana/Beas	Malana	100	Private
7.	Bakhil/Beas	Patikari	16	Private
8.	Satluj	Karcham Wangtoo	1000	Private
9.	Satluj	Rampur	434	Central
10.	Satluj	Koldam	800	Central
11.	Ganvi/Satluj	Ganvi-II	10	State
12.	Bhaba/Satluj	Bhaba Augmentation	4.5	State
13.	Kashang/Satluj	Kashang-I	66	State
14.	Pabbar	Sawara Kuddu	110	State
15.	Ravi	Chamera-III	231	Central
16.	Holi/Ravi	Holi	3	State
17.	Giri/Yamuna	Renuka	40	State
18.	Allain & Duhangan	Allain Duhangan	192	Private

Note: The information on State Sector and Private Sector projects has been furnished by Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board.

[English]

Convertibility of Rupee

2384. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the limited convertibility of rupee on capital and current account introduced since 1992 has achieved the desired result; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The current account of India's balance of payments became fully convertible in August 1994. The progress towards convertibility in the capital account, however, has been much more gradual. The major reforms carried out in the capital account include significant liberalization of policies

and procedures relating foreign direct investment (FDI) and foreign institutional investment (FII). Indian companies have also been permitted to raise resources from overseas markets through issue of global depository receipts and foreign currency convertible bonds (FCCBs). Moreover, policies relating to non-resident Indian deposits, and external commercial borrowings, have also been liberalized.

(b) The various reforms undertaken in India's current and capital account transactions have considerably strengthened India's balance of payments. India's foreign exchange reserves have risen from only US\$ 5.8 billion in 1990-91, to more than US\$ 137 billion on March 4, 2005. Heavy capital inflows resulted in a capital account surplus of more than US\$ 20 billion in 2003-04. The current account also, has been in surplus during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04, reflecting progressive strengthening of India's external sector.

FII Investment in Health and Education Sector

2385. SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has received proposals from FIIs for investment in health and education sector;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) once registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) under FII Regulations, 1995, can make portfolio investments in Indian companies including health and education sectors subject to Regulations and existing guidelines.

Power Crisis in Chandigarh

2386. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BAÑSAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

- (a) the total demand and supply of power in Chandigarh as on date;
- (b) the sources of power supply and the number of sub-stations in the Union Territory at present;
- (c) whether there was a frequent power failures or load shedding in recent days;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) During the period April-February 05', the power supply position in UT of Chandigarh was as under:

Energy (MU)		Peak (MW)	
Requirement	1074	Peak Demand	224
Availability	1065	Peak Met	224
Shortage	9	Shortage	0
Shortage (%)	0.8	Shortage (%)	0

(b) UT of Chandigarh meets its requirement of power from its own sources (i.e. DG Sets), its share in Bhakra

Beas Management Board (BBMB) Project and allocation from Central Sector Generating Stations (CGSs). At present, there are sixteen (16) substations in Chandigarh comprising of one 220 kV, nine 66 kV and six 33 kV substations.

(c) and (d) In January and February 2005, power demand in UT of Chandigarh had exceeded the availability. Load shedding of 7-10 MW for 2-3 hours in a day was resorted to during these two months. Demand cut of 4 MW each on HT & LT industries during peak hours was imposed during February 2005.

(e) Assistance has been provided to Chandigarh from time to time by allocating additional power from unallocated quota of CGSs to mitigate the power shortage. At present, besides firm allocation of 72 MW in CGSs in the Northern Region (NR), the UT of Chandigarh has been allocated 52 MW from unallocated quota of CGSs in NR and 20 MW from unallocated quota of NTPC stations in Eastern Region. Further, the availability of power would be augmented on commissioning of CGSs in the NR during the remaining period of 10th Plan in which UT of Chandigarh will have entitlements.

[Translation]

Closure of Private Insurance Companies

2387. SHRIMATI KALPNA RAMESH NARHIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of private companies which have closed down their business during the last two years;
- (b) the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the said companies have returned the money due to insurers; and
- (d) if not, the action taken against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As informed by IRDA, none of the private insurance companies has closed down its business during the last two years.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Irregularities under PMGSY

2388. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain irregularities in implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana have been found out;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to maintain the quality of roads to be constructed under the said Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Rural roads being a State subject, the State Government is primarily responsible for ensuring the proper execution of the programme. The quality of implementation is monitored through the supervisory mechanism of the State Government, and further through the normal audit process.

A three-tier Quality Control mechanism has also been prescribed for ensuring quality at works level. The State Government, as the executing agency, is responsible for the first two tiers at the works and at the State levels. A third tier of quality monitoring is enforced at the Central level by the National Rural Roads Development Agency (NRRDA) under the Ministry of Rural Development through National Quality Monitors (NQMs) who are senior retired engineers with road construction experience. They inspect works on systematic randomised basis and advise the executing machinery on all technical aspects of the programme.

Inspections by NQMs upto October, 2004 have been as follows:

Completed works		Works in progress	
Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
8678	713	11143	3451

Where a work is found unsatisfactory necessary rectification is to be done in the quality of the material or workmanship. In case of unsatisfactory completed works the State Government is also expected to take action against the contractor at fault.

Indian Standard Bureau in Textile Sector

2389. SHRI BALESHWAR YADAV: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in textile sector provisions of Indian Standard Bureau can not be implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to implement other provisions of consumer protection in this sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) The Government is in the process of formulating a legislation, which would, *inter-alia*, protect the interests of the consumers by prescribing markings on domestically produced and imported textiles as it is not desirable to make provisions of Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 compulsory in textile sector.

Windmills

2390. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme for generating energy through windmills has been formulated by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to adopt any advanced technology to counter the adverse effects of the windmills;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the quantum of energy generated through windmills in the country as on date, State-wise;

(f) whether the generation of power through wind mills has adversely affected the quantum of rainfall received by at the project-site; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has

been implementing a Wind Energy Programme which aims at utilizing wind energy mainly for generation of grid power. The programme provides for partial financial assistance for undertaking survey and assessment of wind resources, setting up of limited demonstration projects and support to Centre for Wind Energy Technology (C-WET). Fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional customs duty on certain components, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, excise duty exemption etc. are also available to private developers and manufacturers for setting up of commercial wind farm projects. A cumulative installed capacity of around 3000 MW has been achieved as on 31.12.2004 in the country.

(c) and (d) The generation of power from windmills is non-polluting and environmentally benign without any adverse effects. Nevertheless wind turbines with state-of-art-technology are being manufactured in the country under licensed production/joint ventures.

(e) A cumulative total of about 16.17 billion units of electricity has been generated till end of December, 2004. State-wise installation is given in enclosed Statement.

(f) and (g) No, Sir. Generation of power through windmills does not affect the quantum of rainfall at the project-site.

Statement

State-wise Generation of Electricity from Wind Power Projects Till 31st December, 2004

State	Million Units
Andhra Pradesh	622.3
Gujarat	1304.2
Karnataka	1186.4
Kerala	15.8
Madhya Pradesh	171.7
Maharashtra	2395.5
Orissa	1.2
Tamil Nadu	10399.9
Rajasthan	73.3
West Bengal	1.6
Total	16171.9

Schedule Status to Regional Rural Banks

2391. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Regional Rural Banks are Scheduled Banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) All 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), which have been established under Section 3 (1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, are Scheduled Banks.

Wind/Solar Energy

2392. SHRI ANNASAHAB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is contemplating to sign contracts with some countries in order to explore the potentialities of wind and solar energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

(d) the progress achieved in this regard till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) At present there is no proposal to sign any contract at the Government level with any country for exploring the potential of wind and solar energy.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Silk from China

2393. SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR:
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether silk items from China are flooding the Indian Market;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is affecting the domestic silk industry; and

(d) if so, the measures taken by the Government to safeguard domestic silk industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. There has been significant increase in imports of raw silk and silk fabric from China. From 2001-02 to 2003-04 raw silk imports have risen from 6317 MT to 7576 MT and silk fabric import has risen from 766 MT to 2824 MT. These imports are coming in at prices lower than the domestic prices, causing distress to domestic industry.

(d) Major steps taken by the Government of India to safeguard domestic silk industry are given below:

(i) Antidumping duty has been imposed by Govt. of India with effect from 2nd January, 2003 on all imported mulberry raw silk (not thrown) of international grade 2A and below, originated in or exported from People's Republic of China, so as to keep the landed value of these goods at US\$ 27.97 per kg.

(ii) Several programmes and schemes to increase the quality, productivity and the competitiveness of the domestic silk industry have been instituted. The important ones are:

- Research and Development efforts of Central Silk board have been stepped up to improve quantity and productivity of sericulture, by evolution of more productive and stress tolerant breeds and hybrids of mulberry and non-mulberry food plants and silkworms; and development of low cost reeling and processing technologies in silk;
- Seed Support & Technical Assistance is being given by the Central Silk Board to State Governments, farmers & reelers by maintenance of parent races and basic seed, supply of commercial seed, and augmentation of grainage facilities for production of disease free high yielding and drought resistant seeds;
- Central assistance is being extended to States through Centrally Sponsored & Central sector

schemes to strengthen farm infrastructure, increase area under sericulture, upgrade reeling facilities, improve finishing processes, strengthen seed supply, cocoon & silk testing systems;

- Law cost and productivity enhancing technologies developed by the Central Silk Board are being popularised through central assistance to beneficiaries, training to the States' extension machinery and beneficiaries, organizing of various awareness programmes, etc.;
- For technology upgradation of the indigenous silk industry loan at 5% point less than applicable bank rate, under the Technological Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) for the textiles sector is available inter alia to silk sector.;
- Supply chain issues between the farmers, raw silk producers and the weavers are being addressed by advocating contract farming models, price linked grading, etc.;
- Establishing quality certification systems for silkworm seeds, cocoons, yarn and fabric;
- An amount of Rs. 450 crores has been provided in the X Plan for the Sericulture sector to support the above strategy & programmes.

Power Grid Corporation

2394. SHRI EKNATH M. GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Western Power Grid, catering to Maharashtra Gujarat, often suffer from major power break-downs;

(b) if so, the causes of the Grid failures, and the number of such breakdowns noticed during 2003-04 and 2005, if any so far; and

(c) the steps to prevent such break downs in future?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) The Western Power Grid did not suffer any major break-down during 2003-04 and 2004-05 (upto 13.03.05). However, six partial (minor) grid disturbances occurred in the Western grid affecting power supply in some areas of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. The details of these partial grid disturbances are as under:

Date of occurrence of partial grid disturbance	Main cause
<hr/>	
2003-04	
(i) 06.10.03	Sub-station equipment failure
(ii) 05.11.03	Transmission constraints
(iii) 07.11.03	Transmission constraints
(iv) 06.12.03	Transmission constraints
(v) 05.02.04	Sub-station equipment failure
2004-05	
(i) 27.02.05	Fire in Koradi Thermal Power Station of Maharashtra State Electricity Board

(c) The following short term, medium term and long term measures have been evolved to prevent such breakdowns in future:

- (i) Strengthening of intra-regional and inter-regional transmission system network.
- (ii) Provision of under-voltage relays at low-voltage pockets.
- (iii) Maximising reactive power generation.
- (iv) Load relief by automatic under-frequency relay schemes.
- (v) Installation of shunt capacitors to overcome low voltage conditions etc.
- (vi) 400 kV Khandwa substation has been commissioned by POWERGRID in December, 2004. This has facilitated transfer of around 200 MW of power to Khandwa substation by provision of loop in loop out (LILO) on 220 kV Burwaha-Nepanagar ckt. I & II.
- (vii) ABT (Availability Based Tariff) regime has been implemented and grid frequency is being closely monitored to maintain frequency within the desirable range of 49.0 to 50.5 Hz. by maximizing generation and taking load regulatory measures.

Arrears Outstanding against Tamil Nadu

2395. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of arrears outstanding against the Government of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has made any representation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the quantum of interest being paid by the State Government yearly on these arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There are no arrears of Govt loans, given from Ministry of Finance, against Government of Tamil Nadu.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Raising of Margins on Advances Against Shares

2396. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has raised margins from 40 percent to 50 percent on advances against shares, public issues guarantees and minimum cash requirement;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular raising the margin on all advances against shares/financing of IPOs/issue of guarantees etc. from 40 per cent to 50 per cent with effect from December 27, 2004. Within the margin of 50 per cent, the minimum cash margin has been increased from 20 per cent to 25 per cent in respect of the guarantees issued by banks. A copy of the circular DBOD. No. DIR.B.C. 64/13.07.05/2004-05 dated December 27, 2004 is available on RBI's website at www.rbi.org.in.

APMC's Representation Against Imposition of Income Tax

2397. SHRI VIKRAMBHAI ARJANBHAI MADAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture Product Marketing Committee and State Government have represented against the imposition of Income Tax on the said committee from the assessment year 2003-04; and

(b) if so, the final decision of the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have been advised that considering the need to phase out all exemptions inconsistent with a moderate tax regime, a policy decision was taken through the Finance Act, 2002, to define the term "local authority" under section 10 (20) of the Income-tax Act and thereby restrict the exemption to Panchayats, Municipalities, Municipal Committees, District Boards and Cantonment Boards. Agricultural Marketing Boards and the Market Committees do not fall within the definition and are, therefore, not eligible for tax exemption under this section.

Collection of Additional Cess

2398. MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had imposed an additional cess of 50 paise per litre on petrol and diesel with effect from April 1, 2003 for development of roads;

(b) if so, the total amount collected exclusively under this scheme;

(c) the amount of share of various categories of roads under this scheme; and

(d) the amount released to concerned Ministries, Ministry-wise with dates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The rate of additional duty of customs and additional duty of Excise (also known as cess) on petrol and diesel was increased from Re. 1 per litre to Rs. 1.50 per litre in budget 2003 with effect from 1st of March 2003.

(b) Total amount collected from cess on petrol and diesel, during the year 2003-04 was Rs. 7453 crore.

(c) and (d) The expenditure provision from the Central Road Fund for the year 2003-04 and 2004-05 were as under:

(Rs. in crore)			
Sl.No.	Item	2003-04	2004-05
1.	Grant to States	875.60	835.53
2.	Grant to States for inter-state and economically important roads	95.00	92.00
3.	Grants to UT Governments	35.16	32.47
4.	Grants to UTs for inter-state and economically important roads	5.00	4.00
5.	Investment in NHAI	1993.00	1848.00
6.	Railways	433.00	401.00
7.	Rural roads	2325.00	2148.00
Total		5761.76	5361.00

Annual Return of Companies

2399. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of companies are not filing their annual return;

(b) if so, the number of such companies, State-wise;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken against such companies; and

(d) the number of companies disqualified during the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) There is no provision in the Companies Act to disqualify a company for non-filing of Annual Returns.

Import of Ham Radio Equipment

2400. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ham Radio Operators of India played a vital role in establishing the communication link between the Islands of Andaman & Nicobar and the main land in recent Tsunami disaster management and also in the earlier natural calamities/when all other means of communications had failed, which has been duly recognized by the various authorities of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and other Southern States in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to import of used Ham radio equipment without import duty to promote this dying service due to lack of equipment; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Radio communication was established by Ham Radio Operators of India from Andaman and Nicobar Islands after tsunami disaster. About 15 Ham Radio Operators assisted local authorities in Andaman and Nicobar Islands for such communications in connection with relief operations.

(b) Specified wireless apparatus, accessories and parts imported by licensed amateur radio operator attract a concessional customs duty of only 5%, subject to a overall value limit of Rs. 75,000. At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to fully exempt Ham Radio Equipment from the levy of import duty.

(d) does not arise in view of (b) above.

Exemption of Excise and Customs Duty

2401. SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:
SHRI K.S. RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments requested the Union Government for exemption of Customs Duty to Budha Purnima Project Authority, HUDA, Hyderabad for the proposed Laser Show Project at Lumbini Park; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes. State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for exemption of Customs Duty to the Budha Purnima Project Authority, but the same could not be acceded to, as it did not meet with the guidelines issued for exemption under Section 25 (2) of the Customs Act, 1962.

National Legal Literacy Mission

2402. SHRI K.S. RAO:
SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT "BACHDA":
SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of National Legal Literacy Mission, 2005-10 held recently in the Capital;

(b) if so, the issues raised by the participants;

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to bring the higher judiciary under the Lokpal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Legal Literacy Mission was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Chief Justice of India jointly on 6th March, 2005 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

(b) The issues included making the common man aware of his legal rights, Fundamental Rights and

Fundamental Duties and how the common man can have access to justice.

(c) The Union Government's response has been positive. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and Hon'ble Minister of Law & Justice endorsed the said Mission and extended the whole-hearted support of the Government to the implementation of the Mission.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise

[*Translation*]

Supply of Coal to Small Scale and Cottage Industry

2403. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of small scale and cottage industries in each State to which coal is supplied by the Coal India Limited and by each of its ancillary companies;

(b) the total quantity of coal in tonnes supplied to such industries during each of the last three years indicating the rate per tonne;

(c) whether supply rate of coal to the small scale and cottage industries and to the other industries is below the rates for general sale;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has recently decided to get an enquiry of the coal manufacturing companies, small scale industries and the companies run by cottage industries, which get coal at concessional rates; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The number of linked consumers of non-core sector, most of which fall in the small-scale and cottage industries category currently drawing coal from various subsidiary companies of Coal India Limited are to the extent of 2722. The State-wise break-up for the same is as under:

Sl.No.	State	No. of Consumers
1.	Assam	3
2.	Bihar	180
3.	Sikkim	1
4.	Nagaland	7
5.	Meghalaya	1
6.	West Bengal	623
7.	Orissa	30
8.	Chhattisgarh	84
9.	Andhra Pradesh	3
10.	Madhya Pradesh	321
11.	Jharkhand	286
12.	Uttar Pradesh	831
13.	Maharashtra	231
14.	Gujarat	9
15.	Haryana	15
16.	Punjab	92
17.	Rajasthan	5
Total		2722

(b) The total quantity of coal supplied to such linked industries during last three years as well as the current year up to January 2005 is as under:

Year	Qunty. Dispatched (Mill. Tonnes)
2001-02	14.71
2002-03	13.36
2003-04	12.76
2004-05 (Till January 2005)	10.15 (Prov.)

Since the quality of coal supplied to these consumers varies from grade to grade, the rate per tonne also varies accordingly. The lowest and highest basic rates ranges between Rs. 400/-per tonne to Rs. 2160/-per tonne.

(c) and (d) The small scale and cottage industries and the other linked industries do not get coal at the rates below the rates for general sale. In fact, all such linked consumers are guided by the CIL notified prices except trial sale under E-auction wherein the rates are determined through bidding process by the customers themselves.

(e) and (f) Consequent on the recommendations of Standing Committee of Coal & Steel, Ministry of Coal has already instructed Coal India Limited and its coal producing subsidiaries to conduct fresh verification of all valid linked non-core consumers. The Ministry has also suggested broad-based guidelines/check-list for conducting the verification of such consumers. Ministry of Coal has also separately written to all the State Govts. (Department of Industry and SSI) to verify the credentials of consumers located in their States drawing coal from coal subsidiaries.

Transparent Loan Process

2404. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY:
SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the procedure of providing loans by public sector banks is so complicated that most of the people are unable to obtain loans inspite of their desire;

(b) whether on the one hand the people need loans and on the other hand the banks have surplus funds;

(c) if so, whether the Government proposes to issue any guidelines to the banks in order to ensure providing loans to the needy people;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Banks have different schemes for sanction of loans for various economic activities. Applicants who are eligible for finance and whose proposals are considered credit worthy on commercial considerations are being provided loans by the Banks. For small borrowers procedures have been simplified through various guidelines to banks as issued by the RBI. Banking system has enough liquidity to meet credit needs of the economy. Bank loans are not only based on the need of the people but also viability of the proposed activities.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. RBI has been issuing necessary guidelines to banks on priority sector advances, which include Government Schemes for needy people.

[English]

Secrecy of Bank Accounts in Swiss Bank

2405. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Government of Switzerland have relaxed on the secrecy of bank accounts in that country;

(b) whether the Government has taken advantage of this development of identify the Indian citizens who have over a period of time stacked their ill-gotten and illegitimately earned money in Swiss bank accounts;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

Pending Complaints

2406. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government/RBI have received complaints in regard to inefficient banking services during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of complaints pending with the Government;

(d) the reasons for pendency; and

(e) the action taken by the Government against erring officials?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Public Grievances Redressal Cell at Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the Department of Banking Supervision receives complaints from public against deficiency in banking service etc. RBI takes up these complaints with the respective banks for expeditious redressal. There is no complaint received from the public which is pending/unattended for more than 2 months as on the date, with RBI.

(c) All the complaints received in the Public Grievances Cell of the Banking Division relating to banking services have been taken up with the Banks and nothing is pending/unattended for more than one month.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) RBI has reported that action has been taken by Public Sector Banks against 5428 delinquent employees for their involvement in case of frauds/corrupt practices during 2004.

[Translation]

Crisis in Handloom Industry

2407. DR.L LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the handloom industry is in crisis due to the large scale import of cheap garments from the foreign countries;

(b) if so, whether the Government have formulated any action plan to save the handloom industry of the country from the crisis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The major part of the production in handloom sector broadly consists of fabrics and made-ups. Most of the share of handloom fabrics goes into the production of made-up items and the share of conversion into garments is minimal at present. Therefore, the handloom industry is not being affected at present by the import of cheap garments from foreign countries.

(b) and (c) Does not arise. However, in general, the Government is implementing the following development and welfare schemes for the handloom sector:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana.
2. Handloom Export Scheme.
3. Integrated Handloom Training Programme.
4. Market Promotion Programme.
5. Mill Gate Price Scheme.
6. Setting up Marketing Complex.
7. Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yam.
8. Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on sale of handloom cloth during 2002-03 to 2004-05.
9. Welfare Schemes:
 - (a) Health Package Scheme
 - (b) Group Insurance Scheme
 - (c) New Insurance Scheme
 - (d) Thrift Fund Scheme
 - (e) Bunkar Bima Yojana
 - (f) Workshop-cum-Housing Scheme.

[English]

Community based Pilot Project

2408. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the names of districts where the Pilot Project in regard to community based Centralized services has been started during the last year alongwith budget allocation, State-wise;

(b) the number of districts out of them which are in the tribal areas of Maharashtra;

(c) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of districts under this project; and

(d) if so, the State-wise details thereof including the tribal districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to

(d) No Pilot Project in regard to community based Centralized services has been started during the last year in the Ministry of Rural Development. In the rural drinking water supply sector, Pilot Projects in 67 districts of 26 States were sanctioned from 1999-00 to 2002-03. The States were directed to complete all Schemes under execution in these Projects by 31.12.2003 and finalise the audit also. The Schemes which could not be completed have been transited into Swajaldhara

NGOs in Drought Prone Area

2409. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-Government organisations (NGOs) working in the drought prone areas, State-wise;

(b) the specific work undertaken by these NGOs in the last three years;

(c) whether these NGOs have extended any assistance to the farmers in the drought prone areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) State-wise number of Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) working in the drought prone areas and funded by CAPART is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The work (projects) undertaken by these NGOs during the last three years relate to the awareness creation, people's participation, income generation, integrated community development, integrated agricultural development, micro-credit and planning, infrastructure creation viz., excavation of ponds, med-bunding, drinking water augmentation, medicinal plantation, rural energy generation, innovative rural housing, water harvesting, etc.

(c) and (d) CAPART does not extend assistance exclusively to farmers through NGOs. The target groups of beneficiaries under various schemes assisted by CAPART include farmers also. The data regarding specific details of farmers to whom the NGOs have extended such assistance are not being maintained/monitored by CAPART.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of State	No. of NGOs
1.	Andhra Pradesh	252
2.	Bihar	86
3.	Chhattisgarh	2
4.	Gujarat	12
5.	Haryana	70
6.	Himachal Pradesh	18
7.	Jharkhand	25
8.	Karnataka	149
9.	Kerala	10
10.	Maharashtra	91
11.	Madhya Pradesh	7
12.	Orissa	55
13.	Punjab	5
14.	Rajasthan	27
15.	Tamil Nadu	30
16.	Uttar Pradesh	106
17.	Uttaranchal	16
18.	West Bengal	23
Total		984

Customs and Excise Duty Exception on LSDs Import

2410. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is providing any concession in customs and excise duty on life saving drugs (LSDs) imported from various countries;

(b) if so, the details of medicines so given concession;

(c) whether any medicines are provided with 100 per cent exemption from customs excise duty on importing into the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Life saving drugs and medicines covered in List 4 of Notification No. 21/2002-Customs, dated 1.3.2002 (G.S.R. No. 118 (E) dated 1.3.2002) as amended, are fully exempt from customs duty. They are also fully exempt from excise duty under Notification No. 6/2002-C.E. dated 1.3.2002 (G.S.R. No. 127 (E) dated 1.3.2002) as amended and additional duty of customs (countervailing duty). These life saving drugs and medicines are exempt from customs duties when imported by individuals for personal use, subject to certain conditions.

Shifting of Head Office

2411. SHRI SUNIL KHAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Head Office of Hindustan Copper Limited is shifting from Kolkata to any other place of India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): (a) and (b) Keeping in view various administrative, locational and financial parameters it has been decided that the Headquarter of Hindustan Copper Limited may be shifted from Kolkata to Delhi.

Co-operative Movement

2412. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to take the co-operative movement deep inside rural India by organizing at least one Co-operative in every village;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any economic assistance to the States has been proposed therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof including the nodal agency for implementing these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Questions do not arise.

Drought Prone Area

2413. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the drought prone area in the country, State-wise;

(b) the allocation of funds made by the Government to these States during 2002-2003, 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 and the current year; and

(c) the amount spent by each State out of the allocation, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) A statement showing State-wise drought prone areas identified by a High Level Technical Committee in 1994 under Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP) is enclosed as Statement I.

(b) and (c) Under DPAP specific allocation of funds to the programme States is not made. Ministry of Rural Development, sanctions new projects, each of 500 hectares, as per the Guidelines of Watershed Development and funds are released to ZPs/DRDAs in instalments over the project period of five years. The first instalment of central funds is released with the sanction of new projects. The programme being demand driven, subsequent instalments are released on receipt of specific proposals from the State Government/ZP/DRDA alongwith Utilisation certificate, Audited Statement of Accounts etc. Details of funds released to programme States during 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05 are given in enclosed Statement-II. For monitoring the utilization of funds by ZP/DRDA while releasing the next instalment, it is ensured that ZP/DRDA utilizes more than 50% of funds released to it earlier.

Statement I**State-wise area identified for coverage under Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP)**

Name of the State	Area (in Sq. Kms.)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	99218
Bihar	9533
Chhattisgarh	21801
Gujarat	43938
Himachal Pradesh	3319
Jammu & Kashmir	14705
Jharkhand	34843

1	2
Karnataka	84332
Madhya Pradesh	89101
Maharashtra	194473
Orissa	26178
Rajasthan	31969
Tamil Nadu	29416
Uttar Pradesh	35698
Uttaranchal	15796
West Bengal	11594
Total	745914

Statement II**State-wise details of Funds Released under DPAP Programme**

State	2002-2003	2003-04	2004-05
1	2	3	4
Andhra Pradesh	4854.99	4937.40	4008.315
Bihar	249.75	323.06	311.205
Chhattisgarh	1599.62	1329.11	1550.754
Gujarat	3273.13	3363.14	2525.98
Himachal Pradesh	370.81	529.66	424.975
Jammu and Kashmir	222.75	422.19	222.750
Jharkhand	553.50	1212.34	1065.02
Karnataka	2265.04	3215.77	2503.363
Madhya Pradesh	4721.01	5021.66	5287.907
Maharashtra	1294.62	1484.30	3486.260
Orissa	901.10	1045.92	1141.620
Rajasthan	1430.93	1979.36	1573.775
Tamil Nadu	1059.53	2401.60	2816.935

1	2	3	4
Uttar Pradesh	1717.85	1498.13*	1456.685
Uttaranchal	376.37	473.36	1126.485
West Bengal	108.00	243.00	243.00
Total	24999.0	29480.00	29745.029

Creation of Funds for NABARD

2414. **SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:**
SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has urged the Centre to create an exclusive fund at NABARD operations involving rural and agriculture sector;

(b) if so, whether the NABARD has also made out a strong case for enhancing the bank's regulatory and supervisory powers over cooperatives and regional rural banks;

(c) if so, the other suggestions made by the NABARD;

(d) the extent to which the Government has considered them; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) NABARD has fund for agriculture and rural development in the form of National Rural Credit (Long Term Operations Fund) [NRC (LTO)] and National Rural Credit (stabilization) Fund. NABARD has suggested to the Govt. for the formation of short term fund akin to the NRC (LTO) to meet the increasing need for short term loans.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, the Task Force on cooperatives has recommended that the regulatory powers over cooperative banks completely vest with RBI.

(c) to (e) The other suggestions made by NABARD include permission to float tax free bonds, support in the

form of contribution to the tribal development fund and provide interest subvention during 2005-06 for providing credit to cooperatives. These are functional issues and the decisions are required to be taken as and when required, and hence no time limit has been fixed in this regard.

MSP Announced by CCI

2415. **SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:**
SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE:
SHRI HEMMAL MURMU:
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENG
PATIL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minimum Support Price (MSP) announced by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) for cotton is remunerative for the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof and mechanism to work out the MSP;

(c) whether the MSPs are reviewed periodically and if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether farmers in the cotton growing areas are taken into confidence while determining the MSPs and if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) the total quantity of cotton purchased by the Cotton Corporation of India during the last three years;

(f) whether Cotton Corporation of India is not being successful in achieving its objectives; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The main objective of price policy for agricultural produce is to ensure remunerative prices to the growers for their produce. On the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and taking into consideration the views of the State Governments as well as such other relevant factors, the Government of India (Ministry of Agriculture) announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for F-414/H-777/J-34 (medium staple) and H-4 (long staple) kapas (seed cotton) of Fair Average Quality (FAQ). After taking into account the market price differential, fibre attributes etc., the MSP for other varieties of kapas of FAQ are fixed by the Textile Commissioner. While recommending the MSP, the CACP takes into consideration the cost of production, which *inter alia* includes actual expenses incurred in cash and kind, rent for leased-in land, rent for owned land, interest on fixed capital and imputed value of wages of family labour. Therefore, the MSP is considered to be remunerative to the farmers.

(c) The MSPs are announced every year. The MSPs for F-414/H-777/J-34 (medium staple) and H-4 (long staple) kapas during the period 1999-2000 to 2004-05 are as under:

(In Rupees per Quintal)

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*	2003-04	2004-05
F-414/H-777/J-34 (medium staple)	1575	1625	1675	1675	1725	1760
H-4 (long staple)	1775	1825	1875	1875	1925	1960

**In addition, Government had approved the payment of Special Drought Relief Price (SDRP) @ Rs. 20 per quintal in respect of kapas of kharif crops of 2002-03. The SDRP was not a part of the MSP and provided by way of special relief and not by way of any bonus.

(d) In formulating its price policy recommendations, the CACP holds consultations with the farmers and their representatives.

(e) Purchase of kapas by the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) during the last three years (2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04) and in the current year 2004-05 (till 09.03.2005) is as under:

(In Lakh Bales of 170 kg each)

Year	Purchases Under		Total
	Commercial Operations	MSP Operations	Purchases
2001-02	0.67	8.99	9.66
2002-03	5.99	00	5.99
2003-04	9.01	00	9.01
2004-05	0.43	25.17	25.60

Note: There was no MSP operations in 2002-03 and 2003-04 as the market prices were above the MSP level.

(f) and (g) Whenever the market price of kapas falls to the level of the MSP, the CCI undertakes MSP operations and purchases kapas without any quantitative limit. Otherwise, the CCI purchases kapas under its commercial operations at its own risk. The CCI has been successful in achieving its objectives. The purchase of 25.17 lakh bales under MSP operations during the current year is the highest-ever purchases made by the CCI.

Family Court in Chandigarh

2416. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has recommended the Union Government for setting up of family courts in Chandigarh;

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

(c) the time by which family courts are likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women has recommended setting up of Family Courts in every district. All the State Governments/UT Administrations have been requested to take necessary action in this regard in consultation with their respective High Courts.

(c) The Hon'ble High Court of Punjab & Haryana has conveyed its concurrence for setting up of a Family Court. The Chandigarh Administration has proposed creation of ten posts in different categories for the Family Court.

Credit to Industry

2417. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO:
SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Advisory Council under the Prime Minister are looking at ways to enhance a flow of long term credit to industry in the wake of gradual fading away of term lending institutions;

(b) if so, the outcome of the first meeting of this Council and the steps the Government proposes to take to implement the suggestions made by the Council;

(c) whether at its first setting the Council identified agricultural employment and infrastructure of its immediate concerns; and

(d) if so, the amount allocated for implementing these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The agenda items taken up for discussion for the Prime Minister's Council on Trade and Industry held on 4.12.2004 were:

1. How to end "Inspector Raj" and bring to a close the tyranny of over-regulation.

2. Creation of world-class infrastructure to enhance productivity.

3. Human resource development, skills upgradation and employment generation-policy prescriptions.

The Budget for 2005-06 has envisaged a number of schemes towards infrastructure development and employment generation; such as increasing allocation for National Food for Work programme to Rs. 11,000 crore, provision of Rs. 1,200 crore for Universal Service Obligation (USO) Fund to support rural household telephones, launching of National Highway Development Project-III, provision of Rs. 1,100 crore under rural electrification and allocation of Rs. 1.6 crore each for upgradation of 67 Industrial Training Institutes in 15 States/ Union Territories.

Ex-Gratia Relief for Retired Bank Employees

2418. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a Memorandum from All India Retired Bank Employees Association demanding enhanced rate of ex-gratia Relief to surviving pre-1986 bank retirees on par with the Pre-1986 Bank retirees of RBI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any decision on it; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The All India Retired Bank Employees Association had in 2004 demand enhanced ex-gratia relief to all surviving pre-1986 retirees on par with the pre-1986 retirees of RBI.

(c) and (d) Presently, the nationalized banks are providing, w.e.f. 1.11.1997 ex-gratia relief at the rate of Rs. 300/-per month with dearness relief, to all such employees who retired on or before 31.12.85 provided, they had rendered at least 20 years of continuous service prior to their superannuation and are not getting any pensionary benefit from the bank. Thus, as on date, an eligible retiree receives an aggregate amount Rs. 1,257/-per month as ex-gratia inclusive of dearness relief and banks are presently meeting this requirement out of their profits. However, due to financial and other constraints the request for extending coverage of the scheme of ex-gratia to all the surviving pre-1.1.1986 retirees and/or enhancing the amount of ex-gratia presently being paid, could not be acceded to.

FII's Investment in Indian Equity

2419. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:
SHRI RAMKRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) rush to invest in Indian equity, when dollar goes weak against rupee and keep away if rupee goes weak against dollar;

(b) whether this practice is good for Indian economy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to save the country's economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The empirical analysis indicates that India has experienced positive net flows in every year since 1993-94, except in 1998-99. During the last 4-5 years the FII flows into India have been less volatile compared to other emerging markets. This behaviour of FIIs inflows could be attributed to several factors, such as, continued reforms in the financial sector, strong economic fundamentals, improved prudential regulatory standards, attractive valuations of companies and exchange rate behaviour. According to the information furnished by the Securities and Exchange Board of India, the data for FII net investments vis-à-vis rupee dollar exchange rate over the last two years on a monthly basis does not seem to suggest a consistent relationship between FIIs investments and movement in rupee dollar exchange rate. There are prudential investment limits on FIIs' investment in spot and derivatives markets. Further, the total investment by FIIs in both spot and derivatives markets in calendar year 2004 was only 5.83 per cent of the overall equity market turnover.

(d) In view of the reply to parts (a) to (c) above, does not arise.

[Translation]

Kisan Credit Card

2420. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:
SHRI RAJARAM PAL:
SHRIMATI KIRAN MAHESHWARI:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued by banks during the last three years as on date, State-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the target fixed and achieved for issue of Kisan Credit Cards during the said period, bank-wise;

(c) the reasons for not achieving the target;

(d) whether the Government/RBI has issued any guidelines/criteria for issue of Kisan Credit Cards;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government/RBI for issue of Kisan Credit cards to farmers without any difficulties?

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

[English]

Exorbitant cost of Obtaining Unique Identification Number (UIN)

2421. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has become mandatory to obtain Unique Identification Number (UIN), by investor transacting in equity or mutual funds;

(b) if so, the names of companies engaged by SEBI for issue of UIN numbers;

(c) whether these companies are charging Rs. 300/-per registration whereas the administrative cost of such registration should not be more than Rs.20/-per registration;

(d) whether small investors will unnecessarily be burdened with exorbitant cost registration or Rs. 300/-per registration; and

(e) if so, whether the Government would review and fix the registration amount for UIN at Rs. 20/-only and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The SEBI (Central Database of Market Participants) Regulations, 2003 provide for the registration of all the participants, i.e., intermediaries, listed companies, investors etc. in phases, by allotting a unique identification number (UIN).

(b) SEBI has appointed the National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) as the designated service provider (DSP) responsible for creating and maintaining the Securities Market Participants' and Investors' Identification Number (MAPIN) database. NSDL has further, appointed certain agents as points of service (POS) to carry out the registration procedure who are as follows:

- (i) Integrated Enterprises (India) Ltd.
- (ii) Alankit Assignments Ltd.
- (iii) CMC Ltd.
- (iv) Geojit Financial Securities Ltd.
- (v) Karvy Consultants Ltd.
- (vi) Kotak Securities
- (vii) ICICI Securities.

(c) and (d) The fee for registration under the database has been notified by SEBI vide the notification dated November 25, 2003. In view of the costs involved in administering and maintaining the database the fee has been fixed at Rs. 300/-per registration. The fee for registration under the MAPIN Database has been fixed by SEBI in consultation with the designated service provider after taking into consideration the cost of administering and creating the database.

(e) The MAPIN database is a centralized electronic database of all market participants and investors and geographically spans the entire country. SEBI has appointed National Securities Depository Ltd. (NSDL) as the Designated Service Provider (DSP) responsible for creating and maintaining the MAPIN database. Considering the scope and reach of the database, NSDL has further, appointed certain agents as Points of Service (POS) to carry out the registration procedure. The cost of creating, administering and maintaining the database are, therefore, substantial. However, SEBI decided to constitute a committee to *inter-alia* look into the coverage and cost of

obtaining UIN for the market participants and investors.

SIDBI Assistance to States

2422. SHRI RAJESH VERMA:
KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the assistance/schemes extended during the last three years by the Small Industries Development Bank of India to the industries States of the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the beneficiaries are aware of the merits of assistance/schemes of Small Industries Development Bank of India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the extent to which the bank helps the small industrial sector of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise amount of sanction and disbursement by SIDBI during the last three years is given at enclosed Statement.

(b) and (c) SIDBI has been making earnest efforts to popularise its schemes of assistance and the interest/capital subsidy benefits offered by GOI under various schemes. The bank has also been conducting workshops, seminars and conferences in important districts/industrial clusters. A sustained campaign has also been taken up by SIDBI through newspapers and hoardings to familiarise the activities of the bank. The detail about the schemes and products of SIDBI is also available on internet.

Statement

(Rs. in crores)

Sl.No.	States	Sanctions			Disbursements		
		2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	334.3	841.2	694.0	215.0	534.0	269.5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.1	—	0.7	2.1	—	0.2
3.	Assam	23.4	9.2	10.3	19.4	6.4	4.9
4.	Bihar	33.8	34.3	5.6	29.2	21.8	4.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
5.	Chhattisgarh	17.9	7.9	8.2	15.8	6.5	2.4
6.	Delhi	703.4	1200.5	1107.5	418.7	641.2	667.0
7.	Goa	56.7	39.8	51.0	45.6	30.3	18.5
8.	Gujarat	975.4	823.6	623.6	574.4	542.3	287.0
9.	Haryana	418.7	465.9	108.5	229.5	270.2	70.7
10.	Himachal Pradesh	35.2	30.7	165.7	26.2	17.7	12.2
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	219.8	71.4	185.9	137.6	67.0	70.8
12.	Jharkhand	18.8	4.9	6.9	14.5	3.1	0.7
13.	Karnataka	705.1	887.6	374.5	550.3	620.7	299.3
14.	Kerala	534.7	348.9	345.3	395.5	258.2	212.7
15.	Madhya Pradesh	272.8	84.5	216.0	190.3	68.1	103.4
16.	Maharashtra	1704.4	2508.1	1302.2	1215.1	1534.1	711.6
17.	Manipur	1.5	—	0.2	1.5	—	0.2
18.	Meghalaya	2.9	3.7	3.9	4.7	2.4	3.0
19.	Mizoram	1.0	—	0.0	0.8	—	0.0
20.	Nagaland	2.5	—	0.3	2.5	—	0.1
21.	Orissa	133.9	62.6	55.3	91.8	56.0	26.3
22.	Punjab	247.7	479.4	231.0	184.6	297.1	107.6
23.	Rajasthan	214.3	224.5	358.4	165.1	146.7	250.8
24.	Sikkim	1.1	0.4	5.5	1.2	0.2	1.5
25.	Tamil Nadu	1199.6	1369.6	1378.6	711.2	923.4	610.6
26.	Tripura	1.4	8.8	1.3	1.3	5.2	0.5
27.	Uttaranchal	63.2	22.0	10.3	8.3	10.6	5.3
28.	Uttar Pradesh	487.5	254.5	219.0	286.6	177.5	93.9
29.	West Bengal	297.0	290.4	110.1	190.4	160.0	81.7
30.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.1	1.3	0.0	0.1	0.7	0.0
31.	Chandigarh	95.5	102.0	143.2	61.4	34.1	66.2
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	37.7	18.6	0.8	24.0	10.9	0.8
33.	Daman & Diu	15.9	5.3	6.7	9.3	3.1	6.0
34.	Lakshadweep	—	—	0.0	—	—	0.0
35.	Pondicherry	5.5	18.9	46.6	5.0	10.0	16.4
36.	Multi-state/Others	160.7	685.0	469.2	90.3	329.9	407.5
Total		9025.5	10903.5	8246.3	5919.3	6789.4	4414.2

*[Translation]***Wind Mills in U.P. and Uttaranchal**

2423. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of wind mills in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal at present;

(b) the details of wind mills sanctioned in these States during the current financial year; and

(c) the time by which these wind mills are likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) There are no windmills, at present, in Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal.

(b) Windmills have not been sanctioned in the States of Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal during the current financial year.

(c) The State of Uttar Pradesh, in general, is not endowed with suitable wind speeds required for operation of windmills. However, wind resource assessment at two locations in the districts of Mirzapur and Lalitpur is under way in Uttar Pradesh. In the State of Uttaranchal, one location near Devaprayag is found to have potential for wind energy utilization. Sanctioning of projects for setting up of water pumping windmills in these States would, however, depend upon the viable proposals to be submitted by the respective States. As regards taking up of wind power projects in Uttaranchal, it would depend

on techno-economic viability and announcement of State policy on electricity generation from renewable energy sources, including wind.

*[English]***Appointment of Notary Public**

2424. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Notary Public appointed during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of Notary Public appointed during the said period in Maharashtra; and

(c) the number of posts of Notary Public lying vacant in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A statement indicating the number of Notary Public who have been appointed in various parts of the country during the last three years, State-wise is enclosed herewith.

(b) 92 Notary Public appointed in Maharashtra during the last three years.

(c) It has been prescribed by the Notaries Rules, 1956 that maximum number of notaries to be appointed by the Central Government in respect of Maharashtra State is 875 and out of which, 339 notaries have been appointed by the Central Government so far.

Statement

Number of Notary Public appointed State-wise during each of the last three years

Notary Public

		2002	2003	2004
		1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01	02	04
2.	Assam	—	—	—
3.	Bihar	—	—	02
4.	Gujarat	25	08	15
5.	Kerala	06	03	28

	1	2	3
6. Madhya Pradesh	—	02	—
7. Tamil Nadu	02	02	04
8. Maharashtra	30	27	35
9. Karnataka	07	08	09
10. Orissa	—	—	—
11. Punjab	43	18	31
12. Rajasthan	24	10	14
13. Uttar Pradesh	52	33	51
14. West Bengal	17	03	04
15. Jammu and Kashmir	—	—	—
16. Nagaland	—	—	—
17. Haryana	60	33	42
18. Himachal Pradesh	01	—	—
19. Manipur	—	—	—
20. Tripura	—	—	—
21. Meghalaya	—	—	—
22. Sikkim	—	—	—
23. Mizoram	—	—	—
24. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—
25. Goa	—	—	—
26. Uttarakhand	—	—	—
27. Chhattisgarh	—	03	—
28. Jharkhand	—	—	—
29. Delhi	37	08	16
30. Adaman and Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
31. Lakshadweep	—	—	—
32. Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—
33. Daman and Diu	—	—	—
34. Pondicherry	—	—	—
35. Chandigarh	—	—	—

Rosa Thermal Power Project

2425. KUNWAR JITIN PRASADA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Thermal Power Plants sanctioned by Government during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) the details of plants on which construction work has started;

(c) the present position of Rosa Thermal Power Plant;

(d) whether the plant has started functioning;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the time by which it is likely to be started?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) According to the Electricity Act, 2003, the requirement of according Techno-Economic Clearance (TEC) by Central Electricity Authority (CEA) has been dispensed with for thermal generation.

National Thermal Power Corporation being a Navratna Company does not require investment approval of the Government in respect of power projects being executed by them.

The following thermal power projects of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation were accorded investment approval by the Government as per details given below:

Sl.No.	Name of the Project/State	Capacity (MW)	Date of Investment approval	Project Cost (Rs. Crore)
1.	Neyveli Thermal Power Station-II Expansion/Tamil Nadu.	2x250	8th October, 2004	2030.78
2.	Barsingsar Power Project/Rajasthan	2x125	15th December, 2004	1114.18

(c) to (g) The commissioning time of the Rosa Power Project in Private Sector is estimated to be 40 months from the date of issuance of Letter of Award by the promoters, who are yet to achieve financial closure for their project.

EFC Grants for Construction of Class Rooms

2426. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have granted funds under Eleventh Finance Commission grants for elementary education to the Uttar Pradesh State for construction of 1000 and more class rooms;

(b) the amount utilised by the State Government till date;

(c) whether the State Government have also sent utilisation certificate in this regard;

(d) whether the Union Government have received any request for releasing the balance money;

(e) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of Uttar Pradesh Government; and

(f) if so, by what time the balance amount is likely to be released by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Government of India had approved upgradation grant of Rs. 111.33 crore for elementary education in Uttar Pradesh. The State Government has reported utilisation of Rs. 104.03 crore. Government of India has released entire grant of Rs. 111.33 crore to the State.

Monitoring of Donations

2427. SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has a plan to monitor the donations received by States suffered losses due to Tsunami from various sources and how the same is being utilized; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) There is no plan at present to monitor the donations received by affected States as it is primarily the responsibility of the affected States to provide relief to its people.

Power Generation in J&K

2428. SHRI MADAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has estimated the demand and supply of power in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has prepared any action plan for the upgradation of power plants to augment power supply in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures Government propose to take to increase power generation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Details of estimated demand and supply of power in Jammu & Kashmir for the year 2005-06 and 2006-07 based on 10th Plan capacity addition target are given as under:

	Energy (MU)		Peak Demand (MW)	
	2005-06	2006-07	2005-06	2006-07
Requirement	8570	9099	1812	1923
Availability	8419	10989	1461	2049

(c) and (d) The following hydro electric projects of J&K have been identified for implementation under the renovation and modernization programme in J&K during the 10th Plan period:

Name of Scheme	Capacity (MW)	Likely benefits (MW)	Estimated Expenditure (Rs. Crore)	Completion Schedule	Remarks
Salal Stage-I & II NHPC	3x115+ 3x115	69 (Restoration)	87.28	2006-07	—
Lower Jhelum, Power Department, J&K	3x35	34 (Restoration and Upgrading)	65.19	2006-07	Funded by PFC under AG&SP
Chenani, Power Department, J&K	5x4.66	25.63 Life Extension & Upgrading)	23.86	2005-06	-do- (work yet to start)
Ganderbal, Power Department, J&K	2x3+2x4.5	14 (Life Extension)	28.87	2005-06	do- (work yet to start)
Sumbal Sindh, Power Department, J&K	2x11.3	3 (Upgrading)	16.37	2005-06	-do- (work yet to start)
Total		146.63	221.57		

With a view to augment the power generation in the State, following hydro projects have been included in X Plan for being set up in Jammu & Kashmir:

Sl.No.	Name of Power House	Capacity (MW)	Expected date of Commissioning
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Central Sector

1.	Dulhasti, NHPC	390	2005-06
2.	Sewa-II, NHPC	120	2007-08

State Sector

Power from Garbage

2429. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in certain parts of the country some private companies have started generating power from garbage;

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

(c) the quantum in mega watt of electricity is being generated therefrom every day on what cost; and

(d) the details of the procedure followed for collecting garbage for generating power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Two projects, each of 6 mega watt capacity, installed by private companies at Hyderabad and Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh have started generating power from garbage. About 215 MWh of electricity is being generated every day from these projects at a cost ranging from Rs. 2.50 to 3.00 per unit.

(d) The garbage is being supplied by the respective Municipal Corporations at the project sites.

Focus on Debt Market Development by SEBI

2430. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SEBI to focus on debt

market development" appearing in the 'Hindu' dated 11 January, 2005;

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

(c) the steps initiated by SEBI for debt market development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that the report in the "The Hindu" dated January 11, 2005 refers to a statement made by the former chairman of SEBI, Shri G.N. Bajpai, while addressing a conference on "emerging securities market" organised in association with ICFAI.

It is reported in the news item that the Chairman, SEBI Shri G.N. Bajpai said during the conference that the development and regulation of both equity and corporate debt market are vital for the overall growth of the capital market and that the growth of debt segment was an area of focus for the market regulator, SEBI.

(c) SEBI has taken various initiatives in the past to develop and regulate the corporate debt market. The measures taken by SEBI for development and regulation of privately placed corporate debt include specification of disclosures to be made in the information memorandum, appointment of debenture trustee, obtaining credit rating, trading in compulsory demat in a market lot of Rs. 10 lakhs and a separate listing agreement.

Guidelines to Textile Exporters

2431. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to issue guidelines to textile exporters to ensure that the textile products carries specific marking about its content and pro-consumer information;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The Government is in the process of formulating a legislation, which would, *inter-alia*, protect the interests of the domestic textile industry and

consumers by prescribing markings on domestically produced and imported textiles.

[Translation]

Subsidy on LPG

2432. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to withdraw subsidy on LPG;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of subsidy given by the Government on every LPG cylinder at present;

(d) the expected amount of money likely to be saved in case subsidy is withdrawn on LPG;

(e) whether the Government has stipulated any time limit for withdrawal of the subsidy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) As per the Government decision, the Budgetary subsidy on domestic LPG is available up to March 31, 2007. The Government budgetary subsidy on domestic LPG for 2004-05 has been Rs. 22.58 per cylinder. Besides, the budgetary subsidy, the oil public sector undertakings (PSUs) are sharing the burden of subsidising this product. Based on the average international prices of LPG for the month of February 2005 and taking into account the current level of duties and taxes on this product, the retail selling price of LPG in Delhi would increase by Rs.96.20 per cylinder in case the existing total subsidy, including the subsidy element borne by oil PSUs is withdrawn.

[English]

Rural Electrification

2433. SHRI B. MAHTAB: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fund has been provided to KBK districts of Orissa under the revised Long Term Action Plan for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether all villages of the country are likely to be electrified by the end of Tenth Plan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) An amount of Rs. 9.70 crore has been provided to KBK districts of Orissa under the revised long term action plan during current year for strengthening of transmission systems in Malkangiri District.

(c) and (d) A new scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been approved for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
- (iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

(e) Does not arise.

Vigilance Against Officers of IT and Customs

2434. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR;
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several Income Tax officers and Customs officers have been arrested on charges of corruption;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to have a close watch on the officers of these departments and to launch a special drive to check corruption; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of steps taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, sir.

(b) Details of Officers/Officials of Income Tax, Customs and Central Excise arrested during last three years i.e. 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005 (upto 28.2.2005) or corruption charges furnished by the Central Bureau of

Investigation (CBI) are at enclosed Statement. It is, however, clarified that not all the persons against whom CBI registered cases are arrested during investigation.

(c) A list of officers of doubtful integrity has been prepared in this Department and a close watch is being maintained on the activities of all the officers included in the list. Further, the vigilance set-up has been revamped in recent years for making the vigilance machinery more effective in ensuring both preventive and punitive vigilance, posting such officers to non-sensitive posts, reducing the interface between the assessee and the officers, etc.

(d) The steps taken have created awareness about the vigilance mechanism. Further, the creation of an environment of preventive vigilance such as minimizing discretionary powers, systems improvement, inspections (both administrative and vigilance) and rationalization of tax administration has helped in tackling corruption effectively.

Statement

Sl.No.	Case ID	Name & designation/dept. of the officer arrested
1	2	3

Year 2002

1.	RC. 10/2002-DDN	1. Sh. Ram Singh, Sr. Tax Asstt., Income Tax Ward (2), Ghaziabad.
2.	RC 27 (A)/2002-A CB/BLR.	1. Sh. A.V. Ravi, Insector, Income Tax Deptt., O/o Dy. Director (Inv.) Unit-II, Bangalore.
3.	RC 03 (A)/2002-V SP 30.01.2002	1. Sri V. Bhaskar Rao, Income Tax Officer, 2. Sri Y. Heera Singh, Inspector, 3. Sri Mungala Kondaiah, Tax Assistant, Ward-2, Nellore of Income Tax Department.
4.	RC 10 (A)/2002-V SP	1. Sri J.P. Prasad Tiwari, Tax Assistant, Income Tax Department, Visakhapatnam
5.	RC 33 (A)/2002-V SP 21.10.2002	1. Sri Visweswara Rao, Income Tax Officer, 2. Sri L. Pulla Rao, Inspector, 3. Sri Mohana Rao, Attender of O/o Income Tax Office, Tanuku, West Godawari Distt. Income Tax Department.
6.	RC 35(A)/2002-V SP	1. Sri M. Subramanyam, Income Tax Officer, Ward-II, Vizianagaram, Income Tax Department.
7.	RC 11/A/2002- KER	1. Antony Kutty, Sr. Tax Assistant, Income Tax Office, Thrissur, Kerala

1	2	3
8.	RC 19/A/2002 -KER	M.N. Dikshit IRS, Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals-V), Cochin, Kerala
9.	RC. 11/2002-JAI	1. Shri Ram Avtar Verma, Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Range-II, Jaipur
10.	RC. 19/2002-JAI	1. Shri Nemi Chand, Constable, Central Excise, Rings, Distt. Sikar.
11.	RC. 8/2002-CHG	1. Shri Amresh Jain, Dy. Commissioner of Custom (CFS), Ludhiana
12.	RC 9/2002-CHG	1. Sh. Arun Kumar Singhal, Inspector, Custom Excise (Preventive), Chandigarh.
13.	RC 30/2002-CHG	1. Sh. Prabhakar, Supdt. Central Excise & Custom, Panipat (HR) 2. Sh. Pawan Kumar, Inspector, Central Excise & Custom, Panipat (HR)
14.	RC 40/2002-CHG	1. Sh. G.R. Gera, ITO, Income Tax, Panchkula (HR)) 2. Sh. J.P. Verma, Inspector, Income Tax, Panchkula (HR)
15.	RC. 43/2002-CHG	Sh. M.L. Dhussa, CIT (Appeal), Income Tax, Ludhiana.
16.	RC 28/2002- ACB/DLI	1. Sh. Rajesh Sharma, Income Tax. 2. Sh. S.P. Gupta, Inspector, Income Tax.
17.	RC 30/2002- ACB/DLI	1. Sh. Sanjeev Kumar, Inspector, Central Excise, ITO, New Delhi.
18.	RC 53/2002- ACB/DLI	1. Sh. Jagat Singh, Dy. Office Supdt., Custom & Central Excise.
19.	RC 20/2001-BPL	1. Shri V.S. Banthia, the then Commissioner Income Tax, Gwalior (M.P.) Banthia, the then Commissioner Income Tax, Gwalior (M.P.) (Arrested on 8/1/2002).
20.	RC 8/2002-Goa	1. Sh. P. Subramani, IRS, Commissioner of Central Excise, Bangalore. 2. Sh. Dharmendra Gautam, Inspector of Customs & Central Excise, Goa.
21.	RC 10/2002-GDN.	Sh. D.K. Mishra, Dy. Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad.
22.	RC 28/2002 -GDN	1. Sh. S.K. Dave 2. Sh. G.C. Suther, both Inspr. of Income Tax, Ahmedabad.
23.	RC 3 (A)/2002- NPR.	1. Shri S.P. Puttewar, Sr. Tax Assistant, Income Tax Department, Saraf Chambers, Sadar, Nagpur.
24.	RC 1 (A)/2002- ACU-III	1. Sh. Madan Lal, Commissioner of Income Tax, Karnal
25.	RC 2//2002-Hyd.	Sh. DSR Seshagiri Rao, ITO, Hyderabad

1	2	3
26.	RC 22/2002-Hyd.	Sh. Lakshma Reddy, Inspector, Central Excise, Sireilla.
27.	RC 26/2002-Hyd.	Smt. K. Mythili Rani, Commissioner (Appeal) Income Tax, Hyderabad.
28.	RC 35/2002-Hyd.	1. K. Rangamamba, Supdt., Central Excise, Hyderabad & others
29.	RC 31/02/ACB Mumbai	Shri A.C. Purwat, Supdt. Central Excise & Customs, Division-VII, Pune
30.	RC 1/2000/EOW-II	1. Shri Manoj Sharma, Inspector, Customs. 2. Sh. A.K. Arora, Supdt. Customs (arrested in 2002)
<i>Year: 2003</i>		
1.	RC. 7/2003-DDN	1. Sh. Munna Lal Paul, the then LDC/Receiver/Despatcher Salary Ward-I, O/o Commissioner Income Tax, Meerut.
2.	RC 31/2003- ACB-KOL.	1. Shri S.K. Das, Superintendent, Barasat Customs.
3.	SC 06 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri Subba Rao, Tax Recovery Officer, DCIT Office, Rajahmundry, Income Tax Department.
4.	RC07 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri S. Krishna Murthy, Income Tax Officer, Ward-II, Tirupathi. Income Tax Department. (Case Transferred to Hyderabad Branch)
5.	RC 10 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri Y. Heera Singh, Inspector, Income Tax, Ward-II, Nellore. Income Tax Department.
6.	REC 12 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri Md. Yusuf, Inspector, Central Excise, Eluru, West Godawari Distt.
7.	RC 14 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri Rajesh Nagpal, IRS, Additional Commissioner, Central Excise, Guntur, Central Excise Department.
8.	RC 19 (A)/2003- VSP	1. Sri L. Pulla Rao, Inspector, Income Tax, O/o ITO, Tanuku, West Godawari Distt. Income Tax Department.
9.	RC 3/2003-JMU	1. Shri Sudershan Kumar, LDC, O/o The Commissioner of Income Tax, Jammu (NGO).
10.	RC 26/2003-JAI	1. Sh. M.L. Dayma, Inspector, Central Excise & Customs, Jaipur.
11.	RC 7(A)/2003-Pat	1. Shri Suman Jha, Peshkar, Income Tax Office, Biharsharif, Dist-Nalanda.
12.	RC 12(A)/03-Pat	1. Shri Alok Kumar, Clerk, Income Tax, Ward 5 (1), Lok Nayak Bhawan, Patna
13.	RC 24/2003- ACB/DLI	1. Sh. H.A. Siddiqui, IRS, ACIT, Income Tax.
14.	RC. 31/2003-ACB/DLI	1. Sh. Anurag Vardhan, IRS, Dy. Director International Taxation Income Tax Deptt.
15.	RC 45/2003- ACB/DLI	1. Sh. Gian Chand, Office Supdt. Income Tax.

