

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library / Printing
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 20, 2004/Sravana 29, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

[English]

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Re : Disapproving and Deprecating the
Remarks made by Member

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Members are aware, yesterday, the hon. Member from Maharajganj (Bihar) parliamentary constituency made in the House some unparliamentary and derogatory remarks against another hon. Member of the House. I have already expunged these contemptuous, unparliamentary and derogatory remarks from the proceedings of the House. I strongly disapprove and deprecate such unparliamentary and disrespectful remarks of the hon. Member.

Now, let us go to Question Hour. Question No. 362 Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot question my ruling. I have made some observations. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given privilege notice in this regard...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have received some notices for motion of privilege. They are under my consideration. Please sit down.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You all may please resume your seats....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please, for Heaven's sake, allow me to go to Question Hour.

Question No. 362. Dr. Rattan Singh Ajnala, you put the Question Number.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a serious constitutional crisis has arisen...(Interruptions). Hubble, Kamatak has issued a warrant against Miss Uma Bharati.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing will be taken note of now.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This is Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have a constitutional duty to perform here.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, are we here to hear abuses...(Interruptions) This is Parliament? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, when I am on my legs. You must behave. Sit down first.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What are you doing?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Kripal Yadav, will you take your seat or not? Do not force me to take action. I have decided now to take action. It has become a child's play here.

I am requesting all of you with folded hands to allow me to go to Question Hour. I will give every opportunity to all hon. Members according to the rules, as they permit. But you want to browbeat the Speaker and you want matters to be discussed as you want. This is not the way this House will run so long as I am here. I have already made an observation about some comments made which have been expunged. You are not satisfied with the Speaker's decision. There are some notices for privilege motion. I have already said that

*Not recorded

they are under my consideration. Why are you disturbing then?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Raghunath Jha, do not force me. This is Question Hour. Nothing will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No; this is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing is being recorded. Why are you speaking now?

(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Madhusudanji, do not force me to name anybody. I have decided to start naming Members now. I am very sorry that I have to say this in the House. We forget this is the Parliament of India, the House of the People. The whole country has sent us to discharge our duties. Is it only for shouting? I will not allow it. You may try to remove me, if you want.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have looked into this.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Laluji, you please make his understand....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I would request all the hon. Leaders to please see that the House in run properly.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will name you, Mr. Rana.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have deprecated the remarks. I have removed them. You do not have the patience to listen to what the Chair says.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

*Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will there be two different rules here.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, he had spoken unparliamentary words...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Have you heard what I have said?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, I am very sorry. I have been requesting you to take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I am sorry, Sir
...(Interruptions)

11.06 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Method of Execution of Death Sentence

+

*362. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA :

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has completed its study on the method of execution of death sentence;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it has been circulated to all concerned Bar Councils, leading lawyers for inviting their views on it;

(d) if so, the views expressed by them; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission of India has completed its study and submitted its 187th Report on 'Mode of Execution of Death Sentence and Incidental Matters'. The Law Commission made extensive consultations with eminent Advocates, Judges, Medical Practitioners. etc

before making the recommendations. The Report was laid on the Table of Lok Sabha on 9.7.2004 and on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 12.7.2004. In this Report, the Law Commission has recommended that:-

- (i) The alternate mode of execution of death sentence should be by administering lethal injection;
- (ii) Before passing final order as to the mode of execution of death sentence, the Court should hear the accused on that question;
- (iii) A statutory right of appeal to the Supreme Court be provided against the judgement of High Court confirming or awarding death penalty; and
- (iv) This appeal should be heard by a Bench consisting of atleast five Judges of the Supreme Court.
- (e) The Report of the Law Commission has already been forwarded to the Ministry of Home Affairs for further action.

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very important question. Is this Govt. not taking social organisation into confidence?

[English]

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, this is a matter where the report is under examination. When we get the Action Taken Report on this subject, we will get back to the House.

[Translation]

DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA : This is a very serious subject.

[English]

Assemblies of the States, social organisations and women organisations must be taken into confidence before any report is submitted and then they should come to the Parliament.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I agree that this is an important matter and that death penalty is a matter which has to be discussed widely because the philosophy of awarding death penalty is under attack from various organisations, particularly Amnesty International. But as you know, in Bachan

Singh's case, the Supreme Court in the early '80s, and thereafter in other matters also, upheld the validity of the death sentence.

Nonetheless, the social conditions of a country determine the penalty to be awarded for heinous crimes. We are now requesting the Home Ministry to go into the details of this recommendation of the Law Commission and then a decision will be taken.

[Translation]

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you and through the Hon. Minister I want to know about the objection raised by the National Human Rights Commission. Has it been consulted? If so, the Hon. Minister should tell about its impact.

[English]

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I have already submitted that this is a recent report of the Law Commission, particularly on the mode of execution of death sentence. But as far as the other part of it is concerned, whether death sentence should be kept in the statute or abolished from the statute, it is a different question. Both these issues are undergoing a lot of discussions. After the nation makes up its mind, Parliament will have the authority to abolish this mode of death penalty or any other mode of death penalty. Right now, there is a death sentence to be executed by hanging.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : It is shuddering to note that the person, who has been awarded execution by Judiciary, knows the exact time and date of his death. However, the views of Judiciary differ from one case to another, when the crime seems to be the same.

Sir, this is the land of Gautam Buddha, Mahavira and Mahatma Gandhi. This is the land which has preached love and compassion for centuries. So, I think, whatever modes of death penalty may be there, this country cannot support it.

A few days ago, one execution took place in Kolkata which created sensation among the psyche of people.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your question?

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Already, Sir, the psyche of children have been affected in such a way that, yesterday, in West Bengal children were mocking execution in a playful manner and one child was gasping for life.

MR. SPEAKER : They are also following the Spiderman!

Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I would like to know whether the psyche of children have been affected in such a way that, yesterday, in West Bengal children were mocking execution in a playful manner and one child was gasping for life.

MR. SPEAKER : They are also following the Spiderman! Please put your question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I would like to know whether the psyche of children and people have even been studied. I am praying for the abolition of death penalty because this country cannot support it.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no question. Mr. Minister, you need not answer it.

Shri Chowdhary, you are only praying. There is no question. Please put a question.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Sir, I have put a specific question. What is the impact of death penalty on the psyche of children? I would like to know whether it has been assessed. It is because law with a human face must be there.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, you are very well aware that there are two important cases, both from Punjab, which have been decided by the Supreme Court. The first was Bachan Singh's case in which we went into the constitutionality of the death penalty. Later on, after two or three years, we had Machhi Singh's case which was argued and broad guidelines were laid as to in which cases death penalty should be awarded. Thereafter, the statute was amended, namely, Section 354 (5) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, where a right was given to the accused to be heard purely on the question of sentence. After this filtration, the court even now insists that it should be in the rarest of rare cases where death penalty should be imposed. Nonetheless, beyond that, the society can discuss this issue and prepare itself for any change.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have nothing against our Apex Court. In the recent past, for two similar nature of crimes, namely, murder and rape, the same Apex Court awarded and approved death sentence in one case and life-term imprisonment in the other case. So, it is very difficult for people to be convinced about the distinction between the two modes of punishments.

MR. SPEAKER : Put your question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : So, my pointed supplementary is this. I would like to know whether the

Government is considering replacing death sentence with life imprisonment.

Sir, part 'b' of my supplementary question is this. In this case, the Law Commission has recommended for changing the modes of death sentence. In the present law in our country, 'EUTHANESIA' is not permissible and the existing medical ethics prescribed by the Medical Council of India, do not permit killing of anyone by administering lethal drugs, even in the case of very painful diseases. Therefore, doctors are for giving life to people and not death.

MR. SPEAKER : You want to know whether that method will be adopted or not.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Therefore, my question is...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have already put your question.

DR. RAM CHANDRA DOME : Who will execute the alternate mode of execution of death sentence.

MR. SPEAKER : There are good doctors to do that.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : Sir, I have submitted that this matters falls within the allocation of business of the Home Ministry. I have forwarded the Report of the Law Commission. The moment they give their views, we will come back to the Parliament.

MR. SPEAKER : Since this is relating to the Law Commission, questions are put to you.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : I have no problem. I will answer them.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question pertains to the method of giving capital punishment. Whether it is penology or criminology, the sociological aspect is also involved. Recently when one man was hanged, several T.V. channels telecast the cleaning of the noose and all other process involved therein. In a way this process was glorified. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he would take step to check this trend of glorifying the process of death sentence and its impact on the children.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know what the Law Commission can do. The question is, whether the Law Minister can do something.

SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ : I am not sure what I can do to reply. But I can make a submission to the House that everything depends upon the view the Parliament takes. There is a procedure. All Reports are laid on the Table of the House. Any law that we change and any amendment to the present position of law will have to be discussed there and then we can discuss it threadbare.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, the hon. Minister has said that it is a matter entirely for the Home Ministry ultimately to take a decision. Therefore, you should address the question to the Home Ministry instead of putting the same question again and again.

Now, next Question.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : When the Law Ministry cannot do anything, why the hon. Minister has wasted so much time of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I did not allow supplementary question on it. I have asked the Hon. Minister and I have also asked you.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Question No. 363, Shri Srinivas Patil— Not present.

Question No. 364 - Dr. Rajesh Mishra

[Translation]

Purchase of Aircraft

*364. DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passenger aircraft purchased during the last three years indicating the names of the supplier companies and the prices paid for each aircraft;

(b) the details including the time of payment and the name of agency through which payment was made;

(c) whether there was difference between the actual price of the aircraft and the payment made to the said agency;

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for making such payments; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to discontinue such practice?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Among the public sector airlines only Indian Airlines has purchased one A-300 aircraft (VT-EVD) from Aerco Ireland-II Limited, Ireland on 14.11.2002 at a price of US\$ 4 Million during last three years. This aircraft was on lease with Indian Airlines since May, 1998. The purchase price was paid after adjustment of lease rental already paid by Indian Airlines to the party from 15.11.2002 to 14.5.2003. The net amount due to the party after said adjustment of lease rental was US\$ 3,370,000 which was remitted to the party through Indian Airlines' IATA collection account with State Bank of India, New York on 9.5.2003.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated in his written reply that only Indian Airlines has purchased an A-300 aircraft from Aerco Ireland - II Limited, Ireland on 14.11.2002. He has also elaborated in his reply that this aircraft was on lease with Indian Airlines since 1988. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reason behind the purchase of the same aircraft which was already on lease of the Indian Airlines. My second point is whether other companies were also contacted for procurement of aircrafts and if so, the names of those companies and if not, the reason therefore.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : The question of the hon. Member is regarding the aircraft which was purchased by the Indian Airlines 2002. In the year 1989 when Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, the Indian Airlines had purchased this last aircrafts on regular basis. After that, the requirements were fulfilled by way of leasing the aircrafts. One aircraft was taken on lease by the Indian Airlines three years back in 1988. The lease rental of that aircraft was 1 lakh 45 thousand US dollar per month. Thereafter, its tenure was extended for two more years. The age of aircraft is also determined through lease. The lease rental was reduced and the lease amount was fixed at five thousand dollar per month. When the expiry time of lease arrived at that time its C and D was checked and a sum of four and a half million dollar was to be returned. We were running short of aircrafts that time and even now we are running short of aircrafts. Four and a half of million dollar had to be returned with the said aircraft and we could have retained that aircraft by spending four million dollar. That was the situation that time. Therefore, the Board of Indian Airlines had decided to retain that aircraft by purchasing it at four million dollar. An aircraft has its cycle or age. There was some time left in completion of that cycle, so that aircraft was purchased in four million dollar. Regarding your second query I would like to say that there was no other offer. The aircraft was purchased from the same company from where it was taken on lease.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Do you have any second supplementary?

[Translation]

DR. RAJESH MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has said in his reply that four and a half million dollar had to be spent for returning that aircraft. When this was the fact, then what was the problem in purchasing that aircraft.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in this regard I would like to say that leasing is not a very pleasant option for the Government. When an aircraft is purchased it is to be checked whether the aircraft is airworthy or not. Its C and D are checked. Since that situation had not arisen and the Indian Airlines had not purchased aircrafts for several years, so its capacity of purchasing aircraft was reducing. So either a new aircraft had to be taken on lease or the said aircraft had to be returned by paying the due. So the only option left was to purchase that aircraft.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I may be permitted to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER : Do you want to put a question? I will allow you.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : If I do not ask, you would not call me.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jaswant Singh Bishnoi, be brief, and put a pointed question.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, a case involving 600 million dollar regarding aircrafts purchased by private sector aviation companies is pending under the Central Government. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether he is aware of that.

[English]

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I have not followed the question in its entirety.

MR. SPEAKER : Please repeat your answer.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : It is because the hon. Member is asking about certain airlines which have sought to acquire planes. Unfortunately I am not able to answer, but if there is anything in details and if the hon. Member does show us that, I will be happy to respond him.

MR. SPEAKER : You write to him separately.

Now, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, be brief and to the point. Do you want a direct flight to Kerala?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I presume that

the purchase of aircraft is connected with the airfare also. Now recently the Indian Airlines and the Air India have increased the airfare in the Gulf sector, which is unjustified and uncalled for. Till yesterday people coming from the Gulf States to Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut were paying a very normal rate. But now it has been raised because these people are coming to their homes during Onam holidays. At this time, they have increased the fares intentionally.

It is unjustified and it is unheard of in the history
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : But it has nothing to do with this question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Do not kill these poor Malayalis.

MR. SPEAKER : It is very pertinent question! You allow these aircraft to go there!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is a clear case of murder. The fare for these poor Malayali workers coming to Kerala are unnecessarily increased during this season.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They may be poor but they have a strong advocate in you!

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : They are burning the midnight oil in the Gulf countries to earn their livelihood...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, a number of representations have been given to the Government..*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Nobody else's statement will be recorded. Only what Mr. Radhakrishnan says will go on record.

...*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : All right, they are all supporting you. Therefore, Mr. Radhakrishnan, you have made your point very strongly!

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, let Gulf Air be asked to co-operate...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all, there is no correlation between the Question and the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER : But you must consider his request. He has the liberty. He is the next Speaker!

...*(Interruptions)*

*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : He has the liberty to put an irrelevant question!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Minister, please do not go into technicalities...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : Sir, I am willing to respond. Please do not get agitated.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't be angry; only the Speaker can be angry!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I appreciate the concerns of the hon. Member and all the colleagues from the State of Kerala. Kerala is a very important State for us in terms of air travel, especially to the Gulf countries where millions of our people are working. But air fares are not dictated by the Government at any level. Air fares are worked purely on the economics of operations involved. There is competition amongst airlines both within India and outside India. We are all aware that the aviation turbine fuel prices internationally are not dictated by our considerations...(Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Every year, the fares are increased.

MR. SPEAKER : The Question is on purchase of aircraft, Mr. Radhakrishnan. I have allowed you to raise this question and he is answering.

SHRI PRAFUL PATEL : I would like to assure you that we are sensitive to this and whatever is economically viable would be done.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Hemlal Murmu. You can put a supplementary if it is on purchase of aircraft but not on any route.

[Translation]

SHRI HEMLAL MURMU : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary question has been replied to and I am satisfied with the reply given.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you very much. You raised your hand.

Shri Alok Kumar Mehta, are you still willing to put a question?

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA : No.

MR. SPEAKER : Oh! You have got the answer, very good. Mr. Minister, you have given a comprehensive answer, in anticipation!

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Next, Shri Prabhunath Singh - not present.

Shri Suresh Kurup, yours would be the last question.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, this is connected with the air fares. With your permission, I would like to raise it...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Is it on purchase of aircraft?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : No.

MR. SPEAKER : Then, I am sorry.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I would take only one minute. It is a very important matter...(Interruptions) Purchase of aircraft is connected with air fares also.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not raise any other matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, taking cover of these agreements, the Indian Airlines authorities have repeatedly been increasing the air fares from Gulf countries to Kerala. If a passenger takes a route via Colombo, the fare is much cheaper. Exorbitant rates are charged by the Indian Airlines. That is the standing complaint of the passengers. So, they should be reduced.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, I am requesting on your behalf the hon. Minister to review this.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have made a request on your behalf.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

EU Restriction on Basmati Rice Export

*365. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether European Union (EU) has recently put a restriction prior to export of Basmati Rice from India, the exporter must give a certificate with each despatch that it consists the traditional Indian Basmati, to avail a rebate of 250 Euro per tonne;

(b) whether EU has also put a condition that they will send samples of each despatch back of India for testing at the cost of Exporter;

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

(d) the measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in consultation with EU to safeguard the interests of Indian rice exporters?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. European Union will be sending only random samples to India for reconfirmatory testing.

(d) The Government is engaged under Article 28 of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, 1947 in negotiations with EC for imports of Basmati rice into European Union.

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the exporters of India give a certificate with each consignment of rice. Whether the Government of India gives that certificate after testing samples of rice? If so, what are the reasons for not relying thereon. If the exporters give the certificate after getting the samples of rice tested by some government laboratory, why even that certificate is not relied upon and why samples of rice are sent back to India for testing at the cost of the exporter?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, till 2003, there was no population in this matter. European Union had suspected that there might be some adulteration in the Basmati rice that is exported. No duty is imposed on Basmati rice on the European Union. Now our export agency has given this certificate that there is no need of the testing of samples for each consignment of India. The European Union has expressed that they can send the samples for random check. We hope that it would not be more than five-six times in a year. The way suspicion arises that there is any mixing of non basmati rice in our basmati rice and entry of basmati rice is free from any duty in the European Union it is being discussed under article - 28. We fully that after this discussion there would not be any room for any suspicion in future.

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government would take such steps against the exporters of the European Union who send their goods to India if not, what are the reasons therefore?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Prakash Goyal, you need not explain. The hon. Members wants to know whether reciprocal restrictions will be there or not.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no question of reciprocal action in it. It is exercised in European Unions rules that they give duty free to us and take basmati rice from India duty free. They want to ensure that there should be traditional variety of Indian Basmati rice. If non basmati rice is sent in the name of basmati rice, then the consignment does not cover in duty free category. Now if we talk of reciprocal action in the matter, then perhaps it would not be in the fitness of things as the discussion is going on under article 28.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He will keep it in mind.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that whether European Union has put quality control condition for the basmati rice. Whether they would insist upon such requirement for other export items also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I have said that Basmati rice is duty free i.e. there is no duty on the Basmati. As much when they had doubted the variety of Basmati rice and suspected that non basmati rice was being sent in place of basmati rice which was free from any duty, they asked for such inspection. As far as other such items are concerned, talks are being held in that regard.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are sub varieties in the basmati rice. Whether it would apply to the sub varieties especially on basmati meant for fishes?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. You have got your turn.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, traditional variety of basmati rice has been notified. There are six varieties of basmati and they are duty free. As far as other items are concerned, we are discussing them under article-28. We hope that our Super and Pusa varieties would also be included in duty free items.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : The European Union usually comprises of the developed countries. There has been a concerted move by the developed countries to stop products

going from the developing countries. The Basmati Rice goes from a developing country to a developed zone in the continent. This has to be considered. The hon. Minister has said in his answer that this Basmati Rice strain had been developed in America also before the Patent Law came into being.

Will the Government take steps immediately to re-patent this Basmati variety so that the entire produce which is sent from India is not subject to rejection?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, there are two sorts of Basmati rice – one the traditional varieties and the other the evolved varieties. As far as the question of traditional Basmati rice is concerned, we are getting duty - free entry in the European Union. The issue which has been of concern to the European Union is that whether the type of rice which qualifies for duty exemption is the rice which is being exported...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : I want to know whether it will be part of the Agreement on Agriculture in WTO or not because in your statement you have mentioned that Doha was a failure, Cancun was a failure and in Geneva you hit the bull's eye.

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question earlier pointedly. The hon. Minister is answering that.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, I think the hon. Member is swinging from European Union to Doha and Cancun. The issue is not Doha and Cancun here. I never said these were failures. I do not want that we shift focus from one issue to another. The issue here is this that this question relates to the European Union and exports thereto. The hon. Member has expressed his concern. I would only like to say this that traditional Basmati rice has been recognised by the European Union as having its origin in the sub-continent. It is because of that the duty-free situation prevails.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want some information on two points. Firstly I want to know as to whether it is correct that countries of the European Union do not like the duty free basmati rice that is dispatched from India. If so, whether that rice is sent back to India by the name of taxmati rice. Secondly I want to know whether America is trying to patent it. Whether America wants to deprive us of Basmati rice by bringing it under its own control after naming it as taxmati rice and patenting it in its own name. What is the stand of the Government in this regard? This is what I want to know.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, there is no question of this kind. It is quite clear now that Basmati rice belongs to India and Pakistan. But as I have said that these are two types, one is traditional and the other is Evolve. In case of Evolve variety sub-evolve varieties are not duty free. It means that the type of duty free concession they have given to the Basmati rice, that is being sent by India and Pakistan only. The basmati rice produced by America does not qualify for traditional

variety. As such American rice is not counted as basmati rice. They may name it whatever they like but basmati rice belongs to our country and basmati would always be called as basmati...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You sit down. I have given the opportunity to your very senior leader.

[English]

SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has just mentioned that there are two kinds of Basmati – one is the traditional Basmati and one is the evolved Basmati. The evolved Basmati is obviously a hybrid strain which is evolved from traditional Basmati varieties, but which has similar qualities in some sense and even the visible look of it is almost the same.

As we all know, before this patent regime had come, the Americans have taken Basmati rice from here and developed a certain variety of rice in America, grew it in Texas and called it 'Texmati'. Now it is very difficult to distinguish between what they call Texmati and the original variety of Basmati which is grown in India. There are reports that the rice which they originally called Taxmati and evolved from our Basmati that grew there, that is being recycled as Basmati with the exemption that was being given to our original Basmati.

Has this come to the notice of the hon. Minister and if so will he take appropriate measures to see that this kind of fraudulent practice is not followed?

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Sir, the hon. Member has his concerns, but I would like to state that the European Union has recognised that Basmati rice originates only from India and Pakistan. That is why, now by whatever name it is called, at the moment, rice from the United States into the European Union does not qualify for duty concession.

MR. SPEAKER : The apprehension is that Taxmati may be given facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is correct that traditional Basmati of India, particularly from Dehradun and Sharanpur, has to face stiff competition with the Basmati of Pakistan and some exporters of our country sent Indian basmati to the European country after mixing it with some other variety which brought down our credibility and hit the export of our country.

I want to know from the hon. Minister as to how many samples of exporters were rejected in the last one year and the extent of adulteration found in them and the action taken by the Government of India in regard to the setback the exports of our country have suffered on account of adulteration.

SHRI KAMAL NATH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our exports have suffered no setback. Our exports have increased in the last

three years. About 20 percent of our total exports of rice goes to the European Union and it has been increasing every year. It was one lakh tonne three years back and thereafter it is registering an increase of 20 percent every year. Regarding the number of persons complained, I will send this information to the hon. Member.

[English]

Recovery of Income Tax Arrears

*366. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of quantum of income tax outstanding during the last three years till date, year-wise ;

(b) the details of arrears recovered during the last three years till date, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for increase of income tax arrears year after year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government of liquidate these arrears?

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

Statement

(a) Income Tax dues outstanding during last three financial years and in the current financial year are as follows :

Income Tax Dues Outstanding	
As on 1.7.2004	Rs. 84,219 crore
As on 1.4.2004	Rs. 87,885 crore
As on 1.4.2003	Rs. 72,290 crore
As on 1.4.2002	Rs. 72,671 crore

(b) The amounts recovered out of arrears of income tax during the last three financial years and in current financial year are as under :-

Amounts Recovered out of Arrears	
F.Y. 2004-05 (upto 30.6.2004)	Rs. 1,092 crore
F.Y. 2003-04	Rs. 5540 crore
F.Y. 2002-03	Rs. 5470 crore
F.Y. 2001-02	Rs. 3930 crore

(c) The entire demand created by the Income Tax Department does not get collected immediately for one or more of the following reasons :

- i. Demand is stayed by Courts, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal or Income-tax authorities.
- ii. Demand is against a person notified by the Special Courts (Scam Cases) and so recovery can be made only after the Court orders release of money for payment of tax.
- iii. The assessee is not traceable and/or has no assets for recovery.
- iv. The case of the assessee is before B.I.F.R.
- v. The assessee company is under liquidation.
- vi. The case is before the Settlement Commission.
- vii. Demand is arising from protective assessment or the Department has lost on similar issues in earlier years.
- viii. Demand is being processed for being written off.

For the reasons enumerated above as well as prolonged litigation, the entire amount of demand that is created by the Income Tax Department does not get collected immediately. While the process of liquidation or collection of the arrears is long and disposal of appeals by the Courts, Tribunals and other authorities is slow, the demands are, on the other hand, continuously raised by the Department in various cases, leading thereby to net addition in the arrears year after year.

(d) The following steps have been taken by the Government for liquidation of the arrears of income tax.

- Making it obligatory for the Income Tax Appellate Tribunals to decide such appeals, where stay has been granted, within 180 days of the date on which the stay order was passed, failing which the stay so granted shall automatically be vacated. (Proviso to section 254 (2) of Income Tax Act, 1961)
- Taking away the powers of the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeal) to set-aside a case or refer it back to the Assessing Officer for fresh orders. (Amendment in section 250 (1) (a) of the income Tax Act, 1961)
- Making liquidation of arrears an important criterion for evaluation of the performance of an officer.

- Review of cases where taxes in arrear exceed Rs. 10 Lacs by the Chief Commissioners and cases of more than Rs. 1 crore of arrears by the Board/Director (Recovery) at the end of every Quarter and issue of necessary instructions to the subordinate authorities for further action.
- Creation of more posts of Commissioner (Appeals) for faster disposal of appeals.
- Reduction of the span of control in the Income-tax Department after the restructuring of the Department, thereby allowing closer supervision of the recovery work by higher authorities.
- Issuance of instructions to the field authorities not to file appeals in cases where the revenue implication is not high so as to reduce the amount of litigation and arrive at quick finalization of cases.
- There is also a proposal to increase the number of Benches of the ITAT and to create a National Tax Tribunal.
- Constitution of a Task Force on Arrear Recovery at Delhi and Core Committees at the regional level with a view to develop and implement a multi-pronged strategy for collection of arrears of direct taxes.
- Request has been made to the Chairman of the Settlement Commission to get disposal of high demand cases pending in various Benches expedited.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Sir, in the first part of the statement, the Minister speaks about the huge income tax arrears accumulated. In part (b) of the answer, he says how slow is the procedure in recovering the arrears. He says that there is a slight increase in the recovery process. It appears that if the rate at which the income tax arrears grow and the rate at which the recovery is going ahead, we will have a serious problem of much more huge arrears of income tax in future.

Then, the next part of answer mentions the difficulties the Government is facing in recovering these arrears. If the present laws and the present methods are defective or not so efficient, will the Government consider giving more teeth to the laws and take more stringent actions so that the recovery process is improved?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I acknowledge that recovery of arrears has not been satisfactory. That is why, you will recall that I mentioned this specially in the Budget

Speech that we would take special steps to recover tax arrears. I hope to recover a tidy amount. Conscious of my obligation, we have constituted a Task Force and orders have been issued on 10th of August, 2004. Let us see how this Task Force works. I do not think it is an answer to say make the laws more stringent. The law would have to conform to the Constitution of India, principles of natural justice would have to be followed and ultimately, it is the enforcement of the law which matters. I am confident that this year, we will be able to recover substantially larger amount than the average of the last three years. Let us give this Task Force a chance.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA : Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that enforcement in the basic problem in this, and not the Law. He further stated that the laws should be in conformity with the Constitution should provide ways for it, and also give natural justice to the defaulters. These are all good wishes.

I would like to ask a specific question from the hon. Minister arising out of the latter part of the hon. Minister's reply. Have you succeeded in collecting a considerable amount of arrears in the process of review of cases where tax arrears exceed Rs. 10 lakh, and also Rs. 1 crore, as these are the bigger sharks of tax defaulters? Can you also enlighten this House about the quantum of amount involved above Rs. 1 crore arrears, and above Rs. 10 lakh arrears, and to what extent you have succeeded in collecting these arrears?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have with me various heads under which this net collectable demand can be classified. There is an assessment, there is an appeal, there is a further appeal to the Income Tax Appellate Tribunal, and then -- of course, as you know, Sir -- there is the High Court, and the Supreme Court. A substantial part of this is stayed in the first appeal or in the second appeal. There are also cases pending before the High Court and the Supreme Court where the courts grant interim orders.

There are certain special cases -- like for example persons who are notified under the Security Scam Act, cases pending before the BIFR, companies in liquidation, cases before the Settlement Commission -- where each case requires a different approach, and a different strategy. But after examining it, as carefully as we can, we have set up this task force with clear instructions, and clear responsibilities. We have told the Chief Commissioners that all appeals, and all cases where demand exceeds Rs. 1 crore should be disposed of by 31 December 2004.

My appeal to the hon. Members is that we should give task force a chance, and see how the system works. The last instructions were issued in 1993. We have revised it, and issued the revised instructions on 10 August 2004, and I am confident that we will succeed to a large measure.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. The last time when Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister, he had introduced the VDIS scheme, and I think the Government had recovered more than Rs. 10,000 crore from that scheme. What measures do the Government intend to take to keep a check on the black money eruption in our country? We observe that, in the developed countries white money is more than black money, whereas in our country the amount of white money is proportionally less than black money. What are the measures that the Government is taking to control this situation? Is the Government going to introduce any new scheme?

MR. SPEAKER : It is the main part of the question, and that is the real question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, in the taxation system that we have in India, there are large parts of income that are not subject to income tax. For example agricultural income is not subject to income tax. So, it is very difficult to say what is the proportion of black money, and what is the proportion of white money in our country. In my view, every rupee earned by a farmer is white money, and I do not think that you can classify it as black money.

Suppose, a man who earns income from agriculture goes to a restaurant and pays for a meal, and if that restaurant owner does not bring that money into his account, then white money becomes black money. But I think, it is very difficult to say what is black money, and what is white money. We have no proposal for a scheme like VDIS, and VDIS was a one-off scheme. Low rates of tax, better tax administration, and non-arbitrary computerised system of collecting tax information will, I think, improve compliance. There is an elaborate tax information network which has been put in place. That will come into force on the 1st of April, 2005 and will begin to apply from the Assessment Year beginning 1st of April, 2006. When this tax information networks pools the information, I think tax compliance will improve. But, my humble request is, every new tax that is put or every new tax rate that is put should not be opposed by this section or that section.

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Sir, the hon. Finance Minister will agree with me that evasion of tax, particularly by the rich, has become a national problem which is eating into the vitals of our body politic. I would like to know whether the present measures will be able to recover the outstanding dues, or whether the Minister is actively considering to create a better awareness campaign so that outstanding dues are recovered through public pressure and political pressure.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, there will be a multimedia campaign to raise awareness. That is part of the mandate given to this Task Force.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir,

the hon. Minister has said that the Task Force has been constituted and necessary instructions has been given to it. I want to know straightaway from the hon. Minister as to how many such cases are pending even in the BIFR and Income tax outstanding against the big industrial houses and why a sum more than Rs. 80 thousand crore is outstanding under the Non-performing Assets' head and since the amount on the NAA's account is written off, I therefore, want to know as to what efforts the Government has made to recover the said amount.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I cannot give the number of cases but I can tell the hon. Member the amount involved. The amount involved in the cases pending before the BIFR is Rs. 2681 crore; the amount involved and stayed in the cases pending before the courts, Income Tax Appellate Tribunal and other Income Tax authorities is Rs. 11157 crore...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has not replied to the question as to what amount of income tax is outstanding against big industrial houses.

SHRI DEVENDER PRASAD YADAV : The hon. Minister has not given reply to the details as to the amount outstanding against the industrial houses.

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting like this.

[English]

It is a very serious matter, and he is trying to recover money.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : There are a little over 400 cases in which the amount involved is Rs. 25 crore or more.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the Government through you that on the one hand, hon. Finance Minister is talking about the Task Force and saying the Appellate Tribunals are there to resolve the cases of arrears, on the other, I want to ask the hon. Minister as to whether it is kept in mind by the Income Tax disputes are pleaded well in courts and it should not be that appellant get stay sometime from this court or that court.

Sir, besides this, I also want to know as to whether the Income tax department takes full precaution while appointing the lawyers so that the Government wins the case and the third thing which I want to know is that who appoints them and what is the procedure of their appointments?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to engage competent lawyers? Then, I will go back to my profession!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I believe that the lawyers that were engaged in the past are competent lawyers. But, if the lawyers engaged in the past are not competent lawyers, I will be happy to change them and appoint competent lawyers.

SHRI MADHU GOUD YASKHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether we can, like in the US, ensure that the last date of filing Income Tax Return is not extended. In the US, it is never extended. People there who want to file late returns can file extension forms and file tax returns.

They can fill an extension form and file the tax returns. Likewise, we can fix the last date for filing individual tax returns—30th June or whatever be the last date. That way, compliance can be increased; more people will be filing on time; and would also increase the income of the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I compliment you for your maiden supplementary.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Thirtieth June is indeed the last date. For special reasons, sometime the date is extended. This year, for example, because of the tax information network being put in place, some information had to be asked for in the form. Therefore, forms had to be redesigned and reprinted. Therefore, we have extended the date this year. But ordinarily, June 30 is the last date for filing income tax-returns.

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA : Sir, I humbly submit that if the hon. Finance Minister makes a statement in Parliament that there is a difficulty to distinguish between black money and white money, it has its obvious social implications. Let the Government take note of it.

My simple question is on social justice. Social justice has also to be for the people of the country, not only for the tax evaders. Therefore, my pointed question is : Will the Government agree to consider the publication of names of those who have evaded tax in the country? Whether the Government will agree to debar them from having any access to bank loans or any access to Government patronisation so far as export industry is concerned?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : With great respect, all that I said was in answering to an hon. Member's question, it is difficult to say what is the proportion of black money and what is the proportion of white money. Obviously any money which is not accounted for, any money on which tax is due and tax is not paid, would indeed be called black money.

Be that as it may, I think, one must be careful before branding somebody finally as a tax evader. There is a hierarchy of Tribunals and Courts and only when the last forum is exhausted, we come to a final conclusion, one can say that there is a final evasion of tax. I shall certainly keep in mind hon. Members's suggestion. But at this stage, you will permit

me, not to disclose our strategy as the Task Force goes about its task of collecting taxes.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all thank you very much. A large number of para-banking companies are operating in India. Sir, I want to know from the Government through you as to the total amount of income tax outstanding against these non-banking companies along with their names and addresses and the measures taken by the Government to recover the said amount...(Interruptions) Para-banking companies are opening in our country which deal in banking business, though they are not full-fledged banks. They deposit poor persons money with them ...(Interruptions) I want to know from the Government about all these things.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question does not arise here.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You have put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAJESH PATHAK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question should be given importance...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every one should be given information. Please sit down.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Hon. Member is referring to the Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The NBFCs are as much bound by laws as any other company. I do not have company-wise details of tax arrears. If you wish to know the tax arrears of any particular NBFC, I am willing to furnish it. But I do not have those figures right now.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH : So far as my knowledge is concerned, a former Finance Minister had stated on the floor of the House that the black money would exceed more than Rs. 4.00 lakh crore. Now, the hon. Finance Minister is stating that there is no account about the black money. I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister whether he has any statistics or accounts regarding the black money, which is creating a parallel economy.

12.00 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you in a position to answer?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not have any estimates which could be called reliable estimates of black money at any given point of time.

MR. SPEAKER : Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Restriction of Entry Points to Foreign Airlines

*363. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government proposes to restrict entry points of foreign airlines to limited locations;

(b) if so, whether any collaborative policy has been framed amongst the nations for permitting entry points to the operating airlines;

(c) whether private airlines/operators in India would be assisted in seeking entry point permission in other countries;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Chinese Government has a very restricted policy of entry point to foreign airlines including Indian Airlines; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) The destinations in India to which foreign airlines can operate as well as the destinations abroad to which Indian carriers can operate are specified in the Air Services Agreement between India and the foreign country concerned. India has so far entered into such Air Services Agreements with 100 countries. The traffic rights available under these Agreements are sovereign in nature and can be exercised only by the airlines designated by the respective Governments.

(c) and (d) Seeking points of call in other countries is also a sovereign function, which can not be exercised by airlines. During bilateral negotiations, Government seeks point of calls in other countries on the basis of reciprocity and keeping in view the interest of designated airlines.

(e) and (f) The destinations in China to which Indian carriers can operate are also specified in our Air Services Agreement with them. As per this Agreement, each side can designate up to 2 airlines for operating to two destinations in each other's territory.

[Translation]

Sale of Land

*367. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR :
SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATEL :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is selling land worth crores of rupees under Delhi and Mumbai airport authority to the private companies at throwaway rates in the name of modernization;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the AAI has presented an alternative scheme for modernization of these airports;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the total projected cost worked out by the AAI varied from that of the private companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Airports Authority of India (AAI) had submitted separate proposals in 1994 and 1996 for development and modernization of the international airports at Mumbai and Delhi at an estimated cost of Rs. 203 crore and Rs. 874 crore respectively which included construction of terminal etc. However, these proposals were not approved on account of decision of the Government to restructure these airports.

(e) The likely amount to be spent on modernization of these two airports will be estimated after finalization of reports by the Global Technical Advisor/Financial Consultant. Hence, it is not possible to compare the project costs of the projects submitted by AAI and the proposed Joint Venture Companies for Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(f) Does not arise.

Assistance to Flood Victims

*368. SHRI TUFANI SAROJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether public sector banks have formulated any scheme to provide assistance to flood victims of various states;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has issued or propose to issue any guideline to the banks for providing assistance to the flood victims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d) The Reserve Bank of India has

issued standing instructions to banks in August 1984 (revised in June 1998) for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities, including flood. With a view to allowing greater discretion to banks to decide upon the quantum of relief assistance to be provided to the affected farmers, the modified guidelines, inter-alia, permit banks to :

- Convert/reschedule loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years, depending upon the successive crop failure/ intensity of damage to crops
- Grant fresh crop loans to affected farmers
- Convert principal as well as interest due on the existing loans
- Not to treat portion of converted rescheduled loans as Non Performing Assets (NPAs)
- Not to compound interest on current dues
- Relax security and margin norms
- Provide consumption loans to agriculturists whose crops have been damaged.

Further, the Government announced a policy package on June 18, 2004 which includes providing relief to the farmers who have suffered losses on account of successive droughts, floods etc. In pursuance of this package, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued guidelines on 24th June, 2004 for debt rescheduleing/restructuring and fresh loans to farmers, affected by natural calamities. As per the guidelines, debts as on March 31, 2004 of all farmers, who suffered production and income losses on account of successive natural calamities, i.e. drought, flood, or other calamities which might have occurred in the districts for two or more successive years during the past five years, may be rescheduled/restructured by banks provided the State Government concerned has declared such districts as calamity affected. Accordingly, the interest outstanding/accrued in the accounts of such borrowers (crop loans and agriculture term loans) up to March 31, 2004 may be clubbed with the principal outstanding therein as on March 31, 2004 and the amount thus arrived at shall be repayable over a period of five years. On restructuring as above, the farmers concerned will become eligible for fresh loans.

[English]

Guidelines for NPA

*369. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH :

SHRI KRISHNA MURARI MOGHE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Reserve Bank of India has changed the definition of bad debt w.e.f. March, 2004;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether non-performing assets would increase as a result thereof;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether RBI has issued guidelines for compromise for settlement of non-performing assets;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Government propose to direct RBI to include Scheduled Banks and other Financial Institutions also under the above RBI guidelines;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced 90 days overdue norm for identification of non-performing assets (NPAs) w.e.f. 31st March 2004 in order to move towards international best practices and to ensure greater transparency. Accordingly, with effect from 31st March 2004, NPA shall be a loan or an advance where;

- (i) interest and/or instalment of principal remain overdue for a period of more than 90 days in respect of a term loan;
- (ii) the account remains out of order, in respect of an overdraft? Cash Credit (OD/CC);
- (iii) the bill remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in the case of bills purchased and discounted;
- (iv) interest and/or instalment of principal remains overdue for two harvest seasons but for a period not exceeding two half years in the case of an advance granted for agricultural purposes; and
- (v) any amount to be received remains overdue for a period of more than 90 days in respect of other accounts.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The analysis of Non-performing assets of banks indicated that inspite of the reduction in 'overdue' norm from 180 days to 90 days the Gross NPAs reduced from Rs. 68713.88 crore as at the end of March 2003 (180 day norm) to Rs. 63246.21 crores as the end of March 2004 (90 day norm).

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. RBI had issued revised guidelines for compromise settlement of chronic NPAs of Public Sector

Banks on 29th January, 2003. These guidelines were to cover all NPAs in all sectors irrespective of the nature of business, which have become doubtful or loss assets on 31st March 2000 with outstanding balance of Rs. 10 crores and below. This One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme was later extended upto 31st July 2004 for submission of applications and 31st October, 2004 for processing of the applications. Main features of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

(i) Scheduled Banks are free to formulate one time settlement schemes for settlement of their NPA accounts in their banks on their own. There is no proposal at present to introduce OTS in financial institutions (FLs). They are settling their NPA accounts as per their settlement/recovery policy duly approved by Boards of the Fls.

Statement

Main Features of the Scheme

- I. It will cover NPA accounts classified as Doubtful Asset as on 31.3.2000 and / or NPA accounts classified as Sub-Standard as on 31.03.2000, which became doubtful or loss subsequently.
- II. Time period for receipt of Applications under the scheme has been extended to 31st July 2004. The date of processing was also extended upto October 31, 2004.
- III. Guidelines will cover all sectors.
- IV. These guidelines are non-discriminatory and non-discretionary.
- V. It will cover cases on which the banks have initiated action under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 and also cases pending decree being obtained from the Courts/DRTs/BIFR.
- VI. The settlement formula for doubtful assets as on 31.03.2000 is 100% of the outstanding balance as on date when the account was categorized as Protested Advances or classified as doubtful asset, whichever is earlier.
- VII. The settlement formula for Sub-Standard assets as on 31.03.2000 is 100% of the outstanding balance as on date when the account was categorized as Protested Advances or classified as doubtful asset, whichever is earlier plus interest @ PLR from 01.04.2000 till the date of final payment.

VIII. Any deviation from the scheme to be made with the approval of Board of Directors.

Demand and Supply of Coal

*370. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the demand of coal in the power, cement and steel sectors;

(b) whether the demand of local coal has been decreasing;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether huge quantities of coal were imported for power, steel and cement sectors during the last three years; and

(e) If so, the countries from which the coal was imported and the reasons for preferring imported coal than the indigenous one?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) The projected demand of coal in Power, Cement and Steel Sector for the year 2004-05 are as under :-

(in millions tonnes)

S.No.	Sector	Quantity
1.	Power (utilities)	279.52
	Power (Captive)	24.90
2.	Cement	19.00
3.	Steel	33.98

(b) and (c) No, Sir. On the contrary the demand has been consistently increasing.

(d) The various sectors are importing coal in limited quantity as per their specific requirements.

The sector-wise import of coal during the last three years are as under :-

(in million tonnes)

Year	Power	Steel	Cement	Others	Total
2001-02	3.500	11.107	3.000	2.941	20.548
2002-03	3.170	12.942	3.660	3.488	23.260
2003-04*	1.420	12.000	2.500	5.580	21.500

* Provisional

(e) The coal is mainly being imported from Australia, Indonesia, South Africa and China. The consumers import coal to supplement the limited indigenous availability of low ash superior grade coking and non-coking coal for use by blending with indigenous coal also on environmental considerations and considerations of location specific landed cost.

[Translation]

Problems of Jute Growers

*371. SHRI SITARAM SINGH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware of the problems faced by the jute growers in Orissa, West Bengal and other Eastern States;

(b) If so, the steps being taken by the Government to deal with the problems of jute growers;

(c) whether the Government has entrusted the Jute Corporation of India, the work of procuring jute from the jute growers without any ceiling;

(d) whether the Government compensates the losses incurred by the Jute Corporation of India in its operations of purchasing jute on minimum support price; and

(e) if so, the minimum support price of jute fixed by the Government for the year 2004-05?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Govt. is well aware of the problems of the Jute Growers in the country. The Govt. takes care of the interest of the Jute Growers by an elaborate process of consultation and analysis of field data by the Commission for Agricultural Costs & Prices (CACP) every year. Based on the recommendations of the CACP, the Govt. announces a Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute. During the last five years, the Minimum Support Price, fixed by the Government for TD-5 Grade (ex-Assam) of raw jute, as given below, indicate a constant increase in MSP :-

Year	Rs. Per Quintal
1999-2000	750
2000-2001	785
2001-2002	810
2002-2003	850
2003-2004	860
2004-2005	890

The Jute Corporation of India (JCI) is the nodal agency for undertaking MSP operations. The Government has issued instructions to JCI to gear up its MSP operations so that the farmers do not face any problems in disposal of their raw jute. The JCI, functions through its 171 purchase Centres, 95 Jute Centres operated by Apex Cooperative Societies of various States and 235 Village Level Service Societies, spread over the major jute/mesta growing areas. The Government of India provides Budgetary Support and Bank Guarantees to JCI for the smooth functioning of MSP operations JCI, during the previous jute year, procured around 11.13 lakh bales (of 180 kg) of raw jute under the MSP Scheme. This Ministry has not received any complaint regarding farmers not getting a remunerative price for raw jute. From the above statements, it follows that the Government is taking effective steps to improve the welfare of the lakhs of jute workers and jute growers.

(c) Yes, Sir. The JCI is mandated to procure whatever quantity of raw jute offered at MSP provided the raw jute is as per prescribed specifications.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Minimum Support Price fixed by the Govt. for the Jute year 2004-05 is Rs. 890 per quintal for TD-5 grade (ex-Assam) of raw jute.

[English]

WTO Meet GENEVA

*372. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL :

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN :

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

(a) whether meeting of WTO General Council was held between 27-29 July, 2004 in Geneva;

(b) If so, outcome of the meet;

(c) whether the developed countries have moved some new proposals in the General Council of WTO;

(d) whether the Government has expressed disappointment over the draft framework for negotiations circulated by WTO, especially in the area of agriculture;

(e) whether the Government propose to withdraw from WTO and build an alternative body in case the developed countries do not cut subsidies and allow a greater market to the developing nations; and

(f) if so, how do the Government intend to address the grievances with regard to reduction of domestic support for agriculture products suggested by the developed countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. The meeting was held upto 1st August 2004.