1	2	3
16.	RC 52/2003-ACB/DLI	Sh. J.D. Nagar, Dealing hand, Income Tax.
17.	RC 4/2003-BPL	Shri Vikas Oberai, Inspector, Central Excise Rang-I, Gwalior.
18.	RC 6/2003-GDN.	Sh. Vimal Sah. Joint Commissioner of Income Tax, Ahmedabad.
19.	RC 11/2003-GDN.	Sh. G.M. Brahm Bhatt, Dy. Director of Income Tax, Anand Unit, Gujarat.
20.	RC 14/2003-GDN.	1. Sh. G.M. Solanki 2. Sh. B.A. Dave, Both I.T.Os. Gandhingar
21.	RC 4/2003-Hyd.	1. Sh. Krishna Murthy, ITO, Ward (2), Tirupati
22.	RC. 9/2003-Hyd.	1. Sh. S. Ramu, Addl. Director of Income Tax, Unit-I, Mumbai.
23.	RC 19/03/ACB Mumbai	Shri Iqbal Hussain Dairkee, Inspector, Central Excise, Mumbai-IV Commissionerate, Mumbai.
24.	RC 20/03/ACB Mumbai	(1) Shri K.G. Pote, ITO, (2) Shri P.R. Gonkar, LDC Ward 21 (3) (1), C-11, Prtyakshakar Bhavan, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
25.	RC 22/03/ACB Mumbai	(1) Shri Mohan Ajwani, ITO (2) Shri V.D. Vasare, Tax Assistant (3) Smt. Meena Pahlajani, Tax Assistant. Income Tax, Ward 22 (3)-1 Vashi, Navi Mumbai.
26.	RC 24/03/ACB Mumbai	(1) Shri S.A. Keer, Cashier (2) Shri M.S. Kamble, LDC (3) Shri B.T. Mudaliar, Driver Customs, Marine & Preventive Wing, Mumbai.
27.	RC 35/03/ACB Mumbai	Shri A.S. Bawani, Income Tax Inspector, Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai.
<i>Year: 2004</i>		
1.	RC 19/2004-ACB-KOL	(i) Shri Siddhartha Sankar Kar, Supdt. of Central Excise, Tamluk, Purba Midnapur. (ii) Shri Anjan Chatterjee, Insp. of Central Excise, Tamluk, Purba Midnapur.
2.	RC 40/2004-ACB-KOL	Shri R.N. Mondal, Supdt. of Central Excise, Tollygunge Divn., Kolkata.
3.	RC 50/2004-ACB-KOL	(i) Shri Nirmal Pradhan, Insp., Preventive Unit, Customs, Gangtok. (ii) Shri Puran Lama, Supdt. of Customs, Preventive Unit, Customs, Gangtok.
4.	RC 01 (A)/2004-VSP	1. Sri A.V.S. Sastry, Income Tax Officer, Eluru, Income Tax Department.

1	2	3
5.	RC 04 (A)/2004-VSP	1. Sri A.V.S. Sastry, Income Tax Officer, Eluru, Income Tax Department.
6.	RC 10 (A)/2004-VSP	1. Sri P.V.V. Sesha Rao, Inspector, 2. Sri Kondala Rao, Notice Server of Income Tax, Machilipatnam. Income Tax Department.
7.	RC 11 (A)/2004-VSP	1. Sri B. Sri Krishna, Superintendent, Central Excise, Brodipet, Guntur, Central Excise Department.
8.	RC 28/A/2004-KER	K.V. Balachandran, Chemical Examiner, Customs House, Cochin, Kerala
9.	REC 29/A/2004-KER	Yohannankutty, Tax Assistant, O/o the Addl. Commissioner of Income Tax, Kollam, Kerala
10.	RC. 1(A)/04 (DNB)	1. Sri Swaran Singh, Asstt. Director (Inv.), Income Tax, Dhanbad. 2. Sri Tinku Chourasia, R/o Housing Colony, Dhanbad.
11.	RC 2/2004-ACU-VVI	1. Sh. T. Chakrapani, Supdt., Central Excise, Divn. III, Gurgaon (Haryana). 2. Sh. Ajit Sherawat, Inspr., Central Excise, Division-3, Gurgaon, Haryana. 3. Ajay Naraiian, Inspr., Central Excise, Division-3, Gurgaon, Haryana.
12.	RC 7/2004-JAI	Smt. Sharda Nayal, Inspr. of Income Tax Deptt. Jaipur.
13.	RC 04/2004-CHG	Sh. T.R. Sharma, ITO, Income Tax, Ludhiana
14.	RC 31/2004-CHG	Sh. S.S. Sharma, ITO, Income Tax, Sangrur.
15.	RC 5/2004-RAN	Sh. Srikant Pandey, Supdt. (Service Tax), Central Excise, Ranchi Division, Ranchi.
16.	RC 5/2004-ACB/DLI	Sh. Uma Shankar Dhyani, IRS, Dy. Dir. Income Tax (Inv.) Jhandewalan Extn., New Delhi.
17.	RC 12/2004-BPL	Sh. M.R. Warghat, Sr. Tax Asst., Income Tax Office, Bhopal.
18.	RC 16/2004-GDN.	Sh. R.C. Visadrawala, Supdt., Central Excise, Makarpura, Vadodara.
19.	RC 18/2004-GDN.	1. Sh. Amar Singh Meena, Supdt. Central Excise, Ahmedabad. 2. Sh. Satyanarya Asawa, Inspr. Central Excise, Ahmedabad.
20.	RC 23/2004-GDN	Sh. Umesh Kumar Goel, Joint Commissioner, Central Excise, Nasik.
21.	RC 5/2004-Hyd.	Sri Satyanarayana, Supdt. Central Excise, Nizamabad.
22.	RC 20/04/ACB Mumbai	(1) Shri M.V. Patil, ITO (2) Shri Abdul Majeed Shaikh, Inspector Income Tax, Aayakar Bhawan, Mumbai.

1	2	3
23.	RC 30/04/ACB Mumbai	Shri S.M. Patel, Supdt. of Central Excise, Division F-II, Range-I, Mumbai.
24.	RC 25/04/ACB Mumbai	(1) Smt. Kirti Singh, Sr. Tax Assistant (2) Shri Rajesh Singh, Tax Assistant, Customs, Mumbai.
25.	RC 36/04/ACB Mumbai	Shri P.K. Ajwani, Commissioner of Central Excise, Thane-II Commissionerate, Thane.
26.	RC 38/04/ACB Mumbai	Shri Sanjay Kalra, Appraiser, Customs JNPT, Navi Mumbai.
27.	RC 44/04/ACB Mumbai	(1) Shri P.K. Ajwani, Commissioner, (2) Shri D.R. Chaturvedi, Supdt. Central Excise, Thane-II Commissionerate, Thane.

Year: 2005

1.	RC 07/2005- ACB-KOL	(1) Shri B. Sarkar, Supdt. of Central Excise, Preventive, Bamboovilla, Kolkata. (2) Shri P. Roychowdhury, Supdt. of Central Excise, Preventive, Bamboovilla, Kolkata.
2.	RC 05 (A)/2005-VSP	1. Sri B. Gandhi, Inspector, Income Tax, Range-IV, M.V.P. Colony, Visakhapatnam, Income Tax Department.
3.	RC 04/2005-CHG	Sh. R.K. Arora, ITO, Income Tax, Ludhiana.
4.	RC 05/2005-CHG	Sh. Y.K. Saxena, ACIT, Income Tax, Ludhiana.
5.	RC. 1/2005-Hyd.	Shri P. Anantaramlu Astt. Commissioner, Income Tax, Basheerbagh, Hyderabad.

Crop Loan

2435. SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has declared a policy under which crop loans to the farmers have to be provided at 9% per annum;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government has consulted the States before forming the policy;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the views of the Gujarat Government were taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The

National Agriculture Policy, 2000 formulated in consultation with the State Governments, mentioned the Governments endeavour to provide adequate and timely supply of credit at reasonable rates to the farmers. As per the interest rate guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), interest rate on loans given by the Commercial Banks are deregulated except that interest rate on loans up to Rs. 2.00 lakh should not exceed the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR). Commercial Banks are free to decide their lending rates for loans above Rs. 2.00 lakh subject to announcement of their BPLR. However, the Government on 16th July, 2003 had announced reduction in the lending rate for agriculture with a view to extending full benefit of declining interest rate to agriculture sector, particularly to the small and marginal farmers. Consequent to the announcement, all Public Sector Banks have reduced their lending rate to a single digit rate not more

than 9% per annum and in some cases 8.5% per annum on crop loans up to ceiling of Rs. 50,000/-. The single digit lending rate have benefited most of crop loan account holders and have covered almost all small and marginal farmers.

Coal Wage Board

2436. SHRI BIKASH CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement on Coal Wage has been signed in CIL;

(b) if not, the reasons behind for such delay in the agreement in Coal Wage Board, when the last period of agreement expired three years before;

(c) whether the Government has a plan to exclude a large number of coal workers working under some subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd.;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to accelerate the agreement on Coal Wage Board; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Delay has occurred as management of Coal companies and Trade Unions have not been able to reach an amicable settlement on some issues involved in finalisation of wage and other fringe benefits.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Government has constituted a Group of Ministers to look into and take decision on all policy issues relating to the ongoing wage negotiations for coal industry in the best interest of the industry, labour and the national economy.

Private Banks

2437. SHRI RUPCHAND MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether private sector banks have been inspected by Reserve Bank of India during 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the shortcomings/irregularities noticed by the inspecting team during their inspections; and

(d) the action taken by the RBI against the private sector banks for committing irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The working of Banks and Financial Institutions is reviewed on a continued basis by RBI. All the private sector banks have already been inspected by RBI for 2003-04 and the inspection for 2004-05 would be completed by March 2006.

(c) and (d) All cases of divergence and non-implementation of guidelines of RBI by banks detected during the course of inspection are reviewed and taken up with the managements of the respective banks for corrective action. The irregularities mainly relate to divergence in provisioning, high level of NPAs, practice of swapping of non-performing assets (NPAs) amongst banks, deficiency in internal control, transgression of delegated powers, inadequacy of provisioning of terminal benefits, frauds and slippage of income etc.

[Translation]

GDP Growth Rate

2438. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate in Gross Domestic Product is likely to decline from 8.5 per cent to 6.9 per cent; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the advance estimates of national income released by the Central Statistical Organisation, growth in real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2004-05 is estimated at 6.9 per cent which is over and above the 8.5 per cent growth in 2003-04. The main reason for the lower estimated growth in 2004-05 compared to the previous year is the estimated low growth in agriculture and allied sector of 1.1 per cent following lower kharif output, compared to 9.6 per cent in 2003-04.

*[English]***Hydel Power Projects**

2439. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has shelved 38 MW hydel power projects in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any other hydel power project has also been shelved in any other States; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

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

*[Translation]***T&D Losses**

2440. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether power transmission and distribution loss

in Delhi is 45% while in Kolkata and Mumbai is 19% and 14% respectively;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the estimated annual financial T & D loss in Delhi; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses in Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai during 2003-04 were as under:

Name of the Utility	Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses (%) in 2003-04
BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.	42.43
BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.	51.89
North Delhi Power Ltd.	43.16
Kolkata	
Calcutta Electric Supply Company Ltd.	17.00
Mumbai	
BSES, Mumbai	12.81

(b) In Delhi, the losses are high on account of theft of electricity, poor billing and collection efficiency.

(c) In Delhi, the estimated Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses as accepted by Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) are as under:

Year	BSES Rajdhani Power Ltd.		BSES Yamuna Power Ltd.		North Delhi Power Ltd.	
	Target level	Achieved	Target level	Achieved	Target level	Achieved
2003-04	46.00	45.06	54.70	54.29	45.35	44.86
2004-05	42.70	—	50.70	—	40.85	—
2005-06	36.70	—	45.05	—	35.35	—
2006-07	31.10	—	39.95	—	31.10	—

(d) The various steps taken to reduce the AT&C losses are as under:

[English]

Indira Awas Yojana

2441. SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (i) Metering of 11kV feeders and consumer metering;
- (ii) Energy accounting and auditing;
- (iii) Replacement of defective meters;
- (iv) Implementation of the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) for upgradation and strengthening of sub-transmission and distribution system;
- (v) Controlling of theft of energy by regular monitoring and compounding of cases;
- (vi) Introduction of High Voltage Distribution System (HVDS) in theft prone areas;
- (vii) Replacement of Overhead LT conductor by insulated Aerial Bunched Conductors (ABC) to stop theft due to direct hooking;
- (viii) IT initiatives like consumer billing and collection;
- (ix) Enactment of Electricity Supply Act 2003 making provisions relating to theft more stringent;
- (x) Drive for voluntary declaration of tampered meters; and
- (xi) Installation of additional transformers, wherever transformers are overloaded.

(a) the amount spent district-wise, year-wise and number of persons benefited under the Indira Awas Yojana in the various States of North Eastern Region during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government is aware that no sanitary toilets/bathrooms facilities are provided in the houses constructed under the scheme; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and necessary steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) Details of year-wise/district-wise allocation made, releases, utilization, number of people benefited under the Indira Awas Yojana (IAY) during the last three years are in enclosed Statement. Under the Scheme, the houses are constructed by the beneficiaries themselves. In some cases, sanitary latrines are not being constructed by the beneficiaries due to lack of awareness, attitudinal factors, shortage of water etc. Instructions in this regard are being reiterated from time to time. However, in the revised IAY Guidelines, a penalty clause has been inserted stating that in case, the beneficiary is unable to construct sanitary latrine due to some reasons, an amount of Rs. 600/- would be deducted from the assistance to be provided for construction of the new IAY house or for upgradation of an unserviceable kutch house.

Statement

Year wise/district wise allocation, releases, utilisation and number of person benefited in the North Eastern Region under Indira Awas Yojana during the last three years

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the District	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
		Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation of Funds	Number of Person Benefitted	Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation of Funds	Number of Person Benefitted	Allocation (C+S)	Releases (C+S)	Utilisation of Funds	Number of Person Benefitted
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Arunachal Pradesh													
1.	Changlang	61.06	60.90	59.77	375	62.69	81.40	54.44	246	53.27	82.29	73.47	411
2.	Dibang Valley	48.03	42.99	42.89	244	49.32	94.39	30.44	190	4.16	29.16	30.25	133

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	East Kameng	73.38	79.09	59.27	219	75.35	113.03	85.97	462	73.73	98.80	142.91	803
4.	East Siang	62.22	54.24	80.56	438	63.89	31.95	35.09	199	33.59	31.73	27.32	141
5.	Krung Kumey#	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.04	130	60.13	80.57	56.59	318
6.	Lohit	65.81	85.56	97.90	535	67.57	101.36	90.24	333	109.13	108.17	141.02	793
7.	Lower Dibang Valley#	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.65	78	28.57	40.63	41.91	209
8.	Lower Subansiri	92.90	71.83	87.74	333	95.39	168.05	60.14	342	59.59	84.56	149.82	820
9.	Papum-Para	18.41	23.93	21.16	130	18.91	36.35	17.30	98	35.03	60.00	43.70	246
10.	Tamang	22.02	0.00	15.39	170	22.61	20.33	23.67	128	48.15	64.52	45.41	257
11.	Tirap	89.94	67.32	126.14	777	92.35	138.52	40.52	228	131.03	119.32	184.87	1041
12.	Upper Siang	12.26	9.63	8.42	60	12.59	32.76	11.05	56	23.32	48.32	65.42	321
13.	Upper Subansiri	75.81	98.55	70.32	412	77.84	67.01	80.19	430	49.31	74.28	86.89	436
14.	West Kameng	37.71	49.01	58.02	338	38.72	58.08	49.02	264	57.04	76.44	74.68	424
15.	West Siang	80.53	60.37	94.44	511	82.69	41.34	47.62	239	70.96	64.01	51.83	293
Total		740.08	703.42	822.03	4542	759.92	984.57	685.38	3423	637.01	1062.80	1215.89	6646

#Newly created districts.

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Assam

1.	Barpeta	774.89	387.45	677.01	2274	795.65	624.227	421.46	2155	876.37	874.24	706.22	4163
2.	Bongaigaon	834.93	667.95	422.30	2677	857.29	717.853	578.63	3363	944.27	1087.97	709.14	3963
3.	Cachar	723.02	361.52	824.82	2791	742.39	394.280	439.95	2048	817.71	801.67	548.64	2158
4.	Darrang	995.89	648.05	626.30	3671	1022.36	802.107	543.24	2692	1126.07	1075.80	784.52	4402
5.	Dhemaji	938.43	607.29	684.52	2998	963.56	867.200	492.85	4830	1061.32	1038.04	882.44	5171
6.	Dhubri	135.35	95.69	126.13	531	138.97	123.280	66.26	356	153.07	152.85	113.24	662
7.	Dibrugarh	566.95	453.56	307.28	722	582.13	514.800	395.76	2751	641.20	738.77	569.03	2552
8.	Goalpara	691.77	553.41	281.67	651	710.30	633.573	474.15	5250	782.36	910.43	656.29	6224
9.	Golaghat	660.49	480.79	358.22	1547	678.18	607.893	331.61	3694	746.99	735.87	697.67	3646
10.	Hailakandi	532.44	425.95	183.65	778	546.70	291.533	262.76	1371	602.16	573.48	429.10	1961
11.	Jorhat	601.83	481.47	333.27	1726	617.95	430.907	513.97	3003	680.84	784.21	367.81	1531
12.	Kamrup	939.61	742.35	644.69	1986	964.78	868.307	614.52	2522	1062.67	1062.67	919.98	5406

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13.	Karbi Anglong	1157.35	754.12	938.46	2992	1188.35	805.107	896.52	5109	1308.91	1254.43	1233.16	2112
14.	Karimganj	615.28	492.23	358.48	169	631.76	568.587	328.78	1897	695.85	810.75	441.46	2073
15.	Kokrajhar	682.27	380.25	572.10	3874	700.55	615.853	285.51	1629	771.61	694.45	841.97	4488
16.	Lakhimpur	860.83	579.41	402.17	2918	883.88	455.587	746.20	4508	973.56	924.57	632.82	3803
17.	Marigaon	786.38	424.69	502.46	1732	807.45	628.053	439.47	3578	889.36	869.83	588.12	2373
18.	N C Hills	636.72	509.37	360.71	2104	653.78	534.800	509.39	2857	720.11	829.69	520.17	2885
19.	Nagaon	855.39	589.05	626.94	4457	878.31	760.907	397.27	1128	967.40	1114.63	400.20	4444
20.	Nalbari	940.48	589.48	697.70	4068	965.67	785.267	451.88	3440	1063.80	1225.47	789.58	5524
21.	Sibsagar	418.88	321.45	273.10	998	430.10	290.933	243.24	1770	473.73	480.01	379.69	1442
22.	Sonitpur	826.52	661.25	449.62	518	848.70	678.773	609.03	4237	934.80	1077.07	694.20	3700
23.	Tinsukhia	476.62	328.03	322.40	635	488.39	316.613	391.37	1399	639.04	524.77	412.92	4269
Total		16652.16	11494.81	10974.00	46817	17096.20	13316.440	10493.62	65587	18832.80	19603.67	14318.27	78752

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Manipur

1.	Bishnupur	88.96	44.48	29.15	157	91.34	0.00	29.07	142	100.80	0.00	0.250	5
2.	Chandel	88.53	58.44	27.28	189	90.90	45.50	72.11	512	100.12	74.71	26.540	48
3.	Churechandpur	173.49	86.75	19.02	54	178.14	78.00	148.96	355	196.21	43.80	10.530	67
4.	Imphal East	38.57	19.29	20.49	112	39.60	19.80	23.80	82	43.81	20.28	16.810	96
5.	Imphal West	26.95	13.48	21.60	83	27.67	13.30	13.54	79	30.48	11.27	17.470	108
6.	Senapati	161.01	80.51	64.08	444	165.32	82.70	100.35	562	182.09	99.43	75.010	444
7.	Tamenglong	149.48	65.15	58.15	307	153.49	107.40	98.16	355	169.05	226.71	114.430	750
8.	Thoubai	66.88	33.44	32.00	188	68.67	0.00	27.60	238	75.65	68.48	25.100	147
9.	Ukhrul	88.54	44.28	21.69	4	90.92	0.00	37.95	246	100.13	50.07	0.160	1
Total		882.41	445.82	293.46	1538	906.05	346.70	551.34	2571	997.94	594.75	286.300	1666

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Meghalaya

1.	East Garo Hills	265.28	220.57	278.89	1478	272.39	219.73	124.88	805	300.01	4.29	154.20	870
2.	East Khasi Hills	226.95	82.96	86.80	422	233.03	209.73	93.63	392	256.68	251.03	230.08	1150

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3.	Jaintia Hills	133.63	66.83	67.04	332	137.23	70.43	51.54	250	151.15	75.57	65.52	482
4.	Ri bhoi Distt.	44.24	3.88	18.47	65	45.43	41.69	19.60	57	50.04	25.03	44.76	252
5.	South Garo Distt.	27.07	10.83	14.21	50	27.80	13.91	12.24	63	30.61	0.00	8.68	46
6.	West Garo Hills	324.47	85.20	142.80	762	333.17	499.75	312.30	1359	366.96	200.41	469.52	2796
7.	West Khasi Hills	150.72	118.33	146.70	844	154.76	152.96	127.64	579	170.47	85.24	154.74	867
Total		1172.37	588.60	754.91	3953	1203.81	1208.20	741.83	3305	1325.92	641.57	1147.50	6485

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Mizoram

1.	Aizawl	56.29	49.99	48.06	268	57.80	29.57	35.480	200	63.67	85.32	75.70	427
2.	Champhai	39.40	35.47	33.30	190	40.46	60.68	44.660	251	44.56	59.71	58.66	331
3.	Kolasib	16.89	15.20	14.30	83	17.34	12.13	12.840	72	19.11	25.60	23.94	135
4.	Lawngtlai	28.15	25.33	23.88	138	28.90	14.45	16.820	95	31.83	42.65	38.18	215
5.	Lunglei,	56.29	32.65	34.36	208	57.80	53.17	54.260	311	63.67	85.32	75.60	426
6.	Mamit	36.59	32.99	31.06	175	37.57	33.81	34.300	193	41.37	55.44	52.72	298
7.	Saiha	28.15	23.09	22.20	120	28.90	14.79	17.400	96	31.83	42.65	38.62	217
8.	Serchhip	19.70	17.73	16.62	93	20.23	14.16	15.300	87	22.28	29.85	27.30	153
Total		281.46	232.45	223.78	1275	289.00	232.76	231.060	1305	318.32	426.54	390.72	2202

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Nagaland

1.	Kohima	145.27	171.97	80.52	527	149.16	74.58	138.65	1144	164.29	154.33	157.08	1157
2.	Mokokchung	101.87	105.48	93.41	610	104.60	52.30	82.83	895	115.21	115.21	119.43	872
3.	Mon	148.10	129.63	118.46	805	151.97	76.00	104.79	1090	167.40	224.32	163.61	1178
4.	Phok	71.44	74.41	67.1	480	73.35	36.67	72.55	742	80.79	80.79	39.70	289
5.	Tuensang	148.03	162.32	156.14	1105	151.99	76.00	150.73	1571	167.41	163.11	154.90	1091
6.	Wokha	75.54	65.49	65.42	470	77.56	38.78	56.70	609	85.43	85.43	88.79	641
7.	Zunheboto	66.67	69.11	63.69	452	68.46	34.23	54.10	604	75.40	75.40	86.74	621
8.	Dimapur#	0.00	0.00	3.78	34	0.00	0.00	6.38	43	0.00	0.00	15.94	117
Total		756.83	778.41	648.52	4473	777.09	388.56	666.73	6698	855.93	898.59	826.19	5966

#Newly created districts.

(C+S) Central plus state share.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Sikkim													
1.	East District	53.63	26.81	—	—	55.06	0.00	0.00	0	60.64	0.00	0	0
2.	North District	52.14	26.08	—	—	53.54	0.00	0.00	0	58.97	0.00	0	0
3.	South District	43.31	21.65	—	—	44.47	0.00	0.00	0	48.99	0.00	0	0
4.	West District	53.82	26.91	—	—	55.26	0.00	0.00	0	60.87	0.00	0	0
Total		202.90	101.45	237.31	1754	208.33	199.83	155.17	1149	229.47	293.75	308.97	2041

State Government is not sending district wise performance.

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Tripura

1.	Dhalai	133.85	174.01	133.86	754	137.44	206.16	127.05	624	156.15	151.20	251.70	1436
2.	North Tripura	463.15	602.09	464.724	2610	475.56	713.35	443.20	2411	274.57	269.00	651.92	2689
3.	South Tripura	606.25	788.25	606.35	4152	622.80	933.91	808.03	3333	657.76	648.41	886.71	5483
4.	West Tripura	508.45	660.99	508.45	2866	522.07	783.10	674.60	3953	847.48	719.33	960.57	5415
Total		1711.80	2225.34	1713.384	10382	1757.67	2636.52	2050.88	10321	1935.96	1767.94	2749.90	15003

(C+S) Central plus state share.

Foodgrains under SGRY

2442. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the allotment and offtake of rice and wheat component under SGRY Schemes for different categories of beneficiaries, State-wise; and

(b) the measures taken or proposed to take to improve the offtake of grains by the States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Allotment of Rice and Wheat under the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana

(SGRY) are made at the beginning of the year and release is done on fulfilment of conditions of SGRY Guidelines. However, lifting of total foodgrains by the District authorities is monitored at the Centre. Statement showing State-wise allocation and release of Rice and Wheat under the SGRY and lifting of foodgrains during the year 2004-2005 is given in the enclosed Statement.

(b) Unless lifting and utilization of foodgrains as prescribed in the SGRY Guidelines is fulfilled, release of second instalment is withheld. Besides, review meetings are held with the State Officials as well as with the representatives of Food Corporation of India from time to time to facilitate availability of foodgrains at FCI godowns and easy access of the Implementing Agencies for lifting of foodgrains.

Statement

Allocation of foodgrains and lifting under SGRY during 2004-05

Sl.No.	States/UTs	Allocation of foodgrains (In MTs)			Foodgrains authorised (In MTs)			Foodgrains lifted (In MTs) (including opening balance)
		Wheat	Rice	Total	Wheat	Rice	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1.	Andhra Pradesh	0	261244	261244	0	248892	248892	144548
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	13870	13870	0	0	0	0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
3.	Assam	0	360024	360024	0	270019	270019	233965
4.	Bihar	0	517348	517348	0	516587	516587	240517
5.	Chhattisgarh	0	145805	145805	0	138552	138552	202751
6.	Goa	0	3746	3746	0	2809	2809	0
7.	Gujarat	114380	0	114380	134716	0	134716	132367
8.	Haryana	60257	0	60257	59855	0	59855	50294
9.	Himachal Pradesh	10766	14611	25377	9117	10652	19769	30630.31
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	8296	21525	29821	7493	21114	28607	19502
11.	Jharkhand	100658	250196	350854	81146	201734	282900	8382
12.	Karnataka	39018	156074	195092	37905	150301	188206	210810
13.	Kerala	29182	58356	87538	25462	50920	76382	67841
14.	Madhya Pradesh	224891	89982	314873	219671	84932	304603	403852
15.	Maharashtra	233373	152281	385654	204627	134711	339338	358951
16.	Manipur	0	24164	24164	0	18911	18911	9406
17.	Meghalaya	0	27070	27070	0	20304	20304	15992
18.	Mizoram	0	6264	6264	0	5266	5266	3
19.	Nagaland	9284	9284	18568	6602	6602	13204	4599
20.	Orissa	0	295504	295504	0	276058	276058	254594.21
21.	Punjab	67022	0	67022	59187	0	59187	53864
22.	Rajasthan	148141	0	148141	148140	0	148140	177265
23.	Sikkim	0	6935	6935	0	6935	6935	0
24.	Tamil Nadu	0	228442	228442	0	228442	228442	225255
25.	Tripura	0	43632	43632	0	43095	43095	35060.25
26.	Uttaranchal	24762	33551	58313	24607	33096	57703	63315
27.	Uttar Pradesh	604526	268563	873089	591415	262727	854142	650892
28.	West Bengal	0	328394	328394	0	259315	259315	280633
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0	2457	2457	0	2457	2457	0
30.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	0	1618	1618	0	1214	1214	0
31.	Daman & Diu	0	784	784	0	0	0	0
32.	Lakshadweep	0	1229	1229	0	0	0	0
33.	Pondicherry	0	2491	2491	0	2292	2292	160
All India		1674556	3325444	5000000	1609963	2997937	4607900	3875448.77

Printing of Currency Notes

2443. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether we are still dependent on the foreign technologies for the printing of our currency notes;

(b) if so, the reasons for not developing our own technology for printing currencies; and

(c) the number of languages which are printed as on date on our currency notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Printing of currency in India is done at the currency printing presses of Government and RBI. India is dependent on foreign technology like machinery and some raw materials for printing of currency notes. Machinery for printing of currency notes is a one time requirement and its replacement takes place once in about 15 to 20 years. Certain raw materials are also purchased from foreign suppliers which are exclusive. These are essential for securing Indian currency Notes.

(c) Besides Hindi and English, 15 Indian languages appear on the Indian bank notes.

[*Translation*]

Apparel Park Scheme

2444. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to introduce a new scheme in place of present Apparel Park Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) present set up of Apparel Parks, location-wise;

(d) the allocation of funds likely to be made for the implementation of the said new scheme;

(e) the time by which this scheme is likely to be started; and

(f) the details of allocations made by the Government for Apparel Parks during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (f) In view of the experience gained during the last three years of the operation of 'Apparel Parks for Exports' Scheme, Government has undertaken a mid-course review of the Scheme with the basic objective of bringing in urgency implementation of the Scheme. Extensive discussions have been held with the stake holders/State Governments, wherein it was proposed to effect modifications in the Scheme to bring in proper targeting, aggressive marketing, involvement of private sector and to increase the level of assistance under the Scheme.

Since the inception of Scheme in March 2002, twelve project proposals have been sanctioned for setting up Apparel Parks at Tronica City & Kanpur (U.P.), Surat (Gujarat), Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Ludhiana (Punjab), Bangalore (Karnataka), Tirupur & Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), SEZ, Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Mahal, Jaipur (Rajasthan) and Butibori-Nagpur (Maharashtra).

A Budget provision of Rs. 25.00 crores has been made for allocation of funds during the current year i.e. 2004-05. State-wise details of fund release on reimbursement basis under the Apparel Parks for Exports Scheme during the year 2004-05 are given below:

(Rs. in crores)		
State	Location	Amount released 2004-05
Andhra Pradesh	Vishakhapatnam	1.24
Gujarat	Surat	5.39
Karnataka	Bangalore	2.41
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	1.74
Tamil Nadu	Tirupur	4.14
Uttar Pradesh	Kanpur	3.78
Total		18.70

APDRP

2445. SHRI GANESH SINGH:
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has received any proposal from Madhya Pradesh Government to strengthen the Western Zone power distribution and Central Zone power distribution under the Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme;

(b) the amount likely to be allocated to the State Government under the programme and the time by which the said amount is likely to be provided; and

(c) the number of cities in the State likely to be benefited from this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The Government of India has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 554.84 crores under Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) to strengthen the western zone power distribution and central zone power distribution of Madhya Pradesh.

(b) The Government has sanctioned projects amounting to Rs. 679.08 crores under APDRP for the entire State of Madhya Pradesh, including Eastern, Central and Eastern Zones out of which APDRP component is Rs. 339.54 crores. The Government has already released an amount of Rs. 84.87 crores to Madhya Pradesh under the programme. Further release of funds depends upon the financial progress of the projects and pro-rata drawal of counter part funds by the concerned State Electricity Board/Utility.

(c) A list of 36 towns and 3 circles covered under the APDRP is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

List of towns/circles covered under APDRP in Madhya Pradesh

Sl.No.	Zone	Circle/Town
1	2	3
1.		Gwalior Circle
2.		Bhopal
3.		Vidisha
4.		Harda
5.		Pipariya

1	2	3
6.	Central Zone	Hoshangabad
7.		Itarsi
8.		Guna
9.		Shivpuri
10.		Mandideep
11.		Ujjain Circle
12.		Indore Circle
13.		Ratlam
14.		Khandwa
15.	Western Zone	Burhanpur
16.		Dewas
17.		Neemuch
18.		Mandsaur
19.		Dhar
20.		Khargone
21.		Sagar
22.		Damoh
23.		Katni
24.		Shahdol
25.		Narsinghpur
26.		Jabalpur
27.		Mandla
28.		Satna
29.		Chhindwara
30.	Eastern Zone	Seoni
31.		Reewa
32.		Balaghat
33.		Waidhan
34.		Chhatarpur

1	2	3
35.		Panna
36.		Tikamgarh
37.		Orchha
38.		Niwari
39.		Morwa

*[English]***Profit of Banks**

2446. DR. M. JAGANNATH:
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have recently announced a sharp fall in their profits;

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

(c) the reasons responsible for such huge losses;

(d) the gross profit of public sector banks as on March 31, 2004, bank-wise;

(e) the amount of actual write off of bad loans of public sector banks during the last three years; and

(f) the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As per the latest available information none of the public sector bank has incurred any loss in the Operating Profit during the period from April 2004 to September, 2004. Bank-wise details are give in the statement enclosed.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The bank-wise details of gross profits of public sector banks as on March 31, 2004 are given in the statement enclosed.

(e) The details of loans written off by public sector banks for the years 2001, 2002 and 2003 (latest available) are as under:

(Rs. in crores)	
Year	Amount
2000-01	5002.30
2001-02	6261.70
2002-03	8791.60

(f) Government of India and Reserve Bank of India have stipulated certain steps for recovery of loans, which *inter-alia* include evolving and implementing a recovery policy by banks, filing of suits in civil courts/DRTs, compromise settlement and monitoring and follow up of NPAs at various levels. The recent amendment of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 has further strengthened the recovery process of the Banks.

Statement**Operating Profit of Public Sector Banks**

(Rs. in crores)

Bank Name	Operating Profit	
	2003-04	Apr-Sept, 2004 (Latest)
1	2	3
Allahabad Bank	876.25	615.13
Andhra Bank	930.17	604.71
Bank of Baroda	2485.30	1033.14
Bank of India	2241.87	633.41
Bank of Maharashtra	676.49	247.99
Canara Bank	2858.71	1210.91
Central Bank of India	1528.93	856.37
Corporation Bank	907.05	468.52
Dena Bank	710.59	256.92
Indian Bank	802.46	535.84
Indian Overseas Bank	1325.20	637.67
Oriental Bank of Commerce	1533.03	600.40
Punjab & Sind Bank	149.61	158.54

1	2	3
Punjab National Bank	3120.86	1635.73
Syndicate Bank	1054.25	525.20
UCO Bank	948.41	485.40
Union Bank of India	1483.08	710.55
United Bank of India	613.30	277.75
Vijaya Bank	865.64	405.60
State Bank of India	9553.46	4532.10
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	681.36	394.25
State Bank of Hyderabad	1014.21	361.24
State Bank of Indore	532.23	154.69
State Bank of Mysore	424.92	209.28
State Bank of Patiala	1003.75	392.84
State Bank of Saurashtra	452.76	178.04
State Bank of Travancore	700.83	388.81
Total	39474.72	18502.03

Commissionerate-wise Collection of Excise Duty

2447. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra is the leading State in respect of realizing the excise revenue;

(b) if so, the total excise revenue realized by various commissionerate during 2003-04, Commissionerate-wise;

(c) whether Maharashtra being a leading State in excise revenue realization, the cadres of superintendent and inspectors in Excise department in the State are facing stagnation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to remove stagnation in this cadre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details of Central Excise duty collected by the commissionerates of Central Excise in the State of Maharashtra during 2003-04 (provisional), Commissionerate-wise, are given in the statement enclosed.

(c) to (e) Promotion from the grade of Superintendent of Central Excise to the Group A Grade of Assistant Commissioner is made on the basis of all India Seniority List. Hence, the Superintendents of Central Excise working in the State of Maharashtra can not be considered in isolation for the purpose of promotion of the next higher grade. As regards the Inspectors of Central Excise, it is a localized cadre and promotions from this grade to the next higher grade of Superintendent of Central Excise depend on local factors such as superannuation, promotion to higher grade, etc. of the officers of the grade of Superintendent. In any case, in the last Cadre Restructuring of the Department, the strength in the grade of Superintendent in Central Excise Zones located in the State of Maharashtra was enhanced by 412 posts (an increase of 39.54%) in order to improve the promotional prospects of the Inspectors of Central Excise working in these zones.

Statement

Commissionerate-wise collection of Central Excise Duty During 2003-04 (provisional) from the Commissionerates of Central Excise in the State of Maharashtra

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	Name of Commissionerate	Central Excise duty collection during 2003-04 (Prov.)
1	2	3
1.	Mumbai-I	3634.96
2.	Mumbai-IV	433.44
3.	Mumbai-V	268.33
4.	Thane-I	349.19
5.	Thane-II	170.05
6.	Belapur/Mumbai-VI	1173.01

1	2	3
7.	Mumbai-II	1033.25
8.	Mumbai-III	355.43
9.	Raigarh/Mumbai-VII	1193.00
10.	Pune-I	1537.12
11.	Pune-II	562.39
12.	Pune-III	1948.20
13.	Nagpur	932.85
14.	Aurangabad	732.56
15.	Nasik	2157.39
Total		16481.17

Priority Sector Credit

2448. DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the norm for maintaining the 40% share of the priority sector credit in total outstanding credit is mandatory for all the private, domestic and foreign banks; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has stipulated targets for banks in public and private sector for lending to priority sectors including agriculture, small scale sectors, weaker sections etc. Targets prescribed for various categories in priority sector are as under:

Priority Sector	40% of the net bank credit
Agriculture	18% of the net bank credit
Small scale industries	No specified target
Weaker sections	10% of the net bank credit of 25% of the priority sector advances

A target of 32 percent of the net bank credit has been stipulated for lending to the priority sector by foreign banks having offices in India.

Powers of IT Commissioners

2449. SHRI SUBODH MOHITE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to provide more powers to the Commissioners of Income Tax to proceed against erring charitable trusts and institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to provide more powers to the Commissioners of Income-tax to proceed against erring charitable trusts and institutions in the Finance Bill, 2005. However, the Finance (No. 2) Act, 2004 has amended section 12AA of the Income-tax Act so as to provide power to the Commissioner of Income-tax to cancel the registration of the trust or institution if the Commissioner is satisfied that the activities of such trust or institution are not genuine or are not being carried out in accordance with the objects of such trust or institution.

(b) In view of (a) above, does not arise.

Searches Relating to Export Promotion Schemes

2450. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of search and seizures relating to misuse of export promotion schemes like DEPB, EPCG, EPZ and EOU during last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Union Government to bring transparency in the Customs Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Details of Search & Seizures relating to misuse of export promotion Schemes like DEPB, EPCG, EPZ and EOU during the last three years is given below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	No. of Searches	No. of Seizures	Value of goods seized
2001-02	313	126	6846.88
2002-03	613	199	24056.22
2003-04	466	161	15663.42
2004-05 (upto Feb. 2005)	404	136	19292.91
Total	1796	622	65859.43

(b) The details of measures adopted by the Government to bring transparency in the Customs Department are given in the enclosed. Statement.

Statement

- (i) Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) has official website viz www.cbec.gov.in which contains all the relevant Acts, tariffs, rules regulations, notifications and circulars issued by CBEC from time to time.
- (ii) The website provides the e-mail addresses of the concerned officers in CBEC who are responsible to answer queries of the people relating to indirect tax.
- (iii) A citizen's charter has been hosted in the website containing time frames within which the department would respond and process work in important areas such as declarations/applications/intimation/refunds/release of duty drawback/examination and clearance of export/import goods etc.
- (iv) EDI system has been introduced for filing of Bills of Entry and Shipping Bills. Time taken by an officer in clearance of document is recorded.
- (v) Before issuance of any Circular by CBEC, the same is placed in the website eliciting comments from the trade and interested individuals.
- (vi) A Grievance Redressal Mechanism is in place. The details of which have been hosted in website.
- (vii) For redressal of grievances relating to delay in decision making, administrative mechanism exists in each custom house to deal with such complaints.
- (viii) The Customs Act, 1962 provides for Advance Rulings, which provides that any non-resident or joint venture company can seek information relating to classification, rate of duty and applicability of notification. The decision of Advance Ruling Authority is binding on the Departmental Officer.
- (ix) For redressal of grievances against merits of a decision taken by any officer, the Customs Act, 1962, itself provides for remedial measures in the form of appeal and revision.
- (x) Provision for e-filing of service tax has been introduced.
- (xi) In order to eliminate unnecessary stages, a Standing Committee on Regulatory reforms has been constituted. The Committee includes representative of CBEC and various Government Departments and Trade Associations.
- (xii) A risk management Module has been introduced for examination of goods at the port of import.

[Translation]

Swajaldhara Yojana

2451. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH:
SHRI GAURISHANKAR CHATURBHUI BISEN:
SHRI ASHOK ARGAL:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to reduce the share of financial cost to be borne by the public under the said programme from the present 10 per cent to 5 per cent in the tribal dominated habitations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) As per Swajaldhara Guidelines, the share of financial cost to be borne by the public (community contribution) towards capital cost of Swajaldhara schemes could be in the form of cash/kind/labour/land or combination of these, with at least 50% of the community contribution being in cash. In the case of Scheduled Tribal Areas, the proportion of cash contribution has now been reduced to 25% of the stipulated community contribution.

Free Sale of Coal

2452. SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether free sale of coal by coal companies has been discontinued;

(b) whether the price of coal has been increased despite the discontinuation of free sale of coal;

(c) if so, the details therefor;

(d) whether the coal companies including SECL propose to provide coal to common man by redetermining the sale of free sale and doing away with the monopoly in sale; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Fixation of price of coal is done based on various factors like cost of production and is not related to free sale of coal.

(d) and (e) Sale of coal through e-auction is under consideration of the Government and the details will be worked out based on the experience and evaluation of the ongoing trial e-auctions.

[English]

National Textile Policy

2453. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to systemize the production of Textile sector;

(b) whether 'National Textile Policy' needs improvement to achieve above goal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The National Textile Policy was announced in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry, capable of meeting the challenges of changed global environment. At present there is no proposal with the Government to bring about a change in the policy.

In pursuance of above policy the Government have taken following initiatives to systemize the production of Textile sector:

- (i) Rationalisation of fiscal duty structure to attract investment and modernisation;
- (ii) Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector;
- (iii) For accelerating modernization of the powerlooms segment of the textile industry, 20% Capital assistance is available on investment upto Rs. 100 lakh in specified machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs. 20 lakh on amount of assistance;
- (iv) Announcement of a package for restructuring of debt portfolios of potentially viable textile units having debt exposure of Rs. 2 crore and above;
- (v) De-reservation of the woven segment of readymade garments from the SSI sector. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the ambit of SSI;
- (vi) Launching of "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports;

- (vii) Launching of 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme' (TCIDS) for upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres;
- (viii) Launching of "Cotton Technology Mission" to improve the productivity and quality of cotton.

Expert Committee on Revitalisation

2454. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Expert Committee on Revitalisation of the Coal Sector had presented its Report;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the recommendations of the Expert Committee have been accepted by the Government; and
- (d) if so, the present status of the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer given to part (a) above.

State Funding for Election

2455. SHRI UDAY SINGH:
SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
SHRI JAI PRAKASH (MOHAN LAL GANJ):
SHRI M. APPADURAI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has stressed the need for a national consensus to ensure greater transparency in financing of political parties and spending on elections issues like State funding of elections;
- (b) if so, whether the Government proposes to discuss the issue with various political parties and to find out a clear cut view; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the other steps Government proposes to take to ensure that corruption during elections is properly checked?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) The Election and Other Related Laws (Amendment) Act, 2003 was an attempt towards bringing in transparency in political funding. The said Act, by insertion of section 29B and 29C in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, sought to impart transparency in collection of donations by political parties thereby minimizing corruption in the electoral process and making a modest beginning towards State funding of elections. The Government is in favour of going ahead with State funding of elections, as part of the process of electoral reforms, so as to further lessen the burden of election expenditure on the political parties, which will in turn lessen the tendency of parties resorting to unfair means in collecting funds for contesting elections. The process of reforms/changes of electoral laws and other related matters is a continuous and ongoing process and can be carried out only through consensus among political parties. Since it is a long drawn process, it is not possible to indicate any time frame.

Exploration of Coal by Private Players

2456. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:
SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:
SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether private sector companies/MNC have requested the Government for exploration of the coal in the country specially in Mahanadi Coalfields Limited;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the names of the companies given permission and pending for permission;
- (c) the reasons for not giving them permission;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to clear the pending applications in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government is considering to set up a regulatory authority for the country's coal sector;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No formal request has been received in this Ministry from private sector companies/MNC for exploration of the coal in the country.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of answer given to part (a) of the question.

(e) to (g) The Expert Committee set up by Government for the coal sector is *inter-alia* examining the need to set up a regulatory authority for coal. Decision in the matter would be taken after taking into consideration the recommendations of the Expert Committee at the appropriate time.

Estimate of Hawala Money

2457. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI V.K. THUMMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have estimated the amount received through Hawala Channel in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to bring about changes in the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act to monitor and control such receipts;

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

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[*Translation*]

Corruption Under IAY

2458. SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received complaints regarding irregularities prevalent in the Indira Awas Yojana;

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

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken in this regard alongwith the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. Numbers of complaints are received from different quarters such as individuals, elected representatives, MLAs, MPs etc.

(b) and (c) These complaints are usually with regard to irregularities in the implementation of Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), selection of beneficiaries and delay in release of funds, etc. As and when these complaints are received, they are referred to State Government for taking necessary remedial measures and to take action against the erring officials, if these complaints are found to be true. During the current year, some complaints have been received from the Members of Parliament regarding irregularities in Araria & Saran districts of Bihar and Banda & Chitrakoot districts of Uttar Pradesh. The Ministry of Rural Development have referred to these complaints to the State Governments for taking up necessary and remedial action.

[*English*]

Exemption of Tax on Tea Grown by Small Growers

2459. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received representation from Small Tea Growers for exemption of tax on tea grown by small growers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof including the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) So far as direct taxes are concerned, representations from organizations such as Indian Tea Association and United Planters Association of Southern India (UPASI) have been received seeking certain tax concessions for tea industry in general. As far as indirect taxes are concerned, the Government had been receiving representation from tea industry requesting exemption from additional duty of excise on tea.

In this year's Budget, Government has withdrawn additional duty of excise and additional duty of customs on tea and tea waste.

*[Translation]***Implementation of Service Tax**

2460. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the time when service tax is implemented in industrial sector;

(b) whether the Union Government have received any objection/representation against such implementation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Service tax on industrial sector has been implemented in last budget effective from 10/9/04 in the form of Service tax on production or processing of goods for, or on behalf of the client, under the heading 'business auxiliary services'.

(b) As the credit of service tax has been permitted across the board for manufacturing sector also, there is not much resentment against it, as the service tax paid could be taken as credit for payment of Central Excise duty on the final product manufactured. However, some objections/representations have been received from manufacturers of exempted products like bicycles where utilization of credit of service tax is not possible resulting in cost increase of the final product.

(c) As detailed above in (b).

(d) The issue is being examined.

Insurance Business

2461. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the volume of business in the New India Assurance Company and National Insurance Company have registered a constant decline;

(b) if so, the details of the decline registered in the business of these two companies during the last two years;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to check the said decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Gross direct Premia of New India Assurance Company Ltd. (NIA) and National Insurance Company Ltd. (NIC) for the last three years have registered consistent growth as given below:

(Rs. in Crores)

Year	NIA	NIC
2001-02	4198.06 (20.18%)	2365.47 (11.69%)
2002-03	4812.79 (14.64%)	2863.58 (21.06%)
2003-04	4921.47 (2.26%)	3391.10 (18.42%)

Figures in brackets show growth over previous year.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

*[English]***Violation of IRDA Regulation**

2462. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether GIC subsidiaries like National Insurance Co. and New India Assurance Co. have tied up with private players in life insurance field like Birla Sunlife and APM Sanmar respectively to sell composite products;

(b) if so, whether such tie-ups between life and non-life companies is in violation of IRDA regulations;

(c) whether the IRDA has permitted banking personnel to sell insurance and hybrid products like deposits with built-in life cover; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NIC) had signed an MOU with Birla Sunlife for selling bundled products to be issued by the two companies separately subject to clearance from IRDA and New India Assurance Co. Ltd. (NIA) had tied up with APM Sanmar for providing the mandatory training to each other's agents on a voluntary basis to enable them obtain composite agency license, IRDA has informed that cross selling agreements are violative of section 2 (7A) of Insurance Act, 1938, which allows an insurance company in India to carry out either life

insurance or general insurance or reinsurance business and the Act does not allow any role for composite insurers. Accordingly, IRDA advised both NIC and NIA to opt out of cross selling arrangements forthwith and not to enter any such arrangement.

(c) and (d) IRDA has informed that insurers can appoint Corporate Agents in accordance with Section 42 of Insurance Act, 1938 and Regulations made there under for procuring insurance business. Since some of the banks have become Corporate Agents, they are permitted to solicit and procure business for the respective insurers.

NCES Programme

2463. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to evolve a policy for Non-Conventional Energy sources;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which it is likely to be announced; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) Policy formulation in Government is a dynamic process. Much work has already been done in this direction. As a result, over 5500 MW grid interactive renewable power systems have been installed, as on 31-12-2004. The pace of such renewable power installation has picked up resulting in 15 per cent contribution to the total power generation installed capacity in the country during the first two years of the 10th Plan, i.e., 2002-03 and 2003-04 against the aim of 10 per cent. In addition, 500 remote villages, where grid extension is either not cost-effective or feasible, are expected to be electrified through renewable means during the 10th Plan period of which 1744 remote villages have already been electrified, as on 31.12.2004. This apart, 3.5 million and 1.0 million households have been provided with biogas plants and solar home lighting systems respectively apart from 1.0 million metre square collector area having been installed, essentially for water heating purposes. The progress of deployment of renewable energy systems/devices is highly satisfactory.

Textile workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

2464. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile units covered under TWRFS, State-wise;

(b) the number of units received financial assistance under TWRFS, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government is considering to include the State/Central Public Sector Undertakings and textile units in the co-operative fold by modifying the TWRFS guidelines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The number of textile units which received financial assistance under TWRFS, State-wise is as follows:

Name of the State	No. of textile units covered and received financial assistance under TWRFS
Gujarat	31
Maharashtra	3
Madhya Pradesh	3
Tamil Nadu	4
Delhi	1
Total	42

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts in CIL

2465. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether no recruitments have been made and vacant posts filled during the last three years in various subsidiaries of the Coal India Ltd.;

(b) the number of officers/officials in various grades and employees retired during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to fill up these vacant posts; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINERALS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No.

Sir. Fresh Recruitment in some subsidiaries of CIL have been made during last 3 years, as per details given below:

Company	2002-03 Fresh Recruitment	2003-04 Fresh Recruitment	2004-05 (up to 1.1.05) Fresh Recruitment
Western Coalfields Ltd.	0	4	0
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	142	0	0
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	20	0	0
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	37	0	0
Total	199	4	0

In addition to above, Coal India Limited has given employment under Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy

and National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA) also. The details is given below:

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05 (as on 1.2.05)
National Coal Wage Agreement (NCWA)	2497	2794	2059
Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy (R&R)	478	628	460

(b) Details of executive and Non-executive grade employees retired during the last three years are as under:

Year	Executives Grade	Non-Executives Grade	Total
2002	392	10086	10478
2003	489	8837	9326
2004	452	9287	9739
Total	1333	28210	29543

(c) and (d) Coal India has surplus manpower in certain categories but has shortage in some categories. Coal India Limited has taken Special Recruitment Drive to fill up the backlog vacancies of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes, numbering 789.

[English]

Effect of Tsunami on GDP

2466. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Tsunami will impact on GDP growth in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government will extend the surcharge imposed a few years ago, to more goods for one more year to mop up enough money to fund the relief work in Tsunami hit areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The total damage due to Tsunami covering Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu is estimated as Rs. 11,934.74 crore. In the recent Joint Assessment Mission Report (The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UN), it is noted that the Tsunami has had no impact on India's GDP or that of the affected States/UT's. The States/UT's GDP are unaffected because economic activity along the coastline contributes very little to their income.

(c) and (d) A special surcharge of excise on a range of products, the use of which should be discouraged, was levied as National Calamity Contingency Duty (NCCD) vide Finance Bill, 2001. Subsequently the levy had been extended to few more items namely polyester filament yarn, motor cars, multiutility vehicles and two wheelers, and crude oil in the Finance Bill, 2003. Levy of NCCD is proposed to be extended without any time limit in the Finance Bill, 2005.

National Power Tariff Policy

2467. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the adverse effect of the continuous increase in power tariffs in the country on the agriculture, industry and common man;

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

(c) the power tariff for different sectors viz. agriculture, industry and domestic in the country, State-wise, particularly in respect of Karnataka;

(d) the extent to cover the hike in power tariff by SEBs in the States recorded during the last three years, State-wise, particularly in Karnataka; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to check the frequent hike in power tariff?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (e) Under the Electricity Act, 2003, the tariff for supply of power to various categories of consumers is to be determined by the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions and in doing so these Commissions are required to be guided by the provisions contained in Section 61 of the Act which, *inter alia*, include the factors

which would encourage competition, efficiency, economical use of the resources, safeguarding of consumer's interest and at the same time ensure recovery of the cost of electricity in a reasonable manner. The State Commissions are also required to ensure transparency while exercising its powers and discharging its functions.

Statements showing estimated average rate of electricity in different States as on 1.4.2003, 1.4.2004 and 1.3.2005 are in enclosed Statement I, II and III respectively. Position of change in these rates in Karnataka is in enclosed Statement IV.

A number of steps have been taken to reduce the cost of power. The benefit under Mega Power Policy which provides for zero customs duty for import of capital equipment and deemed export benefits for domestic suppliers has been extended to all inter-state projects which fulfil the basic criteria of minimum capacity of 1000 MW for thermal and 500 MW for hydel project.

Further, the Government of India has taken following fiscal measures for the power sector:

- Reduction of the aggregate duty on transmission and distribution equipments from the level of 25% (Basic Customs Duty) + 16% (CV Duty) + 4% (Special additional duty) to 10% (BCD) + 16% (CVD).
- Reduction of customs duty on electricity meters from 25% to 15%.
- Reduction of customs duty on coal from 25% to 5%.

The Accelerated Power Development and Reforms Programme (APDRP) have been launched for financing projects for system loss reduction which in turn has the effect of reducing the cost of delivered power.

The Electricity Act, 2003 creates a liberal framework for development of the power sector and reduces the entry barrier in different segments of power supply industry. This is expected to encourage competition and in turn efficiency improvement, resulting in cost reduction and quality supply of power to the consumers at competitive rates.

The Central Government has issued guidelines for Determination of Tariff by bidding under Section 63 of the Electricity Act, 2003 on 19th January 2005. This will encourage competition in procurement of electricity by distribution companies.

Statement I
Statement Showing Average Rates of Electricity
(as on 01.04.2003)

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2KW (100 KWH/Month)	Domestic 5 KW (400 KWH/Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 KWH/Month)	Commercial 5 KW (200 KWH/Month)	Commercial 10 KW (1000 KWH/Month)	Commercial 20 KW (2000 KWH/Month)	Agriculture 5 HP 15% LF (400 KWH/Month)	Agriculture 10 HP 20% LF (1000 KWH/Month)	Small Industry 10 HP 25% LF (1361 KWH/Month)	Medium Industry 50 KW 40% LF (14800 KWH/Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW 65% LF (474500 KWH/Month)	Heavy Industry (11 KV) 10000 KW 60% LF (4380000 KWH/Month)	Heavy Industry (33 KV) 15000 KW 60% LF (5475000 KWH/Month)	Railway Traction 12500 KW 30% LF (2737500 KWH/Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01.04.2003	238.50	398.63	492.25	608.75	654.75	690.38	39.58	38.19	419.86	408.12	414.51	460.69	472.40	450.03 at 132/220 KV
2.	Assam	01.04.2003	282.20	363.38	396.86	630.18	547.32	550.89	108.20	211.43	328.81 U 234.60 R	379.55	385.46	388.41	396.38	—
3.	Bihar (Urban) (Rural)	01.06.2001	206.70U 63.60R	270.30	279.84	1213.91	658.81	658.81	64.95	63.80	683.53	708.93	464.48	467.22	464.56	519.22 at 25 KV 269.21 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01.03.1999	157.20	258.73	294.78	436.34	497.95	505.19	73.53	55.10	304.19	396.20	434.59	437.71	427.23	466.69 at 132/220 KV
5.	Gujarat (Urban) (Rural)	10.10.2000	391.50 333.50R	516.38U 439.88R	598.60U 501.40R	638.00	677.15	679.33	65.36	62.14	401.17	459.36F	513.96	554.24	565.38	540.95
6.	Haryana	01.09.2001	336.00	384.25	419.59	434.00	434.00	434.00	65.00	65.00	443.00	443.00	424.00	424.00	412.00	441.23 at 11 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01.11.2001	115.75	199.69	227.48	327.50	317.50	316.25	69.90	66.84	258.84	257.17	276.54	279.11	282.47	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01.04.1999	292.80	244.00	244.00	498.22	311.10	311.10	40.26	40.26	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—	—
9.	Jharkhand (Urban) (Rural)	March, 2001	138.00U 46.00R	160.75	161.10	451.00	287.80	289.90	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV 269.21 at 132 KVU
10.	Karnataka	01.04.2003	323.93	420.92	473.92	644.44	609.28	611.76	64.51	58.37	398.82	449.57	466.29	480.07	489.42	456.70 at 11 KV
11.	Kerala	01.10.2002	187.00	398.89	517.61	792.00	938.10	976.80	77.97	76.36	396.60	374.45	379.44	396.02	—	348.67 at 110 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19.12.2002	314.50U 286.00R	404.36U 348.94R	421.05U 380.78R	514.38	672.79	674.18	120.00	105.60	427.42	533.14	469.35	505.47	498.88	467.10 at 132/220 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01.01.2002	301.46	406.39	488.96	458.36	598.61	605.82	123.18	117.44	333.13	398.75	431.31	438.44	—	427.00
14.	Meghalaya	01.09.2001	130.00	182.50	205.00	288.50	314.50	317.75	76.00	76.00	266.12	267.77	219.75	222.23	—	—
15.	Orissa	01.05.2002	135.00	315.00	315.00	415.00	455.00	455.00	105.00	105.00	320.00	340.00	344.28	357.08	384.46	407.45 at 25/33KV
16.	Punjab	01.08.2002	201.40	311.39	348.09	429.25	429.25	429.25	57.00	55.10	324.25	367.30	376.75	376.75	385.57	486.80 at 11 KV
17.	Rajasthan (Urban) (Rural)	01.04.2001	322.50U 292.75R	305.63U 277.57R	302.25U 274.53R	555.00	551.00	553.00	105.03	93.46	391.04	417.86	447.07	448.83	460.19	446.86
18.	Tamil Nadu	16.03.2003	204.75	396.63	442.58	698.50	698.90	697.95	20.00	20.00	327.81	493.72	445.60	462.61	469.04	511.16
19.	Uttar Pradesh (Urban) (Rural)	08.11.2002	321.50U 99.00R	327.13	318.25	599.00	491.00	492.50	72.25	64.28	413.08U 350.98R	396.54U 336.91R	393.63U 337.43R	397.36U 340.63R	383.79U 325.74R	471.70 below 132 KV and 433.64 132 KV and above

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20.	Uttaranchal (Urban) (Rural)	01.01.2002	229.00U 72R	229.00 72R	273.00	484.00	454.00	480.25	67.40	80.51	386.04	404.86	346.15	348.86	340.22	479.21 at 25 KV 467.82 at 132 KV and below
21.	West Bengal (Urban) (Rural)	01.04.2001	200.81U 171.68R	330.90U 310.00R	367.75U 354.75R	367.40U 356.95R	461.29U 450.00R	461.25U 450.00R	74.67	173.00	341.88	421.96	361.96	366.10	379.50	361.70 at 25 KV 361.70 at 132 KV
22.	Arunachal Pradesh	01.02.2000	162.50	211.78	231.75	357.50	367.50	361.25	—	—	345.00	361.44	363.95	364.00	—	—
23.	Goa	01.04.2002	122.00	170.75	216.50	314.50	344.50	363.25	102.00	102.00	257.00	297.00	336.19	342.39	260.35	—
24.	Manipur	03.09.2002	362.20	299.70	—	428.70	302.20	366.80	272.20	272.20	267.20	367.41	334.61	335.33	337.30	—
25.	Mizoram Dist. HQ & Sub. Div. Area Other Areas	01.08.2002	116.00	171.25 163.75	143.80 140.80	250.00	300.00	300.00	70.00	70.00	166.32	101.23	62.01	67.15	60.88	—
26.	Nagaland (Urban) (Rural)	01.06.2001	250.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	360.00	360.00	360.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
27.	Nagaland (Urban) (Rural)	15.08.2002	80.00	230.83	261.25	270.00	375.00	367.50	157.50	225.70	365.40U 252.54R	216.26	266.47	261.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01.08.2001	346.00	240.00	220.00	755.00	330.00	363.00	75.00	120.00	175.00	209.46	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman Nicobar & Islands	01.11.2001	115.00	243.75	289.50	330.00	410.00	420.00	75.00	75.00	265.30	266.63	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01.11.2002	180.75	246.94	262.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	108.68	102.75	301.00	336.00	361.00	361.00	366.80	—
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	01.02.87	72.50	65.63	68.25	122.00	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.36	180.86	161.65	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	237.50	263.50	266.75	95.00	56.00	220.00	261.46	258.63	361.61	—	—
33.	Delhi	01.08.2001	187.50	252.00	327.80	525.00	462.80	526.00	76.75	76.75	430.80	436.80	466.06	462.30	464.80	466.88 at 11 KV 576.00
34.	DMRC	10.08.2001	198.00	252.25	327.70	500.00	462.00	525.00	—	—	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	—
35.	Lakshnawep	01.04.2006	200.00	337.50	375.00	650.00	660.00	660.00	—	—	460.00	460.00	—	—	—	—
36.	Pondicherry	16.04.2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	346.40	340.08	336.04	11.74	7.27	246.24	258.72	317.52	339.42	—	—
37.	Ahmedabad Electric Company	01.08.2002	369.40	453.75	462.46	573.79	676.04	664.80	327.54	327.54	362.72	416.36	426.27	429.63	—	—
38.	Kolkata (CESC)	01.04.2003	270.80	462.92	543.95	314.93	635.83	435.24	—	—	474.44	532.13	526.53	532.09	524.40	537.94
39.	D.V.C. (A) Jharkhand Area (B) West Bengal Area	01.08.2000	—	—	—	508.00	623.25	636.63	—	—	—	—	320.42	366.33	334.69	466.32 at 33 KV
40.	Durgapur Projects Ltd.	01.05.1999	180.25	336.44	404.83	361.16	467.00	467.00	207.00	263.54	327.86	445.44	400.46	406.46	—	—
41.	Mumbai (B.E.S.T.) (B.S.E.S.) (TATA's)	15.07.1997 01.04.2000 01.12.1998	84.00 154.56 145.60	305.51 436.31 324.53	441.46 447.86 361.60	622.00 603.58 419.29	757.60 636.01 419.29	802.80 647.46 419.29	— — —	— — —	666.66 565.01 400.44	721.15 473.47 400.44	416.43E 343.34 365.97	422.08E 323.64 366.64	— — 379.23	— — 400.44 6.6 KV to 33KV

U: Urban R: rural E: Exclusive of Reactive Energy Charge @ 98 Paise/KWh F: Exclusive of Reactive Charge @ 10 Paise/KWh O: Other Areas
Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and
consumption levels in a month.

The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to F.S. & A Division, CEA.

Statement II**Statement Showing Average Rates of Electricity (as on 1.4.2004)**

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 2 KW (100 KWH/Month)	Domestic 5 KW (400 KWH/Month)	Domestic 10 KW (1000 KWH/Month)	Commercial 5 KW (200 KWH/Month)	Commercial 10 KW (1000 KWH/Month)	Commercial 20 KW (2000 KWH/Month)	Agriculture 5 HP (15% LF 408 KWH/Month)	Agriculture 10 HP (20% LF 1089 KWH/Month)	Small Industry 10 HP (25% LF 1361 KWH/Month)	Medium Industry 50 KW (40% LF 14600 KWH/Month)	Large Industry 1000 KW (65% LF 474500 KWH/Month)	Heavy Industry (11 KV) 10000 KW 60% LF (4380980 KWH/Month)	Heavy Industry (33 KV) 15000 KW 50% LF 6475000 KWH/Month)	Railway Traction 12500 KW 30% LF 2737500 KWH/Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01.04.2004	238.50	396.83	492.25	583.50	621.50	626.25	39.58	38.18D 42.01O	408.86	398.12	404.51	448.68	461.41	440.03 at 132/ 220 KV
2.	Assam	01.04.2003	282.20	363.38	395.85	630.18	547.32	550.89	188.20	211.43	326.81 U 234.80 R	379.55	385.46	398.41	398.38	—
3.	Bihar (Urban) (Rural)	01.08.2001	206.70U 63.80R	270.30	279.84	1213.91	858.81	858.81	64.95	63.80	893.53	708.93	464.48	467.22	464.56	519.22 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01.03.1999	157.20	259.73	294.78	438.34	497.95	505.19	73.53	55.10	304.19	398.20	434.59	437.71	427.23	466.89 at 132/ 220 KV
5.	Gujarat (Urban) (Rural)	10.10.2000	391.50U 333.50R	516.39U 439.88R	598.80U 501.40R	638.00	677.15	679.33	65.36	62.14	401.17	458.36F	513.98	554.24	565.38	540.85
6.	Haryana	01.09.2001	338.00	394.25	419.80	434.00	434.00	434.00	65.00	65.80	443.00	443.00	424.00	424.00	412.00	441.23 at 11 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01.11.2001	115.75	199.89	227.48	327.50	317.50	316.25	69.90	66.84	258.84	257.17	276.54	279.11	282.47	—
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	01.04.1999	292.80	244.00	244.00	489.22	311.10	311.10	40.28	40.28	164.70	164.70	164.70	164.70	—	—
9.	Jharkhand (Urban) (Rural)	March, 2001	139.00U 48.00R	150.75	161.10	451.00	287.80	288.80	40.15	31.09	157.09	140.54	211.99	214.58	212.07	275.21 at 25 KV 289.21 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka	01.04.2003	323.93	420.92	473.92	644.44	809.26	611.76	64.51	58.37	398.82	448.57	498.29	498.07	499.42	458.70 at 11 KV
11.	Kerala	01.10.2002	187.00	398.89	517.61	792.00	938.10	978.80	77.97	78.35	398.80	374.45	379.44	385.02	—	348.67 at 110 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19.12.2002	314.50U 288.00R	404.36U 348.94R	421.05U 360.78R	514.38	672.79	674.18	120.00	105.80	427.42	533.14	489.35	505.47	498.88	487.10 at 132/ 220 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01.10.2002	305.48	410.39	492.95	482.35	590.61	609.82	128.18	121.12	337.13	370.75	435.31	442.44	—	431.00
14.	Mizhaleya	01.09.2001	130.00	182.50	205.00	288.50	314.80	317.75	78.80	78.00	288.12	287.77	219.75	222.23	—	—
15.	Orissa	01.01.2004	175.00	285.00	295.00	370.00	434.00	444.50	105.00	105.00	320.00	336.80	341.01	353.89	380.82	403.37 at 25/ 33 KV
16.	Punjab	01.05.2003	220.30	334.23	385.41	441.85	441.85	441.85	57.00	55.10	334.75	378.85	398.30	398.30	376.77	459.00 at 11 KV
17.	Rajasthan (Urban) (Rural)	01.04.2001	322.50U 282.75R	305.63U 277.57R	302.25U 274.53R	555.00	551.00	553.00	105.03	83.40	391.04	417.66	447.07	448.83	450.19	446.86
18.	Tamil Nadu	18.03.2003	204.75	358.63	442.58	598.50	606.90	607.95	20.00	20.00	327.81	483.72	445.80	462.81	469.04	511.16
19.	Uttar Pradesh (Urban) (Rural)	01.09.2003	341.50U 108.00R	347.13	336.25	609.00	499.60	499.00	72.25	64.28	423.08U 380.98R	408.54U 346.91R	403.63U 347.43R	407.35U 350.63R	398.79U 340.74R	471.70 132 KV below 433.84 at 132 KV and above

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
20.	Uttaranchal (Urban) (Rural)	01.01.2004	219.00U 89.28R	210.00	219.00	359.00	359.00	359.00	57.40	50.51	287.06	274.86	263.52	266.11	272.82	467.52 132 KV and below
21.	West Bengal (Urban) (Rural)	01.04.2003	252.81U 223.68R	382.90U 362.00R	449.75U 406.75R	419.40U 408.95R	513.25U 502.00R	513.25U 502.00R	74.67	173.00	398.68	473.96	391.99	421.10	431.50	448.70 at 25 KV 413.70 at 132 KV
22.	Arunchal Pradesh	01.02.2000	162.50	211.78	231.75	357.50	387.50	391.25	—	—	345.00	361.44	393.85	394.89	—	—
23.	Goa	01.04.2002	122.00	170.75	216.50	314.50	344.50	363.25	102.00	102.00	257.00	297.00	339.19	342.29	280.35	—
24.	Manipur	03.09.2002	262.20	299.70	—	429.70	302.20	398.80	272.20	272.20	287.20	367.41	334.61	335.33	337.20	—
25.	Mizoram Dist. HQ & Sub Div. Area Others Areas	01.08.2002	115.00	171.25 163.75	148.50 140.50	259.00	300.00	300.00	70.00	70.00	185.32	101.23	62.01	67.15	80.68	—
26.	Nagaland (Urban) (Rural)	01.08.2001	250.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	300.00U 200.00R	350.00	380.00	380.00	150.00	150.00	250.00	275.00	275.00	275.00	—	—
27.	Sikkim (Urban) (Rural)	16.08.2002	90.00	230.63	281.25	270.00	375.00	387.50	157.50	228.70	355.40U 252.54R	216.28	258.47	261.28	—	—
28.	Tripura	01.07.2003	480.80	325.00	300.00	1017.50	440.00	440.00	75.00	120.00	249.00	270.00	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	01.11.2001	115.00	243.75	288.50	330.00	410.00	420.00	75.00	75.00	285.30	298.63	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01.11.2002	160.75	248.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	103.88	102.75	301.00	338.00	381.00	381.00	388.90	—
31.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	01.02.1987	72.50	85.63	88.25	122.00	124.40	124.70	50.00	50.00	170.10	170.35	180.86	181.85	—	—
32.	Daman Diu	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	237.50	263.50	266.75	55.00	55.00	230.00	251.48	258.83	261.01	—	—
33.	Delhi BSES/NDPL	04.07.2003	204.75	291.38	394.35	551.25	519.75	561.75	125.10	122.89	478.76	474.44	902.29	605.54	801.18	524.00 at 11 KV
34.	NDMC	01-08-2001	158.00	252.25	327.70	500.00	482.00	525.00	—	—	431.00	431.00	—	—	—	576.00
35.	Lakshadweep	01.04.2000	200.00	337.50	375.00	650.00	650.00	650.00	—	—	450.00	480.00	—	—	—	—
36.	Pondicherry	16.04.2002	55.00	113.75	150.50	348.40	340.08	339.04	11.74	7.27	246.24	258.72	317.52	333.42	—	—
37.	Ahmedabad Elec. Co.	01.08.2002	389.40	453.75	482.48	573.79	676.04	684.80	327.54	327.54	382.72	418.39	426.27	429.83	—	—
38.	Kolkata (CESC)	01.04.2003	270.80	482.82	543.95	314.93	635.63	435.24	—	—	474.44	532.13	528.53	532.09	524.40	537.94
39.	D.V.C. (A) Jharkhand Area (B) West Bengal Area	01.08.2000	—	—	—	506.00	623.25	635.63	—	—	—	—	320.42	358.33	334.89	409 at 33 KV 391.37 132 KV
40.	Durgapur Projects LTd.	01.05.1999	180.25	336.44	404.83	361.18	467.00	467.00	207.00	283.54	327.86	446.44	400.46	406.46	—	—
41.	Mumbai (B.E.S.T.) (B.E.S.) (Tata's)	15.07.1987 01.04.2000 01.12.1988	84.00 164.56 145.80	305.51 436.31 324.53	441.48 447.86 381.60	622.00 603.58 419.29	757.80 638.01 419.29	802.80 647.48 419.29	— — —	— — —	889.06 585.01 400.44	721.15 473.47 400.44	418.43E 343.34 365.97	422.08E 323.64 369.64	— — 379.23	— — 400 MU 6.6 KV to 33 KV

U: Urban R: rural E: Exclusive of Reactive Energy Charge @ 98 Paise/KWh F: Exclusive of Reactive Charge @ 10 Paise/KWh D: DPAP area O: Other Areas
Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and
consumption levels in a month.

The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to F.S. & A Division, CEA.

Statement III**Statement Showing Average Rates of Electricity (Updated upto 01.03.2005)****ANNEXURE I**
(Rates Paise/KWh)

Sl. No.	Name of Utility	Tariff effective from	Domestic 1KW (100 KWh/ Month)	Domestic 4KW (400 KWh/ Month)	Domestic 10KW (1000 KWh/ Month)	Domestic Commercial 2KW (300 KWh/ Month)	Commercial 10KW (1000 KWh/ Month)	Commercial 30KW (3000 KWh/ Month)	Commercial 60KW (6000 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 2HP (400 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 5HP (1000 KWh/ Month)	Agriculture 10HP (2000 KWh/ Month)	Small Industry 10KW (1500 KWh/ Month)	Medium Industry 50KW (7500 KWh/ Month)	Large Industry 100KW (50% L.F. 438000KWh/ Month)	Heavy Industry 1600KW (60% L.F. 438000KWh/ Month)	Heavy Industry (50KV) 20,000 KW (80% L.F. 438000KWh/ Month)	Railway Traction 12500 KW 2500000 (KWh/ Month)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1.	Andhra Pradesh	01.04.2004	238.50	386.63	482.25	598.35	624.67	638.89	629.73	0	0	0	415.40	414.38	408.55	448.98	448.87	440.03
2.	Assam	01.08.2004	277.45	388.80	438.15	527.53	545.48	548.47	549.08	174.17	215.79	276.12	345.73 U 288.35 R	428.10	388.54	388.41	378.00	—
3.	Bihar	01.06.2001	206.70 U 63.80 R	237.18	278.84	743.98U 276.87R	805.81	805.81	805.81	40.50	40.50	40.50	703.65	743.79	488.44	488.44	488.08	530.51 at 25 KV 524.51 at 132 KV
4.	Chhattisgarh	01.03.1999	157.20	253.08	291.82	482.87	502.52	508.13	510.48	30.00	30.00	30.00	385.38	488.38	438.71	438.71	428.15	448.81 at 132 KV
5.	Gujarat	25.06.2004	381.84 U 276.29 R	516.46 U 382.44 R	888.71 U 443.88 R	888.81	628.47	631.83	632.88	57.75	57.75	57.75	480.92	465.81	518.63	557.35	588.91	548.12 at 132 KV
6.	Haryana	01.09.2001	333.00	379.25	414.80	439.00	439.00	439.00	439.00	24.00	24.00	24.00	438.00	438.00	419.00	419.00	407.00	400 at 11 KV
7.	Himachal Pradesh	01.10.2004	126.75	202.44	228.58	381.57	388.33	320.88	320.84	70.00	67.00	66.00	385.38	327.84	306.76	308.72	308.02	—
8.	Jammu and Kashmir	01.04.1999	122.00	222.00	222.00	277.00	277.00	277.00	277.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	157.00	157.00	157.00	157.00	—	—
9.	Jharkhand	March, 2001	138.00 U 36.00 R	146.75	181.10	224.87	248.20	251.87	251.44	18.75	18.75	18.75	188.82	203.48	218.67	218.67	207.82	288.80 KV 25 KV 280.80 at 132 KV
10.	Karnataka	01.04.2003	282.43	413.05	473.92	585.38	588.88	600.88	601.34	50	50	50	387.40	481.08	488.28	480.07	478.82	385.88 at 110 KV
11.	Kerala	01.10.2002	187.00	388.89	817.81	727.84	888.88	982.74	988.88	74.80	74.80	74.80	388.80	388.80	385.02	385.02	—	388.89 at 132 KV
12.	Madhya Pradesh	18.12.2002	814.80 U 288.00 R	381.38U 334.88R	415.24U 355.80R	581.25	488.10	478.82	477.13	47.50	58.00	57.50	414.84	548.85	472.46	505.47	480.43	474.33 at 132 KV
13.	Maharashtra	01.12.2003	345.18	383.95	447.70	482.85	546.13	588.44	582.11	81.50	81.80	81.80	243.47	248.47	415.58U 404.57R	415.58U 404.58R	—	401
14.	Meghalaya	01.11.2003	180.00	223.75	251.50	387.57	388.33	403.44	404.47	108.00	108.00	108.00	341.67	374.33	234.07	233.88	—	—
15.	Orissa	01.01.2004	175.00	265.00	285.00	385.00	441.00	450.33	452.20	105.00	105.00	105.00	320.00	338.80	353.74	353.88	353.88	413.48 at 25/33 KV
16.	Punjab	01.10.2004	210.00 U 188.00 R	320.51U 288.47R	350.80U 315.54R	403.20	430.20	403.20	403.20	31.50	31.50	31.50	321.30	353.85	353.85	353.85	343.23	402.00 at 132 KV
17.	Rajasthan	01.04.2001	337.50 U 315.25 R	320.83U 294.44R	317.25U 290.28R	558.87	554.00	555.78	556.13	48.56	48.20	45.41	410.81	452.21	485.17	485.17	485.17	453.94
18.	Tamil Nadu	16.08.2004	126.00	227.08	282.88	610.75	809.25	808.12	809.07	0	0	0	458.85U	488.57	452.11	482.61	482.11	528.47
19.	Uttar Pradesh	11.10.2004	252.00 U 124.00 R	338.75 112.75	361.30 110.80	482.33U 192.33R	482.33U 192.33R	482.33 192.33	482.33 192.33	224.80 45.00	224.00U 45.00R	224.00U 45.00R	482.33U 408	482.33U 395.42	438.36 395.42R	438.36U 378.34R	418.38U 378.34R	472.22 Below 132 KV 482.78 132 KV and above
20.	Uttarakhand	20.08.2003	225.00	225.00	225.00	385.00	385.00	385.00	385.00	75.80U 63.00R	75.80U 63.00R	75.80U 63.00R	305.21	305.21	282.10	282.10	282.10	—
21.	West Bengal	01.04.2004	224.58 U 218.15 R	284.38U 273.88R	348.18U 331.54R	383.61U 385.98R	515.35U 502.23R	513.58U 505.51R	513.20U 505.17R	188.14	188.14	188.14	412.20U 388R	448.87U 438.88R	446	418.88	418.88	446.78 at 25 KV 417.38 at 132 KV
22.	Assamchal Pradesh	01.02.2000	182.50	211.88	231.75	370	380	388.33	384.00	—	—	—	345	383.33	383.86	384.88	—	—
23.	Goa	01.04.2002	122.00	170.74	216.80	327.00	357.00	373.67	377.00	102.00	102.00	102.00	257.00	287.00	342.29	342.29	342.29	—
24.	Manipur	03.08.2002	282.20	298.70	302.20	302.20	302.20	381.80	381.80	272.20	272.20	272.20	287.20	381.80	338.09	338.09	338.09	—
25.	Mizoram (Dist. HQ & sub. Div. Area Other Areas)	01.08.2002	115.00	145.00 133.75	148.00 143.90	238.33	238.33	238.33	233.33	88.94	88.94	88.94	288.33	288.33	71.35	71.35	71.35	—

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
26.	Nagaland	01.06.2001	235.00 U 200.00 R	278.25 200.00	290.50U 200.00R	346.00	373.20	377.73	378.04	190.00	190.00	190.00	240.33	257.00	274.00	274.97	—	—
27.	Sikkim	15.08.2002	90.00	230.63	261.25	282.90	346.00	365.00	357.00	157.90	213.75	208.00	300.00U 282.90R	280.99	261.26	261.26	—	—
28.	Tripura	01.07.2003	200.00	270.00	460.00	320.00	400.00	400.00	400.00	75.00	75.00	190.00	240.00	270.00	—	—	—	—
29.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	01.07.2003	130.00	275.00	326.00	408.67	465.33	475.11	477.07	90.00	90.00	90.00	316.67	327.33	—	—	—	—
30.	Chandigarh	01.11.2002	160.75	246.94	282.18	401.00	401.00	401.00	401.00	101.50	101.50	101.50	301.00	330.00	361.00	361.00	360.00	—
31.	Dadar & Nagar Haveli	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	270.00	55.00	55.00	55.00	230.00	243.40	273.68	299.87	—	—
32.	Daman & Diu	01.09.2002	130.00	172.50	204.00	246.33	265.67	268.36	269.13	55.00	55.00	55.00	230.00	262.34	299.97	261.00	—	—
33.	Delhi BSESNDPL	18.08.2001	292.00	317.63	360.60	570.50	570.50	596.75	596.75	136.17	136.17	136.17	533.75	533.75	548.77	548.77	536.11	518.38 at 11 KV
34.	Delhi MDAC	01.08.2001	168.00	262.25	327.70	462.00	525.00	525.00	525.00	—	—	—	481	481	—	—	—	576.00
35.	Lakshadweep	01.09.2004	100.00	300.00	308.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	480.00	—	—	—	330	330	—	—	—	—
36.	Pondicherry	16.04.2002	55.00	113.75	180.50	274.74	325.34	333.78	335.47	235	20.67	19.83	247.82	275.5	320.16	332.72	—	—
37.	Amesabad Elec. Co.	01.08.2002	382.40	450.45	462.47	613.71	661.86	668.91	661.22	327.54	327.54	327.54	366.72	446.40	429.63	429.63	—	—
38.	Kolkata (CESC)	01.04.2004	318.09	469.86	469.86	465.06	540.23	540.23	540.23	—	—	—	468.27	464.61	461.41	461.41	444.76	446.00
39.	D.V.C.																	
	(A) Bihar Area	01.09.2000	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	326.33	326.33	326.33	427.95 at 33 KV
	(B) West Bengal Area	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	344.69	344.69	344.69	408.06 at 132 KV
40.	Dungarpur Project Ltd.	01.04.2004	238.00	280.13	280.13	263.66	304.38	302.66	302.56	261.50	261.50	261.50	319.16	316.04	321.76	321.76	—	—
41.	Mumbai (B.E.S.T.)	15.07.1997	99.00	289.80	428.46	600.00	764.20	1009.81	1009.81	—	—	—	668.36	627.41	526.29	626.29	—	—
	Mumbai (B.S.E.S.)	01.04.2000	169.66	461.31	462.66	622.96	662.66	672.66	674.66	—	—	—	595.66	567.36	366.42	342.64	—	—
	Mumbai (TATTA)	01.06.2004	161.00	336.05	410.34	522.96	477.76	477.76	477.76	—	—	—	449.36	449.36	424.57	424.57	424.57	3322/11 6.6 KV

The average Rates are inclusive of FCA wherever applicable

U: Urban R: Rural B: BMR/PMR Areas O: Other Areas

Tariffs notified have varying parameters for tariff in respect of various categories of consumers. The above comparison is for certain assumed load and consumption levels in a month. The statement has been prepared on the basis of Electricity Tariff, Electricity Duty/Tax and FCA as reported to F.S. & A Division, CEA upto 01-09-2006

Statement IV

Average rates of electricity in Karnataka

(Rate in paise/Unit)

Date	Domestic (2 KW)	Domestic (5 KW)	Commercial (5 KW)	Agriculture (5 HP)	Agriculture (10 HP)	Small Ind. (10 HP)	Large Ind. 1000 KW)	Heavy Ind. (15000 KW)	Inflation Index (CPI)
29.12.2000	231.00	410.88	633.75	64.51	58.37	380.30	464.09	486.11	434 (during 1999-00)
Present (last revised on 01/04/2003)	323.93	420.02	644.44	64.51	58.37	388.82	466.29	489.42	525 (as on Nov. 2004)
\$ increase	40.23%	2.22%	1.69%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.38%	0.47%	0.68%	20.97%
Annualised Growth Rate (%)	10.06%	0.56%	0.42%	0.00%	0.00%	-0.09%	0.12%	0.17%	5.24%

*[Translation]***Regional Rural Bank**

2468. SHRI DHANSINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the All India Regional Employees Bank Association has submitted its demand for re-organisation of Regional Rural Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the Government is likely to take a decision regarding reorganization of Regional Rural Banks; and

(d) the number of Regional Rural Banks functioning in Rajasthan alongwith the details of the Banks promoting them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Employees Associations/Unions of Regional Rural Banks have been suggesting the following for restructuring/reorganization of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

- (i) Recapitalisation of RRBs.
- (ii) Delinking of RRBs from Sponsor Banks.
- (iii) Amalgamation of RRBs at State/Zonal level under National Rural Bank or NABARD.
- (iv) Majority shareholding in RRBs by the Central Government.

(c) As a step towards the consolidation of RRBs, the Government has presently initiated the process of amalgamation of contiguous RRBs sponsored by the same bank within a State in consultation with the respective State Government and NABARD.

(d) 14 RRBs are functioning in the State of Rajasthan. The details of the sponsor banks of these RRBs are as under:

Name of Sponsor Bank	No. of RRBs sponsored
1	2
UCO Bank	2
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	3

1	2
Punjab National Bank	2
Bank of Baroda	5
Central Bank of India	1
Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	1
Total	14

Manganese Ore Mines

2469. SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the existence manganese/ore mine in the vicinity of Halol Tehsil in Panchmahal district of Gujarat State;

(b) if so, whether mining work has been discontinued at the said mine leaving several people unemployed;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to revive the mining work on the aforesaid mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) As informed by Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate office under Ministry of Mines, there is only one manganese ore mine of M/s Olympic Industrial Corporation in Halol Tehsil of Panchmahal District of Gujarat over an area of 2.954 hectares in which the mining lease has expired on 21.6.2002. The mining plan has been approved by IBM on 25.5.2001 for renewal of mining lease. The powers of renewal of mining lease in case of manganese ore are vested in the State Government.

Impact of New Textile Policy on Export of Cotton Cloth

2470. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the impact of new textile policy introduced by the Government on the export of cotton cloth;

(b) whether their rates have been decreased by the Government;

(c) the total number of textiles whose DEPU rates have been revised by the Government;

(d) whether the Government propose to chalk out any scheme to enable the textile industry to stand in competition; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (e) One of the objectives of new National Textile Policy (NTxP) is to facilitate the textile industry to attain and sustain a pre-eminent global standing in the manufacture and export of clothing. The policy endeavours to achieve the target of textile and apparel exports from the present level to US \$ 50 billion by 2010 of which the share of garments will be US \$ 25 billion. Subsequent to the announcement of NTxP-2000, woven segment readymade garment sector was de-reserved from SSI and the announcement has been made for de-reservation of knitwear from SSI in the Union Budget 2004-06.

DEPB credit rates were reduced on 23.9.2004 across the board for all the 83 textile products including cotton textile items covered under DEPB Schedule. The Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of the Indian textile industry to meet the emerging global competition. some of the important initiatives taken are:

- (i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 1-4-1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.
- (ii) The imports of specified textiles and garment machinery items have been allowed at concessional rate of customs duty to encourage investments and to make our textile products competitive in the global market. The cost of machinery has also been reduced through fiscal policy measures.
- (iii) To improve the productivity and quality of cotton, Government has launched Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC).
- (iv) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting

up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres to give fillip to exports.

- (v) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centres, a scheme titled "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.
- (vi) The fiscal duty structure has been generally rationalised to achieve growth and maximum value addition. Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain including cotton textile and cotton clothing items have been given excise exemption option. Additional Excise Duty on Textiles & Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- (vii) The Government has de-reserved the woven segment of readymade garment from the SSI sector. It has also raised the SSI investment limit for knitted segment to Rs. 5 crores. In the Union Budget 2005-06, an announcement has been made for de-reservation of 30 hosiery items from the SSI.
- (viii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing.
- (ix) Facilities by way of eco-testing laboratories have been created to enable exporters to get the garments/textiles pre-tested for conforming to the requirements of importing countries.

Nepalese Currency

2471. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Nepalese currency is more popular in the cities which are adjacent to Nepalese border;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Nepalese currency in these cities is legal tender and is inter-changeable with Indian currency;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to curb it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Nepalese currency is classified as a foreign currency under Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA). In terms of regulation 8 of Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Currency) Regulations, 2000, a person may:

- (i) take or send out of India to Nepal or Bhutan, Indian currency notes of denominations other than Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000, without any limit.
- (ii) bring into India from Nepal or Bhutan, Indian currency notes of denominations other than Rs. 500 and Rs. 1000, without any limit.
- (iii) take out of India to Nepal or Bhutan, or bring into India from Nepal or Bhutan, currency notes being the currency of Nepal or Bhutan.

A person is accordingly permitted to bring into India Nepalese currency without any limit. This does not, however, confer "legal tender" status on Nepalese rupee. In physical form, residents can retain Nepalese currency equivalent to US\$ 2000/-only, as in the case of other foreign currencies. A resident may receive payment in Nepalese rupees from a Nepalese resident for goods sold or services rendered. He cannot, however, further transfer such Nepalese rupees to any resident other than an authorized dealer or money changer.

It is reported that some amount of Nepalese rupee does circulate in the border towns of India on account of

border trade. This is bound to be the situation in all cases where there is a land border between two countries.

(e) Among the Indian towns in the border area, Gorakhpur has exchange facilities provided by State Bank of India and a franchisee of the bank, while Sonauli at the border check-post also has an SBI branch that provides exchange facility. There are no exchange facilities in the towns in Bihar bordering Nepal and there has been no demand received in the RBI from trade bodies, residents etc. to have such a facility either.

[Translation]

World Bank Aid for Development Schemes

2472. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial grants/assistance received from the World Bank for implementation of development schemes and programmes related to women and children in the country during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has fully utilized the financial assistance received from the World Bank for the above purpose;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) A statement showing details of financial assistance received from World Bank for implementation of programmes related to women and children, is annexed. The disbursement reflected in the enclosed statement has been fully utilized for achieving the project objectives.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

World Bank Aid for Development Schemes Related to Women & Children

Name of Project	Date of Signing/Closing	Area of Implementation	Credit upto Amount (US\$ million)	Disbursement 31.1.2005 US\$ million)
1	2	3	4	5
1. Women & Child Development Project	6.7.1999 30.6.2005	Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan & Maharashtra	300.00	171.14

	1	2	3	4	5
2.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Restructuring Project (Nutrition Component)	4.2.1999 30.9.2005	Andhra Pradesh	547.088*	453.59*
3.	Rural Women Development & Empowerment Project	14.9.1998 30.6.2005	Bihar, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh & Uttaranchal	12.5	8.18

*The credit amount and disbursement amount are for the entire project, of which Nutrition Component is a scheme meant for women and children.

[English]

Illegal Money Transfer Through Internet

2473. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that cases of illegal money transfer through internet banking have come to the notice of the Government; and

(b) if so, the measures taken/being taken by the Government to protect the interest of the account holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that no instances of illegal money transfer through Internet Banking have been reported by banks.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Coal Linkage to Pvt. Companies

2474. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the private and public sector companies to which coal linkage has been provided during the year 2004-2005;

(b) the basis of providing coal linkage; and

(c) the names and the details of captive power plants to which the coal linkage is provided during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The private and public sector companies to which coal linkage has been provided during the year 2004-2005 is given in enclosed Statement-I.

(b) Coal linkage to core consumers is granted by an Inter-ministerial Standing Linkage Committee (SLC) under Ministry of Coal comprising representatives from Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Power, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion and coal companies. The SLC functioning under Ministry of Coal considers coal linkage for power and cement consumers. For steel and allied consumers including sponge iron/pig iron, SLC functioning under Ministry of Steel considers all requests for coal linkages.

(c) The names and the details of captive power plants to which the coal linkage has been provided during the said period is given in enclosed Statement-II.

Statement I***Details of Long-Term Linkage Granted to Private and Public Sector Companies in 2004-05***

Name of Sponge Iron Plant	State	Capacity (LTPA)	Long-term-Linkage (000 TPA)	Coal Co.
1	2	3	4	5
Monnet Ispat Ltd (Additional)/5 yrs.	Chhattisgarh	0.60	96.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Raipur Alloys & Steel Ltd. (ADNL)/5 yrs.	Chhattisgarh	1.50	240.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Jai Balaji Sponge Ltd. (Additional)	West Bengal	0.23	36.00	MCL
Jai Balaji Sponge Ltd. (Additional)	West Bengal	0.23	36.00	CCL
Kusum Powermet Pvt. Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Shyam Sel Ltd. (Additional)	West Bengal	0.30	64.00	MCL
TR Chemicals (P) Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.15	24.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
MA Chinnamastika Sponge Iron Ltd.	Jharkhand	0.12	19.20	ECL
Prabhu Sponge (P) Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.15	24.00	MCL
OCL India Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Laxmi Ispat Udyog (Additional)	Jharkhand	0.30	48.00	MCL
Rungta Mines Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Suraj Products Ltd. (Additional)	Orissa	0.15	24.00	MCL
Shri Ramrupai Balaji Steels Ltd. (Additional)	West Bengal	0.60	96.00	MCL
Mark Steel Ltd. (Additional)	West Bengal	0.30	43.00	MCL

1	2	3	4	5
Rashmi Cement Ltd. Unit-III (Expansion)	West Bengal	0.30	48.00	MCL
MSP Steel & Power Ltd. (Additional)	Chhattisgarh	0.90	144.00	MCL
Shri Shyam Ispat India Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.15	24.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Utkal Metallica Ltd.	Orissa	0.24	38.40	MCL
Shri Ganesh Metaliks Ltd.	Orissa	0.60	96.00	MCL
Beekay Steels and Power Ltd.	Orissa	1.05	160.00	MCL
Govindam Projects Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Pawansut Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Sri Ganesh Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Haldia Steels Ltd.	West Bengal	0.30	48.00	MCL
Savitri Sponge Iron Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal	0.15	21.60	MCL
Vikas Metal & Power Ltd.	West Bengal	0.60	86.40	MCL
Sumrit Metaliks Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.15	24.00	MCL
P.D. Industries Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.30	48.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Mangal Sponge & Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.15	24.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Ghankun Steel Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.30	48.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Drolia Electrosteels Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.30	48.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Ind Agro Synergy Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	1.00	120.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
SMC Power Generation Ltd.	Orissa	1.00	160.00	MCL

1	2	3	4	5
Satyarth Steel & Power Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	0.15	24.00	SECL/KR B-RAI
Atibir Industries Co. Ltd.	Jharkhand	0.30	48.00	MCL
Hima Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.90	112.50	MCL
Shri Mahavir Ferro Alloys Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa	0.30	45.00	MCL
Bravo Sponge Iron	West Bengal	0.30	48.00	MCL
Jai Durga Iron Pvt. Ltd.	Jharkhand	0.30	45.00	MCL
Ma Chandi Durga Ispat Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal	0.63	46.80	CCL (0.54) & MCL (0.468)
Rishabh Sponge Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal	0.60	96.00	MCL
Orissa Minerals Development Co. Ltd.	Orissa	0.30	48.00	MCL
Nilachal Iron & Power Ltd.	Jharkhand	1.05	168.00	MCL
Rabindra Enterprises Pvt. Ltd.	West Bengal	0.30	48.00	CCL
Aarti Steel Ltd.	Orissa	1.50	240.00	MCL
Name of Thermal Power Plant	State	Capacity (MW)	Long-term-Linkage (000 TPA) Coal Co.	
Farakka STPP III (NTPC)	West Bengal	500	2200.00	ECL
Bhoopalpally TPS (APGENCO)	Andhra Pradesh	1000	2160.00	SCCL
Name of Cement Plant	State	Capacity (LTPA)	Long-term-Linkage (000 TPA) Coal Co.	
Durgapur Cement Works. Durgapur	West Bengal	6 LTPA	6.00	ECL

Statement II*Details of Long-Term Linkage Granted to Captive Power Plants in 2004-05*

Sl.No.	Name of Captive Power Plant	State	Capacity (MW)	Long-term Linkage (000 TPA) Coal Co.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Indo Lahari Bio-Power Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	6	10.00	SECL/RAI
2.	Coastal Paper (Andhra Pradesh Paper Mills Ltd.)	Andhra Pradesh	5.74	71.70	MCL/TAL

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	ACC Ltd., Chaibasa Cement Works	Jharkhand	15	101.08	MCL/IB
4.	BHEL, Haridwar	Uttaranchal	12	44.50	CCL
5.	Shri Bajrang Power & Ispat Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	16	106.00	SECL/RAI
6.	HEG Ltd.-Graphite Division	Madhya Pradesh	25	180.50	SECL/KRB
7.	Vandana Global Pvt. Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	20	95.50	SECL/RAI
8.	Birla Corporation Ltd., Satna	Madhya Pradesh	27	200.00	SECL/KRB
9.	Ambuja Cement Eastern Ltd., Batapara	Chhattisgarh	15	66.00	SECL/RAI
10.	Sterlite Industries (India) Ltd.	Orissa	90	1000.00	MCL/IB
11.	Jubilant Organosys Ltd., Gujraula	Uttar Pradesh	10	14.20	CCL
12.	TCP Ltd.	Tamil Nadu	63.5	320.00	MCL/TAL
13.	Indsil Energy & Electrochemical Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	11	72.00	SECL/RAI
14.	Vandana-JMG Power & Steel	Chhattisgarh	12	76.90	SECL/KRB-RAI
15.	Zuari Cement Ltd., Vishakapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	80	480.00	MCL/TAL
16.	K.R. Alloys Ltd.	Orissa	25	168.50	MCL/IB
17.	South Asian Agro Industries Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	9.8	17.30	SECL/RAI
18.	Lahari Power & Steel Ltd.	Chhattisgarh	9.8	17.30	SECL/RAI
19.	Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd., Rupnagar	Punjab	24	100.00	SECL/KRB-RAI
20.	Jaypee Bella Cement, Jaypee Nagar, Rewa	Madhya Pradesh	21.6	126.70	SECL/KRB-RAI

Handicrafts Export Promotion Council

(d) if so, the details thereof?

2475. SHRI KULDEEP BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give the status of 'bulk import agency' to the Handicrafts Export Promotion Council;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which an early decision is likely to be taken in this regard for the facilitation of small handicrafts exporters; and

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts has been authorized to import trimmings, embellishments and consumables on behalf of those exporters for whom direct import may not be viable.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Power Grid Corporation

2476. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has farmed any scheme for proposed South Asian Grid;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total business done by Power Grid Corporation during the last three years in consultancy with foreign countries;

(d) whether the PGC has secured overseas consultancy assignment from Bhutan;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the further initiative taken or being taken by Power Grid Corporation to get more foreign assignments in consultancy?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Bilateral Electric interconnections already exist with Bhutan and Nepal. Cross border transmission links emerge to cater to commercially viable electricity flows. Flows through the Indian electricity grid could also take place through displacement.

(c) to (e) During the last three years, consultancy business has been done by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL), mainly in Bhutan and Afghanistan. Details are given in enclosed Statement.

(f) The following steps have been taken/are being taken by PGCIL to get more foreign consultancy assignments:

- PGCIL has started participating in International competitive bidding and has already submitted its technical and financial proposals to Power Utilities in Ethiopia, Nepal, Uzbekistan, Cambodia and Afghanistan. In order to further enhance its eligibility for selection, PGCIL is associating with other firms having International experience.
- PGCIL has already signed a draft agreement with Nepal electricity Authority.
- PGCIL has submitted its Expression of Interest for Consultancy assignment in some other countries, viz. Vietnam, Romania, Cambodia, Afghanistan, China, Bangladesh, against World Bank and ADB funded projects.

Statement

Consultancy assignments in foreign countries during last three years by PGCIL

During the last three years, PGCIL has secured following consultancy assignments in foreign countries:

1. Preparation of Feasibility Report, NIT Estimate, Technical Specifications and Bid documents for National Load Despatch Center in Bhutan.

- Client: Tala Hydroelectric Power Authority, Bhutan
- Consultancy Fee: Rs. 42.00 lacs
- Date of Award: 24.12.2002
- Status: Work Completed

2. Turnkey Execution of Laying of OPGW on existing Transmission Lines in Bhutan.

- Client: Bhutan Telecom
- Project Cost: Rs. 914.28 lacs
- Consultancy Fee: Rs. 109.71 lacs
- Date of Award: 09.01.2003
- Status: Work Completed

3. Turnkey Execution of Laying of OPGW on Transmission Lines from Tala Dam to Power House in Bhutan

- Client: Tala Hydroelectric Power Authority, Bhutan
- Project Cost: Rs. 351 lacs
- Consultancy Fee: Rs. 42.12 lacs
- Date of Award: 25.06.2003
- Status: Work in Progress

4. Detailed survey and soil investigation for Construction of 220 KV D/C Transmission System from Phul-e Khumri to Kabul and 220/110 KV sub station at Kabul in Afghanistan

- Client: Min. of Externl. Affairs, GOI
- Project Cost including Rs. 490 lacs Consultancy Fee:

- Date of Award: 18.09.2003
 - Status: Work Completed
5. Technical Consultancy to Bhutan Power Corporation for construction of 220 KV Substation at Pasakha in Bhutan.
- Client: Bhutan Power Corporation Ltd.
 - Consultancy Fee: Rs. 97 lacs
 - Date of Award: 24.12.2004
 - Status: Work in Progress.

[Translation]

Licence for Setting up Rural Banks

2477. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has received applications to issue licences to set up rural banks in Maharashtra;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these banks are likely to be opened?

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

Cloudburst Insurance Policy

2478. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the introduction of cloudburst insurance policy for the farmers by the IFFCO Tokyo General Insurance Company;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to introduce any such scheme through public sector insurance company;

(d) whether the Government has issued any instruction to the public sector insurance companies in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) has informed that they have not received any such product from the IFFCO Tokyo General Insurance Company, which is a private insurance company.

(c) There is no proposal to introduce such scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Encouraging Net Inflow of Capital from Abroad

2479. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether net capital outflows from India has gone up over the last four years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government is planning to adopt strategies to boost domestic investment by encouraging net inflow of capital from outside; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The surplus in the capital account of India's balance of payments expanded from US\$ 8.4 billion in 2001-02 to US\$ 20.9 billion in 2003-04. In the first half of the current year (i.e. April-September 2004-05), the capital account has recorded a lower surplus of US\$ 10.1 billion, vis-à-vis US\$ 11.9 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year (i.e. April-September 2003-04)

(c) and (d) The Government acknowledges investment as the paramount requirement for consolidating the growth process. The Union Budget (2005-06) proposes to enhance both public and private investment for financing overall growth, by providing supportive policy environment and stable tax policies, promoting savings, and devising ways and means for channelising savings into productive investment. The Budget also highlighted the significant role played by foreign direct investment (FDI) with industries like automobile, software, telecommunication, and electronics, assimilating themselves into global production chains, and underlined the benefits that can arise from FDI in other sectors of the economy.

Rural Electrification

2480. SHRI HITEN BARMAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any State is lagging behind in rural electrification;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has received some proposal from States for loan/grants for the electrification of rural areas of the country during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

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

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (e) The Status of village electrification in the various States as on 31.03.2004 is indicated in enclosed Statement. A new scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been approved for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

(i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.

(ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.

(iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme (s).

(iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

Statement

Status of Village Electrification as on 31.03.2004

Sl.No.	State	Total No. of inhabited villages as per 1991 census	Total No. of Villages electrified	Balance unelectrified villages	% age of electrified villages
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	26586	26565	\$	100
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3649	2335	1314	64
3.	Assam	24685	19081	5604	77.30
4.	Bihar	38475	19251	19224	50
5.	Jharkhand	29336	7641	21695	26

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Goa	360	360	—	100
7.	Gujarat	18028	17940	\$	100
8.	Haryana	6759	6759	—	100
9.	Himachal Pradesh	16997	16891	106	99.38
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	6477	6301	176	97.28
11.	Karnataka	27066	26771	295	98.91
12.	Kerala	1384	1384	—	100
13.	Madhya Pradesh	51806	50474	1332	97.43
14.	Chhattisgarh	19720	18532	1188	94
15.	Maharashtra	40412	40351	—	100
16.	Manipur	2182	2043	139	93.63
17.	Meghalay	5484	3016	2468	55
18.	Mizoram	698	691	7	99
19.	Nagaland	1216	1216	—	100
20.	Orissa	46989	37663	9326	80.15
21.	Punjab	12428	12428	—	100
22.	Rajasthan	37889	37276	613	98.38
23.	Sikkim	447	405	42	90.60
24.	Tamil Nadu	15822	15822	—	100
25.	Tripura	855	818	37	95.67
26.	Uttar Pradesh	97122	57042	40080	58.73
27.	Uttaranchal	15681	13131	2550	83.73
28.	West Bengal	37910	31705	6205	83.63
Total (States)		586463	473892	112401	80.80
Total UTs		1093	1090	\$	100%
All India		587556	474982	112401	80.80%

\$Balance villages are not feasible for electrification.

* as per the new definition of village electrification (effective from 2004-05) total number of unelectrified villages is estimated to be around 1,25,000.

"World Bank and ADB Assistance to Tamil Nadu"

2481. SHRI K.C. PALANISAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of World Bank and Asian Development Bank assistance received by Tamil Nadu Government during the last three years;

(b) whether the funds released by the World Bank and ADB has been utilized for rehabilitation of Tsunami affected areas; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The World Bank has approved two State Sector projects namely Tamil Nadu Health System Development Project and Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project with an assistance of US \$ 110.8 million and US \$ 348 million respectively in Tamil Nadu during the last three years. Asian Development Bank has not provided any assistance to Tamil Nadu during the last three years.

(b) and (c) The World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have brought out a Tsunami needs Assessment Report to define the quantum of assistance required for post Tsunami reconstruction activities in the affected states of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu, and the Union territory of Pondicherry.

Handloom as Heritage Industry

2482. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to treat handlooms as 'heritage' industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a shortage of genuine skilled weavers;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to start a gurukul type of learning system with selected master weavers so that the skills could be handed down to the next generation; and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. As per Joint Census of Handlooms & Powerlooms 1995-96 conducted by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), there were 65.51 lakh persons engaged in weaving and associated activities in handloom sector.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Extension of Guarantees

2483. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government to extend guarantees to raise debt finance, annuity payment, irrigation bonds and commercial loans;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the final decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. permission to borrow or extend guarantees for borrowings of State off-budget entities is provided keeping in consideration plan borrowings approved by Planning Commission within the overall borrowing ceiling of the State. State Government has been approved borrowings of Rs. 3173.46 crore for financial year 2004-05 by way of SLR and non-SLR bonds and negotiated loans.

Promoting Medicinal Plants under Rural Development Schemes

2484. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand to give boost to the plantation of medicinal plants under the Rural Development Scheme in Himachal Pradesh and other parts of the country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Ministry has received 5 proposals on Medicinal & Aromatic Plants till date from the different State Governments under Special Project of Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) and sanctioned 3 projects. The details are as follows:

Sl.No.	State	Number of project received	Number of project sanctioned
1.	Himachal Pradesh	2	1
2.	Uttaranchal	1	1
3.	Nagaland	1	1
4.	Mizoram	1	0

[*Translation*]

**Removal of Backward Communities
from Electoral Rolls**

2485. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that names of five lakh persons belonging to Gujar and Bakerwal communities have been struck off from the electoral rolls;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to include the names of these people in the electoral rolls so that their democratic rights could be safeguarded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rate of Inflation in India

2486. DR. CHINTA MOHAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per consumer price index the rate of inflation in India during the year 2004 has been quite higher as compared to America, Japan and other developed countries of the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the position in regard to this rate of inflation in these countries during the above period; and

(d) the likely impact of the said higher rate of inflation on the economy of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The rate of inflation based on the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) in the case of India and inflation rate in terms of Consumer Price Index of certain selected developed countries during 2004 are indicated below:

Annual Inflation (Per cent)

Year/Month	India	USA	Japan	France	Germany	U.K.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2004 Jan.	4.3	1.9	-0.3	2.0	1.2	2.6
Feb.	4.1	1.7	—	1.8	0.9	2.5
Mar.	3.5	1.7	-0.1	1.7	1.1	2.6
Apr.	2.2	2.3	0.4	2.1	1.6	2.5
May.	2.8	3.1	-0.5	2.6	2.0	2.8
Jun.	3.0	3.3	—	2.4	1.7	3.0
Jul.	3.2	3.0	-0.1	2.3	1.8	3.0

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Aug.	4.6	2.7	—	2.4	2.0	3.2
Sep.	4.8	2.5	—	2.1	1.8	3.1
Oct.	4.6	3.2	0.5	2.1	2.0	3.3
Nov.	4.2	3.5	0.8	2.0	1.8	3.5
Dec.*	3.8	3.3	0.2	2.1	2.1	3.5
2005 Jan.*	4.4	3.0	-0.1	1.6	1.6	3.2

*Provisional

The inflation rates calculated for India and other selected developed countries as mentioned above are not strictly comparable due to differences in methodology, concepts, coverage and weighting diagrams.

(d) Although the rate of inflation in India has remained consistently moderate in the last few years, containment of inflation remains high on the agenda of the government, because high inflation rates hurt everybody particularly the poor whose incomes are not indexed to prices. High inflation puts pressure on interest rates leading to a rise in project costs and investment. It also tends to reduce real interest rates thereby adversely affecting the savings rate. Anti inflationary policies of the Government include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, rationalisation of excise and import duties of essential commodities so that there is no undue burden on the poor, effective supply-demand management of sensitive items through liberal tariff and trade policies, and strengthening the public distribution system.

Export Basis for Economic Development

2487. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided to make export as a basis of the economic development of the country;

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

(c) the reasons for making export a basis of economic development of the country; and

(d) the present percentage of the Indian export in the international trade market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The new Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09, announced by the Government on August 31, 2004, aims at doubling India's share in global merchandise trade in a five year timeframe by using trade policy as an effective instrument for economic growth and employment generation. The policy measures include several new initiatives, significant changes in existing schemes, measures to simplify administrative procedures and institutional arrangements to foster the expansion of trade.

(c) The degree of integration of the Indian economy with the rest of the world in terms of trade openness has improved over time. The rising contribution of exports to GDP and the robust growth of exports in the recent years reinforces the optimism that export sector can be reckoned as a definite source of economic growth. The comfortable level of foreign exchange reserves also provides the elbowroom for pursuing the growth objectives rather than focusing on net foreign exchange earnings from exports. Hence, to maximize the contribution of such a policy to development, the new Foreign Trade Policy emphasizes coherence and consistency among trade and other economic policies.

(d) India's share in world exports presently stands at 0.8 per cent.

Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana

2488. SHRI Y.G. MAHAJAN:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned by the Government under the Sampurna Gramin Rozgar Yojana during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons employed under the said scheme during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the amount allocated to the States under the said scheme during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) to (c) The SGRY was launched on 25.9.2001 but it became fully operational from 1.4.2002. Hence, statement showing State-wise details of allocation and releases of funds and mandays generated under the SGRY during the last two years 2002-03 and 2003-04 is given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement

Allocation & Releases of funds and mandays generated under SGRY during 2002-03. & 2003-04

Sl.No.	State/U.Ts	2002-03			2003-04		
		Allocation	Release	Mandays	Allocation	Release	Mandays
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	18977.31	24380.17	392.09	22014.18	23995.50	445.55
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	986.98	824.26	16.62	1142.85	1560.75	310.28
3.	Assam	25626.43	22496.96	483.50	29673.53	29681.01	637.20
4.	Bihar	36327.51	26727.42	442.44	42137.71	34203.10	489.85
5.	Chhattisgarh	9286.06	12013.04	377.68	10769.37	12023.34	308.55
6.	Goa	158.36	75.04	0.68	183.93	110.36	0.49
7.	Gujarat	7728.31	6942.87	201.40	8966.17	9654.67	323.19
8.	Haryana	4290.25	5610.37	119.18	4976.97	5599.45	68.87
9.	Himachal Pradesh	1806.79	2046.00	21.74	2096.00	2394.67	39.06
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	2154.84	2051.61	47.10	2499.61	10803.04	47.89
11.	Jharkhand	24828.98	17584.68	283.85	28803.56	26675.15	386.05
12.	Karnataka	14098.08	17429.04	519.60	16353.72	19428.39	566.07
13.	Kerala	6325.52	7665.17	70.95	7337.56	8696.74	100.86
14.	Madhya Pradesh	21841.08	26872.02	531.52	25338.23	26705.26	585.21
15.	Maharashtra	28002.67	28960.58	490.38	32483.24	31212.10	630.96
16.	Manipur	1719.36	669.80	14.91	1990.89	1331.40	14.00
17.	Meghalaya	1926.22	1905.92	24.43	2230.43	2055.44	34.37
18.	Mizoram	445.73	573.88	12.99	516.13	757.86	15.38
19.	Nagaland	1321.29	667.28	16.36	1529.96	1168.08	398.99

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Orissa	21353.15	27406.55	599.03	24769.56	24743.95	618.57
21.	Punjab	3461.06	3848.98	25.93	4017.63	4620.08	46.00
22.	Rajasthan	10710.59	14904.76	377.84	12424.25	13860.68	268.62
23.	Sikkim	493.50	439.18	6.28	571.44	703.55	8.21
24.	Tamil Nadu	16564.43	21161.09	491.96	19214.77	23318.54	512.06
25.	Triupra	3104.49	3850.07	99.46	3594.77	3991.89	126.96
26.	Uttaranchal	4258.87	4398.54	62.10	4940.35	5355.75	91.44
27.	Uttar Pradesh	63243.32	66092.08	1335.11	73362.27	65695.85	1330.53
28.	West Bengal	23729.76	20649.89	414.39	27526.41	21453.96	445.04
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	139.88	42.32	0.00	162.34	97.40	0.42
30.	Dadar and Nagar Haveli	109.27	61.40	0.00	126.77	41.13	NR
31.	Daman and Diu	30.27	0.00	0.00	35.17	0.00	NR
32.	Lakshadweep	48.16	0.00	0.10	55.95	28.57	0.01
33.	Pondicherry	154.50	112.61	3.28	179.28	136.13	1.42
All India		355253.02	368463.58	7482.93	412025.00	412103.79	8852.10

N.R.—Not Reported

*[English]***Educational Institutions not Paying Income Tax**

2489. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that there are several Educational Institutions in the country which are running on commercial basis but not paying income tax;

(b) whether the Government have identified such institutions which are not paying income tax;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to recover arrear from such institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Educational Institutions existing solely for educational purposes and not for the purposes of profit are exempt from income tax subject to certain conditions. There are adequate checks in the Income Tax Act, 1961 to prevent such institutions from running on commercial (private profit) basis. Other educational institutions, not claiming exemption under the Act, are required to pay tax and no preferential treatment is given to them. Wherever instances of irregularity come to the knowledge of the Income Tax Department, due process of law is followed to ensure payment of tax. Information in respect of such defaulters is not centrally maintained.

(d) Tax demand raised in respect of such defaulters is recovered in accordance with the usual procedure for recovery of tax laid out under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Transfer of Judges

2490. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any recommendations made by the Collegium of Judges of the Supreme Court for the transfer of High Court Judges as reported in the Hindu dated the January 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the period October, 2004 and January, 2005, the Chief Justice of India had recommended transfer of 4 Chief Justices and 14 Judges from one High Court to another in public interest.

(c) Government has issued Notifications for the transfer of all the Chief Justices/Judges.

Power Generation Through NCES

2491. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the potential of small power generation through non-conventional energy sources in Uttar Pradesh and the power generated therefrom;

(b) whether there is any proposal to increase the quantum of power generation by tapping the full potential of this; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the schemes planned for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) A potential of around 1443 MW grid interactive power generation through non-conventional energy sources has been estimated in Uttar Pradesh, against which a capacity of 107.32 MW has been installed as on 31.12.2004.

(b) and (c) Exploitation of non-conventional energy potential is continuous and ongoing process. The present aim of this Ministry is to deploy around 10 percent of the additional grid interactive power installed capacity from renewables during the 10th and 11th Plan periods in the country, including Uttar Pradesh. Financial incentives apart from fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, relief in taxes and duties and term loans from financial institutions are being provided. In addition, preferential tariff to grid interactive renewable power is available in several potential states. Tapping of the potential would depend on largely conducive policies of the State Government in attracting private investment.

[*Translation*]

Inflation Rate

2492. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of inflation is assessed by the Government separately on the basis of wholesale price index and consumer price index in the country;

(b) if so, whether there is wide difference in the aforesaid indices;

(c) if so, the difference between the rate of inflation projected by the aforesaid indices during December, 2004 and January, 2005 in the country; and

(d) the rate of inflation projected by each of the aforesaid indices along with the number of commodities on the basis of the prices of which both the indices are assessed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government monitors and reviews the movements in the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) and the Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPI-IW) regularly. While the data on WPI are available on a weekly basis after a lag of almost two weeks, data on CPI (IW) are available on a monthly basis after a lag of almost four weeks.

(b) and (c) Due to differences in methodology, concepts, coverage and weighting diagrammes, there are differences in the rate of inflation in terms of WPI and CPI (IW). The provisional estimates for the month of December 2004 and January 2005 are indicated below:

WPI and CPI-IW and Annual Inflation Rates (Per cent)

Year/Month	Price Index		Annual Inflation %	
	WPI (Base: 1993-94)	CPI-IW (Base: 1982)	WPI	CPI-IW
Dec. 2004	188.7*	521	6.7*	3.8
Jan. 2005	188.5*	526	5.5*	4.4

*Provisional.