(b) It adopted a Framework Agreement, which lays down the principles and criteria for further negotiations, covering Agriculture, Non-Agricultural Market Access, Trade Facilitation and specifically development related issues. The issues relating to Trade and Investment, Trade and Competition Policy and Transparency in Government Procurement stand removed. In respect of Services and development related issues, it recognizes the importance of their development aspects and establishes time frames.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The Government had drawn attention to specific areas of concern to India for appropriate resolution in the drafts that have been presented at various stages of the negotiations, including on Agriculture. India has made concerted efforts with like-minded developing countries, including in the G-20 Alliance on Agriculture and the G-33 Alliance on Special Products, in order to ensure, *inter alia*, that the elements and principles incorporated in the agreed Framework on Agriculture lead to substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic subsidies provided to their farm sector largely by the developed countries, a credible and date for elimination of their export subsidies and substantial market access improvements for products of export interest to developing countries. Moreover, consistent with the Doha mandate to negotiate on agriculture, any additional commitments, particularly in market access, by developing countries like India should serve to safeguard their food and livelihood security concerns and rural development needs. The *Framework for Establishing Modalities in Agriculture*, agreed to as part of the overall Framework Agreement, duly addresses India's interests and concerns.

(e) Since the Framework agreed to in WTO duly addresses India's interests and concerns, the question of

withdrawal from the WTO and building another body does not arise. The efforts of the Government are to ensure that India's interests are safeguard through appropriate engagement in the negotiations and through coalition building with like-minded WTO Members and Members groupings.

(f) The Framework Agreement is only an interim stage towards conclusion of the ongoing multilateral trade negotiations. The next step would be finalization of modalities which would result, *inter alia*, in agreement on formulae for reduction in domestic support along with formulae for tariff reduction and setting up the actual date for elimination of export subsidies for agricultural products. Government is determined to ensure that our concerns continue to be adequately addressed as negotiations proceed.

[English]

Financial Assistance from World Bank for Developmental Projects

*373. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of development projects in the country are receiving financial assistance from the World Bank, State-wise;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned by the World Bank for each project during each of the last three years;

(c) whether this amount has been properly utilized by each State especially the Gujarat Government; and

(d) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Loan Assistance for State Sector Projects approved by the World Bank during the last three Financial Years - Project-wise and State-wise in US \$ million is as follows :-

S.No.	Name of the Project	State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Loan/Credit	Andhra Pradesh	250		
2.	Andhra Pradesh Rural Poverty Reduction Project	Andhra Pradesh		150.03	
3.	Andhra Pradesh Community Forest Management Project	Andhra Pradesh		108	
4.	Andhra Pradesh Economic Reform Program II	Andhra Pradesh			220
5.	Chhattisgarh District Rural Poverty Reduction Project	Chhattisgarh			112.56
6.	Gujarat Emergency Earthquake Reconstruction Project	Gujarat		442.8	
7.	Karnataka Structural Adjustment Loan II	Karnataka	100		
8.	Second Karnataka Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Karnataka	151.6		
9.	First Karnataka Economic Restructuring Loan/Credit	Karnataka	150		

1	2	3	4	5	6
10.	Karnataka Watershed Development Project	Karnataka	100.4		
11.	Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project	Karnataka	360		
12.	Karnataka Community-Based Tank Management Project	Karnataka		98.9	
13.	Kerala State Transport Project	Kerala	255		
14.	Mumbai Urban Transport Project	Maharashtra		542	
15.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Project	Maharashtra		181	
16.	Mizoram State Roads Project	Mizoram	60		
17.	Technical/Engineering Education Quality Improvement Project	Multistate		250	
18.	Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project	Rajasthan	140		
19.	Rajasthan Second District Primary Education Project	Rajasthan	74.4		
20.	Rajasthan Health Systems Development Project	Rajasthan			89
21.	Tamil Nadu Road Sector Project	Tamil Nadu			348
22.	Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring Project	Uttar Pradesh	149.2		
23.	Uttar Pradesh State Roads Projects	Uttar Pradesh		488	

(c) and (d) Overall the disbursement ratio of World Bank financed projects in India during Bank Financial Year ending June 2004 stood at 19.9%, indicating satisfactory utilization of Bank funds. However, for the following six state sector projects the achievement of development objectives and / or implementation progress has been rated to be unsatisfactory at present :-

- (i) Orissa Health System Development
- (ii) Karnataka Rural Water Supply -II
- (iii) Uttar Pradesh Water Sector Restructuring
- (iv) Uttar Pradesh Power Sector
- (v) Uttar Pradesh Roads
- (vi) Mumbai Urban Transport

While the utilization in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa was significantly better than the country average, the utilization in States of Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh was lower than the country average.

NPA of Public Sector Banks

*374. SHRI ANNASAHAB M. K. PATIL :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether huge amount of non-performing assets of public sector banks arise due to their policy of extending more loan to non-priority sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of total loan given to priority and non-priority sector separately during the last three years;

(c) the amount converted into NPA in the priority and non-priority sector loans;

(d) the difficulties being faced by public sector banks to recover their NPA;

(e) the details of the recoveries of NPAs by these banks during the last financial year;

(f) the number of cases filed in the courts by public sector banks alongwith amount involved therein as on date;

(g) the details of the loans against not performing written off assets by State Bank of India and other nationalised banks during the last financial year; and

(h) the total amount written off during the past two years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. Incidence of large amount of non-performing assets in public sector banks cannot be solely attributed to banks' policy of extending loans to any particular sector. NPAs accumulate due to various reasons, which are not sector specific. The details of advances and non-performing assets to public sector banks to priority and non-priority sector for the last three years ending March 2004 (latest available) is as under :-

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Advances		Non-Performing Assets		% of NPAs to Gross NPAs	
	Priority sector	Non-priority sector	Priority sector	Non-Priority sector	Priority sector	Non-priority sector
March 2002	161186	309261	25139	31367	44.5	55.5
March 2003	190422	346596	24938	27869	47.2	52.8
March 2004	232456	388038	23840	26308	47.5	52.5

(d) There are various factors both external and internal which create difficulties in recovery of non-performing assets. These inter-alia include deficiency in credit appraisal and supervision, diversion of funds by the borrower, poor monitoring and followup by managements, litigation, natural calamities, wilful default in repayment, inefficient management of the unit financed, non-viability or sickness of the unit due to change in technology, demand pattern and policies etc., non-completion of project due to cost and time, overruns and other factors, such as non-availability of raw materials, labour problems, natural calamities and delay in disposal by courts of suits filed by banks.

(e) The recoveries effected by public sector banks (including compromise/write offs) increased from Rs. 18730 crore on 31st March 2003 to Rs. 20705 crores on 31st March, 2004.

(f) Public sector banks have 480078 suit filed cases involving Rs. 45652 crores.

(g) and (h) Bank-wise details of loans written off by each of the 27 public sector banks is given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

Bank-wise details of amount written off

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

S.No.	Bank Name	2002	2003
1	2	3	4
1.	Allahabad Bank	159.74	208.5
2.	Andhra Bank	71.03	93.65
3.	Bank of Baroda	424.53	454.77
4.	Bank of India	556.11	535.17
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	83.24	92.35
6.	Canara Bank	415.41	112.24
7.	Central Bank of India	257.38	418.22

1	2	3	4
8.	Corporation Bank	88.89	16.15
9.	Dena Bank	193.27	637.87
10.	Indian Bank	153.65	57.1
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	106.14	125.81
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Nil	4.97
13.	Punjab & Sind Bank	6.85	55.32
14.	Punjab National Bank	47.17	157.93
15.	Syndicate Bank	13.45	42.32
16.	UCO Bank	197.43	132.59
17.	Union Bank of India	116.89	378.22
18.	United Bank of India	329.79	223
19.	Vijaya Bank	2.70	122.59
20.	State Bank of India	2331.05	3939.93
21.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	92.05	94.84
22.	State Bank of Hyderabad	116.29	289.34
23.	State Bank of Indore	80.88	110.57
24.	State Bank of Mysore	64.11	129.99
25.	State Bank of Patiala	154.29	175.29
26.	State Bank of Saurashtra	99.18	98.69
27.	State Bank of Travancore	100.18	81.65
Total		6261.70	8791.6

[Translation]

Opening of Regional Rural Banks

*375. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of Regional Rural Banks proposed to be opened in each State during the current year and 2005;

(b) the amount likely to be spent for opening new branches;

(c) the role played by these banks in the economic development of the rural areas; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that these Regional Rural Banks play their role effectively?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) The National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has recommended to RBI, 41 applications received from different Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for opening branches during the year 2004-2005 in the following States :

S.No.	State	No. of branches applied for
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6
2.	Rajasthan	12
3.	Orissa	2
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Tamil Nadu	1
6.	Uttaranchal	4
7.	Gujarat	1
8.	Uttar Pradesh	6
9.	Chhattisgarh	1
10.	Punjab	2
11.	Kerala	1
12.	Himachal Pradesh	4
Total		41

Expenditure towards opening of branches varies from bank to bank and branch to branch depending on the infrastructure, additional staff, rental charges of premises required etc. The expenditure on opening branches is borne by respective RRBs.

(c) and (d) As mandated by RRB Act, 1976, RRBs have been able to mobilize rural savings and channelise them for supporting agriculture and other productive activities in the rural areas, RRB's have played a reasonably effective role in providing credit to small and marginal farmers, landless labourers, rural artisans and other weaker sections of society. Their performance in providing credit to priority sector has also been reasonably good. Several measures have been taken by the Government to make the RRBs more effective in providing credit to rural masses. These measures include :

1. Recapitalisation of weak RRBs.
2. Fixing Priority Sector lending target of 60%.
3. Permitting RRBs to finance education loan, rural housing etc.
4. Holding the sponsor bank squarely responsible for the performance of their RRBs.
5. Increasing credit flow to agriculture through Kisan Credit Card (KCC).
6. Permitting SHG-Bank linkage for productive activities in the rural areas.

M RTP Commission

*376. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO
RENGE PATIL:

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practice Commission do not keep account of cases relating to monopolies and restrictive trade practices;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the viewpoint of the Government in this regard;

(c) the work undertaken by the aforesaid commission during the last year; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to ensure more effective functioning of the commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) and (b) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Commission maintains information regarding institution, disposal and pendency of cases related to Monopolistic and Restrictive Trade Practices.

(c) and (d) A statement indicating the work undertaken by the MRTP Commission during the year 2003 is laid on the Table of the House. This statement indicates that pendency of the cases in the Commission is on the decline. To enable the Commission to function as envisaged in the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969, the Government makes arrangements as required from time to time.

The following table shows the number of enquiries received, disposed of and pending in the MRTP Commission during the year 2003 :-

Year	Enquiries	Pending at the beginning of the year	Registered/instituted during the year	Disposed of during the year	Pending at the end of the year
2003	*RTPE	422	34	81	375
	UTPE	591	47	105	533
	MTPE	06	01	---	07
	CA	1233	136	178	1191

*RTPE : Restrictive Trade Practices Enquiry

UTPE : Unfair Trade Practices Enquiry

MTPE : Monopolistic Trade Practices Enquiry

CA : Compensation Application

[English]

Global Trust Bank

*377. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS
SADHU YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the RBI has recently freezed withdrawals from the Global Trust Bank;

(b) if so, the circumstances under which the Government had ordered a moratorium for GTB deposits withdrawals alongwith the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of account holders affected;

(d) whether the Government has found some discrepancies in the Balance Sheet of Global Trust Bank for the years 2001-2002 and 2002-2003;

(e) if so, the details of discrepancies found in the Balance Sheet;

(f) whether Reserve Bank of India has worked out a scheme to protect the interests of the depositors of GTB;

(g) if so, the details thereof;

(h) whether the Government has decided to merge GTB with Oriental Bank of Commerce;

(i) if so, by when; and

(j) the other steps taken by the Government in safeguarding the money of investors in private banks?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The financial health of GTB was causing concern to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The key indicators about the health of the bank were wrongly certified by the Statutory Auditors of the bank for the years 2001-02 and 2002-03. In view of the erosion of capital of the

bank, RBI directed the bank to infuse capital so as achieve a CRAR of 9%. However, in view of the bank's inability to raise the required capital from domestic investors or propose a voluntary merger with any domestic bank, on the recommendation of the RBI, Government placed GTB under an Order of Moratorium for the period from the close of business on 24th July, 2004 upto and inclusive of 23rd October, 2004. Around nine lakh depositors were affected by this.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The statutory auditors appointed by GTB for the years 31st March 2002 and 31st March 2003 failed to identify the true position about net worth, assets, CRAR, Profit and Non-performing assets and this resulted in false certification by them which did not match with the data reported by inspecting officers of RBI. RBI has written to the Institute of Chartered Accountants to take action against the statutory auditors as it deems fit.

(f) to (i) Yes, Sir. A scheme of amalgamation of Global Trust Bank with Oriental Bank of Commerce has been notified with effect from August 14, 2004 as per the scheme of the RBI drawn in the light of interest by OBC to takeover GTB. The details of the scheme are given in the enclosed statement.

(j) In order to avoid the recurrence of such failures in future and safeguard the interests of depositors, RBI has taken several steps which, inter-alia, include introduction of capital adequacy standards on the lines of the Basel norms, prudential norms on asset classification, income recognition and provisioning, introduction of valuation norms and capital for market risk for investments, enhancing transparency and disclosure requirements for published accounts, aligning exposure/Capital market exposure norms, introduction of off-site monitoring system and strengthening of the supervisory framework/introduction of Risk Based Supervision for banks and introduction of a framework for prompt corrective action.

Statement

Details of Amalgamation Scheme of Global Trust Bank

- (a) The business, properties, assets and liabilities of Global Trust Bank (GTB) shall stand transferred to Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC);

- (b) All contracts, deeds, bonds, agreements, powers of attorney etc. having effect immediately before the date of amalgamation, shall be effective and may be acted upon as if OBC had been a party thereto or as if it had been issued in favour of GTB;
- (c) OBC shall, in consultation with GTB, value the assets and reckon the liabilities of GTB in the manner prescribed in the Scheme. OBC shall discharge the liabilities of GBT and make payment to the creditors and depositors in the manner specified in the Scheme. As regards payment to depositors, the Draft Scheme, inter-alia, provides that in respect of every savings bank account, current account or any other deposit account, including interest to the extent payable under the scheme, the transferee bank shall open with itself a corresponding and similar account and credit the full, account, including interest in respect of each of the accounts;
- (d) Till payment in full against all the accounts has been made, no payment will be made to shareholders. Thereafter, payment in the first instance will be made, if due, to the accounts of the former preference shareholders of the transferor bank. After this if there is any surplus left, amount will be distributed among the former ordinary shareholders of the transferor bank on pro-rata basis;
- (e) All the employees of GTB shall continue in service and be deemed to have been appointed in OBC at the same remuneration and on the same terms and conditions of service as were applicable to them before the amalgamation.
- (f) Any suit, appeal or other legal proceedings of whatever nature by or against the transferor bank is pending, the same shall not abate, be discontinued or be in any way prejudicially affected, but shall, subject to the other provisions of the scheme, be prosecuted and enforced by or against the transferee bank.
- (g) In case of contravention of any of the provisions of any act or of any rule, regulation, direction or order made thereunder has been committed by, or any proceeding for a criminal offence has been instituted against, a director or secretary, manager, officer or other employee of the transferor bank before the prescribed date, such director, secretary, manager, officer or other employee shall, without prejudice to the application of section 6 of the General Clauses Act, 1897, be liable to be proceeded against under such law and punished accordingly as if the transferor bank, being a banking company had not been dissolved.

Import of Aircraft to India

*378. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

SHRI UDAY SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased

to state :

(a) whether the Government is considering a proposal to reduce the maximum age of aircraft imported to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether most of the planes of Indian Airlines have completed their average age; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and reasons for flying those aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) There is no prescribed age limit in terms of flight hour, flight cycle or calendar year for aircraft. The aircraft remain in operation as long as they are maintained in airworthy condition as per the maintenance procedures and norms prescribed by the aircraft manufacturers and approved by the Director General of Civil Aviation.

Opening of Small Airports

*379. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY :

SHRI RAKESH SINGH :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has conducted any survey to find possibilities of opening small Airports in the country to link local areas with State capitals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of new air routes started during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise and those proposed for 2004-05;

(d) whether any special focus including the number of aircraft has been given to link North-Eastern sector with rest to the country by air;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) the action taken/proposed in this regard;

(g) whether refreshments served to passengers on the North-Eastern sector are not of standard quality; and

(h) if so, the details thereof including the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Details of the new air route started by domestic

scheduled airlines during the last three years are given as under :-

Indian Airlines and Alliance Air	Statement-I
Jet Airways and	Statement-II
Sahara Airlines	Statement-III
Deccan Aviation	Statement-IV

(d) to (f) Government has laid down Route Dispersal Guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country including North-Eastern region. As per the guidelines the scheduled operators are required to deploy on routes in category - II (which includes states in North-East region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep) atleast 10% of the capacity they deploy on routes in category-I (Trunk Route) and of the capacity deployed on category -II routes, at least 10% would be deployed on services or segments thereof operated exclusively within the North-Eastern region, Jammu and Kashmir, Andaman and Nicobar and Lakshadweep.

Alliance Air has included four ATR42 turbo - prop aircraft for deployment exclusively to / from / within the North - East region. One of the ATRs has now been positioned at Guwahati, with effect from 28.7.2004.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Indian Airlines Ltd.

List of States where currently operational new links have been introduced on domestic network during the years 2001-2004

State	New Link	Date of Introduction
1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	Raipur-Vizag	26/10/03
Assam	Guwahati-Silchar	21/1/02
	Guwahati-Lilabari	9/10/02
	Guwahati-Dimapur	2/1/03
	Guwahati-Aizawal	5/4/03
	Agartala-Silchar	15/4/03
	Shillong - Silchar	28/7/04
Bihar	Kolkata - Gaya	18/12/02
Chhattisgarh	Raipur-Vizag	26/10/03
	Raipur-Chennai	26/10/03
Maharashtra	Mumbai-Jaipur (Non-Stop)	12/2/02
	Mumbai-Pune	31/3/02
	Mumbai-Chandigarh	27/10/02

1	2	3
Meghalaya	Kolkata-Shillong	7/4/03
	Shillong-Aizwal	28/7/04
	Shillong-Silchar	28/7/04
Nagaland	Guwahati-Dimapur	2/1/03
Mizoram	Guwahati-Aizawal	5/4/03
	Shillong-Aizawal	28/7/04
Rajasthan	Mumbai-Jaipur (Non-Stop)	12/02/02
Tamil Nadu	Raipur-Chennai	26/10/03
Tripura	Agartala-Silchar	15/4/03
West Bengal	Kolkata-Gaya	18/12/02
	Kolkata-Shillong	7/4/03

Statement-II

Sectors introduced by Jet Airways during last three years

2001-2002

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Kolkata (*)	2 Flights/week
2.	Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Bangalore & Return (*)	3 Flights/week
3.	Kolkata-Bhubaneswar-Chennai & Return (*)	3 Flights/week
4.	Guwahati-Imphal-Guwahati	5 Flights/week
5.	Delhi-Leh-Delhi	Daily
6.	Jorhat-Guwahati-Jorhat (\$)	2 Flights/week
7.	Mumbai-Jodhpur-Mumbai	Daily
8.	Mumbai-Bhopal-Mumbai	Daily
9.	Mumbai-Kolhapur-Mumbai *)	Daily
10.	Delhi-Ludhiana-Delhi (*)	Daily
11.	Mumbai-Nagpur-Mumbai	Daily
12.	Delhi-Udaipur-Delhi	Daily
13.	Delhi-Vadodara-Delhi	Daily
14.	Delhi-Jodhpur-Delhi (*)	Daily
15.	Delhi-Bhubaneswar-Delhi (*)	Daily
16.	Chennai-Madurai-Chennai	Daily
17.	Chennai-Mangalore-Chennai (*)	Daily

(*) Sectors have since been discontinued

(\$) Re-routed in 2002-2003

2002-2003

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Pune-Goa-Pune (*)	Daily
2.	Guwahati-Jorhat-Guwahati (\$)	2 Flights/week

(*) Sector has since been discontinued

(\$) Re-route

2003-2004

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Delhi-Indore-Bhopal-Delhi	Daily
2.	Delhi-Goa-Delhi (*)	Daily
3.	Delhi-Bhopal-Indore-Delhi	6 Flights/week
4.	Delhi-Jodhpur-Delhi	Daily
5.	Kolkata-Bangalore-Kolkata	Daily
6.	Kolkata-Agartala-Guwahati & Return	4 Flights/week
7.	Kolkata-Agartala-Kolkata	3 Flights/week
8.	Kolkata-Jorhat-Kolkata	2 Flights/week
9.	Kolkata-Imphal-Kolkata	1 Flight/week

(*) Sector has since been discontinued

2004-2005 (Aprli-Aug)

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Delhi-Patna-Delhi	Daily

No new city pairs proposed to be inducted during 2004-05 as of now.

Statement-III

*Sectors Introduced by Sahara Airlines
during last three years*

2001-2002

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Kolkata-Hyderabad-Bangalore & Return	Daily
2.	Delhi-Pune-Delhi	Daily
3.	Mumbai-Pune-Mumbai	Daily

2002-2003

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Kolkata-Gorakhpur-Kolkata	4 Flights/week
2.	Kolkata-Allahabad-Kolkata	3 Flights/week
3.	Lucknow-Gorakhpur-Lucknow	4 Flights/week
4.	Lucknow-Allahabad-Lucknow	3 Flights/week
5.	Kolkata-Guwahati-Kolkata	Daily

2003-2004

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Mumbai-Cochin-Mumbai	Daily
2.	Mumbai-Coimbatore-Mumbai	Daily
3.	Pune-Bangalore-Pune	Daily
4.	Hyderabad-Pune-Hyderabad	Daily
5.	Mumbai-Patna-Panchi-Mumbai	Daily
6.	Kolkata-Bhubaneshwar-Kolkata	Daily
7.	Mumbai-Bhubaneshwar-Mumbai	Daily
8.	Goa-Bangalore-Goa	Daily
9.	Chennai-Coimbatore-Chennai	Daily
10.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai	Daily
11.	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Mumbai	Daily
12.	Delhi-Jaipur-Delhi	Daily
13.	Chennai-Kolkata-Chennai	Daily
14.	Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi	Daily

2004-05 (Till Date)

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Delhi-Srinagar-Delhi	Daily

Sahara Airlines proposes to introduce flight on Mumbai-Trivandrum-Mumbai sector in early 2005.

Statement-IV**New Routes added by Air Deccan in 2003-04**

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Bangalore-Hubli-Bangalore	Daily
2.	Bangalore-Mangalore-Bangalore	Daily
3.	Chennai-Hyderabad-Chennai	Daily
4.	Chennai-Coimbatore-Chennai	Twice Daily
5.	Bangalore-Coimbatore-Bangalore	Twice Daily
6.	Bangalore-Chennai-Bangalore	Thrice Daily
7.	Bangalore-Belgaum-Bangalore	Daily
8.	Belgaum-Mumbai-Belgaum	Daily
9.	Mumbai-Goa-Mumbai	Daily
10.	Bangalore-Goa-Bangalore	Daily
11.	Bangalore-Hyderabad-Bangalore	Twice Daily
12.	Hyderabad-Vijayawada-Hyderabad	Daily
13.	Chennai-Madurai-Chennai	Daily

New Routes added by Air Deccan in 2004-05 (Till Date)

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Bangalore-Belgaum-Hubli-Bangalore	Daily
2.	Hyderabad-Tirupati-Hyderabad	Daily
3.	Hyderabad-Vizag-Hyderabad	Daily
4.	Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Mumbai	Twice Daily
5.	Mumbai-Vadodara-Mumbai	Twice Daily
6.	Mumbai-Bhavnagar-Mumbai	Daily
7.	Mumbai-Kohlapur-Belgaum-Mumbai	Daily

New Routes proposed by Air Deccan in 2004-05 Effective 25.8.2004

No.	Sector	Frequency
1.	Hyderabad-Delhi-Hyderabad	Daily
2.	Delhi-Guwahati-Bagdogra-Delhi	2 Flights/week
3.	Delhi-Bagdogra-Guwahati-Delhi	2 Flights/week
4.	Delhi-Guwahati-Delhi	3 Flights/week
5.	Chennai-Delhi-Chennai	Daily
6.	Delhi-Ahmedabad-Mumbai & Return	Daily
7.	Bangalore-Delhi-Bangalore	Daily
8.	Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi	Daily
9.	Mumbai-Bangalore-Mumbai	Daily

Double Taxation Avoidance Treaty

*380. SHRI K. S. RAO :

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian and Mauritius finance Ministers met recently in capital;

(b) if so, the details of the discussions held;

(c) whether the issue of double taxation avoidance treaty was discussed; and

(d) if so, the details alongwith the final decision taken or MOU signed, if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. However, Shri K.C. Khushiram, Minister of Industry, Financial Services and Corporate Affairs of Mauritius met the Finance Minister on 19.07.2004.

(b) The Mauritian Minister apprised the Finance Minister about the developments in the Financial Services Sector to Mauritius and steps taken to strengthen that sector in Mauritius.

(c) and (d) The Mauritian Minister mentioned that the provisions of the existing Indo-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) should be observed. He informed the Finance Minister that the regulatory regime in this behalf had been strengthened. No decision on any issue was taken nor any MOU signed.

Kelkar Report

*381. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL :

SHRI MOHAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has received second report of Kelkar Committee on tax reform to establish fiscal discipline by 2008-09;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the report; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir; the Report of the Task Force on Implementation of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003 headed by Dr. Vijay L. Kelkar has been received by the Government.

The Task Force has recommended a revenue-led fiscal correction strategy through wide ranging tax reforms including expanding the service tax net, removal of tax exemptions, reduction in tax rates, administrative improvements in tax departments and the introduction of a Goods and Services Tax. These recommendations will provide valuable inputs for the formulation of Government policy in this regard.

*[English]***Approval of Pharmexcil**

3368. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government approved Pharmexcil violating their own model;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) the total number of members of Chemexcil who have reported for formation of separate council for Pharmaceuticals as required under the guidelines;

(d) what are the steps Government proposes to take so that genuine exporters are represented in export councils and verify the credibility enjoyed by the promoters of Pharmexcil amongst exporters; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No request has been received from Chemexcil for formation of a separate council. As per the Department of Commerce's guidelines regarding restructuring of Export Promotion Councils dated 11th Oct, 2000, the condition regarding popular support of more than 75% exists only for Export Promotion Forums. As regards Pharmexcil, a conscious decision was taken, not to constitute an EPF but an EPC to provide the thrust and specialised services to the growing drugs and pharmaceutical sector. Pharmexcil not being an EPF the guidelines do not hold good for Pharmexcil, which has been set up as an EPC.

(d) and (e) All Export Promotion Councils have been directed to abide by the model bye-laws which contain rules relating to various aspects including election, (issued by this Department). Apart from the above all important decisions are placed before the Committee of Administration, which is also represented by the Government nominees.

Exemption of Excise Duty on Industries in North-East

3369. SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether exemptions of excise duty etc. are granted for setting up industries in the notified areas of Assam;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to declare the entire North East as a special industrial zone for availing excise exemptions etc;

(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) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(d) There are two schemes for exemption to new units or units which undertake substantial expansion in the North East. Notification No. 33/99-CE, dated the 8th July,

1999, exempts units manufacturing certain specified goods (considered as thrust industries for the region), irrespective of their location in the North Eastern Region. Thus, exemption under this notification is available to all units (manufacturing such specified goods) without any restriction on their location in the region. The other scheme was intended to promote industrial development in the targeted underdeveloped areas. Notification No. 32/99-CE, dated the 8th July, 1999, thus exempts all goods (except for tobacco products and goods cleared by oil refineries), manufactured by units located in such identified targeted underdeveloped areas. Thus, one scheme provides for exemption to specified goods for all units in the North East irrespective of their location. The other scheme meant for highly underdeveloped areas grants exemption to all goods (except for tobacco products and goods cleared by oil refineries).

[Translation]

Irregularities in Sanctioning of Loan to Farmers

3370. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether irregularities have been noticed at the time of sanctioning loans to small and marginal farmers by the Cooperative/Commercial/Regional Rural Banks in the country during the last three years by the Government;

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

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have reported that irregularities in the sanctioning of loans to borrowers including small and marginal farmers by banks, if any, are observed during the statutory inspections of the banks and included in the reports issued to them. Deficiencies observed are mostly procedural in nature, viz., crop-wise scale of finance not revised, timely renewal of loan limits not ensured, non-availability of data on coverage of small/marginal farmers, non-adherence to repayment period, compounding of interest on current agricultural crop loans, lower Kisan Credit Card limit fixing, etc.

Banks are advised to rectify the deficiencies observed during the course of inspections and submit a compliance report by the stipulated date. Compliance by the banks is examined in the subsequent inspections.

[English]

Demands of AI Employees

3371. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India Unions' Charter of Demands is pending since 1 January, 1997 with the CMD of Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the management of Air India is unable to proceed due to Government guidelines being delayed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action being taken by the Government to settle the demands in the Charter immediately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) The Memorandum of Settlement signed by Air India management with different Unions/Associations/Guilds for the period from 01.09.1990 to 31.12.1996, have lapsed. Thereafter, there has been no settlement on Charter of Demands as Air India did not meet the conditions prescribed under the Government guidelines in this regard.

Air India recently sought permission of the Government for commencing wage negotiations with the Unions/Associations on the ground that most conditions prescribed under Government guidelines are now met. The Government have since allowed Air India to commence the wage negotiations with the Unions/Associations/Guilds etc. subject to fulfillment of Government guidelines issued from time to time.

[Translation]

Status of Reservation Quota

3372. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC has been filled up in the Boards and Authorities functioning under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; and

(b) strength of employees belonging to SC, ST and OBC separately in the Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Rubber Board, Tobacco Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority and Agricultural and Processed Food Product Export Development Authority, category-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) The post-based reservation system for

filling up of reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC is being followed in Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Rubber Board, Tobacco Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

(b) Category-wise strength of employees belonging to SC, ST and OBC in respect of Tea Board, Coffee Board, Spices Board, Rubber Board, Tobacco Board, Marine Products Export Development Authority and Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority is as under :-

Tea Board

Category	SC	ST	OBC
1	2	3	4
A	11	1	-
B	15	2	-
C	48	8	7
D	41	12	2
Total	115	23	9

Coffee Board

A	11	2	-
B	20	8	3
C	99	33	8
D	61	12	-
Total	191	55	11

Spices Board

A	5	2	19
B	12	6	22
C	49	17	97
D	14	5	21
Total	80	30	159

Rubber Board

A	25	7	47
B	61	22	106
C	118	52	165
D	38	20	40
Total	242	101	358

1	2	3	4
Tobacco Board			
A	16	5	-
B	15	5	14
C	74	16	40
D	27	6	48
Total	132	32	102
Marine Products Export Development Authority			
A	13	3	19
B	14	3	27
C	35	10	62
D	18	6	21
Total	80	22	129
Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority			
A	2	1	-
B	2	1	-
C	7	2	6
D	1	1	2
Total	12	5	8

[English]

Profit earned by Public Sector Banks

3373. SHRI SUGRIB SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the name of the public sector banks earning profit during the last three years;

(b) the amount of profits earned by each public sector bank during the said period; and

(c) the details of the projection made by each bank in 2004-2005 financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The bank-wise details of net profits of each of the 27 public sector banks for the last three years are given on the enclosed statement.

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

Statement			
Net Profit of Public Sector Banks			
	(Rs. in Crore)		
Public Sectors Banks	Net Profit		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04*
Allahabad Bank	80.21	165.99	463.38
Andhra Bank	202.27	402.99	463.50
Bank of Baroda	545.93	772.78	967.00
Bank of India	508.83	851.00	1008.23
Bank of Maharashtra	145.41	222.02	304.54
Canara Bank	741.40	1018.89	1338.01
Central Bank of India	163.30	305.52	618.11
Corporation Bank	308.10	415.99	504.14
Dena Bank	11.36	114.19	230.50
Indian Bank	33.22	188.83	405.75
Indian Overseas Bank	230.21	416.10	512.76
Oriental Bank of Commerce	320.55	456.95	686.07
Punjab & Sind Bank	23.04	4.43	8.89
Punjab National Bank	562.39	842.20	1108.69
Syndicate Bank	250.55	344.13	434.13
UCO Bank	164.52	207.49	435.42
Union Bank of India	314.13	552.69	712.05
United Bank of India	119.04	305.19	315.08
Vijaya Bank	130.90	196.56	411.31
State Bank of India	2431.62	3105.00	3681.00
State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	164.50	203.27	301.52
State Bank of Hyderabad	226.49	301.40	381.20
State Bank of Indore	125.10	200.32	226.26
State Bank of Mysore	65.90	115.92	176.38
State Bank of Patiala	232.94	322.02	430.36
State Bank of Saurashtra	82.01	92.55	177.39
State Bank of Travancore	120.93	171.04	244.60
Nationalised Banks (19)	4855.36	7783.94	10927.65
SBI & its Groups (8)	3449.49	4511.52	5618.72
Public Sector Banks (27)	3304.85	12295.46	16546.37

Source : Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India and Balance Sheet Analysis Returns Submitted by the Banks.

*Provisional

Plan Assistance to States

3374. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the plan assistance to some States particularly Orissa has been held up by the Union Government;

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

(c) the reasons for which the plan assistance has been held up; and

(d) the steps taken to release the same at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Minimum Export Price of Coir

3375. DR. K. S. MANOJ : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what is the current minimum price for coir products; and

(b) whether the Central Government has any plan to revise the minimum export price and floor price of coir product, if so, the details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVA) : (a) Currently there is no Minimum Export Price for coir and coir products.

(b) The question of its revision, therefore, does not arise.

Problems of Kani Shawl Artisans

3376. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government is aware that traditional artisans of Kani Shawl are living in poverty;

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

(c) the number of artisans of Kani Shawl registered with the Handicraft Board; and

(d) the amount spent to develop this craft during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH

VAGHELA) : (a) It has been reported by the Handloom Development Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir that traditional weavers of Kani Shawl are not living in poverty.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no organisation in the name of Handicraft Board. 157 weavers of Kani Shawl are registered with the Handloom Development Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

(d) The amount released to develop this craft during the last three years under the schemes of the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) has been to the tune of Rs. 41.91 lakhs.

[Translation]

Review of Royalty Rate of Coal in respect of Uttar Pradesh

3377. SHRI CHANDRA DEV PRASAD RAJBHAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Uttar Pradesh Government has requested the Union Government to review the royalty rates of coal advalorem;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which the market price of coal has increased during the last three years; and

(d) whether royalty rate of coal has increased from 10 to 15 percent during the last ten years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer given to part (a) above.

(c) The average percentage increase in price of all grades of coal over the last three years (2001-02 to 2004-05) is 18.77%.

(d) The average percentage increase in rate of royalty during 1994-2004 is 24.68%.

[English]

Import of Cotton and Linen

3378. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European Union (EU) has lately decided to impose anti-subsidy duties on imports of cotton and linen from India;

(b) if so, the details of the duties so imposed, indicating the declared object and purpose of such duties; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto, indicating the likely impact thereof on India's linen exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) On January 2004 the European Union (EU) has imposed countervailing duty in the range of 4.4% to 10.4% on imports of cotton-type bed linen from India. A countervailing duty is levied for the purpose of offsetting any subsidy bestowed directly or indirectly upon the manufacture, production or export of any merchandise. Countervailing duties are imposed pursuant to an investigation initiated and conducted in accordance with the Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures and provisions of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) 1994.

(c) As imposition by European Union of countervailing duty on cotton-type bed linen is likely to adversely affect India's export of this product to the EU countries, the matter has been taken up bilaterally with the European Commission.

[Translation]

District Poverty Alleviation Project

3379. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ongoing 'District Poverty Alleviation' project being implemented with the help of World Bank in Rajasthan is covering only seven out of thirty two districts of the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government of Rajasthan has requested the Union Government to implement this project in the remaining twenty five districts also;

(c) if so, whether the Unions Government is considering to accept this proposal of the State Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Reservations in Subsidiary Companies

3380. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks, insurance companies and other financial institutions have set up subsidiary companies under them;

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

(c) whether reservation policy is implemented in these subsidiary companies; and

(d) if not, the details of the order by which Scheduled Castes/Tribes have been deprived of the reservation facility?

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]

Theft cases at Airports

3381. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of theft cases at major national/international airports during the last three years;

(b) steps taken/proposed to prevent recurrence of such cases;

(c) whether the Government proposes to install more number of close circuit cameras;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to erect electric fencing at various airports;

(f) if so, the details of identified airports alongwith the purpose of erecting such fences;

(g) the details of the project cost and the likely time for its completion;

(h) whether the Government has taken steps to overcome fog related problem that causes risk to arrival/departure of flights; and

(i) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) A total of 104 theft cases have taken place at major national / international airports during the last three years.

(b) Surveillance Closed Circuit TV cameras are installed inside the passengers terminal as well as outside the terminals to detect theft cases. In addition, CISF is also active inside and outside the terminals to check theft cases.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. More number of Surveillance Closed Circuit TV Cameras are proposed to be installed at the airports where these are already in operation and more airports will be covered with this system in a phased manner.

(e) to (g) Expression of interest has been invited for installation of Electronic Perimeter Intrusion Detection Systems with a technology based on climatic conditions prevailing in India and also security threat perceptions.

(h) and (i) Airports Authority of India has installed Instrument Landing System (ILS) CAT-IIIa on runway 28 IGI Airport which permits authorized aircraft to operate in Runway Visual Range upto 200 meters.

[Translation]

Production of Aluminium

3382. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the production of Aluminium in the country during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the target set for production thereof during current year; and

(c) the production made till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) As per information received from primary producers of Aluminium, the production of Aluminium during the last three years was as under :-

Year	Production (MT)
2001-02	6,33,748
2002-03	6,89,041
2003-04	8,16,503

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	Amount increased during 2003-04 over		
					2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Import Edible Oil	6133	6476	8771	11209	5076	4733	2438

(e) Import restrictions on items are being removed as a part of economic liberalization programme of the Government and also in terms of our international obligations. However, imports are constantly being closely monitored and the government is determined to ensure through appropriate use of tariff and other mechanism including anti-dumping action and mandatory BIS specifications, that import do not

(b) and (c) The target set for production of Aluminium in the country during the current fiscal year is 8,96,330 MT and the production made upto 31.7.2004 is 2,74,597 MT.

[English]

Import of Sensitive Items

3383. SHRI MILIND DEORA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that import of 300 sensitive items has increased;

(b) if so, the percentage by which it has increased during 2003-04 as compared to the last three financial years;

(c) the names of the items which have contributed significantly to the growth in imports;

(d) the amount by which the import of edible oil has increased during 2003-04 over the last three years; and

(e) the measures taken to check their imports and to keep the balance between imports and exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The percentage growths of Import of 300 sensitive items during 2003-04 over corresponding period of last three financial years are respectively 23.16%, 54.43% and 69.44%.

(c) As per the provisional data made available by DGCIS, Kolkata, the items which have contributed significantly during 2003-04 are crude palm oil, refined palm oil and its fractions, soya-bean crude oil, cotton (other than Indian), raw cashew nuts, sunflower seed crude oil, crude palm kernel oil and almonds in shell. These items constitute about 82% of the total sensitive items imports during 2003-04.

(d) The amount by which the import of edible oil has increased during 2003-04 over the last three years are given below :-

(Rs. Crore)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)	Amount increased during 2003-04 over		
					2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Import Edible Oil	6133	6476	8771	11209	5076	4733	2438

cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry.

Foreign Investment in India

3384. SHRI MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has emerged at the top regarding

Foreign Direct Investment as reported in Indian Express dated 23.7.2004;

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

(c) the name of the sectors in which Foreign Direct Investment increased during last two years; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to attract more Foreign Direct Investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) United Nation Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has rated India as the second 'hottest' investment destination for the next four years. AT Kearney, a global management consulting firm has also rated India as the best BPO

destination and the sixth most attractive investment destination in terms of FDI Confidence Index 2003.

(c) Sectors in which Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) increased during calendar years 2002/2003 over calendar year 2001 is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route. FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route for most activities/sectors except for a few sectors where caps have been prescribed. In the Budget speech 2004-05, Finance Minister has announced establishing an Investment Commission for wooing domestic and foreign investors. Further FDI will continue to be encouraged and actively sought, particularly in the areas of infrastructure, high technology and exports.

Statement

Sectors in which Foreign Direct Investment increased during calendar years 2002/2003 over the calendar year 2001

(Amount in Rupees crore)

Sl.No.	Sector	2001 Jan-Dec	2002 Jan-Dec	2003 Jan-Dec
1.	Metallurgical Industries	150.58	209.55	145.45
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	1741.17	3107.66	741.85
3.	Electricals Equipment (Incl S/W & Elec)	2056.69	3190.86	1355.00
4.	Transportation Industry	1382.00	2124.24	1513.38
5.	Machine Tools	21.81	65.54	38.54
6.	Commercial Office & Household Equipment	15.06	12.19	49.54
7.	Chemicals (Other than Fertilizers)	295.21	579.95	284.99
8.	Textiles (Include Dyes, Printed)	20.03	220.39	83.81
9.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	50.14	54.46	33.76
10.	Food Processing Industries	285.74	946.96	307.62
11.	Glass	37.52	215.06	25.09
12.	Service Sector	820.22	1543.13	1390.35
13.	Hotel & Tourism	47.15	223.78	259.42
14.	Euro issues (not enumerated sector wise)	2487.44	3090.40	2683.82
15.	Advance of Inflow (not enumerated sector wise)	706.61	1977.12	1880.75

Translation]

Complaint Against I.T. Officials

3385. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD : Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to refer to the Unstarred Question No. 609 dated 5 December, 2003 regarding Complaints against IT Officials and state :

(a) whether the enquiry instituted against the officers of the rank of Chief Commissioner and Commissioners of Income Tax Department has been completed;

(b) if so, whether the Government has reviewed all those cases intensely and have referred them to the Central Vigilance Commission for their legal advice;

(c) if so, the advice given by the Central Vigilance Commission in this regard; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against the said officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The enquiries instituted against the officers of the rank of CCIT & CIT of the IT Department are still underway. Out of 11 cases, in 5 cases reports have been received and are under process and in the remaining 6 reports are still awaited.

(b) The cases are being reviewed intensely and wherever necessary the same would be referred to Central Vigilance Commission for their advice as per procedure;

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Interest on SLR Deposits

3386. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab National Bank has given less interest on the Statutory Liquidity Ratio amount (SLR Deposit) of Himachal Gramin Bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith action taken for refund of said amount to Himachal Gramin Bank;

(c) whether as per the Annual Financial Report of Himachal Gramin Bank' claim of interest amount of Rs. 28,20,550/- on SLR Deposits for the period from 04.03.1993 to 15.07.1994 has been withdrawn by the Chartered Accountant; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and the action being taken by the sponsoring bank for ensuring payment of interest amount on said difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) Punjab National Bank (PNB), which is the sponsoring bank of Himachal Gramin Bank (HGB), Mandi, has reported that upto 15.01.1994 HGB was keeping funds with sponsor bank without making any distinction between SLR and Non-SLR funds and interest was being paid on the amount qualifying for SLR deposits as per undertaking given by HGB to PNB, branch office, Mandi. With effect from 16.01.1994, HGB, Mandi started keeping SLR deposit separately with PNB and interest thereon is being paid as per extant guidelines of Reserve Bank of India. As per the notes annexed to the Annual Report of HGB for the year ended 31.03.2000, it has been stated that the claims of Rs. 28,20,550/- with PNB, Mandi regarding interest arrear has been dropped by the board of the Bank.

(d) Does not arise.

Potential Reserves of Gold, Diamond and Bauxite in Chhattisgarh

3387. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in Chhattisgarh to locate potential reserves of gold, diamond and bauxite;

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

(c) whether any scheme has been approved for the exploration of these minerals; and

(d) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Geological Survey of India (GSI) has conducted survey in Chhattisgarh for locating resources of Gold, Diamond and Bauxite. Location of different minerals are as under:

Gold : Bhelwapani, Chahar project, Sheetalpur, Kanker district, Sonakhan area, Raipur district, Pandripani area, Jashpumagar district and Sabari basinal area, Bastar district.

Diamond : Manipur - Gariaband area, Raipur district, Tokapal area, Kanker district, Indravati - Basinal area, Bastar district, Sarangarh-Chandrapur, Saraipalli area, Raigarh, Janjgir districts.

Bauxite : Bauxite has been reported from Bilaspur, Raigarh, Korba, Jashpumagar and Bastar district.

As a result of survey carried out by GSI and other agencies total in situ reserves (as on 1.4.2000) of 0.900 million tones of Gold, 1304,0000 carats of Diamond and 198.220 million tones of Bauxite have been estimated in different parts of Chhattisgarh.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the field season 2003-04, two items for investigation of Gold at Puro-Michgaon Blocks, Kanker district and Sonakhan area, Raipur district and three items for investigation of Diamond at Kondagaon area, Bastar district, Chandkuri-Kandadongari and Jamnidi of Sonakhan belt and Sarangarh and Sarangarh and Saraipalli area, Mahasamund and Raigarh districts in the State of Chhattisgarh have been approved by GSI.

Detailed exploration for Bauxite has been carried out by Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL) in Jamirapat Group of Deposits, district Sarguja, Chhattisgarh.

[English]

Credit Facilities to Farmers

3388. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK : Will the Ministry of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks have started negotiating directly with farmers to extend credit facilities and;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the PSB in this regard, particularly in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), all loans and advances to agriculture which are categorized as direct advances, are lent directly to the farmers by public sector banks. The banks are thus in direct contact with farmers.

In the State of Orissa, following Government's announcement on 18.06.2004 to increase the credit flow to agriculture, the Orissa State Level Bankers' Committee has constituted a High Power Committee, headed by the Agriculture Production Commissioner, to decide upon the modalities of sectoral allocation of additional credit flow to agriculture from banks during the current financial year. The Committee has prescribed the following main action points for implementation by banks in the State during the year.

- i. To formulate 2-3 new bankable schemes for investment credit amounting to Rs. 3-5 lakh each in rural and semi-urban areas;
- ii. 100 new farmers to be assisted by each branch and 10 agri-clinics to be opened in each district with financial assistance from banks;
- iii. To give special emphasis to increase agricultural credit through Self-Help Groups and Kisan Credit Cards.

The SLBC Convenor Bank, UCO Bank, has communicated the decisions of the Committee along with district-wise targets to the lead banks in all the 30 districts of the State. The branches of public sector banks in Orissa have already started contacting the farmers in their areas of operation to extend credit to agriculture sector, for farm mechanization (tractor loans) and for other schematic lending such as plantation, fisheries, horticulture, etc. The banks are also contacting farmers for the issue of KCCs to meet their farm sector credit requirements.