(d) Inflation rates by major groups for WPI and CPI for the month of December, 2004 and January, 2005 are indicated below:

Annual point-to-point Inflation Rates in WPI (Per cent)

Major groups	No. of Items	Weight %	Dec. 2004*	Jan. 2005*
All commodities	435	100.00	6.7	5.5
Primary articles	98	22.02	3.0	1.7
Fuel, power light & lubricants	19	14.23	12.2	10.1
Manufactured products	318	63.75	6.2	5.3

*Provisional.

Annual point-to-point Inflation Rates in CPI-IW (Per cent)

Major groups	No. of Items	Weight %	Dec. 2004*	Jan. 2005*
General	330	100.00	3.8	4.4
Food	152	57.00	1.8	1.6
Pan, supari, tobacco, intoxicants	19	3.15	3.2	2.3
Fuel & light	11	6.28	9.3	8.8
Housing	01	8.07	11.7	20.4
Clothing, bedding and footwear	44	8.54	2.4	3.0
Miscellaneous group	103	16.36	3.3	3.5

*[English]***Fast Track Court in Rural Areas**

2493. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN:
SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHURY:

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts set up in the country as on December, 2004, State-wise;

(b) whether the Fast Track Courts that have been established are not running to the satisfaction of the people and Government;

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(c) if so, the reasons therefore;

(d) the steps taken by the Government to improve the functioning of the Fast Track Courts; and

(e) the number of cases pending before the Fast Track Courts, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Based on the information available with the Department, a Statement showing the number of fast track courts set up in the country as on December, 2004, state-wise is placed at enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. As per information available with this department, as on December, 2004 more than six lakh cases have been disposed of by the fast track courts out of 12.58 lakh cases transferred to them.

(e) A statement showing the number of cases pending before the fast track courts as on December, 2004, State-wise is placed at enclosed Statement-II.

Statement-I

(Based on information received in Department of Justice as on this date)

Sl.NO.	Name of the State	No. of FTCs set up by the States
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3
3.	Assam	20
4.	Bihar	183
5.	Chhattisgarh	31
6.	Goa	5
7.	Gujarat	166

1	2	3
8.	Haryana	18
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	12
11.	Jharkhand	89
12.	Karnataka	93
13.	Kerala	27
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85
15.	Maharashtra	187
16.	Manipur	2
17.	Meghalaya	3
18.	Mizoram	3
19.	Nagaland	2
20.	Orissa	72
21.	Punjab	18
22.	Rajasthan	83
23.	Sikkim	2
24.	Tamil Nadu	49
25.	Tripura	3
26.	Uttaranchal	45
27.	Uttar Pradesh	242
28.	West Bengal	152
Total		1690

Statement II

Sl.No.	Name of the State	No. of cases transferred to FTCs	No. of cases disposed of by FTCs	No. of cases pending in the FTCs
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	76,500	41,843	34,657
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,602	270	1,332

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Assam	15,750	9,272	6,478
4.	Bihar	38,885	23,959	14,926
5.	Chhattisgarh	18,274	10,859	7,415
6.	Goa	1,889	629	1,260
7.	Gujarat	2,70,038	32,364	2,37,674
8.	Haryana	10,131	6,117	4,014
9.	Himachal Pradesh	3,275	669	2,606
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—
11.	Jharkhand	41,316	20,532	20,784
12.	Karnataka	29,134	15,019	14,115
13.	Kerala	29,980	20,767	9,213
14.	Madhya Pradesh	52,770	34,079	18,691
15.	Maharashtra	1,98,761	82,706	1,16,055
16.	Manipur	1,351	985	366
17.	Meghalaya	503	157	346
18.	Mizoram	526	328	198
19.	Nagaland	453	142	311
20.	Orissa	30,349	21,578	8,771
21.	Punjab	12,049	8,605	3,444
22.	Rajasthan	47,894	30,129	17,765
23.	Sikkim	—	—	—
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,19,492	95,477	24,015
25.	Tripura	2,876	1,626	1,250
26.	Uttaranchal	52,998	36,229	16,769
27.	Uttar Pradesh	1,88,524	1,08,094	80,430
28.	West Bengal	13,223	4,827	8,396
Total		12,58,543	6,07,262	6,51,281

Grants/Loans to Autonomous Bodies*[Translation]***Expansion of Coal Mines**

2494. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of grants/loans received by Central autonomous bodies during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the purpose for which these grants/loans were sanctioned to these bodies, project-wise and institution-wise; and

(c) the manner in which Union Government ensure proper utilization of these grants/loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The information sought for is not maintained centrally. The information regarding quantum of grants/loans received by Central autonomous bodies is available in the Detailed Demands for Grants of respective Ministry/Department placed annually on the Table of the House.

2495. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to make any scheme of expansion of coal mines in the country specially in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise and location-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Total coal production of Coal India Limited (CIL) is proposed to be increased from a level of 306.36 Mt in 2003-04 to 323.18 Mt in 2004-05 and 341.05 Mt in 2005-06. Out of this, the share of coal production of CIL from Maharashtra is proposed to be increased from a level of 32.91 Mt in 2003-04 to 33.56 Mt in 2004-05 and 34.50 Mt in 2005-06. The increase in production will be coming from on-going projects and the new projects.

(b) State/Location-wise increase in coal production details in the country are given in the enclosed Statement.

Statement*State-wise details of coal production in Coal India Limited (CIL)**(in million tonnes)*

Name of the company	State	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Anticipated)	2005-06 (Projected)
ECL	West Bengal & Jharkhand	28.00	27.30	29.20
BCCL	West Bengal & Jharkhand	22.68	22.40	24.00
CCL	Jharkhand	37.33	37.40	40.00
NCL	Uttar Pradesh & Madhya Pradesh	47.03	49.68	50.50
WCL	Maharashtra & Madhya Pradesh	39.53	41.00	41.50
SECL	Chhattisgarh & Madhya Pradesh	71.01	78.40	83.00
MCL	Orissa	60.05	66.40	72.00
NEC	Assam	0.73	0.60	0.85
Total (CIL)		306.36	323.18	341.05

Location-wise/Coalfield-wise details for the production for the State of Maharashtra

Coalfield	Location	2003-04 (Actual)	2004-05 (Anticipated)	2005-06 (Projected)
Wardha Valley	Chandrapur & Yavatmal Distt.	26.47	26.00	26.37
Kamptee	Nagpur Distt.	4.32	4.12	4.53
Umrer	Nagpur Distt.	3.12	3.44	3.60
Total		32.91	33.56	34.50

Note:	ECL	—	Eastern Coalfields Limited.
	BCCL	—	Bharat Coking Coal Limited
	CCL	—	Central Coalfields Limited
	MCL	—	Mahanadi Coalfields Limited
	NCL	—	Northern Coalfields Limited
	WCL	—	Western Coalfields Limited
	SECL	—	South Eastern Coalfields Limited
	NEC	—	North Eastern Coalfields

*[English]***Koldam Power Project**

2496. SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDLIKRAO GAWALI:
Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects functioning in Himachal Pradesh and the total power generating capacity of each project;

(b) the latest progress of Koldam power project as on date;

(c) the total funds released/spent so far in setting up of the Koldam power project and the funds required in completing the project and the source of mobilizing the fund; and

(d) the proposed power generating capacity of the Koldam power project and the details of the States benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The names of power plants functioning in Himachal Pradesh and being monitored by Central Electricity Authority along with their generating capacity are given below:

Name of Power Project (Hydro)	Monitored Capacity (MW)
1	2
State Sector	
Giri Bata	60.0
Sanjay Bhaba	120.0
Bassi	60.0
Binwa	6.0
Andhra	17.0
Thirot	4.5
Ghanvi	22.6
Gaj	10.5
Baner	12.0
HPSEB	312.6
Private Sector	
Malana	86.0

1	2
Baspa	300.0
Central Sector	
Dehar	990.0
Pong	360.0
Total BBMB	1350.0
Baira Siul	180.0
Chamera-I	540.0
Chamera-II	300.0
Total NHPC	1020.0
SJVNL/Nathpa Jhakri	1500.0
Grand Total	4568.6

(b) Construction of Koldam hydro electric power project by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is progressing as per schedule. Diversion of River Sutlej was completed successfully in October, 2004 as per schedule. Excavation work on coffer dam, Main dam, Spillway and Power House is in progress. Work of desilting basin construction has been awarded.

(c) The approved cost of the project is Rs. 4527.15 crores (December, 2001 price level) and Rs. 817.93 crores have been spent on the project up to January, 2005. The project is being funded with debt equity ratio of 70:30 with the equity portion met from internal resources of NTPC and the debt component from domestic and external commercial borrowings.

(d) The proposed power generating capacity of Koldam power project is 800 MW and the beneficiary States/Union Territories are Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan and NCT of Delhi.

Pending Excise and Customs Duty

2497. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum and amount of excise and customs duty arrears pending for collection, State-wise;

(b) the percentage of this which is practically irrecoverable;

(c) the percentage of appeal cases lost by the department before higher appellate authorities;

(d) the percentage of manpower associated with arrear collectors out of total revenue collection machinery;

(e) the areas which are prone to such tax evasion; and

(f) the steps which are being proposed to plug loopholes leading to infructuous cases and mindless litigation?

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

Industrial Status to Handicraft Sector

2498. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has granted industrial status to the handloom and handicrafts sectors of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the various steps taken to uplift these sectors?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government of India has been implementing various schemes for the development and welfare of handloom sector in the country which include: Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana, Marketing Promotion Programme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme, Weavers Welfare Scheme, Handloom Export Scheme, Integrated Handloom Training Project, Bunker Bima Yojana, Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth, Implementation of Handloom

(Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985. Similarly, the office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts has also taken various steps to uplift handicraft sector in the country which include: implementation of schemes for Design & Technology Upgradation, Marketing & Support Services, Export Promotion, Training and Extension, Research and Development, Bima Yojana, Special Handicrafts Training Project etc., Integrated development of craft clusters is also being taken up by organizing the artisans into Self Help Groups under Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY).

District Central Cooperative Banks

2499. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of District Central Cooperative Banks in the country of which the number of banks are eligible to draw money from NABARD and lend it to farmers, State-wise;

(b) the number of such banks fraud, misutilization, misappropriation of funds are reported; and

(c) the action of the Government and the NABARD have taken on such erring Cooperative Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As at the end of 31st December, 2004, there were 366 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in the country of which 254 DCCBs are eligible to draw money from NABARD and lend it to the farmers. State-wise eligible DCCBs are:

Andhra Pradesh-14, Bihar-6, Jharkhand-3, Chhattisgarh-4, Gujarat-14, Haryana-19, Karnataka-19, Kerala-14, Madhya Pradesh-11, Maharashtra-24, Orissa-14, Punjab-18, Rajasthan-24, Tamil Nadu-11, Uttar Pradesh-31, West Bengal-17, Himachal Pradesh-2, Jammu & Kashmir-1 and Uttaranchal-8.

(b) 275, 284 and 292 cases of fraud, misutilisation, misappropriation of funds etc. in DCCBs were reported during the year ending 31st March, 2002, 2003 and 2004 respectively.

(c) A revised manual on internal checks and branch control, the format of annual branch inspection report and guidelines or examination on various areas during internal inspection of branches have been issued by NABARD to

all co-operative banks. Reserve Bank of India has cancelled licenses of several co-operative banks and various directions have been issued. Besides, RBI has taken various steps to bring improvement in the working of co-operative banks such as separate cell to monitor fraud, prescribing system of classification and reporting of fraud etc.

World Bank Aid For Construction of Bridges

2500. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has offered financial assistance to India for construction of bridges;

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

(c) the terms and conditions of the financial assistance; and

(d) the details of the number of bridges likely to be constructed with this assistance, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No Sir. The World Bank has not offered financial assistance specifically for construction of bridges.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of National Micro Finance Equity Fund

2501. SHRI PRAHLAD JOSHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to create National Micro Finance Development and Equity Fund aimed at assisting the poorer sections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the place of National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Micro-Finance Development Fund (MFDF) managed by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been redesignated as Micro-Finance Development and Equity Fund (MFDEF) with the corpus enhanced from Rs. 100 crore to Rs. 200 crore as announced in the Budget Speech for 2005-06. The fund

is aimed at augmenting the equity of Micro Finance Institutions which provide micro credit and other financial services to low income households and small informal businesses.

(c) The objectives of MFDEF do not envisage extending assistance/support for National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.

Diamond Project

2502. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh is proposing to construct the Pulichintala project in the areas in Guntur district which is identified as potentially diamond yielding areas;

(b) if so, whether the areas will be under water if the proposed project is constructed on this diamond reserves areas in the region and the Government will lose an huge amount of revenue;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereupon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is constructing a dam at Pulichintala village, Bellamkonda Mandal in Guntur District. Due to construction of this dam, some villages are likely to be fully or partially submerged under water. In distant past, there were reported occurrences of diamond from Krishna basin. However no such occurrences of diamond have been reported in recent times.

Assistance for Water Development shed by NABARD

2503. SHRI RAVICHANDRAN SIPPAPARAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance given to States for Water Development shed Schemes to each State/UT by NABARD during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed for extending financial assistance to Water Development Schemes by NABARD during the current financial year, State-wise;

(c) whether there is proposal to lower the rate of interest for re-financing of the schemes under the Watershed Development Programme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) State-wise financial assistance provided by NABARD under Watershed Development Fund, Indo-German Watershed Development Programme and Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) during the last three years are given in enclosed statement I and II respectively.

(b) No target is fixed for assistance under participatory Watershed Development Programmes such as Watershed Development Fund (WDF) and Indo-German Watershed Development Programme (IGWDP) as the progress is reviewed based on the ground level implementation. However, a tentative target of Rs. 7.65 crore has been fixed under IGWDP for the current year (Rs. 6.69 crore for Maharashtra and Rs. 0.96 crore for Andhra Pradesh) with a view to drawing funds from KfW Germany.

(c) to (e) Loan assistance to State Government under WDF for full implementation phase projects is provided at an interest rate of 4.5% per annum. At ground level (i.e. for the ultimate beneficiary), the support is in the form of grant. Under IGWDP, entire assistance is provided as grant. However, for Land Development Schemes, the interest rate for refinance is 6.0% per annum (up to Rs. 50,000/-) and 6.5% (above Rs. 50,000/-) with effect from 16th March, 2005. There is no proposal for further lowering of interest rate as the rate of interest on refinance for land development has been revised recently.

Statement I**State-wise financial assistance by NABARD under Watershed Development Fund and Indo-German Watershed Development Programme**

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl.No.	State	Allocation made under WDF	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04				
			WDF-Grant	WDF-Loans	IGWDP-Grant	Total amount Released	WDF-Grant Sanctioned	WDF-Loans & Released	IGWDP-Grant Released	Total amount Released	WDF-Grant Released	WDF-Loans Sanctioned	WDF-Loans Released	IGWDP-Grant Released	Total amount Released
1.	Gujarat	30	2396480	0	*	2396480	3160499	0	*	3160499	8506134	26248800	0	*	34755734
2.	Karnataka	60	2064273	0	*	2064273	9036111	0	*	9036111	8857008	34441100	0	*	43298108
3.	Tamilnadu	30	907142	0	*	907142	4468938	0	*	4468938	6284619	4456500	0	*	10741119
4.	Andhra Pradesh	40	1347531	0	0	1347531	6642047	0	0	6642047	6694373	22564300	0	1589562	32968235
5.	Rajasthan	**	235176	0	*	235176	686070	0	*	686070	197294	0	0	*	197294
6.	West Bengal	20	415676	0	*	415676	2631863	0	*	2631863	867432	10742200	0	*	11809632
7.	Uttar Pradesh	30	785026	0	*	785026	3658289	0	*	3658289	6491129	0	0	*	6491129
8.	Maharashtra	50	5007895	0	103236000	108243895	1.4E+07	0	63662000	77154021	9267386	0	0	62794000	72061386
9.	Jharkhand (Bihar till 2001-02)	**	609021	0	*	609021	159825	0	*	159825	1395827	0	0	*	1395827
10.	Orissa	**	535839	0	*	535839	533283	0	*	533283	Nil	0	0	*	0
Total		280	14304059			117540059	4.5E+07			108130946	5.1E+07	99473700	0	64363562	213418464

*Programme under implementation only in Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh States.

**Non-participating states and hence no allocations.

Statement II**RIDF Assistance for Watershed Development**

(Rs. in Crore)

State	RIDF VII (2001-02)		RIDF VIII (2002-03)		RIDF IX (2003-04)		Total	
	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	No. of Projects	amount Sanctioned
Himachal Pradesh	90	5.65					90	5.65
Kerala	40	16.01	5	2.86	3	1.29	48	20.16
Tamil Nadu			182	5.63			182	5.63
Uttar Pradesh			165	92.59			165	92.59
Total	130	21.66	352	101.08	3	1.29	485	124.03

NTPC Outlay

2504. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Thermal Power Corporation has envisaged a capital outlay of Rs. 8550 crore for 2005-06;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner in which the capital expenditure is likely to be financed;

(d) whether the supply of Naphtha for the plants is inadequate;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to supply sufficient gas for such plants?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) the details of the capital outlay for 2005-06 envisaged by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) are as follows:

	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
Ongoing Schemes	6552.89
New Schemes	1378.06
Renovation & Modernization Schemes	373.56
Other Capital Schemes	245.49
Total	8550.00

(c) The financing of the capital outlay of Rs. 8550 crores for 2005-06 has been planned as below:

	Amount (Rs. in Crores)
A. Equity	
Internal Resources	1041.79

Funds from Initial Public Offering (IPO)	1682.21
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Sub Total (A)	2724.00
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B. Borrowings

Domestic Borrowings/Bonds	4526.00
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External Commercial Borrowings	1300.00
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Sub Total (B)	5826.00
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Total (A+B)	8550.00
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(d) to (f) As far as National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) is concerned, there is no shortage in supply of naphtha to its power plants. However, NTPC is facing shortage in supply of gas to its combined cycle power stations both with respect to requirement as well as linkage. To meet the gas shortage, NTPC has approached domestic/international Natural Gas/Liquefied Natural Gas Suppliers and developers of re-gasification facilities and NTPC is also exploring procurement of gas from Joint Venture Companies provided the price is suitable.

Expansion of NTPC Power Projects

2505. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether NTPC is planning for expansion of gas based power projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether NTPC is considering for acquiring overseas oil wells and extract LNG for its proposed gas based projects;

(d) if so, whether any survey has been conducted in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NTPC has contemplated expansion of the following gas based power projects till 2012:

Project	State	Details
Kawas CCPP Stage-II (1300 MW Nominal)	Gujarat	All clearances available except environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is in process.
Gandhar CCPP Stage-II (1300 MW nominal)	Gujarat	All clearances available except environmental clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is in process.
Rajiv Gandhi CCPP at Kayamkulam Stage-II (1950 MW)	Kerala	Key clearance available except Environment clearance from Ministry of Environment and Forests, which is in process.

(c) to (e) In order to have the variable cost of generation for combined cycle plant(s) comparable to the existing coal-fired station, NTPC is exploring the possibility of sourcing gas/Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) from Gulf and African countries, so that the delivered cost of gas/LNG at the power plant boundary is around US\$ 3 per Million Metric British Thermal Unit (MMBTU). In this context, NTPC is holding dialogues with various agencies in different countries.

Kayamkulam Power Project

2506. SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foundation stone of Second Stage of the National Thermal Power Corporation's Kayamkulam Thermal Power Station was laid recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the Second Stage is likely to be commissioned?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Foundation stone for second stage (1950 MW) of the National Thermal Power Corporation's Kayamkulam Thermal Power Station was laid on 16th February, 2005. The project has been renamed as "Rajiv Gandhi Combined Cycle Power Project" with effect from 16.2.2005. The project is based on LNG/Natural Gas. Fuel tie-up for the project is presently in process. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 6600 Crores approximately. The benefits from the project are envisaged in the 11th Plan period.

Exploration of Diamond

2507. SHRI B. MAHTAB:
SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether diamonds have been explored in the country specially in Mahanadi river bed in Hirakund of Orissa;

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

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for exploration of diamond from that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI), Public Sector undertakings like Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC) and some State Directorates of Geology and Mining/State Mining Corporations of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa etc. have been engaged in exploration for diamond and other precious and semi-precious stones.

GSI has been engaged since long in exploration of diamond in the various parts of the country particularly in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra and Orissa including the Mahanadi river bed in and around Hirakund.

(b) Search for diamond bearing rocks (Lamproite Kimberlite) in Mahanadi river bed (from the entry point of the river Mahanadi in the State of Orissa to the Hirakund

Reservoir and up to the confluence with Tel river in the State of Orissa) is being carried out by GSI during the current field season. However, the source rock for diamond has not yet been discovered.

Search for diamond in Mahanadi River Bed is reported since 1855. In 1969-1970 GSI has carried out of prospecting of diamond between Hirakund and Baudh areas. However, all these exercises did not yield any positive targeting for source rock.

From 1993-94 GSI is engaged in the search for pipes of Kimberlites/Lamproites which are primary source rocks for diamond in Mahanadi river basin as well as the prominent tributaries of Mahanadi, viz. IB, Tel, Ong, Sutkel and Indravati in Bargarh, Bolangir, Sonepur, Jharsuguda, Nuapada, Sundergarh and Sambalpur districts. So far the primary source could not be located.

(c) The search is still continuing in Kasipani-Khandhadhap area, Bargarh and Nuapada districts. Government also grants Reconnaissance Permits (RPs) and Prospecting Licenses (PLs) to interested private entrepreneurs for exploration of minerals. As per National Mineral Policy (NMP) 1993, the exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment.

Funds for Construction of Court Buildings

2508. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has sanctioned funds for construction of buildings or other development works for various High Courts in India; and

(b) if so, the details of the work taken up in Kerala High Court giving full details of the present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme, Department of Justice funds development of physical infrastructures for the judiciary including construction of court buildings. The fund is provided to various States as per the Planning Commission's formula. It is the State's responsibility to utilize the funds for physical construction under various projects. The State of Kerala has been provided a sum of Rs. 20.95 crores during the period

between 1993-94 and 2003-04 under this scheme. As reported by the State Government, this money has been spent in judicial sector including construction of Kerala High Court. Besides, in the year 1999-2000 an additional central assistance to the tune of Rs. 10 crore was provided to augment the construction of Kerala High Court. As of now, as reported by the State Government, some residual work such as floor polishing, internal partitions, fire escape, sanitation, water supply, landscaping, computer network, commissioning of passenger lifts, generators, air conditioning etc. remains to be completed.

Amendment of Takeover Regulations by SEBI

2509. SHRI S.D. MANDLIK:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SEBI has amended the takeover regulations;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this applies to foreign investment also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. Details of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2004 are available in the official Gazette notification S.O. 5 (E) dated January 3, 2005.

Acquisition of shares/voting rights beyond specified percentage or control (Direct or Indirect) of an Indian listed company by a foreign acquirer would attract the applicable provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Substantial Acquisition of Shares and Takeovers) Regulations, 1997.

[Translation]

Anpara and Rihand Power Projects

2510. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that on account of the failure of Anpara and Rihand Super

Thermal Power Stations there has been serious power crisis in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government has received any request from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) and (b) As per information available, there has been no major breakdown of Anpara and Rihand Super Thermal Power Stations in the recent past. These two power stations generated 99.1% and 102.3% of the targeted generation respectively during April, 2004-February, 2005.

(c) to (e) Do not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

(English)

Allocation for Viability Gap Fund for Infrastructure Projects

2511. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:
SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE:
SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to allocate Rs. 4000 crores for a viability gap fund for infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any guidelines have been formulated to operate this fund;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how the funds will be earmarked and by whom, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Union Government has allocated Rs. 1500 crore to provide support to public private partnership projects in infrastructure sectors.

(c) and (d) The Scheme to operationalise the fund is being submitted for approval of CCEA/Cabinet.

Proposal for Weeding out of Centrally sponsored Schemes

2512. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal of weeding out a host of Centrally sponsored schemes which have outlived their utility;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the restructuring of social schemes could save non-plan expenditure and enhance budgetary support to other important schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) the number of schemes so far eliminated and the extent to which their implementation has been stopped; and

(f) the total schemes that has been approved and are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) Planning Commission has recently undertaken an exercise regarding rationalization/review of the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Schemes. A few schemes have been identified for discontinuance which has been communicated to the Ministries/Departments by the Planning Commission. As per available information, 207 Centrally Sponsored Schemes are in operation in 2004-05.

Computerisation of RRBs

2513. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Regional Rural Banks have undertaken computerization of its business work at large scale;

(b) if so, the number of RRBs, Head Office and Branches of each RRBs computerized up to December 31, 2004; and

(c) the number of branches likely to be computerized during the current year?

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

Loan & Grant Provision to Maharashtra

2514. SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided by the Union Government to the States particularly Maharashtra as loan and grants during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

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

(c) whether any State had urged upon the Union Government to enhance the amounts of grants during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) if so, the details and the decision taken in this regard; and

(e) the basis of providing loan to States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A statement showing the loan & grant provided as Central assistance to the State Governments including Maharashtra, during the Ninth Five Year Plan is enclosed with statement.

(c) and (d) States have been demanding larger grants component. Grant assistance to States went up from Rs. 16272.79 crores in 2001-02, the last year of Ninth Plan to Rs. 22212.48 crore in Financial Year 2003-04. Government of India has decided to provide Central Assistance only in grant from Financial Year 2005-06 accepting recommendation of Twelfth Finance Commission in this respect.

(e) Central Assistance for financing the State annual Plan has been disbursed upto 2004-05 in the loan grant ratio of 10 : 90 to Special Category States and 70 : 30 to Non-Special Category States, based on decision of National Development Council.

Statement

Statement showing Central Assistance (Loan Grants) released to the State Government during 9th Plan

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl.No.	States	1997-98		1998-99		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-02		Total	
		Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant	Loan	Grant
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1529.77	623.87	1360.58	574.83	1832.90	730.28	1772.71	992.05	3342.45	1750.14	9838.42	4671.18
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	44.64	405.55	51.69	473.88	62.60	508.93	61.08	529.93	73.24	537.57	293.26	2455.86
3.	Assam	131.67	1075.98	146.38	1196.75	156.70	1292.96	168.85	1375.42	169.65	1403.62	773.25	6344.73
4.	Bihar	959.21	405.12	1383.32	569.52	1587.25	629.37	1247.84	607.97	1010.57	431.64	6188.20	2643.62
5.	Chhattisgarh							130.23	149.01	324.44	118.39	454.67	267.40
6.	Goa	54.41	23.02	48.46	23.19	47.73	21.83	104.68	26.26	108.37	24.29	363.84	118.59
7.	Gujarat	651.67	203.48	906.80	228.69	1050.15	330.78	1465.79	546.50	2076.41	725.11	6150.81	2036.56
8.	Haryana	316.31	130.49	288.03	123.50	348.76	151.63	387.21	203.14	271.62	118.89	1611.94	727.65

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9.	Himachal Pradesh	60.50	485.66	79.94	678.04	103.99	842.00	104.93	848.00	103.76	923.93	453.11	3777.64
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	224.89	2034.83	235.19	2148.53	289.59	2607.21	170.03	1486.99	309.96	128.20	1229.67	8405.76
11.	Jharkhand							139.93	175.30	208.73	1813.82	348.67	1989.12
12.	Karnataka	620.68	237.82	726.58	293.08	900.73	338.35	1029.40	493.53	2118.23	729.08	5395.61	2091.87
13.	Kerala	381.10	165.35	469.09	210.89	495.29	225.04	463.92	218.10	548.00	241.44	2357.41	1080.83
14.	Madhya Pradesh	885.65	330.46	982.63	383.74	1356.09	555.52	952.07	547.23	1409.55	511.77	5585.99	2328.73
15.	Maharashtra	1306.14	552.01	1073.09	454.15	849.09	368.70	771.90	469.89	871.19	378.61	4871.41	2223.36
16.	Manipur	62.36	331.06	51.08	366.44	75.41	486.37	38.02	375.39	65.57	510.02	292.44	2069.27
17.	Meghalaya	25.77	235.56	32.50	304.38	40.18	341.87	41.47	363.29	43.81	364.99	183.73	1610.08
18.	Mizoram	31.98	294.32	32.25	296.67	41.76	370.95	38.04	361.73	46.18	413.71	190.21	1737.39
19.	Nagaland	29.49	280.01	36.40	331.49	47.27	404.87	44.38	378.32	50.04	409.52	207.58	1804.21
20.	Orissa	830.75	323.42	850.19	349.96	860.17	362.61	938.52	515.93	951.26	335.48	4430.89	1887.40
21.	Punjab	391.95	133.70	299.18	139.13	285.83	115.14	367.26	179.03	493.22	172.73	1837.44	739.74
22.	Rajasthan	628.54	344.83	806.96	362.80	805.77	345.66	706.94	482.95	684.28	305.49	3632.49	1841.74
23.	Sikkim	20.96	188.70	24.94	228.44	30.33	266.16	24.66	241.70	31.92	271.38	132.82	1196.38
24.	Tamilnadu	967.09	438.13	794.05	375.08	986.97	468.23	1140.04	612.65	863.02	396.94	4751.17	2291.03
25.	Tripura	41.56	343.46	54.84	468.71	94.69	552.82	74.68	584.85	87.32	609.26	353.09	2559.09
26.	Uttar Pradesh	2035.08	1037.15	2050.57	1140.55	2451.78	1356.49	3236.89	1743.51	114.65	1033.90	9888.96	6311.59
27.	Uttaranchal							98.38	377.39	2562.77	944.08	2861.16	1321.47
28.	West Bengal	1072.38	494.74	1468.86	683.31	1468.80	689.93	1303.93	752.18	1404.20	668.80	6718.16	3288.95
Total		13304.57	11118.72	14253.59	12405.76	16269.85	14363.71	17023.98	15640.25	20344.39	16272.79	81196.37	69801.23

*[Translation]***Closure of Singrauli Coal Project**

2515. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether some coal projects are lying closed under Northern Coalfields, Singrauli;

(b) if so, the names of the said projects and since when they are lying closed alongwith the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Gorbi project is also one among them; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government for revival of the Gorbi project and the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

(DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Two coal projects of Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) are lying closed.

(b) Names of these two projects of NCL, which are lying closed alongwith reasons are as under:

Sl.No.	Name of the closed project	Closed in the year	Reasons for closure
1.	Gorbi	1997-1998	Exhaustion of viable mineable reserves
2.	Gorbi-B	1999-2000	Exhaustion of viable mineable reserves

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As the two projects were closed due to exhaustion of the reserves, they are not going to be revived. However, another nearby project namely Block-B is proposed to be taken up in future.

Non-Audit of Accounts of Autonomous Bodies

[English]

2516. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to USQ No. 544 dated 3.12.2004 regarding non-audit of accounts of autonomous bodies and state:

(a) whether the information has since been collected;

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

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay in the collection of the information; and

(d) the time by which the information will be collected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The requisite information have been received from 41 Ministries/Departments and is awaited from 30 Ministries/Departments.

(c) and (d) The reason for delay is that the information is not maintained centrally and has to be collected from all the Ministries/Departments.

Share of Foreign Banks

2517. SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to carry forward the policy of banking deregulation despite a cautious approach suggested by the RBI in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the proposed share of foreign banking entities in Indian banking sector; and

(d) the implications of the banking sector deregulation for the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Public Sector banks account for almost 76 percent of the total banking business in the country. In order to bring banking industry to global level, new initiatives have been introduced including consolidation of the domestic banking system in both public and private sectors on the one hand and gradual enhancement of the presence of foreign banks in India in a phased manner on the other hand. This will be consistent with India's commitments to the WTO. This deregulation will help the banking sector in gaining efficiency and stability of global standards.

[Translation]

Outstanding amount of Cooperative Banks

2518. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE
PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loans advanced by the cooperative banks are not being repaid in time;

(b) if so, the number of such cases and the total amount involved therein, State-wise;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure timely repayment of loan amount; and

(d) the success achieved by the Government as a result of steps taken?

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

Scheme for Handicraft

2519. SHRI CHANDRABHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government aim at providing financial assistance to artisans and weavers under the self-employment credit card scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the number of artisans and weavers benefited during each of the last three years under this scheme, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has prepared the schemes to promote handloom items given the circumstances that the Multi-fibre agreement has expired in December, 2004;

(d) whether any arrangement has been made in the wake of the globalisation of market and any provision has been made in the scheme to promote handloom and handicrafts products; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Artisan Credit Card (ACC) Scheme is being implemented through banks to smoothen credit flow to handicrafts artisans. For handloom weavers another scheme of Swarojgar Credit Card (SCC) is under operation through NABARD.

(b) As reported by banks, the number of artisans covered under ACC in the country is 16500 during 2003-04 and 5299 during 2004-05 so far. State-wise details are not available. Besides handloom weavers, the SCC scheme covers other vocations also and as per available information from NABARD, segregated figures of number of weavers are not maintained. Both these schemes are in operation since 2003-04.

(c) to (e) To promote handloom exports in the post Multi Fibre Agreement period and to enhance export of handicrafts and handloom products in the wake of globalization, the Government is implementing handloom export scheme and a scheme of export promotion for handicrafts which include: development and diversification

of exportable product range; participation in international fairs/exhibitions; organisation of buyer-seller's meets in important markets abroad; assistance to Handloom Export Promotion Council, Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion Council; organisation of Indian Handicrafts & Gift Fair and Carpet Expo at New Delhi and setting up of Indian Exposition Mart at Greater Noida etc. In addition, incentives like duty draw back on export proceeds, duty free import of trimmings & embellishments, setting up of Special Economic Zones, setting up of 30 shops & warehouse at Dallas Mart (USA) and assistance under Market Development Assistance and market Access Initiative schemes are also available to exporters/Export Promotion Councils.

[English]

Spinning/Weaving Sector

2520. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware about the low capacity utilization in spinning sector of the organised textile mill industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the capacity utilization of spinning/weaving sector; and

(d) the total capacity of textile industry being utilized presently?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The capacity utilization of the spinning sector of the organised textile mill industry during the year 2003-04 was 83%.

(c) The various steps taken by the government to enhance the performance of the textile industry which in turn enhance the capacity utilization of spinning/weaving sector include:

- Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile and jute sectors. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech 2005-06, has announced an allocation of Rs. 435.00 crore for this Scheme for the financial year 2005-06.

- In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Group Workshed Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced. Government has enhanced, w.e.f. 13.1.05, the capital ceiling for machinery from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 100.00 lakh under 20% capital subsidy scheme for the decentralised powerloom sector.
- To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in a post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except for 23 machinery. The concessional duty of 5% on 387 machinery continues to be at 5%.

(d) the installed capacity of cotton/man-made fibre spinning and weaving sectors and their production as on 31.3.04 is furnished in enclosed statement.

Statement

Item	SSI	Non-SSI	Total
Installed capacity			
Spindles (million no.)	3.01	34.02	37.03
Rotors ('000 no.)	99	383	482
Production of spun yarn (mn.kg.)	237	2815	3052

Installed capacity of cotton/man-made fibre weaving sectors and production as on 31.3.04

Item	Mill & Weaving units	Powerloom	Total
Installed capacity Looms ('000 nos.)	105	1836	1941
Production of fabrics (million square meter)	1434	26947	28381

Illegal Money Entering Stock Market

2521. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI TUKARAM GANPATRAO RENGE PATIL:

Will the Minister of State of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge amounts of illegal money had found its way into the stock market; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to investigate the nexus between stock market operators, corporates, and film industry involving price rigging to bring confidence in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has no such information.

(b) Does not arise.

Tariff Advisory Committee

2522. SHRI ABDULLAKUTTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tariff Advisory Committee of IRDA has imposed a hefty penalty of more than Rs. 5.00 crores on National Insurance Company of Kolkata for violating the tariff provisions while providing insurance cover to the Vadodara refinery of IOC;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the National Insurance Company has been asked to pay up the penalty equivalent to the difference between the normal premium and the one undercharged by NIC to clinch the business;

(d) whether the NIC has asked IOC to pay up the difference constituting the penalty; and

(e) if so, the response of the IOC thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Tariff Advisory Committee (TAC) has directed National Insurance Co. Ltd. (NIC) to collect the short charged premium amounting to Rs. 5,32,20,419 from Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) as per the norms applicable to Breach of Tariff (BOT) cases. TAC has further informed that any shortfall in premium not collected would devolve on the erring insurer as fine.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per the information furnished by NIC, the IOC has conveyed that the difference in premium charged by

NIC for the year 2004-05 and the premium charged by United India Insurance Co. for the year 2003-04 for the same risk is only marginal and not to the extent as indicated by TAC.

[Translation]

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty Signed by India with other Countries

2523. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the countries with which India have signed an agreement to avoid double taxation;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to sign such agreements with other countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Sir, India has signed Double Taxation Avoidance Treaties with 69 countries. The names of the countries are as per enclosed Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Negotiations have already commenced in the case of 21 other countries.

Statement

List of double taxation avoidance agreements which India is having with other countries (as on 14th March, 2005)

Sl.No.	Name of the Country
1	2
1.	Armenia
2.	Australia
3.	Austria
4.	Bangladesh
5.	Belgium
6.	Belarus

1	2
7.	Brazil
8.	Bulgaria
9.	Canada
10.	China
11.	Cyprus
12.	Czech Republic
13.	Denmark
14.	Finland
15.	France
16.	Germany
17.	Greece
18.	Hungary
19.	Indonesia
20.	Ireland
21.	Israel
22.	Italy
23.	Japan
24.	Jordan
25.	Kazakhstan
26.	Kenya
27.	Kyrgyz Republic
28.	Libya
29.	Malaysia
30.	Malta
31.	Mauritius
32.	Mongolia
33.	Morocco
34.	Namibia
35.	Nepal
36.	The Netherlands
37.	New Zealand

1	2
38.	Norway
39.	Oman
40.	Philippines
41.	Poland
42.	Portugal
43.	Qatar
44.	Romania
45.	Russia
46.	Singapore
47.	South Africa
48.	South Korea
49.	Spain
50.	Sri Lanka
51.	Sudan
52.	Sweden
53.	Swiss Confederation
54.	Syria
55.	Tanzania
56.	Thailand
57.	Trinidad & Tobago
58.	Turkey
59.	Turkmenistan
60.	Uganda
61.	Ukraine
62.	U.A.E.
63.	U.A.R. (Egypt)
64.	U.K.
65.	U.S.A.
66.	Uzbekistan
67.	Vietnam
68.	Zambia
69.	Slovenia

*[English]***Seizure of Fake Currency Notes**

2524. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether IT Department has seized cash and jewellery worth crores recently from manufacturers of tobacco products in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Gutka manufacturers are grossly involved in evading taxes; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and steps taken by the Government to recover taxes from such Gutka manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Non-Utilisation of Funds

2525. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects were not utilised by the State Governments in the country especially in Karnataka during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned, the amount allocated and funds utilised by the State Governments during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the main reasons given by the State Governments for non-utilisation of funds so allocated;

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that the allocated funds are utilised within the stipulated period; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and would be laid on the table of the House.

*[Translation]***Improvement in Customer Service**

2526. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:
SHRI KAMALA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Government for improving the quality of customer service in nationalised banks keeping in view the tough competition posed by the private and foreign banks; and

(b) the success achieved by the Government as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they had set up a Committee on Procedures and Performance Audit on Public Services (CPPAPS) to advise the RBI on improving the quality of its services to common people and institutions. All commercial banks were advised by RBI to constitute Ad hoc Committees to undertake procedures and performance audit on public services rendered by them.

Banks have been advised by RBI to constitute a Customer Service Committee of the Board with a view to strengthening the corporate governance structure in the banking system and also to bring about ongoing improvements in the quality of customer service provided by the banks.

Nationalised Banks have also introduced a lot of measures such as computerization of branches, installation of ATMs, Single Window Concept, time norms, any branch banking, delivery channels etc. which would enable them to compete with Private Sector/Foreign Banks.

Allocation of Power

2527. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a cut in the power supply to the extent of 247 Megawatt in the power plants located in Eastern India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government is contemplating to resume the supply; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be resumed.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) to (d) 15% capacity in central sector generating stations (CGSs) is kept at the disposal of Central Government which is generally distributed within the region keeping in view the power shortages and emergent requirements of the States/UTs from time to time.

As the Eastern Region (ER) is surplus in power, and as the ER constituents had to pay fixed cost for the full capacity, the unallocated power of CGSs in ER as well as the share surrendered by ER constituents has been allocated outside the ER on year to year basis. Subsequently, ER constituents have been insisting for restoration of surrendered shares in view of demand going up as well as providing power shortages in certain States of ER. The surrendered shares were partially resorted w.e.f. 1st October, 2004 resulting in reduction in availability of unallocated power in NTPC stations in ER from 1069 MW to 748 MW for allocation of States outside the region.

*[English]***Economic Intelligence Wing in CBI**

2528. SHRI V.K. THUMMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has set up Economic Intelligence Wing to tackle the growing menace of economic crimes in the country;

(b) if so, the composition, power and functions of this wing; and

(c) to what extent it has helped to check the economic offenders?

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

'World Bank Aid for Mumbai Projects'

2529. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the URBAN Affairs Ministry has sent any proposal for getting a loan from World Bank for the Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project-Stage II and Mumbai Slum Sanitation Programme-Stage-II;

(b) if so, the present status thereof; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearing the proposal; and the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Ministry of Urban Development has recommended proposal of the State Govt. of Maharashtra for Mumbai Sewage Disposal Project Stage-II for seeking the World Bank assistance. However, no proposal for Mumbai Slum Sanitation Programme has been recommended by that Ministry.

(b) to (d) It has been suggested to the State Govt. on 1st March 2005 that it would be appropriate to include Mumbai Sewerage Disposal Project II and Slum Sanitation Works in the design of the comprehensive multi-sectoral plan proposed for Mumbai city, since the State at present, does not appear to have any additional debt capacity.

Assistance from NABARD for Priority Sector

2530. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the type of assistance being extended by NABARD to various public sector banks in priority sector lending;

(b) whether NABARD has extended any such assistance in Rajasthan to priority sector lending during the last three years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the target set by NABARD for Rajasthan for 2004-05 financial year and achievement made in that year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Refinance by NABARD is extended under Section 25 of NABARD Act to all Banks *i.e.* Commercial Banks (Public and Private Sector Banks), Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), State Co-operative Banks (SCBs), State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Banks (SCARDBs) and Scheduled Primary Urban Co-operative Banks against the term loans extended by them for agriculture and allied activities, small

scale industry, cottage and village industry and other economic activity incidental to agriculture and rural development under priority sector lending.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. NABARD has extended refinance in the State of Rajasthan to the tune of Rs. 405.37 crore, Rs. 330.36 crore and Rs. 361.71 crore during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively.

(d) As against the refinance target of Rs. 370.00 crore set for the year 2004-05 for investment credit, an amount of Rs. 415.62 crore has already been extended to the State of Rajasthan till 28th February, 2005. Though no target has been set for refinance of short-term loans in 2004-05, the actual disbursement till 28th February, 2005 is Rs. 717.36 crore.

Development of Non-Forest Wasteland

2531. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has launched the Investment Promotion Scheme under which corporate bodies are involved in the development of non-trust wasteland;

(b) if so, the details of the targets fixed under the scheme during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the area of non-forest wasteland developed through the scheme during the said period, State-wise; and

(d) the details of the investments made against the allocations in the said period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Investment Promotional Scheme was a Central Sector Scheme launched in 1994-95 to stimulate involvement of the corporate sector, financial institutions and private landowners in the development of wastelands. Under the Scheme, Central promotional subsidy to the extent of 25% project cost subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25.00 lakh was available. However, in the 8 years of its operation (upto 2002-03), the Scheme could not generate the expected response in terms of proposals received under the Scheme. During this period, no proposals were received from the corporate sector. Therefore, the Scheme was discontinued from 2003-04.

(b) to (d) Under the Scheme, a total of 41 projects sponsored by private land owners for development of an area of 1435 ha. were sanctioned at a total cost of Rs. 16.88 crore involving a subsidy component of Rs. 1.09 crore. During 2002-03 to 2004-05, funds allocated under the Scheme was Rs. 10.00 lakh each year. These funds were completely utilized in assisting the on-going projects with the subsidy component.

[Translation]

Co-operative Bank in Chhattisgarh

2532. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of district cooperative banks in Chhattisgarh;

(b) the bank-wise details of amount of loss/profit incurred by the banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) whether the Government has come to know the irregularities in functioning of these banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There are six District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) in Chhattisgarh namely Ambikapur DCCB, Jagdalpur DCCB, Raipur DCCB, Rajnandgaon DCCB, Bilaspur DCCB and Durg DCCB.

(b) The bank-wise details of profit/loss incurred by the banks during the last three years are given below:—

(Rs. in lakh)

Name of the Bank	Profit (+)/Loss(-) during the year		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Ambikapur DCCB	(-)316.66	(-)401.27	NA*
Jagdalpur DCCB	(-)207.17	(-)911.77	(+)76.75
Raipur DCCB	(+)7.81	(-)556.27	NA*
Rajnandgaon DCCB	(+)2.70	(-)1025.93	(+)70.05
Bilaspur DCCB	(-)2460.79	(-)1293.49	NA*
Durg DCCB	(+)211.72	(-)133.99	NA*

*Not available

(c) and (d) The major irregularities observed during the inspection are as under:—

- (i) Very high Non-performing Assets (NPA) percentage;
- (ii) High accumulated losses;
- (iii) Non-compliance with the minimum capital requirement as envisaged under Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 (as applicable to Co-operative Societies); and
- (iv) Unsatisfactory internal checks and control systems.

(e) The findings of the inspection have been conveyed to the Registrar of Co-operative Societies of the State in each case for necessary action. Besides, weak banks are monitored by NABARD through its regional Office in Chhattisgarh.

Lease of Mines

2533. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the States in the country where Mineral mines have been leased out to public sector companies;

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

(c) the number of families displaced for commencing mining activities in the country including Jharkhand;

(d) whether the Government has formulated any policy for rehabilitation of displaced persons;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government have formulated any policy to provide jobs in mining sector to displaced families; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) The details of mining leases leased out to public sector companies in various States are given below:

Sl.No.	State	Public Sector Companies	
		No. of Mining Leases	Lease area (in Hectares)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	44	8802.21
2.	Assam	4	375.03
3.	Bihar	4	2028.13
4.	Chhattisgarh	25	14337.55
5.	Delhi	1	184.68
6.	Gujarat	18	6606.72
7.	Haryana	17	2645.88
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5	547.76
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	5	277.54
10.	Jharkhand	40	23131.90
11.	Karnataka	89	28150.02
12.	Kerala	5	577.26
13.	Madhya Pradesh	39	6310.20
14.	Maharashtra	46	2176.18

1	2	3	4
15.	Meghalaya	9	2723.70
16.	Orissa	72	42263.84
17.	Rajasthan	106	47336.11
18.	Sikkim	3	84.67
19.	Tamil Nadu	80	32213.32
20.	Uttar Pradesh	9	4387.93
21.	Uttaranchal	5	811.25
22.	West Bengal	6	1534.87

(c) The data regarding the families displaced for commencing mining activities is not centrally maintained by Ministry of Mines.

(d) to (g) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 (NMP) states that mining operations often involve acquisition of land held by individuals including those belonging to the weaker sections. The NMP further states that while compensation is generally paid to the owner for the acquisition of his land, efforts should be made to ensure suitable rehabilitation of affected persons especially those belonging to the weaker sections who are likely to be deprived of their means of livelihood as a result of such acquisition.

HDFC Branches

2534. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of HDFC Bank's branches in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the HDFC Bank has opened new branches during the last three years;

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

(d) whether the Government proposes to open new branches of HDFC Bank during 2005-06;

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

(f) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened?

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

DFID Assistance to States

2535. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department for International Development provides financial assistance to States;

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

(c) the purposes for which the financial assistance provided to the States, particularly to Maharashtra; and

(d) the achievements made therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State wise details of the financial assistance given during each of the last three years are at Statement-I.

(c) and (d) Financial assistance provided to States is generally in areas of health, education, environment, poverty alleviation and public sector reforms. Performance of the projects are reviewed on regular basis with reference to their actual achievements viz-a-viz set objectives for each of projects. However, overall achievements of the on-going projects would only be known once the projects are completed. No state sector project in Maharashtra received DFID assistance in the last three years.

Statement

DFID Assistance to States

The amounts committed and disbursed under DFID's development assistance for state sector projects in India in each of the last three years are given below:

(In million pound sterling)

Name of the State	Commitment during			Disbursed during		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh	65.00	0.00	0.00	65.77	13.544	13.19
Madhya Pradesh	0.00	0.00	28.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
Orissa	34.7	30.00	0.00	1.403	46.319	0.00
West Bengal	21.2	2.5	112.47	0.00	0.00	10.076
Himachal Pradesh	5.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.064
Karnataka	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.849	1.058

[English]

Ten Fastest Growing States

2536. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the ten fastest growing States in the country in 1990-91, 2000-01 and 2003-04; and

(b) States come in the lowest growth category in these years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The growth of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) at current prices as per the latest available data with the Central Statistical Organisation for 1990-91, 2000-01 and 2003-04 are as follows.

Statement
GSDP at current prices
 (percentage change over the previous year)
 (in descending order of growth rates in 2000-01)

Sl.No.	States/Union Territories	1990-91	2000-2001	2003-2004
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Nagaland	20.2	4.44	NA
2.	Mizoram	9.3	25.6	NA
3.	Pondicherry	11.5	21.2	5.4
4.	Delhi	15.0	18.2	NA
5.	Sikkim	14.7	16.2	8.6
6.	Tripura	10.1	16.0	NA
7.	Bihar	16.9	14.5	5.6
8.	Uttaranchal	NA	14.1	NA
9.	Meghalaya	17.0	13.3	NA
10.	Haryana	22.3	12.4	12.8
11.	Andhra Pradesh	17.9	11.9	11.4
12.	Kerala	15.4	11.6	11.5
13.	Tamil Nadu	15.5	11.6	10.3
14.	Goa	11.4	11.2	NA
15.	Himachal Pradesh	15.6	10.4	NA
16.	West Bengal	13.6	10.3	NA
17.	Karnataka	15.3	10.0	NA
18.	Arunachal Pradesh	23.3	9.3	NA
19.	Punjab	11.2	8.0	8.8
20.	Chandigarh	NA	8.0	16.5
21.	Assam	16.9	7.6	9.8
22.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.5	5.7	NA
23.	Uttar Pradesh	18.3	5.0	NA
24.	Manipur	14.0	4.4	10.4
25.	Rajasthan	31.1	0.9	17.3
26.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	12.4	0.9	NA

1	2	3	4	5
27.	Orissa	-1.1	0.3	15.4
28.	Gujarat	13.0	-0.4	18.6
29.	Maharashtra	15.7	-1.9	12.0
30.	Chhattisgarh	NA	-3.0	NA
31.	Madhya Pradesh	24.4	-5.4	22.4
32.	Jharkhand	NA	-7.6	NA

N.A. : Not available

Setting up of a National Level Growth Fund

2537. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) proposes to set up a national level growth fund;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) the projects/sectors proposed to be financed by the funds;

(d) the targets fixed by SIDBI during each of the last two years till date and achievements recorded during the said period; and

(e) the increase in funds proposed by SIDBI after finalisation of the said fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has setup a national level venture capital fund known as SME Growth Fund (SGF) with an initial corpus of Rs. 100 crores subsequently to be enhanced to Rs. 500 crores. The SGF is being managed by SIDBI Venture Capital Limited.

(c) SGF is a general fund and shall make investments in units operating in growth sector such as life sciences, retailing, light engineering, food processing, information technology etc.

(d) SGF was formally launched in October, 2004. It has sanctioned investment in two companies and is expected to pickup momentum in the coming months. The funds corpus is likely to be fully committed in the next 4-5 years.

(e) After finalisation of SGF, the fund is proposed to be increased to Rs. 500 crores.

Excise Duty on MRP of Drugs

2538. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has announced imposition of excise duty on the maximum retail price (MRP) of drugs/medicines with an abatement of 35 per cent;

(b) whether the Government had, in the process, factored in the post-production expenses of the pharma companies, most of whom are in small/medium sector; and

(c) whether this change-over from excise on transfer price to excise of MRP would entail re-packaging/re-marking of revised prices on the stocks lying in the factories/were-houses as required under the Drug Price Control Order regulations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Government had notified retail price based assessment of excise duty with a 35% abatement from retail price with effect from 8.1.2005. Subsequently, in view of representations from the pharmaceutical industry and the

recommendations of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, the level of abatement has been increased from 35% to 40% with effect from 23.2.2005.

(b) Government had taken all material facts into account.

(c) As long as retail price declared remains unchanged, the change in the method of determination of assessable value would not warrant any such activities.

Effect of Tsunami on Economy

2539. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the deadly tsunami of 26 December, 2004 had done little damage to the economy in terms of affecting output or prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve the health of the economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The total damage due to Tsunami covering Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu is estimated as Rs. 11,934.74 crore. In the recent Joint Assessment Mission Report (The World Bank, Asian Development Bank and UN), it is noted that the Tsunami has had no impact on India's GDP or that of the affected States/UT's. The States/UT's GDP are unaffected because economic activity along the coastline contributes very little to their income. The annual point-to-point inflation in terms of the Wholesale Prime Index in the post-Tsunami period had in general shown a downward trend for primary articles, and also for manufactured products and overall inflation. There was no adverse impact of Tsunami on the general inflation in the country.

Fast Track Courts in Tamil Nadu

2540. SHRI S.K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Fast Track Court functioning in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the Government propose to open some more Fast Track Courts in Tamil Nadu;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of cases pending in High Courts and other courts transferred to the Fast Track Courts during the year, 2004 and disposed off by these courts in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) 49 fast track courts are functioning in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) During 2004, 45,157 cases have been transferred to the Fast Track Courts in Tamil Nadu till October, 2004. These courts have disposed of 45,643 cases during 2004 (till October, 2004) which includes cases transferred in earlier years.

[Translation]

Tala Power Project, Bhutan

2541. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR:
SHRI MOHD. TAHIR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on Tala Power Project, a joint venture of the Governments of India and Bhutan, has been completed in scheduled time;

(b) if so, the total percentage of power, India is likely to receive from the said project;

(c) the time by which power generation is likely to commence from the said project; and

(d) the States in the country likely to be benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):

(a) The work on 1020 MW Tala Power Project, is currently under progress.

(b) As per the Agreement signed between Government of India and Government of Bhutan, the surplus power from project *i.e.* power over and above the requirement of Bhutan, would be purchased by India at mutually agreed rates.

(c) Power generation on regular basis is likely to commence on commissioning of the project by March, 2006.

(d) The power from Tala HEP has been earmarked for allocation to West Bengal (50%), Bihar and Jharkhand (32.5%), Sikkim (2.5%) and Damodar Valley Corporation (15%).

[English]

**Industrially Backward Districts in Terms
Availing It benefits**

2542. SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the industrially backward districts (category A & B) as identified by the Ministry of Finance for the purpose of income tax benefits in each State;

(b) the benefits being given to them;

(c) whether a study has been carried out to examine the impact of such benefits on its industrial growth; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The list of Category A and Category B industrially backward districts is given as per enclosed statement.

(b) Under the existing provisions of the Income-tax Act, industrial undertakings which commence production or manufacture of articles or things or operation of a cold storage plant on or after 1.10.1994 but before 1.4.2004 in Category 'A' industrially backward districts are entitled to a 100% deduction of profits for a period of five years. Industrial undertakings which commence production or manufacture of articles or things or operation of a cold storage plant on or after 1.10.1994 but before 1.4.2004 in Category 'B' industrially backward districts are entitled for 100% deduction of profits for a period of three years. Industrial undertakings in both the categories of districts are entitled to a further deduction of 25% of profits (30% in the case of companies) for a period of five years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Category A	Category B
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	
Nil	Srikakulam
	Mahbubnagar
Bihar	
Araria	Katihar
Madhepura	Bhagalpur
Khagaria	Gopalganj
Kishanganj	Darbhanga
Madhubani	West Champaran
Jehanabad	Saran
Saharsa	Bhojpur
Nawadah	Samastipur
Sitamarhi	Nalanda
Aurangabad	Gaya
East Champaran	Muzaffarpur
Purnia	Rohtas
Siwan	
Vaishali	
Jharkhand	
Godda	Deoghar
Gumla	
Dumka	
Palamau	
Sahebganj	
Lohardagga	
Gujarat	
The Dangs	Banaskantha
	Sabarkantha

1	2
	Karnataka
Nil	Bidar
	Kerala
Wayanad	Nil
Udukki	
	Madhya Pradesh
Mandla	Seoni
Panna	Tikamgarh
Chattarpur	Shivpuri
	Balaghat
	Jhabua
	Sidhi
	Vidisha
	Morena
	Betul
	Rajgarh
	Sagar
	Chhattisgarh
Bastar	Raigarh
Sarguja	Rajnandgaon
	Maharashtra
Gadchiroli	Beed
	Orissa
Phulbani	Bolangir
Kalahandi	Mayurbhanj
	Balasore
	Ganjam
	Rajasthan
Jalore	Dungarpur

1	2
Barmer	Dholpur
Jaisalmer	Sawai Madhopur
Churu	Tonk
Banswara	Nagaur
	Jhalawar
	Sikar
	Uttar Pradesh
Sidharthanagar	Hardoi
Bahraich	Lalitpur
Pratapgarh	Hamirpur
Maharajganj	Badaun
Banda	Fatehpur
Basti	Azamgarh
	Etah
	Barabanki
	Etawah
	Deorio
	Ghazipur
	Ballia
	Jaunpur
	Sitapur
	Jalaun
	Unnao
	Faizabad
	Kanpur Dehat
	Mainpuri
	Gonda
	Farukhabad
	Sultanpur

1	2
	Mirzapur
	Mau
	Uttaranchal
Chamoli (& Rudra Prayag)	
Uttarkashi	
Almora (& Bageshwar)	
Pithoragarh (& Champawat)	
Tehri Garhwal	
	West Bengal
Malda	Purulia
West Dinajpur (Split into Uttar Dinajpur and Dakshin Dinajpur)	Birbhum
Murshidabad	Midnapur
Cooch Behar	
Bankura	
Jalpaiguri	

Clearance to NCES Projects

2543. SHRI ASHOK KUMAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Non-Conventional Energy Sources proposals of Uttar Pradesh are pending with the Government for clearance;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for early clearance of these proposals; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) to (d) The details of non-conventional

energy project proposals of Uttar Pradesh that have been received in this Ministry are given in the enclosed statement. The proposals would be considered on receipt of clarifications/revised proposals and clearance would be given immediately, depending upon techno-economic feasibility, fulfillment of terms and conditions as per the provisions contained in respective schemes and availability of funds.

Statement

Details of pending project proposals under non-conventional energy programmes in Uttar Pradesh

S.No.	Details of project proposal
I.	Solar Photo voltaic
1.	Proposals for installation of 20,000 nos. of solar home lighting systems, 1000 nos. of street lighting systems, 2000 nos. of water pumping systems and 300 nos. of solar generators received during 2004-05 from NEDA, Lucknow.
II.	Energy Parks
2.	4 proposals for setting up district level energy parks in the district (one in each district) Mathura, Bijnor, Maharajganj and Ballia from NEDA, Lucknow.