Production and Consumption of Natural Rubber

3389. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a long gap between production and consumption of natural rubber in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to increase the production;

(d) whether the Government has received a proposal from Kerala Government for banning import of

agricultural products and including rubber in agricultural products; and

(e) if so, action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) To increase the production of natural rubber, Government of India through Rubber Board has been implementing a number of Plan schemes which aim at bringing more area under new rubber plantation, replanting of old and uneconomic trees with high yielding clones, encouraging adoption of technology such as discriminatory fertilizer recommendation, disease control measures, soil and moisture conservation measures, rainguarding of rubber trees, use of stimulants with proper exploitation systems etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. There cannot be a complete ban on the import of commodities in a Quantitative Restrictions (QR) free regime. As regards classifying rubber as agricultural product, the Government of India has already filed its negotiating proposals with WTO for including products such as Natural Rubber in the rationalisation of product coverage in the Agreement on Agriculture. The negotiations on agriculture and other areas of the Doha Work Programme will continue, beyond the 31 December, 2004 deadline set at Doha, upto December 2005.

Import of Agricultural Products

3390. SHRI PRABODH PANDA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed import of agricultural products from certain countries by reducing the rate of import duty;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of agricultural items on which import duty has been reduced and the names of countries to whom this facility has been given;

(d) the extent to which import of agricultural products has increased as a result thereof; and

(e) the impact of such imports on the prices of domestic agricultural products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (e) The Government has allowed import of agricultural products on a preferential basis under Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trading Agreements (PTAs) with the following countries/regions:-

- (i) India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement which was signed on 28th December, 1998 and the implementation began in March, 2000. India allows duty free access to all agricultural items under the India-Sri Lanka FTA except for items in the Negative List. The import of tea is allowed into India from Sri Lanka under Tariff Rate Quota at a preferential duty of 7.5% for 15 million kgs annually. The agricultural items in the Negative List of items under the India-Sri Lanka FTA is given at Statement-I
- (ii) India also has bilateral trade treaties with Nepal and Bhutan, under which duty free imports are allowed, from these two countries on the principles of non-reciprocity.
- (iii) India has also exchanged tariff preferences under the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA).
- (iv) India has also granted tariff preferences under Bangkok Agreement, a PTA, of which Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka are members.

- (v) India has entered into a PTA with Afghanistan in the year 2003 under which tariff concessions on agricultural items are being exchanged on a non-reciprocal basis.

India has also finalised some agricultural items under the Early Harvest Programme under the Framework Agreements with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations comprising Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam) and Thailand on which tariff preferences will be available.

The list of agricultural products on which India is granting concessions under SAPTA, Bangkok Agreement, India-Afghanistan Preferential Trade Agreement and Framework Agreements with ASEAN and Thailand is given at Statement - II.

As per the estimates the import of agricultural products has increased by 18.4% during 2003-04.

Department of Agriculture and Co-operation has received a number of representations pointing out the adverse impact of duty free import of certain agricultural products from Sri Lanka.

Statement - I

Negative List under India - Sri Lanka FTA (No concessions on these items)

HS Code		Description	
1	2	1	2
08.01	0801.11		Coconut desiccated
	0801.19		Coconuts, other
12.03	1203	Copra	
15.13	1513.11		Coconut (copra) oil and its fractions:Crude Oil
22.03	2203	Beer made malt	
		Wine of fresh grapes, including fortified wines; Grape must other than that of heading No. 20.09	
	2204.1		Sparkling wine
			Other wine; Grape must with fermentation prevented or arrested by the addition of alcohol;
	2204.21		In containers holding 2L or less
	2204.29		Other
	2204.3		Other grape must
22.05		Vermouth and other wine of fresh grapes flavoured with plants or aromatic substances.	
	2205.1		In containers holding 2L or less
	2205.9		Others
22.6	2206	Other fermented beverages (for example, cider, perry mead); mixtures of fermented beverages and non-alcoholic beverages, not elsewhere specified or included.	

1	2	1	2
22.07		Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol or higher, ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength	
	2207.1		Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of 80% vol or higher
	2207.2		Ethyl alcohol and other spirits, denatured, of any strength.
22.08		Undenatured ethyl alcohol of an alcoholic strength by volume of less than 80% vol; Spirits, liqueurs and other spirituous beverages	
	2208.2		Spirits obtained by distilling grape wine on grape marc
	2208.3		Whiskies
	2208.4		Rum and Tafia
	2208.5		Gin and Geneva
	2208.6		Vodka
	2208.7		Liqueurs and cordials
	2208.9		Other

Statement - II

Concessions granted by India under SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA)

S.No.	HS Code	Description	Extent of concession to Member Countries (Pakistan and Sri Lanka)	Extent of concession to LDCs (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives and Nepal)
1	2	3	4	5
1.	0603.10	Fresh		25%
2.	0603.90	Other		25%
3.	0701.90	Other		15%
4.	0708.10	Peas	10%	
5.	0708.20	Beans	10%	
6.	0708.90	Other leguminous vegetables	10%	
7.	0713.10	Peas	10%	
8.	0713.20	Chick Peas (garbanzos)	10%	
9.	0713.31	Beans of the species Vigna Mungo, Hepper or Vigna radiata	10%	
10.	0713.32	Small red (adzuki) beans	10%	
11.	0713.33	Kidney beans incld. White pea beans	10%	
12.	0713.39	Other	10%	
13.	0713.40	Lentils	10%	
14.	0713.50	Broad Beans and Horse Beans	10%	
15.	0713.90	Others	10%	
16.	0802.50	Pistachios	10%	

1	2	3	4	5
17.	0802.90	Other		60%
18.	Ex.0802.90	Areca nuts	50%	
19.	0804.10	Dates	20%	
20.	0804.20	Figs	20%	
21.	0804.30	Pineapple		60%
22.	0804.30	Pineapples		75%
23.	0804.50	Guavas, mangoes and mangosteens		15%
24.	0805.10	Oranges	10%	
25.	0805.20	Mandarins	20%	
26.	0805.30	Lemons	20%	
27.	0805.90	Other Citrus Fruits	20%	
28.	0806.10	Grapes fresh	10%	
29.	0806.20	Grapes dried	10%	
30.	0807.11	Water melons	20%	
31.	0807.20	Papaws	20%	
32.	0809.10	Apricots, fresh	10%	
33.	0810.90	Jack Fruit		60%
34.	0810.90	Other		75%
35.	0811.90	Other		15%
36.	0812.90	Other		15%
37.	0813.10	Apricots	20%	
38.	0813.40	Pine nuts	10%	
39.	0904.11	Neither crushed nor ground		15%
40.	0904.12	Crushed or ground		15%
41.	0904.20	Fruits of the genus Capsicum of the genus Pimenta, dried or crushed or ground		15%
42.	0906.10	Neither crushed nor ground		15%
43.	0906.20	Crushed or ground		15%
44.	0907.00	Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)	90%	
45.	0908.10	Nutmeg	50%	
46.	0908.20	Mace	50%	
47.	0910.10	Ginger		15%
48.	0910.30	Turmeric (curcuma)		15%
49.	0910.50	Curry		15%
50.	0910.91	Mixtures referred to in Note 1 (b) to this Chapter		15%
51.	0910.99	Other		15%
52.	1105.20	Flakes, granules and pellets		15%
53.	Ex. 1106.30	Coconut milk powder	25%	

1	2	3	4	5
54.	1209.30	Seeds of herbaceous plants cultivated principally for their flowers	10%	
55.	1211.10	Liquorice roots	10%	
56.	1211.90	Plants and parts of plants used for perfumery, pharmacy or for insecticidal, fungicidal or similar purposes	10%	
57.	1301.90	Lac	15%	
58.	1301.90	Resin-Gum	15%	
59.	1501.00	Pig fat (including lard) and poultry fat, other than that of heading No. 02.09 or 15.03.		50%
60.	1502.00	Fats of bovine animals, sheep or goats, other than those of heading No. 15.03.		50%
61.	1503.00	Lard stearin, lard oil, oleostearin, oleo-oil and tallow oil, not emulsified or mixed or otherwise prepared.		50%
62.	1504.10	Fish-liver oils and their fractions		50%
63.	1504.20	Fats and oil and their fractions, of fish, other than liver oils		50%
64.	1504.30	Fats and oils and their fractions, of marine mammals		50%
65.	1505.10	Wool grease, crude		50%
66.	1505.90	Other		50%
67.	1506.00	Other animals fats and oil and their fractions, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified.		50%
68.	1507.10	Crude oil, whether or not degummed		50%
69.	1507.90	Other		50%
70.	1508.10	Crude oil		50%
71.	1508.90	Other		50%
72.	1509.10	Virgin		50%
73.	1509.90	Other		50%
74.	1510.00	Other oils and their fractions, obtained solely from olives, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified, including blends of these oils or fractions with oils or fractions of heading No. 15.09.		50%
75.	1511.10	Crude oil		50%
76.	1511.90	Other		50%
77.	1512.11	Crude oil		50%
78.	1512.19	Other		50%
79.	1512.21	Cotton-seed oil and its fractions - Crude oil, whether or not gossypol has been removed		50%
80.	1512.29	Other		50%
81.	1513.11	Coconut (copra) oil and its fractions Crude oil		50%
82.	1513.19	Other		50%
83.	1513.21	Palm kernel or babasu oil and fractions thereof-Crude oil		50%
84.	1513.29	Other		50%
85.	1514.10	Rape, colza or mustard oil and fractions thereof, whether or not refined, but not chemically modified - Crude oil		50%

1	2	3	4	5
86.	1514.90	Other		50%
87.	1515.11	Linseed oil and its fractions - Crude oil		50%
88.	1515.19	Other		50%
89.	1515.21	Maize (corn) oil and its fractions - Crude oil		50%
90.	1515.29	Other		50%
91.	1515.30	Castor oil and its fractions		50%
92.	1515.40	Tung oil and its fractions		50%
93.	1515.50	Sesame oil and its fractions		50%
94.	1515.60	Jojoba oil and its fractions		50%
95.	1515.90	Other		50%
96.	1516.10	Animal fats and oils and their fractions		50%
97.	1516.20	Vegetable fats and oils and their fractions		50%
98.	1517.10	Margarine, excluding liquid margarine		50%
99.	1517.90	Other		50%
100.	1518.00	Animal or vegetable fats and oils and their fractions, boiled, oxidised, dehydrated, sulphurised, blown, polymerised by heat in vacuum or in inert gas or otherwise chemically modified, excluding those of heading No. 15, 16; inedible mixtures or preparations of animal or vegetable fats or oils or of fractions of different fats or oils of this Chapter, not elsewhere specified or included.		50%
101.	1520.00	Glycerol, crude; glycerol waters and glycerol lyes.		60%
102.	1521.10	Vegetable waxes		50%
103.	1521.90	Other		50%
104.	1522.00	Degras, residues resulting from the treatment of fatty substances or animal or vegetable waxes.		50%
105.	1701.11	Cane sugar		50%
106.	1701.12	Beet sugar		50%
107.	1701.91	Containing added flavouring or colouring matter		50%
108.	1701.99	Other		50%
109.	1702.11	Containing by weight 99% or more anhydrous lactose, expressed as anhydrous lactose, calculated on the dry matter		50%
110.	1702.91	Other		50%
111.	1702.20	Maple sugar and maple syrup		50%
112.	1702.30	Glucose and glucose syrup, not containing fructose or containing in the dry state less than 20% by weight of fructose		60%
113.	1702.40	Glucose and glucose syrup, containing in the dry state at least 20% but less than 50% by weight of fructose		50%
114.	1702.50	Chemically pure fructose		50%
115.	1702.60	Other fructose and fructose syrup, containing in the dry state more than 50% by weight of fructose		50%
116.	1702.60	Other, including invert sugar		50%

1	2	3	4	5
117.	1703.10	Cane molasses		60%
118.	1703.90	Other		50%
119.	1704.10	Chewing gum, whether or not sugar-coated		50%
120.	1704.90	Other		50%
121.	1806.20	Other preparations in blocks, slabs or bars weighing more than 2 kg or in liquid, paste powder, granular or other bulk form in containers or immediate packings, of a content exceeding 2 kg	50%	
122.	1806.31	Filled	50%	
123.	1806.32	Not filled	50%	
124.	1806.90	Other	50%	
125.	1905.30	Sweet biscuits, waffles and wafers	50%	
126.	1905.40	Rusks, toasted bread and similar toasted products	10%	
127.	1905.90	Other	10%	
128.	1905.90	Other		20%
129.	2001.10	Cucumbers and gherkins		50%
130.	2001.20	Onions		50%
131.	2001.90	Other		75%
132.	2002.10	Tomatoes, whole or in pieces		50%
133.	2002.90	Other		50%
134.	2003.10	Mushrooms		50%
135.	2003.20	Truffles		50%
136.	2004.10	Potatoes		60%
137.	2004.90	Other vegetables and mixtures of vegetables		60%
138.	2005.10	Homogenised vegetables		50%
139.	2005.20	Potatoes		60%
140.	2005.40	Pee (Pisum sativum)		50%
141.	2005.51	Beans, shelled		50%
142.	2005.59	Other		50%
143.	2005.60	Asparagus		50%
144.	2005.70	Olives		50%
145.	2005.80	Sweet corn (Zea mays var. saccharata)		50%
146.	2005.90	Other vegetables and mixtures of vegetables		50%
147.	2006.00	Vegetables, fruit, nuts, fruit-peel and other parts of plants, preserved by sugar (drained, glace or crystallised)		
148.	2007.10	Homogenised preparations		60%
149.	2007.91	Citrus fruit		60%
150.	2007.99	Other		60%
151.	2008.11	Ground-nuts		50%

1	2	3	4	5
152.	2008.19	Other-including mixtures		60%
153.	2008.20	Pineapple	10%	60%
154.	2008.30	Citrus fruit		50%
155.	2008.40	Pears		50%
156.	2008.50	Apricots		50%
157.	2008.60	Cherries		50%
158.	2008.70	Peaches		50%
159.	2008.80	Strawberries		50%
160.	2008.91	Palm hearts		50%
161.	2008.92	Mixtures		50%
162.	2008.99	Other		50%
163.	2009.11	Frozen		75%
164.	2009.19	Other		50%
165.	2009.20	Grapefruit juice		60%
166.	2009.30	Juice of any other single citrus fruit	10%	50%
167.	2009.40	Pineapple juice		50%
168.	2009.50	Tomato juice		50%
169.	2009.60	Grape juice (including grape must)		60%
170.	2009.70	Apple juice		50%
171.	2009.80	Juice of any other single fruit or vegetable		75%
172.	2009.90	Mixtures of juices	10%	75%
173.	2103.20	Tomato ketchup and other tomato sauces		25%
174.	2105.00	Ice cream and other edible ice, whether or not containing cocoa.		15%
175.	2201.10	Mineral waters and aerated waters		75%
176.	2202.10	Waters, include mineral/aerated waters containing added sugar/matter or flavoured		60%
177.	2209.00	Coconut vinegar	10%	
178.	2301.20	Flours, meal and pellets of crustaceans, molluscs or other aquatic invertebrates		50%

India's tariff concessions under the Bangkok Agreement

Sl.No.	Tariff	Description	Tariff preference rate offered under the BA
1	2	3	4
1.	0801.11	Desiccated	30%
2.	0907.00	Cloves (whole fruit, cloves and stems)	10%
3.	0908.10	Nutmeg	30%
4.	0908.20	Mace	30%
5.	1513.19	Other	30%

1	2	3	4
6.	1520.00	Glycerol, crude glycerol waters and glycerollics.	10%
7.	1703.10	Cane molasses	10%
8.	1703.90	Other	10%
9.	1801.00	Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted	25%
<i>Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Afghanistan</i>			
9.	1801.00	Cocoa beans, whole or broken, raw or roasted.	25%
<i>Preferential Trade Agreement between India and Afghanistan</i>			

Sl.No.	Tariff	Description	Extent of concession
1	2	3	4
1.	080620	Green Raisins	50%
2.	080620	Green Large	50%
3.	080620	Black Raisins	50%
4.	080620	Red Raisins	50%
5.	081310	Dried Apriocots Nuts	50%
6.	081310	Dried Apricots	50%
7.	080420	Fig Dried	100%
8.	080250	Pistachios Closed Shell	100%
9.	080250	Pistachios Open Shell	100%
10.	080250	Pistachios Shelled (Kernell)	100%
11.	080231	Walnuts Unshelled	50%
12.	080232	Walnuts shelled	50%
13.	081340	Plums Dried	50%
14.	080212	Almond Thin Shelled	50%
15.	080212	Almond Hard Shelled	50%
16.	080212	Almond Shelled	50%
17.	081340	Mulberries Dried	100%
18.	081340	Pipe Nuts Toasted	100%
19.	080620	Raisins Golden	50%
20.	081310	Apricots Nuts, Bitter Unshelled	50%
21.	081310	Apricots Nuts, Bitter Shelled	50%
22.	080620	Green Raisins except Large	50%
23.	081340	Cherries Sour Dried	50%
24.	080610	Green fresh, All types	50%
25.	080719	Melon fresh	100%
26.	080810	Apples fresh	50%
27.	080910	Apricots fresh	50%
28.	081090	Pomegranates	50%
29.	090910	Anise Seeds	50%
30.	090940	Caraway Seeds, White, Black Kajak	50%
31.	120400	Linseeds	50%

1	2	3	4
32.	120740	Sesame Seeds etc.	50%
33.	121110	Liquorice Root plants for Pharmacy etc.	50%
34.	121410	Alfalfa Seeds	50%
35.	130190	Asafetida	100%

Items under Early Harvest Programme (EHP) - India - ASEAN Framework Agreement

1.	180400	Cocoa butter, fat and oil Cocoa powder, not containing added sugar
2.	180500	or other sweetening matter
3.	200820	Pineapples, prepared or preserved
4.	200949	Other pineapple juice

*India-ASEAN Framework Agreement
(To Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam)*

1.	080211	Almonds fresh or dried in shell
2.	130110	Lac
3.	130120	Gum Arabic
4.	130190	Other
5.	140110	Bamboos
6.	140120	Rattans
7.	140190	Other
8.	170490	Other

Items under EHS - India - Thailand Framework Agreement

1.	080450	Ex. Fresh Mangosteens, Mangoes
2.	080610	Fresh Grapes
3.	080810	Apples
4.	081060	Ex. Fresh Durians
5.	081090	Ex. Fresh Rambutans, Longans Pomegranates
6.	100110	Durum Wheat
7.	100190	Other Wheat and Meslin

**Chinese Goods Flooding
Guwahati Markets**

3391. SHRI M. K. SUBBA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention was drawn to the report in the 'Assam Tribune', dated June 19, 2004, captioned, "Chinese Goods Flooding Guwahati Markets";

(b) if so, whether Government has since probed into the extent of Chinese goods being flooded into Guwahati markets across the borders in the North East;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the steps taken and being taken to prevent such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Market enquiries indicated presence of small quantities of Chinese goods in some shops in Guwahati. The Chinese goods that are being sold in Guwahati markets are mostly of cheap variety that are legally imported through ports outside the north-east region. With a view to counter the entry of dumped products into the country from China PR, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties has, till date, initiated investigations in 75 cases involving China PR. Definitive anti-dumping duty has been imposed in 59 cases out of which 47 measures are in force.

(d) Intensive anti-smuggling operations, strict vigil and surveillance on all sensitive/vulnerable routes are some of the measures adopted to combat smuggling. The Central Excise and Customs, Guwahati has seized illegally imported goods of Chinese origin worth Rs. 46 lakhs during the period from 1.4.2004 to 16.8.2004. Seizures have also been made by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence of Chinese goods in transit valued at Rs. 0.31 lakhs in 2003-04.

[Translation]

**Misappropriation of Funds by
M/s Ispat Industries**

3392. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) has slowed the process of investigation into alleged misappropriation of funds by M/s Ispat Industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the outcome of the investigation done so far; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check further erosion of the net capital of the company?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The matter is subjudice.

(c) The value of the net capital of a company is a function of its management practices and financial soundness.

[English]

EFC Grant for Heritage Protection

3393. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the State Government of Karnataka requested the Union Government to release for upgradation grants under EFC grants for Heritage Protection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to release the grants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The Eleventh Commission had recommended upgradation grant of Rs. 10.00 crores for Karnataka in respect of Heritage Protection for the period 2000-05. Rs. 8.04 crores has been released to the State Govt. for this purpose so far.

Scrapping of UTI MIP Scheme

3394. SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Unit Trust of India has decided to scrap its two monthly income plans-MIP-1999 (II) and MIP-2000 from August 1, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons for scrapping these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir, The two monthly income plan of the erstwhile UTI, namely MIP-99(II) and MIP-2000 have been foreclosed with effect from August 1, 2004.

(b) The changed economic scenario and falling interest rates led to a decline in the income generated under MIP 99(II) and MIP 2000. Keeping in view the interest of the unitholders, the Board of Advisors of Specified Undertaking of UTI (SUUTI) recommended to foreclose these two Plans and to return the capital to the investors earlier than the original maturity dates i.e. 31st October, 2004 for MIP-99(II) and 31st March 2005 for MIP-2000.

Accounting Standards for Banks

3395. SHRI D. VITTAL RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has issued directions to banks to ensure full compliance of the accounting standards issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India; and

(b) if so, the details of such norms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Reserve of India has recently issued guideline to all scheduled commercial banks to ensure compliance with Accounting Standards prescribed by Institute of Chartered Accountant. The detailed guidelines dated 25th February, 2003, 29th March 2003 and 30th April, 2003 are available on RBI website www.rbiorg.in.

Import of Coal

3396. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the import of coal has increased as a result of reduction in Import duty;

(b) if so, whether the Government has a proposal to fix any limit in regard to the import of coal;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (d) No, Sir. The Government has no proposal to fix any limit in regard to the import of coal. Import of coal is under Open General Licence (OGL) and consumers are free to import coal as per their requirement.

Basic Pay of NTC Workers

3397. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether basic pay of NTC workers has been determined by the Management;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Management has also worked out arrears to be paid to the workers who retired before 1.4.2004; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) and (b) Pursuant to orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court dated 14.10.2003 in Civil Appeal No. 14572 of 1996 filed by Clerical Staff Unions claiming parity in pay with clerical staff in Corporate Offices, the Govt. has decided for the following reliefs:

(1) The basic of employees affected by the Supreme Court order may be fixed with effect from 1.4.2004 by including the following amounts:

- (i) Basic Pay as on 1.1.97 + Ad+hoc payments if any +HCA (High Cost Allowance payable to some employees @ Rs. 30/- to Rs. 45/- per month) if any.
- (ii) Corresponding DA as on 1.1.1997
- (iii) 20% of the (i) + (ii) if there has been no revision since 1987.

(2) The new Basic Pay will be determined by placing the basic in a revised scale of pay, which will be worked out by NTC.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The benefit is given to only those employees who are working in the 53 revival mills and paid w.e.f. 1.4.2004.

Expansion of Port Blair Airport

3398. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Port Blair Airport was expanded for allowing aircrafts with the bigger seating capacity to land and take off;

(b) if so, the number of such aircrafts that have landed at Port Blair Airport; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not allowing such aircrafts to Port Blair?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Port Blair Airport has been upgraded for the operation of Airbus 320 type of aircrafts and M/s. Indian Airlines has commenced operation by AB 320 aircraft since March, 2004 and is operating one flight daily by AB 320 aircraft to Port Blair Airport.

(c) Does not arise.

Claim Settlement System

3399. SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether LIC is planning to centralize its claim settlement processing system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) has informed that the centralization of claim payment from one place/center for all Branch Offices is not proposed. In order to reduce the cost of operation, the corporation is planning to devise the arrangement for payments from one place for a cluster of 8 to

10 Branch Offices. The pilot project would commence within 6 months time.

Cost Audit Report

3400. SHRI RAJESH VERMA : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received cost audit reports of products of various inhalers for the last three years;

(b) whether heavy leakage of funds is revealed from these reports;

(c) if so, the details of findings and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether this matter has been reported to the Competition Commission or the MRTP Commission; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to inquire into the matter and prosecute the concerned persons in order to establish transparency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a) Cost Audit Reports have been received for the last three years from the following producers of inhalers; M/s. Cipla Limited, German Remedies Limited, Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries Limited, AstraZeneca Pharma India Limited, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories Limited and Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceuticals Limited.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e) In view of (b), question does not arise.

Family Pension for Employees of Rural Bank

3401. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the family pension provided to the legal heirs of the deceased employees of rural banks is very low at present in the country particularly in the Gurgaon Gramin Bank;

(b) if so, the details of pension amount being provided at present to the legal heirs, bank-wise;

(c) the reasons for not enhancing the pension amount;

(d) the policy/criteria fixed for grant of such pension alongwith the date on which the policy came into force;

(e) whether periodic review of the policy is undertaken;

(f) if so, the outcome of such reviews;

(g) whether the Government proposes to review the policy and bring a new one in its place;

(h) if so, the time likely to be taken; and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

[Translation]

Kota Aerodrome

3402. SHRI RAGHUVeer SINGH KOSHAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an Aerodrome at Kota in Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to relocate the Aerodrome on the outskirts of the city;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether, any proposal has been received regarding transfer and sale of the said Aerodrome;

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Airports Authority of India does not have any proposal to relocate the existing airport to a place outside the city limits. However, there is a request from Government of Rajasthan for relocating the airport to a place outside the city limits.

[English]

Bond Tracking System

3403. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revamp bond tracking system;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a need for greater transparency in the bond market; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) The Government does not have any bond tracking system. The question of revamp of such a system, therefore, does not arise.

(c) and (d) With a view to ensuring greater transparency and encouraging wider participation by investors in the Government securities market, a nationwide, anonymous, order driver, screen based trading system of the stock exchanges was introduced in 2003.

Budget for Welfare of People

3404. SHRI M. APPADURAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether out of every one rupee, allotted in the budget for the welfare of the people only seventeen paise reaches people;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken to ensure that the maximum benefit of budget allocation reaches people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) No, Sir. Government is not aware of any study which indicates that out of every rupee spent on welfare schemes, only seventeen paise reaches the people.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Planning Commission in conjunction with implementing Ministries have monitoring systems to ensure optimum utilisation of budget allocations for achieving aims of welfare schemes.

Non-Availability of Capital From Bank In Plantation Sector

3405. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the non-availability of working capital from the banks in the plantation sector;

(b) if so, the measures taken so far;

(c) whether the Government is considering to implement recommendations made by the Madhukar Committee on Tea Sector to ease the credit flows; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) There has been no stoppage or any significant reduction in advancement of working capital loans from Banks to the plantation sector.

(c) and (d) Based on the report submitted by a Working Group constituted by the Reserve Bank of India under the Chairmanship of Shri Madhukar, Chairman and Managing Director, United Bank of India to study the problems of the tea industry in depth, the RBI announced, in August 2002, a relief package which provided for restructuring/rescheduling of the loans outstanding in the tea sector from the commercial banks etc. Subsequently in February 2003, RBI announced a separate relief package for small tea growers and Bought Leaf Factories and also certain changes in the package announced earlier in August 2002 for large tea growers and manufacturers.

Further, in February 2004 the Indian Banks Association (IBA) have formulated a Special Tea Team Loan (STTL) for the tea sector. It envisages restructuring/rephasing of irregular portion of the outstanding term/working capital loans in the tea sector with repayment over 5 to 7 years and a moratorium of one year. This will be extended on a case to case basis for large growers. The STTL also provides for working capital upto Rs. 2 lakhs at a rate not exceeding 9% to small tea growers.

Closure of Handloom Industries

3406. SHRIMATI P. SATHEEDEVI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of handloom industries which have been closed during the last three years;
- (b) the number of male and female employees who lost the job and suffered due to this; and
- (c) the details of action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) and (b) Due to the highly decentralised nature of the handloom industry and the seasonality of the demand in various parts of the country, this Ministry is not maintaining the data relating to closed units.

(c) Ministry of Textiles is implementing a number of schemes for the overall development of the handloom industry and to the welfare of the handloom weavers throughout the country which includes;

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothshan Yojana
2. Handloom Export Scheme
3. Marketing Promotion Programme
4. Design Development & Training Programme
5. Integrated Handloom Training Programme

6. Mill Gate Price Scheme
7. Workshed cum Housing Scheme
8. Weaves Welfare scheme
9. Bunker Bima Yojana
10. Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985
11. Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn
12. 10% Rebate on Handloom products

C & AG Report No. 10 of 2004

3407. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer para 4.1 on page 36 of C & AG report No. 10 of 2004 and state:

(a) whether the matter was concluded in August 2001 and demand of Rs. 22.49 crore was confirmed, and still another circular No. 56/2001- CUS. dated 25.10.2001 reclassifying the item was issued;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the matter has been investigated to find out the vested interest of the custom staff; and

(d) if so, the loss of revenue suffered by the Government in this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (d) The Commissioner of Customs (Mumbai) passed an order in August 2001, classifying the impugned goods i.e. acupuncture mattresses under CTH 9404 and confirming the duty demand of Rs. 22.49 crore. However, the matter was not concluded as the importer preferred an appeal against the Order - in - Original. The necessary to issue a circular by the Central Board of Excise & Customs arose as there was a divergent practice of classifying these goods under heading 90.19. or 9404. In order to ensure uniformity of practice throughout the country, this Circular dated 25.10.2001 was issued. It is normal for the Board to issue circulars from time to time to ensure adoption of common classification headings by the field officers. Therefore, there is no question of vested interest of the Custom staff or loss of revenue by the Government.

Interest Rate on Savings

3408. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :
SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the wholesale price index has risen to 5.5 percent by the end of June, 2004 making the real interest rate on the savings account lowest in the world;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government is considering a proposal to raise the interest rate so that household savings could be encouraged leading to a rise in capital formation in economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The year-on-year rate of inflation as measured by the wholesale price index was 6.09 percent as on June 26, 2004. There is no single inflation rate, with reference to which real interest rates are calculated internationally. The Consumer Price Index (CPI), which reflects retail prices, may be more appropriate for calculating real interest rate in specific circumstances. Real interest rates based on CPI do not indicate that the real interest rate on savings account is the lowest in the world. The interest rates are market determined except those on savings accounts, small-savings and General Provident Fund, etc. The Government has introduced, effective from August 2, 2004, a new scheme called the 'Senior Citizens Savings Scheme' offering interest rate of 9 percent per annum to protect the interest income of senior citizens. The Government Savings Bonds carry an interest rate of 8 percent per annum.

[Translation]

Renaming of Airports

3409. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI : Will the MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country proposed to be renamed;

(b) whether the proposal for renaming of some airports is pending with the Union Government;

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

(d) the reasons for the pendency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) Proposals are received from time to time for renaming of various airports in the country. Proposals for remaining of airports at Jodhpur in Rajasthan as Maharaja Umaid Singh Airport, Gaya in Bihar as Gautam Budha International Airport and Umroi (Shillong) in Meghalaya have been sent for views of the concerned State Governments, which are awaited. Proposals for remaining of airports at Khajuraho in Madhya Pradesh as Maharaja Chhatrasal Airport, Dehradun in Uttaranchal as Veer Chand Garhwali Airport, Bhuj in Gujarat as Krantiveer

Pandit Shyamji Krishna Verma Airport, Tura in Meghalaya as Captain W.A. Sangma Airport and Raipur's Mana Airport in Chhattisgarh as Swami Vivekananda Airport have also been received. On the proposal for renaming of Lengpui Airport in Mizoram as B.B. Lyngdoh Airport and Raipur's Mana airport in Chhattisgarh as Swami Vivekananda Airport have also been received. On the proposal for renaming of Lengpui airport in Mizoram as B.B. Lyngdoh Airport, no action has been taken as this airport belongs to the State Government of Mizoram. A proposal for renaming Coimbatore Airport as Rajiv Gandhi Airport in Tamil Nadu is also under examination.

Welfare Schemes of Mine Workers

3410. SHRI SURAJ SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any scheme for the welfare of mine labourers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the expenditure likely to be incurred by the Government on the implementation of these schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) to (c) All the statutory provisions as per the Mines Act, 1952 and Mines Rules, 1955 regarding welfare of workers are complied with in the mines of Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Mines. However, the Government of India have launched certain statutory welfare schemes for the workers in the coal mines, the details of which are given below:-

- (i) Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme, 1948: The Coal Mines Provident Fund Scheme framed under the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1948 provides provident fund benefits to all employees of coal mines in India. The workers contribute at the rate of 12% of their emoluments to the Coal Mines Provident Fund and an equivalent amount is paid by the employers. There are other benefits under this Scheme viz. Marriage Advance, Post Matriculation Advance, House Building Advance, etc.
- (ii) Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 : The Coal Mines Pension Scheme, 1998 has come into existence with effect 31.3.1998 superseding the Coal Mines Family Pension Scheme, 1971 for post retirement benefits of the coal workers. The contribution of Central Government to this Scheme is statutory in nature, which was Rs. 26.6850 crores during the financial year 2003-2004. For the financial year 2004-05 likely to expenditure would be Rs. 29.86 crores.

- (iii) Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme, 1976 : The Coal Mines Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme was introduced with effect from 1st August, 1976. The Scheme provides for payment to the dependants of a member, an amount equivalent to the average of the last three years balance at the credit of the member's provident fund if the member dies while in service, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000/-. In accordance with this scheme, the employers are required to contribute at the rate of 0.5% of the aggregate wages towards this scheme. The Central Government is also required to contribute an amount equal to 50% of the contribution made by the employers. The cost of administration of the Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme is borne by the employers, who contribute 0.1% of the aggregate wages for the purpose. The Government is also required to contribute 50% of the employer's contribution for this purpose. The Central Government's contribution, which is statutory in nature, was Rs. 1.5650 crores during the financial year 2003-2004. For the financial year 2004-05, likely expenditure would be Rs. 1.60 crores.

- (iv) Over and above the Statutory Schemes of the Government, the Central Public Sector Undertakings under the administrative control of this Ministry are implementing several schemes and programmes for the welfare of their employees. These include housing, education, water supply, co-operative, banking facilities, medical, sports etc.

[English]

More Powers to Chief Justice

3411. SHRI G. VENKATSWAMY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government proposes to make amendments in the law in order to give more powers to the Chief Justice of India to deal with the erring judges in the wake of recent of Punjab and Haryana High Court whose judges had gone on mass protest leave;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and

- (c) the time by which it is likely to be brought forward?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) No Sir.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

VRS in BALCO

3412. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of employees of BALCO who opted for VRS from the year 2001 to 31.03.2004;

- (b) whether a huge number of SC/ST/OBC and other category of employees of BALCO have been retrenched after privatisation;

- (c) if so, the category-wise details thereof;

- (d) whether BALCO is making profits after privatisation;

- (e) if not, the reasons therefor and comparative details of the losses incurred from 2001 to 2004;

- (f) whether the BALCO is still paying a certain amount to Government;

- (g) if so, the amount received by the Government during the last three years; and

- (h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) As per information furnished by Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), from the year 2001 and upto 31.03.2004, out of a total of 2740 employees who opted for VRS, 2207 have been released.

(b) and (c) BALCO has informed that no employee of BALCO whether SC/ST/OBC or any other category has been retrenched after disinvestment and transfer of management control on 2.3.2001.

(d) and (e) Except for the financial year ended 31.3.2001, BALCO has been consistently making profits after disinvestment. The profits/(loss) of BALCO after disinvestment upto 2003-04 is as under:

(Rs. in lakh)	
Year ended	Profit (Loss) after tax
31.3.2001	(4306.61)
31.3.2002	1875.93
31.3.2003	6449.26
31.3.2004	6748.27

BALCO workers proceeded on 67 days strike against

the disinvestment of BALCO on 3rd March, 2001, resulting in fall in production and sales consequently resulting in a loss in the year ended 31.3.2001 and marginal profit for the year ended 31.3.2002.

(f) to (h) No dividend was recommended for the years ended 31.3.2001, 31.3.2002 and 31.3.2003 in view of the loss due to the impact of the 67 days strike at the Company's plant at Korba and its Mines. BALCO has declared dividend @5% for the year ended 31.3.2004 and an amount of Rs. 5,40,53,002.50 has been paid to the Government of India.

[English]

Creation of Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund

3413. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has created Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund;

(b) if so, the objectives thereof;

(c) the jobs likely to be undertaken by the said agency and the monitoring agency appointed therefor;

(d) the manner in which the farmers are likely to be benefited therefrom; and

(e) the time by which the agency is likely to be made operative?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (e) The setting up of Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund (AICF) was announced by the Government in January, 2004 and the Fund operationalised by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) on 17th February, 2004. With the operationalisation of AICF, Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) was closed. The objective of setting up of the Fund was to increase investment in agriculture and allied activities. Many of the activities originally covered under RIDF were retained in the new Fund and additional activities were also added. However, in the light of the representations received and additional activities were also added. However, in the light of the representations received from Chief Ministers of various States, Government reviewed the matter and revived RIDF with some modifications in the activities to be covered on 8th July, 2004 and AICF was discontinued. RIDF-X has since been operationalised for the year 2004-05 with a corpus of Rs. 8000 crores. Funds from RIDF will continue to be provided for projects relating to rural infrastructure development in various States. NABARD was nominated as a nodal agency for operationalising and monitoring the implementation of

the AICF. With the revival of RIDF, NABARD will continue to monitor the implementation of the RIDF projects.

Device Invented by SRTI

3414. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the device invented by the scientists of Sericulture Research and Training Institute, Mysore for extracting ecdysteride from the plants of Cheriophles group for which these scientists were recently awarded by National Research Development Council (NRDC); and

(b) the commercial potential of the above said invention in sericulture?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) The Scientists of Central Sericulture Research and Training Institute, Mysore have identified plants belonging to the Carryophyllaceae family and perfected the technique to extract Ecdysteroid. A simplified technique has also been developed to apply this extract in precise dose to silkworm in large scale so that all the silkworms become ready for cocoon building within 18-24 hours of treatment which would otherwise take about 3 days in the natural course. This technology reduces labour and leaf consumption, enables the farmer to control the process and manage his silkworm rearing efficiently and also enhances uniformity in cocoon formation, leading to higher quality grading. It is cost effective giving back seven rupees for each rupees the farmer spends.

(b) The technology has been licensed to the Bangalore based manufacturing company M/s Sericare and the product is being marketed in the trade name 'Sampoorna'. This product is competitively priced and has become popular in a short span of time. It is estimated that approximately 260 kg. of Ecdysteroid is required per year. Against this, the production has not crossed even two digit figure. So, the commercial potential of this product is really huge.

[Translation]

Expansion of BALCO Plant, Korba

3415. SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the BALCO plant at district Korba is being expanded;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether accidents have taken place during the last two months due to the absence of proper safety norms for the workers engaged in the expansion work; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) As informed by the management of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), they are setting up a new smelter along with the Captive Power Plant (CCP) at Korba in the State of Chhattisgarh. The smelter would be of a capacity of 2,45,000 MT which will increase the total installed capacity of BALCO to 3,45,000 MT and the capacity of CCP would be 540 MW.

(c) and (d) The management of BALCO has also intimated that no accident has taken place during the last two months in the absence of proper safety measures for workers employed by contractors in the project area.

[English]

Restoration of Export Benefits under DEPB to Steel Industries

3416. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE :

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA :

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA :

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA :

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL :

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH :

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA :

SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS
SADHU YADAV

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has restored Duty Entitlement Pass Book facility to steel industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) since when this benefit has been given to steel industries;

(d) whether restoration of this facility to steel industries would boost the export of steel and increase prices of steel items in the domestic markets;

(e) if so, the manner by which the Government is likely to make steel available for domestic market; and

(f) the reasons for suspension of export benefits under DEPB scheme earlier?

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

Revision in Licensing and Registration Charges for Airports

3417. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR : Will the CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing major revision in licensing and registration charges for airports and aircrafts;

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

(c) the likely impact on air fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) and (b) A notification has been published as GSR 228 in the Gazette of India of 10.7.2004 inviting objections or suggestions to the proposal for revision of fees for various kinds of licences/certificates including grant or renewal of licences for an aerodrome and registration of aircraft. This has been done as the fee structure in some cases had not been revised for over a decade and in certain cases these were quite low.

(c) Airfares are determined through interplay of various factors like demand/supply, seasonality, product features such as frequency, timing, nature of operations etc. Revision of these charges is, therefore, unlikely to have any major impact on airfares.

Recommendation for Downsizing Strength of Government Employees

3418. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expenditure Reforms Commission recommended for downsizing the strength of Government employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total number of employees cut down, category-wise during the last five years;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal for further downsizing the strength of Government employees; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, Ministries/Department and PSU-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) The Expenditure Reforms Commission was set up on 28.2.2000 and was wound up on 30.9.2001. It submitted in all, 10 reports covering 36 Ministries/Departments, identifying about 42,000 posts for abolition. On further scrutiny, Ministries/Departments identified 24,326 posts in Central Government and autonomous bodies. So far, 18,682 posts have been abolished. Category-wise details are not maintained. The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions had also issued orders dated 16.5.2001 restricting direct recruitment to 1/3 of the annual direct recruitment vacancies, subject to the condition that this does not exceed 1% of the

total strength of a particular Department. Till date, around 87,000 posts have been identified for abolition and around 36,000 posts have been identified to be filled up.

(d) and (e) The downsizing/rightsizing of the Central Government machinery so as to reduce the non-plan and non developmental administrative expenditure, is a continuous process. The Expenditure Reforms Commission had not reviewed the PSUs.

Gold Mining in Orissa Coast

3419. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has found out the possibility of the presence of gold under off Orissa Coast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any assessment of viability of gold mining;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to undertake gold mining therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) As per information available with Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), a subordinate officer under Department of Mines, no Gold occurrences have been reported under off coast of Orissa.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. The viability of Gold has not been assessed in the State of Orissa.

(d) Question does not arise.

(e) No viable gold bearing mine-able block has been established by any agency in Orissa Coast so far. As per the National Mineral Policy 1993, the exploration and exploitation of these minerals has been thrown open to private investment and therefore commercial exploitation of minerals take place as per economic viability of the mineral.

Accident Inquiry Reports by CRS

3420. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) The number of accident inquiry reports prepared by the Commission of Railway Safety during the last three years;

(b) whether these reports are published;

(c) if so, the mode in which these are available to the public; and

(d) the reasons for which Commission of Railway Safety is kept under the administrative control of Ministry of Civil Aviation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) The number of Railway accident inquiries made and the reports prepared

by the Commission of Railway Safety during the last three years are as follow:-

S.No.	Year		No. of Inquiry reports
1.	2001-02	-	28
2.	2002-03	-	35
3.	2003-04	-	33
4.	2004-05 (upto 31.7.04)	-	01
Total			97

(b) As per rule 4 of the Statutory Investigation into Railway Accident Rules 1998, the Railway Inquiry Reports are confidential. However, the reports could be made public when Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety and Railway Board agree upon the publication. However, the Reports is made public only when there is no pending prosecution or there is no likely prosecution and if there is a prosecution, only after the termination of all the court proceedings.

(c) Government has decided to publish inquiry reports in abstract form for those accidents which has occurred in the year 1999-2000 onwards and in which Railway Board's comments on recommendations have been received. These are being published in the form of a six monthly periodical which is sent out to Parliament library, the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments, information centers, Chambers of Commerce, Selected libraries and other organizations as per mailing list.

(d) The Commission has been placed under the administrative control of Civil Aviation Ministry to ensure independence of its functioning and also to avoid direct subordination of the Commission under the Railway Board.

[Translation]

Appointment on Compassionate Ground

3421. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the dependents have not been provided employment on the compassionate grounds by the Indian Security Press/Currency Note Press, Nashik during the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by Government for prompt appointment on compassionate grounds in the companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Compassionate appointments to the dependents of India Security Press/Currency Note Press, Nashik have been provided as per the extant Government of India instructions.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Employment in Limited Companies

3422. SHRI CHANDRA MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of limited companies in the country state-wise;

(b) the details of the people working in each of these companies State-wise; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide job to the local people in these limited companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) The Statewise total number of limited companies in the country as on 31.3.2004 is given Statement-I.

(b) As per the result of latest Annual Survey of Industries conducted by the Central Statistical Organisation for the year 2001-02, there were 44087 factories under the Public and Private Limited Companies, employing about 48.11 lakh persons. (Statewise details at Statement-II)

(c) Candidates register their names for employment with the local Employment Exchange as per their residential address. Factories and other establishments notify the vacancies to the respective employment exchanges and these exchanges in turn sponsor the names of the candidates against these vacancies as per their seniority. Filling up of vacancies either through the employment exchanges or through other sources however rests with the employer.

Statement-I

Sl. No.	State/U.T.	No. of Companies		
		Public	Private	Total
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	6437	35104	41541
2.	Assam	587	4104	4691
3.	Bihar	1530	8383	9913
4.	Gujarat	5633	36177	41810
5.	Haryana	700	5440	6140
6.	Himachal Pradesh	348	1806	2154
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	206	1767	1973

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Karnataka	2680	28155	30835
9.	Kerala	1459	13107	14566
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1881	13431	15312
11.	Maharashtra	12208	128836	141044
12.	Manipur	43	144	187
13.	Meghalaya	70	383	453
14.	Nagaland	14	294	308
15.	Orissa	901	6077	6978
16.	Punjab	2207	12709	14916
17.	Rajasthan	1634	15806	17440
18.	Tamil Nadu	7937	49061	56998
19.	Tripura	11	82	93
20.	Uttar Pradesh	5102	20756	25858
21.	West Bengal	10694	66485	77179
22.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	1	9	10
23.	Arunachal Pradesh	11	252	263
24.	Chandigarh	1337	5343	6680
25.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36	119	155
26.	Delhi	13161	106545	119706
27.	Goa	314	2583	2897
28.	Daman and Diu	34	84	118
29.	Lakshadweep	0	1	1
30.	Mizoram	2	33	35
31.	Pondicherry	202	1056	1258
G. Total		77380	564132	641512

Note : Figures relating to number of Companies in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal are included in figure of companies in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh respectively.

Statement-II

Number of factories under the Limited Companies and Persons employed
Annual Survey of Industries 2001-02

State		Public Limited	Private Limited	Total
1		2	3	4
Jammu and Kashmir	Factories	32	58	90
	Persons	10955	4424	15379
Himachal Pradesh	Factories	87	205	292
	Persons	18739	12041	30780
Punjab	Factories	382	976	1358
	Persons	125581	52818	178399

1		2	3	4
Chandigarh (U.T.)	Factories	8	96	104
	Persons	363	5102	5465
Uttaranchal	Factories	81	143	224
	Persons	24670	4847	29517
Haryana	Factories	615	1135	1750
	Persons	135939	64579	200518
Delhi	Factories	212	1047	1259
	Persons	19863	41841	61704
Rajasthan	Factories	560	1461	2021
	Persons	97128	53747	150875
Uttar Pradesh	Factories	1024	2399	3423
	Persons	194057	109136	303193
Bihar	Factories	75	178	253
	Persons	12686	12264	24950
Nagaland	Factories	1	16	17
	Persons	271	444	715
Manipur	Factories	1	3	4
	Persons	0	130	130
Tripura	Factories	4	22	26
	Persons	1434	1049	2483
Meghalaya	Factories	2	9	11
	Persons	596	455	1051
Assam	Factories	142	532	674
	Persons	29857	49677	79534
West Bengal	Factories	854	2085	2939
	Persons	285719	106350	392069
Jharkhand	Factories	127	305	432
	Persons	54673	28970	83643
Orissa	Factories	119	486	605
	Persons	24311	28214	52525
Chhattisgarh	Factories	170	219	389
	Persons	66801	9125	75926
Madhya Pradesh	Factories	487	699	1186
	Persons	105332	38292	143624
Gujarat	Factories	1807	3453	5260
	Persons	323189	178527	501716
Daman and Diu	Factories	163	371	534
	Persons	12380	15242	27622
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Factories	257	360	617
	Persons	31132	14629	45761
Maharashtra	Factories	2144	5417	7561
	Persons	502255	262488	764743
Andhra Pradesh	Factories	1151	1870	3021
	Persons	342258	202888	545146
Karnataka	Factories	705	2202	2907
	Persons	146099	148077	294176
Goa	Factories	152	175	327
	Persons	16433	8009	24442
Kerala	Factories	513	744	1257
	Persons	92197	31382	123579

1		2	3	4
Tamil Nadu	Factories	1819	3410	5229
	Persons	362926	263491	626417
Pondicherry	Factories	151	157	308
	Persons	17744	6782	24526
Andaman and Nicobar Island	Factories	4	7	11
	Persons	360	245	605
All India	Factories	13848	30239	44087
	Persons	3055948	1755262	4811210

Notes :

- i. The reference period for collection of data from the Industrial Units relates to the financial year ending on any day between 1st April, 2001 to 31st March, 2002.
- ii. The ASI 2001-2002 extended to the entire country except the states of Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Sikkim and UT of Lakshadweep.
- iii. In terms of the Industrial Units, it covers the following:-
 - (a) All factories registered under Section 2m (i) and 2 m (ii) of the factories Act, 1948 employing ten or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers with or without using power on any day of the preceding 12 months;
 - (b) Bidi & Cigar manufacturing establishments registered under Bidi & Cigar Workers (condition of employment) Act, 1996, employing 10 or more workers using power and those employing 20 or more workers with or without using power; and
 - (c) Certain services and activities like cold storage, water supply, repair of motor vehicles and other consumer durables like watches, etc.

Decline in Indian Exports

3423. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Indian-Export has registered steep decline in the last three years;
- (b) if so, the quantum and value thereof alongwith the details in regard to the main items of export during the last three years;
- (c) the reasons attributed to the decline in exports;
- (d) whether the Government has received any suggestion from various export promotion councils to boost the exports;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. After registering a decline of 1.6% in 2001-02, India's exports registered an increase of 20.29% and 20.36% in 2002-03 and 2003-04 respectively. The value of exports during the same period were US \$ 43.82 billion, US \$ 52.71 billion and US \$ 63.45 billion respectively. During April-June of the current year, exports are valued at US \$ 16.49 billion, registering a growth rate of 27.96% over the same period of previous year.

(d) to (f) There is a continuous interaction with Export Promotion Bodies and their suggestions are taken into account while formulating the policies by the Government.

Action Plan to Boost Export

3424. SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any specific action plan to boost export from the agriculture sector; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) In order to boost agricultural exports, the Government is implementing various plan schemes by which a variety of incentives are provided in the form of financial and other assistance through agencies such as Commodity Boards, Export Promotion Councils and Authorities for infrastructure development, modern packaging units, quality control, research and development, and market development. Exports of agricultural products is continually reviewed on an ongoing basis by the Government through agencies.

[English]

Explosive Department at Alang Ship Recycling Yards in Gujarat

3425. DR. TUSHAR A. CHAUDHARY :
SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

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

- (a) whether the Government has received a proposal from the Government of Gujarat for opening of a separate office of the Explosive Department at Alang Ship Recycling Yards in Gujarat; and

- (b) if so, the decision taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ship breaking activities are presently not covered under the Petroleum Rules, 2002. Proposal of Government of Gujarat for opening a separate office of the Explosives Department at Alang Ship Recycling Yards in Gujarat can be examined and considered only after relevant provisions are made in the statute.

Utilisation of Amritsar Airport

3426. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether International Airport at Amritsar is underutilised;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to utilise the International Airport to its full capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (c) The services being provided by Airports Authority of India (AAI) at Amritsar airport are commensurate with the number of air services at Amritsar Airport. However, optimum utilization of an airport is dependant upon the air services being operated by various airlines at an airport. Airlines plan their flights based on traffic requirements and commercial viability subject to route dispersal guidelines.

[Translation]

Grants for Handicraft Schemes

3427. SHRI ILYAS AZMI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been continuous decline in the number of handicraft schemes of Uttar Pradesh which were approved during the last three years and also the grants provided to them;

(b) if not, the comparative details with regard to the grants approved for various handicrafts schemes of Uttar Pradesh including those on the verge of extinction during the last three years and for other States of the country; and

(c) the amount of assistance provided for development of Zari products and artificial jewellery and for sale of these products in comparison to other crafts alongwith the amount of grants provided in proportion to the number of artisans of Uttar Pradesh engaged in the above craft?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) No, Sir. The schemes of the Government for promotion and development of handicrafts are not state specific and are being implemented throughout the country as grants-in-aid- schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicrafts Development Corporation/Apex Societies, NGO's etc. Allocation of budget is not made state-wise and funds are sanctioned to the Implementing Agencies based on the merit of their proposals and availability of funds.

The schemes currently under implementation for development and promotion of handicraft sector 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 Programme (SHTP) & Financial Assistance to State Handicrafts Development Corporations (SHDC)/Apex Societies etc.

The details of funds released to various agencies in the State of Uttar Pradesh under these schemes during the last three years is as under :-

Year	Funds Released (Rs. in Lakh)
2001-02	262.94
2002-03	329.87
2003-04	321.37

(b) The scheme-wise, details of funds released to the Implementing Agencies in various States including Uttar Pradesh during the last three years is given at statement enclosed.

(c) The financial assistance is not provided on the basis of population of artisans in a particular state. The details of funds released to various Implementing Agencies in Uttar Pradesh for development of Zari products and Artificial Jewellery and sale of these products, as well as for other crafts during the last three years are as under :-

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Funds provided for Development of Zari products and artificial Jewellery and Sales thereof in Uttar Pradesh	Funds provided for the other crafts in Uttar Pradesh
2001-02	27.64	235.30
2002-03	47.27	282.60
2003-04	31.21	290.16

Statement

State-wise, Scheme-wise funds released under Handicraft Schemes during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04
(a) Funds released during 2001-02

Sl. No.	State	(Rs. in lakhs)													Total of all Scheme
		Export	Marketing Support	Exhibition	Publicity	Design	Training	Marketing Development.	Survey Study	Welfare Scheme	UNDP	CDC/ CFC	AHVV		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
1	Andhra Pradesh	0.00	2.50	11.71	4.59	0.00	6.21	46.70	4.83	11.14	11.00	0.00	17.60	116.28	
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.75	0.00	0.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.84	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	196.11	0.00	1.73	197.84	
4	Assam	2.25	18.71	8.22	8.35	10.00	1.32	24.51	9.19	13.60	0.00	3.40	34.05	133.60	
5	Bihar	0.00	0.00	4.17	0.21	5.50	9.46	2.51	0.00	0.00	60.21	0.00	0.25	82.31	
6	Delhi	243.87	0.00	29.04	166.33	6.21	21.42	19.17	26.99	0.15	0.00	0.00	3.06	516.24	
7	Goa	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	
8	Gujarat	0.00	0.00	20.62	2.16	21.89	7.02	12.11	5.23	2.25	0.00	0.00	12.92	84.20	
9	Haryana	0.00	0.00	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.68	34.45	
10	Himachal Pradesh	0.00	7.50	11.58	1.28	0.00	10.14	10.00	0.00	0.00	21.70	7.12	26.73	96.05	
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	0.00	0.00	0.27	57.92	1.91	1.77	62.81	
12	Jammu and Kashmir	0.00	14.95	5.86	0.58	0.45	3.38	5.62	0.00	5.60	0.00	0.00	5.60	42.04	
13	Karnataka	0.00	7.50	2.40	1.91	0.00	1.49	29.10	0.00	1.33	40.72	3.62	7.55	95.62	
14	Kerala	0.00	0.00	2.39	0.14	0.00	1.76	9.99	0.00	0.14	0.00	0.00	6.37	20.29	
15	Madhya Pradesh	2.36	10.22	13.72	6.40	9.50	16.49	23.44	0.00	0.00	14.95	0.00	41.62	138.70	
16	Maharashtra	0.00	0.00	10.72	0.00	0.00	4.37	24.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.54	54.68	
17	Manipur	0.00	0.00	3.20	1.58	1.47	3.34	0.00	0.00	21.14	0.00	3.28	0.54	34.55	
18	Meghalaya	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.03	1.20	0.00	0.00	1.20	0.54	0.00	0.00	0.45	4.42	
19	Mizoram	0.00	0.00	3.56	1.98	10.00	0.00	3.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.80	20.42	
20	Nagaland	0.00	3.70	5.60	0.00	18.70	1.76	7.91	0.00	17.65	0.00	1.23	7.00	63.55	
21	Orissa	0.00	0.00	8.71	3.90	2.00	22.22	2.97	1.22	21.78	0.00	0.00	14.62	77.42	

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
22	Punjab	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.68	13.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.05	36.33
23	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.85	5.89
24	Rajasthan	0.00	9.44	5.58	2.60	0.00	0.98	5.00	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.65	48.48
25	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.47	0.00	0.00	10.81
26	Tamil Nadu	2.00	0.00	1.20	0.00	0.45	1.67	11.02	0.00	0.74	0.00	0.00	18.00	35.08
27	Tripura	0.00	14.68	12.98	0.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.35	0.00	5.30	5.29	46.60
28	Uttar Pradesh	0.00	0.00	26.74	9.66	18.80	54.66	74.20	3.19	14.00	0.00	7.87	51.82	262.94
29	Uttaranchal	0.00	0.00	2.38	0.00	0.00	14.19	5.00	0.00	16.70	0.00	8.46	4.25	50.98
30	West Bengal	0.00	1.00	5.34	3.36	1.00	2.20	11.72	3.05	2.97	0.00	9.00	23.01	62.65
31	Chhattisgarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.32	0.00	0.00	5.36	0.00	137.35	0.00	0.00	31.15	185.18
Total		250.48	90.20	200.04	227.38	108.17	201.77	371.55	55.22	274.70	413.08	51.19	374.95	2616.73

(b) Fund released during the year 2002-03

Sl.No.	State	AHVV	EP	R & D	Design	Training	Marketing	SHTP	UNDP	Total	Rs. in Lakh
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
1	Andhra Pradesh	23.60	15.3	2.00			59.02	1.64	35.38	136.94	
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00					0.00			0.00	
3	Arunachal Pradesh	7.25				1.19	5.21			13.65	
4	Assam	28.61			4.75	2.32	76.69		99.99	212.36	
5	Bihar	1.40			8.00		2.40			11.80	
6	Chhattisgarh	0.00			5.00		5.09			10.09	
7	Chandigarh	0.00					6.44			6.44	
8	Delhi	22.35	301.21	57.47		0.95	106.78		271.08	759.84	

f	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
9	Goa	0.00			128.15		0.00			128.15
10	Gujarat	8.94		8.90	7.62	3.59	6.37			35.42
11	Haryana	17.52			0.50	8.37	13.85			40.24
12	Himachal Pradesh	25.97			1.50	6.95	81.90			116.32
13	Jammu and Kashmir	64.76	3.94		1.00	1.68	36.2			107.58
14	Jharkhand	6.42				1.25	1.20			8.87
15	Karnataka	6.14		8.11	0.35		11.82		6.32	32.74
16	Kerala	10.88			0.10		2.02		11.68	24.68
17	Madhya Pradesh	52.43	10.55		8.00	5.05	49.91		20.94	146.88
18	Maharashtra	10.94		5.16			32.47		8.09	56.66
19	Manipur	6.98				3.03	17.51		12.69	40.21
20	Meghalaya	3.56					0.35		12.69	16.60
21	Mizoram	0.00					4.98		12.69	17.67
22	Nagaland	21.94	9.82		5.00	1.00	6.65	0.55	83.37	128.33
23	Orissa	62.47		1.71	1.10		25.15			90.43
24	Punjab	12.93				2.87	4.78			20.58
25	Pondicherry	0.00					1.10			1.10
26	Rajasthan	28.52			10.95		29.46			68.93
27	Sikkim	0.00					0.00			0.00
28	Tamil Nadu	8.92	6.89		1.00	0.53	16.41			33.75
29	Tripura	17.17			1.00		1.60		12.69	32.46
30	Uttar Pradesh	81.36	9.00		0.50	25.79	121.82	7.40	84.00	329.87
31	Uttaranchal	13.15				7.18	18.42			38.75
32	West Bengal	49.66	7.95	6.00	0.12	0.32	10.83			74.88
	Total	593.87	364.7	89.35	184.64	72.07	756.43	9.59	671.61	2742.22

(c) Funds released during the year 2003-04

Sl.No.	State	AHVY	EP	R & D	Design	Training	Marketing	SHTP	Bima Yojana	Rs. in lakhs	
										Total	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	11
1	Andhra Pradesh	147.20	12.36	0.00	1.88	0.00	48.35	2.25		212.04	212.04
2	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	27.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.96		28.12	28.12
4	Assam	151.53	4.17	0.00	32.45	0.00	51.03	28.11		267.29	267.29
5	Bihar	5.54	0.00	0.00	1.80	0.00	0.73	1.57		9.64	9.64
6	Chhattisgarh	17.92	0.00	0.00	4.12	0.00	0.00	0.54		22.58	22.58
7	Chandigarh	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.1	0.00		15.10	15.10
8	Delhi	32.39	845.36	40.23	79.83	0.17	149.21	0.48		1147.67	1147.67
9	Goa	2.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.27		2.77	2.77
10	Gujarat	71.14	5.89	0.00	22.89	0.00	7.80	1.08		108.8	108.8
11	Haryana	25.14	0.00	5.03	3.19	0.00	22.44	1.44		57.24	57.24
12	Himachal Pradesh	48.23	0.00	0.00	14.90	5.69	60.90	1.18		130.9	130.9
13	Jammu and Kashmir	40.61	0.00	0.00	107.61	0.00	141.88	2.88		292.98	292.98

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
14	Jharkhand	6.46	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.98	0.54		11.98
15	Karnataka	38.71	0.00	0.00	11.00	0.00	20.39	1.98		72.08
16	Kerala	74.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.12	2.52		89.28
17	Madhya Pradesh	66.23	12.72	3.00	23.70	0.00	36.8	1.62		144.07
18	Maharashtra	23.65	28.86	0.00	28.80	0.00	42.46	0.54		124.11
19	Manipur	20.01	0.00	0.00	13.60	0.00	0.00	0.00		33.61
20	Meghalaya	4.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.02	2.10		7.70
21	Mizoram	15.82	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2.81	0.00		33.63
22	Nagaland	30.11	0.00	0.00	23.34	0.00	38.23	1.56		93.24
23	Orissa	79.14	0.00	0.00	18.00	0.00	42.28	1.08		140.5
24	Punjab	34.47	0.00	0.00	1.80	7.15	0.00	1.44		44.86
25	Pondicherry	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.48		0.48
26	Rajasthan	64.69	0.00	0.00	52.00	0.00	78.99	0.96		196.64
27	Sikkim	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
28	Tamil Nadu	33.45	19.32	0.00	4.88	0.00	15.19	1.71		74.55
29	Tripura	34.97	0.00	0.00	3.10	0.00	0.00	1.44		39.51
30	Uttar Pradesh	152.04	24.18	18.90	28.15	12.22	52.13	33.75		321.37
31	Uttaranchal	59.78	0.00	9.31	0.90	0.00	39.36	228		111.63
32	West Bengal	78.15	18.38	0	49.70	0.00	44.21	524		195.66
Total		1386.26	971.22	76.47	546.44	25.23	924.41	100.00	*60.00	4030.03

* Rs. 60.00 lakhs has been provided as advance to Life Corporation of India towards office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) share of premium for covering artisans all across the country.

Assistance from NABARD

3428. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR :
 SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD :
 SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA :
 SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' :
 SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects such as irrigation projects, construction of small irrigation tanks, construction of roads and bridges, etc. received from different States seeking financial assistance from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) during the last three years, State-wise, project-wise and year-wise;

(b) the total amount released by NABARD, State-wise;

(c) the interest charged from each State;

(d) whether the State Governments have requested for reduction/waiver of interest rate; and

(e) the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The State-wise details of the number of projects sanctioned during the last three years for irrigation projects, construction of small irrigation tanks, construction on roads and bridges under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) are given in Statement-I, II and III.

(b) The State-wise details of amount released under RIDF are given in Statement - IV.

(c) The rate of interest on loans to State Governments under various tranches of RIDF is indicated below :

Tranche	Rate of Interest (%)
RIDF-I	13
RIDF-II	12
RIDF-III	12
RIDF-IV	7
RIDF-V	7
RIDF-VI	7
RIDF-VII	7
RIDF-VIII	6.5
RIDF-IX	6.5

(d) and (e) The rates of interest under RIDF are decided by Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In response to the requests of various State Governments for reduction of interest rate under RIDF, RBI had reduced the interest rate on loans under RIDF from 12.0% (RIDF-IV & V), 11.5 (RIDF-VI) and 11.0% (RIDF-VII) to a uniform rate of 7.0% with effect from 1st November, 2003. The interest rate/lending rate under RIDF-VIII onwards is linked to bank rate i.e. 0.5% above bank rate. Thus, the present lending rate under RIDF-VIII onwards is 6.5%, the prevailing bank rate being 6%.

Statement-I

State-wise details of the number of projects sanctioned by NABARD during the year 2001-2002

(Sanctions Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	Irrigation		Bridges		Roads		Others		Total	
		No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	1848	133.16	42	48.24	229	179.08	762	265.91	2881	626.39
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	3	36.6	2	32.8	5	69.4
3	Assam	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	Bihar	124	43.98	53	33.41	1	1.37	0	0	178	78.76

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5	Goa	6	4.48	3	0.62	60	10.7	0	0	69	15.8
6	Gujarat	0	0	2793	40.9	0	0	0	0	2793	40.9
7	Haryana	45	99.08	4	1.07	0	0	202	127.8	251	227.95
8	Himachal Pradesh	166	17.38	18	33.81	69	83.14	144	41.86	397	176.19
9	Jammu and Kashmir	18	13.93	9	7.61	152	163.42	1860	31.84	2039	216.8
10	Karnataka	70	21.4	56	22.46	256	106.18	5460	86.72	5842	236.76
11	Kerala	62	6.27	32	67.83	53	83.81	149	33.85	296	191.76
12	Madhya Pradesh	27	193.39	23	22.78	50	57.17	1	37.71	101	311.05
13	Maharashtra	81	173.79	189	19.64	774	214.82	228	121.47	1272	529.72
14	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Meghalaya	0	0	7	7.86	19	9.69	2	0.75	28	18.3
16	Mizoram	7	1.86	0	0	0	0	2	5.47	9	7.33
17	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.95	1	0.95
18	Orissa	68	37.49	62	106.94	18	8.82	0	0	148	153.25
19	Punjab	0	0	5	2.11	128	81.73	581	156.14	714	239.98
20	Rajasthan	93	259.45	0	0	1544	175.67	0	0	1637	435.12
21	Tamil Nadu	10	100.03	141	57.98	324	135.22	292	59.86	767	353.09
22	Tripura	15400*	6.79	0	0	0	0	0	0	15400	6.79
23	Uttar Pradesh	7	27.76	38	83.46	1693	181.97	64	45.31	1802	338.5
24	West Bengal	1113	18.98	13	71.67	64	216.53	2897	167.23	4087	474.41
25	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	45	5.48	45	5.48
26	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Chhattisgarh	24	25.26	36	30.3	27	28.86	0	0	87	84.42
28	Uttaranchal	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	53.96	6	53.96
Total		19169	1184.48	3524	658.69	5464	1774.78	12698	1275.11	40855	4893.06

* Shallow Tubewells = 10,000 Nos.

* Small Lift Irrigation = 540 Nos.

No.=Number of Projects

Sanction = Amount Rs. in Crore

Statement-II*State-wise details of the number of projects sanctioned by NABARD during the year 2002-2003*

(Sanctions Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	Irrigation		Bridges		Roads		Others		Total	
		No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	41	86.1	35	51.43	292	282.59	1898	489.45	2266	909.57
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Assam	0	0	36	76.23	0	0	0	0	36	76.23
4	Bihar	4469	140.08	3	9.14	2	9.55	17	60.15	4491	218.92
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	16.1	2	16.1
6	Gujarat	1	125.12	0	0	0	0	7	158.89	8	283.81
7	Haryana	45	54.27	20	19.17	0	0	141	197.44	206	270.88
8	Himachal Pradesh	53	21.34	59	39.62	77	89.82	550	46.07	739	196.85
9	Jammu and Kashmir	39	56.65	4	1.83	57	68.27	31	48.88	131	175.63
10	Karnataka	64	66.55	34	15.7	530	141.33	109	22.91	737	246.49
11	Kerala	70	7.2	44	69.8	132	109.66	13	9.9	259	196.56
12	Madhya Pradesh	64	393.59	32	32.21	1	2.96	35	146.47	132	575.23
13	Maharashtra	63	216.92	196	25.84	704	200.33	0	0	963	443.09
14	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Meghalaya	0	0	13	14.56	8	3.84	0	0	21	18.4
16	Mizoram	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	2
17	Nagaland	12	5.05	0	0	0	0	3	1.63	15	6.68
18	Orissa	283	76.27	70	69.89	42	100.67	0	0	395	246.83
19	Punjab	0	0	14	11.29	51	69.1	471	129.77	536	210.16
20	Rajasthan	0	0	0	0	2230	346.75	0	0	2230	346.75

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
21	Tamil Nadu	3	56.7	161	67.47	222	117.54	589	146.25	975	387.96
22	Tripura	0	0	15	45.94	0	0	38	4.2	53	50.14
23	Uttar Pradesh	408	146.27	0	0	0	0	199	176.44	607	322.71
24	West Bengal	4024	82.49	14	28.28	416	64.03	2622	345.92	7076	520.72
25	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	0	0	171	4.89	171	4.89
26	Jharkhand	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27	Chhattisgarh	98	150.94	50	45.44	70	84.92	0	0	218	281.3
28	Uttaranchal	40	14.24	44	18.88	59	35.4	31	6.92	174	75.44
All India Total		9784	1701.78	844	642.72	4893	1726.76	6927	2012.08	22448	6083.34

No. = Number of Projects
Sanction = Amount Rs. in Crore

Statement-III

*State-wise details of the number of projects sanctioned by NABARD
during the year 2003-2004*

(Sanctions Rs. in Crores)

Sl.No.	State	Irrigation		Bridges		Roads		Others		Total	
		No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction	No.	Sanction
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1	Andhra Pradesh	100	490.95	6	6.72	84	50.08	1104	320.45	1294	868.2
2	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	2	2.18	1	12.93	0	0	3	15.11
3	Assam	0	0	118	189.75	0	0	0	0	118	189.75
4	Bihar	30	84.52	0	0	0	0	0	0	30	84.52
5	Goa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	Gujarat	11901*	614	0	0	0	0	3	285.21	11904	899.21
7	Haryana	0	0	0	0	72	126.78	50	26.83	122	153.61
8	Himachal Pradesh	14	12.72	2	16.72	47	57.32	91	32.91	154	119.67
9	Jammu and Kashmir	14	6.43	4	1.27	120	137.41	9	8.7	147	153.81

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
10	Karnataka	129	51.43	31	9.93	442	159.89	205	29.66	807	250.31
11	Kerala	5	0.75	14	15.73	61	22.44	1153	52.83	1233	91.75
12	Madhya Pradesh	74	235.33	46	32.03	16	10.09	0	0	136	277.45
13	Maharashtra	0	0	47	8.43	222	58.59	0	0	269	67.02
14	Manipur	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	Meghalaya	0	0	4	9.28	0	0	13	6.24	17	15.52
16	Mizoram	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	13.5	2	13.5
17	Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0	0	58	12.43	58	12.43
18	Orissa	7	39.55	20	33.92	23	49.38	0	0	50	122.85
19	Punjab	9	18.83	15	8.77	90	96.15	606	164.44	720	288.19
20	Rajasthan	3	140.27	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	140.27
21	Tamil Nadu	179	185.62	36	20.79	699	212.69	338	128.64	1252	547.74
22	Tripura	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23	Uttar Pradesh	18	185.01	0	0	0	0	19	16.23	37	201.24
24	West Bengal	1	6.32	3	10.8	6	15.29	105	181.01	115	213.42
25	Sikkim	0	0	0	0	2	0.68	16	2.62	18	3.3
26	Jharkhand	1	49.13	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	49.13
27	Chhattisgarh	49	166.41	152	96.82	154	154.35	1200	15.3	1555	432.88
28	Uttaranchal	4	27.6	23	5.73	85	16.83	21	176.46	133	226.62
All India Total		12538	2314.87	523	468.87	2124	1180.9	4993	1472.86	20178	5437.5

* Check Dams = 11,800 Nos.

* Major Irrigation = 1No.

No. = Number of Projects

Sanction = Amount Rs. in Crore

Statement-IV

*State-wise details of disbursements made by NABARD under RIDF during the years
2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04*

(Rs. Crores)

Sl.No.	Name of State	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Andhra Pradesh	515.32	577.11	648.34	1740.77
2	Arunachal Pradesh	34.99	30.93	22.31	88.23

1	2	3	4	5	6
3	Assam	55.34	40.06	29.96	125.36
4	Bihar	24.61	16.28	47.97	88.86
5	Chhattisgarh	44.25	96.99	140.6	281.84
6	Goa	12.47	2.58	14.99	30.04
7	Gujarat	189.55	193.76	373.85	757.16
8	Haryana	109.73	124.24	144.88	378.85
9	Himachal Pradesh	116.44	141.58	142.35	400.37
10	Jammu and Kashmir	147.64	140.07	80.39	368.10
11	Jharkhand	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
12	Karnataka	181.46	238.71	266.17	686.34
13	Kerala	155.71	134.60	127.26	417.57
14	Madhya Pradesh	304.20	382.43	391.96	1078.59
15	Maharashtra	325.72	220.10	2.75	548.57
16	Manipur	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
17	Meghalaya	19.06	12.64	20.70	52.40
18	Mizoram	13.88	18.32	23.25	55.45
19	Nagaland	11.77	7.11	11.60	30.48
20	Orissa	116.28	182.42	107.57	406.27
21	Punjab	202.40	188.46	180.02	570.88
22	Rajasthan	256.63	296.39	178.55	731.57
23	Sikkim	12.61	4.73	4.72	22.06
24	Tamil Nadu	288.48	358.84	363.24	1010.56
25	Tripura	8.00	23.67	24.95	56.62
26	Uttar Pradesh	352.74	307.92	272.20	932.86
27	Uttaranchal	0.00	54.98	49.88	104.86
28	West Bengal	291.09	308.44	251.83	851.16
Total		3790.37	4103.36	3922.09	11815.82

[English]

**Central Statutory Audit Experience
of J & K Bank Ltd.**

3429. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has decided to treat the Central Audit Experience of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Limited at par with nationalised Bank audit experience only from 2004-05 onwards;

(b) if so, the rationale behind ignoring the Audit Experience of J & K Bank prior to 2004-2005; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to treat the audit experience of J & K Bank at par with nationalised bank from the very beginning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) With effect from 2005-06, the statutory central audit experience of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. (earned for the year 2004-05 and onwards) will be considered as public sector bank branch audit experience. However, it will not be treated on par with statutory central audit experience of public sector bank.

(b) and (c) This experience has already been reckoned while counting the minimum required experience of five years of public sector undertaking experience in the past. Hence, the decision of reckoning statutory central audit experience of J & K Bank Ltd. could only be prospective and not retrospective.

[Translation]

Setting up of New Industries/SSIs

3430. SHRI MUNSHI RAM :

SHRI NIHAL CHAND :

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

(a) whether the Union Government is contemplating any scheme to set up industries/small scale industries in districts of various States;

(b) if so, the total number of new/small scale industries set up by the Union Government during the last three years and till date, State-wise;

(c) the total number of the districts in which such industries are likely to be set up during the current year;

(d) the total amount to be provided for the purpose; and

(e) policy of the Government to set up new

industries in view of the increasing employment such industries assure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (e) Under the liberalized industrial policies, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs depending upon their commercial judgement. However, Government facilitates the development and promotion of industries including small scale sector industries through various incentives and schemes for upgradation of technology and infrastructure. These incentives/schemes are implemented throughout the country.

[English]

Centres of NIFT

3431. SHRI P. C. THOMAS :

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology in the country, State-wise as on date;

(b) the detail of the NIFT centres opened during the last three years;

(c) the amount spent for the smooth functioning and maintenance of these centres during the said period State-wise and year-wise;

(d) whether some proposal from States are under consideration of the Government for establishing new NIFT centres in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA) : (a) These are seven centres of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) one each at Delhi (Delhi), Mumbai (Maharashtra), Kolkata (West Bengal), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Hyderabad (Andhra Pradesh), Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and Bangalore (Karnataka).

(b) No NIFT Centre has been opened during the last three years.

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

(d) No, Sir.

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

[Translation]

Goods Export

3432. SHRI THAWARCHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the institutions which were allowed to export goods during the last three years along with the types of goods and quantum thereof; and

(b) the number of institutions which exported goods along with the details of goods so exported and quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) and (b) Under the Exim Policy, the export is free except in cases where they are regulated by the provisions of this Policy or any other law for the time being in force. The details of goods exported and quantum thereof during the last three years which are voluminous are contained in the Publication 'Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India, Vol.-I (Exports) - Annual Number' published by Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics which is available in the Parliament Library.

[English]

Trade with China and Myanmar

3433. SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) policy of the Government regarding border trade opening with China and Myanmar;

(b) whether the Government is expediting the border trade policy adopted by the previous Government; and

(c) current status of the policy especially on the trade route to China and Myanmar via Arunachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (c) Government of India has entered into specific border trade arrangements with some neighbouring countries. There is no change in Government's policy on border trade with neighbouring countries.

Excise Exemption for Kutch District

3434. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat has made representation to the Union Government several times to extend excise exemption to Kutch district till December 31, 2006;

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether the matter is under consideration; and

(d) if so, the likely time by which a decision will be taken?

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

(b) Initially, the exemption was made applicable for setting up of new units on or before 31st July, 2003. However, on request of the Government of Gujarat, the period was extended twice, first from 31st July, 2003 to 31st July, 2004, and then upto 31st December, 2004. As the purpose of the exemption was to attract immediate fresh investment, the requests for extending the period beyond 31.1.2004 were not agreed to, as it would have defeated the very purpose of the exemption.

(c) No, Sir. There is no change in the position of the Government.

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

[Translation]

Water Problem in Adjoining Areas of Western Coal Fields Ltd.

3435. SHRI HANSRAJ G. AHIR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether water supply in the residential areas near the open mines of the Western Coalfields Limited is likely to be affected due to sharp decrease of water level caused by continuous mining activities in the said mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Western Coalfields Limited with regard to the demand being raised for water supply in the said areas; and

(d) the steps being taken/to be taken by the Western Coalfields Limited to raise the water level and remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) No, Sir. As reported by Coal India Limited, the studies conducted indicate that there is only a temporary decrease in water level within an area up to 500 metres of open cast mines. Residential areas do not fall so close to mines.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

(c) Wherever required, as a goodwill gesture, Western Coalfields Limited supplies water to villages situated in the vicinity of its mines through pipes, water tanker, etc. under its community development programme.

(d) The closed open cast mines are converted into water reservoirs by Western Coalfields Limited. It results in raising water table of the area.

*[English]***Raja Chelliah Committee Report**

3436. SHRI VEERENDRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received the Raja Chelliah Committee report, which was commissioned to review fiscal policies environmental management;

(b) if so, whether the Government has implemented the recommendations of the committee;

(c) if so, whether the committee had recommended measures to eliminate the price advantages of diesel cars vis-a-vis petrol cars, using fiscal measures;

(d) if so, whether the Government has implemented this recommendation also;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (f) The Ministry of Environment and Forests entrusted a project "A proposal to levy taxes on polluting inputs and outputs" to the Madras School of Economics (MSE), Chennai. The final project report (prepared by Raja Chelliah and others) was submitted by MSE in April, 2004. The report considered the imposition of a surcharge on excise at the time of purchase of diesel cars to neutralise the price advantage of diesel over petrol. But the recommendation regarding a levy of differential emission tax on diesel cars was deferred due to lack of conclusive scientific evidence that overall pollution load from a diesel car is greater than that of a petrol car. However, the report recommended an eco-tax on passenger vehicles and two-wheelers based on fuel efficiency. The report is being processed by the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

Revision of Strategy by Indian Manufacturers

3437. SHRI ANIRUDH PRASAD ALIAS SADHU YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Thai FTA signed will force Indian Manufacturers to revise their product strategies in processed food consumer durables auto sector;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that Chinese products seeking entry into India may now enter easily via Thailand;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Government so that Indian manufacturers can give equal challenge to foreign products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S.

ELANGOVA) : (a) The Free Trade Area between India and Thailand is expected to promote bilateral trade and investment flow, however, the same would depend on the complementarities and comparative advantages of various industries. It is expected that in the sectors of agro and processed food industry, automotive, parts and components, ICT etc. Investment flows would increase both ways with joint ventures and backward-forward linkages between India and Thailand industries.

(b) to (d) No, Sir, as the tariff preferences on imports to India would be available only for those products which enjoy the 'originating status' in Thailand as prescribed under the Rules of Origin which are integral part of any Free Trade Agreement. Similarly, the products which enjoy the 'originating status' in India would only get tariff preferences for imports in Thailand.

*[Translation]***WTO Agreement on Employment Opportunities**

3438. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA :

SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

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

(a) whether any dialogue has been initiated by the Government with other countries particularly with America and England to allow unrestricted flow of Indian businessmen and labour class to their countries for exploring employment opportunities in the wake of removal of all restrictions on export and import in the country as per the agreement with the World Trade Organisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) the reaction of the Government to the talks held; and

(e) the time by which the government is likely to take up this issue with the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVA) : (a) and (b) India is actively participating in the ongoing mandated negotiations at the World Trade Organisation to bring about progressive liberalisation of trade in services. In the context of efforts to ease the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. India is working together with like-minded countries with the aim of bringing about broader commitments, particularly for skilled professionals, by a larger number of WTO members, including countries like the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Furthermore, requests at the bilateral level have been made to these and other countries in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) Negotiations on these issues are underway and will continue until the end of this round of negotiations on 31.12.2005. Government will continue to work actively with these countries to bring about a favourable outcome to these efforts.

[English]

Assistance to Drought Hit Farmers

3439. SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE :

SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD :

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH :

SHRI MILIND DEORA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra and Governments of other drought hit States have approached the Union Government seeking Central intervention for waiver of interest or club the loans and interest due thereon and convert it into long term loans to help out the drought hit farmers;

(b) if so, the details of such requests made by different State Governments;

(c) the reaction of the Government/NABARD/RBI; and

(d) the action taken by the Government thereon to help the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of request made by the State Government of Maharashtra are as under:

- (i) NABARD to permit the concerned banks to merge the interest due with the principal amount & convert the entire amount into fresh loans.
- (ii) The NABARD may be directed to undertake refinancing to all banks on the basis of the converted principal amounts as a special case.
- (iii) Conversion of the short term loans to medium terms loans of five years with a moratorium for the first two years and repayment within the next three years.

(c) and (d) In addition to the extant standing RBI guidelines to banks for providing relief to farmers in areas affected by natural calamities, the Government made an announcement on 18th June, 2004 envisaging the following relief measures;

- (i) Debt restructuring/rescheduling and fresh loans for distressed farmers.

(ii) One Time Settlement (OTS) for small and marginal farmers.

(iii) Fresh credit to farmers whose earlier debts have been settled through compromise or write off.

(iv) Loans for farmers indebted to non-institutional lenders.

The RBI issued guidelines to Commercial Banks on 24th June 2004 and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Rural Cooperative and Regional Rural Banks on 29th June, 2004 to provide relief to farmers as per the announcement.

Policy to set up New Industries

3440. SHRI TAPIR GAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any specific policy for establishing new industries in the States during the 10th plan under the Liberalisation Policy;

(b) if so, the details with respect to each State; and

(c) the details of allotted, sanctioned, released and actually utilised by the Government for setting up industries in these States so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN) : (a) and (b) Establishment of industries in a State is primarily the responsibility of the State Government and the Central Government only supplements their efforts for the development of industries. Under the liberalized industrial policies, investment in the industrial sector depends upon the commercial judgement of the entrepreneurs;

The Central Government has announced the following special packages of economic incentives for some special category States namely Assam, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, which are located in hilly, remote and inaccessible areas:-

(i) **North-East Industries Policy (NEIP)** was announced on 24.12.1997 for promoting industrialization in the North - Eastern region. Under this Policy, various concessions have been allowed to industrial units in the North Eastern Region, which include development of industrial infrastructure, excise and income-tax exemption and Subsidy Schemes like Central Capital Investment Subsidy, Central Interest Subsidy and Central Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

(ii) **New Industrial Policy and other concessions for the State of Sikkim** was announced on 23.12.2002 by the Government on the lines of NEIP.

(iii) **New Industrial Policy and other concessions for Jammu and Kashmir** was announced on 14.6.2002. As in the case of NEIP, similar packages of various concessions have been allowed to industrial units.

(iv) **New Industrial Policy and other concessions for Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal** was issued on 7.01.2003. Under this policy, various

concessions have been allowed to industrial units, which include development of industrial infrastructure, excise and income-tax exemption and Central Capital Investment Subsidy.

(c) The budgetary details in respect of the above packages are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement

(Rs. in crore)

Name of the Package	Tenth Plan Approved Outlay (2002-07)	2002-03		2003-04	
		Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure	Budget Allocation	Actual Expenditure
1. Lump-sum-Provision for NER & Sikkim	200.00	28.00	28.00	28.00	28.00
2. Package for Special Category States (for the States of J & K, H.P. & Uttaranchal)	11.00	5.00	5.00	45.00	45.00

Outsourcing of Inspection Work

3441. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH :
MOHD. SHAHID :

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be
pleased to state:

(a) whether Section 209A of the Companies Act
provides outsourcing of inspection work;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the agencies who have been
selected for such inspection; and

(d) the names of the companies for which
inspection by outside agencies have been ordered?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA) : (a)
No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

World Bank Assistance for M.U.I.P.

3442. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has
launched Mumbai Urban Infrastructure Project (MUIP) to be

implemented jointly by the Union Government and the State
Government;

(b) whether the Government has examined the
proposal and cleared World Bank's participation in the project;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) The proposal, Mumbai Urban Infrastructure
Project (MUIP), envisaging an outlay of Rs. 2648 crores
including Central Government's proposed share of Rs. 1324
crores, was duly examined. However, the proposal was not
agreed to as it was not found feasible to support huge capital
investment envisaged under the project on account of fiscal
stress of the State.

Education Loan

3443. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR ;
SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV :
SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN :
SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI :
SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA :
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :
SHRI M. APPADURAI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to
state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that public Sector Banks do not always adhere to the directions of Government/RBI and refuse to give the loans even after completion of all formalities, as a result, talented students are deprived from taking education and forced to commit suicide;

(b) if so, the number of suicide cases reported;

(c) the action being taken by the Government against such banks;

(d) whether the Government intends to further simplify the guidelines for grant of such loans; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) to (c) RBI has reported that only one instance of alleged denial of educational loan by Poozhanad branch of Indian Overseas Bank, Thiruvananthapuram Region resulting into the reported suicide by an engineering student has come to the notice. IOB has stated that Kum. Rajani S. Anand had applied for an educational loan of Rs. 1.42 lakh for Poozhanad branch of IOB but her application was not considered on the ground that her residence was not in the service area of the branch & she was advised to approach the local bank branch. Kum. Rajani was getting full education benefit from the Government of Kerala. An amount of Rs. 1,14,907/- was paid by the State Government towards her first and second year fees, stipend and lumpsum grant. She was also paid an amount of Rs. 315/- per month as hostel fees. During the second year she did not collect the lumpsum grant and stipend. Further, she did not attend college after August 14, 2003 and failed in 9 out of the 10 papers in the first year.

(d) Yes, Sir. In consonance with Budget announcement 2004-05. Indian Banks Association has issued a circular on July 23, 2004 to all member banks not to ask for collateral on loans up to Rs. 7.5 lakh. Accordingly, now no security is required for loans upto Rs. 4 lakh, only a satisfactory third party guarantee is enough for loans above Rs. 4 lakh and up to Rs. 7.5 lakh and collateral security of suitable value is required for loans above Rs. 7.5 lakh.

(e) Does not arise.

Lower Denomination Coins

3444. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVARAJ :

SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that coins of small denominations like 25 paise, 50 paise, are not accepted by shopkeepers/banks stating that these coins have been discontinued;

(b) if so, whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any fresh instructions to Banks in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Some complaints regarding non acceptance of small denomination coins like 25 paise and 50 paise by shopkeepers/banks are received by the Reserve Bank of India/Government.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Reserve Bank of India has issued instructions first in October, 2003 and again in April, 2004 to all public/private sector banks to accept coins of all denominations from the public tendered at their counters for exchange or deposit in accounts, and that any non-compliance in this regard is viewed as violation of instructions issued by the Reserve Bank of India. All the Reserve Bank of India offices are also accepting coins of all denominations from the public without any restriction.

Revival of Dankuni Coal Complex

3445. SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering revival of the Dankuni Coal Complex situated in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the trade unions in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Revival / Turn Around of Dankuni Coal Complex (DCC) is under examination of Coal India Limited (CIL). The short term and long term actions initiated/to be initiated for turn around are as under :

(i) Price revision of gas produced by DCC;

(ii) Revision of Price of DCC products - Coke and Tar;

(iii) Availability of right/appropriate quality of coal for the plant;

(iv) Various cost reduction measures;

(v) Capital rebuilding of the plant.

Additionally the following actions are being taken for revival of Dankuni Coal Complex :

- (a) Aggressive sales & marketing of DCC products;
- (b) Improvement in plant capacity utilization;
- (c) Rationalisation of manpower.

(c) and (d) Two revival package were submitted by Rashtriya Colliery Mazdoor Sangh (RCMS) of Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) and Dankuni Coal Complex Employees Union (DCCEU) of Centre of Indian Trade Union (CITU) Unions in November, 2002 to CIL. Focal points of the revival packages were

- (i) Identification of low ash low phosphorous coal suitable for manufacturing good quality industrial coke;
- (ii) Aggressive marketing of DCC products;
- (iii) Adoption of cost reduction measures; and
- (iv) Distillation of Tar for producing value added chemicals.

Interest Rate on Debts

3446. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat is taking steps to improve its public finances by reduction of average interest rate on debts;

(b) whether State Government has made any proposal to the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Union Government has agreed to allow States to refinance their high cost debts from institutions, including NABARD, with cheaper loans in the form of additional open market borrowings (AOMB)/new institutional loans. States are also proposed to be given an option to take AOMB for financing loan component of Normal Central Assistance in place of Government of India loans. Interest rates of loans to States have been brought down from 10.5% to 9% effective from 1.4.2004. Government of Gujarat is also participating in the debt swap scheme of the Government of India.

Gold Import

3447. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU :

DR. M. JAGANNATH :

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

(a) whether there is a spurt in gold imports in the country this year;

(b) the reasons for spurt in prices of gold inspite of relaxation of import norms;

(c) if so, the approximate quantity of gold imports in first quarter of 2004-2005; and

(d) the countries from which gold is imported to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) to (d) The price of gold quoted in the Indian market is related to the spot price declared by the London Bullion Market Association (LBMA). The price quoted at LBMA reflects the international price of gold and is dependent on various factors like, strength of U.S. Dollar, availability of gold in the global market, investments by Fund Managers, geo-political conditions prevailing in the world and various other factors affecting the bullion market internationally.

The quantity of gold imports in the first quarter of 2004-05 is 202.55 tonnes (provisional figures) as compared to 154.92 tonnes in the first quarter of previous year. The major countries from where gold is imported to India are Switzerland, South Africa, Australia, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong and United Kingdom.

[Translation]

Amount Earned through Royalty from States

3448. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the amount being earned by the Union Government as royalty on coal from various coal producing States including Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the amount given to each of the States out of the total royalty; and

(c) the percentage of total royalty paid to the States

for the development of coal producing areas and for environmental conservation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Entire royalty on coal is collected and appropriated by the respective

State Governments. The Union Government does not earn any royalty on coal.

(b) Royalty paid to the State Governments by Coal India Limited (CIL) and its subsidiaries and Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) in the year 2003-2004 is as follows:

(Rs. in crores)										
Name of Coal Cos.	West Bengal	Jhar-Khand	Orissa	M.P.	Chhattis-garh	Maha-rashtra	U.P.	Assam	Andhra Pradesh	Total
CIL and its subsidiaries	9.58	740.71	366.52	501.07	490.80	262.01	145.63	12.47	-	2588.79
SCCL	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	302.15	302.15

(c) No specific percentage from the royalty income to the State Governments is earmarked for development of coal producing areas and for environmental conservation by the Union Government. However, CIL subsidiaries undertake peripheral development schemes for the benefit of local people.