Loan to Poor and Unemployed

2544. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government proposes to review and simplify its policy in respect of providing loans to poor unemployed youths, labourers, under-privileged, small and marginal farmers, SC/ST and OBCs through banks and financial institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of applications for grant of loans pending in each of the nationalized banks under various self-employment scheme, bank-wise;

(d) the main reasons for their pendency; and

(e) the steps taken by these banks for early clearance of these applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Review and simplification of guidelines/policies relating to schemes for the poor and weaker sections is an ongoing process. Loans to poor unemployed youth and weaker sections of the society are classified under priority sector lending. The Government of India formulates policies for various government sponsored schemes. On the basis of these policies, guidelines/instructions are issued by the Reserve Bank of India to the banks for successful implementation of these schemes.

(c) The details of bank-wise pending applications during 2004-05 (as on 31.12.2004) under Swamajayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rojgar Yojana (SGSRY) schemes are at enclosed Statement-I and under National Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers (NSLRS) are at enclosed Statement-II.

(d) The reasons for pendency of applications under these schemes were attributed to tardy progress in processing of applications by banks, non-availability of proper infrastructure like electricity connection, premises for carrying out business, non completion of bank formalities, unwillingness of borrowers to avail of the loans facility, borrowers already assisted under other subsidy linked programmes etc.

(e) The following steps have been taken to ensure early clearance of pending applications:—

- (i) Time frames have been laid down for receiving applications from the District Industry Centres (DICs) by banks and thereafter sanction and disbursement of loans by banks.
- (ii) Banks have been instructed to dispose of applications for loans upto Rs. 25000 within 2 weeks and upto Rs. 2 lakh within 4 weeks, provided the loan applications are complete in all respects.
- (iii) Banks have been asked to issue 'No Dues' certificate whenever required, within 15 days, other-wise it is deemed to have been issued.
- (iv) Discussions are held by the concerned nodal Departments with the bank branches in Block Level Bankers' Committee (BLBC) meetings to ensure early sanction of pending applications.
- (v) Regular review meetings are held at District and State Levels to monitor the progress of these schemes.

Statement I

Sl.No.	Name of the Banks	No. of Applications Pending (under SGSY scheme)	No. of Applications Pending (under SJSRY scheme)
1	2	3	4
PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS			
1.	State Bank of India	7380	4056
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	2275	1735
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	231	0
4.	State Bank of Indore	158	0
5.	State Bank of Mysore	0	290
6.	State Bank of Patiala	134	261
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	613	98
8.	State Bank of Travancore	364	20
9.	Allahabad Bank	410	286
10.	Andhra Bank	169	2857

1	2	3	4
11.	Bank of Baroda	2996	1455
12.	Bank of India	20267	570
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	30	18
14.	Canara Bank	580	0
15.	Central Bank of India	1254	1700
16.	Corporation Bank	58	34
17.	Dena Bank	1075	662
18.	Indian Bank	318	573
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	471	260
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	80	287
21.	Punjab National Bank	3360	1368
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	192	134
23.	Syndicate Bank	523	321
24.	Union Bank of India	225	274
25.	United Bank of India	119	329
26.	UCO Bank	1118	0
27.	Vijaya Bank	107	123
	Total	44507	17732
PRIVATE SECTOR BANKS			
28.	ICICI Bank Ltd.	1	7
29.	Bank of Rajasthan Ltd.	908	311
30.	Bharat Overseas Bank Ltd.	11	0
31.	Benares State Bank Ltd.	0	0
32.	Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd.	12	0
33.	Dhanalakshmi Bank Ltd.	45	31
34.	Federal Bank Ltd.	177	37
35.	J & K Bank Ltd.	1603	709
36.	Karnataka Bank Ltd.	16	24

1	2	3	4
37.	Karur Vysya Bank Ltd.	6	10
38.	Lakshmi Vilas Bank Ltd.	12	33
39.	Nedungadi Bank Ltd.	0	0
40.	Ratnakar Bank Ltd.	12	1
41.	Sangli Bank Ltd.	54	93
42.	South Indian Bank Ltd.	0	0
43.	Tamil Nadu Mer. Bank Ltd.	15	16
44.	United Western Bank Ltd.	42	0
45.	Vysya Bank Ltd.	13	0
46.	Nainital Bank Ltd.	0	0
47.	City Union Bank Ltd.	0	0
48.	Lord Krishna Bank Ltd.	14	7
Total of Pvt. Sector Banks		2941	1269
Total of All Banks		47448	18990

Statement II

Statement showing Bank-wise details of pending applications under NSLRS scheme as on 31.12.2004

Sl.No.	Name of the Banks	No. of Applications Pending
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1	2	3
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PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS

1.	State Bank of India	148
2.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	247
3.	State Bank of Hyderabad	0
4.	State Bank of Indore	50
5.	State Bank of Mysore	0
6.	State Bank of Patiala	35
7.	State Bank of Saurashtra	57

1	2	3
8.	State Bank of Travancore	0
9.	Allahabad Bank	46
10.	Andhra Bank	19
11.	Bank of Baroda	320
12.	Bank of India	257
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	16
14.	Canara Bank	65
15.	Central Bank of India	108
16.	Corporation Bank	3
17.	Dena Bank	100
18.	Indian Bank	24
19.	Indian Overseas Bank	33

1	2	3
20.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	32
21.	Punjab National Bank	53
22.	Punjab & Sind Bank	31
23.	Syndicate Bank	52
24.	Union Bank of India	206
25.	United Bank of India	35
26.	UCO Bank	53
27.	Vijaya Bank	40
Total of Public Sector Banks		2030

NTPC Power Projects

2545. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:
SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:
SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the existing overseas ventures of NTPC as on date;

(b) the investment made therein and the profit earned therefrom till date from the date of their operation;

(c) whether NTPC has plans to acquire plant in Lebanon; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED):
(a) and (b) There is no venture of NTPC overseas as on date.

However, NTPC is exploring business opportunities outside India in providing services in following areas:

- Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of power stations.
- Engineering Consultancy services.
- Training services.

(c) and (d) NTPC presently does not have any plans to acquire plant in Lebanon.

Production and Export of Minerals

2546. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) details of various types of minerals/ores produced in India & exported during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any restriction on exporting these minerals/ores;

(c) whether Ferro alloy makers & Steel producers are opposing the free export of these minerals;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether finished value added product could earn more money than export of minerals/ores; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) India is endowed with significant mineral resources and produces 90 minerals, out of which 4 are fuel minerals, 63 are major metallic and non-metallic minerals including atomic minerals and 23 minor minerals. As per information received from Indian Bureau of Mines, a subordinate office under the control of Ministry of Mines, the total value of export of ores and minerals during the last three years are as under:—

	Value in Rs. Crores
2001-2002	35136
2002-2003	46618
2003-2004 (provisional)	49912

(d) Department of Commerce has intimated that minerals and ores which when exported face certain requirements or restrictions as per the present Foreign Trade Policy. There are four policy categories to decide exportability of specific items, namely Prohibited, Restricted, Export through STE (State Trading Enterprises) and Freely exportable. Restricted items can be permitted for export under licence. Export through STE (State Trading Enterprises) is permitted without an export licence through designated STEs subject to conditions and Freely exportable items can be exported without an Export

licence or permission from the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT).

(c) and (d) The Indian Ferro Alloy Producers' Association and some domestic steel producers have represented to Ministry of Steel to impose restrictions on export of iron ore, chrome ore and manganese ore so as to ensure the availability of these minerals for domestic industry.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Value addition is a commercial decision for investors depending, inter-alia, on the demand of value added products in export market and profitability of the endeavour.

Computerisation of District Courts

2547. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken up the matter with the Planning Commission for computerization of District Courts in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Planning Commission has accorded its 'in-principle' approval for the computerization of district and subordinate courts in the states and union territories. National Informatics Centre is the implementation agency. The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved the project and the same is being placed before the Cabinet Committee for Economic Affairs (CCEA) for its consideration and approval.

Wind Power Generation

2548. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN:
SHRI NARAYAN CHANDRA BORKATAKY:
SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL:
SHRI SITA RAM YADAV:

Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the wind-energy generation capacity in public sector as well as in private sector, State-wise;

(b) whether the generation cost of wind energy is equal to that of conventional power projects;

(c) if so, the comparative details thereof;

(d) whether private sector has been provided incentive for the purpose;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the grounds on the basis of which vast capacity potential of wind energy generation is assessed in Tenth Five Year Plan;

(g) whether there is any action plan to tap the potential of wind energy in Tenth Five Year Plan;

(h) if so, the details thereof; and

(i) the average generation cost and rate at which the electricity generated by wind energy is sold?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): (a) Information on State-wise installed capacity of wind power projects set up under demonstration projects in public sector and private sector is given in enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The cost of wind energy generation varies from site to site depending on the wind regimes and infrastructure development cost. Wind power requires a set of incentives to remain competitive including preferential tariff. Moreover the generation of power through wind is non-polluting and environmentally benign as compared to conventional power.

(d) and (e) There is no capital subsidy to private sector for setting up of wind power projects. However, fiscal incentives such as accelerated depreciation, concessional customs duty on certain components, term loan from Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency, excise duty exemption etc. are available to private developers and manufacturers for setting up of wind farm projects.

(f) Under the Wind Resource Assessment Programme 500 wind monitoring stations were set up in windy areas in different States. 211 sites having annual mean wind

power density of 200 watt/m² or more have been identified in 12 States and 2 UTs, which is considered as benchmark criteria for establishment of wind power projects. Based on data so generated and analyzed, the gross wind power potential has been estimated at about 45,000 MW in the country.

(g) and (h) A target for installation of 1500 MW wind power capacity has been fixed for Tenth Five Year Plan. Wind Power projects are essentially private sector driven. Such projects are being given preferential tariffs in respective states. In addition, concessional import duty is

applicable to certain wind sub-systems, components and parts. The benefit of accelerated depreciation is also being extended to wind power projects. A total of about 1360 MW capacity addition has been achieved during the first three years of the Tenth Plan Period upto December, 2004.

(i) The average generation cost ranges between Rs. 2.50 to 3.00 per unit depending upon site. Tariff in different States varies from Rs. 2.60-3.67 per unit for wind power projects.

Statement

State-wise Wind Power Installed Capacity

(As on 31.12.2004)

State	Demonstration Projects (Public Sector)	Private Sector Projects	Total Capacity
Andhra Pradesh	5.4	95.9	101.3
Gujarat	17.3	202.6	219.9
Karnataka	7.1	268.9	276.0
Kerala	2.0	0.0	2.0
Madhya Pradesh	0.6	27.0	27.6
Maharashtra	8.4	402.8	411.2
Rajasthan	6.4	256.8	263.2
Tamil Nadu	19.4	1658.0	1677.4
West Bengal	1.1	0.0	1.1
Others	0.5	0.0	0.5
Total	68.2	2912.0	2980.2

[Translation]

State Bank of India

2549. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India proposes to

acquire equity in the Mauritius based Indian Ocean International Bank Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes,

Sir. State Bank of India (SBI) proposes to acquire to 51% equity stake in the Mauritius based Indian Ocean International Bank Ltd. (IOIB). SBI has obtained 'in principle' approval from Bank of Mauritius in this regard.

[*English*]

Amendment to SBI Act

2550. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:
SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to amend SBI Act and SBI subsidiary Banks Act to allow State Bank group to take over public sector banks, other banking companies and regional rural banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the removal of the cap on voting rights would require an amendment to Section 12(2) of the Banking Regulation Act;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is also considering amendments to the Bank nationalization of 1970 & 1980 to give a wide definition to the terms "banking institutions" to facilitate mergers; and

(f) if so, the time by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present, the amendments under consideration of the Government in these two Acts contains no such proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The removal of the cap on voting rights in private sector banks will require an amendment to Section 12(2) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949. This amendment would not affect the cap on voting rights in public sector banks as they are governed by specific provisions regarding this in the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 and State Bank of India Act, 1955.

(e) At present, there is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Export of Opium

2551. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:
SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the opium exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there is a sharp decline in its export;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the foreign exchange earned through its export during each of the last three years; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to promote the export of opium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Opium exported during the last three years is given below:

	(Mt.)
2001-02	494.680
2002-03	491.955
2003-04	480.936

(b) and (c) There has been some decline in the export of opium because of the competition being faced by the Indian opium from the Concentrate of Poppy Straw (CPS) which is cheaper as compared to the Indian opium.

(d) Foreign exchange earnings on account of opium exports on realization basis during the last three years are given below:

	(Rs./Crore)
2001-02	209.41
2002-03	183.48
2003-04	250.38

(e) Export promotion is a continuous process. Officers of the Government Opium and Alkaloid Factories are extensively interacting with the major traditional overseas buyers to retain the market share and also making efforts to find new buyers.

[English]

Debt Recovery Tribunals

2552. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending with Debt Recovery Tribunals with amount involved therein as on date;

(b) whether there are loopholes in the existing system of Debt Recovery Tribunals;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to plug these loopholes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per information furnished by Debts Recovery Tribunals (DRTs), 29,864 cases were pending with various DRTs involving an amount of Rs. 98,021 crores as on 30.9.2004

(b) to (d) The functioning of the Debts Recovery Tribunals has been reviewed recently. Accordingly, it has been decided to process a proposal for necessary amendments to the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 and Rules.

"FICCI's proposal to enact Legislation for Elimination of States' Revenue Deficit"

2553. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the FICCI has sought enactment of legislation on the wings of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act to eliminate the States' revenue deficit;

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

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Enactment of legislation to eliminate States' revenue deficit is to be decided by the respective State Governments and Legislatures, and not by the Central Government. However, the Central Government is supportive of such proposals.

Handloom Industry

2554. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of beneficiaries of IHTP (Integrated Handloom Training Project), State-wise;

(b) the number of weavers who have received benefits under the 'workshop-cum-housing scheme' during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government has reviewed these programmes/schemes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) A Central Sector Plan Scheme 'Integrated Handloom Training Project has been introduced in December 2003 for imparting training to handloom weavers/workers. Under the Scheme, financial assistance for covering 20,260 beneficiaries has been released to Weavers' Service Centres till now as per detail given below:

Name of Weavers' Service Centre	State covered	2003-04 (no. of beneficiaries)	2004-05 (no. of beneficiaries)
1	2	3	4
Chennai	Tamil Nadu,	560	1600
	Pondicherry		
Kancheepuram Salem	Tamil Nadu		
Vijayawada Hyderabad	Andhra Pradesh	500	1600

1	2	3	4
Bangalore	Karnataka	240	1200
Kannur	Kerala	240	1200
Delhi	Delhi,	60	2660
	Himachal Pradesh	180	600
Jaipur	Rajasthan	100	600
Panipat	Haryana	100	440
Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	200	1000
Meerut			
Chamoli	Uttaranchal	100	160
Srinagar	Jammu & Kashmir	100	400
Mumbai	Maharashtra,	40	300
	Goa	40	
Nagpur	Maharashtra,	40	300
	Madhya Pradesh (only a part of it)	60	100
Ahmedabad	Gujarat	140	600
Indore	Madhya Pradesh	160	700
Raigarh	Chhattisgarh	60	1000
Guwahati	Assam,	180	320
	Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya & Sikkim	60 — —	120
Imphal	Manipur,	40	—
	Nagaland	20	
Kolkata	West Bengal	220	420
Bhubneshwar	Orissa	140	660
Bhagalpur	Bihar	60	—
	Jharkhand	40	
Agartala	Tripura,	60	340
	Mizoram	—	
Total		3740	16520

(b) The number of new units sanctioned under Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme during last 3 years is as under:

Name of State	Number of New units sanctioned		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Andhra Pradesh	957	—	1435
Arunachal Pradesh	2000	—	—
Assam	—	4033	3000
Himachal Pradesh	63	637	—
Karnataka	—	8539	3115
Kerala	—	407	1383
Mizoram	—	300	—
Nagaland	—	570	3920
Rajasthan	630	—	630
Tamil Nadu	—	5584	7685
Tripura	—	—	550
Uttar Pradesh	—	5256	—
Uttaranchal	—	430	—
Total	3650	25756	21718

(c) and (d) The Government, from time to time have reviewed these programmes/schemes through field visits, meetings with the officials of the State Government/agencies concerned, physical & financial reports etc. and taken corrective steps, wherever required.

[Translation]

Indira Awas Yojana

2555. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of houses constructed as on date under the Indira Awas Yojna in the country particularly in the tribal areas indicating the details of the open and covered areas;

(b) the number of persons, having no accommodation facilities so far and the reasons for neglecting them;

(c) whether the hand pumps installed for the members of Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes have not been working for many areas as a result of which they have to depend on others for drinking water;

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

(e) the time by which the above facilities are likely to be made available to each of the families of the above communities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) As per information available, about 124.63 lakh houses have been constructed for below the poverty line (BPL) rural families in the rural areas including tribal areas as on date under the Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) in the country since inception i.e. 1985. Under the Scheme, the plinth area of

the IAY house should not be less than 20 Sq. mts. and the IAY beneficiary has complete freedom to the manner of construction of the house. The layout, size and type design of IAY dwelling unit depend on the local conditions and the preference of the beneficiary.

(b) As per the estimates made available by 2001 Census, the housing shortage in the rural areas is about 149.66 lakhs. However, this Ministry is trying to provide assistance for construction/upgradation of houses for rural poor living below the poverty line within the available financial resources.

(c) to (e) Drinking water is a State subject and it is for the State Governments to take up rural supply projects and ensure its maintenance. The Central Government, however, provides financial assistance and technical support under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to supplement the efforts of the State Governments in this regard. 15% of the funds provided under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) (Normal) can be utilized for operation and maintenance. The data in regard to number of functional or non-functional hand pumps is not maintained at the Central level. At the Central level, only the status of coverage of rural habitations with drinking water supply as per ARWSP norms is maintained. The coverage status is as under:

Type of Coverage	Number of habitations	Percentage of total
Not Covered (NC)	5368	0.38
Partially Covered (PC)	60884	4.28
Fully Covered (FC)	1356031	95.34
Uninhabited/migrated	381	—
Total	1422664	

[English]

Review of Rural Schemes

2556. SHRI G.M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has reviewed the performance of all the centrally sponsored schemes under the Ministry during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a proposal to transfer some of the schemes to the States is under consideration of the Union Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) The Performance of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of the Ministry of Rural Development is reviewed constantly for which a comprehensive Monitoring system has been put in place. The mechanisms of performance review include review by Union Ministers with Chief Ministers, Performance Review Committees, Area Officers Scheme, Vigilance & Monitoring Committees at State and District Levels, District Level Monitors, National Level Monitors, Concurrent and Quick Evaluation Studies and Impact Assessment Studies. The outcome of these reviews is utilized for necessary policy interventions at different levels.

(c) to (e) On the basis of the suggestions made by the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Rural Development had undertaken a Zero Based Budgeting exercise after which a number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes of this Ministry were either transferred to States or were restructured. At present only limited number of Centrally Sponsored Schemes having national priorities are being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development and as such there is no proposal to transfer these schemes to the States.

Fake Stamp Papers

2557. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to the fake stamp papers operating in various States for the last several years Government has taken certain strict norms to check the fake stamp papers sale in the Country;

(b) if so, whether these fake stamp paper sale while in operation in almost all the States;

(c) if so, whether the CBI has already submitted various reports in this regard;

(d) if so, the details of the same; and

(e) the steps Government proposes to take to check the fake stamp paper sale which is incurring a loss of thousands of crores to the exchequer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fake stamp paper sale was in operation in some of the States.

(c) and (d) CBI has registered 64 cases out of which investigations in 20 cases have been completed and the remaining 44 cases are pending at different stages of investigation. CBI's investigations in the 64 cases has resulted in filing charge sheets against 149 accused persons so far. Some accused have been charge sheeted in more than one case.

(3) The following measures and steps have been taken by the Government to check the recurrence of fake stamp paper sale:-

- Based on the recommendations of the Working Group to review the security features of Non-Judicial Stamp Paper (NJSP) constituted in the Ministry of Finance, additional security features have been approved for incorporation in stamp papers. The new security features, which are being introduced in a phased manner, will make counterfeiting difficult.
- Two meetings of State Revenue Secretaries were held in the Ministry of Finance to discuss the proposals for initiating modern methods of revenue collection and other related issues
- IFCI is assisting the Government of India to put in place a pilot project for de-matting of Stamp paper. The system will be in operation in 10-12 cities initially; and
- The Stamp Act has been amended to facilitate modern methods of revenue collection. All the States/Union Territories have been requested to send to the Government of India a time-bound programme to introduce fool-proof modern methods of revenue collection.

Barsingsar Lignite-cum-Power Project

2558. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has failed to implement the Barsingsar, (Rajasthan) lignite-cum-power project even after lapse of about 14 years;

(b) if so, whether the Government has identified the factors responsible for failure of NLC in implementing the project;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the measures taken by the Government to implement the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. The Lignite-Cum-Power-Project at Barsingsar, Rajasthan has been sanctioned by Government of India on 15.12.2004. The project would be commissioned in December, 2008 as per the sanction.

(b) to (e) Do not arise in view of Answer given to (a) above.

Lignite Based Power Projects

2559. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more lignite based power projects during the Tenth Five Year Plan in the country;

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

(c) whether such proposal has been submitted by the State Government of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following Lignite Based Power Projects are commissioned/under execution during the 10th Plan:

Sl.No.	Name of Projects/Executing Agency	Capacity (MW)	Commissioning Schedule Actual/As now expected
Project Commissioned			
1.	Neyveli Thermal Power Station-I Expn., Neyveli Lignite Corporation (Tamil Nadu)	2x210	Unit-1 : 10/02 Unit-2 : 07/03
2.	Neyveli Zero Thermal Power Station-ST- CMS Electric Company (Tamil Nadu)	250	Unit-1 : 10/2002
Projects under construction			
3.	Giral Lignite Thermal Power Station- Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Limited, (Rajasthan)	125	05/2008
4.	Kutch Lignite Extn.—Gujarat Electricity Board (Gujarat)	75	07/2006
5.	Akrimota Lignite based Thermal Power Project—Gujarat Mining Development Corporation Limited (Gujarat)	2x125	Unit-1 : 03/05 Unit-2 : 06/05

(c) to (e) Out of the five projects as mentioned above, the project at Giral is under construction in Rajasthan.

In addition, the following lignite based projects have been identified for benefits beyond 10th Plan:

- (i) Giral Lignite Thermal Power Station Unit-2 - 125 MW
- (ii) Gurha Lignite Thermal Power Project - 125 MW
- (iii) Jalpa & Kapurdi Lignite based power plants—500-1000 MW with private sector investment.

Infrastructure Oriented Investments

2560. SHRI KISHANBHAI V. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up the Special Purpose Vehicle for funding infrastructure development investments;

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

(c) the details of the projects likely to be financed, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the Budget announcements 2005-06, the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will lend funds, especially debt of longer term maturity, directly to the eligible projects to supplement other loans from banks and financial institutions.

(c) This would depend upon the availability of eligible projects across states and would become clear only after the proposals for funds are received by the SPV.

IT Return Scam

2561. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:
SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Income-tax/bank officials have been found involved in income-tax refund scam unearthed recently by Police;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the quantum of money involved in the scam; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure non-repetition of the scam in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As the Delhi Police is inquiring into the case, no specific comments can be offered as to the involvement of Income-Tax/bank officials.

(b) Preliminary inquiries indicate that bogus refunds have been issued in cases where the assesses are non-existent and the tax payment certificates and challans appear to be fabricated. Secondly, the returns have reached wrong persons and wrong bank accounts. However, the matter is under investigation by the Economic Offences Wing of the Delhi Police. The role of the Income tax/bank officials involved in the scam is also being investigated by them. The quantum of money involved in the scam is also presently under investigation by the Delhi Police.

(c) Steps are being taken to prevent fraudulent payment of refund.

Proposal of Redemption of Maharashtra from Financial Crisis

2562. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU:
SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has submitted any proposals for taking the State out of the debt trap;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals made by the Government for the purpose; and

(c) the Central Government's response thereto, indicating the stage at which different proposals are standing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

FFIs Investment in Stock Market

2563. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the foreign financial institutions have invested in the Indian Stock market;

(b) if so, the maximum quantum of capital invested in the stock market during the period from April, 2004 to January, 2005; and

(c) the maximum and minimum quantum of capital invested by the foreign financial institutions during the year 2003-2004 and during the first ten months of the year 2004-2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that as on 15 March, 2005, there are 675 Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs), registered with SEBI, which are permitted to invest in the Indian securities market.

(b) During the period April, 2004 to January, 2005, the maximum amount of investment made by FIIs in equity and debt instruments was in December, 2004. During the month, net investments amounted to Rs. 10140 crores (US \$ 2229 million).

(c) The maximum and minimum investments in both equity and debt instrument made by FIIs during the year 2003-04 and during the initial ten months of the year 2004-2005 are given below:

Monthly Investment

	2003-04			2004-05 (till Jan. 05)		
	Month	Amount		Month	Amount	
		In Rs. Crores	In US\$ Million		In Rs. Crores	In US\$ Million
Maximum	October, 2003	6,723	1,466	December 2004	10,140	2,229
Minimum	April, 2003	993	208	May 2004	(3,546)*	(806)*

*Figures in brackets indicate negative.

*[English]***Investment in Textile Sector**

2564. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that over the next 3-4 years, investments in the textile industry needs huge investment;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps initiated by the Government to meet the investment target; and

(d) the details of investments made in the textile industry during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Indian textile and clothing industry is in a resurgent mood consequent on the abolition of quotas with effect from 1st January 2005. The industry is making vigorous efforts to upgrade its production technology and improve competitiveness in order to face the new challenges and use the opportunities with confidence. As per a study made by Credit Rating Information Services India Limited (CRISIL), commissioned by the Indian Cotton Mills' Federation, the total investment requirement of textile sector is estimated at Rs. 1,40,000 crores over the period 2002-2010.

(c) Various steps taken by the government to meet the investment target include:—

- Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) w.e.f. 1.4.1999 to facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile and jute sectors. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech 2005-06, has announced an allocation of Rs. 435.00 crore for this Scheme for the financial year 2005-06.
- In order to facilitate modernisation of the Powerloom Sector, Schemes such as High-tech Weaving Parks, Modernisation and Strengthening of Powerloom Service Centers, Group Workshop Scheme and Credit Linked Capital Subsidy Scheme @ 20% have been introduced. Government has enhanced, w.e.f. 13.01.2005, the capital ceiling for machinery from Rs. 60.00 lakh to Rs. 100.00 lakh under 20% capital

subsidy scheme for the decentralised powerloom sector.

- To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except for 23 machinery. Besides, the import of a large no. of textile machinery items continues to be at 5% customs duty.
- In 2005-06 Budget, de-reservation of 30 items of knitting and knitwear has been announced. This would facilitate setting up of large-size modernized units for meeting the international competition.
- Liberal FDI policy has been introduced for attracting investment in the textile sector. The government has allowed foreign equity participation up to 100%, through automatic route with certain exceptions.

(d) Details of investments made in the textile industry during the last three years under the TUFS are as follows:—

(in Rs. Crores)	
During	Investment/ Cost of the project
2001-2002	1900
2002-2003	1835
2003-2004	3356
Total	7091

Since the TUFS-related investment is for bench marked technology only, in addition to the above, industry has also made other investments.

[Translation]

**Proposed Modification of Tax Structure
on Certain Products**

2565. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is working on a scheme for simplifying/streamlining the structure of tax on certain products in the country as reported in Dainik Jagran on 28.12.2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the production sectors in the country where the tax structure is proposed to be modified;

(d) the effects it is likely to have on the investors;

(e) whether a growth rate of 8 to 10 percent is likely to be achieved in next few years by the proposed modification; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has been pursuing the objective of moderately progressive tax structure, by reduction in general levels of customs tariffs, reduction in the dispersion of tariff rates and rationalization of duty structure and rates. The changes are made in a gradual way so as to moderate their impact on both domestic industry and revenue.

(c) In budget 2005, the Government has brought down peak rate of customs duty (for non agriculture goods with a few exceptions) from 20% to 15%. Customs duty on basic raw materials including metals, refractory raw materials, catalysts, basic organic chemicals and basic plastic materials has been reduced to 10%, on crude petroleum to 5% and on petroleum products to 10%. Customs duty on a number of capital goods has also been reduced to 10% or 5%. Further, excise duty has

been reduced from 24% to 16% on tyres, air conditioners and polyester filament yarn.

(d) to (f) Changes made in duty structure and rates are expected to reduce cost of raw materials as well as capital goods and thus facilitate investment and growth. Actual growth, however, depends upon a number of factors, including the tax structure and rates.

[English]

Production of Cotton

2566. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total cotton and man made fibre mills functioning in public and cooperative sectors in the country specially in Karnataka as on date;

(b) the production capacity and actual production of these mills during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) whether these mills require modernisation/upgradation to meet their production target;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for modernisation of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The cotton/man made fibre textile manufacturing mills functioning in public and co-operative sectors in the country vis-a-vis Karnataka along with the production capacity as on 28.02.2005 is as follows:

Sector	Karnataka				Rest of the country			
	No. of Mills (Nos)	Production Capacity			No. of mills (Nos)	Production Capacity		
		Spindles (lakhs)	Rotors ('000)	Looms ('00)		Spindles (lakhs)	Rotors ('000)	Looms ('00)
Public	2	0.59	—	2.19	74	21.09	1.40	122.29
Co-operative	8	2.02	0.336	—	81	17.02	9.62	3.96
Sub Total	10	2.61	0.336	2.19	155	38.11	11.02	126.25
Private	25	4.05	5.512	4.83	1123	200.22	282.34	189.87
Grand Total	35	6.66	5.848	7.02	1278	238.33	293.36	316.12

The state wise production of functioning mills during 2000-01, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is furnished in enclosed Statement-I, II, III, IV.

(c) to (e) Modernisation/upgradation is a continuous process which naturally helps in meeting the production

targets. However, it is upto the mills' management to decide in this regard. To facilitate modernization/technology upgradation of textile and jute sectors, Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched w.e.f. 1.4.1999.

Statement I

State-wise Production of Cloth by Mill Sector

(000 Sq. mtrs)

States/Union Territories	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
STATES												
Andhra Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	1460	1460	0	0	0	0
Assam	0	0	2572	2572	0	0		0	0	0	510	510
Bihar	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Gujarat	372871	0	0	372871	381559	0		381559	385933	0	0	385933
Haryana	13464	0	0	13464	13089	0		13089	19553	0	0	19553
Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Karnataka	4093	2437	0	6530	6684	2046		8730	2906	1015	0	3921
Kerala	6728	4007	0	10735	6604	2320		8924	2045	1949	0	3994
Madhya Pradesh	47783	324	0	48107	50072	1540		51612	40805	2036	0	42841
Maharashtra	450705	49580	0	500285	408612	38699		447311	348097	28673	0	377770
Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	67611	0	0	67611	75867	0		75867	92530	0	0	92530

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Rajasthan	58537	0	0	58537	59192	0		59192	63187	0	0	63187
Tamil Nadu	90116	6880	0	96996	70277	7204		77481	61464	5690	0	67154
Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	31981	0	0	31981	32729	0		32729	33160	0	0	33160
West Bengal	1953	0	0	1953	2330	0		2330	2395	0	0	2395
UNION TERRITORIES												
Dadra Nagar Haveli	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Daman & Diu	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0
Pondicherry	0	24730	0	24730	0	25052		25052	0	26362	0	26362
Total	1145842	87958	2572	1236372	1107015	76861	1460	1185336	1053075	65725	510	1119310

Statement II*State-wise Production of Spun Yarn by Textile Mills*

(In '000 Kg.)

States/Union Territories	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
STATES												
Andhra Pradesh	144083	0	1005	145088	134905	0	0	134905	138331	0	1771	140102
Assam	734	504	807	2045	235	202	427	864	0	107	223	330
Bihar	1205	0	91	1296	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattisgarh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Delhi	0	0	0	0	58	0	0	58	289	0	0	289
Goa	853	0	0	852	832	0	0	832	855	0	0	855
Gujarat	224531	289	0	224820	224269	943	0	225212	214701	1637	0	216338
Haryana	165066	1941	0	167007	122356	162	0	122518	104410	0	0	104410
Himachal Pradesh	84678	0	0	84678	89926	0	0	89926	97362	0	0	97362
Jammu & Kashmir	20233	0	0	20233	18430	0	0	18430	20543	0	0	20543

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Jharkhand	1927	0	0	1927	1350	0	0	1350	1167	0	0	1167
Karnataka	60259	1769	11561	73589	59713	1788	11566	73067	54440	2124	10229	66793
Kerala	30997	12413	5279	48689	29157	12160	4636	45953	23408	9661	4274	37343
Madhya Pradesh	168408	2172	3437	174017	170812	1406	3823	176041	166524	1193	3853	171570
Maharashtra	237878	23655	77059	338592	220947	22054	81119	324120	202921	16323	79183	298377
Manipur	0	161	0	161	0	48	0	48	0	0	0	0
Orissa	3829	285	2983	7097	2365	326	2890	5581	1294	223	2699	4416
Punjab	267483	2150	3248	272881	268735	2256	825	291816	307373	2001	0	309374
Rajasthan	218204	2212	12451	232867	221215	2356	11804	235375	226634	2410	9709	236753
Tamil Nadu	1109189	15169	15165	1139523	1136365	12955	15483	1164803	1152984	8708	10683	1172375
Uttaranchal	2710	0	0	2710	2935	0	0	2935	3081	0	0	3081
Uttar Pradesh	57101	19256	8844	85201	59135	18661	6340	84136	58529	17085	5991	79585
West Bengal	29944	6174	2791	38909	30643	6833	2477	39953	26409	6948	3074	36431
UNION TERRITORIES												
Dadra Nagar Haveli	19417	0	0	19417	25434	0	0	25434	34120	0	0	34120
Daman & Diu	1918	0	0	1918	935	0	0	935	1384	0	0	1384
Pondicherry	7974	5862	3705	17541	8055	5090	3937	17082	7273	5062	4470	16805
Total	2858621	94012	148426	3101059	2848807	87240	145327	3081374	2842032	73462	136309	3051803

Statement III*State-wise Production of Functioning Units of Man-Made Staple Fibre*

(In Tonnes)

States/Union Territories	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Assam	0	6889	0	6889	0	0	0	0	0	6865	0	6865
Gujarat	238959	13063	0	252022	250944	22550	0	273494	279369	23561	0	302930
Karnataka	37266	0	0	37266	38249	0	0	38249	32219	0	0	32219

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Madhya Pradesh	85760	0	0	85760	125758	0	0	125758	126070	0	0	126070
Maharashtra	252427	0	0	252427	263700	0	0	263700	255952	0	0	255952
Orissa	31232	0	0	31232	32148	0	0	32148	32156	0	0	32156
Punjab	83542	0	0	83542	87009	0	0	87009	93523	0	0	93523
Tamil Nadu	28254	0	0	28254	24478	0	0	24478	30334	0	0	30334
Uttar Pradesh	40144	0	0	40144	53037	0	0	53037	55843	0	0	55843
West Bengal	14386	0	0	14386	13519	0	0	13519	13362	0	0	13362
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1991	0	0	1991	3077	0	0	3077	4280	0	0	4280
Total	813961	19952	0	833913	891919	22550	0	914469	923108	30226	0	953334

Statement IV*State-wise Production of Functioning Units of Man-Made Filament Yarn*

(In Tonnes)

States/Union Territories	2001-02				2002-03				2003-04			
	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total	Private	Public	Co-op.	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Andhra Pradesh	54146	0	0	54146	58851	0	0	58851	61478	0	0	61478
Assam	4398	0	0	4398	7936	0	0	7936	21271	0	0	21271
Gujarat	294769	0	0	294769	343720	0	0	343720	405871	0	0	405871
Haryana	1921	0	0	1921	3912	0	0	3912	4593	0	0	4593
Kerala	357	0	0	357	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	8831	0	0	8831	8302	0	0	8302	8004	0	0	8004
Maharashtra	308254	0	0	308254	352518	0	0	352518	329059	0	0	329059
Orissa	8949	0	0	8949	8668	0	0	8668	1624	0	0	1624
Punjab	26194	0	0	26194	25077	0	0	25077	23870	0	0	23870
Rajasthan	29884	0	0	29884	37884	0	0	37884	29902	0	0	29902
Tamil Nadu	2026	0	0	2026	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttar Pradesh	112161	0	0	112161	112506	0	0	112506	100930	0	0	100930

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
West Bengal	5243	0	0	5243	6926	0	0	6926	7070	0	0	7070
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	105039	0	0	105039	134003	0	0	134003	124306	0	0	124306
Total	962172	0	0	962172	1100303	0	0	1100303	1117978	0	0	1117978

[Translation]

(b) A statement is attached.

Loan from FFIs

2567. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken loans from foreign financial institutions during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith names of the institutions; and

(c) the rate of interest to be paid on this loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(c) For IBRD loans interest rate is variable and is determined based on 6-month LIBOR plus a variable spread. The rate applicable for interest period beginning 15.12.2004 to 15.06.2005 is as follows:—

(i) Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued prior to 31.7.1998-2.86% p.a. (with a spread of 50 basis points)

(ii) Loans for which invitation for negotiation was issued on or after 31.7.1998-3.11% p.a. (with a spread of 75 basis point).

For ADB loans, the interest rate is determined on LIBOR+0.40% based average cost of borrowings. For IFAD loans 0.75% Service Charge is applied.

Statement*Loans approved by Foreign Financial Institutions to India from April 2001 to March 2004*

Sl.No.	Project Name	FFI*	Amount (In US \$ millions)
1	2	3	4
1.	Assam Power Sector Development Programme	ADB	150
2.	Assam Power Sector Development Project	ADB	100
3.	Chhattisgarh State Road Development Project	ADB	180
4.	East West Corridor Project	ADB	320
5.	Gujarat Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction	ADB	500
6.	Madhya Pradesh Power (Project Loan)	ADB	200
7.	Madhya Pradesh Power Sector Development Programme	ADB	150
8.	Modernising Government and Fiscal Reforms in Kerala	ADB	200

1	2	3	4
9.	MP Road Sector Development Programme	ADB	30
10.	MP Road Sector Development Project	ADB	150
11.	National Highways Corridor Sector I Project	ADB	400
12.	Private Sector Infrastructure Facility at State Level-IDBI	ADB	100
13.	Private Sector Infrastructure Facility-IL&FS	ADB	100
14.	Railway Sector Improvement Project	ADB	313
15.	Rural Road Sector I Project	ADB	400
16.	State Power Sector Reforms Project (PFC)	ADB	150
17.	Urban Water Supply and Environmental Improvement in Madhya Pradesh	ADB	200
18.	West Bengal Corridor Development	ADB	210
19.	Western Transport Corridor Project	ADB	240
20.	Allahabad Bypass Project	IBRD	240
21.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Loan/Credit	IBRD	125
22.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program II	IBRD	110
23.	First Karnataka Economic Restructuring Loan/Credit	IBRD	75
24.	Grand Trunk Road Improvement Project	IBRD	589
25.	Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	IBRD	360
26.	Karnataka Structural Adjustment Loan II	IBRD	50
27.	Kerala State Transport Project	IBRD	255
28.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	IBRD	463
29.	Second Power grid System Development Project	IBRD	450
30.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	IBRD	348
31.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Project	IBRD	488
32.	Livelihood Security Project for Earthquake-Affected Rural Households in Gujarat	IFAD	15
33.	Livelihoods Improvement Project in the Himalayas	IFAD	40
34.	Orissa Tribal Empowerment and Livelihoods Programme	IFAD	20
35.	National Micro-Finance Support Programme	IFAD	22

*ADB = Asian Development Bank

*IFAD = International Fund for Agriculture Development

*IBRD = International Bank for Reconstruction and Development

*[English]***Cotton Mills**

2568. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cotton mills closed, liquidated and auctioned, state-wise;

(b) the loan amount and rate of interest in the form of equity given by NCDC/NABARD to the cotton mills through State Government or directly, State-wise;

(c) the amount returned by cotton mills;

(d) the steps taken to recover the remaining loan amount;

(e) whether the Government is working for revival package scheme for sick cotton mills; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The state wise number of cotton/man-

made fibre textile mills (non-SSI) closed, under liquidation, closed for other reasons and total closed mills as on 31.12.2004 is furnished in enclosed Statement.

(b) to (d) As on 31.03.04, NCDC had provided a loan assistance of Rs. 308.31 crore to the State Governments for participating in the equity of cooperative spinning projects. The State wise position is furnished in enclosed Statement-II. The share capital is redeemed by the mills only to the State Governments. There is no default from the State Governments to the NCDC. The States are regularly repaying as and when their repayment falls due.

The present rate of interest charged by the NCDC is 8.5% on loans through the State Governments. NABARD does not provide loan or equity directly or through the State Governments to Cotton Mills.

(e) and (f) NCDC has a Scheme for rehabilitation of sick Cotton Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills in the form of package to provide loan assistance to the State Governments for participating in the equity as well as providing term loan for the rehabilitation of the sick Cotton Growers Cooperative Spinning Mills.

Statement I

State wise number of Cotton/Man-made fibre textile mills (non-SSI) closed as on 31.12.2004

Sl.No.	States	Under Liquidation	Closed for other reasons	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2	39	41
2.	Assam	0	7	7
3.	Bihar	0	5	5
4.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	1
5.	Delhi	0	1	1
6.	Gujarat	23	37	60
7.	Haryana	1	24	25
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	0	1	1
9.	Karnataka	2	17	19
10.	Kerala	0	9	9

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Madhya Pradesh	2	10	12
12.	Maharashtra	9	51	60
13.	Orissa	0	11	11
14.	Punjab	2	13	15
15.	Rajasthan	1	18	19
16.	Tamil Nadu	5	116	121
17.	Uttaranchal	0	4	4
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2	45	47
19.	West Bengal	1	17	18
20.	Pondicherry	0	1	1
21.	Manipur	0	1	1
Total		50	428	478

Statement II

Financial assistance sanctioned/released to cooperative Spinning Mills by the NCDC through the State Governments as on 31.3.2004

So.No.	States	Assistance sanctioned	Assistance released
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2840.74	2840.74
2.	Assam	1204.88	1204.88
3.	Bihar	896.81	896.81
4.	Gujarat	0.00	0.00
5.	Haryana	71.00	71.00
6.	Karnataka	3614.12	3534.67
7.	Kerala	891.53	891.93
8.	Madhya Pradesh	452.25	452.25
9.	Maharashtra	18486.43	11710.25

1	2	3	4
10.	Orissa	1577.72	1498.20
11.	Punjab	2002.18	2002.18
12.	Rajasthan	1460.42	1460.42
13.	Tamil Nadu	822.05	822.05
14.	Uttar Pradesh	2161.31	2161.31
15.	West Bengal	1284.16	1284.16
Total		37765.60	30830.85

Foreign Banks

2569. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are 25 foreign banks operating in India but are under the scrutiny of the newly set up Transfer Pricing Directorate of India is looking into the details of the cross border transactions of these banks with their related branches approach;

(b) if so, the names of the foreign banks which are under scrutiny; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against them?

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

HRA Issue

2570. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to reply to Unstarred Question No. 2911, dated 17.12.2002 and state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken in regard to the HRA issue;

(b) if not, the reasons attributed for the delay in taking a decision;

(c) the time by when the Government is likely to make the payment;

(d) whether a Committee to revise the present amount of TA paid to Government employees has been set up;

(e) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Committee with respect of TA; and

(f) the time frame within which these recommendations are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The matter relating to the Award of the Board of Arbitration regarding payment of House Rent allowance (HRA) to Central Government employees from 1.1.1996 to 31.7.1997 at pre-revised rates on revised basic pay is under process in accordance with the JCM Scheme.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Does not arise.

Budgetary Proposals of NLC

2571. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been major deficiencies on the part of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in formulating the budgetary proposals;

(b) whether there has been considerable mis-match between the financial targets and achievements in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and the track record of the NLC in achieving financial targets have been far from satisfactory;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to project only realistic and achievable budget; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The mis-match in financial targets and achievements is mainly due to the fact that the new projects like Mine II Expansion, TPS II Expansion and Barsingsar Mine & Thermal Power Plant were in the process of sanction.

(c) and (d) The above projects have now received Government's sanction. Therefore, the projections would now be more realistic. Monthly monitoring of the progress of expenditure is also being done by NLC.

Use of Foreign Exchange Reserve

2572. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) has mooted a proposal to the Reserve Bank of India to allow forex reserves for increased credit assistance to developing economies and emerging market by way of lines of credit as reported in the Hindu dated March 4, 2005;

(b) if so, whether ASSOCHAM has also suggested utilization of foreign exchange reserves for the purpose of progressive retirement of high cost of external debt, which the Government has incurred over the years of high interests rates; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government on the points suggested by the ASSOCHAM?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) In a recent representation submitted to the Government and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

(ASSOCHAM) had suggested, inter alia, the following: (i) increasing credit assistance to developing countries and/or emerging markets for India via lines of credit etc. (ii) encouraging joint ventures/collaborations abroad through flexible and positive approach for liberal remittance of capital funds; (iii) progressive retirement of high cost external debt; (iv) placement of forex reserves in short term treasury bills, government bonds/securities & 'AAA' rated corporate bonds etc. abroad; (v) innovative schemes for financing forex content in infrastructure projects like ports etc. out of forex reserves by creating a special purpose vehicle, and (vi) creating an avenue out of forex reserves for providing export finances in foreign currency to project exports and high value capital goods at concessional rates. The Union Budget (2005-06) has proposed to fund large infrastructure projects through a financial special purpose vehicle (SPV). In this context, it has been indicated that when large infrastructure projects are implemented, the foreign exchange resources can be drawn for financing necessary imports. The SPV is meant to especially benefit large projects in roads, ports, airports and tourism. The projects will be appraised by an Inter-Institutional Group of banks and financial institutions. The SPV will lend funds, especially debt of longer term maturity, directly to the eligible projects to supplement other loans from banks and financial institutions. The borrowing limit of the SPV for the current year has been fixed at Rs. 10,000 crore.

[Translation]

Foreign Financial Institutions' Stake In Indian Companies

2573. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH "LALAN":

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Foreign Financial Institutions are emerging as major partners in the companies of the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, whether upto December, 2002 Foreign Financial Institutions were major partners in only 24 companies of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of companies in the country as on December, 2004 with major partnership of Foreign Financial Institutions?

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

[English]

Value of Rupee Against US Dollar

2574. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rupee shot up to a five year against the US Dollar due to sharp rise in demand by the Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) as reported in The Pioneer, dated the February 3, 2005;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to always maintain this upward trends?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The Rupee was valued at Rs. 43.41 against the US Dollar on December 3, 1999. After depreciating against the US Dollar during the years 2000-01 and 2001-02, the Rupee started appreciating against the US Dollar from May 2002 onward. On February 3, 2005, the Rupee was valued at 43.36 against the US Dollar, thereby almost reaching the high which it had achieved on December 3, 1999. In the current year (2004-05), after briefly depreciating against the US Dollar during May-August 2004, the Rupee appreciated against the US Dollar by 6.1 per cent during the period September-February 2004-05. This appreciation has primarily been on account of higher supply of foreign exchange, compared to demand, arising out of foreign portfolio inflows, trade remittances, etc. against the backdrop of the weakness exhibited by US Dollar against other major currencies in the international market. The movements in the Rupee value in recent years have been smooth and orderly, avoiding any significant costs to the economy. The Rupee continues to be broadly market-determined with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) intervening only occasionally for curbing excess volatility.

Missing of Currency Notes

2575. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sheet of 40 notes of Rs. 100 amounting to Rs. 4,000 was reported missing as appeared in the *Hindu* dated the January 26, 2005;

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

(c) the number of incidents of missing of currency note took place from RBI currency note printing press and during transit;

(d) the number of persons/employees booked in this regard; and

(e) the action taken by the Government to check the recurrence of such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Since 1998, three incidents of missing of currency notes have taken place in the Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Pvt. Ltd. (BRBNMPL), a subsidiary of RBI. FIRs have been filed with the concerned Police authorities/CBI for investigation into these cases. Departmental action has been initiated against the employees who were found guilty. Further action against the guilty will be taken after completion of investigation.

(e) A number of steps have been taken by BRBNMPL to check recurrence of such incidents in future which include monitoring of security system at regular intervals, introduction of new mechanical devices to strengthen the existing surveillance system and internal control system, strengthening of CISF contingent, elimination of staff of doubtful integrity from posting in sensitive areas, etc.

Project Proposal from Karnataka Pending for Approval

2576. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of proposals from the State Government of Karnataka seeking funds for certain projects pending for approval of the Union Government as on June, 2004;

(b) the main reasons for delay in sanctioning funds for the above mentioned proposals; and

(c) the time when the union Government is likely to accord its approval to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) There are no such proposals of Karnataka pending for approval with Ministry of Finance. The State of Karnataka has been provided with plan assistance of Rs. 1797.60 crores during 2004-05. This includes programmatic/projected assistance of Rs. 1177.85 crore.

[Translation]

Review of District Level Rural Development Agencies

2577. SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding review of the working of district level rural development agencies in the country, State-wise during the last three years; and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to streamline the working of district level rural development agencies, particularly in the scheduled districts in Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) and (b) This Ministry has not undertaken any review of the working of the District Rural Development Agencies in the country during the last three years.

[English]

Rates of Final Goods Higher than their Tariff Rates

2578. SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the simple average and the weighted average of customs duties for basic raw material, intermediary goods, capital goods and consumer goods;

(b) whether the Government has identified products where the tariff rate on raw materials and final goods are higher than that the price of final goods;

(c) if so, which are the products; and

(d) if not, the obstacles faced in collecting such data?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A finished product of a given manufacturer may be an input or intermediary goods of another manufacturer and, therefore, categorisation of goods as basic raw materials or intermediary goods is not adopted for the purpose

of computing average customs duties. Collection rate in respect of select group of imported goods for the period 1997-98 to 2003-04 (Provisional) is given in enclosed statement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) does not arise.

Statement

Sl.No.	Commodity Groups	1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Prov.)
1.	Food Products	16	15	15	31	40	30	19
2.	POL	29	29	23	16	10	11	11
3.	Chemicals	37	34	36	38	29	28	24
4.	Man-made fibres	36	49	64	49	31	31	46
5.	Paper & Newsprint	13	11	9	8	6	7	7
6.	Natural fibres	17	22	24	18	8	10	13
7.	Metals	44	51	55	48	36	36	32
8.	Capital goods	41	42	36	36	28	23	19
9.	Others	15	11	12	12	9	9	8
10.	Non-POL	27	23	22	23	19	17	14
Total		27	23	22	21	16	15	14

*Collection rate is defined as the ratio of realised import revenue (including additional customs duty/countervailing duty (CVD) and special additional duty) to the value of imports of a commodity.

S.No. 1 includes cereals, pulses, tea, milk and cream, fruits, vegetables, animal fats and sugar.

S.No. 3 includes chemical elements, compounds, pharmaceuticals, dyeing and colouring materials, plastic and rubber

S.No. 5 includes pulp and waste paper, newsprint, paperboards and manufactures and printed books

S.No. 6 includes raw wool and silk

S.No. 7 includes iron and steel and non-ferrous metals

S.No. 8 includes non-electronic machinery, project imports and electrical machinery

Source: Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.

Economic Survey 2004-05

Power Projects in Rural Areas

2579. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering a boost of fiscal incentives to encourage setting up of power projects in rural areas;

(b) if so, whether the Governments common minimum programme which stress on rural electrification and aims at complete household electrification in five years;

(c) if so, the target set for electrification during 2005-06;

(d) whether the Government propose to complete these power projects within the stipulated period of five years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. A new scheme of Rural Electricity Infrastructure and household Electrification has been approved for the attainment of the National Common Minimum Programme of completing Rural Household Electrification in five years.

Under this scheme 90% Capital Subsidy would be provided for:

- (i) Creation of Rural Electricity Distribution Backbone (REDB) with one 33/11 kV (or 66/11 kV) substation in every block appropriately linked to the State Transmission System.
- (ii) Creation of Village Electricity Infrastructure (VEI) for electrification of all un-electrified villages/habitations with distribution transformer(s) in every village/habitation.
- (iii) Decentralized Distributed Generation (DDG) and Supply System for Villages/Habitations where grid supply is not cost effective and where Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources would not be providing electricity through their programme(s).
- (iv) Electrification of all un-electrified Below Poverty Line (BPL) households in the country free of charge.

A subsidy of Rs. 5,000 crores has been approved for Phase-I of the scheme for the remaining period of the 10th Plan.

NALCO

2580. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

- (a) the outstanding loan of NALCO as on date;
- (b) whether the first phase of expansion of NALCO was completed by resorting to Debenture issue;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the source of finance for expansion of NALCO in second phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The outstanding debt of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) as on date is Rs. 354.39 crores.

(b) and (c) The first phase expansion of NALCO was completed substantially from internal resources and partly by resorting to debenture/bond issue of Rs. 300 crores only. The entire debenture/bond amount of Rs. 300 crores has since been repaid.

(d) For the second phase expansion of NALCO, the financing has been projected with debt equity ratio of 1:1, i.e. 50% of capital expenditure will be met from internal resources and balance 50% will be met from commercial borrowings.

World Bank Loan

2581. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance in rupees provided to India by the World Bank during each of the last three years;

(b) the names of the projects on which this amount has been spent;

(c) the details of financial assistance provided by the World Bank during the current year so far; and

(d) the States where the amount of assistance is being spent for completion of projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The amount of assistance provided by the World Bank during the last three years is as under:

2001-02	Rs. 9433 crores
2002-03	Rs. 7544 crores
2003-04	Rs. 9539 crores

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Financial assistance of Rs. 5856.57 crores has been provided by the World Bank during the FY 2004-05 (upto January).

(d) World Bank assistance is being utilized in all the states.

Statement

Sl.No.	Name of the Project
1	2
1.	Nathpa Jhakri Power Project
2.	Second National Highway Project
3.	Second Chennai Water Supply
4.	Bombay Sewage Disposal
5.	Orissa Power Sector Restructuring
6.	UP Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation project
7.	State Road Infrastructure Development Tech Assistance
8.	AP Hazard Mitigation
9.	AP Irrigation Project-III
10.	AP State Highway Project
11.	Haryana Power Sector restriction Project
12.	National Agriculture Technology Project
13.	AP Economic restructuring Project
14.	UP Diversified Agriculture Support Project
15.	AP Power restricting Project
16.	Second TN Urban Development Project
17.	Integrated Watershed Development Project (Hills II)
18.	UP Power Sector Restructuring Project
19.	Telecommunication Sector Reforms Technical Assistance
20.	Third National Highway Project
21.	Gujarat State Highway Project
22.	Rajasthan Power Sector Restructuring Project
23.	Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project

1	2
24.	Karnataka Economic Restructuring Program
25.	GT Road Improvement Project
26.	AP Economic reform program
27.	Shrimp and Fish Culture
28.	Family Welfare (Urban Slum)
29.	Renewable Resources development Project
30.	Second Integrated Child Development Project
31.	UP Sodic Lands Reclamation Project
32.	National Leprosy Elimination Project
33.	Forestry research education and extension project
34.	Haryana Water resources Consolidation project
35.	Cataract Blindness Control Project
36.	Family Welfare Project
37.	Industrial Pollution Prevention
38.	District Primary Education Project
39.	AP Health System
40.	Agricultural HRD Project
41.	Assam Rural Infrastructure
42.	TN Water Resources Consolidation Project
43.	Hydrology
44.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation
45.	Second State Health System Development
46.	Private Infrastructure (IL&FS)
47.	Coal Sector Environment and Social Mitigation
48.	Second District Primary Education
49.	Eco-Development
50.	Capacity Building Technical Assistance
51.	Tuberculosis Control Project

1	2
52.	Rural Women Development and Empowerment
53.	Malaria Control Project
54.	Third District Primary Education project
55.	UP Forestry Project
56.	Kerala Forestry
57.	Maharashtra Health System Development
58.	UP Sodic Lands Reclamation Project-II
59.	Second National AIDS/HIV Control
60.	UP Third District Primary Education Project
61.	AP District Poverty Initiatives Project
62.	UP Health Systems Development Project
63.	Rajasthan District Power Initiatives
64.	Immunization Strengthening
65.	Second Renewable Energy
66.	Third Technical Education Project
67.	MP District Poverty Initiatives
68.	Kerala Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation
69.	Second National Leprosy Elimination Project
70.	Karnataka Watershed Development
71.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project
72.	UP water sector restructuring project
73.	Rajasthan water sector restructuring project
74.	Reproductive Child Health
75.	Orissa Health System Development Project
76.	Women and Child Development Project
77.	Rajasthan district primary education project
78.	Economic Reform Technical Assistance
79.	Kerala State Transport

1	2
80.	Mumbai Urban Transport
81.	UP State Road Project
82.	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
83.	UP Water Sector Restructuring Project
84.	Mizoram State Roads Project
85.	Karnataka community Based Tank Management
86.	Gujarat Emergency Earthquake reconstruction Project
87.	AP Community Forest Management
88.	Technical Engineering Education Quality Improvement
89.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector
90.	Allahabad Bypass
91.	Second AP Economic Reform
92.	AP Rural Poverty Reduction
93.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Project
94.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation
95.	PGCL Power grid System Development
96.	CONCOR Container Tpt. Logistics
97.	IDBI Industrial Pollution Prevention
98.	ICICI Industrial Pollution Prevention
99.	IDBI Modernization & Institutional Development
100.	IL&FS Private Infrastructure Finance
101.	Coal Sector Rehabilitation
102.	Second Powergrid System Development
103.	NTPC Power Generation
104.	Urban Environmental Management
105.	Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority

1	2
106.	Integrated Agricultural Demand Side Management
107.	Planning in State Power Sector
108.	Info Dev. Programme
109.	DSM Planning in State Power Sector
110.	West Bengal Municipal Development Project
111.	Power Sector Reform Programme
112.	Modernization and Capacity Building of CAG
113.	IREDA Second Renewable Energy Project
114.	Gujarat District Primary Education
115.	Highways Institutional Strengthening
116.	Industrial Safety and Disaster Prevention
117.	State Power Sector Restructuring Programme
118.	Water Research Innovation and Training
119.	Infrastructure and E-readiness Assessment
120.	Second Montreal Protocol ODS
121.	CFC Production Sector Gradual Phase-out
122.	Sustainable Rainfed Agriculture Development
123.	District Poverty Initiatives Project
124.	Karnataka Integrated Health Nutrition and Family Welfare
125.	Second Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Environment
126.	Alternate Energy
127.	National TB Control Programme
128.	Capacity for reforming India's Pension System
129.	TN Rural Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation

In addition, there were few small grant projects.

Amendment of Disclosure Guidelines by SEBI

2582. SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) amended disclosure guidelines as per the news item dated 26 January, 2005; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The SEBI (Disclosure and Investor Protection) Guidelines (DIP Guidelines) were amended vide circular No. SEBI/CFD/DIL/DIP/14/2005/25/1 dated January 25, 2005. The amendments have been carried out inter-alia to bring uniformity in presentation of disclosures in prospectus, to enhance user friendliness of abridged prospectus, to mandate release of pre-issue advertisement in all public issues and to specify some minimum information in the issue advertisements as per the formats included in the guidelines.