[English]

Setting up of Environmental Courts

3449. SHRI B. MAHTAB :

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI :

SHRI K. S. RAO :

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

(a) whether the Law Commission has recommended for setting up of 'Environment Courts' in all the States to deal with environmental issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether all the State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and time by which these courts are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY) : (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Law Commission, in its 186th Report, has inter alia recommended establishment of separate 'Environment Courts' in each State, consisting of judicial and scientific experts in the field of environment, for dealing with environmental disputes, besides having appellate jurisdiction in respect of appeals under the various Pollution Control Laws. The Commission has also recommended for repeal of the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995, and the National

Environmental Appellate Authority Act, 1997. The report is under examination, as it may affect the amendments in other statutes like Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Problems in Rapid Load System

3450. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether rapid loading system at the integrated Piparwar mining and coal beneficiations project of Central Coal Fields Limited has not been put to use because of the delay in completion of railway siding;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in completion of railway siding;

(c) whether any investigation has been made into the matter and action taken against the authorities responsible for the delay; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir. Rapid loading system could not be started due to non-completion of railway siding in Piparwar Opencast Project of Central Coalfields Limited (CCL).

(b) The delay in completion of the railway siding is due to delay in acquisition of both non-forest and forest land. The project-executing agency, M/s. IRCON, a public sector unit of Ministry of Railways have stopped the entire on-going works of siding since July 2002 mainly for the above reasons.

(c) and (d) As the reasons for delay, as stated above, were beyond the control of CCL authorities, no investigation has been carried out.

Collection of Income Tax

3451. SHRI D. V. SADANAND GOWDA :

SHRI S. P. Y. REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of income tax collected during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the percentage of the tax collected forming part of the GDP;

(c) the total amount spent on the education of the tax including the salaries and allowances of the income Tax personnel during the same period; year-wise and State-wise;

(d) the number of individual tax payers including those who have paid tax above Rs. 1 crore per year during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(e) whether the revenue collection has increased after broadening the tax base;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government proposes to exempt some sections of society from filing Income Tax Return; and

(h) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM) : (a) The total amount of income tax collected during financial years 2001-02 and 2002-03 with State-wise and tax-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement-I and II respectively.

The total amount of income tax collected for financial year 2003-04 is provisionally reported as Rs. 1,05,236 crore. The tax-wise break up of the collections for financial year 2003-04 is as under :

Corporation Tax	: Rs. 63,608 crore
Income Tax	: Rs. 41,441 crore
Other Direct Taxes	: Rs. 187 crore
Total	: Rs. 1,05,236 crore

State-wise break-up of income tax collections for financial year 2003-04 is not yet available as the accounts of the Government for this period have not yet been finalized.

(b) The direct tax-GDP ratio in the last three financial years has been as follows:

Fin. year	Direct Tax Collections (Crore)	GDP at current Market (Crore)	Direct Tax GDP Ratio
2001-02	69198	2282143	3.03%
2002-03	83088	2469564	3.36%
2003-04	105236	2772194	3.80%

Note :

1. GDP figures for 2002-03 are based on Quick Estimates.
2. GDP figures for 2003-04 are based on Advance Estimates.
3. Direct Tax collection figures for 2003-04 are provisional.

(c) It is presumed that in this part the Hon'ble Members of Parliament are referring to the total amount spent on 'collection' of tax.

The expenditure incurred on collection of Income tax for the last three years is furnished in the table below:

(in crore of rupees)

Year	Total Expenditure
2001-02	1022
2002-03	1015
2003-04	1054

The above expenditure includes expenditure on items like Salaries, Wages, Overtime Allowance, Travel Expenses, Office Expenses, Rent Rates & Taxes etc. The expenditure is incurred by over one hundred budgetary authorities consisting of the Chief Commissioners, Director Generals, Directors and Commissioners of Income Tax etc. These authorities incur expenditure in respect of their charge and the expenditure details are not maintained state-wise.

(d) Such details are not centrally maintained and their compilation would require collection of information from field units located all over the country, involving substantial time and effort, which may not be commensurate to the purpose sought to be achieved.

(e) and (f) The tax-base of Income Tax Department has increased from 2.47 crore tax payers in F.Y. 2000-01 to 3.01 crore tax payers in F.Y. 2003-04. During this period, the collection of direct taxes has also increased from Rs. 68, 305 crore to Rs. 1,05,236 crore.

(g) At present there is no proposal to exempt any specific section of society from filing return of income.

(h) Does not arise in view of reply to part (g) above.

Statement-I*State-wise and U.T.-wise break-up of Direct Tax Collection for 2001-2002*

(Figures in crores of Rupees)

States	0020	0021	0023	0024	0028	0031	0032	0033	
	Corpn. Tax	Income Tax	Hot. Rect. Tax	Interest Tax	Expdtr. Tax	Est. Duty	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	942.58	1838.86	0.92	-0.31	5.81	0.00	-1.88	-1.84	2584.13
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	2.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.84
Assam	206.46	301.83	0.00	0.01	0.04	0.00	0.36	0.00	508.70
Bihar	11.31	336.87	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.12	0.00	348.31
Chhattisgarh	345.38	245.35	0.00	0.05	0.22	0.04	0.15	0.01	591.20
Goa	38.22	141.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.74	0.00	180.27
Gujarat	922.58	1710.43	0.27	0.21	2.19	0.00	5.21	0.10	2640.99
Haryana	123.98	587.11	0.00	0.09	0.88	0.00	0.71	0.00	712.77
Himachal Pradesh	29.30	130.48	0.00	0.00	0.16	0.00	0.05	0.01	160.00
Jharkhand	-5.68	405.55	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.22	-0.01	400.10
Jammu and Kashmir	96.26	119.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.11	0.00	215.90
Karnataka	1407.04	2597.54	0.00	0.70	14.48	0.00	8.25	-0.48	4027.53
Kerala	422.71	674.24	0.00	1.10	2.13	0.00	1.74	0.00	1101.82
Madhya Pradesh	522.07	713.44	0.00	0.03	0.14	0.00	0.89	0.04	1236.61
Maharashtra	16154.40	9255.17	0.00	171.20	97.31	0.00	67.20	-0.13	25745.16
Manipur	0.00	10.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	10.75
Meghalaya	3.64	41.21	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.07	0.00	44.93
Mizoram	0.00	0.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.21
Nagaland	0.04	4.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00	4.48
New Delhi	7019.55	4031.11	0.00	9.80	60.25	0.00	19.67	0.89	11141.27
Orissa	458.13	343.03	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.00	0.31	0.00	801.54
Punjab	317.29	732.22	0.00	0.22	0.01	0.00	2.09	-0.10	1051.73
Rajasthan	181.56	658.63	0.00	2.43	3.41	0.54	1.22	0.00	847.79
Sikkim	0.12	2.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.87
Tamil Nadu	1713.58	2750.36	0.00	1.94	19.86	0.11	10.65	0.03	4496.53
Tripura	0.14	26.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.00	26.19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Uttar Pradesh	188.13	1376.27	0.00	-0.12	2.03	0.00	3.18	0.07	1569.56
Uttaranchal	3848.54	151.63	0.00	0.03	0.01	0.00	0.27	0.00	4000.49
West Bengal	1502.49	1818.30	0.00	1.73	50.68	0.00	13.58	0.01	3386.79
Total (I)	36449.83	30807.43	1.20	189.21	259.62	0.69	134.98	-1.39	67841.57
Union Territories									
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	2.31	5.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.49
Chandigarh	113.28	214.10	0.00	0.06	0.01	0.00	0.30	-0.11	327.64
Daman	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diu	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dadar and Nagar Haveli	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pondicherry	11.98	83.05	0.00	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.00	95.14
Lakshadweep	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Silvassa	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01
Total (II)	127.57	302.36	0.00	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.38	-0.11	430.30
Total (I) & (II)	36577.40	31109.79	1.20	189.30	259.63	0.69	135.36	-1.50	68271.87
C.T.D.S. (Prov.)	31.73	894.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	926.03
Grand Total	36609.13	32004.09	1.20	189.30	259.63	0.69	135.36	-1.50	69197.90

Statement-II**State-wise and U.T.-wise break-up of Direct Tax Collection for 2002-2003**

(Figures in crores of rupees)

States	0020	0021	0023	0024	0028	0031	0032	0033	Total
	Corpn. Tax	Income Tax	Hot. Rect. Tax	Interest Tax	Expntr. Tax	Est. Duty	Wealth Tax	Gift Tax	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Andhra Pradesh	1243.27	1631.07	2.29	-0.14	4.86	0.00	-1.75	-0.02	2879.58
Arunachal Pradesh	0.00	3.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.75
Assam	388.50	390.30	0.00	0.13	0.03	0.00	0.60	0.00	779.56
Bihar	9.42	292.98	0.00	0.12	0.03	0.00	0.21	0.00	302.76
Chhattisgarh	445.29	216.42	0.00	0.00	0.06	0.00	0.14	-0.02	661.89
Goa	43.60	97.30	0.00	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.72	0.00	141.64
Gujarat	1271.90	1966.14	0.22	0.25	1.45	0.00	4.12	-1.34	3242.74
Haryana	206.95	660.60	0.00	0.16	0.44	0.00	4.18	0.00	872.33

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Silvasa	4.38	0.92	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.30
Total (II)	154.74	337.71	0.00	0.01	0.20	0.00	-0.52	-0.56	491.58
Total (I) & (II)	46140.39	35727.97	2.53	-275.25	170.63	0.26	153.88	-1.79	81918.62
C.T.D.S.	31.96	1137.99							1169.95
Grand Total	46172.35	36865.96	2.53	-275.25	170.63	0.26	153.88	-1.79	83088.57

Grievance Redressal System

3452. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any system of grievance redressal exists in the department of Supply, Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, does an arbitration clause exist in the governing conditions of contract issued by the Office of the Director General of Supplies and Disposals;

(c) if so, the time limit earmarked to appoint an arbitrator to settle the dispute;

(d) whether any administrative action been taken against any officer has who did not follow the time limits as prescribed in the DGS&D manual guidelines for settling the grievance/dispute;

(e) if so, whether any provision exists for recovering the damages from the officer responsible for the lapse; and

(f) if so, the details of the number of complaints of delay against officers of DGS&D received in the Office of the Director General (S&D) and the Joint Secretary (Grievance) Ministry of Commerce and Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The terms and conditions governing the DGS&D Contract do provide for settlement of contractual disputes through the machinery of arbitration.

(c) There is no time limit prescribed for appointment of arbitrator. DG (S&D) appoints the arbitrator as per the arbitration agreement, in consultation with Min. of Law, User and other concerned agencies/ departments/ organizations.

(d) to (f) Does not arise.

India's Share in World Exports

3453. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share in world exports which was 1.5 per cent at the time of Independence, has come down to a mere 0.89 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the Government has lately gone into the main causes of such a drastic decline;

(c) if so, the main items whose export has largely suffered;

(d) whether any new policy or strategy has been worked out to restore India's due place in the world market; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) India's share in world exports declined after independence as world exports increased rapidly. However, the decline was contained by the 1980s and thereafter there has been an increase in India's share in world exports. According to the Economic survey, India's share in world exports rose from 0.6% in 1995 to 0.7% in 2000. In 2002, India attained 0.8% share in world exports. The growth in exports has been broadly maintained in 2003, resulting in retention of India's share in world exports at 0.8%. Thus, there was no decline in India's share in world exports in the recent past.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. A Medium Term Export Strategy which is co-terminus with the 10th Plan period (2002-07) was announced in January, 2002 with the objectives of enhancing India's exports and achieving 1% share in world exports. A number of programmes/schemes have been launched which include schemes like Assistance to States for Developing Export Infrastructure (ASIDE), establishing Agri Export Zones, Market Access Initiative, strengthening "Focus LAC" programme introducing 'Focus Africa' programmes, etc. In the Exim Policy, 2003-04 and Exim

Facilitation Measures announced in January, 2004, besides, the focus on service exports and policies to strengthen Special Economic Zones (SEZs), a new programme called "Focus CIS" has been introduced. Thus, measures are being taken from time to time to increase India's exports.

[Translation]

Rise in the Prices of Life Saving Drugs

3454. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

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

(a) whether promotion of drugs in India is likely to be affected with the India joining the International Patent Safety arrangement;

(b) whether there would be huge increase in the prices of the life saving drugs as a result thereof;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the price rise; and

(d) whether the Government has received any type of proposal from the medical institution in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAR): (a) to (c) There is no such system like "International Patent Safety arrangement" existing. The Patents Act, 1970, as amended, has provisions that effectively balance and calibrate intellectual property protection with public health, national security and public interest concerns. In order to specifically address public health concerns and ensuring availability of medicines at reasonable prices, it has several provisions like compulsory licensing of patents in case medicine is not available at reasonably affordable prices, provisions to deal with situation of public non-commercial and emergent situations use, provisions for import of medicines at competitive prices; provision for use of invention for the purposes of Government, revocation of patent in public interest and ensuring availability of products as soon as the term of patent is over.

(d) No, Sir.

[English]

Companies under Search and Seizure

3455. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during the last two years, 80 companies have been under search and seizure;

(b) if so, the names of the companies and the amount declared; and

(c) the details of investigation pending as on date?

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.

High Court Bench in North Karnataka

3456. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received representations/requests for establishment of a High Court Bench in North Karnataka, Hubli/Dharwad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be established?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka has since 1981 been of the view that a Bench of the Karnataka High Court be established at Hubli-Dharwad. However, the successive Chief Justices of the High Court have not so far endorsed the proposal. It is the policy of the Government of India that both the State Government and the High Court consider the matter from all angles and arrive at a consensus. As no complete proposal has been received from the Government of Karnataka, in consultation with the Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, for establishing a Bench of the High Court in North Karnataka, Hubli/Dharwad, it has not been possible for the Central Government to take a decision in the matter.

Suspension of Members of Coimbatore Stock Exchange

3457. SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received a complaint regarding illegal suspension of more than fifty members of the Coimbatore Stock Exchange by its Board; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it had received a complaint regarding suspension of

members of Coimbatore stock exchange. It had taken up the issue with Coimbatore stock exchange and as per the information obtained from the stock exchange, the Council of Management of the exchange withdrew the membership rights of 62 members for non-compliance with certain regulatory requirements in accordance with the provisions of Article 124 of Articles of Association of the exchange. The non compliances by the members were:

- (i) Non payment of annual subscription of exchange for the year 2002-03 and 2003-04,
- (ii) Non payment of contribution for Investor Protection Fund for the year 2003-04, and
- (iii) Non submission of the audit report to the exchange.

The exchange had written more than five letters to each member for non-compliance over the last nine months. The membership rights were withdrawn for those who failed to comply. Subsequently, the membership rights of the members, who complied with the requirements, were restored by the Council of Management.

Debt of North-Eastern States

3458. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that the debt of North-Eastern States has reached an unsustainable stage;
- (b) if so, the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to make the debt stock for the North-Eastern States self sustaining;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to take measures to correct the fiscal imbalance in the North-Eastern States through special debt relief package; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Finance Ministry treats States with Debt to GSDP ratio of 30% or more or Debt to TRR ratio of 300% (200% for Special Category States) as debt-stressed State. All NE States i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura are debt stressed as per debt to GSDP criterion.

(b) Total borrowing by the States have been capped to check undue build up of debt. A debt-swap scheme has also been launched since 2002-03 to reduce interest burden and also to pre-empt a part of small savings loans for debt retirement.

(c) and (d) A debt relief scheme recommended by

Eleventh Finance Commission is currently in operation. However, only Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh in North-East have taken advantage of it. The issue of debt restructuring of State has been referred to the Twelfth Finance Commission also.

[Translation]

Agreement between India and Thailand

3459. YOGI ADITYA NATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether agreement has been signed between India and Thailand recently;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the terms and conditions of the said agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) India and Thailand have signed a Framework Agreement for Establishing Free Trade Area on 9th October, 2003 in Bangkok, Thailand.

(b) The key elements of the Framework Agreement cover FTA in Goods, Services and Investment, and Areas of Economic Cooperation. The Framework Agreement also provides for an Early Harvest Scheme (EHS) under which common items have been agreed for elimination of tariffs on a fast track basis.

(c) The Framework Agreement provides for timeframes for negotiations on FTA in goods, services and investments. The negotiations for tariff reductions/elimination are to be concluded by March 2005 in order to establish India-Thailand Free Trade Area (FTA) covering trade in goods by 2010.

[English]

Cheating of Poor Depositors

3460. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether lakhs of rupees of poor depositors have been siphoned off by Dr. Morepan Laboratories, Solan in connivance with Company Law Board;
- (b) if not, whether the decision of Company Law Board is not being implemented by not paying depositors even after maturity; and
- (c) the action being taken by the Ministry to enable depositors in getting back their fixed deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) and (b) The Company had defaulted in refunding matured deposits along with interest to the depositors. The company had filed an application under Section 58-A(9) of the Companies Act, 1956 before the Company Law Board (CLB) giving a Scheme for refunding the deposits. In pursuance of this, the Company law Board vide order dated 19-8-2003 directed the Company to make repayment of deposits as per schedule approved by it. The Company has defaulted in implementation of this order of Company Law Board.

(c) Prosecution under section 58-A (10) of the Companies Act, 1956 for non-compliance of the Company Law Board's Order has been filed in the Court of Chief Judicial Magistrate at Solan (Himachal Pradesh) by the Registrar of Companies at Jalandhar.

**Under/Over Invoicing Cases against
Drug Companies**

3461. MOHD. MUKEEM: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of cases are pending with Government against drug companies for over/under invoicing;

(b) if so, the names of such companies and the amount of duty involved in each case;

(c) the reasons for delay in deciding these cases; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government for timely settlement of such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The names of the drug companies against whom cases for over/under invoicing involving excise duty of Rs. 1 crore and above and pending with Government are as given below:

S.No.	Name of the Company	Amount of duty involved (Rs. in crore)
1.	M/s. Cadila Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Vadodara	31.20
2.	M/s. Nova Care Pvt. Ltd., Fajalpur	7.95
3.	M/s. Dabur India Limited, Ghaziabad	3.48
4.	M/s. Torrent Bio-Tech Ltd., Vadodara	43.87
5.	M/s. Cosmo Pharma Ltd., Goa	1.73
6.	M/s. Centaur Drug House, Goa	1.08
7.	M/s. CFL Pharmaceuticals Ltd. Goa	12

(c) and (d) Some of the cases shall be taken up for adjudication after settlement of the issue with Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Steps are being taken for early adjudication of other cases and also speedy settlement of issues with Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Adjudication of all cases are monitored by senior level officers.

[Translation]

Boosting Industrial Production

3462. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sudden decline in the industrial production of the consumer goods during the last five months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to increase industrial production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) and (b) As per the latest data on use based classification of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the overall growth rates in output of consumer goods sector have fluctuated. Growth rate of the sector along with that of its sub-sectors for the five months February to June of 2003 and 2004 respectively are indicated in the Table below. Fluctuation in performance is an outcome of a number of factors, which among others include demand and supply, relative prices, and availability of substitutes.

**Month-wise Growth Rate (in %) of IIP:
Use Based Classification**

(Base 1993-94=100)				
	Year	Consumer Goods	Consumer Durable Goods	Consumer Non-durable Goods
	1	2	3	4
Weightage in IIP (%)		(28.7)	(5.4)	(23.3)
February	2003	8.2	(-)8.3	13.4
	2004	3.0	17.4	(-)0.7
March	2003	3.9	(-)12.2	9.3
	2004	6.3	23.3	1.6
April	2003	7.1	0.4	9.1
	2004	6.3	10.7	5.1

	1	2	3	4
May	2003	14.2	11.4	15.1
	2004	3.1	8.5	1.4
June	2003	6.8	0.3	9.0
	2004	8.4	14.1	6.6

Source: Central Statistical Organisation

(c) Government has put in place various policies to promote industrial growth. These include delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalisation of foreign trade regime and rationalisation of customs duty, excise duty and corporation taxes. Further, Union Budget for 2004-05 has made number of announcements, which will have a favourable impact on industrial growth. These include setting up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council to suggest measures to enhance competitiveness in the manufacturing sector, establishment of the Investment Commission to woo and facilitate both domestic and foreign business to invest in India and rationalisation of excise and customs duties. Renewed focus on investment and infrastructure and expanded employment programme would inject purchasing power into the economy and help increase in demand for consumer goods.

Defaulters of Loan

3463. SHRI RAMESH BAIS:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRI SUBODH MOHITE:

SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of individuals and companies/ industrial units black listed and declared defaulters by the Reserve Bank/ Nationalised Banks for not repaying the loans of Banks in time during 2003-2004;

(b) the details of the action taken against these companies by the Banks;

(c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to avoid disbursement of advance/ loans to companies/ individuals in future;

(d) the number of such cases in which industrial units/ companies obtained NOCs from Banks/ financial institutions despite being defaulters; and

(e) the recovery made from these companies/ individuals who were black listed during the last one year?

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.

Small Savings

3464. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the national average of the capital invested in States from the small saving deposits;

(b) the amount deposited in each State under small savings during each of the last three years;

(c) the amount spent out of it during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(d) whether some State Governments have demanded to raise their share of allocation of small savings from small savings deposits; and

(e) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Since 1.4.2002, the entire net small savings collections (deposits minus withdrawals by subscribers) are being transferred to the State and Union Territory (with legislature) Governments as investment in their special securities. Question of any further enhancement, therefore, does not arise.

A statement containing State-wise net small savings collections in post offices and the sums transferred to the State and Union Territory (with legislature) Governments during the last three years is enclosed.

Statement

Net (Gross Deposits minus withdrawals by Subscribers) Small Savings Collections and Transfers to State/UT Governments

(In Crores of Rupees)

Sl. No.	Name of State	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04 (Preliminary)	
		Small Savings Collection	Small Savings Transfers	Small Savings Collection	Small Savings Transfers	Small Savings Collection	Small Savings Transfers
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Andhra Pradesh	1797.03	1145.31	2884.74	2660.99	3363.82	3577.66
2	Arunachal Pradesh	12.73	10.90	16.70	18.33	23.81	36.10
3	Assam	650.26	388.52	839.77	741.85	737.80	1196.30

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
4	Bihar	1447.74	1310.21	1733.92	1575.21	1823.12	2066.55
5	Chhattisgarh	343.62	316.41	567.76	550.74	630.98	676.39
6	Goa	270.02	131.24	187.91	200.49	212.21	473.82
7	Gujarat	3744.19	3793.43	4910.22	5081.51	6187.51	6477.28
8	Haryana	1130.83	881.22	1415.70	1306.86	1661.86	1707.81
9	Himachal Pradesh	303.57	275.89	400.63	375.50	586.20	577.30
10	Jammu and Kashmir	277.46	162.43	403.33	388.12	431.99	496.76
11	Jharkhand	888.95	625.28	1164.54	1025.31	1285.90	1375.89
12	Karnataka	1501.79	1285.14	2186.44	1977.84	2253.78	2733.05
13	Kerala	479.84	462.56	1116.17	832.31	1948.00	1946.96
14	Madhya Pradesh	1196.85	802.58	1566.07	1589.26	1937.10	2429.04
15	Maharashtra	3459.22	5471.62	5144.42	7945.03	7255.68	9061.29
16	Manipur	14.25	25.25	22.52	9.66	18.01	19.14
17	Meghalaya	25.00	25.11	39.43	32.67	38.63	50.06
18	Mizoram	9.99	10.50	16.49	16.94	26.32	26.70
19	Nagaland	13.98	7.95	12.59	16.42	14.35	12.98
20	Orissa	576.24	496.21	753.30	614.64	1027.37	1014.52
21	Punjab	1889.37	1394.85	2589.84	2627.22	2832.37	3376.01
22	Rajasthan	3100.58	2638.41	3313.04	3397.93	3444.18	4125.51
23	Sikkim	9.41	15.22	9.14	9.49	22.82	21.98
24	Tamil Nadu	1649.94	1487.91	2646.41	2200.03	3520.17	3785.46
25	Tripura	128.04	50.53	146.67	206.88	148.25	148.11
26	Uttar Pradesh	3989.78	3854.67	5247.57	5074.44	5427.15	5991.74
27	Uttaranchal	484.07	355.56	280.26	573.26	808.35	785.85
28	West Bengal	6616.70	5735.58	7924.69	7832.20	8439.52	8903.22
Total		36011.45	33160.55	47539.27	48861.13	56107.23	63099.48
UTs with legislature							
1	Delhi	1591.63	1773.96	2880.50	3276.84	3675.01	4406.07
2	Pondicherry	80.79	83.65	86.17	103.51	166.38	138.40
Total		1672.42	1857.61	2966.67	3380.35	3843.39	4546.47
Grand Total		37683.87	35018.16	50505.94	52261.40	59950.62	67641.95

Referring of Ashoka Paper Mills to BIFR

3465. SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bihar based and Assam based units of Ashoka Paper Mills were under the same company viz Ashoka Paper Mill Ltd. till 1990;

(b) whether the said company was referred to the BIFR by the Union Government under the Sick Industries Act in 1988; and

(c) the current status of these units as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY

OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) That, a financial Package was announced by the Government of India for rendering assistance to the Government of Assam in their efforts to revive the Ashok Paper Mill (Assam), in pursuance of the Assam Accord signed in the year 1985. The Package envisaged an outright grant of Rs. 67.08 crores for the purpose. It is not an open-ended package and specifies the items for which and the organizations to whom the funds/amounts under the package would be payable. The table below gives the amount earmarked separately for each specific item of activities/ financial institutions and released so far:

(Rupees in Crores)

	Items	Provision	Released	Balance
I	Assam Unit's share of Principal payable to the institutions and Banks	26.30	26.30	Nil
II	Promoters contribution and 20% of the capital expenditure	4.60	4.60	Nil
III	Margin money for working capital	2.30	2.30	Nil
IV	Cash losses in first two years of operation	10.04	5.04	5.00
V	Outstanding statutory liabilities on account of Wages etc.	8.39	8.39	Nil
VI	Outstanding interest liabilities (from 1.7.86 to 30.6.89) on institutional loans and working capital loans.	12.12	12.12	Nil
VII	Amount due to Railways relating to Jogighopa Unit	0.07	0.07	Nil
VIII	Security deposit inclusive of interest and income tax	3.26	3.26	Nil
	Total	67.08	62.08	6.00

The State Government of Assam leased out M/s. Ashok Paper Mill (Assam unit) to M/s. Sanghi Textiles Limited in the year, 1995 and later on to M/s. Soneko Paper & Industries Limited (Now M/s. North East Paper & Industries Limited) in year 2000 when M/s. Sanghi Textiles Limited abandoned the Mill.

The Government of India has so far released 62.08 crores against the various items mentioned in the financial package. Rs. 5.00 crores will be released by the Government of India after the mill starts the commercial production and incurs cash losses, if any.

M/s. Nouveau Capital & Finance Limited (NCFL) (private entrepreneur) acquired effective control over management of M/s. Ashok Paper Mills, (Bihar Unit) w.e.f. 26.12.1997 for its revival as per the Revival Scheme approved by Hon'ble Supreme Court. M/s. Ashok paper Mills, Bihar Unit has recommenced production from the last week of October, 2001 and as per their statement, the company had produced about 2000 tonnes of paper. However, the Production activity could not be continued/sustained due to several reasons. Imposition of embargo on movement of goods, machineries, etc. in/out of the mill premises has been one of the major reasons.

Sustained and continuous production of paper and paper products have not yet commenced in Assam and Bihar units of M/s. Ashok Paper Mill Limited.

[English]

Private Players in Insurance Sector

3466. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private players allowed entry in insurance sector so far;

(b) whether these private players propose to cover rural sector thereby taking care of socially and economically weaker sections;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the norms/ guidelines set by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority for those companies who propose to cover these sections of society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A list is given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d) All the public as well as private insurance companies have to fulfill rural and social obligations as laid down in Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Obligations of Insurers to Rural Social Sector) Regulations, 2000. Copy of the Regulation has been laid on the Table of the House on 11th August, 2000.

Statement

List of Insurance Companies in Private Sector

S. No.	Company
1	2
Life Insurance Companies	
1	Birla Sun Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
2	ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
3	ING Vysya Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
4	HDFC Standard Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
5	Max Newyork Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
6	AMP Sanmar Assurance Co. Ltd.
7	Allianz Bajaj Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
8	SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
9	OM Kotak Mahindra Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

1	2
10	TATA AIG Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
11	Metlife India Insurance Co. Pvt. Ltd.
12	AVIVA Life Insurance Co. India Pvt. Ltd.
13	Sahara India Life Insurance Co. Ltd.
General Insurance Companies	
1	Royal Sundaram Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd.
2	Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.
3	TATA AIG General Insurance Co. Ltd.
4	Reliance General Insurance Co. Ltd.
5	IFFKO - TOKIO General Insurance Co. Ltd.
6	ICICI Lombard General Insurance Co. Ltd.
7	Cholamandalam MS General Insurance Co. Ltd.
8	HDFC Chubb General Insurance Co. Ltd.

Low Saving Rates in Corporate Sector

3467. SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of savings by the Corporate Sector is very low compared to that the households; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a proportion of Gross Domestic Product, corporate savings is low compared to household savings. Information available from the Central Statistical Organisation for the latest three years is as follows.

Gross Domestic Savings as per cent of Gross Domestic Product at current market prices

	2000-01	2001-02 (P)	2002-03 (Q)
Gross domestic savings:	23.7	23.5	24.2
Of which:			
Private corporate sector	4.1	3.5	3.4
Household sector	21.9	22.7	22.6
Public sector	-2.3	-2.7	-1.9

P - Provisional Q- Quick Estimates

*[Translation]***Facilities in Banks**

3468. SHRI MOHD. TAHIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nationalised banks branches in Uttar Pradesh which are fully computerised and equipped with ATM facility and the rating of the working of them all; and

(b) the time by which all the branches in the State would become fully computerised and equipped with ATM facility?

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

*[English]***Task Force Report on Airport Infrastructure**

3469. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) clause-wise implementation status of the Task Force Report on improvement of Airport infrastructure and air connectivity of NER with achievement made as well as target set for completion;

(b) execution status of the aerobridge, extension

of parking lot and restoration of international flights in the LGNB Airport, Guwahati; and

(c) action taken on the rationalization of fare of the routes connected by ATR aircraft and plan for further enhancement of connectivity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The implementation and status of Task Force Report on improvement of airport infrastructures and air connectivity of North East Region with achievements made as well as target set for completion are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The drawings for installation of two passenger boarding bridges (aerobridges) and extension of parking lot have been finalized and estimates are being prepared. Work is likely to be taken up during 2004-05.

(c) Fares on the route operated with ATR aircraft are based on the norms followed for fixation of fares on other types of aircraft operated by Indian Airlines. Effective 28.7.2004 Alliance Air has based one aircraft at Guwahati providing:

- (i) an early morning flight between Guwahati and Kolkata;
- (ii) a new link between Silchar and Shillong; and
- (iii) more connectivity to the passengers ex-Kolkata.

Statement

Status on the Implementation of Recommendations of Task Force for Improving Airport Infrastructures and Air Links in the North Eastern Region

Para No.	Recommendations of Task Force	Airport	Status	Cost (Rs. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	5
8.4.1	Extension /construction of new terminal buildings	Guwahati	Expansion of terminal building work completed in 12/2001	27.55
		Agartala	New terminal building for 500 passengers and associated works completed on 25th December, 2002	27.55
		Imphal	New terminal building for 650 passengers and associated works completed on 6.9.1999.	17.94
		Tezpur	New Civil Enclave for handling 400 passengers and two A-320 type of aircraft and associated works completed in 6/2000.	21.50

1	2	3	4	5
		Lilabari	New terminal building for 400 passengers and associated facilities completed on 9.10.2002	18.45
		Lengpui (Mizoram) (State Govt. project)	New terminal building for 400 passengers and allied facilities completed on 13.10.2002 by State Govt.	13.00
		Tura (Meghalaya) (State Govt. Project)	New terminal building for 100 passengers and allied works by AAI on behalf of State Govt. as deposit work in progress	12.21
		Dibrugarh	New terminal building for 400 passengers and allied works likely to start in last quarter of 2004-05	24.58
8.4.2	Extension of runways	Agartala	From 6000 to 7500 ft. and allied works completed in June, 2004	28.70
		Lilabari	From 5400 ft. to 7500 ft. and allied works completed on 9.10.2002	16.31
		Dibrugarh	From 6000 ft. to 8000 ft. and allied works have been awarded on 17.6.2004 and likely to be completed by March, 2006.	14.00
		Silchar	From 5850 ft. to 7500 ft. and allied works sanctioned on 1.11.2001 The work could not be awarded as NOC from IAF MOD is still awaited.	31.00
8.4.3	Acquisition of land for airport development works	Silchar	33 acres of land for extension of runway and installation of approach lighting system completed on 6.3.2000	1.53
		Agartala	42 acres of land for extension of runway and installation of approach lighting system completed in 21.1.1999	0.90
		Guwahati	274 acres of land for construction of isolation bay, installation of approach lighting system and widening of approach road in progress. Demand from State Govt. awaited.	
		Barapani	Airport is not fit for B-737 type of aircraft. Therefore, land acquisition for runway extension has been kept in abeyance.	
		Dibrugarh	289 b-6k-31L (125 acres approx.) of land for new terminal building and extension of runway completed on 5.2.2004	3.22
8.4.4	Approach roads to airport	Agartala, Aizawl, Silchar, Jorhat, Tura, Barapani, Lilabari	State Govt. has not taken required action for improvement of approach roads from city center to airport.	

1	2	3	4	5
8.4.5	Improvement of road link between Itanagar and Lilabari		Pertains to State Govt./ NEC. Status not known to AAI.	
8.4.6	Provision of instrument landing system and RVR equipment	Silchar	NOC awaited from AHQ / MOD for extension of runway. ILS work will be taken up after completion of runway work.	
		Tezpur	Airport belongs to IAF. Therefore it should be provided by IAF.	
		Dimapur	Work in progress and likely to be completed by December, 2004.	2.50
		Jorhat	Airport belongs to IAF. Therefore it should be provided by IAF.	
		Lilabari	Equipment available. Land for installation of glide path not yet handed over nor obstruction removed by State Govt.	2.50
8.4.7	Provision of VOR, DME and visual aids	Lilabari	Have been provided.	1.75
		Barapani (Shillong)	Provision of DVOR likely to be completed by March, 2005.	1.25
	Approach lights and high intensity runway edge lights	Dibrugarh	Available. Provision of Approach light will be completed by March, 2006 along with runway extension work.	
		Lilabari	Runway edge lights available. Approach lighting work will be completed along with ILS work.	
		Lengpui (Aizawl)	Runway edge lights available. Approach lights cannot be provided due to land constraints.	
		Barapani	Not required as operation through Barapani is under visual meteorological condition (good weather).	
8.4.8	Facilities for night operations.	Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari and Silchar	Ground lighting facilities are available Dibrugarh, Jorhat (IAF), Tezpur (IAF), Lilabari. Ground lighting facilities not available at Silchar. This will be provided along with runway extension work after getting NOC from AHQ/MOD. About permission of night operation, study is to be undertaken by DGCA.	
8.4.9	Removal of obstacles around airports	Agartala,	Removed	
		Passighat	Work is to be executed by State Govt. There is no demand from airlines to start their schedule service.	
		Tura	There is no demand from airlines to start their schedule service. The removal of hillock is to be taken up by State Govt.	

1	2	3	4	5
		Dimapur	HT/LT lines have been made underground and work has been completed except NTPC HT line for which correspondence is on with NTPC. Removal of buildings is in progress and likely to be completed by December, 2004.	3.02
8.4.10	Safety related works at airports	Imphal	Perimeter fencing available.	
		Shillong	Perimeter wall constructed in March, 2004.	1.90
		Silchar	Increase in height of control tower technically not feasible.	
		Dimapur	Leveling of runway strip work is in progress and likely to be completed by December, 2004	3.50
		Dibrugarh	Removal of obstruction from basic strip completed. The work for perimeter road and new fire station will be taken up along with runway work.	
8.4.11	Electric and water supply at airports	Guwahati, Aizawl, Barapani	Regional Executive Director, North East Region, Airports Authority of India is pursuing with the respective State Govts. Likely to be completed during 2004-05	
8.4.12	Security of airport and its personnel	Imphal, Dimapur	Rotation of staff is being followed as per AAI transfer policy. CISF has been inducted for security of airport assets.	
8.4.13	Provision of additional facilities at IAF airports	Jorhat, Tezpur, Silchar	PAPI and speech circuits will be provided by AAI.	
8.4.14	Speedy execution of airport projects	Most of the works have been completed at the airports in NER except Silchar where NOC is awaited from MOD and Dibrugarh where the total land has been handed over by State Govt. to AAI in February, 2004. It is expected all the major development works at the airports in NER will be completed by end of 10th Five Year Plan 2002-07		
8.4.15	Separate communication frequency at AIF airfield	Pertains to IAF.		
8.4.16	Improvement in air services	Alliance Air has introduced ATR-42 aircraft services connecting Guwahati with Silchar, Aizawl, Imphal, Lilabari, Dimapur. Shillong has also been Kolkata by Alliance Air. Guwahati is already connected by Jet aircraft with Dibrugarh, Imphal, Agartala, Jorhat and Tezpur airports.		
8.4.17	Induction of 50 seater aircraft	Alliance Air has acquired four ATR-42 on lease basis and two are engaged exclusively for North Eastern Region.		
8.4.18	Heliports and Helicopter service	Provision of subsidy for helicopter operation by State Govt. is a policy matter decided by Govt. of India.		

1	2	3	4	5
8.4.19	Fiscal measures and make air service viable	<p>The exemption of sales tax on aviation turbine fuel by State Govt. not yet implemented.</p> <p>Regarding full exemption from the inland air travel tax on air services to / from and within the any region is a policy matter to be decided by Govt. of India.</p> <p>AAI has already reduced landing, parking, route navigation facility charges to 50% upto 20 tonnes (50 seater) type of aircraft. As regards reduction in passenger service fee, it is a policy matter to be decided by Govt. of India.</p> <p>As regards Aviation development funds, for providing support to AAI and Airlines to the loss of revenue, it is yet to be finalized by Govt. of India.</p> <p>Promotion of air travel of employees of Central / State / Public Sector in the Region by lowering the entitlement of air travel is a policy matter to be decided by Government.</p>		
8.4.20	Basic amenities for passengers	The basic minimum amenities for passengers such as water, power, clean toilets, baggage trolleys, adequate car park etc. have been provided at all the airports in the North Eastern Region maintained by AAI.		
8.4.21	Civil aviation development funds	Govt. of India to finalize this matter.		
8.4.22	North East Council grant to AAI	North East Council is providing 60% grant-in-aid on development of capital infrastructures at the airports in North East Region		
8.4.23	Sharing of revenue by AAI at Defence airports	The matter has been taken up by Ministry of Civil Aviation with Ministry of Defence.		

Air Connectivity

Sector	Weekly operations				
	Indian Airlines	Alliance Air	Jet Airways	Air Sahara	Total Weekly flights
1	2	3	4	5	6
Agartala-Guwahati	-	6 (ATR) 1 (B-737)	4 (B-737)	-	11
Agartala-Kolkata	2 (A-320)	7 (ATR) 15 (B-137)	7 (B-737)	-	31
Agartala-Silchar	-	2 (ATR)	-	-	2
Aizawl (Lengpui)-Dimapur	-	1 (ATR)	-	-	1
Aizawl (Lengpui)-Guwahati	-	4 (ATR)	-	-	4
Aizawl (Lengpui)-Imphal	-	3 (B-737)	-	-	3
Aizawl (Lengpui)-Kolkata	-	4 (ATR) 3 (B-737)	-	-	7

1	2	3	4	5	6
Aizawl (Lengpui)-Shillong	-	2 (ATR)	-	-	2
Dibrugarh-Delhi	-	-	-	7 (B-737)	7
Dibrugarh-Guwahati	-	-	-	7 (B-737)	7
Dibrugarh-Kolkata	5 (A-320)	-	-	-	5
Dimapur-Aizawl		1 (ATR)	-	-	1
Dimapur-Guwahati	-	5 (ATR)	-	-	5
Dimapur-Jorhat	-	1 (B-737)	-	-	1
Dimapur-Kolkata	-	2 (B-737)	-	-	7
		5 (ATR)			
Dimapur-Shillong	-	2 (ATR)	-	-	2
Guwahati-Agartala	-	6 (ATR)	-	-	11
		5 (B-737)			
Guwahati-Aizawl	-	4 (ATR)	-	-	4
Guwahati-Bagdogra	-	3 (B-737)	3 (B-737)	-	6
Guwahati-Delhi	4 (A-320)	2 (B-737)	4 (B-737)	7 (B-737)	17
Guwahati-Dibrugarh		-		7 (B-737)	7
Guwahati-Dimapur		5 (ATR)			5
Guwahati-Imphal	2 (A-320)	2 (ATR)	5 (B-737)	-	9
Guwahati-Jorhat			2 (B-737)		2
Guwahati-Kolkata	7 (A-320)	7 (ATR)	18 (B-737)	7 (B-737)	39
Guwahati-Lilabari		2 (ATR)			2
Guwahati-Silchar		5 (ATR)			5
Imphal-Aizawl		3 (B-737)			3
Imphal-Guwahati	2 (A-320)	2 (ATR)	5 (B-737)		9
Imphal-Kolkata		6 (B-737)	6 (B-737)		12
Imphal-Silchar		5 (ATR)			5
Jorhat-Guwahati			2 (B-737)		2
Jorhat-Kolkata		2 (B-737)	2 (B-737)		4
Lilabari-Guwahati		2 (ATR)			2
Shillong-Aizawl		2 (ATR)			2

1	2	3	4	5	6
Shillong-Dimapur		2 (ATR)			2
Shillong-Kolkata		3 (ATR)			3
Silchar-Agartala		2 (ATR)			2
Silchar-Guwahati		4 (ATR)			4
Silchar-Imphal		7 (ATR)			7
Silchar-Kolkata		8 (ATR)			10
		2 (B-737)			
Tezpur-Dimapur		1 (B-737)			1
Tezpur-Jorhat		2 (B-737)			2
Tezpur-Kolkata		2 (B-737)			2

Further details can be obtained from respective Airlines.

Re-Employment of Casual Workers

3470. SHRI G. M. SIDDESWARA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received any proposal regarding revival and re-employment of 168 Badli and Casual Workers in the Government of India Undertaking, Sri Yallamma Cotton Woollen and Silk Mills, Tholahunase, Davangere, Karnataka;

(b) if so, whether the Government has considered the proposal;

(c) if so, the help and assistance being provided by the Government to the mills for its revival;

(d) whether all the Badli and Casual Workers have been re-employed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(f) time by which all the Badli and Casual Workers will be provided re-employment?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (f) 71 Badli workers in the Sri Yallamma Mills, Davangere, requested NTC to regularize their services as permanent workers. However, such a request can be entertained only when the mill works at full capacity. Till such time, they are being employed as and when there is requirement as per the operational necessity.

Investment to Fund Mega Projects by CIL

3471. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI:

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India has lined up investment of Rs.19,000 crore to fund a number of mega projects to reduce imports;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the amount to be invested on each project;

(c) the time schedule for completion of these projects;

(d) whether CIL has set a production target of 445 Million Tonnes (MT) by 2011-12;

(e) if so, the strategy adopted and plan chalked out by CIL to achieve the target;

(f) the major mega projects in hand and in pipeline of CIL; and

(g) the source of financing mega projects to achieve above target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Coal India has identified 99 projects to be taken up during X Plan period including 27 projects with investments of Rs.100 crores and above each. The total investment envisaged for these 27 projects costing more than Rs. 100 crores is Rs.17212.04 crores as per present assessment. Project wise details are given below:-

Sl. No.	Name of project	Estimated capital (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Rajmahal Expansion (Expn.) Opencast (OC)	1008.68
2.	Chuparbita OC	605.54
3.	Jhanjra longwall underground (UG)	267.70

1	2	3
4.	Hura C OC	353.45
5.	Ashoka Expn. OC	397.89
6.	North Urimari	373.72
7.	Konar OC	193.15
8.	Magadh OC	1013.37
9.	Amrapali OC	1000.95
10.	Krishnashila OC	763.55
11.	Block B OC	693.33
12.	Bina Extension OC	797.93
13.	Khadia Expn. OC	2104.11
14.	Amlohri Expn. OC	1905.27
15.	Dipika Extension OC	1246.74
16.	Gevra Expn. OC	1661.32
17.	Kusumunda Expn. OC	675.47
18.	Basundhara West OC	176.55
19.	Bhubaneswari OC	607.68
20.	Garjanbahal OC	547.51
21.	Kaniha OC	171.89
22.	Kulda OC	713.23
23.	Gopalprasad OC	697.18
24.	Siarmal OC	640.00
25.	Talabera - II OC	320.00
26.	Talabera - III OC	466.11
27.	Kaniha -II OC	600.00

(c) One project namely Basundhara West OC of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited has been sanctioned by Government and will be completed by 2006-07. The remaining 26 projects costing Rs.100 crores and above are at different stages of approval and likely to be completed within 3-7 years from the date of sanction.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir. Coal India Limited (CIL) has projected a production of 445 Mt at the terminal year of XI Plan i.e. 2011-12.

To achieve this, major share has been projected from new projects. Group wise break up of projected production in 2011-12 is shown as below:

Group	Production (Mt.)
Existing Mines	17.43
Completed Projects	135.87
Ongoing Projects	45.85
New Projects	245.85
Total CIL	445.00

(f) The list of 27 projects in the pipeline is given in answer to (a) and (b) above. Jhanjra Phase - I, Jharkhand, Nigahi Expn., Dudhichua Expn and Pootkee Ballihari are on-going projects costing Rs.100 crores and above of CIL.

(g) The projects will be financed through Internal and Extra Budgetary Resources (IEBR).

[Translation]

Export-Import of Shoes

3472. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) names of the countries to whom shoes have been exported during the last three years, year-wise details;

(b) the names of the countries from where shoes have been imported during the above period, year-wise details;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps or propose to take steps to increase export of the shoes in the country;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Country-wise Details of Exports and Imports of Shoes for the last 3 years are given in the statement-I and II respectively.