Reduction in Corporation Tax

2583. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for reduction of corporate tax rate;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is likely to reduce the dividend distribution tax on companies and from 12.5 percent to 10 percent;

(d) the impact of reduction of corporate tax and dividend distribution tax in term of galvanising the market;

(e) whether the Government is likely to take a final view on the recommendations of Ashok Lahiri Committee on raising FII limits in select sectors; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Demands for reduction of corporate tax rate has been received from various industry and trade associations including NASSCOM, ASSOCHAM, FICCI, CII etc. In the Finance Bill, 2005 it has been proposed to reduce the corporate tax rate for domestic companies from 35% to 30%.

(c) There is no proposal in the Finance Bill, 2005 to reduce the dividend distribution tax.

(d) The reduction in the corporate tax rate is likely to have a favourable impact on the market and act as an incentive to growth of trade and industry.

(e) and (f) A report on the subject by the Committee is under examination of the Government.

High Courts for States

2584. SHRI THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the States which do not have their own High Courts;

(b) the yardstick for setting up of independent High Court for State;

(c) the number of cases which are now pending in the Apex Court and High Courts;

(d) whether the Government is contemplating any legislation which enables our courts to deliver justice in a speedy manner; and

(e) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) There is no separate High Court for Goa, Haryana, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura and all Union Territories except Delhi. The jurisdiction of Bombay High Court extends to Goa. The States of Punjab & Haryana have a common High Court. Besides having its principal seat at Assam, the Gauwahati High Court has benches in the States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

(c) As on 31st December, 2004, 14,995 admission matters and 15,156 regular hearing matters were pending in the Supreme Court. 33,43,952 cases are pending in the various High Courts.

(d) and (e) The Government of India have taken various steps for speedy disposal of cases which include setting up of fast track courts, amendment to the Civil Procedure Codes, permanent adalats for disputes relating to public utilities, increase in the number of posts of

Judges, establishment of special courts/tribunals, improvement in the standard of legal education, adoption of alternative modes of disputes resolution, such as arbitration and conciliation.

Reduction in Basic Duty of Imported Liquor

2585. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering bringing down basic duty on imported liquor from 15% to less than 75%;

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

(c) whether the Government has considered its impact on local players; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) At present, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to reduce basic customs duty on liquor.

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

Fiscal Deficit of India

2586. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:
SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government runs large fiscal deficits and has accumulated more debt as a share of the GDP than its Chinese counterpart;

(b) if so, whether Korea, Taiwan & China are attaining very rapid growth rates over a prolonged period of time;

(c) if so, whether global rating agency Standard and Poor's (S&P) warned that high fiscal deficit and debt burden, India unlikely to sustain high rate of growth as achieved by the Korea, Taiwan and China; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The World

Bank publication, "2004/World Development Indicators" gives cross-country data on Central Government finances. As per the publication overall budget balance (including grants) for China and India was —1.9 per cent of GDP and —7.6 per cent of GDP in 1990 and —2.9 per cent of GDP and —4.7 per cent of GDP in 2001, respectively. As per the publication, total debt in China was 12.7 per cent of GDP and in India 57.7 per cent of GDP in the year 2001.

(b) The publication, "World Development Indicators 2004" of the World Bank gives the time series data on growth. As per the publication, the average annual growth of GDP are given below:

Country	Average annual growth of GDP (%)	
	1980-90	1990-2002
China	10.3	9.7
Republic of Korea	8.9	5.6
India	5.7	5.8

The average annual growth of GDP in Chinese Taipei in the period 1990-2002 is placed at 5.46 per cent in the publication "Key indicators 2004" of the Asian Development Bank.

(c) and (d) On February 2, 2005, Standard and Poor's (S&P) upgraded India's long-term foreign currency rating with stable outlook, while affirming their long-term local currency, and short-term ratings. They have stated that India's economic prospects are stable and good. They have estimated a GDP growth of 6.5 per cent to 7.0 per cent in the medium term. They have also cautioned that principal risks are generated by a weak fiscal profile, particularly large combined fiscal deficit of the Central and the State Governments, making it vulnerable to any secular decline in growth rates or increase in interest rates. Central Government is committed to achieving the fiscal corrections mandated under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003. This together with the proposed introduction of State-level value added tax and linking of debt relief to the enactment of fiscal responsibility legislation by the States, would safeguard against such risks.

Part Funding for States Debt Payment

2587. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in Economic Times on 19.01.2005 captioned "Centre offers part funding for States' debt payment;

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

(c) the details of States consented to avail of such scheme; and

(d) the reason for some States showing no enthusiasm in the offer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) State Governments have been assisted during 2004-05 to pre-pay their outstanding high cost loans of the Financial Institutions by permitting them additional open market borrowings/consent under Article 293(30) of the Constitution of India to take new low interest bearing loans from Banks/FIs. Government of India also offered to allow part market borrowings to cover the premiums, if any, which the States might have to pre-pay/restructure existing negotiated loans.

States of Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Sikkim and Uttar Pradesh were accorded permission for this purpose.

Agenda of Indo American Chambers of Commerce on Infrastructure

2588. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received suggestions from Indo-American Chambers of Commerce to give a critical push to the infrastructure sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. Department of Economic Affairs in Ministry of Finance has not received any such suggestions.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Tax for Release of Untreated Sewage into Rivers

2589. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Environment and Forests have approached the Finance Ministry for imposing tax on erring Municipal Bodies, Industrial Units, etc. for releasing untreated sewage into river;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) the decision taken by the Finance Ministry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Restructuring in CBEC in Ministry of Finance

2590. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJIRAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has undertaken re-structuring exercise in Central Board of Excise and Customs in the Ministry of Finance in the year 2002;

(b) if so, whether due to irrational and unscientific methods, the problem of stagnation in Central Excise Department particularly in Maharashtra has aggravated;

(c) whether the recommendations of expert bodies like Pay Commission and DOP&T have also not been followed in the case of cadres of Superintendents and Inspectors in the Excise Department of various States including Maharashtra;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received any representation in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Allocation of staff strength in various grades to the Central Excise Commissionerate under

Central Board of Excise and Customs, including those located in the State of Maharashtra, was done by the Ministry according to the model structure (based on the norm of 5 Divisions and 25 Ranges) of a Commissionerate, approved by the Government in a transparent manner.

(c) and (d) The Department of Personnel and Training and Department of Expenditure had thoroughly examined the Cadre-restructuring plan and approved it before its submission to the Union Cabinet for approval.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. As a result of cadre-restructuring stagnation in the cadre of Inspectors and Superintendents/Appraisers in the department was envisaged to be reduced by effecting the following promotions:

(i) 5451 Inspectors as Superintendents;

(ii) 586 Executive Group 'B' (Superintendents and Appraisers) as Assistance Commissioners.

[*Translation*]

12.01 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI SISH RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Mines for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1768/05]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

(ii) Annual Report of the Birds Jute and Exports Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1769/05]

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Textile Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1770/05]

- (c) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Three statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1771/05]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2003-2004.

- (4) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1772/05]

- (5) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1773/05]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Centre for Jute Diversification, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1774/05]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jute Manufactures Development Council, Kolkata, for the year 2003-2004.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1775/05]

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Power for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1776/05]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1777/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1778/05]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Company Affairs for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1779/05]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 102(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2005 declaring certain companies mentioned therein to be Nidhis subject to certain directions, under sub-section (3) of section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1780/05]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Coal India Limited and the Department of Coal, Ministry of Coal and Mines, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1781/05]

- (2) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Coal for the year 2005-2006.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1782/05]

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): Sir, on behalf of Shrimati Suryakanta Patil I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1)
 - (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Council for Advancement of People's Action and Rural Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2003-2004.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1783/05]

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, on behalf of Shri S.S. Palanimanickam, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority, Hyderabad, for the year 2003-2004 along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (3) of section 20 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1784/05]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961:—

- (i) The Electronic Furnishing of Return of Income Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1073(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (ii) The Furnishing of Return of Income on Internet Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 1074(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (iii) The Income-tax (1st Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 30(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

- (iv) The Income-tax (2nd Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 36(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th January, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
 - (v) The Income-tax (5th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 232(E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
 - (vi) The Income-tax (6th Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. S.O. 266(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2005 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (3) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at Item No. (i and ii) of (2) above.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1785/05]

- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—

- (i) G.S.R. 109(E) to G.S.R. 116(E) and G.S.R. 119(E) to G.S.R. 123(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption and imposition of additional duties in the context of Budget Proposals pertaining to Central Excise and Customs duties as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2005.
- (ii) G.S.R. 775(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 44/91-Cus., (NT) dated the 30th May, 1991.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1786/05]

- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:—

- (i) G.S.R. 124(E) to G.S.R. 134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption and levy of additional duties in the context of Budget Proposals pertaining to Customs and Central Excise duties as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2005.
- (ii) The Central Excise (First Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 135(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iii) The CENVAT Credit (Second Amendment) Rules, 2005, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 136(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (iv) G.S.R. 137(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-CE (NT) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (v) G.S.R. 93(E) and G.S.R. 94(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute any reference to the Chapter, heading or sub-heading for the First Schedule or the Second Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.
- (vi) G.S.R. 91(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2005-CE (N.T.) dated the 7th January, 2005.
- (vii) G.S.R. 95(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to maintain rate of duty on excisable commodities as specified in the First Schedule and the

Second Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

- (viii) G.S.R. 96(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to substitute any reference to the Chapter, heading or sub-heading of the First Schedule to the Central Excise Tariff Act, 1985.

- (ix) The CENVAT Credit (Third Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 150(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1787/05]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:—

- (i) G.S.R. 138(E) to G.S.R. 140(E) and G.S.R. 142(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum relating to service tax in the context of Budget Proposals as announced by Finance Minister in Lok Sabha on 28th February, 2005.

- (ii) The Service Tax (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 141(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005, together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iii) The Export of Services Rules, 2005 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 151(E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum.

- (iv) G.S.R. 152(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to rescind two notifications mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1788/05]

- (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. 77(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of anti-dumping duty on Polystyrene, originating in or exported from Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand.

- (ii) G.S.R. 117(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose additional duty leviable on specified goods.

- (iii) G.S.R. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st March, 2005 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt the additional duty from Education Cess on imported goods.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1789/05]

- (8) A copy of the Coinage (Standard Weight and Remedy of Commemorative Coins) of the Hundred Rupees (containing Silver 50%, Copper 40%, Nickel 5% and Zinc 5%) Ten Rupees (containing Copper 75% and Nickel 25%) and One Rupee Ferritic Stainless Steel (containing Iron 82% and Chromium 18%) coined in honour of "MAHARANA PRATAP" (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 315(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2004, under sub-section (3) of section 21 of the Coinage Act, 1906.

[Placed in Library. *See* No. LT 1790/05]

- (9) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Acts, 1970 and 1980:—

- (i) The Union Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. 34 in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 2004.

- (ii) The UCO Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. ODAR/1/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2004.
- (iii) The Allahabad Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. HO/IR/F-49/1981 in Gazette of India dated the 20th November, 2004.
- (iv) The Bank of India Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. IL: 2004-2005 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd October, 2004.
- (v) The Indian Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. SRC/47 in Gazette of India dated the 20th October, 2004.
- (vi) The Punjab and Sind Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. PSB/DAC/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 13th November, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 1791/05]

12.02 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA
AND
BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA-Laid

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation

(Railways) Vote on Account Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 2005, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15th March, 2005 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (iii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2005 which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on 17th March, 2005."

Sir, I lay on the Table the Parel Investments and Trading Private Limited and Domestic Gas Private Limited (Taking Over of Management) Repeal Bill, 2005, as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 17th March, 2005.

12.03 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE
LEGISLATION

Fourth and Fifth Reports

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I beg to present the Fourth and Fifth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

12.03¹/₂ hrs.**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID
ON THE TABLE****Third Report***[English]*

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Sir, I beg to present the Third Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2004-05) and Minutes relating thereto.

12.04 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER***Status of Implementation of Recommendations of
First Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee
on Coal and Steel*****[English]*

MR. SPEAKER: Item No. 14. Dr. Dasari Narayan Rao. Do you want to read out or lay it on the Table of the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, I would lay it on the Table of the House.

Sir, I am making this statement on the status of implementation of recommendations contained in the First Report of Parliamentary Standing Committee on Coal and Steel in pursuance of direction 73 A of the Hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha issued vide Lok Sabha Bulletin-Part II, dated September 01, 2004.

The Standing Committee on Coal and Steel had held its meeting on 16th July, 2004 to consider the Demands for Grants of Department of Coal for the year 2004-05. The Committee had also taken Oral Evidence of the officers of the Department of Coal on 10th August, 2004. The Committee, while examining the Demands for Grants of the Department of Coal, with reference to the aims, objectives and achievements of the Department, presented its First Report of the Standing Committee.

In its Report, the Standing Committee made 15 recommendations in all. The Action Taken Reports on these recommendations have been furnished to the Committee vide this Department's O.Ms dated 25th November, 2004 and 16th December, 2004. Appropriate action has been taken on the recommendations.

The Committee took the second Oral Evidence of the representatives of the Department of Coal on 15th October, 2004 to consider the replies furnished by Department of Coal on the 17 observations made by the Committee during the Oral Evidence on 10.08.2004. The Committee has taken the third Oral Evidence on 16th December, 2004 and during the deliberations, the Committee selected three subjects for detailed examination. Assurances were given by the Department of Coal to the Committee on certain observations. Action has been initiated by the Department on the assurances given to the Committee during the third Oral Evidence. Thereafter, sitting of Sub-Committee on Coal of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel was held on 30.12.2004 to discuss the subject "Manpower planning vis-a-vis utilisation of machinery in CIL, outsourcing". The subject was further discussed in another sitting of the Sub-Committee on Coal of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 7.1.2005. In the said sitting a "Power Point Presentation" was made to the Members of the Committee.

12.04¹/₂ hrs.**MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF
BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE***[English]*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th March, 2005."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 17th March, 2005."

The Motion was adopted.

*[Also placed in Library. See No. LT 1792/05].

**Statement was laid on the Table.

12.05 hrs.

PATENTS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Just a minute. Do not be impatient. I have got certain notices. I will only find out whether you have mentioned reasons for opposition because under the rules you have to mention the grounds of opposition.

Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): This Bill surrenders the interests of the people of our country. During the last Session, enquiries were made on the floor of the House as to whether the Government intends to bring an amendment to the Patents Act. Without responding to those inquiries, immediately after that Session was over, behind the back of this House, this Ordinance was promulgated. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This itself is against the spirit of our Constitution and the democratic spirit of our country.

Sir, our patent law was considered as one of the model patents laws by all the developing countries in the world. Our patent law did not allow monopoly in the area of drugs and agro-chemicals. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go into details.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Let me formulate my point.

MR. SPEAKER: It has to be constitutional.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: As a result, the Indian drug industry developed to become the strongest and most self-reliant industry in the developing world. We should be proud that some of our pharmaceutical companies developed the cheapest anti-AIDS drugs in the world. Once this Bill becomes a law, our pharmaceutical companies will be at the mercy of the multi-national companies in the world. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Those are not the grounds.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: We will be prevented from developing process of these patented drugs. This prevents the common man of our country easy access to the life-saving drugs. The only argument put forward by the Government is about the drugs. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down when I am on my legs. I only agree with you that certain questions do arise. But, here we are discussing at a stage where those questions are not relevant.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I do not know why is this impatience. At this stage, the only question is of constitutionality. You can keep all your options at the time of discussion on the Bill. You have mentioned the reasons.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Once I allow the breach, every time it will be continued.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This prevents our common man access to the life-saving drugs. As you very well know, the right to medical care. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sitting here, I know nothing.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The right to medical care including the right to access to life-saving drugs comes within the ambit of Article 21 of the Constitution of India. This House has no competence. ...(Interruptions)

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 18.3.2005.

MR. SPEAKER: Let us see what ultimate form it takes.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This House has no legislative competence to enact a law which affects the Fundamental Rights of the people of our country. By surrendering our rights to easy and cheap access to the life-saving drugs, we are throwing our citizens at the mercy of the multi-nationals in the world thereby compromising the sovereignty of our country. This is against the legislative competence. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point very well.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: This Bill cuts at the root of the Fundamental Rights of the citizens of our country and it is against the legislative competence of this House.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): I am not concerned with the contents of the Bill. I am only concerned about the way in which it is introduced. Here is a case where it is an admitted fact that the Government was facing this situation for long. There was the necessity for the Government to amend the patents law. That is an admitted fact. If the necessity was there, there would have been ample opportunities available with the Government to move the normal course by bringing a Bill so that we get an opportunity of expressing ourselves on the Bill. Here is a case where they have resorted to the emergency provisions in the Constitution. Article 123 is being resorted to. This is something more or less committing a fraud on the constitutional provisions. The Constitution is exclusively clear that whenever there is an emergent situation, the Government will resort to Article 123. Here is a case where there is no emergency. The World Trade Agreement was there in existence. According to the Government also, they have a commitment. If that be the case, why should they resort to Ordinance? I am opposed to ordinance. When an ordinance is there and a Bill to replace that Ordinance is brought before the House, we are denied our opportunity of expressing our free opinion on a particular issue.

When an Ordinance is there, our right is curtailed, in the sense that we are supporting the Government, but we are not free to express our opinion. Here, we are bound by the incompetence of the legislation. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you are entitled to make your statement.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Of course, you are entitled to speak on the Bill.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I hope, the Speaker, who is the champion of the legislative powers.

MR. SPEAKER: I am no champion. I have given you enough time. Please take your seat now.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: So, my humble submission is that the legislative prerogative power should not be curtailed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: I am opposed to this Ordinance. I am opposing this Ordinance. If the Government is *bona fide*, they could have brought the Bill in a normal way. But that has not been done. Therefore, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: You are entitled to oppose it.

SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR (Calicut): Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is true that under article 103, the Government can bring an Ordinance. They are bringing out the Bill to replace the Ordinance. But my information is that they had to bring it now and Government knew in 1994 when they signed the Marrakech Agreement. All these year, they waited, and the first and second amendments came. In the JPC also, there was a discussion. So many things happened.

Here, up to 23rd December, 2004, the Parliament was in Session. But they brought forth this Ordinance only on the 26th December, 2004, the same day when Tsunami hit us. Is it brought on that day just to avoid a discussion on a vital subject like this? This will affect not only our pharmaceutical industry but also the life patenting and other things.

My point is that by bringing out the legislation in this regard, why is the Government denying us the opportunity to discuss it and formulate a view?

There is one more point. Should the Government consider the Parliament as an informing body, Parliament is a legislative body? Why Government bring an ordinance

[Shri M.P. Veerendra Kumar]

which is a committed legislation when the Session was on and inform the Parliament. I am sure, when the hon. Minister makes an explanatory note, he would give us all the information as to what happened before, with the WTO and elsewhere. Why did he do it?

Therefore, I object introduction of this Bill.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970 on the grounds which I would like to mention here.

Firstly, it is a deadly against the article 21 of our Constitution, which provides right to life. So, this House is incompetent to make a law against the Constitution, against the fundamental right.

Second, if this Bill is passed in its present form, it will be deadly against the spirit of the common people of our country and the general interest of our country, especially in the area of pharmaceutical industry, drugs, software, etc. Moreover, it will be deadly against the Constitutional and fundamental right of our people.

Therefore, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas—Not present.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of this Patents (Amendment) Bill, 2005. We are proud of the federal structure of our country. There are many things in the State List. But in regard to this Bill, I think, no discussions have been held by the Government, so far, with the State Governments and the State Chief Ministers. Not only this, even the National Integration Council Meeting has not been convened on this agenda. So, this is incompetence of the legislation. That is why I am opposing the introduction of this Bill. It is very much against the very foundation of self-reliance of our national economy.

I think, it is not proper to introduce it in the House without having proper discussion with the State Governments. So, I appeal to the Minister not to press for the introduction of this Bill in the House.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, I would also like to speak on this. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice to speak on this. You could have given a notice.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: We never knew that this Bill would be coming today. It was not discussed in the BAC and all of a sudden the Minister has come to the House to introduce it.

We strongly oppose it and request the Minister to withdraw it at the moment and bring a Bill. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): National pride is being hurt. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): I may also be given an opportunity to express my views. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This will not form the precedent. You may also associate with it.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Firstly, it should be referred to Standing Committee.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: If the ordinance is passed then we will have to pass the Bill also. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: We are all opposing this and you have allow it to be laid.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a Government Business. I cannot throw it out. The House can throw out the Bill. I cannot throw out its introduction.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members have made their points. A number of hon. Members have expressed their opposition. I am not saying that the Members are not entitled to do that.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the issue raised by the hon. Members is regarding the merits of the Bill. One of the points raised is, this is a committed legislation. The House has an ample opportunity to discuss it and I am sure that adequate time. ...(*Interruptions*)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: When will we discuss it? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Let me finish. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let him finish. Members have been cooperating very well. I am obliged to all of them. I have allowed the Members to express their strong views on this. I did not stop the Members. The only thing is, there are certain rules and all of us are bound by those rules. I am only requesting that.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the House will have an adequate opportunity to discuss this. I would like to assure the hon. Members that we will seriously consider the views raised by them during the discussion. The issue now is one of. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Only Hon. Minister's statement will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, the issue here is of legislative competence. The issue is not of substantive portion of the Bill. At no point, questions like, whether this has the legislative competence, have been raised. No point towards the legislative competence has been made out by any of the Members. There are only substantive points as to whether it meets this or that requirement with regard to the pharmaceutical industry or with regard to the pricing. I would be happy to answer them during the course of the debate. I am certain that I would be able to convince the hon. Members.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Patents Act, 1970."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

...(*Interruptions*)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, No, Sir.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.18 hrs.

STATEMENT RE: PATENTS (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table an explanatory statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for immediate legislation by the Patents (Amendment) Ordinance, 2004 (No. 7 of 2004).

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have now come to a different subject.

...(*Interruptions*)

12.19 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Matters under Rule 377 be laid on the Table of the House.

- (i) **Need to ensure payment of compensation to the victims of Tsunami in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country**

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Huge seismic sea waves, triggered by a massive undersea earthquake with 8.9 magnitude off Sumatra that hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Andaman and Nicobar Islands on 27th December, 2004 caused a heavy loss of lives, including animal lives and property worth crores of rupees. The Tsunami waves caused maximum loss of lives and property in Nagapattinam and Kanyakumari areas of Tamil

* Not recorded.

*Treated as laid on the Table.

[Shri J.M. Aaron Rashid]

Nadu. The Central team which visited these areas to assess the damage caused by the people have been declared as dead or missing. With this the affected families of missing persons are facing lot of difficulties in showing their near or dear as missing for getting compensation and it is feared that it will take more than 5-7 years under the existing rules to get their compensations settled. If the affected families do not get compensation in time, then, I am afraid, their plight will double in size.

I request the Government that the families whose members are missing, may be paid compensation without any further loss of time and their cases be decided at par with those of dead.

- (ii) **Need to protect the interests of farmers by providing them adequate compensation for the land being acquired for setting up gas based power project at Masuri in Ghaziabad district, U.P.**

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL (Hapur): Farmers' land is being acquired for setting up gas based mega power project at Masuri in Ghaziabad district, U.P. Though 70-80 acres of land is sufficient for setting up power project but there is possibility of acquisition of around 2235 acres of land which does not seem to be appropriate. Initially the Government made an announcement to give compensation at the rate of Rs. 300/- per sq. yard but now it is being said that compensation will be given at the rate of Rs. 150 per sq. yard.

I request the Union Government to provide compensation at the rate of Rs. 300/- per sq. yard to the farmers keeping in view their interests.

- (iii) **Need to clear the proposal of the Government of Himachal Pradesh for construction of roads in Mandi Parliamentary Constituency from Central Road Fund**

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH (Mandi): Through you, I would like to bring the notice of the House that the Government of Himachal Pradesh has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways on 24.6.2003 to sanction Rs. 3.03 crore for construction of 24 km. Stretch of Ramshila Bijli Mahadev Road and Rs. 4.03 crore for construction of Thiyog-Kotkhai-Halkoti road

and for reducing 7 km steep upwards slope in district Kullu falling under my parliamentary constituency Mandi, Himachal Pradesh i.e. total 7.07 crore rupees were sought under the schemes being implemented under Central Road Fund of Government of India for the construction of the both roads on the priority basis but so far no progress has been made in this regard. I request that approval should be given to this proposal at the earliest with a view to promote tourism and to provide better transport facilities to local people.

- (iv) **Need to lay a broad gauge railway line in Saurashtra and open more computerised reservation counters in Amreli district of Gujarat**

SHRI V.K. THUMMAR (Amreli): Even after 57 years of attaining independence the people of Saurashtra region particularly the people of my parliamentary constituency, Amreli are deprived of railway facility even today. So far there is only metre gauge line due to which there is no direct rail service in this region from other States though it has many small ports. From here, goods can be sent to other States through sea routes but in the absence of broad gauge line these ports are not being fully utilised and the people have to change many trains while commuting to other States. Special attention should be given regarding rail development in this region. Alongwith this, there is only one computerised railway reservation centre in Amreli. Computerised reservation facility should be made available in Rajula and Sabarkundla talukas of Amreli district. Though broad gauge line has been laid in Pipawa Port but it is not being used so far.

Through this House, I urge the Union Government that special attention should be given regarding rail development in Saurashtra region and computerised railway reservation centres should be opened in Rajula and Sabarkula Talukas of Amreli district.

- (v) **Need to declare the birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidasji renowned saint of Chhattisgarh falling on 18 December as a 'Public Holiday'**

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): 18th December should be declared as public holiday on the occasion of birth anniversary of Guru Ghasidasji, renowned saint of Chhattisgarh. He was born on 18th December, 1756 at village Ghirodhuri, District Raipur (Chhattisgarh). He made successful effort to remove untouchability, to bring social equality, improve economic condition of poor people and to ward off the evils prevailing at that time

in the society. He formed 'Satnam Path' for this noble cause. He attained 'Siddhi' after continuous penance for 6 months in the forest of Girodhuri. Around 10 lakh to 30 lakh of his followers are spread in the entire country, who are known as 'Satnami Samaj'. He is famous in the entire Chhattisgarh and 18th December has been declared as public holiday in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh while considering the sentiments of his followers 18th December should be declared as public holiday throughout the country so that his followers and devotees could pay tribute to him.

(vi) Need to construct high dams in Katihar district of Bihar with a view to check recurring floods in the region

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY (Katihar): Katihar district of Bihar State has to face the problem of flood and erosion every year. Every year, Pranpur, Azamnagar, Kathwa, Baatloi, Dandkhota, Amdabad, Manihari and Barari areas of this region are either waterlogged or washed away by some tributaries of river Ganga, Mahananda and Kosi. This problem was realized before independence during British regime, as a result of which Tames Dam was constructed on Barhandi, a tributary of river Kosi but after independence neither the Central Government nor the State Government has paid attention towards the maintenance of Tames Dam due to which it has got damaged that has become one of the reason for floods in this region. Due to floods, the crops, worth crores of rupees, of farmers of this area get damaged every year.

The Government neither makes any arrangement for providing relief and rehabilitation of these farmers nor takes any concrete step to solve this problem.

Hence, through this House, I demand hon'ble Minister that high dams should be constructed on all rivers flowing in this region so that the problem of floods, occurring in this region, can be solved. Alongwith this, I also demand that hydro-electric projects should be executed through proper management of water so that this area could be developed.

(vii) Need to set up one oil refinery in Rajasthan

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, natural oil deposits have been found in some areas of Rajasthan, especially in Badmer and Jaisalmer and the exploration work is still going on. It is on account of this that huge quantity of crude oil has

become available in Rajasthan. Despite all kinds of assistance extended by the Rajasthan Government, the Central Government have decided to set up the oil refinery in Punjab. The people of Rajasthan are agitated on account of this. So, I urge upon the Government to reconsider its decision and set up the said refinery in Rajasthan.

(viii) Need to rescind the decision to shift Bareilly Unit office of the Ministry of Water Resources to Ranchi

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Unit Office of the Ministry of Water Resources located in Bareilly is being shifted elsewhere. Bareilly Unit Office is properly functioning for last many years. The performance of the Unit will be affected due to shifting. A division office is already functioning in Ranchi; where the said office is going to be shifted. A large area is being served by the Bareilly Unit Office and so it is essential that the said office remains here.

So, I urge upon the Government to reconsider this suggestion and issue necessary instructions for not shifting the office and allow it to function in Bareilly itself.

(ix) Need to grant adequate funds for modernisation of Jhanjra Mining Project in West Bengal

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Introduction of continuous Miner in R-VI seam of Jhanjra project represents one of the very good properties for mechanization by underground method. The thickness range of seam is between 3.5 m to 5.9 m and the seam has a mineable reserve of about 38 million tones of B-C grade coal. While the property in sector A1 and A2 is practically free from any major geological disturbances, the balance in sector C and sector D is interspersed with a number of faults. Jhanjra project is basically long wall mine having wide experience with this technology and the project is also meant for a production level of 2 MTY to be subsequently enhanced. The geologically undisturbed area of the property in sector A1 and A2 is the lowest risk region and hence the ideal place for deploying PSLW equipment. In this sector 4 nos. of long panels of about 2 km length and 180 m width have been projected. The thickness of coal within the panels range between 4m to 5.9m and each panel contains a reserve of 2-2.5 million tonnes of coal. The long length of drainages upto 2 km

[Shri Sunil Khan]

at a stretch call for fast development by such a suitable system which can maintain adequate ventilation, support, coal evaluation, etc. for such long headings. Continuous miner development is one such suitable method. I demand immediate intervention by the Ministry and grant of adequate money phase-wise so that the profit making two hundred years project can produced more which will be highest production unit in India.

- (x) Need to withdraw the move to transfer employees of Police Wireless Department of Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal**

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD (Salemprur): Through the House, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the transfer of employees of Police Wireless Department of Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal. They are being transferred from Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal after declaring them as juniors whereas, nearly 1200 posts in the police wireless department in Uttar Pradesh are already lying vacant. If the said employees are transferred from Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal, it will adversely affect law and order situation of Uttar Pradesh. Though Uttaranchal Government can directly recruit such people but the Central Government have already decided to send them from Uttar Pradesh which is not in the public interest. There are some other alternatives too.

So, through the House, I urge upon the Central Government that the employees of police wireless department of Uttar Pradesh should not be transferred from Uttar Pradesh to Uttaranchal.

- (xi) Need to provide adequate funds for the construction and early completion of pending works on National Highway No. 104 in Bihar**

SHRI SITA RAM SINGH (Sheohar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, funds have been allocated for the construction of 22 km. long road on National Highway No. 104 which is a very important Highway in Bihar. Tender has also been floated for this purpose, however, the construction work has been started only on 6 km long stretch till now. The construction work for the rest of the road has not yet been completed which is to be constructed. No funds have been released as yet for the construction of the Highway from 22 km to 36 km from Krishna Nagar Chowk to Sita Marhi via Sheohar.

So, in public interest, I urge upon the Government to release funds at the earliest and float tenders for starting construction of NH 104.

- (xii) Need to establish a railway workshop in Unnao Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK (Unnao): My Parliamentary constituency Unnao is a very backward area. The people in this area especially in rural areas, are living below poverty line. Proposed railway workshop of the Ministry of Railways is required to be set up for the development of this area. If the Central Government set up a railway workshop in Unnao constituency, the development of Unnao Parliamentary constituency will certainly be made possible.

So, through the House, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps for setting up a Railway Workshop in Unnao Parliamentary Constituency.

- (xiii) Need to declare Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri as most backward districts in Maharashtra and include them under the 'National Food for Work' programme**

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU (Rajapur): Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri are most backward districts in Maharashtra. There are no employment opportunities here. People of these two districts are forced to migrate to other areas in search of livelihood. Sindhudurg is an important tourist centre. There are abundant horticultural products also in the two districts. However, there are no proper irrigation facilities available here.

I urge upon the Government to declare the two districts as most backward districts and include them under the 'National Food for Work Programme'. Further, adequate financial assistance may be provided for development of these two districts. The development of Sindhudurg as an important tourist centre will also create adequate employment opportunities in the region.

- (xiv) Need to take suitable steps to check increase in the rate of drop-outs among the Scheduled Tribe students at primary school level in Orissa**

SHRI SUGRIB SINGH (Phulbani): The increasing drop out of tribal students in Orissa is a matter of great concern. More than two lakhs Scheduled Tribe students are not going to school. About 63% of Scheduled Tribe students are leaving the studies every year at primary school level. One of the reasons for this large-scale drop out is the poverty and illiteracy of their parents. Most of

tribal villages are located in the inaccessible areas. Unless due publicity is given to the need for education in the remote area, through some agency the drop out rate cannot be reduced. Besides the NGOs who are really working on educating, children should be encouraged. As the tribals who are living in the remote areas have no access to media, the Union Government should deploy some officials from various Ministries to review the situation and engage publicity departments to propagate the value of education. The teachers working in various schools should be given additional responsibility to monitor the attendance of the Scheduled Tribe students. All other assistance which is necessary to stop drop out should be extended by the Central Government.

(xv) Need to develop proper Infrastructural facilities at Ghojadanga (Itinda Ghat) under Basirhat sub-division of North 24 Parganas Districts in West Bengal

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat): The Infrastructure facilities in Ghojadanga (Itinda Ghat) under Basirhat subdivision of North 24 Parganas District of West Bengal bordering Bangaldesh are in a dilapidated condition. Everyday, through this check-post, hundreds of trucks-load of goods are being exported/imported to and from Bangaldesh besides hundreds of pedestrians who cross over the border daily.

Though it is an important check-post in the region the Government pays hardly any attention to it. The passage, *i.e.* the remnants of the earlier made road, is so narrow that the vehicles, particularly the trucks, can hardly pass through it, resulting in big jams and frequent accidents. The staff manning the check-post are insufficient. Their numbers remained the same as what was many years ago, though the volume of traffic and goods has increased by leaps and bounds. This results delay in checking the papers and other things.

Therefore, in view of the above, I request the competent authority in the Central Government immediately start the repair work there or suspend the movement of vehicles etc. till infrastructure facilities are provided with in this check-post.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Item No. 19, General Discussion on the Budget for the State of Goa.

Shri Shripad Naik.

...(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: No, No, Sir.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Sir, the majority of the House wants that the Minister should withdraw the Ordinance and have a meeting of all the political Parties. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Malhotra, the Bill has already been introduced.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane): We oppose it, Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): We are opposing it, Sir. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE: We are asking for the Division. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody asked for the Division at that time.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Paranjpe, you should control yourself. You are crossing all limits. I am sorry to say this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is not the way to conduct yourself.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: We will now take up General Discussion on Goa Budget. Hon. Members, the time allotted for this discussion is three hours. We will take item Nos. 19 to 21 together. Shri Sripad Naik may initiate the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Thousands of people are sitting on Dharna at Jantar Mantar.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Can any matter be raised at any time? This is not the way. This is very unfortunate. I have appealed to all of you for cooperation and I am allowing everybody. You are compelling me to do something for which I have no power.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on. You please sit down. This House belongs to us as much as it belongs to you.

[English]

There are some methods to follow. If something has to be done, some procedure is there. Otherwise, it will be free for all. Do you want the House to be conducted in this manner? This is your House also. Very well, you may raised your point 2 p.m.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I have given a privilege notice against the Railway Minister, Shri Lalu Prasad. I want to know whether you are allowing me to raise it now or not.

MR. SPEAKER: Not now. I will look into it.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: You tell me now at what time I shall raise it?

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask me to tell you just now. What is this?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: When shall I raise it then? ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: How is it happening? Please do not do this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Otherwise tell me the time as to when I should raise it.

MR. SPEAKER: I will find out and let you know. Let me find out. Maybe, you are such an alert Member and you are very active. But I am not that active.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not go on asking questions. This is not the way. I have said that I will look into it and let you know.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I will show you the rule from the rules book. You say that you go by rules. I can also show you the rule that I can also ask questions as to when I am supposed to raise my issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for the House to decide whether you should allow the Speaker's office to be denigrated in this manner. Please decide on whether one Member can hold the House to ransom and make any allegation against the Speaker. Mr. Swain, it is because you think that you are too big.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, this is not an allegation. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have got it. You have no idea on how to function. Hundreds of notices are coming to me.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. There are methods of function. This is not the way. I have received your notice.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: What is this. ...(Interruptions) Will the House function if they will disturb? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your notice. The hon. Member has put me a question.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received your notice. What is this going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharabela Swain, I have received your notice.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing is being recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What is going on?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Paranjpe, I am on my legs.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Everybody is teaching everybody else.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not saying that. I am not asking for their help.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Shri Kharabela Swain, has raised an issue. He wanted a ruling on that. It is not possible to do that immediately when so many notices are coming. I have to find out. But he is saying that I must tell him immediately as to when it will be done. He wants to teach me rules. That is the way the hon. Member is responding.

* Not recorded.

and
Demands for Supplementary Grants—(Goa)—2004-05

I have got the information now. Mr. Kharabela Swain, I have received your notice of question of privilege, dated 16th March, against the Minister of Railways for allegedly giving misleading information in his Budget speech. The matter is under my consideration. Mr. Swain, this is not the way to behave. You are not maintaining the dignity of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shripad Yesso Naik may please speak now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Except Mr. Naik's speech nothing else will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: This is the kind of cooperation you have assured me! All your hon. leaders had assured me this cooperation! The whole House is seeing and the whole country is seeing as to how the Speaker is being treated.

12.27 hrs.

GOA BUDGET—2005-2006—GENERAL
DISCUSSION
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT—
(GOA)—2005-2006
DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY
GRANTS—(GOA)—2004-2005

(English)

MR. SPEAKER: Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the second column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of heads of demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand No. 1 to 80, 82 and 83."

[Mr. Speaker]

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the second column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa to defray the

charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of heads of demands entered in the first column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19, 26, 34, 37, 47 to 49, 51, 56, 57, 61, 64, 66 to 68, 70, 74 to 76 and 79."

Demands for Grants on account (goa) for 2005-2006 submitted to the vote of the lok sabha

1	No. and Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants on Account submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
2	3	4	
1	Legislative Secretariat	2,28,42,000	25,00,000
2	General Administration & Coordination	6,70,15,000	6,67,000
3	District and Sessions Court, North Goa	2,12,65,000	...
4	District and Sessions Court, South Goa	1,85,47,000	
5	Prosecution	49,39,000	
6	Election Office	2,24,80,000	
7	Settlement & land Record	2,55,08,000	
8	Treasury & Accounts Administration, North Goa	65,12,92,000	1,32,50,000
9	Treasury & Accounts Administration, South Goa	48,81,000	
10	Notary Services	60,00,000	20,83,000
11	Excise	1,11,15,000	
12	Sales & Entertainment Tax	2,77,04,000	
13	Transport	6,52,13,000	4,14,58,000
14	Goa Sadan	57,50,000	
15	Collectorate, North Goa	2,77,76,000	
16	Collectorate, South Goa	2,44,40,000	...
17	Police	26,79,21,000	29,01,000
18	Jails	1,21,18,000	1,43,33,000
19	Industries, Trade & Commerce	11,75,00,000	2,56,25,000
20	Printing & Stationery	1,43,19,000	
21	Public Works	87,79,56,000	75,19,98,000

1	2	3	4
22	Vigilance	31,43,000	
23	Home	25,00,000	
24	Goa Public Men's Corruption Commission- Investigation & Enquiries	42,000	...
25	Home Guards & Civil Defence	79,25,000	
26	Fire & Emergency Services	2,20,53,000	35,94,000
27	Official Language	53,33,000	...
28	Administrative Tribunal	21,87,000	
29	Public Grievances	10,55,000	
30	Lotteries	286,62,52,000	
31	Panchayats	16,33,09,000	47,08,000
32	Finance	22,92,000	35,00,00,000
33	Revenue	1,72,21,000	...
34	School Education	107,58,18,000	1,31,24,000
35	Higher Education	17,03,66,000	1,00,05,000
36	Technical Education	2,45,81,000	50,00,000
37	Government Polytechnic, Panaji	2,34,60,000	15,98,000
38	Government Polytechnic, Bicholim	70,78,000	2,50,000
39	Government Polytechnic, Curchorem	28,75,000	14,58,000
40	Goa College of Engineering	2,90,35,000	62,98,000
41	Goa College of Architecture	41,69,000	2,08,000
42	Sports	6,64,43,000	1,23,90,000
43	Art & Culture	3,76,25,000	2,08,33,000
44	Goa College of Art	40,65,000	14,17,000
45	Archives and Archaeology	1,29,13,000	41,67,000
46	Museum	32,71,000	14,58,000
47	Goa Medical College	18,30,63,000	1,94,06,000
48	Health Services	28,34,30,000	95,31,000
49	Institute of Psychiatry & Human Behaviour	1,88,33,000	86,13,000

1	2	3	4
50	Goa College of Pharmacy	73,03,000	10,42,000
51	Goa Dental College	1,47,25,000	9,18,000
52	Labour	3,30,57,000	21,000
53	Food & Drugs Administration	66,79,000	8,46,000
54	Town & Country Planning	3,13,02,000	10,42,000
55	Municipal Administration	15,51,46,000	2,08,33,000
56	Information & Publicity	5,83,17,000	4,17,000
57	Social Welfare	27,10,65,000	45,42,000
58	Women & Child Development	8,17,75,000	32,08,000
59	Factories and Boilers	50,71,000	4,17,000
60	Employment	33,85,000	
61	Craftsman Training	4,73,25,000	72,92,000
62	Law	2,21,59,000	53,49,000
63	Rajya Sainik Board	9,25,000	
64	Agriculture	9,24,24,000	2,11,94,000
65	Animal Husbandry	7,36,37,000	39,58,000
66	Fisheries	3,56,09,000	47,80,000
67	Ports Administration	1,48,98,000	83,33,000
68	Forests	6,52,30,000	24,17,000
69	Youth Affairs	1,26,76,000	8,33,000
70	Civil Supplies	69,08,000	9,68,75,000
71	Cooperation	1,49,33,000	6,47,81,000
72	Science, Technology & Environment	1,70,00,000	62,50,000
73	State Election Commission	30,69,000	
74	Water Resources	9,23,72,000	49,10,12,000
75	Planning, Statistics and Evaluation	1,24,77,000	
76	Electricity	189,72,82,000	38,06,67,000
77	River Navigation	4,56,66,000	
78	Tourism	12,13,45,000	92,50,000

1	2	3	4
79	Goa Gazetteer	6,46,000	
80	Legal Metrology	33,78,000	6,26,000
82	Information Technology	2,81,25,000	10,42,000
83	Mines	52,86,000	4,17,000
Total		1061,81,11,000	246,70,35,000

*Supplementary demands for grants (goa) for 2004-2005 submitted
to the vote of the lok sabha*

No. and Name of Demand		Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	4
1	Legislature Secretariat	81,20,000	8,00,000
2	General Administration & Coordination	50,00,000	...
3	District and Sessions Court, North Goa	16,23,000	...
5	Prosecution	40,000	...
8	Treasury & Accounts Administration, North Goa	11,48,02,000	
10	Notary Services	16,39,000	
11	Excise	5,80,000	...
14	Goa Sadan	34,95,000	
19	Industries, Trade and Commerce	3,56,00,000	1,35,00,000
26	Fire & Emergency Services	38,50,000	
34	School Education	11,77,01,000	9,51,000
37	Government Polytechnic, Panaji	10,00,000	
47	Goa Medical College	35,02,000	
48	Health Services	3,34,33,000	...
49	Institute of Psychiatry & Human Behaviour	3,50,000	...
51	Goa Dental College	2,78,000	
56	Information & Publicity	12,05,000	...

1	2	3	4
57	Social Welfare	3,25,00,000	
61	Craftsman Training	2,23,000	
64	Agriculture	29,20,000	...
66	Fisheries	1,000	
67	Ports Administration	16,00,000	
68	Forests	35,70,000	
70	Civil Supplies	19,00,000	
74	Water Resources	35,90,000	
75	Planning, Statistics and Evaluation	8,91,000	
76	Electricity	1,00,00,000	
79	Goa Gazetteer	1,60,000	...
Total		38,95,73,000	1,52,51,000

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK (Panaji): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Finance Minister has presented the Budget of Goa. Today we are discussing Goa's Budget and Vote on Account. Though Goa is quite a small State yet it has contributed a lot in country's development. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Except Shri Naik's speech, nothing else will be recorded.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Swain, if it adds to the glory of the Institution, add it. Let it be there.

...*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Goa is a very special state of the country. Despite being a small state, it has made remarkable contribution in the development of the country. Social, economical, and political problems of the state are altogether different. Organisation of International Film Festival over here last year was a grand success. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Please keep quiet. Hon. Member is speaking. Do not disturb him. No cross talks please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Those hon. Members who want to go away may do so quietly.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Large investments have been made in Goa with regard to rural and economic infrastructure. Through it is a small State yet it can achieve global heights. But it is quite sad that some ambitious people have disturbed the political equation in the State. Today we are discussing Goa's Budget. I would like to make a high reference to the issues under Central Government's jurisdiction. And the Central Government should pay attention to those.

It is very sad that because of discretionary policies of the Union Government industries are shifting from Goa to those States which have been provided adequate subsidy by the Central Government. Atleast 20-25

industries have shifted from Goa to Himachal Pradesh or Uttaranchal where more subsidy is available to industries. Consequently more people have been rendered jobless and their economic condition is deteriorating. Service Sector is Goa's backbone but lack of proper infrastructure has badly affected its economy. And no attention has been paid to it in the 2005-06 Budget.

Tourism is the biggest industry in Goa. Its population is around 13-13½ lakh, whereas almost 26 lakh foreign tourists, just double the population of Goa, visit Goa each year. Tourism industry is facing resource crunch and inadequacy of facilities, and things are in a mess.

Required infrastructure has not been provided to the tourism industry, therefore, there is a need for the Government to pay attention to it. I think it has not been reflected in the current year's budget. Goa is a big international tourist centre. But, since Goa airport is under the Ministry of Defence, therefore, its expansion is difficult. For the last 2-3 years, we have been demanding for an international airport at Goa. I do not think, this issue has ever been taken up or a separate provision has been made for it in the Budget. Tourism cannot flourish in Goa in absence of an international airport. And it's not only beneficial to Goa. Foreign tourists visiting Goa visit other States also. Therefore there is a need to allocate funds for construction of an international airport. But there is no mention of it in the Budget. Certain health-related problems have come up because of tourism, say sex-tourism has posed a big challenge. The Central Government should take preventive measures in this regard.

Last year, the Union Government allocated 850 crore rupees for land fund and this amount has not been enhanced. As I have just stated that airport and infrastructure is indispensable for promotion of tourism. Otherwise also there is a great need for four-laning of highways. Unless highways are four-laned, the number of accidents can't come down. Funds for four-laning of Pandanum-Konkan National Highway should have been provided in the year's Budget but no provision has been made in this regard.

Last year, Film Festival was held in Goa. Local Congress party was not in favour of it. I am grateful to him. Shri Jaipal Reddy, who, despite all this, permitted it to be held at Goa. And it was a great success. There is a need to change the infrastructure created for the festival. If a permanent venue is selected for it, it would boost tourism.

Mining industry is another important issue. It provides employment and revenue to the Central Government. 20-25 Iron-ore mines are on the verge of closure in the name of ecology and environment. Goa's 45 percent population depends upon mining for employment and if mines are closed it would render a large number of youths jobless. My submission is that the Central Government should pay attention to it. Budgetary provisions should have been made for it. Everyone is aware of last month's political upheaval in Goa. Each State passes its budget in the assembly but Goa's budget is being passed in Lok Sabha. It is because of wrong policies of the Congress party. During last six months Governors of many States were removed in the name of ideology. Ideology of each party is different.

Ours ideology is national interest but that of Congress relates to changing of Governors, toppling Governments etc. Under a dismissed conspiracy the Government of Goa was dismissed by the Governor. We have unity in diversity. Goa Congress has had a history of dismissing Governments. What happened during Ram Mandir Movement in 1992? ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: You may raise that issue when the Presidential proclamation comes up for discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: The Congress dismissed BJP led Government in four States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh on ideological ground. What was its reason? It has been the tradition of the Congress to dismiss the State Governments ruled by opposition parties. Similarly, the Government of Goa was dismissed. It was because it was being ruled by a non-Congress party.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am happy that your election to the office of Speaker was on consensus. Mostly it has been the tradition. But, dismissal of an elected Government by the Governor in Goa was not a right step. The Government of Goa dismissed the Government on 2 February. There was no reason behind it. Many Legislators resigned from BJP. The Governor was sent to Goa for a special mission and I am compelled to say that he fulfilled that mission. Immediately on reaching Goa he dismissed the Government. The very next day after his appointment, he told that the Government of Goa cannot develop rural areas. It is not the duty of

[Shri Shripad Yesso Naik]

Governor to comment upon functioning of a Chief Minister. On the day of its dismissal the Government was not in minority. He could have asked the Chief Minister to prove majority. The vote of Confidence scheduled for 3 February was directed to be held on 2 February. The Governor had dismissed the Government of Goa just 20 minutes prior to receipt of the report relating to vote of confidence by the Governor was not satisfied with the proceedings in the assembly he could have given the Chief Minister another chance to prove his majority, but, the same Shri Pratap Singh Rane of the Congress was sworn in as Chief Minister at 11.30 hours. The Hon'ble Governor dismissed an elected Government for no apparent reason. As all of us are aware that Goa has had 11 Chief Ministers during the last 10 years. But one Government survived for last four-and-a-half years. BJP Government did good development work in Goa. Then we don't know why the Governor conspired to dismiss the Government. The Congress pushed Goa in the ditch. The Congress is not bothered about development it just wants to grab power. I don't want to say what happened in Goa.

The Congress set the precedence of dismissing State Governments led by other parties. I would not like to go in details. Right from the day Congress came to power at the Centre, the efforts to dismiss the Goa Government started and the Governor accomplished his mission on 2 February. A Congress legislator resigned and joined BJP. He contested afresh and got elected. The Governor summoned him and several other legislators and warned them if they resigned he would dissolve the assembly. He gave warnings to all. As per the recommendation of Sarkaria Commission, Chief Minister of a concerned State is required to be consulted before appointing Governor of that state. But, I do not think it so happened in case of Goa. Governor is a link between the Centre and the State and also between the opposition and the ruling party. The Governor did not act constitutionally but acted as an agent of the Congress party.

Within 30 minutes of obtaining Vote of Confidence on 2 February, the Government in Goa was assumed and Pratap Singh Rane of the Congress was installed as Chief Minister. Parickar Government was demanding for 3 more days to hold Vote of confidence. But he was given only two days. And when Shri Rane was sworn in as Chief Minister no time limit was fixed for him for proving him majority. When the pressmen enquired about it, he was given 30 days time. Two days versus 30 days what a discrimination? Despite all that, Shri Rane led Government failed to prove it's majority. Therefore, efforts

were made to lure the BJP MLAs or to disqualify them.
...(Interruptions)

SHRI J.M. AARON RASHID (Periyakulam): Our Governor has restored democracy there.

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Had there been majority, the Government would not have been dismissed there. This is the problem. The Government could not survive because of their mistakes.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No, please do not disturb him.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: All these are black spots on the democracy inflicted by the constitutional authority, the Governor of Goa. All steps are against the democratic norms, decency and blow on federal set up against Sarkaria Commission's recommendations.

[Translation]

The dismissal of Shri Pratap Singh Rane Govt. proves that what the Governor did was quite wrong.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, he is speaking on the other matters.

MR. SPEAKER: On the Budget, everything can be said. The BAC has allotted three hours for this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I thought, it was agreed that we pass the Budget first and then we can speak on other matters.

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting the hon. Members to speak on the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Today the assembly is kept in suspended animation. Therefore I request that the assembly should immediately be dissolved and fresh mandate should be taken.

[English]

I demand that the Assembly should be dissolved and fresh mandate should be taken I also demand the recall of the Governor who killed democracy in the State of Goa.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (Marmugao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand to support the Goa Budget 2004-05. It has been presented here because the Legislative Assembly is in suspended animation. Our State of Goa basically depends on tourism sector because the prime destination of national and international tourists in the country is Goa.

To strengthen the tourism industry and to make the stay of the tourists comfortable, we need infrastructure. Although Goa has achieved best standards in education and health care, there is a problem of water supply.

12.45 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

We need water supply to one region of Goa. It is regularly disrupted because of the leakage of Selaulim water pipeline. We need to replace the existing steel pipeline. Then only the water problem will be solved in Goa.

There are big problems in Goa because of want of garbage dumping facility. There is a possibility of massive health hazards like plague, etc., because of garbage. Goa must be given special fund for the scientific garbage disposal in two districts, namely South and North Districts.

In this House, all my colleagues must have been to Goa and flown to Goa reaching Daboli Airport. Daboli Airport belongs to the civilians. Some years ago, the navy has taken the charge of the Daboli Airport. Today we are in a big trouble because the Government has taken a huge part of the land in Karwar seabird and it had given all the facilities to the navy. Why is the navy in the Daboli Airport not shifting? The Daboli Airport is an international airport. Why should we not upgrade this airport? There are more than 400 hotels which depend on this airport. Today, the Goa tourism industry gives the largest revenue. It gives the largest revenue to the Centre also. If it is not upgraded, then the tourism industry will be down and the revenue will also come down. More than six lakh people will be in difficulty. Though Daboli Airport is an international airport, we should upgrade it.

That airport should not be continued as it is continued right now. It should not go to the navy. That is my humble request.

If you come to sports, either at the Central level or at the State level, the Government is not doing anything for the sports. Our country is mostly going in for cricket. Cricket is a game of 13 or 14 countries. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government is supporting football. If you go to see the annual football league, out of 12 teams, we got six teams in Goa. Football is part of Goa. Individually, like Salgaonkar, Dempo, Vasco, Franco, we are supporting football. But if you look at the world, football is the main sport. Americans have the baseball team. They made a football team and they went for the world cup. If you see Saudi Arabia, which is a small country, it has gone for the world cup. If you see Cameroon, it is also a small country. It has also gone for the world cup.

In India, we have got the second largest population in the world. We have got football played in our States, whether it is West Bengal, Maharashtra, Delhi, Goa or Kerala. So, football is being played in our country but there is no support from the Government for football. I am not against any game. I am a sportsman. I am a volleyball player. I am a football player. I am a kabaddi player. I play all sports. My dream is that our national team should play the football world cup. The Government's support is needed for that. In Japan, there was no football. There government supported football and their national team has played in and also hosted the world cup. So, why should our Government not support football?

With these submissions, I include my speech but I want to speak on the Resolution seeking to ratify President's rule in Goa also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next, Mr. Hamza.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Sir, I would speak on item no. 22 instead of speaking on the Goa Budget. Anyway, the Budget has to be passed. So, I would speak on the next item.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mohan Singhji the Proclamation is at item no. 22 which is only to next item. If you want to speak something on Goa's Budget, you may do so.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, though I was to take part in discussion on approval of proclamation made by the hon. President on 4th March, 2005 with regard to Goa under Article 356 of our Constitution but, since you have called my name from the Chair, therefore, I rise to speak a few words in support of the Budget of Goa.

First of all, I support the said budget. It is the bad luck of a State where always deficit budget is presented. Therefore, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to let it not happen. States have the tendency of not generating internal resources which compels us to present deficit budget. My submission is that this issue should be seriously pondered over to check the tendency of State Governments from presenting deficit budget.

From strategic point of view, Goa is very important. For happiness and prosperity of its people it has become mandatory to pass its budget. As beyond 31 March, 2005, a financial crisis may crop up, therefore, it is our responsibility to get it passed. Thus, I support it and would like to get it passed.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Sudhakar Reddy, do you want to speak on the Goa Budget or on the next item?

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Sir, I want to speak on the next item.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. Now, I request the hon. Minister of Finance Shri P. Chidambaram to reply to the debate.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, hon. Members are aware about the circumstances in which it is my privilege and duty to present the Goa Budget here. The revenue receipts are placed at Rs. 2,872 crore. The State's share of Central taxes, duties and grants-in-aid from the Government of India add up of Rs. 279.94 crore. The revenue expenditure is projected at Rs. 2,914 crore, leaving a revenue deficit of Rs. 41.79 crore. On the capital account, the receipts are Rs. 781 crore and the expenditure is Rs. 751 crore. After accounting for transactions in the public accounting and the opening balance, the overall surplus is Rs. 104.64 crore.

A mention was made by Shri Shripad Yesso Naik about the recent Supreme Court order staying mining

operations on environmental grounds. As you know, similar orders have been passed for many parts of the country. The Government will, through its lawyers, address this issue. The outlay on non-ferrous mining and metallurgical industries on the Revenue Account has increased by 10.44 per cent and on the Capital Account has increased by 9.6 per cent. Therefore, the Government of Goa has made adequate provision for non-ferrous mining and metallurgical industries.

Regarding international airport referred to by the hon. Member, Shri Alemao Churchil, ICAO has been appointed as a consultant and pre-feasibility studies have already commenced. A sum of Rs. 5 crore towards cost of land acquisition have been provided in the Budget Estimates for 2005-06.

A reference was made to water supply and sanitation. On the Capital Account, as against the Revised Estimates of Rs. 70 crore for the current year, the Budget has provided Rs. 77 crore. On the Revenue Account, as against the Revised Estimates of Rs. 97 crore in the current year, for the next year, we have provided Rs. 105 crore. Therefore, there is an increase of ten per cent on Capital Account and seven per cent on Revenue Account.

This is only a Vote on Account for five months. I hope that the political situation will improve and there will be a popular Government in Goa as soon as it is possible. In the meanwhile I ask the hon. House to grant vote on account for five months.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants an Account (Goa) for the year 2005-06 to vote.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 2006, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 80, 82 and 83."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Goa) for 2004-05 to vote.

The question is.

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2005, in respect of heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 3, 5, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19, 26, 34, 37, 47 to 49, 51, 56, 57, 61, 64, 66 to 68, 70, 74 to 76 and 79."

The motion was adopted.

12.59 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have a Supplementary List of Business. Minister of Finance.

14.05 hrs.

GOA APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2005*

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of a part of the financial year 2005-2006, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will 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.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that that the Bill be passed.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 18.3.2005.

**Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

14.09 hrs.

GOA APPROPRIATION BILL, 2005*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 2004-2005.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 2004-2005."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister may now move for consideration of the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 2004-2005, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Goa for the services of the financial year 2004-2005, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will 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.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Thank you, Sir.

14.11 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: APPROVAL
OF PROCLAMATION BY THE PRESIDENT
IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF GOA

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item number 22. Shri Shivraj V. Patil.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): I beg to move:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 4th March, 2005 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa."

Sir, article 356 provides that if the President is satisfied that a situation has arisen in which the Government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, the President may by Proclamation assume to himself functions of the Government of the State; declare that the powers of the Legislature of the State shall be exercised by the authority of the Parliament; and make such incidental and consequential provisions as are required.

The facts that led to the imposition of the President's Rule in Goa are as follows. The Goa Legislative Assembly

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 18.3.2005.

**Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

GoA had 40 Members. Shri Manohar Parrikar was the Chief Minister with the backing of 22 Members, and 18 Members sat on the Opposition Benches. Four Members backing the Chief Minister resigned, thus reducing the strength of the House from 40 Members to 36 Members. The Chief Minister had 17 Members backing him with one of his supporters functioning as the Speaker of the House. The number of Members opposing him was 18.

The Opposition Members approached the Governor, and requested him to dismiss the Government of Shri Manohar Parrikar as he had lost the effective majority in the House. The Governor asked the Members to prove the veracity of their assertion on the floor of the House, and directed the Chief Minister to obtain the Vote of Confidence at 2.30 pm on 02 February 2005.