(c) to (e) The Government of India have taken steps to promote the export of shoes inter-alia through export promotion schemes such as Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI). An Action Plan for 2004-2005 has been formulated for market promotional activities in different overseas markets, which include publicity and image-building campaign, organizing buyer-seller-meets, participation in international fairs and

supporting Indian exporters to establish design studios and establishment of warehouses/showrooms abroad. Government has also planned export promotion activities under Focus programmes in Latin American and Caribbean countries, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Africa and Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Statement-I

India's Export of Leather Footwear

(in Million US \$)

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Germany	113.65	103.68	135.24
U.S.A.	86.17	85.83	79.90
U.K.	153.41	141.46	138.30
Italy	91.67	73.34	96.28
France	30.70	34.84	46.07
Hong Kong	1.80	2.04	1.76
Spain	12.19	19.46	32.66
Russia	1.28	0.47	0.27
Netherlands	19.76	16.63	19.25
Australia	10.29	10.61	7.91
New Zealand	1.39	1.51	1.59
Denmark	5.73	5.78	10.35
Greece	2.19	5.73	10.69
Canada	9.84	10.14	8.39
Switzerland	5.99	4.33	4.92
Sweden	5.55	6.09	6.03
South Africa	4.20	2.30	5.42
Austria	6.23	5.61	9.14
Belgium	7.29	7.56	8.30
Japan	2.97	2.03	1.91
Portugal	16.81	16.57	13.10

1	2	3	4
China	0.08	0.14	0.24
Ireland	1.10	1.40	1.47
U.A.E.	8.95	9.50	11.91
Indonesia	0.15	0.52	1.11
Korea Rep.	0.34	0.28	0.30
Finland	1.54	1.21	1.14
Saudi Arabia	1.93	2.30	3.07
Others	26.12	27.23	32.78
Total	629.32	598.59	689.52

Source: DGCI & S

India's Export of Non-Leather Footwear

(In Million US \$)

Country	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4
Germany	1.68	1.97	10.60
U.S.A.	2.12	4.02	8.65
U.K.	3.96	4.47	14.70
Italy	4.66	5.82	9.89
France	1.25	1.83	3.40
Hong Kong	0.22	0.03	0.09
Spain	0.50	0.65	4.60
Russia	0.31	0.02	0.00
Netherlands	0.29	0.32	0.91
Australia	0.64	0.49	0.51
New Zealand	0.50	0.11	0.28
Denmark	0.05	0.23	1.26
Greece	0.01	0.13	0.56
Canada	0.12	0.21	0.38
Switzerland	0.27	0.36	0.78

1	2	3	4
Sweden	0.17	0.11	0.27
South Africa	0.12	0.18	0.78
Austria	0.10	0.09	0.88
Belgium	0.07	0.02	0.31
Japan	0.06	0.11	0.11
Portugal	0.32	0.27	2.04
China	0.01	0.00	0.00
Ireland	0.04	0.02	0.00
U.A.E.	2.20	2.12	2.62
Indonesia	0.24	0.02	0.11
Finland	0.05	0.01	0.05
Saudi Arabia	0.53	0.65	0.80
Others	5.97	2.63	4.43
Total	26.02	26.88	69.00

Source: DGCI & S

Statement-II*India's Import of Leather Footwear*

(In Million US \$)

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
China	0.75	0.61	0.93
France	0.01	0.00	0.05
Germany	0.00	0.00	0.04
Hong Kong	0.31	0.08	0.01
Indonesia	0.34	1.68	0.16
Italy	0.08	0.05	0.04
Nepal	0.20	0.08	0.07
Spain	0.00	0.00	0.01
U.A.E.	0.03	0.00	0.01
U.K.	0.05	0.01	0.03
U.S.A.	0.04	0.45	0.01
Others	0.50	0.56	0.56
Total	2.32	3.52	1.93

Source: DGCI & S, Annual Number

* Latest Available

India's Import of Non-Leather Footwear

(In Million US \$)

Country	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03*
Australia	0.00	0.01	0.01
Brazil	0.00	0.00	0.01
China	2.34	1.61	1.44
France	0.07	0.01	0.00
Germany	0.22	0.06	0.13
Hong Kong	0.38	0.11	0.29
Indonesia	0.55	0.49	0.20
Italy	0.18	0.22	0.18
Nepal	1.07	1.14	1.27
Netherlands	0.01	0.00	0.00
Spain	0.03	0.00	0.00
U.A.E.	0.04	0.06	0.08
U.K.	0.10	0.03	0.08
U.S.A.	0.07	0.04	0.13
Others	0.98	0.89	2.25
Total	6.02	4.65	6.07

Source: DGCI & S

* Latest Available

*[English]***Recovery of Outstanding Taxes**

3473. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently issued directives to tax officials to recover huge tax arrears due against individuals and companies for the first half of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assessment of the arrears work out by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Government has recently constituted a Task Force for

Recovery of Arrears with the mandate to develop and implement a multi-pronged strategy for collection of arrears of taxes. This Task Force would co-ordinate and supervise the functioning of the Core Committees at the level of the Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and issue directions to the income tax authorities on various issues including identification of potential cases for recovery, early disposal of appeals, vacation of stay, identification of assets for recovery, etc. The Task Force would also develop and launch a multi-media public awareness campaign to encourage the taxpayers to clear their tax dues voluntarily.

(c) On assessment of the income tax arrear position as on 1.7.2004, the government has found that out of the total outstanding demand of Rs. 84,219 crore, demands amounting to Rs. 58,447 crore are in dispute before various Courts, Tribunal, etc., including Rs. 9,887 crore of demand stayed by these appellate authorities. A large part of the balance amount is also not immediately collectible for various reasons including demands pertaining to scam cases, case being before BFIR or Settlement commission, company being under liquidation, etc.

Tax Evasion by Online Lottery Operators

3474. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken note of the reports of alleged tax evasion by online lottery operators;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the corrective measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No instance of tax evasion by online lottery operators has come to the notice of the Income Tax Department.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Under Capitalization of IA/ AI

3475. SHRI CHANDRA BHUSHAN SINGH:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of under capitalization of Indian Airlines and Air India;

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

(c) steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The paid up equity capital of Air India is Rs. 153.84 crores while the equity capital base of Indian Airlines is of Rs. 107.14 crores. Keeping in view the capital intensive nature of business, the current equity base of the two airlines is not considered adequate. The question of increasing the equity base of these airlines is linked to their aircrafts acquisition proposals.

Reservation of Jobs for OBC

3476. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is strictly following the reservation policy in providing jobs for the persons belonging to OBC in the Government Departments and Autonomous institutions as well attached offices, Research and Development Institutes and other PSUs coming under his Ministry including Gazetted posts of Class I and Class II employees;

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

(c) the number of posts not filled so far; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to fill up such vacant posts immediately?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production of Textiles

3477. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the textiles production in the country during the last three years;

(b) the textiles export to different countries during the last three years;

(c) the percentage and position of India in the field of exports in the international market;

(d) whether the Government propose to increase textiles exports in 2003-04 and 2004-05;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The details of textiles production in the country during the last three years are as under:

Items	Yarn in million kg./ Cloth in million mtrs./ Jute Goods in '000 M Tons		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04(P)
(A) Yarn (Total)	4064	4181	4165
a) Cotton Yarn	2212	2177	2117
b) Blended & 100% Non-cotton yarn (in spun form)	889	904	930
c) Man-made filament yarn (including synthetic yarn)	963	1100	1118
(B) Cloth (Total)	41390	41311	41547
a) Mill (including non-SSI weaving units)	1546	1496	1425
b) Power looms (including hosiery)	32259	33835	34586
c) Handlooms	7585	5980	5536
(C) Jute Goods	1600.8	1621.8	1571.3

(b) The textile exports to top 10 countries during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 (April-October) are as under:

		(Value Mn. US \$)		
Sl. No.	Country	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-04 (April-Oct.)
1	USA	2374.34	2908.34	1588.41
2	UAE	691.04	804.95	535.65
3	UK	743.55	833.14	473.86
4	FRG	622.02	745.46	429.09
5	France	460.65	519.72	275.96
6	Italy	398.63	429.61	252.92
7	Canada	308.77	369.05	188.69
8	Saudi Arabia	201.92	250.26	177.25
9	Spain	209.46	277.34	165.12
10	Russia	371.67	285.41	150.60
11	Other Countries	4006.54	4464.86	2617.73
Total		10388.59	11888.14	6855.30

(c) The percentage contribution and position of India in the field of export in the International market are 3.13% and 7th respectively.

(d) to (f) Taking note of the new challenges and opportunities presented by the changing global environment including an integration of the world textile and clothing markets by end of 2004, the Government of India have announced a National Textile Policy in November 2000 to develop a strong and vibrant textile industry capable of

producing cloth of good quality at acceptable prices as well as of competing with confidence with other textile producing countries for an increasing share of global market. Some of the major initiatives undertaken for implementation of the Policy include,

(i) In the Union Budget 2004-05;

- Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial

- fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has 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.
 - Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.
- (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 in TUFS compatible specified machinery subject to a ceiling of Rs.12 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 garment from the SSI sector. The SSI investment limit for knitted / hosiery segment increased from Rs.1 crore to Rs. 5 crore;
- (vi) A centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" launched 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) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has also been launched;
- (viii) Cotton Technology Mission launched to improve the productivity and quality of cotton;
- (ix) Imposition of a combination of ad-valorem and specific duty on "whichever is higher basis" on import of a number of textile items to safeguard the interest of domestic industry;
- (x) The facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50% extended to weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through reduction in customs duty and abolition of excise duty on certain specified machinery items;
- (xi) For boosting exports of textile and clothing Government provides financial assistance to Textile Export Promotion Councils under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme;
- (xii) Close monitoring of imports on regular basis so as to ensure that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic industry. In case any unfair trade practices come to the notice, action, if necessary, under WTO provisions are taken;
- (xiii) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training and 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;
- (xiv) 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;
- (xv) 100% Foreign Direct Investment permitted through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions; and
- (xvi) Refund of taxes and duties on exports through drawback route.
- Restaurant on Lease in Pragati Maidan**
3478. DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:
- (a) whether large number of restaurants have been given on lease inside Pragati Maidan by ITPO during the last three years;
 - (b) if so, the reasons and details thereof;
 - (c) the details of outstanding license fees to be recovered from these restaurants;

(d) whether these restaurants have flouted the rules of the agreement;

(e) if so, the details of fine and punishment imposed on them;

(f) whether expenditure incurred by the ITPO officials on foreign trips are not properly accounted or audited; and

(g) if so, how do the Ministry intend to tackle such irregularities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) In order to provide good quality and inexpensive food/beverages facilities to the visitors in various fairs/ exhibitions, a restaurant and food kiosks were granted licences during the last three years as per the following details:

- (I) **Restaurant** - Only one restaurant namely, 'Vatika' in Pragati Maidan has been licensed to M/s Bhayana Tents & Decorators on 2.8.2001 to run restaurant banquet for a period of 10 years.
- (II) **Food Kiosks** - The following Food Kiosks were allotted in Anarkali Food Plaza Complex on short-term licence basis (5-9 months) from time to time during the last three years:

April 2001 to March 2002 - Mother Dairy, Patel Caterers, Pepsi Foods Ltd., Awadh Court, Kakori Mughal Foods, Snappy Snax, Nizam's Kathi Kabab, Oriental Restaurant, Hari Om Chat Bhandar, Onkar Kulche Wala, Gulistan Catering Services, Sunshine Caterers, Ravi Raj Di Kulfi, Sheesh Mahal Kulche Wala, Hindustan Coca Cola, MU Eating Point (Tunde Kabab), Network Incorporation, Balbir Singh Di Bhatti, Vaishali Caterers, Bombay Chaupaty, Coffee Board Ex-Employees' Co-operative Society, Gyanji Sweets & Caterers, Tripti Restaurant and Coconut Grove.

April 2002 to December 2002 - Only Dosa' 26, Gupta Snacks Corner, Awadh Court, Kakori Mughal Foods, Snappy Snax, Nizam's Kathi Kabab, Oriental Restaurant, Hari Om Chat Bhandar, Onkar Kulche Wala, Gulistan Catering Services, Patel Caterers, Sunshine Caterers, Ravi Raj Di Kulfi, Hindustan Coca Cola, Network Incorporation, Vaishali Caterers, Pepsi Foods Ltd. and Tripti Restaurant.

November 2003 to June 2004 - Rupa Ice Cream Parlour, Ratnakar Foods & Beverages Pvt. Ltd. Cool All, Hari Om Caterers and Network Incorporation.

(c) Details of outstanding recoveries of licence fee are as under:

1. Sheesh Mahal Kulche Wala	Rs.50,000/-
2. MU Eating Point (Tunde Kabab)	Rs. 54,000/-

3. Balbir Singh Di Bhatti	Rs. 54,000/-
4. Bombay Chaupaty	Rs. 54,000/-
5. Gyanji Sweets	Rs. 60,000/-
6. Snappy Snax	Rs. 8,922/-
7. Only Dosa' 26	Rs. 34,500/-

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Licensees who have violated the conditions of the licence have been served show cause notices under the Agreement.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Export to China

3479. **SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's exports to China increased during 2003-04, if so, the exports to China during 2003-04 and 2001-02 and the percentage increase registered thereby and the corresponding imports from China during the aforesaid period;

(b) what are the main items which find a popular market in China; and

(c) what specific measures were taken to boost India's exports to China?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The position of Indo-China trade from 2001-02 to 2003-04 is as under:

	(US\$ Million)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (P)
Export	951.95	1975.48	2959.22
%age growth	+14.87	+107.51	+49.80
Import	2036.39	2792.04	4048.35
%age growth	+36.44	+37.10	+ 45.00
Trade volume	2988.34	4767.52	7007.57
%age growth	+28.74	+59.53	+46.98

(Source DGCI&S)

(P) - Provisional

(b) The main items of India's exports to China are iron ore, primary and finished iron and steel, plastic and linoleum products, other ores and minerals, processed minerals and chemicals.

(c) The steps being taken, on an on-going basis, for increasing India's exports to China include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organizing buyer-seller meets, exchange of delegations at both government and business levels, exchange of information, etc.

Cashew Industry

3480. SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN:

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to reopen the factories under the Cashew Development Corporation in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have appointed any task force for the development of the Cashew Industry, as assured on the floor of the House;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons for delay in implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A Steering Committee has been constituted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. The Committee has been set up with a view to take a holistic approach on cashew development in the country including trade, import and export, with active involvement of all concerned agencies.

Remittance of Dues by Travel Agents

3481. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether failure of Indian Airlines to ensure proper and timely remittance of dues has resulted in a blockage of huge amount which runs into several crores of rupees with the Travel Agents authorised by the I.A.;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to recover the outstanding dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The total amount recoverable from defaulting agents as on 31st March, 2004 is Rs. 6.12 crores. A statement showing details including latest status of recovery action is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Indian Airlines has laid down comprehensive guidelines in respect of appointment of sales agents, payment procedure, insurance of ticket stock etc. to safeguard its financial interest. The bank guarantee is obtained wherever required, payment is strictly monitored and recently a credit risk insurance coverage is also obtained. Indian Airlines has taken a credit risk insurance Policy to cover the losses due to payment defaults of domestic agents in respect of domestic sales w.e.f. May, 2002. Accordingly, in case of default covered under the said insurance Policy the amount is claimed and recovered from insurers.

Indian Airlines has taken various steps to liquidate the dues such as invoking of bank guarantee, initiating legal proceedings, taking up with IAAI/IATA-BSP, lodging insurance claim under credit risk insurance policy etc.

Statement

Dues recoverable from the defaulting agents as on 31st March' 2004

Sl. No.	Name of the Agency	Amount Outstanding (Rs. Lacs)	Period of Outstanding	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5
1	Menaka Travels, Hyderabad	12.06	1992-93	Decree obtained in favour of IC
2	Silver Streak, Chennai	2.15	1995-96	Decree obtained in favour of IC
3	Sagar Travels, Chennai	1.64	1996-97	Write off action initiated

1	2	3	4	5
4	United Tours, Calicut	0.40	1997-98	Write off action initiated
5	Travel Point, Hyderabad	12.38	1997-98	Decree obtained in favour of IC
6	Eastman Tours & Travels, Chennai	1.29	1998-99	Action for recover through TAAI initiated
7	Sagar Travels, Vizag	5.58	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
8	Shibi Travels, Chennai	1.49	1998-99	Action for recover through TAAI initiated
9	Calicut Tours & Travels, Calicut	4.59	1999-2000	Under legal proceeding/ court case
10	Palladium Travels, Bangalore	11.50	2000-01	Under legal proceeding/ court case
11	Hemagiri Travels, Bangalore	42.09	2001-02	Under legal proceeding/ court case
12	G.N.World Travel, Hyderabad	2.81	2001-02	IATA-pro rata settlement done being followed up
13	Sahina Travels, Calicut	23.70	2001-02	Claim with IATA-BSP
14	Sujavi Travels, Bangalore	5.23	2001-02	Under legal proceeding/ court case
15	Pentalpha Travels, Calicut	4.26	2002-03	Claim with IATA-BSP
16	Emperor Traveline, Coimbatore	7.88	2002-03	Claim with IATA-BSP
17	DSP Tour & Travels, Bangalore	1.74	2002-03	Settlement is expected by Sept'04
18	Fathima Travels	5.91	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
19	K R Tours N Travels	7.76	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
20	Tirur Safiya Travels	0.65	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
21	R.K.Travel, N. Delhi	4.31	1991-92	Under legal proceeding/ court case
22	Travel Mart, N. Delhi	5.55	1991-92	Under legal proceeding/ court case
23	MAC Travel, Aligarh	7.75	1991-92	Under legal proceeding/ court case
24	Razdan Travels	21.94	1993-94	Decree obtained in favour of IC
25	Shah Travel, Srinagar	14.04	1992-93	Under legal proceeding/ court case
26	A.S. Travels	3.91	1995-96	Under legal proceeding/ court case
27	Winfield Travels	43.07	1997-98	Under legal proceeding/ court case
28	Blue Bird Travel, Srinagar	0.17	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
29	On Wheel Travels, Chandigarh	1.02	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
30	Tina World Travels	5.15	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
31	VPL Travels	10.81	2001-02	Bank Gurantee being invoked
32	Aqua Travels, Delhi	18.65	2002-03	Claim with Insurers

1	2	3	4	5
33	India Air Travels, Delhi	10.79	1997-98	Claim with Insurers
34	Pooja Tours & Travels, Delhi	20.74	2002-03	Claim with Insurers
35	Shikas Travels, Delhi	15.08	2002-03	Claim with Insurers
36	World Veiw Tour & Travel, Delhi	9.54	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
37	Entellus Tour & Travels, Jaipur	0.09	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
38	Asha Travels, Jammu	0.01	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
39	Classic Tour & Travels, Faridabad	8.16	2002-03	Claim with Insurers
40	Avadh Travel & Tour Bureau, Lucknow	13.09	2002-03	Bank Gurantee being invoked
41	Aditya Yash Travels, Raipur	4.85	2001-02	Bank Gurantee being invoked
42	Senior Travels, Mumbai	0.86	1994-95	Under legal proceeding/ court case
43	Real Value, Mumbai	25.36	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
44	Olympic Express, Mumbai	1.03	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
45	Ravi Travels, Pune	36.49	1998-99	Under legal proceeding/ court case
46	Newfly Travels, Mumbai	4.77	2002-03	Under legal proceedings
47	New Maharaja Travels, Baroda	8.12	2002-03	Under legal proceedings
48	United Air Travels, Goa	6.42	2002-03	Under legal proceedings
49	N T V Travels, Mumbai	1.17	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
50	Phoenix Travels, Mumbai	11.40	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
51	Wasco Trade, Nagpur	35.97	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
52	Multipurpose Pvt. Ltd., Mumbai	6.58	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
53	Y S International, Mumbai	15.75	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
54	Piercy Exim Fin., Calcutta	11.49	2000-01	Under legal proceedings
55	Travel Bureau, Kohima	4.85	1999-00	Under legal proceedings
56	Asco Travels, Gauhati	5.20	1992-93	Decree obtained in favour of IC
57	Ganesh Travels, Agartala	5.87	1993-94	Under legal proceedings
58	Laxmi Travels, Agartala	7.60	1998-99	Under legal proceedings
59	Mintri Transport, Kalimpong	7.74	1999-2000	Under legal proceedings
60	Shah Travel, Kolkata	7.11	1999-2000	Under legal proceedings
61	Continental Travels, Gauhati	0.21	2001-02	Recovery action being initiated

1	2	3	4	5
62	Friends Travels, Gauhati	0.02	1992-93	Recovery action being initiated
63	M S H Travels, Gauhati	0.34	1990-91	Recovery action being initiated
64	Blue Bird Travel, Kolkatta	18.79	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
65	Gemex Travel, Kolkatta	2.61	2003-04	Claim with Insurers
66	Indian Air Travel, Kolkata	13.28	2003-04	Since, realised
Total		612.24		

IC - Indian Airlines

TAAI- Travel Agents Association of India

IATA BSP- IATA agency for Bank Settlement Plan

Fast Track Courts

3482. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Union Government for continuation of 86 Fast Track Courts and establishment of 693 Junior Civil Judge Courts to clear backlog of cases in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, 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) The Eleventh Finance Commission sanctioned an amount of Rs. 502.90 crore for setting up of 1734 additional courts, popularly known as Fast Track Courts, for a period of five years, i.e., from April, 2001 to March, 2005. The Department of Justice has taken up with the Twelfth Finance Commission to provide funds for continuance of the existing Fast Track Courts, beyond 2005 and also for creation of additional 1500 Fast Track Courts at magisterial level.

Hunger Strike by AAI Staff

3483. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the officials and employees of Airport Authority of India have formed a Joint Forum and have launched a countrywide relay hunger strike at all Airports;

(b) if so, the details of their demands and steps taken to meet the demands alongwith the time required for the purpose;

(c) whether AAI is fully capable of modernising the buildings and passenger facilities;

(d) if so, the reasons for giving the modernising assignments to private sectors;

(e) whether any loss has been incurred by the Authority due to hunger strike; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Joint Forum protested against the proposed restructuring and modernisation process of Mumbai and Delhi airports. They also demanded for considering the alternative plan submitted by the Joint Forum for upgradation and modernisation of these airports.

(c) and (d) Cash reserves available with AAI are around Rs.1200 crores which are required to be committed for various projects proposed to be implemented during the 10th Plan. However, the entire resources of Airports Authority of India (AAI) cannot be utilised for these two airports only without jeopardizing its development plans for various airports including financing of loss making airports. The restructuring process is primarily aimed at attracting private sector investment, building public-private partnership and attaining world class service and management standards.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Establishment of Bodoland Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology

3484. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to establish a Bodoland Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology at Kokrajhar and as many as four Textile Institutes within the Bodoland Territory to help/provide textile technology related education to the younger generation of the Bodoland Territory and also to improve the expertise of the Bodo-Tribal Women Folk of the region and thereby to ensure their employment opportunities and to strengthen the job potential;

(b) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard alongwith the proposed allocation of the fund etc.;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has taken any policy decision and initiative to provide necessary Central Fund as required for Promotion, Development and Export of the indigenous Bodo-Tribal handloom products and textiles made of natural fibres especially Cocoons and Muga Silk;

(e) if so, the steps taken so far in this regard; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) There is no proposal, at present, to establish Bodoland Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology at Kokrajhar and four Textile Institutes within the Bodoland Territory.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) to (f) In the state of Assam the following schemes are being implemented for Promotion, Development and Export of the indigenous Bodo-Tribal handloom products. An amount of Rs 877.76 lakh was released to Govt. of Assam for implementation of schemes in 2003-04.

- (i) Deen Dayal Hathkargha Prothsahan Yojana
- (ii) Marketing Promotion Programme
- (iii) Handloom Export Scheme
- (iv) Mill Gate Price Scheme
- (v) Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @ 10% given by the Handloom agencies on the sale of handloom cloth
- (vi) Scheme for reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn
- (vii) Workshed cum Housing Scheme
- (viii) Weavers Welfare scheme

(ix) Bunkar Bima Yojna

(x) Integrated Handloom Training Programme

(xi) Design Development & Training Programme

(xii) Implementation of Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985

The Central Silk Board has under the Catalytic Development Programme and the follow up support of UNDP assisted project made following efforts for quality improvement of muga and eri silk yarn and fabrics:

- (i) M/s Roje Eshansali Cooperative Society Ltd., Kokhrajhar, an NGO is being assisted for promoting product development, diversification and marketing of Vanya silks.
- (ii) Under the UNDP assisted FHAP National Institute of Design implemented a project for design development in eri silk in Assam at a total cost of Rs. 15 lakh.
- (iii) CSB has established a Demonstration-cum-Technical Service Centre at Sualkuchi which interacts with reelers, spinners and weavers in Bodo areas on continuous basis for yarn and fabric quality improvement.
- (iv) Central Silk Board has supplied Motorised reeling-cum-twisting Machines and spinning wheels which have improved the quality of muga and eri silk.
- (v) The Product Development Cell of CSTRI, CSB, Bangalore develops varieties of fabrics from muga and eri silks of North Eastern Region (NER) to help the reelers, spinners and weavers of NER including Bodoland area for development of handloom products.

Restructuring of Airports

3485. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI G.V. HARSHA KUMAR:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a group of Ministers was constituted for restructuring of the Delhi and Mumbai Airports;

(b) if so, the details of the composition of Group of Ministers;

(c) whether the Group has since finalized the detail of restructuring and modernization of these airports as per International Standards;

(d) if so, the details of the plan;

(e) whether the Government will appoint an Australian Company 'Airplan' for making a 20 years development master plan to meet the immediate demands of heavy air traffic at these airports; and

(f) the names of global technical advisors who have sent proposals for restructuring of airports alongwith their major terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. An Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOM) has been reconstituted with Hon'ble Defence Minister as Chairman and other members being Hon'ble Ministers in charge for Finance, Law and Civil Aviation.

(c) and (d) Some key decisions have been taken regarding appointment of Financial Consultant, Global Technical Advisor and Legal Consultant, limiting the Foreign Direct Investment cap to 49%, minimum investment by Indian entities to 25% in the proposed Joint Venture Companies for Delhi and Mumbai airports, increasing the mandatory deputation period of employees working at Delhi and Mumbai airports to these joint venture companies from 2 to 3 years and giving weightage to bidders who will induct more number of employees than the minimum mandatory 40%.

(e) and (f) M/s. Airplan, Australia has been appointed as the Global Technical Advisor. The firms who responded to the Request for Proposal (RFP) document as per the terms and conditions given in RFP were: Airplan-Australia, Arup-Australia, Unisys-USA, URS-Australia, Sinclair-Australia & LEAPP-Malaysia.

[Translation]

Grievances of Small Investors

3486. SHRI TARACHAND SAHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether SEBI has finalized grievance redressal process for redressal of grievances of small investors of plantation companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several investors from Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have complained to SEBI in regard to plantation company; and

(d) if so, action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) SEBI does not regulate plantation companies. In terms of the SEBI CIS regulations, SEBI regulates entities which are having schemes in the nature of Collective Investment Schemes (CIS).

Excluding CIS entities where court cases are pending and CIS entities which have wound up their schemes and made repayment to investors, SEBI has taken the following actions against 568 CIS entities:-

1. CIS entities/their concerned officials have been debarred from operating in the capital market and/or accessing the capital market for a period of 5 years.
2. CIS entities have been referred to the State Governments to have civil/criminal proceedings initiated against them for apparent offences of fraud, cheating, criminal breach of trust and misappropriation of public funds.
3. CIS entities have been referred to the Department of Company Affairs (DCA) requesting DCA to initiate the process of winding up of these entities.
4. SEBI has launched criminal prosecution under the SEBI Act against the CIS entities and their directors for their failure to wind up their CIS to repay their investors.

Out of the above 568 entities against which SEBI has taken action, 51 CIS entities are from Madhya Pradesh, 6 CIS entities are from Chhattisgarh and 48 CIS entities are from Maharashtra.

[English]

Exemption of Mining Plan of Low Value Minerals

3487. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for exemption of mining plan in respect of mining operation of low value mineral like quartz, felspar, silica and clay etc. is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to consider the proposal at the earliest; and

(d) the reasons for delay for the approval of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No proposal for exemption from submission of mining plan for low value minerals like quartz, felspar, silica and clay is under consideration of the Central Government. However, the powers to approve mining plans for these minerals for open cast mines have been delegated to the State Governments with effect from 25th September, 2001.

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

[Translation]

Interest of Loans Sanctioned to Bihar

3488. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs.10935 crore and 81 lakhs of the Union Government is outstanding against the State Government of Bihar for which it has to pay Rs.61 thousand crore annually as interest amount;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government propose to waive the loans against State Government of Bihar;

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

(d) whether the interest amount on loans was waived in case of Punjab; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Loans of Rs. 10181 crores from Ministry of Finance were outstanding against the State Government of Bihar as on 31st March, 2004. The interest payable by the State Government for the current year 2004-05 was Rs. 1194.35 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Government of India, as a policy does not waive loans given to State Governments, as the Gol also raises loans to provide loans to them. The Twelfth Finance Commission has been asked to assess the debt position of States as on 31st March, 2004 and suggest such corrective measures, as are deemed necessary, consistent with macro-economic stability and debt sustainability etc.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Interest payments were partially waived for Punjab on account of militancy and insurgency in the State during the period 1995-96 to 1999-00.

Employment to Displaced Person from Jharia

3489. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cases of employment to the displaced employees of GMCCCL, Block Bermo, Village Govindpur in Bokaro district of Jharkhand are lying pending;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Government to settle these cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As reported by Coal India Ltd., no. proposal of employment to the displaced persons in village Govindpur in Bokaro District is pending.

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

Apple Exports

3490. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India exports Apples in large quantity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the quantity of Apples imported during the last three years, year-wise details thereof; and

(d) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the country from export of Apples during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K.S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) The quantity of apples exported from India during the last three year is as under:

Qty. Metric Tonnes		
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Apr.-Sep.)
19296	15632	1590

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) The quantity of apples imported during last three years is as under:

Qty. Metric Tonnes		
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Apr.-Sep.)
17028	18197	15075

(Source: DGCI&S)

(d) The amount of foreign exchange earned by the country from export of apples during last three years is as under:

Value Rs. Crore		
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Apr.-Sep.)
13.39	15.72	1.61

(Source: DGCI&S)

Patenting of Herbs and Medicinal Plants

3491. **SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some developed countries and the multinational companies have obtained the patent of several of the Indian herbs and medicinal plants;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to safeguard and extend the Indian patent claim on these herbs and medicinal plants that are being patented by other countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Patents are sought and obtained by applicants/inventors, both Indian and foreign, in different countries so safeguard and promote their commercial and other interests. Such patents are granted under the sovereign prerogative of countries according to their respective patent laws and have territorial effect, that is, they are effective only in the country of grant. In order to qualify for grant of patent in the country an invention, whether process or product, has to meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. Herbs and medicinal plants, existing in nature, would not meet the criteria of patentability, namely, novelty, inventiveness and industrial applicability. However, patents have reportedly been granted on compositors based on properties of certain herbs/medicinal plants. Data on goods/items patented worldwide is not maintained.

(c) As patents are essentially private rights they are normally challenged, in accordance with the patent laws of the country concerned, by the person(s) whose interests are affected/jeopardized. Government acts as a facilitator by granting patents to inventions which fulfil the criteria of patentability as per the patents law.

As and when information is received about patents being obtained on certain items which are not considered patentable and which affect Indian interests, steps are taken to assess whether the grant of such patent can be challenged under the patent laws of the country concerned. Earlier a patent granted in the United States of America on the use of turmeric in wound healing was successfully challenged and

was also cancelled by the Patent Office of the country concerned. Similarly, a patent on the fungicidal property of neem, granted in Europe, was successfully challenged. The claims of the patent on Basmati Ricelines and grains granted in the United States of America which had the potential of affecting India's commercial interest were also challenged. The said claims were subsequently cancelled by the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the title of the patent was also amended.

In order to protect bio-resources, provisions have been incorporated in the Indian Patent law through the Patents (Amendment) Act, 2002, providing for mandatory disclosure of source and geographical origin of the biological material used in the invention while applying for patents in India. Provisions have also been incorporated to include non-disclosure or wrongful disclosure of the same as grounds for opposition and for revocation of the patent, if granted. These are contained in sections 10, 25 and 64 of the Patents Act.

In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provisions have been incorporated in the said law to include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. An invention which, in effect, is traditional knowledge or which is an aggregation or duplication of known properties of traditionally known component or components has also been made non-patentable. These are contained in sections 3, 25 and 64 of the Patents Act. Apart from these, Government is also developing a digital database of traditional knowledge in the field of medicinal plants in order to prevent patents being granted incorrectly on such knowledge.

[English]

Excise Duty Evasion by Tyre Companies

3492. **SHRI JUAL ORAM:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a huge amount of Excise duty has not been paid by the Tyre companies to the government;

(b) if so, the details the arrears of excise duty on tyre companies as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to collect the arrear?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The total amount of excise duty confirmed and payable by the tyre companies along with the penalty imposed is Rs. 103.5 crore (provisional).

(c) Wherever arrears are recoverable, all efforts are being made to recover the same promptly. In other cases, action is being taken for vacation of stay and for early decisions in cases having higher revenue implications. A Task Force has been set up specially to monitor recovery of arrears.

Indo-Israel Free Trade Agreement

3493. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel have decided to sign a free trade agreement during the visit of the Commerce and Industry Minister's visit to Israel;

(b) If so, details of the agreement signed; and

(c) extent to which India will be benefited by this free trade agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

EMR for Drugs and Agro Chemical Invention

3494. SHRI LONAPPAN NAMBADAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Exclusive Marketing Right (EMR) is available for drugs and agro-chemical invention under the Indian Patents Act;

(b) if so, how many applications for EMR are pending before the patent office and the name of pending EMR applicants and the corresponding products;

(c) how many applications for EMR have been rejected by the patent office and the name of rejected EMR applicants and the corresponding products; and

(d) the details of the EMRs granted till date alongwith the name of applicants and name of the products under EMR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details of pending applications is as under:

S. No.	Name of applicant	Name of product
1.	Bayer Aktengesellschaft (Germany)	Moxifloxacin Hydrochloride and Moxifloxacin Hydrochloride tablet equivalent to Moxifloxacin 400 mg.
2.	Schering-Plough Corporation (United States of America)	PEG-interferon-alpha conjugates
3.	Nicholas Piramal India Limited and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (India)	Bulaquine and Chloroquine Kit product.
4.	Eli Lilly Company (United States of America)	Tadalafil Tablet
5.	F. Hoffman La Roche (Switzerland)	Interferon Conjugates
6.	Panacea Biotech Limited (India)	Analgesic Composition Nimesulide Injection

S. No.	Name of applicant	Name of product
(c)	Details of applications which have been rejected is as under:	
1.	F. Hoffman La Roche A.G. (Switzerland)	Saquinavir Mesylate equivalent to Saquinavir 200 mg. capsule
2.	Smith Kline Beecham PLC (United Kingdom)	Rosiglitazone Maleate tablet equivalent to 1 mg./2 mg./4 mg./8 mg. Rosiglitazone
3.	Smith Kline Beecham PLC (United Kingdom)	Rosiglitazone Maleate tablet equivalent to 1 mg./2 mg./4 mg./8 mg.
4.	Ranbaxy Laboratories Limited (India)	Ciprofloxacin Composition

(d) The details of EMRs granted is as under:

S.No.	Name of applicant	Name of the product
1.	United Phosphorus Limited (India)	Syneqistic Fungicidal composition comprising carbendazim and mancozeb
2.	Novartis AG, (Switzerland)	Imatinib Mesilate
3.	Wockhardt Limited (India)	Nadifloxacin 1% Cream

Gujarat Urban Reforms Project

3495. SHRI DINSHA PATEL:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has received a proposal, - Gujarat Urban Reform Project, from the Government of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the estimated cost of the project;

(c) whether participation of World Bank is envisaged in the project besides the Government of India; and

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

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

(b) Govt. of Gujarat has submitted a proposal seeking assistance amounting to US\$ 1 million under Project Preparation Facility from the World Bank to support the implementation of Gujarat Urban Reforms Project.

(c) and (d) The proposal envisages assistance for project preparation only. It would be premature to conclude what elements would be included, and whether such components should be funded by External agencies.

[Translation]

Theft in PNB

3496. SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:

SHRI RAJESH VERMA:

SHRI K. S. RAO:

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 16 lockers of PNB, Safdarjung Enclave Branch were tampered scientifically and all valuables were stolen;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modus operandi adopted for the purpose;

(c) the number of persons involved in the theft and action taken against them;

(d) whether the bank authorities agree to compensate its customers, whose valuables have been stolen;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) if not, the reasons for the same; and

(g) the measures proposed to be taken to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Punjab National Bank (PNB) has informed that 16 lockers have been tampered at their Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi Branch. Out of 16 lockers, holders of 3 have reported that their lockers were already empty, holder of one locker is reported dead and remaining 12 locker holders have reported missing valuables amounting to Rs.37.54 lacs. Lockers were tampered by the miscreants by drilling on the locker plates and re-fixed by using metallic rivets/ screws. FIRs have been lodged by some of the locker holders on 23.7.2004, 29.7.2004 and by the Bank on 29.7.2004 with the Police Station Sarojini Nagar, New Delhi.

(d to (f) Bank is examining the claims received and will take a view in the matter after completion of police investigation.

(g) PNB has advised all its Branch Managers to be more vigilant and ensure meticulous compliance of guidelines on operations and safety of lockers. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a circular elaborating on the relationship between the bank and the locker holder as also liability of the bank in case of lapses in taking adequate

measures to safeguard deposit lockers. Further security measures to be taken by public sector banks are being reviewed in the State Level Security Committee meetings convened periodically by RBI.

[English]

Import and Export of Cotton, Natural and Synthetic Yarn

3497. DR. RAMAKRISHNA KUSMARIA:

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the annual requirement of natural and synthetic yarn and the status of indigenous productions and import from foreign countries in order to meet the demand of handloom powerloom and textile mills in the country during the last three years;

(b) the latest policy regarding the promotion of handloom and powerloom and the provisions of grants to it;

(c) whether export of cotton yarn is constantly decreasing;

(d) if so, whether Government proposes to take steps to increase the export of cotton yarn;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The data regarding requirement of the natural and synthetic yarn is not maintained by the Government. However, assuming closing stock and opening stock remaining the same, the sum of indigenous production and import of the natural and synthetic yarn can be assumed to be the requirement. The status of the indigenous production of natural and synthetic yarn and import of natural and synthetic yarn is given below in two tables respectively:

(Qty. in Mn. Kg.)

Description	Indigenous Production of Natural and Synthetic Yarn			
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Provisional)
Natural Yarn (Cotton, Silk & Wool)	2961	2847	2774	2718
Synthetic Yarn (Blended, 100% NC & man made filament yarn)	1813	1851	2004	2051
Total	4774	4698	4778	4769

Note: Production details of silk yarn and woollen yarn for the year 2003-04 were not available. Therefore, production data for the year 2002-03 has been repeated for the year 2003-04 for these yarns.

(Qty. in Mn. Kg.)

Description	Import of Natural and Synthetic Yarn			
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (Apr.-Oct.) (Prov.)
Natural Yarn (Cotton, Silk & Wool)	4	5	6	6
Synthetic Yarn (Blended, 100% NC & man made filament yarn)	99	134	171	85
Total	103	139	177	91

(b) In pursuance of the National Textile Policy, 2000 the Government has taken various steps for promotion of handloom and powerlooms sectors.

Handloom Sector: The policy relating to the handloom sector covers (i) upgradation of skills for value added items (ii) continuation of welfare measures for a better working

environment and the social security of the weavers (iii) effective support systems in research and development, design inputs, skill upgradation and market linkages (iv) review of the implementation of the Hank Yarn Obligation Order and the Reservation Orders issued under the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act 1985 keeping in mind the needs of the handloom weavers; (v)

revamping of Weavers Service Centres in consonance with the contemporary trends, and using Information Technology for efficacy, their activities suitably dovetailed with activities of centres of design excellence like NIFT and NID.

Powerloom Sector: The Government has taken the following initiatives for strengthening the decentralized powerloom sector in the form of a package:

- Enlarging the existing Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to cover modernization of Powerlooms;
- Introduction of a new Group Workshed Scheme together with the State Governments to create a better working environment and obtain higher productivity; and improvement

of other infrastructure facilities under the Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme (TCIDS);

- Providing insurance cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability under a special Group Insurance Scheme.

Government has formulated necessary schemes to implement the package.

Government of India provides necessary grants for implementing schemes in handloom and powerloom sectors.

- (c) The data on export of cotton yarn including sewing thread for the last three years has been fluctuating and is as under:

(Qty in Mn. Kg)

Description	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	April. October	
				2002-2003	2003-2004 (Prov.)
Cotton Yarn (incl. sewing thread)	513	438	511	320	223

(d) to (f) The Government has taken various measures to increase export of textile items including cotton yarn, which are as follows:

(i) Following important announcements have been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

- Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has 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.
- Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

(ii) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been made operational from 01.04.1999 to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector.

(iii) Government has launched the Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) during 1999-2000

for a period of 5 years. The said mission, which has four mini missions is expected to bring about all round improvement in the production, productivity and quality of cotton through research, transfer of technology and improvement in the raw cotton processing and marketing.

(iv) Gradual reduction in rates of interest on Pre and Post-Shipment Credit and working capital.

(v) In order to explore the potential for further increasing the exports of textiles a series of specialised market studies have been commissioned.

Proposal from Industrial Houses for Establishing New Tea Gardens

3498. SHRI D. NARBULA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some industrial houses have submitted proposals for plantation of new tea gardens in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof particularly Darjeeling district in West Bengal; and

(c) whether the Government intend to provide some incentives to the industrial houses in view of

backwardness of Darjeeling and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) As per available information, no proposals have been submitted by industrial houses for plantation of new tea gardens in the country, particularly in the Darjeeling district of West Bengal.

(c) Tea Board grants subsidy under Plantation Development Scheme to undertake replanting/replacement planting activities. Subsidy is also provided under Quality Upgradation and Product Diversification Scheme of Tea Board. The benefits under these schemes are available to the Darjeeling area also which is a traditional tea growing area.

Opening of Foreign Banks

3499. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is proposing to make change in the policy of opening of foreign banks;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the present policy, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) examines proposals received from foreign banks for setting up offices in India. An Inter Departmental Committee of Government considers these proposals for clearance before RBI grants licences. This policy seems appropriate and is functioning well.

Export Promotion Council

3500. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether several export promotion councils and trade associations have been permitted to waive of statutory requirements of law;

(b) if so, the details of such waivers allowed, year-wise during the last three years;

(c) whether Government is aware that such waivers lead to concentration of power in hands of few persons and thus, violates democratic process; and

(d) if so, the reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The Government have given approval to the amendments in the articles/ bye-laws of the Export Promotion Councils, during the last three years as indicated below:

Year	Number of Amendments
2001-02	55
2002-03	9
2003-04	1

(c) and (d) Any departure from the established procedure by way of amendments to be carried out in the bye-laws requires Government's approval before giving effect. The Government examines the requests of the Councils for amendments in the bye-laws and approve them keeping in view the facts that such amendments do not lead to concentration of power at a particular level and also do not violate democratic process.

[Translation]

Industries Set up in the Post-Liberalisation Period

3501. SHRI M. ANJAN KUMAR YADAV:

SHRI KASHI RAM RANA:

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

(a) the details of the number of big and marginal industries set up in the country in the post-liberalisation era as per the latest position State-wise;

(b) the number of such industries in private and joint sectors separately;

(c) the employment opportunities created on account thereof in the aforesaid States, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote industrialisation in these States alongwith the success achieved by the Government in this regard, State-wise details?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) From August 1991 to July 2004, 57,857 Industrial Investment Intentions with proposed employment of 1,13,30,477 persons have been received.

According to information filed, 6,745 industrial units with employment of 12,02,729 persons have been set up till July 2004. State-wise number of these units and the employment created are given in the enclosed statement. Of the 6,745 units set up, 6,230 units are in the private sector and 57 in the joint sector.

(d) Under the liberalized industrial policies, investment decisions are taken by the entrepreneurs depending upon their commercial judgement. However, Government supplements their efforts through various incentives and schemes for upgradation of technology and infrastructure.

Statement

Statewise details of Non-SSI Units set up from August 1991 to July 2004

Name of the State	Proposed Investment Intentions (IEMs*+LOIs+DILs)		Investment Intentions Implemented (IEMs implemented** +ILs)	
	Nos.	Employment	Nos.	Employment
1	2	3	4	5
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	9	2610	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	4028	653233	532	71235
Arunachal Pradesh	21	3348	2	107
Assam	309	46382	58	5179
Bihar	179	30896	18	2806
Chandigarh	38	6112	4	1165
Chhattisgarh	1015	222437	57	10572
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	1793	190133	75	8636
Daman and Diu	812	59888	77	4415
Delhi	503	49275	52	4901
Goa	550	53721	98	13183
Gujarat	7161	1154061	1112	163433
Haryana	3366	528442	429	72971
Himachal Pradesh	559	112627	37	6534
Jammu and Kashmir	235	55995	12	19622
Jharkhand	444	71543	42	6970
Karnataka	2362	413511	220	38751
Kerala	563	89833	99	16930
Lakshadweep	1	278	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	2214	427023	308	70640

1	2	3	4	5
Maharashtra	11222	1942892	1064	199974
Manipur	2	510	0	0
Meghalaya	168	15379	12	789
Mizoram	0	0	0	0
Nagaland	14	301852	0	0
Orissa	646	172120	44	10706
Pondicherry	590	51487	48	5782
Punjab	2480	573817	329	91369
Rajasthan	2697	486746	354	75553
Sikkim	15	1374	0	0
Tamil Nadu	5191	808204	650	110038
Tripura	25	2952	4	95
Uttar Pradesh	4975	2209551	559	106420
Uttaranchal	551	83695	33	2371
West Bengal	3096	505154	387	76350
Location in more than One State	23	3596	29	5232
Total	57857	11330477	6745	1202729

IEM - Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda

LOI - Letters of Intent

IL - Industrial Licences

DIL - Direct Industrial Licences

* Based on Part A of IEMs filed

** Based on Part B of IEMs filed on commencement of commercial production
Industrial units set up is on the basis of implementation status**Survey of Maharashtra and U.P.**3502. SHRI TUKARAM GANPAT RAO RENGE
PATIL:

SHRI D. P. SAROJ:

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
INDUSTRY be pleased to state:(a) whether any foreign company has conducted
survey to set up industry in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is possibility of setting up of
plants in some particular areas by the said foreign Company;(d) if so, the details of such areas along with name
of the said company and the prescribed terms and
conditions for setting up of industries thereof; and(e) the reaction of the Government in regard to
setting up of foreign companies in India?THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY
OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S.
ELANGO VAN): (a) to (d) Under the liberalised Industrial
Policy, investment decisions, including locational choice,
are taken by the entrepreneurs based on their commercial

judgment which may inter alia include any survey considered appropriate.

(e) Government recognises Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) as an important driver of economic growth and encourages and facilitates FDI. The FDI policy applies uniformly across the country with no special dispensation for any particular state or region.

**Various Categories of Employees in
Department of Commerce**

3503. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the public sector undertakings coming under the Department of Commerce of the Ministry;

(b) the PSU-wise number of SC/ST and OBC in 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' category;

(c) the PSU-wise number of total employees in group 'A', 'B', 'C', and 'D' category;

(d) whether reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC has been filled in the said PSUs;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the said quota is likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOAN): (a) to (c) :

Category Group	SC				ST				OBC				Total No. of employees			
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	57	88	88	-	17	18	23	-	6	22	16	-	263	441	244	-
Spices Trading Corporation Ltd.	-	1	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	10	-	11	10
MMTC Ltd.	126	143	53	106	33	68	29	26	9	-	1	7	647	787	244	416
PEC Ltd.	33	5	12	-	2	1	3	-	3	-	1	-	148	13	29	-
Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.	19	34	39	14	1	12	13	0	0	21	11	1	158	270	174	27
India Trade Promotion Organisation	36	23	72	191	7	6	12	7	3	2	17	6	206	117	405	494

Tea Trading Corporation of India limited has since been wound up in pursuance to orders of Kolkata High Court dated 31st July, 2003 and the official liquidator has taken over all the assets as well as affairs of the company for the purpose of liquidation.

The Karnataka Trading Promotion Organization which is a joint venture between India Trade Promotion Organization and Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board has no full time employees at present Only part-time employees of other organizations are temporarily working with the Organization.

Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organization is a joint venture between India Trade Promotion Organization and Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation. This being a very recent organization, has so far not finalized their manpower requirement and is presently functioning with a skeleton staff taken on deputation and transfer from other government departments/undertakings. The technical manpower requirement is being met by availing contract services on temporary basis.

(d) to (f) The position with respect to filling up of reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC is as under:

Name of the Organisation	Status
1	2
State Trading Corporation of India Ltd.	Since disinvestment of the company was being pursued actively, no recruitment has been made in the last four years except on compassionate grounds as per agreement with the Federation of STC Employees Union.
Spices Trading Corporation	There is no backlog of vacancies

1	2
MMTC Limited	The overall position of reservation of SC/ST category is quite satisfactory (20.4% for SC and 7.45% for ST). There is a nominal shortfall only in respect of OBC category in direct recruitment. There is no direct recruitment in the company since 1992 in the staff category. However, continuous efforts are being made to locate candidates from the reserved category as direct recruitment through campus placement is negligible.
PEG Limited	Reservation quota for SC/ST and OBC has been filled except a shortfall of two (one in Group C by direct recruitment and one in Group A by promotion) in OBC category. The vacancy in Group C is due to non-availability of suitable candidate but efforts are being made to fill it up. Since promotion in Group A is through feeder cadre, the vacancy will be filled up consequent upon promotion of a departmental candidate in Group B.
Export Credit Guarantee Corporation	There is currently reservation of 16.85% in SC, 4.13% in ST and 5.24% in OBC. There is a backlog of two SC and four ST in Group A and of two SC and four ST in Group B (promotion quota). The backlog will be cleared by internal promotion as and when candidates qualify for selection.
India Trade Promotion Organization	The reservation quota for SC/ST in promotion is filled as and when promotions are made in the post/grade falling within the purview of Government of India's policy/rules. For direct recruitment also, the reserved vacancies are being filled by SC/ST/OBC category on their occurrence as per the relevant post based reservation roster.

*[English]***Wastage of Spare Parts of AI Aircraft**

3504. SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that spare parts worth crores of rupees of an Air India aircraft are lying waste for the last several years in the store houses at Santa-Cruz;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has proposed to work out a policy on the sale/disposal of unused equipments in the form of spares or scrap; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Most of the aircraft spares available with Air India are required to support Air India's operations.

(c) and (d) There is a standard procedure for disposal

of scrapped equipments and parts in Air India. As and when aircraft is phased out, disposal of the surplus spares and scrap parts, if any, are taken up as per the standard procedure.

World Bank and DFID Assistance to Orissa

3505. SHRI PRASURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Orissa had sought financial assistance from the Union Government for rejuvenating its financial position;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had requested the Union Government to negotiate with World Bank for assistance and also made request for DFID assistance for Orissa; and

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

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

(c) The State Government's proposal seeking financial assistance from the World Bank for their Economic Revival Program has been recommended to the World Bank.

Strike by Kohinoor Mills, Mumbai

3506. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the many textile mills land are being sold to property dealers in Mumbai thus affecting the industry;

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

(c) whether the Government is aware that workers of Kohinoor Mills in Mumbai are sitting on a hunger strike in protest against the mill owners decision to sell the land; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) NTC has not sold any land to property dealers in Mumbai.

(b) NTC (Maharashtra North) and NTC (South Maharashtra) Ltd. Mumbai have submitted an integrated Development Scheme of 25 NTC mills in Mumbai to Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). The approval of BMC is still awaited.

(c) The workers of Kohinoor mills observed one day hunger strike on 22.7.2004 to demand for payment of workers-related old dues of the period prior to Nationalisation.

(d) The matter regarding payment of dues prior to Nationalisation is sub-judice and necessary action will be taken as per orders of the Court in due course.

[Translation]

Reservation of SCs/STs Employees

3507. SHRI MAHAVIR BHAGORA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SCs/STs employees are given the benefit of reservation on the promotion of employees from Class-IV to Clerks in Banks;

(b) if so, the details of the general and SC/ST category employees promoted during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the number of vacancies of Clerks for direct

recruitment in various States during the last three years and the number of vacancies which were filled during this period, bank-wise and State-wise?

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.

[English]

Take up of Lignite Based Power Projects of Jayamkondam

3508. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) has decided to take up the lignite based power project at Jayamkondam in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the quantity of power proposed to be produced by the project at Jayamkondam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No Sir.

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

Loan to Mumbai SEZ

3509. SHRI MILIND DEORA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether IDBI and IDFC together have sanctioned a loan of Rs.750/- crore to Mumbai integrated Special Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the conditions attached with the loan;

(c) the names of other FIs and equity partners who are financing this SEZ project; and

(d) the benefit to be accrued to the Sea King group promoted project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) IDBI and IDFC together have shown willingness to finance the two projects viz. Navi Mumbai Special Economic Zone promoted by the City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (CIDCO) and Maha Mumbai Special Economic Zone, promoted by M/s. Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructure Ltd., (GPPIIL) a company of the Sea King group of Industries, for a total amount of

Rs.750 crore. There is, however, no project called Mumbai Integrated Special Economic Zone.

(b) Since the SEZs are being promoted in the private/joint sector, it is for the promoters to organize funds for the project from financial institutions etc. on mutually acceptable terms.

(c) GPPIL have retained the services of Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Ltd. (IL&FS) for syndication of debt and equity requirements for the projects. Equity partners for Navi Mumbai SEZ are (1) M/s Sea King Infrastructure Ltd. (2) M/s. Hiranandani Construction Pvt. Ltd. (3) M/s. Avinash Bhosale Infrastructure Pvt. Ltd.

(d) Major incentives and facilities available to the developers of the SEZs include duty free import/domestic procurement of goods for development, operation and maintenance of SEZ, exemption from service tax and income-tax exemption for a block of 10 years in 15 years under Section 80-IA of the Income-Tax Act. These entitlements would also be available to the project developers of Maha Mumbai and Navi Mumbai SEZs.

Loan to Film Producers

3510. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of loans sanctioned by Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions for film production in the country ever since cinema was declared as an industry;

(b) the response shown by film producers in getting the loan; and

(c) the steps taken to encourage film producers to avail loan facility in case of poor response?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs) have operational freedom in the matter of credit dispensation and their lending decisions are based on their experience, commercial judgement and other factors. As per information received from FIs and Banks, the details of the loans sanctioned till date by FIs and Banks since cinema was declared as an industry and steps taken by them to encourage film financing are given in the enclosed statement-I & II respectively.

Statement-I

Financial Assistance to Film Industry by Financial Institutions since Declaration of cinema as an Industry

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank/FI	No. of Loans	Amount sanctioned	Steps taken to encourage film Industry
1.	IDBI	32	180.95 crores	The response from the film Industry has been good
2.	Exim Bank	3	15.20 crores	Exim Bank is receiving enquiries from film producers and they are considered in the light of RBI guidelines and parameters of lending approved by the Board.
3.	SIDBI			SIDBI has no exposure to film Industry. However, SIDBI will consider proposals falling under eligible limit of financing.
4.	IIBI			IIBI has no exposure to film Industry.
5.	NABARD			NABARD has no exposure to film Industry as it is a Specialised financial and apex institution for Co-operative and Rural Credit System.
6.	IDFC			IDFC is a Specialised Institution to finance Infrastructure projects. It has no exposure to film industry.
7.	NHB			NHB being a specialized institution for providing Housing Finance has no exposure to film Industry.

Statement-II***Financial Assistance to Film Industry by Public Sector Banks since
Declaration of Cinema as an Industry***

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of Projects	Amount Sanctioned	Steps taken to encourage film industry
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Central Bank of India	3	Fund Based Rs.4500 Lacs. Non-Fund Based Rs. 150 lacs	Projects approved by NFDC are considered for financing for short term loans. Overdrafts are extended for production of films in Hindi/ Regional Languages.
2.	Corporation Bank	Nil		No exposure to film Industry at present. Bank has formulated a special scheme for financing Film Production which has been circulated to all branches of the bank.
3.	State Bank of India	1	Rs.200 lacs	To encourage financing to film producers, the Bank has put in place a policy to finance Film production and 3 branches of the Bank at Chennai, Mumbai and Hyderabad have been designated to finance film production.
4.	Punjab & Sind Bank	Nil		The bank has a policy for financing film industry. The same has been emphasized in the Loan policy 2003-05.
5.	State Bank of Patiala	Nil		Identified branches have been advised to pursue such business in their area of operations.
6.	Vijaya Bank	2	194.00 lakhs	The bank has advised Regional Offices to canvass good/viable proposal from film industry as per the guidelines stipulated by RBI.
7.	Canara Bank	Nil	Nil	The Guidelines have been circulated among the branches of the bank with an advice to consider the proposals based on extant guidelines.
8	Indian Bank	Nil	Nil	The Bank welcomes viable ventures as per the loan policy from time to time.
9	Syndicate Bank	1	46.00 lakhs	The bank has circulated a detailed set of guidelines spelling out eligibility criteria for financing of films among the branches to enable them to take up financing viable proposals from film industry.
10.	Allahabad Bank	Nil		The bank has reviewed its Film Financing policy on 14.1.2004 which, inter-alia, include <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Formation of a Screening Committee of experts, * Increase discretionary powers of CMD to approve loan proposals up to Rs.10.00crore, * Increase the exposure up to 2% of the gross credit for film financing, * Incorporating RBI guidelines in the policy, and

1	2	3	4	5
				* Branch Managers of Metropolitan branches have been sensitized to undertake film financing activities.
11.	Indian Overseas Bank		Rs.3.20 crore	Bank has increased exposure limit to film industry to Rs.200 crore from Rs.50 crore. The norms for collateral security has also been relaxed.
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce		Fund Based Rs.1426.63 lacs Non-Fund Based Rs. 684.53 lacs	Officials have been consistently approaching film producers to encourage them to avail finance from the bank.
13.	State Bank of Indore	Nil	Nil	Scheme for financing film production as per RBI guidelines has been introduced in the bank
14.	Dena Bank	Nil	Nil	No exposure to film industry at present.
15.	Bank of India		Rs.5.50 crores	A committee of prominent film personalities has been formed to facilitate prospective customers and help the bank in screening the applications received from industry.
16.	Andhra Bank	Nil	Nil	As per loan policy of the bank, 0.5% of the Gross Bank Credit, i.e.; Rs.66.89 crores is earmarked for lending to Film Production.
17.	Bank of Maharashtra	27	1.46 crores	There is encouraging response from film industry.
18.	State Bank of Indore	Nil		The bank has a policy on film financing as per RBI guidelines.
19.	Punjab National Bank	Nil		The Bank has formulated a scheme for financing Fund Based and non-fund based requirements for various activities related to Film Production including film distribution, which has initially been introduced in 5 major cities i.e.; Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Kolkata.
20.	Union Bank of India	1	Rs.5.00 crores	A Scheme for financing is in force in the Bank. As per the Scheme, the Bank has laid down eligibility parameters such as experience of the producer, cost of the project etc. for finance as also specified the maximum quantum of finance eligible under the Scheme.
21.	State Bank of Mysore	Nil		The Bank has developed a separate loan product/ 'Scheme for Finance To Film Industry' and have advised the branches to market the product.

Policy for Private Sector Banks

3511. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has informed the RBI Governor regarding pitfalls of RBI's comprehensive policy framework for ownership and governance in private sector banks;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The draft comprehensive Policy Framework on Ownership and Governance in Private Sector Banks was placed in public domain for views and suggestions of the public. Feedback has been received on the draft policy from several quarters, including from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) which is presently under examination of RBI.

Groundnut Export

3512. SHRI JASHUBHAI DHANABHAI BARAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) details of the groundnut exported during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a constant increase in the export of groundnut during these years;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the long term measures taken by the Union Government to boost the export of groundnut?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) The total quantity and value of groundnuts exported during the last three years are as under:

Year	Quantity (Metric Tonne)	Value (Rs. crores)
2001-02	112814	251
2002-03	67890	178
2003-04 (P)	176931	544

(Source: DGCI&S, Calcutta)

(d) Some of the steps taken to enhance agri-exports, including groundnut include sending delegations abroad, participating in International trade fairs, inviting potential buyers and providing financial assistance to exporters for improving quality, packaging, brand promotion of products, conducting market surveys and accreditation of laboratories for carrying out tests for aflatoxin in groundnut.

Camps for Augmentation of Exploration/Drilling Works in Coalfields

3513. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has set up camps in various places for augmentation of exploration/drilling works in the coalfields and also studying geo-mining condition in the area;

(b) if so, the details of such camps;

(c) whether camps have also been set for the said purpose in ECL and BCCL; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Central Mine Planning and Design Institute Ltd. (CMPDIL) has set up drilling camps in the command areas of each subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL). These camps cater to the need of exploration within the command area of each subsidiary company, according to the Annual Plan of Exploration. The objective includes exploration of coal blocks and providing production support by way of exploratory drilling in the existing mines/projects.

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), has set up exploration camps in various places of Godavari Valley Coalfield/Andhra Pradesh for augmentation of exploration work for coal.

The geo-mining conditions are also being studied in new blocks during exploration stage in addition to the hydro-geological and environmental studies.

(b) Presently a total of 22 CMPDIL drilling camps are existing in the command of Areas of different subsidiaries of CIL as given below:

	No. of Camps
Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	4
Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.	1
Central Coalfields Ltd.	3
Western Coalfields Ltd.	4
South Eastern Coalfields Ltd.	5
Northern Coalfields Ltd.	1
Mahanadi Coalfields Ltd.	3
North-East Coalfields	1

The SCCL is conducting detailed geological exploration works for coal in four districts of Andhra Pradesh viz Khammam, Karimnagar, Warangal and Adilabad districts with 3 Regional Headquarters located at:

1. Kothagudem/Khammam District.
2. Ramagundam/Karimnagar District.
3. Bellampalli/ Adilabad District.

The exploration/drilling activities in SCCL are being conducted under two heads:

1. Detailed Exploratory drilling for establishing additional coal reserves from virgin/new coal bearing areas for opening new mines.
2. Production Support/ Developmental Exploration for on going mines. For the above purpose the following camps are set up in three region:

	Region	*Virgin areas Detailed Exploration	*Mines Developmental Exploration.
1.	Kothagudem	Gundala/Khamman	Production Support Drilling/ Kothagudem
2.	Ramagundam	Bhoopalpalli/Warangal	Production Support Drilling/ Ramagundam & Bhoopalpalli
3.	Bellampalli	Ramakrishnapur/ Bellampalli shaft Block/ Adilabad	Production Support Drilling/ Bellampalli

* There are 18 drills for virgin area detailed exploration and 7 drills are for mines developmental exploration.

(c) and (d) In BCCL area, CMPDIL has set up one drilling camp in July 2004. In ECL area four drilling camps are under operation at present. In 2004-05, exploratory drilling has been concluded in the area around Barmondia drilling camp of ECL and camp has been shifted to BCCL area for taking up exploration of new coking coal blocks. No drilling camp existed in BCCL area for the last eight years. In ECL area four drilling camps are still under operation. These camps will meet the need of exploration in ECL command area.

CBI Raid on Officials of SEBI

3514. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CBI and Enforcement Directorate simultaneously raided the SEBI officials recently;
- (b) if so, the reasons for the same;
- (c) the seizure made during the raids; and
- (d) the outcome of the raids and the further action taken on the basis of findings of raids?

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.

Malpractices in SECL, Korba

3515. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the complaint of serious malpractice and corruption in South Eastern Coalfields Limited, Korba district of Chhattisgarh;

(b) if not, whether the Government proposes to initiate an inquiry to fix responsibility in the malpractice taking place and prevent the plunder of our natural resources in Korba; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Complaints have been received alleging malpractices in Korba District of South Eastern Coalfields Limited.

(b) and (c) The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) have referred the complaints to Central Bureau of Investigation for appropriate action.

Lapses of DGCA

3516. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether serious lapses of omission by Dte. General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) were traced in the investigations conducted in the helicopter crashes in Jammu and Kashmir and off the Mumbai coast last year; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government against DGCA to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The report, submitted by the Inspector of Accidents, in respect of accident to Government of Jammu and Kashmir's Bell-407 helicopter VT-FJK near Ganderbal, Srinagar, on 5.8.2003 is under consideration of the Government.

As regards accident to M/s. Mesco Airline's MI-172 helicopter VT-MAF at Mumbai High, on 11.08.2003, the report has not yet been received from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.

(b) Action, if necessary, would be taken on acceptance of these reports by the Government.

Sick Companies in Gujarat

3517. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD:

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Ltd. companies viz Gujarat Telephone Cables and Gujarat Optical Communication Ltd. having their Regd. offices at Chharodi Farm, Tal Sanand; and village Iyawa, Taluka Sanand, Distt. Ahmedabad have become sick;

(b) If so, the manner in which the Government proposes to safeguard the interests of the investors who had invested crores of rupees in the shares of the said companies;

(c) whether there is any proposal to take over these two sick companies by other companies in the field; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) M/s Gujarat Telephone Cables Ltd. has made a reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to declare it as Sick Company under the provisions of Sick Industries Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985. The company has not yet been declared as sick.

M/s Gujarat Optical Communications Ltd. has not made any such reference to the BIFR, as according to the company it is not necessary.

(b) The Scheme for financial reconstruction to be approved by the BIFR may provide for protection of shareholders' interests as per the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

(c) and (d) The companies are not yet declared as Sick Companies. Government are not aware if there is any proposal for take over of these two sick companies by other companies.

Lease Tax on Airlines

3518. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether lease tax adversely affects the finances of airlines;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this would ground the expansion and modernisation plans of the State owned airlines and private low cost airlines; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The provisions in the Financial Bill relating to withdrawal of Income Tax exemption on payment of lease rentals of aircraft/ aircraft engine will pose additional financial burden on airlines seeking to lease aircraft. The extent of additional financial burden will depend on the number of aircraft leased.

(d) Minister of Civil Aviation as well as various Airlines have requested Ministry of Finance for reconsideration.

Disinvestment

3519. SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

SHRI NITISH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified the industries to be accorded priority for disinvestment during the year 2004-05;

(b) if so, the names of such industries;

(c) the amount likely to be earned by the Government through disinvestment of these industries; and

(d) the criteria of identification of the industries for disinvestment on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The

target for realisation from disinvestment during 2004-05 is Rs. 4,000 crore through Public Offer of minority stake in Public Sector Enterprises like NTPC and the sale of residual shares in privatised PSEs according to the provisions of the Share Holders Agreement entered into at the time of the disinvestment.

Amendment to NABARD Act, 2003

3520. SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVAJI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NABARD Act, 2003 enable the NABARD to reduce the transcalation and provide crop trading to farmers at 9%; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to amend the NABARD Act, 2003 for further reduction of crop credit interest rate upto 6% and to enhance the present limit of loan from Rs.50,000/- to Rs. 1,00,000/-?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) provides refinance to District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) through State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) for providing crop loans to farmers. Section 21 and 22 of the NABARD Act, 1981 were amended in 2003 enabling NABARD to extend refinance support to the DCCBs directly instead of routing the same through SCBs for financing seasonal agricultural operations. The financing by NABARD directly to the DCCBs will reduce the transaction costs between SCB and DCCB and reduce the cost of credit to the farmers. Accordingly, DCCBs satisfying certain conditions have been offered refinance for Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) to enable the farmers to receive crop loans at interest rate of 9% per annum.

(b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

Timely Relief to Tobacco Growers

3521. SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Tobacco crops were badly damaged due to unseasonal rains/cyclonic storm in December, 2003;

(b) whether areas under cultivation for the crops except Tobacco have already been provided compensation;

(c) if so, the facts thereof and reasons for ignoring tobacco growers;

(d) whether the Government has since received a request from tobacco growers for timely relief on the same lines; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The standing Flue Cured Virginia (FCV) tobacco crop was damaged to some extent in West Godavari, East Godavari, Khammam and Guntur districts.

(b) to (e) Normally, in the event of natural calamity, relief is extended by the State Governments. Available information suggests that the Government of Andhra Pradesh had provided relief to the extent of Rs.2000/- per hectare in respect of affected areas under cultivation of all crops except FCV tobacco. It had asked the Central Government to extend assistance to the affected FCV tobacco growers. The Central Government has already extended relief to these growers as under:

- (i) interest subsidy to the extent of 100% for one year on additional loans availed by the growers whose crops were affected totally by the cyclonic rains; and
- (ii) compensation for heavily and very heavily damaged barns at the rate of Rs.2500/- and Rs.3500/- respectively.

National Saving Schemes

3522. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the primary agriculture credit societies/ banks owned and managed by farmers, ordinary artisans and workers are no more allowed to invest their deposits in National Saving Schemes (NSS) whereas deposits of Trusts and Associations are accepted by NSS;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government has received representations, from Cooperative Banks, Societies etc.; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Prime objective of the small savings schemes of the Government is to inculcate the habit of thrift and savings amongst common masses and to provide them a riskfree avenue of investment.

The banks, financial institutions, cooperative societies, etc., are not eligible to invest their surplus funds under these schemes. Only Registered Trusts are eligible to invest in some of the small savings schemes. Moreover, 'association of persons' and 'body of individuals' as defined in the Income Tax Act are eligible to invest in the PPF scheme only.

Representations received from various quarters are dealt with in accordance with the policy and rules governing small savings schemes.

[Translation]

Smuggling along Indo-Nepal Border

3523. SHRI SITA RAM SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the increase in the cases of smuggling along Indo-Nepal border;

(b) if so, the items being smuggled to India from the Nepal side of border; and

(c) the steps being taken to check such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) During the last three years there has been no increase in cases of smuggling along Indo-Nepal border. This would be evident from the year-wise figures of seizure of goods being smuggled through Indo-Nepal border which is as under:

Year	Number of cases of seizure of goods	Value of seized goods (Rs.in crores)
2001-2002	4671	45.265
2002-2003	4274	34.589
2003-2004	4243	33.937
2004-2005 (upto July 2004)	1261	10.115

(b) The items being smuggled to India from Nepal side of border include narcotics like Hashish and Ganja, silk fabrics, readymade garments, cameras, refrigerant gas cylinders, pencil cells, vanaspati ghee, spices like cardamom and betel nuts, electronic items such as calculators, DVD and VCD players and computer parts.

(c) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to detect and prevent smuggling of contraband items along Indo-Nepal border.

[English]

Deemed Export Facilities to Domestic Manufacturers

3524. SHRI J. M. AARON RASHID: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of modification in export import policy, the DG Foreign Trade is reviewing the need to extend the benefits of deemed exports to domestic corporate sector in key areas where custom duty on supplies is zero;

(b) if so, the extent to which this will help in removing the disparity between custom fee or concessional import duty for some supplies without offering the deemed benefits to domestic manufacturers of similar supplies; and

(c) the complete details in this regard indicating the deemed export facilities to be given to domestic manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) Under the current Export and Import Policy, benefits of deemed exports have been extended to domestic suppliers to enable them to compete with direct import. The benefits available are - (a) Advance Licence for intermediate supply/ deemed export/ DFRC (b) Deemed Exports Drawback and (c) Refund of Terminal Excise duty.

The review of the EXIM Policy is a continuous process and suggestions are incorporated wherever feasible in public interest.

NABARD Schemes for Rural Development

3525. SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Farmers Commission's Chairman has called upon the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to initiate talks with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India for making available nearly Rs.1000 crore for various schemes in the rural development;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Chairman has also asked NABARD to hold similar talks with the Indian Space Research Organisation for the adoption of information communication technology to disseminate vital information to farmers to make them aware of day to day market development;

(d) if so, whether the NABARD will play a crucial role in addressing the key issues of farmers in distress; and

(e) the extent to which the farmers would be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that the Chairman of National Farmers' Commission, in his address as the Chief Guest on NABARD's Foundation day on 12th July, 2004 requested NABARD to initiate talks with Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) for utilization of its services as it has large resources in terms of Universal Services Obligation Fund and can provide about Rs.1,000 crore for rural development under the Fund. He also mentioned that Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is keen to establish Village Resource Centres providing enormous data obtained through remote sensing satellites.

(d) and (e) The welfare and progress of the farmers have always been of paramount interest to NABARD. Following Government's announcement made on 18th June, 2004, NABARD has advised Regional Rural Banks and Co-operatives to carry out debt restructuring and rescheduling and to provide fresh loans to farmers in distress. NABARD has further reported that it has initiated the process of consultation with TRAI and ISRO for full details of the Universal Services Obligation Fund and Village Service Centres from them. The extent of benefit to the farmers would depend on the type of assistance and support received from these organizations.

Incentives for Development of New/ Existing Industrial Units

3626. DR. RATTAN SINGH AJNALA:

SARDAR SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

SHRIMATI KARUNA SHUKLA:

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

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

(a) whether the Government has formulated any policy for granting special package of incentives to some States such as Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh for development of new/existing industrial units in these States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is aware that grant of these incentives have adversely affected industrial growth in Punjab;

(d) if so, whether Government propose to grant same incentive package to Punjab also to check the migration of industrialists to neighbouring States;

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

(f) whether Government has also received proposal from Rajasthan and Jharkhand for their industrial development; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (g) The Government had announced a New Industrial Policy for North-East (NEIP) on 24.12.1997. Thereafter, special packages of incentives were issued for the States of Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh/Uttaranchal also on 14.06.2002, 23.12.2002 and 7.01.2003 respectively. Based on these special packages, several other States namely Punjab, Goa, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand have also requested for grant of similar packages to them. Punjab has reported that the grant of special packages to the State of Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal has shown an adverse affect on the industrialization in Punjab. However, having regard to the fact that the States, including Punjab, demanding special package do not face such geographical constraints and other adversities as in the case of Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal, such requests were not considered.

Power of Panel Chairman/Sub-Committees of Export Council

3527. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Panel Chairman/Sub-Committee of various Export Councils are vested with the administrative and financial power to carry out activities leading to growth of exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how do the Government justify democratic functioning of the Export Promotion Councils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) The articles/bye-laws adopted by the Export Promotion Councils, on the basis of model articles/byelaws circulated by the Government, provide for formation of a Committee of Administration for each Council with administrative and financial powers, among others. This Committee may, from time to time, constitute Panels/Sub-

committees to perform such functions as the Committee may lay down. Model articles/byelaws do not provide for vesting of any administrative and financial powers with the Chairman of the Panel/Sub-committee.

(c) Various provisions incorporated in the model articles/byelaws like, voting rights of the members, procedure and meetings of the Councils/Committees justify the democratic functioning of the Export Promotion Councils.

Special Package to Punjab

3528. SHRI NAVJOT SINGH SIDHU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representation has been received about grant of special package of incentive as well as economic package to State of Punjab as granted to State of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttranchal by the Government earlier;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. No special package/incentive has been granted to the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttranchal this year.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Coal Mines in Maharashtra

3529. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether mining work as proposed in 5-6 mines in Chimur Tehsil of Chandrapur District of Maharashtra has started;

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

(c) the reasons for delay in starting the work at other mines;

(d) the time by which all these mines are proposed to be started and the quantity of coal likely to be extracted from them and the profit likely to be earned from them;

(e) the decision of the Government in this regard; and

(f) the latest position of Murpa coal mine and the quantity of coal being extracted from this Mine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (e) Murpar underground mine in Chimur Tehsil of Chandrapur District was opened by Western Coalfields Limited after geological exploration of Murpar block. The mine is incurring heavy loss due to difficult geo-mining conditions. In addition, occurrence of coal has been found in another 5 geological blocks where also geo-mining conditions are very adverse. In view of adverse techno-economics of these coal deposits, there is no immediate proposal to open new mines in these blocks.

(f) Coal production in Murpar Underground Mine is in progress and presently it is producing on an average 200 to 250 Tonnes per day.

Sick Industrial Units

3530. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH:

SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR:

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MAHATO:

SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

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

(a) the numbers of industrial units in the country as on 30th June, 2004 and the capital invested therein, state-wise;

(b) number of sick units in the country, state-wise;

(c) the names of the sick industries that were revived during the last year and are proposed to be revived during the current year, state-wise details; and

(d) the number and names of industries employing more than 1000 people closed or on the verge of closure for last ten years along with steps taken for revival of each industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) State-wise data on Industrial Entrepreneurs Memo-randum (IEMs) implemented and Industrial Licenses (ILs) granted and capital invested therein for the period from August, 1991 to June 2004 is given in statement-I.

(b) Data on sick industrial units, assisted by banks in the country, is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). State-wise numbers of sick industrial units as on 31.03.2003 (the latest data available with RBI) are given in statement-II.

(c) Names of non-SSI (non-Small Scale Industry) sick/weak industrial units reported as nursed back to health during the year ended March 2003, as furnished by RBI, are given in statement-III.

(d) As per information received from Ministry of Labour and Employment, the number of industrial units under the Central sphere employing more than 1000 people closed during the period 1994-2003 is 15. The names of these units are given in statement-IV.

The Government, in general, has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units in the country which, inter alia, include guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India to banks, amalgamation of sick units with healthy units, setting up of Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985, etc.

Statement-I

State-wise details of Industrial Entrepreneurs Memorandum (IEMs) implemented and Industrial Licences (ILs) granted in respect of Non-SSI units, as reported by the entrepreneurs by filing Part B of the IEM, during the period from August 1991 to June-2004

S. No.	State /U.T.	Numbers	Investment (Rs. crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	0
2.	Andhra Pradesh	527	15036
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2	0
4.	Assam	58	1120
5.	Bihar	18	211
6.	Chandigarh	4	258
7.	Chhattisgarh	56	1262
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	75	1339
9.	Daman and Diu	77	2174
10.	Delhi	52	642
11.	Goa	97	782
12.	Gujarat	1109	39661
13.	Haryana	429	11408
14.	Himachal Pradesh	37	335

1	2	3	4
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	760
16.	Jharkhand	42	1856
17.	Karnataka	220	9263
18.	Kerala	99	1719
19.	Lakshadweep	0	0
20.	Madhya Pradesh	306	8670
21.	Maharashtra	1062	34581
22.	Manipur	0	0
23.	Meghalaya	12	54
24.	Mizoram	0	0
25.	Nagaland	0	0
26.	Orissa	44	1762
27.	Pondicherry	48	405
28.	Punjab	329	7213
29.	Rajasthan	352	11055
30.	Sikkim	0	0
31.	Tamil Nadu	649	11058
32.	Tripura	4	2
33.	Uttar Pradesh	556	21182
34.	Uttaranchal	33	287
35.	West Bengal	380	34044
36.	Location in more than one state	27	131
Total		6716	218270

Statement-II

Number of sick industrial units as on 31.3.03

S. No.	State / U.T.	No. of non-SSI sick/weak units as on 31.3.03	No. of SSI sick units as on 31.3.03
1	2	3	4
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	21
2.	Andhra Pradesh	342	6589
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	15

1	2	3	4
4.	Assam	31	3592
5.	Bihar	52	16479
6.	Chandigarh	27	233
7.	Chhattisgarh	24	386
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	12
9.	Daman and Diu	14	23
10.	Delhi	130	1999
11.	Goa	14	119
12.	Gujarat	380	4723
13.	Haryana	102	1515
14.	Himachal Pradesh	28	618
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	2114
16.	Jharkhand	27	2766
17.	Karnataka	210	3180
18.	Kerala	64	14133
19.	Lakshadweep	-	-
20.	Madhya Pradesh	138	11601
21.	Maharashtra	618	4762
22.	Manipur	2	1012
23.	Meghalaya	11	119
24.	Mizoram	4	11
25.	Nagaland	17	154
26.	Orissa	59	8489
27.	Pondicherry	17	216
28.	Punjab	107	3022
29.	Rajasthan	109	4005
30.	Sikkim	1	31
31.	Tamil Nadu	358	13517
32.	Tripura	1	1793

1	2	3	4
33.	Uttar Pradesh	208	15768
34.	Uttaranchal	23	467
35.	West Bengal	240	44496
Total		3396	167980

Statement-III

Non-SSI Sick/Weak Industrial Units reported as Nursed Back to Health during the year ended March 2003

Sl. No.	Name	State/U.T.
1.	Arvind Mills	Gujarat
2.	Gujarat, Cycles Ltd.	Gujarat
3.	Garware Polyesters Ltd.	Maharashtra
4.	Text Plast	Maharashtra
5.	Recron Synthetics Ltd.	Uttar Pradesh
6.	Malwa Industries Ltd.	Chandigarh
7.	Indital Tintoria Ltd.	Rajasthan
8.	Spaastrow Board Indus Pvt. Ltd.	Orissa
9.	Reliance Cellulose Products	Andhra Pradesh
10.	Annapoorna Foils Ltd.	Andhra Pradesh
11.	Bibcol	Delhi
12.	Muthoot Apt Ceramics	Kerala

Statement-IV

Names of industrial units under the Central sphere employing more than 1000 people closed during the period 1994-2003

Sl. No.	Name of the Establishment
1	2
1.	Chemicals & Plastics India Ltd., Agraharam, Tamil Nadu
2.	Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd., Khetri Project, Rajasthan

1	2
3.	Hindustan Copper Ltd., Indian Copper Complex, Mosaboni Mines, Bihar
4.	Bharat Gold Mines Ltd., Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka
5.	Petrofils Co-Operatives Ltd., Delhi
6.	Mining & Allied Machinery Corporation, Durgapur, West Bengal
7.	Kalyanmal Mills, NTC (Madhya Pradesh)
8.	Indore Malwa Mills, NTC (Madhya Pradesh)
9.	Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, NTC (Madhya Pradesh)
10.	Ahmed Jupiter Mills, NTC (Gujarat)
11.	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, NTC (Uttar Pradesh)
12.	New Victoria Mills, NTC (Uttar Pradesh)
13.	Hindustan Copper Ltd., Indian Copper Complex, Mosaboni Mines, Bihar.
14.	Model Mills, NTC (Maharashtra North)
15.	Jehangir Textile Mills, NTC (Gujarat)

NTC: National Textile Corporation

* Separate Mines

Export Promotion under ASIDE

3531. SHRI CHHATTAR SINGH DARBAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any proposal for the promotion of Exports under ASIDE from the State Government particularly from Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Government of India provides financial assistance to all States and Union Territories including Madhya Pradesh, under a scheme titled Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) for development of export related infrastructure based on their export performance. The selection of projects is made by the State Level Export Promotion Committee of each State.

[English]

Gem Stones in Orissa

3532. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge tracts of gem stones (precious and semi-precious) are abundantly available in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether the Government proposes to regulate the mining of these areas properly;

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore;

(d) whether the Government proposes to formulate a proper policy for exploiting these rich natural resources and getting the entire area of Orissa surveyed and mapped by the Geological Survey of India along with satellite survey; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per information available with Geological Survey of India (GSI) and Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM), both subordinate office under the Department of Mines, 28 gem bearing tracts have been identified. Some of the important tracts are (i) Jilingdhar - Hinjilbahal, Orabahal - Urharanga and Ghatspara - Singliharan sectors of Bolangir district, (ii) Ghuchepada - Antaria, Ghumsar - Dehli and Muribahal - Tentelkhuntia sectors of Bolangir district, (iii) Badamal - Mursundi and Binika - Sonapur sectors of Subarnapur district, (iv) Charbati - Beldihi and Baghpada - Talalai sectors of Sambalpur district, (v) Katmal- Babebir - Amera sector of Nuapada district, (vi) Baudh - Ramagarh and Kantamal - Manmunda sectors of Baudh district. However, there is no authenticated report regarding the availability of huge deposits of gemstones in Orissa State.

(b) and (c) Mineral Concessions are granted by the State Governments as per the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules framed there under viz. Mineral Concession Rules, 1960 (MCR) and Mineral Conservation and Development Rules, 1988. The regulation of mining of minerals including gemstones is done as per the provisions of MCR. Gemstones (precious and semi-precious) are minerals included in the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, 1957 and before granting mineral concessions for these minerals, the State Governments are required to obtain approval of the Central Government for the same.

IBM has already approved twenty mining plans for 20 years, of gem stones and consequently, the State Governments has also granted leases to fourteen lessees. Six mines of semi-precious stones have already been opened in Kalahandi district of Orissa.

(d) Gem Stone Policy, 1998 has been formulated by the State Government for proper exploitation of the gem stones. GSI has already completed geological mapping of the entire State of Orissa.

(e) GSI has carried out 1st generation geological mapping of the entire State of Orissa on 1: 50000/63,360 scale. Some of the important areas of geological interest had been covered by 2nd generation mapping on 1: 25000 scale. GSI has also covered some parts of the state by aero-geophysical survey. However, satellite survey is not carried out by GSI, though satellite data products like space imageries have been used in some specific areas to aid geological mapping.

[Translation]

Transportation of Coal by CIL

3533. SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has framed rules to allow transportation of coal only after it is weighed;

(b) if so, the quantum of coal allowed to be transported without weighing by road and rail routes during the last three years;

(c) the reasons therefor and the officer responsible for it;

(d) the number of cases where coal was transported beyond the prescribed quantity, company-wise; and

(e) the details of action taken against the officers held responsible for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. As reported by Coal India Limited (CIL), though there is no rule stating that transportation of coal will be allowed after weighing, an effort is made to ensure that no quantity of coal is dispatched without weighing. No consignments are allowed without weighing in case of transportation of coal: by road.

(b) The total quantum of coal dispatched without weighing from all coal companies in last three years are given below:

(Figures in Million tonnes)

2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
Rail	Road	Rail	Road	Rail	Road
8.61	Nil	7.878	Nil	7.606	Nil

(c) The main reasons for dispatch of coal by rail without weighing are given below:

- (i) Operational breakdown/ maintenance of Weigh Bridges.
- (ii) Inability of Weigh Bridges to record correct weight due to over speed of drawing rakes while passing through in-motion Weigh Bridges.
- (iii) Non-operation of railway tracks due to problems in track line over which Weigh Bridges are located.
- (iv) Thunder/ Lightening and occasional failure of load cell of electronic Weigh Bridges.

(d) and (e) Most of the rail Weigh Bridges are now 'in motion' Weigh Bridges where loading is not done on the weighing platform. Hence, considering the scale of operations loading exact quantities of coal wagon-wise at times is not possible. However, rake-wise dispatches are duly recorded. In view of this position, no action has been taken by Coal India Limited against officers for deviation in loading wagon-wise.

[English]

Reduction of Air Fares

3534. SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL:

SHRI K. S. RAO:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR DUBEY:

SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airlines such as Sahara, Jet Airways etc. have reduced air fares in July, 2004 quite substantially;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith its impact on public sector airlines;

(c) whether these fares are likely to continue in future also; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Some Airlines like Jet Airways have introduced Lean Season point to point fares and Lean Season Return Excursion fares on few sectors with effect from July 26, 2004 and they are valid till October 15, 2004.

(b) to (d) Air fares are not regulated by Government. The question of continuing the Lean Season fares etc. is a matter which is to be decided by the management of the respective airlines.

Task Force for Forged Companies

3535. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government has formed four Task Force Groups, to take strict action against the forged companies, one each in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of the Task Force Groups and progress made by them so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) The Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) on vanishing companies, co-chaired by Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs and Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has set up four Task Forces for, inter alia, taking legal action against vanishing companies.

(b) The Task Forces are headed by the four Regional Directors of this Ministry. The meetings of the Task Forces generally take place at Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Delhi. The other members of these Task Forces are the representatives of Regional Offices of SEBI, relevant stock exchanges and the concerned Registrars of Companies. As a result of the effort made by the Task Force, prosecutions under the Companies Act have been launched against 109 vanishing companies and their Directors under Sections 63, 68 and 628 of the Companies Act, 1956. Besides, prosecutions for non-filing of statutory returns have been filed against 103 companies and their Directors. First Information Reports with the Police have also been filed against 87 companies and their Directors for offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 and 424 of the Indian Penal Code.

ADB Assistance to India

3536. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank has agreed to give seven billion Dollar assistance to India in the next five years;

(b) if so, the details of terms and conditions thereof; and

(c) the sectors likely to be benefited therefrom, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (c) The recent Country Strategy and Program Mission 2005-07 of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has proposed a tentative assistance program of approximately US \$ 6.3 billion to India during Calendar Years 2005 to 2007. These loans would be for various infrastructure projects in the sectors of Transport, Energy, Urban Infrastructure, Financial, Agriculture and Natural Resources and Law, Economic Management and Public Policy and will cover the States of Karnataka, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Uttaranchal, West Bengal and North Eastern States apart from Central Projects.

(b) The detailed terms and conditions of the specific loans are known only after the negotiations are held with the Bank and approved by the ADB Board. ADB loans are normally given for 20 and 25 years with a grace period of 5 years at a rate of interest, which is linked to LIBOR plus 60 basis points, and commitment charges and front-end fees as per Bank Policy.

Setting up of Rubber Park

3537. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has succeeded in setting up first Rubber Park in India through Rubber Park India Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some more such parks will be set up in India; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) A Rubber Park at Irapuram in Ernakulam District of Kerala is being set up through the

Rubber Park India (P) Limited, a Joint Venture Company between the Government of India (Rubber Board) and the State Government of Kerala (the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation) for development of rubber and rubberwood based industries. An area of 107 acres of land with required infrastructural facilities has been developed for the purpose.

(c) and (d) As per the available information, some State Governments such as governments of Tripura and Tamil Nadu are in the process of setting up Rubber Parks in their respective States.

NPA's of IFCI

3538. SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the status of Non-Performing Assets of Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI);

(b) whether many other financial institutions are also facing severe NPAs problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof during the last three years, financial institution-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring down the NPA ratio of financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details of the Non-Performing Assets of IFCI, IIBI, IDBI, EXIM Bank, NABARD, NHB, IDFC and SIDBI are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The efforts of the Government RBI to reduce NPAs of financial institutions are as under:

The RBI vide guidelines issued in July, 2000 and revised subsequently on 4th February, 2003 advise FIs to recover NPAs through One-Time Settlement Schemes.

- The Government set up seven more DRTs during 2000-01 to encourage participation of FIs in the settlement of NPAs.
- The Debt Recovery Act was amended to empower DRTs to immediately issue Recovery Certificate on the basis of decree or order of civil court.
- A transparent Credit and Debt Restructuring Mechanism has been put in place for restructuring of corporate debts of viable entities facing problems due to internal and external factors.
- The Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 regulates securitisation and reconstruction of financial assets and enforcement of security interest.

Statement

Non-Performing Assets of Financial Institutions (IDBI, IFCI Ltd. IIBI, Exim Bank, NABARD, NHB, IDFC and SIDBI)

(Rs. in Crore)

Sl. No.	Name of the Institution	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04	
		Gross NPA	Net NPA	Gross NPA	Net NPA	Gross NPA	Net NPA
1.	IFCI Ltd.	6574	3898	8382	4560	9998	3864
2.	IIBI	1121	609	1718	915	1722	800
3.	IDBI	7932	3873	8751	7517	10292	8693
4.	Exim Bank	986	448	784	184	729	129
5.	NABARD		0.93		1.61		0.80
6.	NHB	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
7.	IDFC	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	30	Nil
8.	SIDBI		382.17		472.70		225.82

[Translation]

Funds for Industrial Development

3539. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the funds sought by and actually allocated to the various State Governments for the development of basic facilities in the industrial areas of the States during the year 2003-2004, state-wise;

(b) the amount released to the States for the purpose during the aforesaid period; and

(c) the details of the progress made in the various projects to develop the basic facilities in the industrial areas of the different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOAN): (a) to (c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, allocates funds under the following Schemes to State Governments/ Implementation Agencies in the State Governments for the development of basic facilities in the industrial areas of the States:

1. **Growth Centre Scheme:** With a view to promote industrialisation of the backward areas in the country, the Central Government in June, 1988 announced Growth Centre Scheme. Under the Scheme all 71 Growth Centres proposed to be developed throughout the country have been sanctioned. These Growth Centres are endowed with basic infrastructure facilities like power, water, telecommunication, banking etc. to enable the States to attract industries. The Central Government contributes Rs.10 crore per growth centre by way of equity (Rs.15 crore in the case of growth centres in the NE Region including Sikkim, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttaranchal and Himachal Pradesh). The Central assistance is released on the basis of physical and financial progress made by the State Government in the implementation of the project.

An amount of Rs.67.12 crore has been released during the year 2003-2004 to these growth centres as central assistance. The State-wise statement of the amount released is given in the enclosed statement.

Out of 71 growth centres, in 62 growth centres, land for the project has already been acquired and 48 Growth Centres have become functional where commencement of allotment of plots/sheds has started. In 23 Growth Centres, 983 industries have been established.

2. **Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme (IIUS):** With an objective to enhance international competitiveness of the domestic industry by providing quality

infrastructure through public-private partnership in selected functional clusters/locations which have greater potential to become globally competitive, a new scheme in the name of Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme has been notified on 10th Dec., 2003. This scheme aims at creation of quality infrastructure in existing industrial clusters / locations with high growth potential interventions in providing common facilities for transport, road, water, power, gas/fuel supply effluent treatment, solid waste disposal. In addition, Product Design, Information and Communication technology support and such other physical infrastructures would also be provided.

During the year 2003-2004, an amount of Rs.37.50 crore has been released to two clusters/industrial locations details of which is given below:

(a) Textile Cluster, Tirupur, - Tamil Nadu	Rs.25.00 crore
(b) Chemical Cluster, - Vapi, Gujarat	Rs.12.50 crore

As the projects have been sanctioned very recently, progress is yet to be demonstrated.