As per the report of the Governor, at about 5 pm on the said day, the Speaker announced that Shri Rodrigues, a Member of the House had committed a misconduct, and therefore, was liable for action under the provisions of Rule 289 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business of the Goa Legislative Assembly, and directed him to leave the House. Shri Rodrigues pleaded that he had not done anything to deserve the expulsion, and refused to leave the House. On finding that the Member was not leaving the House the Speaker directed the Marshall, and members of the Watch and Ward of the House to throw the Member out of the House. As the Marshall and members of the Watch and Ward were forcing the Member physically out of the House, other Members of the Opposition objected to the act of physical removal of the Member, and intervened.

When this was happening in the House, the Speaker put the Motion to the vote and declared that the Motion was carried by the vote of 18 Members and opposed by 6 Members. What had happened in the House was improper, illegal and unconstitutional. Eighteen Opposition Members approached the Governor and pleaded that the Government of Mr. Parrikar manipulated the majority and could not prove it, and so it should be dismissed. Coming to the conclusion that what was brought to his notice was correct, the Governor dismissed the Government. Then, he allowed Mr. Rane to be sworn in as the Chief Minister and asked him to prove his majority on the floor of the House within 30 days. This, the Governor said, was done to protect and preserve the democratic system and the constitutional provisions.

On 19th of February, 2005, the Governor summoned the Assembly to enable Mr. Rane to seek the Vote of

Confidence on 28th of the same month. On 24th of February, 2005, Mr. Digambar V. Kamat, a member of the BJP, the Party of Mr. Parrikar, tendered his resignation from the membership of the House. On 28th of February, 2005, the day on which the Vote of Confidence was to be sought and just before it was to be done, the Speaker terminated the membership of Mr. Filipe Nery Rodrigues by allowing the petition for disqualification. Then, in the House, at 2.30 p.m., he announced that he accepted the resignation of the Deputy Speaker which was given to him and made a small speech and announced that he was also resigning from the Speakership and adjourned the House and then resigned. Thus, Mr. Rane was prevented from taking the Vote of Confidence. The resignation of Mr. Digambar V. Kamat of BJP and disqualification of Mr. Filipe Nery Rodrigues reduced the strength of the Government and the Opposition to 17 Members each.

In exercise of the powers vested under article 180(1) of the Constitution, the Governor administered the oath of office to Shri Francisco Sardinha on 28th of February evening to perform the duties of the Office of the Speaker, until the Speaker was chosen by the Assembly.

The Assembly of Goa was convened on 4th of March, 2005 at 2.30 p.m. for seeking the Vote of Confidence. The Speaker disqualified Mr. Matanhy Saldanha of UGDP, that is, Mr. Parrikar's Party, reducing the effective strength of the Legislature to 33 and thereafter put the Motion of Confidence to vote. There was equality of votes with 16 in favour and 16 against. Therefore, the Speaker cast his vote in favour of the Government of Shri Pratapsingh Rane.

It was clear from these events that the State was going through a serious political instability. The disqualification of certain Members by both the Speakers was aimed at gaining political mileage and numbers by manipulation. The machinations adopted by both the coalitions had created serious doubts whether any coalition of political parties would be able to provide a stable Government. In the uncertainty thus prevailing in the State, there was a serious doubt whether the Assembly would be in a position to pass the Budget for the next financial year or even take a Vote-on-Account. Had that been allowed to happen, there would have been serious financial and constitutional crisis.

The Union Cabinet, therefore, in its meeting held on 4th of March, 2005, considered the situation prevailing in

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Goa and decided to recommend to the President to issue a Proclamation under article 356 of the Constitution for imposition of the President's Rule in the State and keeping the State Legislative Assembly under suspended animation.

On 4th March, 2005, the President was pleased to issue a Proclamation under article 356(1) of the Constitution imposing President's Rule in the State of Goa and keeping the Legislative Assembly of Goa in suspended animation.

With these words, I commend that the Proclamation issued on 4th of March, 2005 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa be approved. A copy of the Proclamation, as stipulated under the Constitution, along with the consequential Order is placed on the Table of the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 4th March, 2005, under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa."

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion regarding 4 March 2005's Proclamation introduced by hon. Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil in the House. I was expecting that the hon. Home Minister would also mention as to why the Goa Legislative Assembly was under suspended animation and why it had not been dissolved. I am aware of the Supreme Court's judgement after the Bommai case that the Legislative Assembly be kept in suspended animation until the Proclamation or the President's Rule is confirmed by both the Houses. I remember when the Proclamation was declared we were hearing news and several Members of Opposition contended as to why the assembly was kept under suspended animation but the hon. Home Minister clarified in his statement that it was owing to the judgement on Bommai case. I hope that the Legislative Assembly of Goa will definitely be dissolved after confirmation from both the Houses and the people of Goa will be given an opportunity to elect their new Assembly. After keeping suspended animation no room would be left for 'machinations' was the word used by hon. Home Minister in his statement. I had once stated in this House that in view of the developments of State

Assembly before such a situation is created we should seek people's mandate. The sooner we constitute a new legislative Assembly the better it would be. I still maintain those views. Therefore, I would call upon the Government to clarify this status that the objective of Proclamation is to seek people's mandate and dissolve the House accordingly. My support is on this condition and if the Government does not intend to do so and if it intends to keep the Assembly in suspended animation for six months then I will have to review my support. Sometimes situations may vary. A similar Proclamation is likely to be declared. Situations vary under every Proclamation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to discuss only two issues. I do not wish to repeat the entire incident. It has been discussed earlier also. My intention is not to level allegations against anyone. Since such type of several incidents took place in Goa and further in Jharkhand also. Has the Government thought anything about the reaction of the media, intellectual people and legal experts across the country towards these two incidents. Has the Government done any introspection over the fact that the media which used to criticise our ideology and derived pleasure from any setback to us but now they are all unanimously criticising the Government's move on Goa incident or Jharkhand. Has the Government given it a thought?

It is my belief that Democracy has been attacked several times in India. Sometimes smaller incidents occurred. We adopted Parliamentary Democracy in the year 1950. Thereafter there were many small incidents which invited our criticism when we used to be in the opposition. My several colleagues who may be in the Government now, used to criticise the ideologies of the Congress Party then if something undemocratic used to take place, they used to react and bore different views. But the incident of 1975, 1976 and 1977 and the period after that had that sensitivity about any action of the Government. It was not in opposition of BJP. The critics of BJP also reacted to any assault on democracy.

[English]

There has been an extra sensitivity about any action of the Government which seems to be an assault on democracy.

[Translation]

Be it that of Goa, Jharkhand or the decisions of the Governor.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): MLAs approached us. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you doing. You have no point of order.

...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing to be recorded except the speech of Shri L.K. Advani.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When your leader was speaking nobody from this side interrupted him. When he is speaking from this side, please do not interrupt him.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: They are non letting the Government introspect. The Government should introspect, had it done so, this situation would not have arisen. It has not happened in nine months.

I am not quoting anyone. Such language was used against the Congress Government. The reason behind it all is

[*English*]

this extra sensitivity, ultra sensitivity.

[*Translation*]

The country is benefited by it. Defection is no offence in U.K. No objections are raised there against any Member defecting his party even today. I remember for the first time when Defection Law was to be enacted, people used to count the number of times Winston Churchill defected. But was he disqualified? It is his will, which party he likes to join. We set up a Committee. When we are not satisfied with the recommendations of that Committee we set up another Committee. The Connotations of Defection are different in India it does

not mean rejecting an ideology and adopting another. Our friends from Haryana might be sitting here, friend from Chandigarh is here. When it started in Haryana all kinds of expressions like Aaya Ram, Gaya Ram were used and it was ridiculed. I remember a Cartoon made by Laxman. A man defected thrice and once he had to jump out of his house. A rope was hanging out from the window beside which he was standing. Two policemen standing below were guessing who that man could be? The first policeman said that if he went upwards he was a thief and if he came down, he was an M.L.A. I remember that Defection became an offence at that time, of such a kind that all the parties felt, that there was a need to check it otherwise it would create political instability. Anti-defection law was made to check political instability. A provision was made therein that allowed, defection by one-third at party's strength a not by a single member. That law remained enforced for so many years. The present Home Minister was the then Speaker, he also showed his concern. He convened a meeting to resolve the problem. A solution was found that retail defection was an offence while wholesale defection was permissible. Thus, the provision of a split was to be taken out. But our political leaders are ingenious. They amuse at it saying that split may not be allowed but no one can refuse a resignation.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBBAL): Merger is also there.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: But merger is of different kind. Today, I will not discuss that. But I am happy that a motion has been introduced to seek approval for it. Hon. Home Minister gave all the details of the Parriker Government that earlier there were 22 members out of which four resigned and then 18 were left. The position was 18-18, then it became 17-17 and later on it became 16-16. The details which is given

[*English*]

that in itself is a guide for all of us.

[*Translation*]

We should be concerned about both these issues. We have framed the Anti-Defection law to bring stability in the Government. We should also think about the loop-

* Not recorded.

[Shri L.K. Advani]

holes bypassing the Anti-Defection law. A member is asked to resign immediately afterwards he is sworn as a Minister without Legislative Assembly for six months. These are all loopholes of the present system. Our concern has to be for ensuring political stability in the country. I do understand that today ensuring political stability has become necessary and so there is a need to review it also. I am very happy that despite this fact that Rane ji has proved his majority, the Central Government decided to involve President's Rule there. I hope that he would make a statement to this effect that

[English]

We want to go to the people, the ultimate authority in the country. We do not want anything else.

[Translation]

Secondly, these people were getting angry when I mentioned Governor's name. I was talking about the institution of the Governor. If we maintain it the way we want then, I feel that we should implement the recommendations of the Inter State Council made after deliberations on the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission. Inter State Council and the Sarkaria Commission recommended that the Governor of a State should be appointed after consultation with the State. Inter State Council emphasised it further that as per convention while appointing Governor, consultation must be held with the State Govt. We have acted as per the convention we appointed Governors after consultation when we remained in power. The inter-State council has recommended that

[English]

this should be also made part of the constitutional Framework so that it is obligatory for the Central Government to consult the State Governments in so far as appointments of Governor is concerned.

[Translation]

If we do these two things and thirdly if it is declared in unequivocal terms that there were two objectives of invoking the President's Rule. Firstly, to get the budget passed which the Parliament alone could do. Secondly, to give an opportunity to the people of Goa to elect their representatives.

Before concluding, I would even like to submit that Goa was constituted in 1987. There have been 12 Chief

Ministers since then. Generally, there has been only one party in power there. Our party has gathered strength in recent years but there has been so much instability in one party's rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

MD. SALIM (Calcutta-North East): You came in contact with their disease.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It was not now. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Interruptions need not be recorded.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Parrikar has been the longest serving Chief Minister of Goa.

[Translation]

It does not give us any satisfaction that his tenure was the longest but that the National Productivity Council after the assessment made by different official organisations has assigned Goa number one position.

[English]

It was ranked first in the economic productivity, in transparency and in competence.

[Translation]

India today published that Goa was the best governed State in India. Shri Manohar Parriker is the best Chief Minister. I can cite several examples of this kind but there is no point in citing them. He has made remarkable achievements. Whatever may be contained in Anti-Defection law, there was no clear majority, during the elections out of 40 seats 17 went to BJP while 15 went to Congress. After the election of 17. ...*(Interruptions)*

Our party was in majority and was almost equal to theirs. Out party got the support from some other members. Our party formed the Government. Even without having a clear majority our party ruled so well for fairly longtime. Then, there was a stage when action had to be taken against corruption. So the leader of Opposition was consulted and it was decided to oust the corrupt Minister while there was the fear of losing three other Members supporting the Minister. Someone suggested them that resignation could be given to avoid defection. The Member resigning could later on be sworn in as a Minister, there is no harm

[English]

Now, these are the ways and means which have to be taken into account when we again consider how Anti Defection Law can really be effective and can contribute to political stability.

[Translation]

Consultation should be there with the State Government while making appointment of Governors as recommended by the Interstate Council. If it is done then I believe that the Central Government should take action against the erring Governor. He should either be removed or transferred. It will give a salutary message that no one will commit such an error in future. This will enhance the prestige of the Government and strengthen democracy. A good sign of these developments has been reaction of the people countrywide. People have expressed their concern for democracy and unanimously raised this concern. The credit goes to media. I congratulate them.

I support this proclamation with the hope that the Legislative Assembly has been under suspended animation because we have directions from Mumbai otherwise, it will be passed by both the Houses. We shall go for elections after dissolving the House.

[English]

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL (Marmugao): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Goa people did not want dissolution. They wanted bye-elections. The circumstances that have led to the presentation of the Goa Budget in Lok Sabha need to be placed on record.

It was in June, 2002 that the BJP-led Government, headed by Shri Manohar Parrikar, was formed in Goa through manipulative politics. It took the partners less than two years to realise that the Government was not working in public interest and, therefore, the UGDP and the MGP, as also an independent MLA withdrew support.

The BJP rule was so disgusting that for the first time in the history of the country, five MLAs from the ruling Party even resigned their seats, thus reducing the Government to a minority. Yet the BJP in Goa desperately clung to power and resorted to lies and disinformation.

The BJP then misused the Office of the Speaker to disqualify Shri Filipe Nery Rodrigues, an independent MLA, who was a Minister in their Government until a few days earlier.

The BJP filed a case by forging documents to show that Mr. Filipe Nery had joined the BJP in October, 2002. On the basis of the forged admission form, the Speaker disqualified Mr. Filipe Nery minutes before the Vote of Confidence was to be taken up. He immediately resigned from the post of Speaker on the ground that his fairness was being questioned. If that were indeed so, he ought to have resigned before passing orders on the disqualification petition. The shocking aspect of the said case is that if Mr. Filipe Nery had joined the BJP then the Speaker ought to have been informed and appropriate changes made in the composition of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Member cannot refer to the Speaker.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will look into it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If anything has been said against the Speaker, that would not go on record.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under what rule you want to raise it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I am referring to the rule only. They should have that much of patience. Accordingly to article 212, sub-Section (1) of the Constitution:

"The validity of any proceedings in the Legislature of the State shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure."

When this is the case, how can he refer to the Speaker? Therefore, that should be deleted.

MD. SALIM: Sir, he has not quoted any rule.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the Rules of Procedure emanate from the Constitution of India.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that if there is any word against the Speaker, it will be expunged.

[English]

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Sir, he is no more the Speaker now. He has resigned.

However, for two years the BJP did not claim that the independent MLA had joined their party but only filed such a petition on forged documents after he had withdrawn the support.

Again, the UGDP had issued a whip to its MLA, Shri Matantray Saldanha to vote against the BJP. This whip was defied by the MLA. Consequently, a petition for disqualification was filed before the Speaker. The Speaker after hearing all the sides granted an interim stay withholding Shri Mathany Saldanha's right to vote against the Party whip which order is in line with the directions of the Supreme Court in the Mayawati case.

We demand a special audit into the corruption in the conduct of the International Film Festival when Rs. 150 crore were pocketed by Shri Parrikar through his contractor agents. The corruption, commissions and contractor raj run by the BJP and the RSS cadres in Goa must be exposed.

The fascist regime of Parrikar has fallen.
...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE): Sir, he cannot be interrupted at every stage like this. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Churchill, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Sir, the efforts to destroy the communal harmony and religious peace of the Goan society through his communal propaganda, especially the doctored tape on Goa's liberation—which had to be shown in every school—exposed his criminal intentions. Citizens were harassed, opponents jailed, including three ex-Congress Ministers, cases were filed and a region of terror prevailed under Parrikar.

He and the Speaker of the Assembly did not hesitate to bring in 21 plain-clothed policemen into the Goa assembly to drag out and injure the independent MLA, Mr. Philip Neri. The State of Goa, at last, has been liberated from Parrikar's RSS regime. We thank God for it.

Sir, today the Budget of Goa is being presented and discussed in the Lok Sabha as the State Assembly has been placed under suspension. The BJP cannot be permitted to take advantage of its own misdoing. The *Zila Panchayat* elections in Goa have been completed three days back and the voters have clearly voted against the BJP and the party has been routed in the elections. The results show that the people of Goa desire that the suspension of the Assembly should be revoked and a popular Government be installed. The bye-elections to five seats in the Goa Assembly should be held immediately so that the will of the people could prevail. There is no reason why the holding of the bye-elections to these five seats should be delayed. The President's Rule is no substitute for a popular rule in the State.

So, finally, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of the people of Goa I demand that the bye-election to the five seats of the Goa Assembly should be held immediately and we want to show it to the people that this Government has done the right thing and that the earlier Government did all wrong things.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA (Manjeri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not happy when I stand here to take part in the discussion on the promulgation of the President's Rule in the State of Goa and also on the recent happenings in the State. Our Constitution is a great Constitution in comparison to the Constitution of other countries.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to read out your speech?

SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Sir, I am only looking at the points from this paper.

Sir, not only our Constitution is great, but our expectation from parliamentary democracy is also immense. Though the Governor is the custodian of the constitutional authority in the State, but in actual practice he acts on the advice of the Central Government. The State Government has no authority over the Central Government, but the Central Government is authorised to do many things in the States. The Governor acts on

* Not recorded.

behalf of the Centre. Thereafter, the Central Government is only responsible for all that has happened in the State. I can say from my experience that whichever party is ruling at the Centre, be it the Congress or the BJP, cannot tolerate a Government of a different party at the State. I am remembered of an incident where in the year 1959 the elected Government of the late E.M.S. Nambodripad in Kerala was dismissed by the Central Government for no reason.

It followed the dismissals of many Governments. When the BJP also came to power in the Centre, they repeated the same process. Both are equal in that respect. We do not agree with applying article 356 indiscriminately. But in certain circumstances, it must be necessarily imposed. Now, the interference in Goa can be justified. The only point is, this action could have been taken much earlier. We could have avoided all the foul play we saw there. The BJP's Parrikar Government in Goa lost its majority when the two MLAs, Mr. Filipe Rodrigues and Mr. Digambar Kamat left the party and withdrawn their support to the Government. Then the Governor acted constitutionally and dismissed the BJP Government. Even hon. Shri Vajpayee, in a Press Conference, demanded fresh polls in Goa. That itself shows that the majority is lost there. Otherwise, how can the BJP leader say that? When the majority is lost and when the Government cannot continue, what is the way out before the Governor? What is the next process? The Governor dismissed the Government and they say that they wanted to have an election. But the next constitutional liability on the part of the Governor is to invite the Opposition Leader to try to form a Government. And that was done in Goa. Accordingly, Shri Rane formed the Government there. On the day fixed for the Confidence Motion in the House, the trouble started. It was he who had done it, the Speaker, Shri Vishwas Satarkar. He declared in the House that the Member, Mr. Rodrigues was disqualified and informed that another Member, Mr. Kamat had already resigned as MLA of the House. The House adjourned for afternoon for taking up the Confidence Motion.

When the House convened in the afternoon to take up the Confidence Motion, the Speaker again declared that he himself and the Deputy Speaker had resigned their respective posts. That created a constitutional deadlock in the State. What will the Governor do then? Then the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker resigned and the House was adjourned without mentioning any date. Therefore, there was no other way and the Governor

had to take action in that matter. The House may see that Mr. Rodrigues was elected as an independent candidate and joined the BJP. Then and there, action could have been taken for defection. Nobody initiated action at that time. When he left the BJP, they demanded action for defection. Now the question comes of double standard. Likewise, there is every right for a Member to resign from his membership as per the Constitution. Thus, Mr. Kamat had resigned. What is the difficulty there? He has resigned his post and he said that he will not sit in the House without another election being held. Anyway, it is true that Mr. Rodrigues and Mr. Kamat left the BJP and the Government lost its majority. If they left the BJP and joined the Congress with ulterior motives and to facilitate Shri Rane to form the Government, then it is not correct.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are mentioning names of two persons who are not present in the House.

SHRI T.K. HAMZA: Even then, Mr. Rane could not get the majority as the Chief Minister. Even then he did not form the majority. He won the game only by a penalty goal, that is, by a casting vote of *Pro-tem* Speaker. Whether the Pro-tem Speaker has got the right to exercise a casting vote or not is a question to be debated and decided further.

15.00 hrs.

Finally the Central Government took the correct step in the matter and imposed President's rule in the State for which I congratulate the Government of India. I support the Goa Budget which has been presented today.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Central Government interferes in the affairs of any State and runs its Government then, I feel that it is an attack on the federal democratic system of the country. Goa is a very small state of our country in terms of population, however, it is a very important State from strategic point of view. Goa is Central to our relations with the Western and the Gulf countries via the Arabian Sea.

Sir, after independence of India, the first Prime Minister of our country, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, had remarked about Goa that the rule in Goa was like an ugly blot on the golden face of our country. Intense struggle followed for its freedom. The then Portuguese Government was more, cruel and repressive against the

[Shri Mohan Singh]

freedom fighters in comparison to the Britishers. However, a major section of society of our country bravely faced their repression and fought a difficult war for the freedom of Goa. It was on account of this that the Government of India freed Goa from their repressive rule through military action in 1961. Till quite some time after independence, it had no separate status. It was a Union Territory. However, under certain situation, it was accorded the status of State in order to keep the identity of the people of that region intact.

Sir, Hindi speaking, Marathi speaking, Kannad, Konkani and Tuluk people also live there. Even today English and Portuguese languages are still spoken at large. People belonging to all castes and communities live cordially there. Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and Persians all types of people live there cordially. I feel that it would be no exaggeration to say that if there is any laboratory of a secular society, its name is Goa. So, in my opinion, it is very bad if an attempt is made to poison the Goan society by communalism. It gives a very wrong message to the international community.
...*(Interruptions)*

I have listened to you very patiently. I did not disturb anyone. I request you not to interrupt me.

Sir, I feel that such experiment in the small State will prove to be quite detrimental to the image of our country in the international community. However, along with this I would also like to submit that it is the people of that State who will take final decision regarding the formation of the Government there. We are none to give them instructions from Delhi by framing Acts in the parliament of India.

Sir, it is very unfortunate that we ever since this present Government has taken over in Delhi, though we are supporting it, it is trying as a campaign, to create such a political situation in those States which are ruled by other parties that it could impose its own rule in those State on some pretext on the other. Creating such a situation in my opinion is very unfortunate. The Government is trying to strengthen its political organisation and increasing its area of influence by way to imposing President's rule in those States where the party has only eight-nine MLAs, where they cannot win five six assembly seats and where they remained unsuccessful in gaining majority and capture power in any way for the last fifteen years. It is not fair. It is not undesirable to say that since the formation of this Government almost during one and

half year back, whenever proposals came to change the Governors in the States, objections were raised, and the opinion of our hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is quite clear in this regard.

The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has clearly accepted this. Whether it is be it Sarkariya Commission or other such commissions constituted in the country have expressed their views regarding streamlining the federal system of the country and protecting the States from interference of the Central Government. Their opinions were recommendatory in nature and it is the prerogative of the Government to accept or reject the recommendations of the Commission. We accept only this rule book which is mentioned in the constitution. The Chairman of the Drafting Committee of constitution, Babasaheb Bhim Rao Ambedkar had said a very remarkable thing. He had said that the merits and demerits of a Constitution cannot be assessed on the basis of the terminology of the constitution rather it depends on the conduct of those who are implementing the Constitution, and on how does the Speakers behave in the Legislative Assembly. The Government at the Centre cannot give instruction to the governors as to what should be their conduct. The governor should act according to the article of the Constitutions. However, from behind the certain the Central Government gives instruction the Governor to act in such a manner that may lead to the situation fit for imposing Presidents Rule. I feel that it is unfortunate as any such instructions will affect the federal set up of the country.

Sir I would like to submit to the allies of the U.P.A. that all the governors who held posts till now have accepted that all the governors having communal inclinations and committed to communal organisations must be removed from their office. Is it appropriate that all the governors should be nominated from among the ruling party and not a single governor should be appointed from among the rest of the allies in the government? This clearly reflects the intention of the government. So, I strongly condemn whatever happened in the Goa and request the Government that such things must not be repeated in other States, as the Congress is paying its price. The Congress party should take a lesson from its own history. Whatever has happened, however, such things should not be repeated. The President's Rule is imposed for six months, then that period is extended. The situation for imposing President's rule was created by the Government. I would not like to give details as to who is responsible for such a situation. I do not have

enough time to speak; however, whatever happened is very unfortunate. Now I wish that election should be held there at the earliest and the elected Government should be formed.

Sir, President's Rule has been imposed there, so we extend our support, however, if they again come to the House for getting its approval to extend the period of President's Rule, then we will strongly oppose it as the Monsoon session commences early in Goa. If the preparation for holding election in Goa is not started right now, I feel that the Government will have to seek the approval of the House. With these words, while supporting this motion, I strongly condemn the intention of the Government. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister of Home affairs that the Government should change its approach regarding dealing with the State Government and let them run their Governments on their own—with these words, I conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the proposal for President's rule in Goa which the Home Minister has brought for approval is unfortunate in the light of incident that has happened in Goa since the Legislative Assembly was constituted. It is a stigma on the parliamentary democracy. I am really concerned about the incidents in Goa and the entire House would also be concerned. It has its repercussions on other States too. Other States would not remain unaffected by what happened in Goa where culture of horse trading and defection has developed, this incident would seriously affect the entire democratic setup. It is an important issue and it should be considered seriously.

The Government did not have any other option than the President's rule in Goa and that is why the Government has brought the proposal in this regard in the House. But I agree with Shri Mohan Singh that it should not be treated as a precedent. Our Party is not at all in favour of the President's rule. We would support the motion this time because such a situation has emerged there but solutions should be found out so that such situations do not come up in future. We are not at all in favour of this. There have been 12 Chief Ministers in 13 years in Goa. It is strange the way democracy is being run there. There is nothing to object in it. I am talking about the whole system, democracy is being damaged by people who are running it.

I am not levelling charges against any particular individual. You have rightly said and even I know that

under Section 212 of the Constitution we can not enquire into the proceedings of any legislative assembly we can not flout it, however, this kind of incidents are taking place in the country. I do not want to discuss the Judiciary but nothing is hidden from you, all the limits have been crossed. It might be the initiative of Judiciary but it is a dangerous trend, we belong to socialist background and if one goes by our opinion, some people would have to go to jails and participate in agitation like our champions who fought hard for the independence of Goa against the Portuguese rule under which atrocities were perpetrated. Be it Dr. Lohia or leaders of the community Party or the Congress Party, they know that numerous sacrifices were made in the struggle for the independence of Goa. The culture and legacy of that Goa is in danger at present. Whether it is not right that an hon. Member was told that he can not stay in the party as the hon. Member from Goa, Mr. Churchill was saying. The names of the roads and text books are being changed there. During the recent incidents, text books were changed. Goa is in our continent, would it not affect the world? Christians are a minority community in India but there are other countries in Europe and otherwise too, Christians are in big number there. They have a big population all over the world, would it not affect them. It was attack their culture and change their history and textbooks, it would affect the Christians all over the world and this is what has happened in Goa. The cultural heritage and feelings of a religious minority community have been attacked.

I am saying all this because anti-defection has been discussed. I would like to know the role of the mediators in Goa. I do not want to mention any names but the Presiding Officer is supreme in a parliamentary democracy and the office of the presiding officer has been misused there. You may delete it if you feel like doing so but I want to speak truth from my heart I am not using unparliamentary words but the office of the speaker has been misused openly. It is a prestigious post, Mr. Deputy Speaker it is the seat of Justice. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Even he sits there.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: As per the order of Mr. Speaker, I also sit there but nobody has the right to lower the dignity and prestige of this office be it the Speaker himself but this has been done and it is unprecedented*...

*...Expunged as ordered by the Chair

[Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav]

People in villages have a saying:

"taka saar hai jagat mein, sab sukh det apar
taka nahi hai pas to, baithe raho bekar"

It is a saying in villages. I am not saying this. I want to submit that the role of the presiding officer there does not have a parallel in history, we should be ashamed of even mentioning it. The post of the presiding officer is the seat of justice, justice should be dispensed from there without any prejudices. Everybody is aware that the seat from which only justice is dispensed has played a dubious role in Goa.

There is no time, I would like other hon. Members to participate in this discussion. Democratic set up has been damaged. I mean to say that Legislative Assembly is the biggest democratic institution of states. Parliament where I am speaking is the biggest institution of the country. The events in Goa have been a great setback to the democratic set up. I would like to say that there is just one solution before us and that is restoring democracy there. Democracy is a way of functioning in India and it is enshrined in the Constitution of India. The elements be it the office of the presiding officer or other elements like money, greed or vested interest in the way of this style should be checked. I am pained to say that the values and the legacy of Goa for which the battle for independence was fought have been attacked and efforts have been made to change the history.

Shri Mohan Singh is a socialist leader and he has rightly said that Goa was a testing ground. He reminded the peculiar geographical condition of Goa. Goa is an ideal state with its social structure encompassing Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and other communities. Goa reflects the secular spirit imbibed in the Constitution of India. Goa is an example of a secular society. Efforts have been made to push Goa on the path of Gujarat. I do not hesitate in saying so. Goa should not be made a testing ground of Gujarat experiment. This would amount to hurting spirit of the Constitution of India. The repetition of such events is not right. I would like to submit that the presiding officer has played an important role in bringing about the change in figures in the House. The figures of the entire House were manipulated that is why it created such a furor. This has been happening there for the last 13 years. Such things have been happening there right from the beginning that is why there have been 12 Chief Ministers in 13 years. It is unprecedented, such example does not exist anywhere else.

I respect the Leader of the Opposition. He was speaking on anti-defection bill. Anti-defection is related to this issue. Only I had risen in the House to oppose the Anti-Defection Law, 2003 at that time. Shri Swine is not aware of history. He has only been a member twice. I have been elected for five times and I have served as a Cabinet Minister in the Government of India. I have never come across such a law. This law seems to tilt towards political dictatorship. They seem to be great supporter to democracy but the NDA Government has impeded democracy within the party. I expressed my views that day Shri Jaitley brought anti-defection bill in the House. I can stick to my stand even if I am alone. The righteous person has the courage to fight a battle all alone. I told Jaitley ji the machinations would not help them to run the country in a democratic manner. They are setting up dictatorship of the political party on the pretext of democracy in the country. There should be stringent laws for persons who defect from their party for money or position. There is no provision of hanging in democracy. Laws more stringent than hanging should be applied on such members.

These people were making efforts so that people should feel like changing parties on ideological grounds. They were exhorting upon people to change the name of the road and change the ideology as well as the party. This experiment has been carried out in Goa. That is why I would like to submit that new researches are being made for defection from the party at the ideological level if an individual crosses floor then it is an offence but when the entire NCP party defected en bloc in Jharkhand then it was not an offence. ...*(Interruptions)* That was given the name of merger. Entire NCP party crossed the floor in Jharkhand. Is it not malpractice. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): The price is lower when things are brought in wholesale.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: He is right, prices are less when bought in wholesale. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded. Nothing will go on record except what Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav says.

...*(Interruptions)*...

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, prices are less in wholesale. It is a big offence if one-third of the Members defect from the party. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He said that to change the serious mood.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is not an offence if the parties defect enbloc. Corrupt members are making new experiments. I am talking about every body including myself that if anybody is finding out new ways to defect from the party then he should be stopped, the rule was made that one-third members of a party can not defect but now a system has been started. Today the culture of coalition is in vogue. In such a system support of 2-4 MLAs is quite significant. If one gets the support of 20-20 MLA's then half the battle is won. Then it is all right. Right now Sibalji said that the price is low. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something when constitutionality of tenth schedule came up, it was discussed in the Supreme Court. At the time it was discussed extensively as the Speaker himself takes decision under tenth schedule. When a Speaker takes charge in India, he does not leave his party while in Britain, it is the convention as soon as somebody becomes Speaker. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Once the Speaker, always the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: He never goes back to his party. He is nominated to the House of the Lords. It was also discussed that the Speaker remains a part of his party and if we make him the adjudicating authority it would create problem at the time of taking decisions. There judges were in favour of making the Speaker adjudicating authority and two judges were against it. I am of the opinion that it is high time to consider this issue. I am not saying anything against anyone, everybody should consider what could be done in such a situation. Whether

it is right that a person occupying such a high post should remain a part of a particular party because at times it becomes impossible for a person to give a verdict against his own party. We all should consider this issue. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The fact on which he has based his view

[*English*]

and from where we have taken the framework of democracy *i.e.* England, there is Parliamentary form of Government and it was the tradition there that once the Speaker always the Speaker.

[*Translation*]

He was indicating towards this fact only. Please continue your speech.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, it would prolong the discussion. There is the report of review of the constitution. It would prolong the discussions. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I said that so that it might remain incomplete.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: The report of the review of the Constitution is under consideration of the Government. It would prolong the discussion, I do not want to do that. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Speakers do not change with the Government, they remain ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: It is right that Speakers remain in their office even during elections though we do not remain Members. Then elections are conducted. This procedure has also been there. The existing Anti-defection law. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not to be recorded.

...(*Interruptions*)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I am not talking about which side one belongs to. I was saying. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

* Not recorded.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: I was talking about the misuse of the office of the presiding officer, I submitted in the beginning that we have to have a look at parliamentary democracy and stop the culture of defection from taking roots, it has not been considered seriously as yet I feel that it needs to be considered again. Anti-defection law requires re-consideration.

How to make amends for the loopholes in this law because in Jharkhand the entire NCP defected and members who were bad while they were in opposition became good as soon as they crossed the floor. What is this? You can see for yourself what is happening in Goa. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am concluding in a minute. These members are made to resign for political and vested interests. That is why I am saying it is a serious issue. How would we save democracy and bring in a stable government? I believe that all the parties should consider this seriously as to how to restore democratic set up in Goa. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Lajuji, an hon. Member of your own party is speaking and you yourself are disturbing. You say something and then I say something.

...*(Interruptions)**

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever Shri Lalu Prasad has said is not to be recorded.

(Translation)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: President's rule is not the solution of the problem in Goa. It is the opinion of our party. We would never want democratic procedure to be obstructed or damaged in any way. But the situation that has emerged leaves no option for the Government but to impose President's rule in Goa. The Government has brought in the proposal in this regard. I support this proposal but I would like to make it clear that in future we would not support this type of proposal. President's rule in Goa is not the solution. We are not in favour of President's rule in principle as well as on moral grounds. We want democratic and stable Government restored in Goa as soon as possible by taking recourse to proper

methods. Whatever has to be done in this regard should be done soon be it amendment in anti defection law, or preventing pay offs to MLA's for garnering their support or putting a check on the tendency of defection. Efforts are being made to change culture of Goa so it should be ensured that its heritage and culture is sustained and no harm is done to the Christian community.

(English)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore): Sir, I am very happy that the maturity of the democratic process in India is deepening. Is it not a very excellent thing in India that even if a Party which supposedly owned the majority in a State Assembly was dismissed by its own Government which is at the Centre? That is why I say that the democratic process is deepening. It happened only because of the developments and because of the pressure from the people of this country.

15.27 hrs.

[SHRI ARJUN SETHI *in the Chair*]

When the Central Government came to know that everybody—the people of this country, the media, the intelligentsia—is against it, against the process, and when they came to know that even the names of their leaders are being tarnished because of this, they were compelled to dismiss their own Government. Hats off to democracy. Hats off to the people of this country. That is why, I say that the democratic process is deepening.

What happened in Goa was a virtual political terrorism, totally hijacking the Government process, that is, the democratic process. Two of the hon. Members raised points like this that in Goa the BJP Government was formed by manipulation and the BJP rule was disgusting.

They say that it was a fascist regime but it could be said against anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Mr. Kharabela Swain says.

...*(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: That is why our hon. Leader of the Opposition Shri Advani has been demanding and our party has been demanding that the moment the proclamation is approved in both the Houses of

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

Parliament, let us go to the people. He has talked about the people and about going to the people. Let us go to the people and see what they say. They are our masters. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Secondly, there are very cunning people in our country. When they change parties, they say that they have changed parties because of ideological reasons; when somebody else changes parties, they say that it is because of self-interest. They say that in Goa the BJP Government went against the culture. Why did they change the names given by the Portuguese people? I would give you an example to explain this.

The hon. Members from the Left parties are sitting here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please address the Chair.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, I am looking in that direction but addressing you!

We have hon. Members here from the Left, who are from Kolkata. From my childhood, I was brought up in Kolkata. There was a place called Dalhousie Square. It is a very famous name. What is its name now? Its new name is Binay Badal Dinesh Bag. The new name of Hastings Street is Ram Mohun Roy Sarani. So, could we say that the Left Government in West Bengal is against the Christian culture? There was a colonial rule. When there was colonial rule, the British had named these places after their own people. So, should we not change those names when we come to power? When we do that, we are castigated and told that we are communal and against the culture. How can they say so? What the BJP has done in Goa has been done for the cause of this country and for the pride of this country. ...(*Interruptions*) If they say that names have not been changed in Kolkata, it means they are in favour of the imperialists. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Swain, look at this side.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I am looking at you, Sir. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Churchill, you have already spoken. Please sit down.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, he has spoken twice and I did not utter even a single word.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please continue, Mr. Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: What happened in Goa was pre-planned. As our hon. Leader of the Opposition said some time ago, if you ask somebody to resign his Membership and offer to make him a Minister instead, there would be many people rushing to do that. After all, they are not losing any thing and they could win the seat through a bye-election. That is exactly what has happened in Goa. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Sir, not only Members but Ministers have also resigned. He is misleading the House. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Churchill, you have already spoken. Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mr. Swain.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: The anti-defection law was subverted there deliberately. There was a time when in the North-East Members would *en bloc* change party affiliations.

Thirty people from this side were going to that side and all of them were becoming Ministers. Even in one of the States, out of the entire number of 40 MLAs, 38 were Ministers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, they are not allowing me to speak. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am constrained to say that when the hon. Member from the other side will speak, he can repudiate the charges that he is making. So, please sit down.

...(*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alemao Churchill, you have already spoken.

Nothing will go on record except what Shri Kharabela Swain says.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Kunwar Manvendra Singh, I am not going to sit down. You must have understood me by now. *...(Interruptions)*

I am not going to sit down. *...(Interruptions)*

Now, I was talking about the North-East. That is why, when the NDA Government was in power, they changed the law. They brought in the Anti-Defection Law. Somebody may say that it was wrong. But we have fixed as to how many Members can become Ministers. It was 15 per cent. That was a great disincentive for the people to cross sides. This is not happening nowadays because they have to resign. But once they face the election and they are defeated by their own people, nobody will dare to do it—resign in future. This is going to happen.

Now, let us come to the role of the Governor. I am not just naming anybody. Now, as per the Governor. *...(Interruptions)* I am not mentioning anybody. I am raising a constitutional point. There is a provision that at the pleasure of the Governor, the Chief Minister and the Council of Ministers will be appointed. Somebody, could be appointed a Chief Minister or a Minister for six months without facing an election. So, what I mean to say is—does the pleasure of the Governor mean that he can appoint his*...* as the Chief Minister also? This is a constitutional point. Can he do so? Is it the pleasure of the Government to appoint anybody? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Unless the person is elected how can he appoint that person?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, as you know, that somebody without being elected to any of the House can be appointed. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not enter into controversy.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: If I do not enter into controversy, then what will I say? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kharabela Swain.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you must protect me. I cannot be directed by them to speak. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: That word will be expunged.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: But can the Governor appoint anybody? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Alemao Churchill, I am very sorry. You had your say. So, please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Now, the question is being raised because the hon. Speaker of the Goa Assembly had committed some mistake in the House, that is why the Governor was constrained to dismiss Parrikar's Government. My question is: is the Governor a court of appeal against the functioning of the Speaker in the House. Let me give you one example. Everybody knows that late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by her own bodyguards. Many people had seen it with their own eyes. But did we hang those murderers on the next day? There is a due process of law. There are very prominent advocates and lawyers of this country sitting on that side. Should we not go by the due process of law? Should the Governor not summon the Speaker of the House? Should he not ask for the report from him before he takes any decision? But exactly that was not done. How is it that a Governor hardly gives less than 48 hours to the incumbent Chief Minister to prove the majority whereas he is giving 30 days to some other person?

That actually shows that 'because I am in power, might is right; because I am in power, I can do anything and everything. There is no convention, there is no due process of law because 'I am the Governor, I am in power and I can do anything'. That is exactly what is being told by the hon. Member from the other side.

*Not record

*...*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

* Not recorded.

You take the example of the Speaker. They say that actually he prevented a Member of the House from casting his vote. I do not appreciate his action. I say it. I do not appreciate what the Speaker did at that time. Probably, had I been the Speaker, I would not have done the same thing. But my point is, even if the Member was not prevented from voting, even if he would have voted, still the number of the Congress and its allies would have been 18 and the number of the ruling Party, that means the BJP-led coalition would have also been 18 including the Speaker.

Hon. Minister Shri Kapil Sibal, a prominent lawyer from that side was saying that even if somebody becomes a Speaker and he sits on the Chair, he does not leave his Party affiliation because again he will have to seek the ticket from the same Party and he will have to contest the election and it becomes very difficult on his part to give a ruling against his own Party.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please conclude.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, you will have to give me some more time. A lot of time was consumed by others.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Other speakers are there from your Party.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: There is only one Member from our side to speak, not many.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have already taken 14 minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, the ruling party must have its way, but the Opposition must have its say. Besides, speaking what else can we do?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am giving you time. I had given you 14 minutes. You please conclude in another 3-4 minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Sir, most of the time was consumed by bickering from the other side.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You conclude in another 3-4 minutes.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Yes, Sir.

Because there was a technical difficulty with the Parrikar Government, because they were having one of

their supporters sitting in the Speaker's chair, that is why you say that they are in minority. How can you say that? It is not so. They were not in a minority. There was a tie. The maximum you can say is that there was a tie. But we will have to just find out what did the *Pro-tem* Speaker do? Does the *Pro-tem* Speaker have the power or have the capacity to disqualify somebody from the House? Could he take such a very serious decision?

The pleasure of the Governor should not be arbitrary. It cannot be arbitrary. In the landmark judgement in Bommai case, the Supreme Court has already given instructions as to how the floor test should be conducted. My point is that the election of the Chief Minister should be done in the House. This is my suggestion. It should not be done in the Raj Bhavan. The Governor should not arbitrarily decide who should be or who should not be the Chief Minister.

How do we elect the Speaker in this House? The same process should be adopted to elect the Prime Minister here and to elect the Chief Minister in the Assembly. I can give you one example. In 1995, the Supreme Court had given a judgement when Shri Kalyan Singh's Government in U.P. was removed and Shri Jagadambika Prasad Pal was appointed as the Chief Minister. What did the Supreme Court say at that time? They said—you take a composite voting. That means two names will be presented before the House and the Members of the House will decide who is going to be the Chief Minister.

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is here. He is a prominent lawyer of this country. He should consider this thing as to whether we could have a system so that we could keep the Governor away from this.

When the Constitution-makers were deliberating in the Constituent Assembly, they did not want that there should be an elected Governor because they thought that if there was an elected Governor, he would usurp the power of the elected Chief Minister. That is why, they did not want that; they wanted that the Governor should be nominated; and they wanted that the Governor should not enter into this sort of politicking. So, my suggestion is that now the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister should be elected in the House and the *pro tem* Speaker for his election could be a neutral person. Even you can approach the Election Commission to have somebody who will not have the power to vote because once somebody becomes the Speaker and *pro tem*

[Shri Kharabela Swain]

Speaker, he is unable to vote. Let him be allowed to vote also. Let there be a neutral person who should conduct it. His only job will be to elect the Chief Minister or the Prime Minister of this country.

Sir, I will just come to another suggestion. With regard to floor test, some conventions have already been set and some instructions have been given by the Supreme Court about how the floor test should be conducted. In Great Britain, they do not have any Constitution; they have only conventions. They do not have any written Constitution. In the United States of America, they are having only seven clauses in their Constitution. Then, what is the Constitution in those countries? The Constitution is what the Supreme Court says it to be. There, the Supreme Court, from time to time, in its judicial review, has interpreted what is Constitution. That is exactly what our Supreme Court is also doing. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, how much time would be given to the hon. Member *...(Interruptions)* We should also be given that much time *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is concluding.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, he is not concluding. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please look at the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please look at the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Swain.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please look at the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not talk to him directly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Swain, please look at the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: I request him to maintain decency. I do not behave in this fashion when he speaks in the House. Please let him continue. I have no objection. Many people behave like this. *...(Interruptions)* I request him not to behave in this manner with a senior member *...(Interruptions)* I have never behaved like this with him *...(Interruptions)* I have never said such things about him *...(Interruptions)* I have never behaved in this manner. I have never used such language *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, the last point I would like to say is that Raj Bhawan test should be abolished because most of the time, it is arbitrary and corrupt. Under normal circumstances, it is not part of the Governor's constitutional function to entertain petitions that the Chief Minister has lost majority. If somebody approaches him during the time Assembly is in Session, he should ask him to have a No Confidence Motion against the Chief Minister. When somebody comes to him during the time when the Assembly is not in Session, the Governor must ask the complainant to take No Confidence Motion when the House is in Session, noting that the Constitution allows a gap of six months time between two Sessions.

The Assembly should not be recalled—during the inter-session—at the instance of a political contender. He should not be allowed to force the Governor to summon the Assembly Session, as and when he requires. If the complainant informally informs him that he has lost his majority, it is for the Chief Minister to decide whether the

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

expensive process of recalling the Assembly is necessary in such a situation.

Last but not least I would like to ask two questions. Why is it that the Governors start behaving in a very irrational manner when the Congress Party comes to power? They did the same thing with Shri Mulayam Singh's Government when he was in power. They had to give their floor-test twice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude your speech.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: Shri Namboodripad's Government was also dismissed without any reason. The same thing has happened to Shri Kalyan Singh's Government also. Why does it happen when only Congress comes to power?

Lastly, I will appeal that the Governor of Goa, and of Jharkhand should be recalled. Once this proclamation is passed in both the Houses, the Goa Assembly should be dissolved and fresh election should be held.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Leader of the Opposition while initiating the debate had said that he did not wish to apportion blame. But all that we have heard from the other side is only blaming the others for the entire imbroglio.

I, certainly, do not want to refer to the proclivity, the tendency, the wont, or rather the expertise of Shri Parrikar in engineering defections in the past, but I am constrained to do so for the simple reason that a repeated reference has been made to the undesirable practice of defections. We also had to bring about the Anti-Defection Law to deal with defections in the form of the 10th Schedule to the Constitution.

I have always respected Shri L.K. Advani. Today also, like many other occasions, he referred to the fact that the Anti-Defection Law had been misused in the past. He said that through the 91st Amendment, if I am correct, a novel way has been found out and by innuendo he was blaming us for the same, he said that a way has been found out to circumvent, and circumnavigate the Constitutional Amendment by bringing about resignation of Members.

Sir, Shri L.K. Advani is not present here at the moment. I only wish to point out to him that the first time—if I am mistaken I may please be corrected—this

law was circumnavigated—I am using the word circumnavigated—through the device of resignations in Goa, and it was by none other than Shri Parrikar himself. If you are not clear about the dates, I can remind you about the same. It was in August 2004, when one Congress Member was made to resign and then was given the BJP ticket. What was the need for doing it?

This only bring me back to the point. I do not like to do it, but I would only like to refer to what somebody had said. Shri Advani was repeatedly asking

[Translation]

What has been done for the last 9 months? The intellectuals and media which were not in favour of Bharatiya Janta Party earlier are supporting it. They have praised Bharatiya Janta Party to skies. The result of Goa is before you. What happened in Goa three days earlier. What happened there during the elections of Panchayats? Why do I mention all this.

[English]

They are trying to paint themselves holier than cow.

[Translation]

They are trying to show that everything is good in their side. They are trying to show that Congress has pressurized them to resign.

Why do they forget it? Shri D.P. Yadav and Shri Mohan Singhji have mentioned this. What was happening in Goa. A lesser known organisation which had funds was told

[English]

you be on the rampage; destroy the streets, and blacken the signboards'.

[Translation]

He is saying that communalism was spread there.

[English]

'The Chemistry of communalism was spreading the virus in that State. A mosque was vandalised.

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal]

[Translation]

Names would not be mentioned

[English]

was not a mosque vandalised there.

[Translation]

What did they do?

SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever the hon. Member has said is wrong.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your name is in the list. When your name is called, you can speak then.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Churchill, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I do not like saying it that saffron is not a good colour. Saffron is a colour with good connotations but these people have tarnished the saffron colour. They brought out a VCD showing what these people have done in the freedom struggle.

[English]

They demonised Christianity.

[Translation]

They followed just one mantra. What was the reason for which MLA's of their party revolted. Shri Manohar Panickar was busy in his work. Shri Advaniji was saying that our government was dissolved. He forgot that he himself was Home Minister then. Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari was sent to Gujarat who was then the Governor of Bihar.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not take names.

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, if any person is a part of any past incident then it is not

wrong to mention his name. Though he is not present in the House, however, if I have said any thing wrong about him, then it can be said that his name should not be mentioned in the House. I obey you. I will submit only this that one gentlemen was the governor of Bihar who in his report had mentioned that 5 Dalits were killed while no dalit should have been killed there. The report was sent with the request to impose President's Rule in the State. When he went to Gujarat did he not see what was happening there? Thousands of persons were killed. Did he submit report that President's Rule should be imposed in Gujarat? That did not happen. I am not pleased to mention all these things. Just now Swain Saheb was saying—

[English]

Recall the Governor. For what? He performed a duty. At that time, he rightly felt that democracy was being murdered in the State and therefore, he acted.

[Translation]

That is why I had to refer it. Our hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has stated eloquently in brief as to why President's Rule was imposed in Goa few days back. I am not happy to note that President's Rule is imposed in any State. The people of the State should be left to run their Government. Today there was no pressure on the Government, there was no pressure of the people of the State also. The Members on the opposite side should not remain in fools paradise that people are hurling allegations. I would not like to reiterate what happened that day. However, I would like to refer about some figures. The defection was being discussed. When Shri Parrikar became the Chief Minister he got 10 Congress members defected. He is expert in engineering defection, however, this time he has been caught in his own game as his own party men have deserted him. The Minister of tourism of his Ministry, during the Cabinet meeting, had told him that the way he is adopting is wrong. But what did happen? It is a fact that when election was held in Goa in May 2003, at that time he did not have majority. Today he says that he had 17 members and the Congress had 16 members but he was not in majority and he had misguided other members to defect and join his party.

16.00 hrs.

Why I am using the word 'misguide'. Those parties were UGDP and MGD.

[English]

Sir, a prominent, important, well-known journalist of the country then said, "Shri Parrikar Cannibalized politics by poaching on the members of the parties who extended support to him."

[Translation]

First seek the support of other members and then make them insignificant. First seek alliances with parties.

[English]

Not based on any faith and trust.

[Translation]

Like U.P.A. they started with having alliance with parties and lured them one by one to join their party thereby destroying the alliance partners. This drama was played there and whatever happened there was the result of it.

[English]

SHRI B. MAHTAB (Cuttack): Congress never does that! What happened in Bihar?

[Translation]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The discussion on Bihar will be held tomorrow. I would like to hold detailed discussion on Bihar tomorrow. It was on account of this that the Congress Government requested the hon'ble Governor to dismiss their government as they were in minority.

The Governor did not oblige us.

He did not accept request. Today the opposition is alleging us that the Central Government was pressurising the Governor and giving him instruction. I would like to submit that the Congress would have formed its government that day itself but it did not do so. He said—go for a floor test. The date was decided. Everything was done in accordance with constitutional norms. However, what did happen when the date was decided? When they insulted one independent MLA who was with them, he deserted them, they felt that they will be defeated so they terminated his membership.

[English]

Who misused the office of the Speaker? I would like to ask this question. Who was instrumental?

[Translation]

They always allege that it was done by us.

[English]

I would like to know. I wish Mr. Advance was present here. Who was instrumental in misusing the position of the Speaker there?

[Translation]

I have all the photographs of what happened in the House that day. How Marshall and also 20 policemen were called. Everything is quite clear. You may see every photograph how they are wandering there. One is Mr. Philip N. Rodrige who has been covered and two persons are pulling him out. This way they are proving their majority. When such situation was created, the hon'ble governor had no option left with him. He was aggrieved and said that democracy was butchered that day and it was on account of that he dismissed the government. The decision of 18 and 6 votes was not done by the Speaker. It is also on the record. Shri Parrikar Saheb was speaking and Mr. Speaker was repeating the same thing as happens on the stage of a drama where actor poses to speak on the stage but that is actually spoken by someone else from the back stage. Similar thing happened at that time. It was on account of this that discharging his constitutional responsibility he took such action that day. It can be their own opinion as some of my colleagues are taking it differently. However, the present Central Government have its ideals based on ideology and on principles of good governance.

The Government had to options at that time. If we had thought about ourself, we would not have dismissed our Government. However, he said at that time that almost similar situation was prevailing there. Shri Churchill ji has also given clarification in this regard as to in what situation voting was suspended. However, no attempts were made by the UPA Government, the Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister to form a Congress Government in the State. The Government at once assessed the situation and immediately imposed President's Rule and today they say that they support it. However, they impose a condition that they support it till the decision is not taken by the Government that the assembly will be dissolved thereafter. I have heard that in democracy there are opposition and ruling party and both sides express their opinion. The opposition is not able to digest their defeat particularly when they were not expecting their

[Shri Raman Kumar Bansal]

defeat. They could not reconcile it today. Even today they want to take the decision of the Government. In democracy the opposition can not say that they will taken the decision and will convey it to the Government who will then implement it. The Government have to act in a responsible way. The Government have to look into the matter and evaluate the situation. The Government will act according to the demand of the time. I am fully confident that whatever decision Government takes regarding Goa, keeping in view the prevailing situation, it will be in the interest of the people of Goa and will be in accordance with their sentiment.

I would not like to say much about this. A long battle was fought for the freedom of Goa. I would not like to repent it Shri Swain ji was giving example of other places. I would like to ask him to name only one person of their side who participated in freedom struggle of Goa and who were kept in small cages. The struggle for freedom of Goa was so fierce that many of the prisoners were kept in small cages measuring three into four feet. Can he name only one person who fought in freedom struggle?

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Kailash Nath Joshi was shot. He was our Secretary. Vasant Rao was shot.

[English]

They were all about a hundred Jana Sangh members who were injured in that incident.

[Translation]

They were shot. Jagannath Rao Joshi was one among them.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Can he tell the name of a person who remained in those cages in that condition? Anyway I would not like to go into that. I was aggrieved when Shri Swain said

[English]

There was political terrorism in Goa. There was hijacking of political process. Who did it?

[Translation]

They should not distort the laws for their benefit. We should take lesson from the past incident and should

decide future course of action. If they want to amend the law then we will support them and will formulate good laws. When keeping in view the prevailing situation. The UPA Government has imposed President's Rule in the State, the opposition should support it with this faith that whatever step is taken by the Government will be in the interest of the people. I am confident in this regard. With these words, I would like to extend my thanks to you that you gave me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I feel, today this discussion is not only on the subject of Proclamation of President's Rule in Goa, it is becoming a discussion on parliamentary democracy and its way of getting implemented in different places in our country. Now, we are discussing about the standards, morals and values of parliamentary democracy. I think, it will be good and useful also. What happened in Goa is a sad commentary on the parliamentary democracy. I was listening very carefully to the statement of our hon. Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patilji and also very carefully listened to our Opposition Leader's speech. Unfortunately, the Proclamation is to be supported by everybody. We have no other go. Even Opposition is also supporting it. I think, in this House, nobody who will oppose the President's Proclamation. But what happened in Goa is very unfortunate. I do not want to go into the details because everybody knows it and everybody has got his own way of interpreting the developments that have taken place in Goa.

We have an anti-defection law. Earlier, we did not have this type of law. Even the Congress Party had two-thirds majority in Parliament. They felt that it was necessary to bring an anti-defection law but at that time one-third of the Members had to go out if they had to get out of the Party. Later, an amendment was moved. Now, if anyone wants to defect, he will lose his membership or he has to bypass the membership of his Party. This type of provision is in vogue in the Constitution. In Goa, some of the legislators have taken the course of resigning from the Assembly. As such, nobody can say that it was wrong to resign.

We all knew what happened inside the House, what happened inside the Raj Bhavan. This type of horse-trading to snatch the power from one party to another is the most unfortunate thing. This is not the first time. The crisis in Goa is not sudden. Several times, when there

was a change in the power at the Central level, there were always tremors in North-Eastern States. We have seen that defections will take place suddenly and the Governments will get changed.

I remember, there was a State in the North-East, Manipur, where there were only two Members in one political party which was the constituent of the National Democratic Alliance. A massive defection took place and the Government was installed in Manipur. In the next elections, there was no trace of that political party. What is the use of this type of defections? Now, everybody is talking that the parliamentary democracy should be restored. But, I blame both the Congress and the Bhartiya Janata Party for all this. These two parties are mainly responsible for whatever happened in this country in the recent past. My friend Shri Swain has very effectively put his point. I congratulate him for that. *...(Interruptions)* Please bear with me. I do understand that you do not like the criticism. But, you have to bear with me.

Regarding the role of independents and all that, recently there were elections in Jharkhand State. Both the Congress and the BJP fought with their allies on all the seats. They tried to defeat each other. Suddenly, five independent Members who fought against the BJP became good friends and they took oath as Ministers. Yesterday, the BJP tried to defeat these five independents and today they are all Ministers. What is this type of double standard? What is the way of asking us that the standards of democracy are to be defended? This way, democracy cannot be defended.

The major political parties should accept the established norms in this country. Unfortunately, the most important institutions like that of the Speaker and the Governor are being misused. It is not for the first time that we are discussing it here. We have discussed such issues several times. The first time it started in 1959 in Kerala when the EMS Namboodripad Government was dismissed utilising the Governor ship. I think, there was only one instance when a Governor was recalled or asked to resign. In Andhra Pradesh, when the NTR Government was dismissed unconstitutionally and undemocratically, the Governor was asked to resign and go out. That was good and that helped restoration of democracy in the State. It has given a good signal to the democratic activities throughout the country. Now, what happened in Goa is that serious injuries were inflicted on democracy. This type of thing should not be allowed. I think, the Congress Party should have been more careful. They were in a hurry to snatch the power. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: In the last elections, the BJP had no majority. Since they were in the Union Government, they could manoeuvre it successfully. Some independents were brought in and they formed the Government. Some of them resigned. Had the Congress Party been more careful, it would have been more useful for them.

But they tried to snatch power at the earliest. *...(Interruptions)* They have to take the lessons from the history. These types of things should not be repeated.

What happened in Goa did not enhance the image of the Congress Party. It has really created more problems for them, though at the end, the parliamentary democracy is being defended, at least, with Proclamation now.

Sir, I would like to say that in Telugu, there is a proverb that 'all are vegetarians but the basket of the fish disappeared'. *...(Interruptions)* Here, everybody is saying that democracy should be defended, but what role each party has played in defending the democracy?

I believe, Sir, politics is the most holy profession in our country or in the whole of the world. But unfortunately, people are losing confidence in the democratic institutions, particularly in political parties. We should all think and review our activities. More moral standards and values should be restored. The parliamentary democracy should have its own respect. Governors, Speakers should all play their due role. Unfortunately, in the last few weeks what was happening in the Parliament, we have all seen. We are seeing in the newspapers that one political party is trying to give mandate to the Speakers in the States being ruled by their party not to attend the meeting called by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha. Once a Speaker goes out into that position, he is no more supposed to be under the mandate of any political party. You can advise your Speaker with your political ideas to go and argue and oppose any particular move, but trying to control trying to use the mandates or political affiliations and other things, will damage everybody. *...(Interruptions)* Everybody knows, it is the Bhartiya Janata Party, which is said to have given the mandate to its Speakers in the States not to attend the meeting called by the hon. Speaker, Lok Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude now.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY: Please do not irritate me. I would try to be careful. ...(Interruptions)
I never interrupted you. ...(Interruptions)

Sir, I feel, now the Proclamation of the President's Rule in Goa is inevitable. But keeping the Goa Assembly under suspended animation is of no use. The Legislature of Goa has lost its credibility. It does not anymore represent the will of the people of Goa, and it should go. Let them go to the people and let the fresh elections be organised there.

But at the same time, I would like to appeal that taking the lessons from Goa, taking the lessons from Jharkhand, we should be very careful, what is to take place in the House. The role of the Speaker is being snatched by the Governors at some places, and the role of the Governors is being snatched by the courts. The intervention like this will not only tarnish the image of the parliamentary democracy, it will also create very serious conflict between the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary. These types of things should not happen.

While supporting the Proclamation of the President's Rule in Goa, I would like to appeal to the Union Government to think of dissolving the Goa Assembly and go in for fresh elections there.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs had no other option than the proposal presented by him regarding proclamation of President's rule in Goa. The manner in which Governor of Goa was trying to protect the Congress Government there, the mandate of the entire country was going against the Congress Party. Therefore the hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs recommended the imposition of President's rule in Goa to save Congress from this situation. There are rare instances of imposition of President's rule without the recommendation of Governor.

The same has happened in Goa. The Governor has tried to dismiss Constitutionally formed Government. Since 1967, the Congress has harboured this land of intention and from then onwards, whenever the Congress lost power, it has tried to uproot the opposition Government by imposing President's rule.

Sir, the same thing happened in 1967 in Rajasthan. At that point it tried to uproot the United Front Government. At that time, party having majority was not allowed to form the Government. In 1967, when Shri Ajay Mukherjee Government was in power, then, also President rule was imposed in same way. Wherever Congress party lost power in any side it has tried to impose President's rule there. In 1984, the same thing happened in NTR case also. It was discussed in House also. In 1984, the same thing happened in NTR case it was discussed in NTR Government was dismissed in an unconstitutional way, and Congress Party was given power in 1995, the same thing happened in UP. No stone was left unturned over there to stop Shri Kalyan Singh from forming the Government, and same was done to stop Shri Mulayam Singh to form the Government. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav's Government was dismissed in the same way. Wherever the Congress Party is not able to form the Government it get indulged in the same practice.

Sir, whatever has happened in Jharkhand, is unprecedented in Indian history. The Governor over there invited Shibu Soren to form the government and ignored the majority of NDA. Now, NDA Government has been formed in Jharkhand. The Government do not want to follow the recommendations made by Sarkaria Commission and abide by Supreme Court's decision in Bommai case. The Governor should sought vote of confidence in Raj Bhawan, but in Assembly, but the government do not follow this practice and want to take decision in Raj Bhawan itself. The Governors have the discretionary power to invite any party or Coalition to form the Government. The Governor in Goa also has used his discretionary powers.

Now, many things are being said about the judgment of the Supreme Court. We talk about judicial activism in the country. The Supreme Court intervened in the case of Jharkhand. We say that, this is a interference of judiciary in Legislature. Governor is appointed by the Union Government, then who has given him power to annul the orders of the Speaker of Goa Assembly. When Executive intervenes in the ruling of Speaker, then Supreme Court has also to intervene in it. We can not interfere in the directive given by the hon. Supreme Court by holding discussion in this regard. The recent decision of the Supreme Court mentioned that the Governor should not have changed the Government.

[English]

It can go only for judicial scrutiny. No intervention is required in the Speaker's decision. Nobody can term his decision as *mala fide*. Court can only intervene and properly scrutinise whether the decision of the Speaker is correct or wrong.

[Translation]

What happened in Goa? The Speaker, gave the ruling, that the Government has majority. Therefore, as per the recommendation of Sarkaria Commission there is also a need to ponder over the issue as to whether the post of Governor is needed or not, the consideration is needed in this direction.

[English]

The Chief Justice of the High Court can play the role of a Governor. At the time of Emergency, he can do the thing.

[Translation]

The Governor is not working as per the constitutional norms. He is acting in an undemocratic manner and working against the democracy, therefore, the democracy is in danger. I would like to thank the hon'ble Home Minister for tackling the situation in Goa. He also tried to tackle the issue of Jharkhand Legislative Assembly. He felt that the Governor should not have done so. Who is responsible for whatever happened there. The UPA Government should take the responsibility for it. How is it possible that the Union Government is not responsible for whatever happened in Goa and Jharkhand. If whatever happened in Goa Legislative Assembly has not happened with consultation of the Prime Minister or Home Minister, I would like to know then with the consultation with whom did it happen.

I would like to say that the Governors should work as per constitutional norms. It is their job to safeguard the democratic process. The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs has done the commendable job by imposing President's rule in Goa. The proclamation came into force in March. The Assembly should be dissolved and elections should held over there at the earliest. We have passed the anti-defection legislation. The legislatures should not be given any chance, the elections should be held at the earliest. Everybody will respect the people's mandate. The hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs should make it clear as

to when elections would be conducted there. He should assure the House that elections would be conducted in Goa at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I rise to support the Resolution regarding Proclamation for imposing President's Rule in Goa with the hope that the Government will also dissolve the Assembly and pave way for fresh elections.

[Translation]

Eleven Chief Ministers in twelve years and three Chief minister in three days. This is the story of Goa.

[English]

In 1994, first Mr. Wilfred D'Souza became the Chief Minister of Goa. The next day, Mr. Ravi Nayak became the Chief Minister and on the third day, again Mr. D'Souza became the Chief Minister. All this was happening even when the Congress was having majority. At that time, they called back the then Governor.

Sir, the hon. Home Minister made a statement regarding the recent political happenings in Goa. I would like to tell him that he needed to state some more facts before this House. I want to raise those facts here.

Goa is a story of political conspiracy to destabilise the Government. Before the UPA Government came to power at the Centre, the Government in Goa, under the leadership of Shri Manohar Parrikar, was stable and was providing very good governance. As soon as the UPA Government took over, they changed the Governors of the States, especially, the hon. Governor of Goa was changed, rather I would say removed on the ground that he belonged to a different ideology.

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: Would you please explain the ideology?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I would definitely explain that.

Sir, when the hon. Home Minister would reply to the debate on this proclamation of President's Rule in the State, I would like to request him to kindly explain as to what provisions of the Constitution of India empower the Union Government to make ideology a criterion for choosing and nominating Governors of States.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, why is he raising this issue now? I have explained this when we discussed about the removal of Governors and the role of the Government on the floor of the House. I did say that this is not the criterion on which Governors are removed.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, both, in this House and outside the Government has said, the leaders of the UPA have said that because they belonged to a different ideology, the Governors have been removed. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I have not said that. I am not responsible for this kind of a statement which is brought to your notice because I have not said it.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The leaders of the UPA have said it. *...(Interruptions)* If you want to read it, you can read it. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Home Minister was on his legs and he has rightly pointed out the facts and Shri Churchill, you should not now come in between this.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I would also like to request you that you have given ample opportunity to Shri Churchill to have his say and so while other Members are speaking, he should exercise restraint. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: When I was talking, you also disturbed me. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We never disturbed you. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing, except the speech of Shri Ananth Kumar, will go on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, the hon. Governor of Goa was changed saying that he belonged to RSS ideology and because he was inspired by RSS ideology.

Sir, I would like to place on record that the former Prime Minister of India, the former Deputy Prime Minister of India—all belonged to the RSS ideology*

MD. SALIM: Sir, he cannot claim that... He is holding a Constitutional position. *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, why is Shri Salim coming to his defence? *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ananth Kumar, you are a very senior Member. You know the rules of the House. You should not refer to persons who are holding Constitutional positions in the country. Please do not refer to them.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, getting inspired by the ideology of RSS of selfless service and patriotism is not a taboo for holding a position. I think the entire conspiracy started from there. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Do not say such things. Everythings else is all right. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR:*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry Shri Ananth Kumar, this will not go on record. References to persons holding high offices in the country will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. He is a very senior Member of this House and he knows everything. I need not tell him these things. Please have restraint.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Therefore, in the entire conspiracy, changing the Governor was Stage-I. And Stage-II was using resignation as a new device of defection. My dear colleague, Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal said that Mr. Manohar Parrikar started the resignation issue. I want to place the facts straight. Mr. Egidero Fernandes resigned in 2004. He had resigned on his own volition. Later, he contested on BJP ticket and won the Assembly seat. He never became a Minister soon after he resigned. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ALEMAO CHURCHILL: He had shown him the way. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Then we were enjoying the majority also. *...(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: When you talk of public perception or what the public say, media covered exactly that way. I do not want to use those words. It was said that Goa has earned a dubious distinction under Mr. Parrikar of circumnavigating the 91st Amendment.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There was no circumnavigation because after resigning. Mr. Egidero Fernandes was not made the Minister. He contested election on BJP ticket. ...(*Interruptions*) The MLAs who resigned and became Ministers should also have contested. ...(*Interruptions*) Sir, through you, I appeal to the hon. Home Minister that the NDA Government, under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee brought this amendment to the Constitution to prevent horse-trading and *aya Rams and gaya Rams*. In the anti-defection law, there are some loopholes. Therefore, I request the Government to plug those loopholes. If anybody resigns, then he should not be accepting the post within six months or within a year. Some such precautionary clause or safeguard has to be instituted.

Stage-III of the conspiracy which the hon. Home Minister did not mention was the way the vote of confidence was done.

MR. CHAIRMAN: How long will you take to conclude?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: I need ten more minutes as I have just started.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry. You have already taken ten minutes and there is no time for your Party.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: There were interruptions also.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude in two or three minutes.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: The Governor exhibited double standard in conducting the Vote of Confidence. He gave 48 hours to Mr. Manohar Parrikar. Whereas he gave one month to Mr. Pratap Singh Rane. I do not understand this point. Though Speaker's role cannot be debated constitutionally, outside the purview of this House, it can be debated. But the point is, the Governor of Goa dismissed Parrikar's Government without even waiting for the Speaker's report. How far is Vidhan Sabha from Raj Bhavan? It is only five kilometres away. Mr. Churchill knows that it is only five kilometres away. ...(*Interruptions*) What had happened at 5 o'clock in Vidhan Sabha? At

5.24 p.m., the Assembly was adjourned and at 5.30 p.m., that means, in six minutes, the Government was dismissed. Therefore, through you Sir, I want to ask the Home Minister as to whether the Speaker had sent a report to the Governor or not and why the Government had acted in such a post haste manner to dismiss Parrikar's Government.

He could have waited for the report to come and then he could have dismissed the Government. He could have dismissed the Government after two hours, or so, heavens would not have fallen.

After the dismissal of the Government, at 11.30 a.m. we come to stage five of the conspiracy, that is the swearing-in ceremony. The swearing-in ceremony was held at 11.30 a.m. After the swearing-in ceremony, again a question of constitutional propriety comes into play. We have the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and we have the landmark judgement in the S.R. Bommai case. Why was not a date fixed for the Vote of Confidence as soon as Mr. Pratapsingh Rane was invited to take oath? The Governor should have indicated that within a time frame, say within two weeks or a fortnight or three weeks—as he had fixed a time limit of 48 hours for Mr. Manohar Parrikar—Mr. Rane should prove his majority in the Assembly. But no such time frame was fixed.

When the hon. Governor came out to address the Press conference, the media asked him about this, but he was evasive. For three days there were remorse that Governor did not fix a clear date for the Vote of Confidence. Afterwards, he gave one month's time to Mr. Pratap Singh Rane, whereas he gave only 48 hours to Mr. Manohar Parrikar.

Then, I come to the question of suspended MLA, Mr. Filipe Nery. I would like to know whether he approached the court of law. Why has he not approached the court of law till now? If his suspension is illegal, he should have gone to the court. Till Mr. Digambar Kamat was made to resign, the Governor did not convene the Assembly. Why was there a delay in convening the Assembly? After this, through the *pro tem* Speaker, an hon. MLA was prevented from voting and he was disqualified.

After all this happened, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister entered the scene. I want to bring to your kind notice that as the Governor did not wait for the report from the Speaker, the Hon. Home

[Shri Ananth Kumar]

Minister did not wait to get the report from the Governor. Without getting the report from the Governor, he dismissed the Government. The Governor did not wait for the report of the Speaker and the hon. Home Minister and the Government of India did not wait for the report of the Governor. What is happening? But we congratulate and welcome the decision to dismiss the Government.

Our only request is that the suspended animation of the Assembly should not continue because there is no chance or hope now for any party. The suspended animation of the Assembly should come to an end now. They should dissolve the House.

I hope while giving the reply, the hon. Home Minister will assure this august House that he will dissolve the Goa Assembly and go to the people to get a fresh mandate. Justice should be done.

I once again request, through you, the hon. Home Minister that he should reply to whatever points that I have raised here, from changing the Governor to not taking the report of the Speaker before the dismissal of the Manohar Parrikar Government. They should form part of his reply. At least now he should amend his statement and add them to his reply. He should dissolve the Assembly and allow the people's mandate to reign there.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL (Vijayawada): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

In fact, yesterday I had the opportunity to making my maiden speech. Unfortunately, the hon. Deputy Speaker was not aware that it was my maiden speech and he gave only three minutes to me to speak. The moment he pressed the buzzer, as a disciplined, obedient school boy, I just sat down. That is why, today, my party chose me and requested me to speak on this very important topic.

Now, I will speak about the different dimensions of it. Of course, most of the topics have been covered, most of the issues have been covered. We have always to remember that the mind is a parachute which works only when it is kept open. When I say it is kept open, we need to have a broad-minded approach so that we will understand what is right and what is wrong, what is *dharma* and what is *adharma*. The reason why I am saying is that today, a lot of people think that development means when we widen the roads and streets. But the

most important thing in development is that we need to widen our minds and we should have a broad-minded approach. We should have a very good *Imann*, very good mind and a very good heart.

This is the modern age. We are talking about the gender-sensitive Budgets. We are talking about how to empower women, how to make women independent like Indira ji was, like Sonia ji is. In 1989, the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the first one who brought about the DWACRA or the Self-Help Groups because he wanted every woman in India to be an iron woman like Indira Ji. But what are we witnessing? We are trying to glorify the burning of women in the name of *Sati*. When did it happen? It happened in the stone-age. We have moved from the stone age to this modern age but still there are certain parties which are trying to glorify *Sati* and trying to build temples. They are not thinking about Bharat Nirman. Is this what we are here for in this House? I feel ashamed that we are here to do that work today.

I will come to the main issue about why Goa is under President's Rule, why President's Rule in Goa was promulgated. What is the reason? The people of Goa, especially the MLAs, especially the four or five Ministers who had resigned, understood what the people are thinking, what is the mind of the people, what they have wanted. That is the reason why they decided about it. ...*(Interruptions)* They consciously told them that we cannot continue with this Government which is a narrow-minded Government, which is being headed by a narrow-minded party and hence we need to resign. Their conscious told them and they resigned. They are Ministers and they are not MLAs. They have not resigned for money or power but they have resigned just because they did not believe in the ideology of the then Government in Goa.

When it comes to Goa, I remember my childhood days. The first time that I visited Goa in 1974 was when I was ten years old. I looked at Goa in a different way in 1974. The next time I visited Goa in 1984 as a teenager. At that time, I saw Goa in a different perspective, in a different angle. The third time that I went to Goa was in the year 2002, when, I think, the Manohar Parikkar Government had just been sworn. During October-November, I visited Goa with my kids. I saw Goa in a different perspective. Today, I have the opportunity of talking about Goa, about the Proclamation of President's Rule in Goa. I am happy to talk about Goa because I love Goa. It is a magnificent place, it has magnificent beaches and wonderful places. Goa is a

gateway to our tourism. In fact, I am quite appalled and unhappy that such a State ultimately came to be ruled by a fascist and narrow-minded Government. It is not because of people's mandate, not because of majority that they came to power. Like our friend Shri Churchill has said, they came to power by using money and muscle power that they had then.

I would also like to quote one thing the respected Opposition leader has said about. He was quoting about a cartoon which appeared in the *Times of India*. Two days back, I also saw a cartoon. Then, I remembered what was told in Gujarat, what was told in Delhi and what was told in Washington by the then Prime Minister. The point is that there was no consistency in that. I would like to recollect what the cartoon of the *Times of India* had brought out two days back. There is a person who is reading a newspaper and the cartoon says that this person is a very precise and a proper person.

He is checking his speech that he made in a different meeting yesterday because he does not want to contradict what he said then. So, there is consistency. He is checking his speech to understand whether he is consistent and he wants to know what he spoke yesterday. This is not the behaviour or the culture of the Congress Party or the UPA Government. Today, if we look at what happened in Goa and what the Governor of Goa did, we can see that he has been consistent in January as well as on 3rd February when he asked the Chief Minister to prove his majority in the House.

16.51 hrs.

[SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN *in the Chair*]

At that time, one of the MLAs was disqualified. Immediately, the Governor dismissed that Government and gave an opportunity to some person who happened to be from the Congress Party. What happened when the Congress Chief Minister faced the trial of strength? The Speaker disqualified one of the MLAs at that time also. So, the Governor has been consistent with his actions. He felt that you cannot disqualify Members and try to prove majority in the House. What I am trying to say is, this Government and the Governor have been consistent in their approach. So, we cannot blame them. The reason for the resignation of Ministers then has been demonstrated recently, because in the local body elections held there, out of 50 seats, the Congress Party has won 45 of them. So, you can understand as to what is the mandate of the people.

Sir, I would like to recollect certain other instances when democracy has been hijacked, has been taken as a hostage and has been murdered. Apart from what has happened in Jharkhand recently, there was an instance in Andhra Pradesh also and at that time, in 1995, the then Chief Minister did not even get a chance to prove his majority on the floor of the House. The reason for that was, all the MLAs have been taken as hostages and they were put up in a hotel. That particular Chief Minister and his party happens to be a constituent of the NDA.

What are we witnessing in Jharkhand now? We have seen how five MLAs have been taken as hostages. All of them have been made as Ministers. Is this not trying to bribe them with minister ship? Is taking them as hostages not a shameful act? I would like to ask them this question. Of course, my friend here said that we need to devise some method or pass some sort of a legislation where there is no Governor and the majority is proved on the floor of the House by having a Caretaker Chief Minister just like we have a *pro tem* Speaker. But before that, I would like to say what we need to do or what we are supposed to do. When a party takes some MLAs as hostages and takes them around India as if they are taking them on a *Bharat Darshan*, how are we going to come out with a legislation to tackle this problem?

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN: In Maharashtra, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh took away your own party's MLAs.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: If he yields, it will go on record. Otherwise, it will not go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, I am not saying that all the parties are indulging in this kind of behaviour. You know what happened in 1984 when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister. The then Governor of Andhra Pradesh dismissed the Government headed by Shri N.T. Rama Rao and he gave a chance to some other person. What did Indiraji do at that time? She immediately recalled the Governor. Can they cite some instance like that?
...(Interruptions)

Her conscience made her to do that. ...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam): The whole country revolted at that time. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, what did they do? They have thrown *chappals*. They hijacked the MLAs and kept them as hostages. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: For the first time, a Governor was recalled from Andhra Pradesh due to the people's movement. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Rajagopal, please conclude.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, they took the MLAs away from Shri N.T. Rama Rao. That is not a problem. But I am very sad to say that because of that, Shri N.T. Rama Rao had a very miserable end to his life.

Can anybody think of an end in such a way? What are they doing now? They are trying to bring back his name on some sort of plaque by changing the name of an airport. Is that what we want? Is it not a shameful act? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yerrannaidu, you have the chance to speak. You can speak when your turn comes. Please take your seat. Shri Rajgopal, please conclude now.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, it is my maiden speech. I do not want to be disrupted. I do want to yield to them.

Now, I would like to say about the culture about which Shri Ananth Kumar mentioned. I do not want to talk about the President or the Vice-President or the Prime Minister. I would like to remind him that there are so many Opposition stalwarts who have been Congressmen, who believed in Congress culture. I am telling you this because they have been fed with mother's milk, that is, Congress. What did they do? They did not stab the Congress in the back. They stabbed her looking in her eyes in her heart. Is it a fair deal? Can we expect such things? These people are doing that. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have made your point, please conclude now.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: I would like to conclude by saying that we have such a great leader, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi. What did they do? They abused her.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you take trouble in saying that Shri Shivraj Patil is here. He is quite capable to defend her.

SHRI L. RAJAGOPAL: Sir, they abused her. They named her. They did everything. And what did she do? She said, "I do not want the Prime Ministership". Why did she say that? Why she opted to sit there? She wants the entire NDA, the entire BJP to look at her and learn from her. She wants them to remorse and reform themselves. Mahatma Gandhi has said one thing. He said, "do not hate the sinner, hate the sin". That is why she is there without hating them.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support this Statutory Resolution, moved by the hon. Home Minister, imposing President's Rule in Goa. Even though my Party is against the imposition of article 356 in any State, there is no other option but to approve this Proclamation.

Article 356 of the Constitution is a danger that looms large over every regional party. The late Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister when for the first time the Congress Government misutilised article 356 in the year 1959 against the Namboodripad Government. He enjoyed majority till last moment, but in the name of law and order, they imposed President's Rule there. He hailed from Kerala, where you, Mr. Chairman, come from. From Kerala to Goa and Jharkhand, no part of the country has been spared by Congress, from Shrimati Indira Gandhi till the present UPA leadership.

From the beginning, we have been hating this Governor system. What happened in Andhra Pradesh in the year 1984? The majority of the MLAs were in Delhi and a minority Government was ruling in Andhra Pradesh. The whole country revolted. The people of the country revolted and the political parties, the Communist Parties, the Janata Dal, even the BJP, and all other Parties, except the Congress, joined together and held rallies and dharnas, etc. Finally, Shrimati Indira Gandhi reinstated the late N.T. Rama Rao's Government. For the first time, it happened in India that one Chief Minister was dismissed and after one month, again he came to power in Andhra Pradesh. Immediately, the Governor, Shri Ram Lal, was recalled so that democracy was restored at that time.

At this moment also, I would request the hon. Home Minister that whenever there is a visible proof that a Governor has acted in a manner that is viewed as

unconstitutional or unbecoming of such a high office, he should be immediately withdrawn in the interest of the people of that State. It is not only in the case of Goa, but if it happens in any State, we should recall that Governor.

17.00 hrs.

What was the Supreme Court judgment in the Bommai case? What are our conventions? What were the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission? What were the recommendations of the Inter-State Council? Everybody knows. The NDA Government and even the present UPA Government appointed the politicians as Governors. I am asking the Government, through you, Sir, one question. What is the necessity to appoint politicians as Governors? The NDA Government had appointed Shri Madan Lal Khurana as the Governor of Rajasthan. Now, the UPA Government appointed Shri S.M. Krishna, Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde and Sardar Buta Singh as Governors. They were our colleagues in this House. Now, they were appointed as Governors in this country. ...(*Interruptions*) I am not criticising those people. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Home Minister is in possession of the House. Nobody should interfere.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to thank Shri K. Yerrannaaidu for allowing me to just put one question to this august House. If we should not appoint the persons who know politics, governance and society, then who else should be appointed?

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I do agree with the Home Minister but I would like to mention that there are so many personalities in this vast country. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Nothing will go on record except what Shri K. Yerrannaaidu says.

...(*Interruptions*)*

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, I have quoted the Supreme Court judgment in Bommai case. Even the Sarkaria Commission had made certain recommendations. I am just mentioning them, Sir, in this vast country, we have 100 crores of people. Do we not have other persons who can be appointed as Governors? This is my question.

Sir, no person who is in active politics should be appointed as the Governor of any State. Today, even the students know what is politics, what is democracy, what is majority, and what is minority. Everybody knows about these. What is required is common sense. Justice has to be done. Any person with common sense can act as Governor. That is why, our Party, TDP demanded the abolition of the Governor system, and in place of the Governor system, the Chief Justice of the concerned State can take care of it. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: You are supporting me. ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Yes, I am supporting you.

To avoid all these controversies in the Governor system, it is better that you remove the Governor system, and in place of the Governor system, you entrust this job to the Chief Justice of the concerned State so that these problems will not arise in future.

Sir, the UPA Government, due to the pressure and to do a damage control, has finally imposed the President's Rule in Goa. Okay, I thank the Government for this. If the Central Government is interested in having a popular Government in Goa, then it should dissolve the Goa Assembly immediately and go to the people. Only then, the people in this country will hail the UPA Government. Otherwise, nobody will believe the UPA Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you please conclude.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Sir, the Central Government should dissolve the Assembly and go to the people. If the people elect the Congress Government in Goa, then they will be happy; and if they elect the BJP Government in Goa, then we will be very happy. We have to restore a popular Government in Goa without any delay immediately. That is our demand.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ganesh Prasad Singh—not present.

Now, Shri Madhusudan Mistry.

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): I rise to support the proclamation of President's rule in Goa. Till now whatever has come to light reminds me of a heard proverb "Chit Bhi Meri, Pat Bhi Meri" which means—"Head I win, Tail you loose". Otherwise their attitude has been,

[English]

they have taken a very high moral ground and they are asking us to adhere to that high moral ground while they go on poaching.

The poachers have no right to talk of high moral grounds. They take people from Jharkhand and bring them right up to Delhi. The people who fought against the BJP have been cornered and brought here. The story of their bravery for bringing those people from there to here and at what level and how this work was done has been printed even in the media. Despite that fact,

[Translation]

Everybody was given the Ministers portfolio, this is his attitude and they talk of moral ground.

[English]

Why did he not resign? Why did you not ask him to resign? Why did you wait till the Governor dismissed him.

[Translation]

No, they will not talk. We will say that there are high moral standards, they will do poaching and from the Government too, this has been their attitude.

[English]

Mr. Yerrannaidu, I am addressing you. This is for Mr. Yerrannaidu.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You address the Chair.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: Sir, I am addressing you. I am not addressing Shri Yerrannaidu.

They are all talking about the high moral standards as well as the criteria for appointing a Governor. Who

appointed Shri Khurana as the Governor of Rajasthan? On what ground he was appointed? ...*(Interruptions)* That is why I am asking you what is wrong if we appoint. You have been questioning us. I am asking you why the Governor of Bihar was brought from Bihar to Gujarat? Where were all those high moral grounds when thousands of people were butchered and killed? Where was this Government? Why did they not ask for the Governor's report? Why did you not dismiss the Government of Gujarat at that time? These are all double standards which your Party had adopted. Literally, you have no moral ground to take a high moral standard. You simply used and planted some people to carry out those stories.

This is my request to the Home Minister.

[Translation]

I would like to request that as far as the question of caste is concerned, the elections should be held for the seats vacated by members who resigned. The popular Government should be formed. When these people used to sit on treasury benches, then they used to expect us to do things, now they are sitting on opposition benches then also they want us to work as per their directions. These people look good sitting over there. They want that we work as per their directions, then how would it work? If they had intention of doing work, then they would not have been sitting in opposition, and we would not have been here. Your place is in opposition only

[English]

You can only be an effective opposition. You cannot govern this country. It is out of your wish to govern the country, even the states.

Thank God

[Translation]

We have got 12 seats due to whatever happened in Gujarat, it could have been 14 also. We will do whatever our hon'ble Home Minister will tell us to do.

[English]

The Government of Gujarat has become so unpopular.

[Translation]

that the President Rule should be proclaimed over there under Section 356.

[English]

Let there be an election in Gujarat and we will come in majority.

[Translation]

I would like to tell these people that the people of this country have come to know about these people's attitude. Goa was being governed by the Congress Party, the Congress Party can give suggestions on governor's stand. If their government had proved the majority, it would have had right to object. They may say that they are having majority, but people know, they just want to be in power not outside. Their attitude has always been like this. I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that these people should stop talking on high moral grounds, but they continue to do so.

Therefore, I would like to tell you that during their tenure, their governance earned such a bad name that the Chief Minister of their party was denied visa by the American Government.

[English]

They said that because of the way governance was carried on by the BJP in Gujarat they did not want the Chief Minister in their country. The people of different countries of the world did not want him in their own countries. It is very unfortunate for the people of Gujarat as a whole.

[Translation]

Therefore I would like to say that wherever they can govern the state properly, they should do it. Whatsoever may have happened in Jharkhand, in a few days, there would be a Congress Government over there, and you will not be able to do anything, with these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (Dhenkanal): Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak about Goa today.

All the hon. Members who have spoken before me have spoken very eloquently. The hon. Minister has also intervened once or twice to give his point of view, which the whole House has appreciated. So, I would only limit my speech to a few points.

We are all aware of the lovely State of Goa, the beaches of Goa, the people of Goa; and, in my opinion, Goa is probably, along with Pondicherry, the only State which truly represents the international character of India. So, giving respect to the citizens of Goa, as we discuss about the political future of the State, we must keep in mind that there has been a major botch up on the part of the present United Progressive Alliance at the Centre not only in Goa but also in Jharkhand.

I do not wish to condemn any political party. I represent a regional party, the Biju Janata Dal, led by Mr. Naveen Patnaik of Orissa. So, I am speaking on behalf of a regional party, as a representative of the people of Orissa. What we find today is that all the national parties—I am not barring any party—have consistently, over the years since Independence, only tried to serve their particular interests and political goals. They have not bothered about the Constitution of India. This is perhaps the only country in the world which, in about half a century, has had the largest number of amendments to its Constitution. So, the Constitution is not respected. The political fibre of this country has been deliberately destroyed and we have not given respect to the wishes and feelings of the people.

A lack of clear administrative and political foresight was the main reason for this confusion that we see today in Goa and in what has happened recently in Jharkhand. So, when you think only of politics, you forget that you have, as the Government of the day, an administrative responsibility towards the people of the country. You cannot afford to be short-sighted; you cannot afford to be lop-sided in your view. I am not saying that it is the fault of one particular party. Please do not misunderstand me. Any national party that has ruled this country has had a lop-sided view, past and present. So, it is time that all of us unite; and, Goa is an excellent opportunity. It is an excellent example which showcases before us the dangers that are fraught in article 356 of the Constitution.

Like my senior colleague, Shri Kinjarapu Yerrannaaidu, said whether it is the Namboodiripad Government of Kerala, about which you must be very aware. Historically that was late Shrimati Indira Gandhi and now another Shrimati Gandhi is creating history again by the present activities. I am not condemning anybody. I am only pinpointing what has been happening. Then, it was the Left Parties who, for their stand and their convictions, were victimised and today for their convenience, they

[Shri Tathagata Satpathy]

might be supporting the UPA. But they are political beings who understand where the danger lies.

Today, the Left Parties are ruling certain States. Shri Lalu Prasad ruled Bihar. Our Party is in power in Orissa. We should all get together, put our minds together and reconsider as to what is the utility of this article in the Constitution.

Secondly, as the hon. Leader of the Opposition spoke, he said that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission and Inter-State Council suggested that consultation must be made a part of the Constitution regarding appointment of Governors. This I consider is a very necessary amendment. Therefore, it is important that Article 356 be reviewed in a very balanced manner and wherever we find that Governors are becoming unconstitutional or they are showing behaviour which is unbecoming of a very high office, they should be forthwith withdrawn. Preferably, we should omit bureaucrats and politicians from the post of Governor and we should go in for neutral people as Governors.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will reply.

Before you begin, as a Member of this House and a student who is interested in law, will you please enlighten me the provisions under which a legislature can be kept in a suspension animation and the elected representatives without pay and allowances? Is there any provision? Please tell me about it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Like in Bihar.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is there any constitutional provision by which you can keep the elected body in a suspension animation and keep the elected representatives without pay and allowances? Is there any provision in the Constitution?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Our support is there.
...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know whether you can keep the MLAs without pay and allowances.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, first of all, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should answer your question. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no ill-will. With best of intentions, it is simply to clarify the position. There is a provision for a dismissal, etc. But is there any provision under which a legislature can be kept in a suspension animation?

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Minister, you can start.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I would like to thank all the hon. Members and all the political parties. They have said that they would support this Motion for approval of the Proclamation. They have also made very good points.

Sir, you have also made two very important points. First, I would like to deal with the two important points made by the Chair.

Then, I will touch upon the other points made by other hon. Members.

The first question you put was—whether there is any law or any rule which can allow the presiding officers to stop a Member from voting. My very respectful submission is, Sir, that I have not come across any rule or any law which can empower the presiding officer to stop a Member from voting in the proceedings in the House.

Now, the second question you posed was—whether the House can be put under suspended animation. The Constitution is silent on this point. In Bommai case, the Supreme Court has said in clear terms that you do not dissolve the House in the first instance. If you dissolve the House and if the proclamation dissolving the House is not approved by the Parliament, a very peculiar situation develops. Actually, the Supreme Court has said that first the House should be put under suspended animation and then after the proclamation is approved, the Government can decide to dissolve the House.

So, what is pronounced by the Supreme Court also becomes a law and that law is there. That ruling given by the Supreme Court has the same effectiveness,

efficacy as the provision of the Constitution. So, I would submit, Sir, that there is this law available in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Here the question is they have taken oath as MLAs. But here, no oath; they are not even MLAs.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Supreme Court has held that when Election Commission issues notification. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Let the Home Minister speak. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: I am asking a question: Why is he interrupting. Why is he not listening. You may sit down. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not yielding. It is time for the hon. Minister to reply.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister that whether the Supreme Court has held in a case this also that when the House is deemed to be constituted on that very day when the notification to that regard is issued by the Election Commission then can a House that had neither taken oath nor been constituted, can be suspended? When the House was dissolved then which House was suspended? Then Court has given the ruling that except legislative business, the legislatures will get all other facilities. I would like to know your opinion in this regard.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will not speak today in this regard, as this issue is being taken up tomorrow. I will speak on it tomorrow. This is a very important matter. We are thinking a way out from this situation. But I will speak tomorrow, not today, on this issue.

[English]

Sir, the points which have been raised by the hon. Members are these. What is the role of the governor? In fact, we were discussing the Proclamation. But many of the Members were discussing the conduct of the Governor. I would very respectfully submit that if you want to discuss the conduct of the Governor, we have to follow a procedure which is laid down in the Constitution.

If you want to discuss the Governor's conduct, you shall have to give a notice of 14 days and then say what the Governor has done is correct or wrong but unfortunately, many references were made to the decisions taken by the Governor and I thought at that time that it would prolong unnecessarily the discussion on that point if I had got up and objected to it, but I would like to say that the Governor's conduct should not be discussed in this fashion.

A very important point has been made by the hon. Leader of the Opposition and that important point related to the appointment of the Governor. It is not about the conduct of the Governor, but it is about the appointment of the Governor. I think when we are discussing a matter of this nature, we are well within our right to discuss this issue also. I would like to read out certain kinds of decisions taken by the previous Government, not by the present Government. I do think that the decisions taken by the previous Government were not wrong; they were correct.

The Sarkaria Commission had recommended that the Governors' appointment should be done in consultation with the Chief Ministers. This issue was discussed in the Inter-State Council and the Council also had come to certain conclusions, but later on when this matter was referred to the Law Ministry and the previous Government discussed all aspects relating to that point, they came to certain different conclusions. I will seek your indulgence to read out that relevant portion and I do think that what the previous Government had done was not wrong.

Since the President appoints the Governor, he may also remove or transfer a Governor from one State to another State. Prior consultation for appointment, therefore, will necessarily involve prior consultation in case of removal and transfer also. The proposed provision will politicise the whole issue of appointment of the Governors.

17.27 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

It is the Governor's responsibility to uphold the Constitution and to act as a check against any abuse of power by the Chief Minister. This purpose would be defeated if the Governor is beholden to the Chief Minister for his appointment. It may be stated that the institution of Governor provides a balancing act to support the federal set up enshrined in the Constitution. The founding fathers of the Constitution never intended to give a legal power to the Chief Ministers to be consulted for appointment of a Governor of a State. The Governor has to perform an honest duty cast on him by the Constitution to send periodical reports to the Centre on the activities in the States. Thus, it is imperative that the Centre may continue to have a final say in the matter of the appointment.

The Deputy Prime Minister had also stated in the meeting of the Inter-State Council that not a single Governor had been appointed by the Government without consultation or against the wishes of the Chief Minister. Thus, the scope of any complaint will, therefore, be non-existent. Since the things are moving smoothly, there is perhaps little point in legislating on a matter which is otherwise handled without any problem. It may also be stated that in case there is an amendment and the consultation is made obligatory, this consultation would slowly devolve into concurrence and may ultimately degenerate into approval by the Chief Minister. Such an amendment is likely to result in abnormal delay in appointment of the Governors resulting in unnecessary and avoidable controversy involving sacrosanct institution of the Governors as enshrined in the Constitution. Thus, it would be in the best interest of the Union Government not to accept the recommendations of amending the Constitution and making consultation with the Chief Minister obligatory. The Governor is a representative of the Union Government.

He has a role, as the eyes and ears of the Union Government, and he is expected to report when the administration of the State Government is not carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution. The Governor has a role in ensuring that there is coordination in legislation between the States and the Union, and that he ensures reserving Bills for assent by the President. The need for prior consultations—which should, in practice, imply concurrence—with the Chief Minister will place the

Governor under the obligation to the Chief Minister, and thereby, hamper him in conduct of his duties.

Also, under article 153, a Governor may be appointed for two or more States. A Governor may be transferred from one State to another. This would imply consultations with more than one Chief Minister, which will make the whole process cumbersome. Consultations will also not be possible if a State is under the President's Rule.

In view of the aforesaid, the recommendation of the Inter-State Council, that the Constitution be amended to make the consultation with the Chief Minister obligatory, has not been accepted. With the approval of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Inter-State Council Secretariat has been informed accordingly.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would not have intervened, had it not been for the fact that the Home Minister has been gracious enough to readout the whole thing.

He has just now said that the recommendation of the Inter-State Council, namely, that there be a Constitutional Amendment to provide for consultation with the State Government statutory. The earlier Government has not accepted this, and this Government agrees with it. But while giving the rationale as to why we did not agree, you were kind enough to have readout the whole thing, in which it has been very categorically mentioned that not a single case of appointment of a Governor took place, during the last six years, without consultation with the State Chief Minister, and things are going smoothly. Therefore, the Law Ministry advised that we might not go into the statutory provisions, which, they apprehend, might deteriorate into becoming concurrence, instead of consultation. I am saying this because, in our case, it is true that we did take their concurrence for all practical purposes. But the recommendation of the Inter-State Council was that consultation be made obligatory.

It is because of the last few days' experience that I made this suggestion today that this recommendation of the Inter-State Council—which represents all the Chief Ministers in the country, and not merely the Chief Ministers belonging to my party—should be accepted. If that was accepted, perhaps there would have been some kind of a check, which would ensure federal balance to a much larger extent than the present arrangement, in which, instead of a federal balance, it is a unitary bias in favour of the Centre. This is all that I have got to say on this issue.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, fortunately, there is no divergence of opinion on this point. One point is that there should be consultation. The second point that I wish to make is this. Will it escalate into concurrence, and will it graduate into approval? The Law Ministry and the previous Government stated here that consultation as a convention should be there, but it is not necessary to amend the Constitution for this purpose. The previous Government as well as this Government, and all the jurists also have been saying—after considering the federal structure of the Constitution—that consultation should not mean concurrence, and concurrence should not mean approval. Now, what is being done is that we are consulting. Concurrence may or may not be there, but, of course, approval is not there.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No, but even consultation, as a convention, has been given the go-by.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No, it is not so.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: In the case of Shri Parrikar, in the case of Gujarat, and in all these cases there has been no consultation with the Chief Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Not, it is not so.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Consultation and Information are two separate things. We were not consulted, but informed that who is being appointed, and the same has happened in Uttar Pradesh. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Unfortunately, the hon. Member who is speaking is not the Chief Minister, and I would not like to say anything in absence of the Chief Minister on the floor of the House whether it was a consultation or information.

Let us leave that point. The only point I was making was that as far as the role of the Governor is concerned, Governors are the 'eyes' and 'ears' of the Union Government. They are expected to give the information to the national Government as to the happenings in the State. You have the present case and you have the cases at other places also before you. On the one hand, we are saying that let us not have Governors, and on the other hand we are saying that article 356 is not required. And we have exactly the case in which the

Governor has played a role and article 356 has been used in order to see that what was done over there, and which was not expected, was corrected also.

In view of these facts, we shall have to take a very balanced view. Going to any extreme is not going to help. To say that the Governors are not required is not helpful. To say that article 356 is not required is not accepted. Now, these points have been discussed at length on many, many occasions, and I am happy that on this occasion also, in a very correct manner, these points have been presented. Advaniji's contribution in this debate, I think, when he intervened and when he made the speech, is that he could make these points more clear to all of us.

The previous Government was not for amending the law. The previous Government was certainly not for approval of the Chief Minister. It did also not go to the extent of saying that there should be concurrence. But the previous Government was very clear that the consultation should take place, and, I think, this is a correct position and there will not be any deviation from that. But consultation does not mean concurrence; consultation does not mean approval because we do not have full information with us. If we make allegations against each other, that does not help. If there is some mistake or some disease in one's hand or leg, you please apply the medicine at that place where the disease is there. If the hand is suffering and if you are applying the medicine to the leg, the hand is not going to get the relief. The difficulty is this. We are saying that this particular thing has happened. But whom are we blaming or whom are we giving credit to? Let the blame go to the right place, and let the credit also go to the right place. Credit need not go to the right place, but blame should not go to the wrong place. That is my submission.

While discussing this issue, Anti-Defection Law was also discussed. I am sorry that the hon. Leader of the Opposition made a statement, which is generally made by the media while discussing Anti-Defection Law. During the debate, there was a discussion on one-third provision. He said, "Wholesale defection is allowed, whereas the retail kind of defection is not allowed." This has been said many times. I am one of the Members who participated in the discussions when the Anti-Defection Law came into existence originally. May I make a submission on this floor of the House in order to correct the perception about the Anti-Defection Law that the hon. Members have? The original bill did not have this one-third provision. In fact Prof. Madhu Limaye and Mr. Nani

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Palkivala referred to that; and Mr. Devendra Prasad Yadav made a reference to that. They said that by giving the power to party leaders to give directions to the Members, the Government was making them powerful and it was making the Members of the political parties, who have to vote here, very, very weak; and that this was not correct and this was against the democratic principles.

Hon. Advaniji also referred to what is happening in UK—Members have been going from one party to the other. Governments have been formed and Governments have been pulled down there also not once but many times. Leaders like Churchill also moved from one party to the other. That does not mean we should also do it here. We would rather not like to do it here.

When the law was made, this question was raised. One of the Members from Maharashtra Legislative Assembly who happened to be the Speaker of Maharashtra Legislative Assembly also—it was after I left the legislature—vehemently opposed it. He insisted that this provision should not be there in the law. Suppose the party leaders give a wrong direction. Will it be binding on all Members? Then it was said that if a majority of the Members thinks that a direction given by the party leader is not correct, they should be allowed to vote as they like. The question discussed at that time was as to what should be that number. In the initial stage the number suggested was two-thirds of the number of Members. Then it came down to half of the Members. Ultimately it settled at one-third of the Members. It was then that this one-third provision was made in order to see that Members in the House have the liberty to vote as they wish.

Suppose the manifesto says that a certain thing has to be done and the leader of the Parliamentary party says that a Member should vote in particular fashion. The question discussed at that time was whether the Members should be bound by it or not. So it was amended. It was said that if one-third of the Members wanted to go against the direction given by the Party, it should be allowed. That became a part of the law at that time. Later on it was found that even this provision was misused. That is why, I think, the previous Government removed that provision. At that time I had suggested that though your removing that provision was very good, this kind of a provision should not be made binding on the Members at all times and in all cases. I had said that this provision should be made binding on Members only in the cases when the existence or continuity of the

Government is in question and on other points, the Members should be allowed to vote as they wanted. Probably at that time this issue was not clearly perceived by the Members. The amendments were there. We were sitting in the Opposition. We also did not want to oppose it and it went through. However, we did have this in mind.

Now, if Members are resigning from their Membership, can we have a law which would say that a Member shall not be allowed to resign? Who instigated the resignation is a point.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: They cannot be made Ministers. Law cannot say that they cannot resign. But you cannot resign and become a Minister.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: That is right, Advaniji, let me submit very humbly that you cannot have all the five Independent Members as your Ministers.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: They were elected and they gave support to us.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would be happy if I were able to implement what you have said. But that is not a question of bypassing the Anti-Defection Law. This is bypassing the Anti-Defection Law.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Advaniji, I would definitely not blame any leadership at the national level for this. I would say that they have done it. If a disease is there at a particular place, apply the medicine there. Do not apply, the medicine at a wrong place. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: In the Anti-Defection Law, see that it cannot be binding.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: There developed a particular peculiar situation. They wanted to overcome it and they did not, wrongly or rightly. We can say that they were wrong. Some people say they were right. This is a question of our perception. But this is the position.

That is why this Anti-Defection Law has been brought into existence. It was enacted in order to see that a better stability is provided to the Government. It was enacted to see that the opinion expressed by the voters in the election is respected by the elected Members who are sitting in the legislature making the laws, passing the budget and taking decisions. This was the intention.

I do agree with you that the stability of the Government is very important. On many many counts, the Governments have been disturbed. I have been saying since 1992 that in democracy, accountability is very important. Without accountability, democracy cannot exist. But supposing in the name of accountability or in the name of procedures or in the name of law, every Government is destabilised. If you have a situation in which in 13 years, 12 Chief Ministers were there or in 12 years, 13 Chief Ministers were there, what kind of Government would be there? Will that be a really democratic Government? That is why, a question which has to be answered by us, not in a partisan manner but collectively in the House is: How to provide not absolute stability but reasonable stability to Government? When we are sitting on this side, we would say that stability should be there. If we are sitting on that side, we would say that accountability is more important. If we do not strike a balance between accountability and reasonable stability, the difficult situation can develop in a country like ours, which is too big, where elections cannot take place every year or every six months or every two years. If that kind of situation develops, it is going to be very difficult. The stability can be provided by the ethos and ideology.

Shri Lalu Prasad was sitting here and he was telling me that if people do not have ideological moorings, they are likely to float like this from one party to the other. He is right, hundred per cent right. Nothing is more important than the ideological moorings for a Member to remain in his party. The character of the leadership, character of the Members and the character of the voters also can provide stability. But supposing if it is not going to be easily available or can be easily used, then there should be something in the Constitution which can give reasonable stability. As to what can be done? People have thought about it. When the occasion comes, it can be discussed. If it is acceptable, it can be incorporated in the Constitution. If it is not, we can live with the situation which is existing here. But the situation is developing fortunately not so much at the national level but at the State level that the stability is not available to the Government over there and they are suffering because they are not stable over there. But this is an issue which cannot be answered very clearly and fully in a debate like this. But this issue has been touched upon by many of the Members. I do think that the thinking Members would certainly apply their minds and give the suggestions to the Government, to the House, and to the people at large through the media or by participating in the debate in this house.

Last point which I would like to refer to is, Advaniji has said that the House should be dissolved, and many other Members also have said that the Legislative Assembly in Goa should be dissolved. The decision taken by the Government is before you. Why the decision is taken and what is really the rationale behind the decision is known to you. We are not asking for the credit because it is not necessary to give credit to anybody, to the Government of India or to the Government of Goa or to anyone else. We tried to be as correct as is possible. As we have done it, we would try to be as correct as is possible in future also. But there is a suggestion made by other Members also from their side. That suggestion is there. This suggestion is there. More important is, the peoples' opinion. What the people of Goa will think about it? We will keep it in view, while taking the decision.

I am sorry I am not in a position, without consulting my colleagues and the Cabinet and the Government, to say yes or no to this. We will take appropriate decision when the occasion arises. But I would like to say that it should be very clear to the hon. Members that we are trying to be as correct as is possible and that I can say at this point of time.

With this, I would request the hon. Members to approve this Proclamation and help the people and the Government in Goa and all of us to come out of this imbroglio.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House approves the Proclamation issued by the President on the 4th March, 2005 under article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Goa."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow on the 19th March, 2005 at 11.00 a.m.

17.50 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock
on Saturday, March 19, 2005/Phalguna 28, 1926
(Saka)*

ANNEXURE-I

Member-wise Index to starred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	223
2.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	237
3.	Shri Barman, Hiten	231
4.	Shri Barman, Ranen	230
5.	Shri Baxla, Joachim	231
6.	Shri Bhagora, Mahavir	232
7.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	224
8.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	226
9.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	238
10.	Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	224
11.	Shrimati Jayaprada	226
12.	Shri Kaswan, Ram Singh	222
13.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	227
14.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	234
15.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	238
16.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	235
17.	Shri Mollah, Hannan	221
18.	Shri Munshi Ram	228
19.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	229
20.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	234
21.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	240
22.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	225
23.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	230
24.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	240
25.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	233
26.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	236
27.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	228
28.	Shri Singh, Mohan	225
29.	Shri Singh, Prabhunath	239
30.	Shri Singh, Uday	233
31.	Shri Suman, Ramji Lal	223

Member-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

Sl.No.	Member's Name	Question Number
1	2	3
1.	Shri "Bachda", Bachi Singh Rawat	2402
2.	Shri Aaron Rashid, J.M.	2452, 2515
3.	Shri Adbullakutty	2462, 2522
4.	Shri Acharia, Basudeb	2505, 2546, 2587
5.	Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	2482, 2537, 2586
6.	Shri Ahamad, Atiq	2388, 2485
7.	Shri Ahir, Hansraj G.	2390, 2432, 2478, 2507
8.	Shri Appadurai, M.	2446, 2455
9.	Shri Argal, Ashok	2451
10.	Shri Athawale, Ramdas	2408, 2523, 2555
11.	Shri Bansal, Pawan Kumar	2386
12.	Shri Barad, Jashubhai Dhanabhai	2581
13.	Shri Barman, Hiten	2480
14.	Shri Bisen, Gaurishankar Chaturbhuji	2451
15.	Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	2514
16.	Shri Bishnoi, Kuldeep	2377, 2475
17.	Shri Borkataky, Narayan Chandra	2385, 2548
18.	Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	2412
19.	Shri Chaliha, Kirip	2420
20.	Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	2506
21.	Shri Chatterjee, Santasri	2464
22.	Shri Chaure, Bapu Hari	2381, 2477, 2511, 2535
23.	Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	2444
24.	Dr. Chinta Mohan	2440, 2486, 2492
25.	Shri Chitthan, N.S.V.	2548

1	2	3
26.	Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	2404
27.	Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	2493
28.	Shri Chowdhury, Bikash	2436
29.	Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	2460
30.	Dr. Dome, Ram Chandra	2448
31.	Shri Fernandes, George	2405
32.	Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	2415, 2421
33.	Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	2394, 2450, 2529, 2545
34.	Shri Gamang Giridhar	2580
35.	Shrimati Gawali, Bhavana P.	2424, 2455, 2496
36.	Shri Gupt, Shyama Charan	2458
37.	Shri Harsha Kumar, G.V.	2430
38.	Shri Hassan, Munawar	2423, 2534
39.	Dr. Jagannath, M.	2446
40.	Shrimati Jayaprada	2486, 2492, 2563, 2563
41.	Shri Jha, Raghunath	2473, 2516, 2561
42.	Shri Jogi, Ajit	2472, 2532
43.	Shri Joshi, Prahlad	2427, 2501
44.	Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	2384, 2396, 2514, 2552
45.	Shri Kamat, Gurudas	2471, 2561
46.	Shri Karunakaran, P.	2459
47.	Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	2474, 2583
48.	Shri Khan, Sunil	2411
49.	Shri Khanduri, AVSM, Maj. Gen. (Ret.)	2398
50.	Shri Kharventhan, S.K.	2493, 2540
51.	Shri Koshal, Raghuveer Singh	2548
52.	Shri Krishna, Vijoy	2504, 2545, 2570, 2589

1	2	3
53.	Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	2454
54.	Shri Kumar, Nikhil	2524, 2561
55.	Shri Kushawaha, Narendra Kumar	2470
56.	Shri Lonappan, Nambadan	2442
57.	Shri Madam, Vikrambhai Arjanbhai	2397
58.	Shrimati Madhavraj, Manorama	2538
59.	Shrimati Mahajan, Sumitra	2416, 2445, 2527
60.	Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	2376, 2392, 2420, 2444, 2488
61.	Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	2457, 2521
62.	Shri Mahato, Sunil Kumar	2379, 2526
63.	Shrimati Maheshwari, Kiran	2420
64.	Shri Mahtab, Bhartruhari	2433, 2507
65.	Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	2410, 2498
66.	Shri Mandlik, S.D.	2509
67.	Shrimati Mane, Nivedita	2497, 2504, 2529, 2545
68.	Shri Mehta, Bhubneshwar Prasad	2465, 2533
69.	Dr. Meinya, Thokchom	2443, 2584
70.	Shri Moghe, Krishna Murari	2415
71.	Shri Mohd., Tahir	2541
72.	Shri Mohite, Subodh	2449, 2456
73.	Shri Murmu, Hemlal	2403, 2415
74.	Shri Murmu, Rupchand	2437
75.	Shri Naik, Shripad Yesso	2497, 2542
76.	Shrimati Narhire, Kalpana Ramesh	2387
77.	Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	2420
78.	Shri Oram, Jual	2413, 2489
79.	Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	2380, 2476, 2548

1	2	3
80.	Shri Pal, Rajaram	2420
81.	Shri Palanisamy, K.C.	2395, 2481
82.	Shri Panda, Prabodh	2466
83.	Dr. Pandey, Laxminarayan	2407, 2513, 2551
84.	Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	2419
85.	Shri Patel, Kishanbhai V.	2399, 2531, 2560
86.	Shri Pathak, Brajesh	2438, 2510, 2549, 2567, 2577
87.	Shri Patil, Annasaheb M.K.	2376, 2392
88.	Shri Patil, Balasaheb Vikhe	2439, 2511, 2585
89.	Shri Prabhu, Suresh Prabhakar	2479, 2536, 2562, 2578
90.	Shri Prakash, Jai	2382, 2455
91.	Shri Prasad, Harikewal	2406, 2518
92.	Shri Prasada, Kunwar Jitin	2425
93.	Shri Rajagopal, L.	2582
94.	Shri Ramakrishna, Badiga	2456, 2463, 2537
95.	Shri Rana, Kashiram	2379, 2453, 2520, 2554
96.	Shri Rao, K.S.	2401, 2402, 2483
97.	Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	2414, 2417, 2557, 2569, 2579
98.	Shri Rao, D. Vittal	2490, 2539, 2564, 2564, 2574
99.	Shri Rathod, Haribhau	2562
100.	Shri Ravichandran, Sippiparai	2503
101.	Shri Rawat, Ashok Kumar	2426, 2499, 2543

1	2	3
102.	Shri Rawat, Dhansingh	2468
103.	Shri Rawat, Kamla Prasad	2526
104.	Shri Reddy, G. Karunakara	2500, 2544, 2566, 2566, 2576
105.	Shri Renge Patil, Tukaram Ganpatrao	2406, 2415, 2518, 2521
106.	Shri Rijju, Kiren	2441
107.	Shri Saradgi, Iqbal Ahmed	2414, 2417, 2512, 2550, 2588
108.	Shri Saroj, Tufani	2461
109.	Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	2572
110.	Shri Seth, Lakshman	2378, 2517, 2550
111.	Shri Sethi, Arjun	2431
112.	Shri Shakya, Raghuraj Singh	2404
113.	Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	2383, 2484
114.	Shri Sharma, Madan Lal	2428
115.	Shri Shivajirao, Adhalrao Patil	2447, 2553, 2568, 2575, 2590
116.	Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	2495, 2541, 2565, 2565
117.	Shri Siddeswara, G.M.	2467, 2525, 2556
118.	Shri Singh, Chandra Bhushan	2456
119.	Shri Singh, Chandrabhan	2451, 2519
120.	Shri Singh, Dushyant	2409, 2530, 2559
121.	Shri Singh, Ganesh	2445, 2515
122.	Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	2450, 2497, 2509, 2511, 2258
123.	Shri Singh, Kunwar Manvendra	2422

1	2	3
124. Shri Singh, Prabhunath		2494, 2558, 2571
125. Shrimati Singh, Pratibha		2497
126. Shri Singh, Sugrib		2450
127. Shri Singh, Uday		2455
128. Shri Singh, Rajiv Ranjan "Lalan"		2440, 2487, 2573
129. Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasingh		2469
130. Shri Suman, Ramji Lal		2487, 2563, 2563, 2573
131. Shri Surendran, Chengara		2418
132. Shrimati Thakkar, Jayaben B.		2393, 2435
133. Shri Thomas, P.C.		2400, 2508, 2547

1	2	3
134. Shri Thummar, V.K.		2379, 2434, 2457, 2528
135. Shri Tripathi, Chandra Mani		2391, 2551
136. Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore		2456, 2575, 2586
137. Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas		2488
138. Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.		2415, 2434
139. Shri Veerendrakumar, M.P.		2393
140. Shri Verma, Rajesh		2422, 2491
141. Shri Yadav, Baleshwar		2389
142. Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal		2419
143. Shri Yadav, Sita Ram		2548
144. Shri Yaskhi, Madhu Goud		2401, 2402
145. Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu		2429, 2502

ANNEXURE-II

Ministry-wise Index to starred Questions

<i>Coal</i>	223
<i>Company Affairs</i>	
<i>Finance</i>	224, 225, 226, 229, 233, 234, 238, 240
<i>Law and Justice</i>	239
<i>Mines</i>	: 222
<i>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>	221
<i>Power</i>	228, 235, 237
<i>Rural Development</i>	231, 232
<i>Textiles</i>	227, 230, 236

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred Questions

<i>Coal</i>	2382, 2403, 2436, 2452, 2454, 2456, 2465, 2474, 2495, 2515, 2558, 2571
<i>Company Affairs</i>	2399
<i>Finance</i>	2376, 2378, 2381, 2384, 2385, 2387, 2391, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2400, 2401, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2410, 2414, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2426, 2427, 2430, 2432, 2434, 2435, 2437, 2438, 2443, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2457, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2466, 2468, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2481, 2483, 2486, 2487, 2489, 2492, 2494, 2497, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2503, 2509, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2526, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2532, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2542, 2544, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2557, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2565, 2567, 2569, 2570, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2578, 2582, 2583, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590
<i>Law and Justice</i>	2402, 2416, 2424, 2455, 2485, 2490, 2493, 2508, 2540, 2547, 2581, 2584
<i>Mines</i>	2411, 2469, 2502, 2507, 2533, 2546, 2580
<i>Non-Conventional Energy Sources</i>	2390, 2392, 2423, 2429, 2463, 2491, 2543, 2548
<i>Power</i>	2383, 2386, 2394, 2426, 2428, 2433, 2439, 2440, 2445, 2467, 2476, 2480, 2496, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2510, 2527, 2541, 2545, 2559, 2579
<i>Rural Development</i>	2377, 2380, 2388, 2408, 2409, 2412, 2413, 2441, 2442, 2451, 2458, 2484, 2488, 2531, 2555, 2556, 2577
<i>Textiles</i>	2379, 2389, 2393, 2407, 2415, 2431, 2444, 2463, 2464, 2470, 2475, 2482, 2498, 2516, 2519, 2520, 2525, 2554, 2564, 2566, 2568

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