In addition to above, Office of Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries), Ministry of SSI are implementing the following Scheme:

Integrated Infrastructure Development Scheme: The scheme is aimed at creation of developed sites with basic infrastructural facilities such as water, power, road, drainage, effluent treatment plant, common service facilities, etc. As on 30.06.2004, there are 96 IID Centres in various States. An amount of Rs.1090 lakh has been released to the various implementing agencies of the IID projects in the various States during the year 2003-2004. A State-wise statement of funds allocated to the Implementing Agencies under the scheme is given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Rs. in lakh
1.	Kerala	170.00
2.	Andhra Pradesh	27.60
3.	Uttar Pradesh	293.38
4.	Assam	200.00
5.	Mizoram	90.00
6.	Madhya Pradesh	128.00
7.	Tamil Nadu	138.61
8.	Himachal Pradesh	42.41
Total		1090.00

Statement		
Statement of Central Assistance released during year 2003-04 to various Growth Centres in the State		
(Rs. in lakh)		
Sl. No.	Name of the Growth Centre	2003-04
1	2	3
I	Andhra Pradesh	
1	Ongole	100
II	Arunachal Pradesh	
2	Niklok Ngorlung	200
III	Assam	
3	Chariduar	66
4	Chaygaon	500
IV	Chhattisgarh	
5	Borai	107
V	Goa	
6	Electronic City	176
VI	Himachal Pradesh	
7	Kangra	500
VII	Jammu and Kashmir	
8	Lassipora	500
9	Samba	500
VIII	Jharkhand	
10	Hazaribagh	200
IX	Madhya Pradesh	
11	Satlapur	365
X	Maharashtra	
12	Dhule	200
13	Nanded	90
XI	Meghalaya	
14	Mendipathar	500
XII	Mizoram	
15	Luangmual	400

1	2	3
XIII	Orissa	
16	Kalinganagar-Duburi	160
17	Jharsuguda	68
XIV	Sikkim	
18	Samlik Marchak	500
XV	Tripura	
19	Bodhjung Nagar	430
XVI	Uttaranchal	
20	Siggadi	1000
XVII	Uttar Pradesh	
21	Pakbara	150
Total		6712

[English]

Restoring Single Premium Insurance Policy

3540. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI P. C. THOMAS:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to re-start single premium insurance policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the manner by which misuse of the said policy could be checked; and

(d) the benefits proposed to be given to the policy holders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Already there are single premium policies available in the insurance market.

(c) and (d) Question of misuse of such policies do not arise as only one premium in lump sum is required to be paid. The option of choosing such a policy rests with the policyholder.

[Translation]

Rate and Royalty of Coal to Madhya Pradesh

3541. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any change in supply of coal against its fixed quota as also in its rate, royalty etc. in respect of Madhya Pradesh in 2004;

(b) if so, the dates on which these changes have been made and the modalities adopted for this purpose alongwith details;

(c) the reasons therefor and whether similar changes have been made for any other State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and in not, the reasons why such changes have been made only for Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Supply of coal is not being made on the basis of fixed quota state-wise. Supply of coal to the various States are made on the basis of the demand from the various coal consuming sectors. There is no change in respect of the rate of royalty payable to Madhya Pradesh on account of coal supplies. However, Coal India Limited revised the price of coal from 16.6.2004.

(b) and (c) The coal price was revised effective from 16.6.2004 for the various grades of coal by Coal India Limited (CIL). CIL from time to time revises the price of coal on the basis of the following consideration:

- (i) Increase in the price of cost of inputs for production of coal
- (ii) Acceptability of coal price in the market and its impacts on cost of power generation and of steel
- (iii) Demand and supply scenario
- (iv) Landed cost of imported coal

The revision in coal prices is applicable to all the States in India.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to (b) and (c) above.

[English]

Funds for Sardar Sarovar Project

3542. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Gujarat is facing difficulty due to debt burden arising out of time over-run of the Sardar Sarovar Project due to the factors beyond the control of State Government;

(b) if so, whether a request for funding the additional interest burden has been received by the Government from the State Government of Gujarat; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government on the request of State Government of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes Sir, but it cannot be said that it is on account of factors beyond the control of the State Government.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government of India does not provide any grant for such purposes.

[Translation]

Export of Handicraft

3543. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise quantum of handicraft items being exported annually;

(b) whether the export of these items have increased in Rajasthan; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to provide rebate to Rajasthan in handicrafts sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) State-wise data on export of handicrafts is not maintained.

(c) No, Sir.

Sickness of Handloom Industry

3544. SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Handloom Industry is constantly becoming sick because of its unorganised set-up under Textile industry;

(b) the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) the reasons for sickness of handloom industry;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up some hand loom industrial units in groups so as to organise this industry; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No reports have been received from the State Governments about handloom industry becoming sick because of its unorganized set-up under Textiles Industry.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) and (e) Government is encouraging a cluster approach to development of handloom industry, in order to maximize the use of infrastructure and facilities necessary for establishing a smooth supply chain, improving quality and marketing, and thereby increasing to cost competitiveness.

UAE Exports

3545. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

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

(a) whether some items are being exported to the United Arab Emirates;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the items exported to UAE during the current year and the percentage increase in exports over previous year; and

(d) the extent of foreign exchange earned from export of items to UAE during the last three years, year-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (d) A large number of items are being exported from India to the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The details of major items exported to UAE during the last three years. Year-wise, are given below :

(Value in Million US \$)

S. No.	Item	Exports during 2001-02	Percentage increase over previous year	Exports during 2002-03	Percentage increase over previous year	Exports during 2003-04	Percentage increase over previous year
1.	Gems & Jewellery	542.14	23.2	661.88	22.1	1329.19	100.8
2.	Cotton readymade garments including accessories	253.87	(-)32.0	295.66	16.5	425.62	44.0
3.	Petroleum products	5.64	(-)81.3	398.37	6969.3	330.54	(-)17.0
4.	Man made yam. fabrics & made-ups	214.24	28.9	273.48	27.7	329.72	20.6
5.	Manufactures of metals	178.51	0.9	204.01	14.3	287.57	41.0
6.	Other commodities	73.20	38.1	94.12	28.6	259.13	175.3
7.	Plastic & Linoleum products	72.7	9.4	75.47	3.8	256.01	239.2
8.	Machinery & instruments	104.88	(-)4.0	141.00	34.4	246.71	75.0
9.	Electronic goods	50.88	19.8	67.52	32.7	99.89	48.0
10.	Primary & semi-finished Iron & Steel	47.80	(-)4.9	74.64	56.2	96.77	29.7
India's total exports to UAE		2491.79	(-)3.5	3327.48	33.5	5079.98	52.7

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S)
Country-wise, item-wise details of export is not available for the current year.

[English]

Non-Plan Expenditure of State Governments

3546. SHRI UDAY SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has asked the State Governments to take steps to control their burgeoning non-plan expenditure;

(b) if so, whether the Government have also expressed concern over deteriorating condition of State finances; and

(c) if so, the details of the new strategies to be adopted to improve the State finances in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the wake of deteriorating financial situation of States, to supplement the efforts of the State Govts. in fiscal consolidation, Govt. of India has created a States Fiscal Reforms Facility (2000-01 to 2004-05) pursuant to the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission. Under the Facility the State Governments are required to undertake medium term fiscal reforms programme aimed at augmentation of revenue receipts and compression of revenue expenditure including non-plan revenue expenditure.

(c) Government of India, in the Union Budget 2004-05, has announced a number of measures for further consolidation of the financial position of States, which inter-alia, include substantial increase in States' share of Central taxes and duties, extending the present debt swap scheme to allow States to raise fresh loans to repay their old high cost loans to NABARD and other agencies, reducing interest rate on loans advanced by Central Government to States, considering passing on external loan assistance on back to back basis to States, special economic packages for the States of Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and North Eastern States and setting up a Backward States Grant Fund.

Airlines Insurance Premium

3547. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA:

SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Airlines Insurance Premium has been dropped recently;

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

(c) the liability claims of national carriers during each of the last three years; and

(d) the manner in which airlines share this reduction with their customers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Ready Made Garments

3548. SHRI TAPIR GAO:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which readymade garments are being exported at present;

(b) the foreign exchange earned by exporting ready-made garments during the last three years;

(c) the details of target set for exports during this period as well as current year; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the above target?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) India's readymade garments are exported to more than hundred countries of the world. However, the USA, EU Member States, U.A.E., Japan, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Australia, etc. have been the major importing countries of our readymade garments during the last three years.

(b) As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) data, the readymade garments exports during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 have been, as given below:-

Year	Value (in US\$ Million)
April 2001-March 2002	4618.7
April 2002-March 2003	5334.3
April 2003-March 2004	5625.8

(c) The export target fixed for readymade garments during the last three years i.e. 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and current year i.e. 2004-05 have been, as given below:-

Year	(in US\$ Million)
April 2001-March 2002	6300
April 2002-March 2003	6000
April 2003-March 2004	6250
April 2004- March 2005	6000

(d) To strengthen domestic textile industry for meeting the growing global competition and achieving export target, the following important announcements has been made in the Union Budget 2004-05:

- Except for mandatory excise duty on polyester filament yarn including texturised yarn, synthetic and artificial fibres and synthetic and artificial filament yarns, the whole value addition chain has been given excise exemption option.
- Additional Excise Duty on Textiles and Textile Articles (AT&T) and Additional Excise Duty (Goods of Special Importance) Act have been abolished.
- Basic customs duty on various textile machinery and spare parts has been reduced to 5%.

Beside, Government has been taking a number of steps from time to time to enable the textile industry to achieve export targets. 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 up gradation of the sector.
- (ii) Weaving, processing and garment machinery, which are covered under TUFS, have been extended the facility of accelerated depreciation at the rate of 50%. Cost of machinery has also been reduced through Fiscal Policy measures. This further encourages modernisation.
- (iii) The Government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.
- (iv) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

Rights Issue of Global Trust Bank

3549. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board (SEBI) has barred the main promoters and his associates from subscribing to the proposed rights issue of Global Trust Bank which needs immediate fund infusion;

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

(c) whether it is also a fact that some international investors are eager to invest their funds in the bank which had shown remarkable improvement in its functioning; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not permitting them to invest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that it has vide its final order dated March 23, 2004 has directed the following promoter group entities not to buy, sell deal or pledge in the shares of Global Trust Bank for a period of 18 months with effect from December 31, 2002.

1. Ramesh Gelli
2. Premkala Gelli
3. Jayant Madhav
4. Girish Gelli
5. Niraj Gelli
6. Sridhare Subasri
7. Annapurna Sridhar
8. Anjanaya Traders Pvt. Ltd.
9. Chiranjeevi Traders Pvt. Ltd.
10. Gajanan Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.
11. Gajmukh Investments Pvt. Ltd.
12. Kadri Finance & Investments Pvt. Ltd.
13. Bombay Mahalakshmi Traders Pvt. Ltd.

An interim order dated 31.1.2002 under section 11B of SEBI Act, 1992 was passed directing these 13 promoter group entities and other entities not to buy, sell or transfer, pledge or dispose off or deal in any other manner in the shares of Global Trust Bank (GTB) either directly or indirectly, till the investigations were completed. The said entities were offered a post decisional hearing on February 3 and 4, 2003.

An order was passed against the promoters and associates of GTB confirming the order dated December 31, 2002 on June 13, 2003. Further, a final order has been passed against these entities prohibiting them from dealing in securities of GTB for a period of 18 months with effect from December 31, 2002 vide the above mentioned order dated March 23, 2004.

(c) and (d) The bank submitted a proposal on 17th May, 2004 to Reserve Bank of India from New Bridge Capital Ltd., a company based in Cayman Island for investment in GTB. However, the proposal was not acceptable to Reserve Bank of India on account of regulatory concessions and prudential forbearance as also foreign jurisdiction sought for dispute resolution. The performance of the bank has deteriorated considerably on major parameters since March 31, 2001 instead of improvement in the functioning.

Investigation Cases Pending with SEBI

3550. SHRIMATI MANORAMA MADHAVRAJ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of investigation cases pending with SEBI;
- (b) the time since when these are pending;
- (c) the reasons for their pendency; and
- (d) the time by which these are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As on April 1, 2004, 102 cases were pending under formal investigation and 100 as preliminary stage of scrutiny.

(b) to (d) As on March 31, 2004, there were 31 investigation cases pending for more than one year. SEBI set the target that all these cases would be completed by July 31, 2004. Thereafter all these cases have been completed as per target apart from completing some more cases. SEBI takes up new cases on a continuous basis and hence some cases would always be pending at any given point of time.

Review of FTA and PTA

3551. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Prime Minister has recently sought a review of India's free trade agreements and preferential trade agreements in the wake of apprehensions aired by the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have suffered losses on account of such pacts/agreements;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of FTAs and PTAs held with various countries during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) These agreements involve exchange of tariff concessions with a view to gaining mutual market access amongst the participating countries on a preferential basis. The possible loss of customs duty for the participating countries on this account has to be viewed against other benefits which, inter-alia, include expanded economic space for the industries which helps them to become globally competitive and enhanced trade and investment flows.

(e) India is engaged in Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Preferential Trading Agreements (PTAs) with the following countries/regions:-

(i) India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement was signed on 28th December, 1998 and the implementation began in March, 2000.

(ii) The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade (SAFTA) was signed by the SAARC member countries (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) during the 12th SAARC Summit held in Islamabad on 6th January, 2004. The Agreement is scheduled to come into operation from 1st January, 2006.

(iii) India also has bilateral trade treaties with Nepal and Bhutan, under which duty free imports are allowed, from these two countries on the principles of non-reciprocity.

(iv) India has also signed Framework Agreements with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations comprising Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam); BIMST -EC (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand as members); and Thailand with the objectives of achieving Free Trade Area covering goods, services and investments within agreed timeframes.

(v) India has also exchanged tariff preferences under the SAARC Preferential Trading

Arrangement (SAPTA). Four rounds of negotiations under SAPTA have been held so far in which India has exchanged tariff concessions with member countries of SAARC.

- (vi) India is also exchanging tariff preferences under Bangkok Agreement, a PTA, of which Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka are members.
- (vii) India has also entered into a PTA with Afghanistan in the year 2003 under which tariff concessions are being exchanged on a limited number of products on a non-reciprocal basis.

Soda Ash Industry

3552. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:

SHRIMATI JAYABEN B. THAKKAR:

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

(a) whether Government are aware that cheap import of Soda Ash from America Natural Soda Ash Corporation is hurting the domestic soda ash industry;

(b) whether Government has received a proposal to maintain import duty on soda ash with a view to protect domestic soda ash industry; and

(c) If so, action proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) The Directorate of Anti Dumping & Allied Duties has so far not received any application alleging dumping of Soda Ash from America Natural Soda Ash Corporation. Customs duty on Soda Ash was reduced from 35% to 20% during the Budget of 2001-2002. Since then there has been no reduction in import duty except for abolition of SAD in January, 2004. A comparison of the landed price with domestic price, import volumes and indigenous production shows that even with customs duty of 20%, the landed price (at Mumbai) is still marginally higher than the domestic ex-factory price. The domestic production of Soda Ash has also gone up while there has been no upsurge in imports of Soda Ash.

[Translation]

Baba Saheb Hastshilp Yojana

3553. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KUSHAWAHA:

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA:

SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of scheme being implemented for the development of handicrafts;

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

(c) the details of the grants provided so far, State-wise especially Uttar Pradesh with regard to Baba Saheb Hastshilp Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) The names of the schemes being implemented for development and promotion of handicrafts are: Baba Saheb Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana (AHVY); Design and Technology upgradation; Marketing and Support Services; Export Promotion; Training and Extension; Research and Development; Bima Yojana; Special Handicrafts Training Programme (SHTP) and Financial assistance to State handicrafts Development Corporations (SHDC)/ Apex societies. There is no State specific scheme and all these schemes are being implemented throughout the country as grant-in-aid schemes through Implementing Agencies like State Handicraft Development Corporations/Apex bodies and NGO's etc.

There is no State-wise budget allocation. Financial assistance through the schemes is based on merit of proposals submitted by the Implementing Agencies and subject to availability of budget. The details of grants released to the Implementing Agencies under AHVY have been compiled State-wise as per statement enclosed, including in the State of Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

State-wise fund released under AHVY during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

(Amount in Rs.)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	17,60,178	21,43,813	1,47,19,382
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1,73,000	7,08,868	27,15,572
3.	Assam	34,05,125	26,31,215	1,51,53,420

1	2	3	4	5
4. Bihar	0.00	1,40,500	5,45,000	
5. Chhattisgarh	31,15,000	0.00	17,91,867	
6. Delhi	3,06,700	36,35,415	32,56,192	
7. Goa	0.00	0.00	2,50,000	
8. Gujarat	12,92,500	16,22,603	69,40,979	
9. Haryana	12,68,500	26,39,250	25,14,058	
10. Himachal Pradesh	26,73,900	32,92,265	53,91,622	
11. Jammu and Kashmir	5,60,000	67,94,993	40,61,168	
12. Jharkhand	1,77,750	8,93,000	6,46,000	
13. Karnataka	7,55,000	4,18,250	38,70,696	
14. Kerala	6,37,113	14,26,911	74,63,947	
15. Madhya Pradesh	41,62,466	59,40,600	66,23,241	
16. Maharashtra	15,54,500	10,94,381	23,64,716	
17. Manipur	54,245	6,46,705	20,01,220	
18. Meghalaya	45,000	3,56,200	4,57,870	
19. Mizoram	1,80,250	0.00	15,82,250	
20. Nagaland	7,00,000	21,23,500	30,11,325	
21. Orissa	14,62,800	48,81,261	79,13,837	
22. Pondicherry	85,500	0.00	-	
23. Punjab	4,05,000	15,80,000	41,61,579	
24. Rajasthan	24,65,150	28,52,109	64,69,404	
25. Sikkim	0.00	2,75,000	-	
26. Tamil Nadu	18,00,200	9,45,691	33,44,689	
27. Tripura	5,29,500	16,16,477	34,97,284	
28. Uttar Pradesh	51,82,500	95,71,750	1,64,25,535	
29. Uttaranchal	4,25,000	17,33,000	59,78,205	
30. West Bengal	23,01,160	51,62,115	78,14,680	
Total	3,74,78,037	6,51,25,872	14,09,75,238	

[English]

Allocation of Coal to Private Players

3554. SHRI RAJENDER KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to make some changes in the allocation of coal blocks to private companies/ agencies captive mining; and

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

PRIME MINISTER (DR. MANMOHAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With a view to bringing greater transparency introduction of competitive bidding for allocation of coal blocks to Indian companies for their captive use in the permitted sectors is under examination.

Waiver of Coffee Growers Loan

3555. SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) initiative taken by the Government to encourage the Coffee Growers when the prices are falling;

(b) whether the request of the Coffee Growers to waive the accrued interest on their loans is being considered, if so, the total amount required for this waiver; and

(c) is there any proposal regarding imposing not more than 6% of interest on the loans raised by the Coffee Growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The Government of India is aware of the difficulties being faced by the coffee growers due to the present low prices of coffee and has taken a series of steps for the benefit of coffee growers. The steps include re-phasingment/ restructuring of loans taken by the coffee growers from commercial banks by way of Special Coffee Term Loan (SCTL), interest subsidy to large and small coffee growers on repayment of working capital loans taken from financial institutions, reduction of import duty on specified machinery for coffee sector to 5% to enable the industry to improve the productivity and quality of coffee for making it globally competitive. Commercial banks have also agreed to extend crop loans upto a maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs at 9% interest so as to benefit the coffee growers having land holdings upto 60 ha. In addition, the Government of India has also set up

a Price Stabilization Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the benefit of tea, coffee, rubber and tobacco growers.

(b) and (c) Government of India has received representations from coffee growers from Karnataka for providing certain relief covering, inter alia, a request for the waiver of accrued interest and lowering rates of interest on the loans.

Economic Package to States

3556. SHRI HEMMAL MURMU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals for Economic Package received by the Union Government from various States for implementation of pending projects during the last three years till July 2004;

(b) the action taken by Government on the proposals till date State-wise;

(c) the funds released to State Government, so far, State-wise;

(d) the number of proposals still pending, State-wise;

(e) the reasons for pendency, and the time by which these are likely to be cleared; and

(f) the steps taken to clear these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Requests/memoranda from 15 States have been received for special/economic/development packages totalling Rs. 72,522 crore.

(b) to (f) States with special problems/circumstances are provided Additional Central Assistance, Special Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance over and above the annual Central Assistance for State Plans on exceptional basis on merits of each case.

Advertisement of Posts by AI

3557. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India had issued advertisements during the last two years to fill up various categories of posts in Operations, Commercial, Inflight and Hindi Departments;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the present status;

(c) whether Air India has drawn any time schedule to complete the entire exercise; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No post was advertised for Commercial Department. The details of the posts advertised for Operations, Inflight and Hindi Departments and the present status are as under:

Name of the Department	Name of the Post	Date of issuing advertisement	Present Status
Operation Department	1. Trainee Pilots,	Aug.-Sep. 2002, Feb.-March 2003, Feb.-March 2004, May-June 2004	Process to fill up 83 Trainee Pilots has been completed and remaining posts advertised in June, 2004 will be filled up shortly.
	2. Deputy Manager (Simulator)	July-Aug. 2003	Under process and will be completed shortly.
	3. Deputy Manager (Tech.)		
Inflight Service Department	4. Cabin Crew	October, 2002, February 2003, January 2004	Exercise has been completed.
	5. Dy. Manager (Catering)	December 2003	Selection is in progress and will be completed shortly.
Hindi Deptt.	6. Hindi positions	April 2003	It will be completed during the current year.

(c) and (d) It is expected that the above exercise will be completed by the end of this year.

Open Sky Policy

3558. SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Indian Express news item dated 01 July, 2004, Government is keen in giving its nod to the seven plus seven air bilateral policy and unilateral open skies policy with ASEAN countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the ASEAN countries in this regard;

(d) if so, the terms and conditions of such agreements; and

(e) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) It has been decided to permit designated airlines of all countries having Air Services Agreement with India to operate up to seven services per week each to any two of the 12 international airports in India subject to reciprocal enhancement in capacity for the Indian carriers. Services to the second airport can commence after the entitlements for the first airport have been exhausted. Designated airlines of 10 ASEAN countries have also been offered, subject to reciprocal rights to the Indian carriers, the facility to operate up to daily services to the four metro cities in India besides unlimited access to 18 other tourist destinations. The additional flights under this offer are subject to the terms of the existing commercial agreement with the designated Indian Carriers.

[Translation]

Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme

3559. SHRI ATIQ AHAMAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the fact that large quantity of milk and milk products are being imported due to certain lacunae in duty entitlement pass book scheme (DEPB), as a result, farm sectors are adversely affected; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to remove the existing shortcoming in DEPB scheme as importers are taking advantage of these short-comings?

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

Non-Banking Finance Companies

3560. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some non-banking finance companies are collecting money from people by cheating them;

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure proper return on money of the depositors;

(c) the details of fraudulent non-banking companies identified during the last three years; and

(d) the amount of money of the depositors looted by these companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not come across any information regarding non-banking finance companies (NBFCs) collecting money from people by cheating them,

(b) Comprehensive regulatory framework has been put in place in RBI which is aimed at protecting the interests of the depositors and ensuring that NBFCs function on sound and healthy lines. The regulatory framework includes, inter-alia, compulsory registration, maintenance of liquid assets, transfer of at least 20% of net profit to reserve fund and empowering RBI to issue directions to NBFCs. RBI takes various actions against errant NBFCs for various defaults and contravention of provisions of RBI Act and directions issued thereunder.

(c) RBI have further reported that they have not come across any fraudulent NBFC during the last three years.

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

[English]

Decline In Core Sector Industries

3661. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of six core sector industries has shown steep decline during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof, targets and actual production of these core sector industries during the above period, month-wise and sector-wise;

(c) the reasons for decline in the growth rate of these sectors alongwith the extent to which it has declined as compared to corresponding period last year;

(d) whether annual targeted growth rate of the country is likely to be affected as a result of present position of core sector industries; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken/proposed to be taken to boost the growth rate of core sector industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir. As per data of Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, the production of six core/ infrastructure industries has not shown steep decline in 2003-04. This can be seen from the table below.

Table I : Production of Six Core Sector Industries

Sl.No.	Sector	Unit	Production		Growth (%) in production	
			2002-03	2003-04	2002-03	2003-04
1	Crude Petroleum	MT	33.04	33.38	3.24	1.03
2	Petroleum Refinery Products	MT	112.56	121.76	4.93	8.17
3	Coal	MT	336.87	355.73	4.31	5.60
4	Electricity	BU	531.59	558.13	3.14	4.99
5	Cement	MT	116.35	123.44	8.84	6.09
6	Finished Steel	MT	34.53	36.93	8.69	6.95

MT: Million Tonnes, BU: Billion Units

Source: Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Tenth Plan (2002-07) has envisaged an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent for the country. Besides the performance of the core sector, the overall growth of the economy depends on a host of other factors, like performance of agriculture, industry and services and performance in the external sector.

Diamond Export

3562. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has fixed a target of 60 per cent share to be achieved in the world diamond market by 2005;

(b) if so, the strategy adopted to achieve this target; and

(c) the new facilities proposed to be provided to the exporters in order to boost the export of diamond and jewels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) As per the study conducted earlier by Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, (GJEPC), a representative body of the trade, India has the potential of increasing its market share of export of cut and polished diamonds to 60% by value by the year 2005. The Medium Term Export Strategy of the Government for the year 2002-07 encompasses forging strategic alliances with producers of rough diamonds and retailers of jewellery, encouraging forward integration into gemstone jewellery, hallmarking and certifying goods towards development of Indian brand in jewellery and developing market intelligence focusing on USA, Japan, France etc. and on the NRIs.

In the existing Export-Import Policy, the licensing regime for rough diamonds has been abolished. The Custom duty on the import of rough diamonds is 0%. Exploring direct procurements of rough diamonds from diamond mining countries is an ongoing exercise. Funds have been provided to create training infrastructure in the gem and jewellery sector by setting up an institute for jewellery design and manufacture under the auspices of the Indian Diamond Institute at Surat. To impart skills in

designing in jewellery sector, Government has provided financial assistance to GJEPC to set up Indian Institute of Gem and Jewellery at Mumbai. For promotion of India's gem and jewellery abroad, publicity campaign, participation in international fairs, buyers and sellers meet are organised every year.

Increase in Representation in Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

3563. SHRI NAKUL DAS RAI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Sikkim has been demanding to increase their representation in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Law and Justice was informed by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs in April, 2003 about a memorandum of the Chief Minister of Sikkim submitted to the then Prime Minister containing a request for 'increase of representation for Sikkim in Parliament'.

(c) As per the provisions of the Constitution (Eighty-fourth Amendment) Act, 2001, the number of seats in Lok Sabha is to remain frozen till the year 2026 AD. Same is the case in respect of the number of seats in Rajya Sabha, which is determined with reference to the number of seats in Lok Sabha.

[Translation]

Export of Mango

3564. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY:

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOYAL:

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

(a) whether the export of mangoes from India has been dwindling for the last three years and at present only 0.2% of our total mango produce is being exported;

(b) if so, reasons therefor and measures taken to boost the exports of mangoes;

(c) whether export of Indian mangoes to China for commercial purpose has been started;

(d) If so, the quantities and varieties of mangoes exported to China upto 31st July, 2004 and the rates at which these have been exported;

(e) the details of the profits made out of this; and

(f) the details of the schemes formulated to increase the production of mangoes in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir. The export of mangoes from India during the last three years is as under:

(Qty.: Metric Tons)		
2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004 (April-September)
44429	38003	41554

(Source: DGC&S)

India exports about 0.33% of its production of mangoes in a year.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. During 2004 season only promotional consignment of approximately 8 metric tonnes of North Indian varieties i.e. Chausa, Langra, Dussehari was sent for test marketing.

(e) As the mangoes were exported for promotional purpose, there was no profit or loss.

(f) The Department of Agriculture and Co-operation is implementing a "Centrally Sponsored scheme on "Macro Management in Agriculture" which has components like Horticulture Mechanization, on-farm handling of fruits, supply of quality planting material and productivity improvement. States can include mangoes in the scheme by way of prioritization of their needs for increasing the production of this fruit.

Cases of Excise / Custom Duty Evasion

3565. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE:

MOHD. SHAHID:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the companies in Maharashtra and other States against whom the judicial action is being taken with regard to the evasion of excise duty and custom duty to the tune of Rs.50 crore;

(b) the names of the companies against whom such cases have been pending in the Central Excise Gold Control Appellate Tribunals, High Courts and the Supreme Court for more than three years and the latest position in regard thereto; and

(c) the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government for the quick recovery of the said funds?

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.

[English]

Merger of DA for Gramin Dak Sevak

3566. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned merger of 50% DA with the TRCA (Time Related Continuity Allowance) to the three lakh Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) earlier called ED employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Merger of 50% of DA for Central Government employees was done on the recommendations of the Fifth Pay Commission. Gramin Dak Sevaks were not covered by these recommendations as they are not Central Government employees.

(d) Does not arise.

Export of Horticulture and Floriculture

3567. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed steps such as bringing down or subsidizing air freight to boost flower exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) other steps proposed to boost export of floriculture and horticulture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Transport assistance is being extended to exporters of select products, including flowers, to the extent of 10% of the Free On Board (FOB) value of export subject to a ceiling of 25% of the air freight or the specific rate fixed under the scheme, whichever is less. The total outlay of the scheme during the Tenth Five Year Plan is limited to Rs.80 crores.

(c) The other measures taken to boost export of floriculture and horticulture include:

(i) Setting up of a Marketing Facilitation Centre in the Netherlands to organize marketing of Indian flowers, assist in clearing of cargo, improve presentation, assist Indian exporters on quality and market conditions and distribution of Indian products in the European Union.

(ii) Cargo handling and cold storage facilities at airports in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Thiruvananthapuram.

(iii) Agri Export Zones for various export products are being set up in different States of the country;

(iv) Wholesale-Market-cum-Flower Auction Centres are being set up at Bangalore, Mumbai and Noida for export of flowers; and

(v) Financial assistance to the registered exporters through plan schemes for Market Development, Infrastructure Development, Quality Development, Research and Development.

Financial Assistance for Export Infrastructure

3568. SHRI G. KARUNAKARA REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have provided any financial assistance to States for development of export infrastructure and allied activities in the States;

(b) If so, the details of the grants provided during the last three years and current year;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Union Government for utilization of Central Grants;

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to give special incentives to the States to increase their share in the country's export; and

(e) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAR) : (a) Government of India provides financial assistance to all States and Union Territories (UT), under a scheme titled Assistance to States for Development of Export Infrastructure and Allied Activities (ASIDE) for development of export related infrastructure based on their export performance.

(b) Details of grant provided to States/UTs during the last three years are as below:

(Rs. crore)	
Year	Amount
2001-02	43.52
2002-03	241.00
2003-04	252.00

During the current year Rs 54.25 crore have been provided to States/UTs so far.

(c) to (e) Guidelines have been issued for utilisation of grants under the ASIDE Scheme. As an incentive to States to increase their share in the country's export, the allocation of funds to the States is made on the basis of their export performance in the previous year.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Mines

3569. SHRI SHISHUPAL N. PATLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to allow private players including foreign companies in the field of mining in the country;

(b) whether the Government has allowed mining operations in the States also;

(c) if so, the names of the States in which these mining operations are likely to be done prominently;

(d) whether mining operations are likely to be allowed in Maharashtra State also; and

(e) if so, the time by which this scheme is likely to come into force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As per the National Mineral Policy (NMP), 1993, the non-fuel and non-atomic mineral sector has been thrown open for private investment including Foreign Direct Investment.

As far as coal mining is concerned, the Department of Coal has introduced a Bill, namely the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Bill, 2000 in the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2004 to amend the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973. This Bill seeks to allow commercial mining of coal to any Indian company both in public sector and private sector. At present coal mining in India is allowed to the Indian companies under the existing provisions of law. However, foreign companies can make foreign direct investment to the extent of 100% in an Indian company engaged in generation of power and which is producing coal for exclusive supply to its power plant for captive consumption. In case of other end uses for which captive mining of coal is permitted by an Indian company viz., production of iron and steel and manufacture of cement, 74% foreign equity is permitted. In case of processing of coal (beneficiation and washery) 100% foreign equity participation in an Indian company or in an Indian subsidiary of a foreign company is permitted.

(b) to (e) For non-fuel and non-atomic minerals, the above mentioned National Mineral Policy is equally applicable to all States including Maharashtra in the country. All mineral concessions are granted by the State Governments including Maharashtra under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and Rules made thereunder. Only in respect of coal and lignite, atomic minerals and 10 other minerals, the State Governments are required to obtain prior approval of the Central Government before grant of mineral concession under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957. Mining operations in a State whether Maharashtra or any other State depend on the availability of the minerals and economic viability of their exploration and exploitation.

In so far as coal is concerned, the State Governments are allowed commercial mining of coal through their undertaking which are authorized by their Articles of Association to do mining of coal and lignite. Any Indian company can apply for working of coal reserve in any State including Maharashtra for captive mining of coal for power generation, iron and steel production and cement production keeping into account the quality and quantity of coal reserve available in the State.

[English]

Agriculture Income in Tax Net

3570. SHRI KAILASH NATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to bring agricultural income in tax net;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the Government is going to bring a bill to this effect;

(d) if not, is the agricultural income a source for converting black money into white money; and

(e) if so, the action the Government is intending to take?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Some instances have come to the notice where attempts have been made to show taxable income as agricultural income in order to convert black money into white. Whenever such instances are noticed, appropriate action is taken to tax such income and penalise the offender as per law.

[Translation]

Lok Adalats

3571. KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Lok Adalats held in the country during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed off in these Lok Adalats, State-wise, during the above mentioned period;

(c) whether the Government propose to make these Lok Adalats more effective;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the number of Lok Adalats proposed to be held during the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) A Statement showing number of Lok Adalats held and number of cases disposed off in the Lok Adalats, State-wise, during the last three financial years viz, 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 is enclosed.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With a view to strengthen Lok Adalats, the government has enacted the Legal Services Authorities (Amendment) Act, 2002 for providing compulsory pre-litigative mechanism for conciliation and settlement of disputes relating to "Public Utility Services". The amended Act stipulates for the establishment of Permanent Lok Adalats for exercising jurisdiction in respect of disputes relating to public utility services, such as, transport service, postal, communication, supply of power, service in hospital/ dispensary, insurance service, etc.

(e) Organizing Lok Adalats is a continuing process and the same are need based and as such, no specified number of Lok Adalats can be indicated.

Statement

The number of Lok Adalats held and case disposed off during the last three financial years viz. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

S. No.	Name of State Legal Services Authority	2001-02 Lok Adalats Held	Cases Settled	2002-03 Lok Adalats Held	Cases Settled	2002-03 Lok Adalats Held	Cases Settled
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8,483	1,00,420	9,545	75,670	8,539	86,242
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	-	-	4	98
3.	Assam	103	14,152	452	15,191	367	18,973
4.	Bihar	1,808	15,714	-	-	1,016	19,305
5.	Chhattisgarh	-	-	-	-	340	2,825
6.	Goa	61	460	10	545	9	426

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7.	Gujarat	5,250	2,06,425	3,617	1,26,258	7,658	2,48,609
8.	Haryana	222	41,900	134	20,274	177	34,063
9.	Himachal Pradesh	425	3,157	447	3,049	443	4,665
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	175	2267	122	2,653	189	3,415
11.	Jharkhand	-		-	4,047	37	6,547
12.	Karnataka	811	45,457	850	23,172	1,678	32,860
13.	Kerala	1,895	11,514	781	8,330	1,106	5,834
14.	Madhya Pradesh	36,953	1,259	27,086	1,219	25,103	
15.	Maharashtra	1,477	30,185	1,315	28,336	962	19,483
16.	Manipur	-		-		-	
17.	Meghalaya	7	1,021	3	512	2	161
18.	Mizoram	47	30	52	52	58	39
19.	Nagaland	1	61	NII	NII	1	96
20.	Orissa	722	3,77,123	732	3,10,435	718	1,74,078
21.	Punjab	472	38,248	266	21,286	224	51,018
22.	Rajasthan	6,486	1,40,157	7,769	1,55,466	7,802	1,23,711
23.	Sikkim	39	128	21	229	21	205
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,745	12,155	4,545	16,408	6,619	58,426
25.	Tripura	-		19	18	40	1,131
26.	Uttar Pradesh	1,363	3,45,696	1,427	3,48,540	3,315	2,48,341
27.	Uttaranchal	-		56	13,109		2,972
28.	West Bengal	-		202	5,077	139	3,405
29.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-		-		1	2 2
30.	U.T. Chandigarh	-	7,073	9	4,317	7	4,360
31.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	2	258	-		-	
32.	Daman and Diu	-		-		-	
33.	Delhi	665	12,825	621	6,053	554	5,068
34.	Lakshadweep	-	NII				
35.	Pondicherry	6	270	5	236	19	890

*[English]***Increase in Economic Offences**

3572. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the economic offences have increased enormously during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes formulated by the Government to curb them and arrest the guilty persons; and

(c) the details of achievements made in this regard during the last three years?

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

Prices of Cotton

3573. SHRI M. SREENIVASULU REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the price fixed by the Cotton Corporation of India for purchase of lower grade cotton are not remunerative; and

(b) if so, the action taken by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Minimum Support Price (MSP) for two basic varieties of cotton, viz. F- 414/H-777 and H-4, of fair average quality (FAQ) are fixed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India on the basis of recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP). The MSP for the other varieties of cotton of FAQ are fixed by the Textile Commissioner keeping in view the normal market price differentials between these two basic varieties and other varieties. The MSP decided by the Government for the two basic varieties of cotton during the last 3 years is follows:

Varieties of FAQ	MSP (in Rs. per Qunital)		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
F-414/H-777	1675	1675*	1725
H-4	1875	1875*	1925

* Special Drought Relief Price of Rs. 20 per quintal also announced was not part of MSP.

The CACP takes into consideration the cost of production, trends in market prices, international price situation, domestic as well as global demand supply situation, direct and indirect cost, input costs and a reasonable margin of profit while recommending suitable MSP for the standard variety cotton. The Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) is mandated to conduct MSP operation with regard to cotton in the country whenever the market prices of cotton falls below the MSP level. The MSP offered by the CCI for FAQ cotton is as per the MSP announced by Government of India. For lower grade cotton of quality below FAQ, appropriate deduction is made as per standard parameters approved by the Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology. Hence, it is not true that the MSP declared by Government and offered by the CCI (for both FAQ and below FAQ cotton) are not remunerative to the farmers.

SAARC Summit

3574. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA:

SHRI R. PRABHU:

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN :

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) mutual trade benefit likely to accrue from SAFTA and its significance with regard to WTO agreement.

(b) whether any decision was taken and declaration made towards formulation of a Common Economic Zone;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether CII had outlined a 15-point agenda for SAARC concerning finance, agriculture, entrepreneurship and allied matters; and

(e) any specific item mentioned in the agreement for trading between two countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) The Agreement on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) was signed during the 12th Summit held in Islamabad, Pakistan on 6th January, 2004 to promote and enhance mutual trade and economic cooperation among the member countries of SAARC. In the Agreement of SAFTA, the member countries have affirmed their existing rights and obligation with respect to each other under the WTO.

(b) and (c) In the Twelfth SAARC Summit Declaration, the Leaders of the SAARC member countries reiterated their

commitment made at the 11th SAARC Summit at Kathmandu in January, 2002 for the creation of a South Asian Economic Union. The leaders underlined that creation of a suitable political and economic environment would be conducive to the realization of this objective.

(d) In the Joint Statement by members of the South Asia CEO's Forum on 2nd January, 2004 ahead of the SAARC Summit in Islamabad, the representatives of business and industry urged the respective governments, national leaders and policy makers to provide the necessary impetus, encouragement and leadership. They also solicited eight initiatives from the SAARC leaders assembled in Islamabad through special focus areas such as trade, infrastructure, trade facilitation and harmonization of standards, services, investment, tourism, agriculture and energy.

(e) No, Sir.

Industrial Growth

3575. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI IQBAL AHMED SARADGI:

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

(a) whether the industrial growth has been declining for the last few months as per data released by CSO;

(b) if so, the details of sectors affected by low production during last one year and current year till date along with reasons therefor;

(c) whether the industrial growth of 6.2% in May 2004 is comparatively less to that of May last year;

(d) if so, the details therefor; and

(e) the steps taken to check the declining trend in industrial growth and for speeding up the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir. Overall industrial growth measured in terms of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) with base 1993-94 = 100 as per the latest data released by Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) improved to 7 percent in 2003-04 from 5.7 percent in 2002-03, supported by growth rates of 5.2 percent in mining and quarrying, 5.1 percent in electricity generation and 7.4 percent in manufacturing sectors. This performance has strengthened further with the overall industrial growth posting an increase of 7.6 percent in April-June 2004 with mining and quarrying, electricity

generation and manufacturing sectors showing growth of 6.1 percent, 5.8 percent and 7.9 percent respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. As per the 'Quick Estimates' data of Index of Industrial Production (IIP) for the month of June 2004 released by CSO on 12th August 2004, the overall growth rate of industrial production is placed at 6.7 percent for May 2004 as compared to 6.4 percent in May 2003.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Handloom Development Centre

3576. SHRI DEVIDAS PINGLE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Handloom Development Centres have been set up with the grants received from the Center to provide benefits to the weavers of Maharashtra State;

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

(c) whether the Government has taken measures for the all round development of the handloom sector especially in districts which are famous for Palkhni Sari; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra had been sanctioned funds to the tune of Rs.85.865 lakh to set up 20 Handloom Development Centers in the following districts:

S.No.	Name of the District	No. of HDCs to be set up
1	Amravati	1
2	Bhandara	2
3	Nagpur	5
4	Sangali	1
5	Solapur	11

The scheme was introduced in the year 1993-94 and continued upto 31.3.1997. The committed liabilities under the scheme were entertained upto 1.4.2002. As per the guidelines of the scheme, the societies who were sanctioned the projects, were required to cover 250 looms, 1000 weavers and enhance the Cash Credit Limit (CCL) of the order of Rs.17.00 lakh. Since the implementing agencies

could not attain the above targets, 2nd instalment could not be released by 1.4.2002.

(c) and (d) The Government of India has been implementing various schemes/ programmes for the overall development of the handloom sector of the Country, including the State of Maharashtra which are as under:

1. Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana
2. Handloom Export Scheme
3. Marketing Promotion Programme
4. Design Development and Training Programme
5. Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme
6. Health Package Scheme
7. Thrift Fund Scheme
8. Bunkar Bima Yojana
9. New Insurance Scheme
10. Mill Gate Price Scheme
11. Integrated Handloom Training Programme

As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, a Cluster Development Programme on Paithani weaving in Yeola in Nasik district has been taken-up to generate new employment to the Paithani weavers under the aegis of National Programme for Rural Industrialisation by the NABARD.

[English]

Urban Cooperative Banks

3577. DR. VALLABHBHAI KATHIRIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether RBI has received applications during the year 2000-01 from Urban Cooperative Banks from the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and UP for inclusion in the schedule-II of RBI Act, 1934;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of Cooperative Banks included in Schedule-II of RBI Act and when;

(d) whether the Cooperative Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot was not included in Schedule-II of RBI Act 1934;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor;

(f) whether Cooperative Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot has submitted fresh application after fulfilling the new norms on April 2, 2004; and

(g) if so, the time by which decision for inclusion of Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot in Schedule-II of RBI Act would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI. S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that during the year 2000-01 it had received sixteen (16) applications from the Urban Co-operative Banks from the States of Gujarat (6), Maharashtra (9) and Uttar Pradesh (1) for inclusion in the Schedule-II of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

(c) As on date, 55 urban co-operative banks are included in the Schedule-II of the RBI Act 1934. Names of those banks and the dates of scheduling are given in the enclosed statement.

(d) and (e) The Co-operative Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot was not included in the Schedule-II of RBI Act 1934 as it did not fulfill the norm of maintaining the level of Demand and Time Liabilities to the tune of Rs.250 crores for a period of atleast one year for attaining the stable level of required deposits.

(f) and (g) The Co-operative Bank of Rajkot Ltd., Rajkot has submitted an application to RBI on April 2, 2004 but the same could not be considered as it has been decided that no bank should be included in the Second Schedule of RBI Act till a proper legislative framework is brought about and the financial position of the Urban Co-operative Banks improve in general.

Statement

Details of the names of urban co-operative banks and the dates of their scheduling in Schedule-II of Reserve Bank of Act, 1934

S. No.	Name of the Bank	Place	Date of Scheduling
1	2	3	4
1.	Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	01.09.1988
2.	Bassein Catholic Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Vasai, Thane	01.12.1990

1	2	3	4
3.	Bharat Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	22.04.1996
4.	Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	01.09.1988
5.	Citizens Credit Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	24.09.1996
6.	Cosmos Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Pune	01.12.1990
7.	Dombivali Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Dombivali	24.09.1996
8.	Goa Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Panaji	24.09.1996
9.	Greater Bombay Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	24.09.1966
10.	Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Pune	01.09.1988
11.	Nasik Merchants Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Nasik	22.04.1996
12.	New India Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	01.12.1990
13.	North Canara GSB Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	22.04.1996
14.	Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Pune	01.09.1988
15.	Sangli Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Sangli	01.09.1988
16.	Saraswati Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	01.09.1988
17.	Shamrao Vithal Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	01.09.1988
18.	Thane Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Thane	24.09.1996
19.	The Mahanagar Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	30.01.1998
20.	The Jankalyan Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	30.01.1998
21.	The Kopol Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	30.01.1998
22.	Parsi Janta Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Kaiwa, Thane	30.01.1998
23.	The Mapusa Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mapusa, Goa	30.01.1998
24.	The Kalyan Janta Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Kalyan	29.01.2000
25.	Janalaxmi Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Nashik	29.01.2000
26.	Punjab & Maharashtra Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	29.01.2000
27.	Nagar Urban CBL	Ahmednagar	29.01.2000
28.	Ichalkaranji Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Ichalkaranji	29.01.2000
29.	Jalgaon Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Jalgaon	29.01.2000
30.	The Karad Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Karad	29.01.2000
31.	Mandvi Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	29.01.2000

1	2	3	4
32.	Bharati Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Pune	01.06.2002
33.	Solapur Janata Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Solapur	01.06.2002
34.	Thane Bharat Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Thane	08.03.2003
35.	Zorastrain Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mumbai	08.03.2003
36.	Pravara Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Ahmednagar	05.04.2003
37.	Nagpur Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Nagpur	22.05.1999
38.	Shikshak Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Nagpur	22.05.1999
39.	The Akola Janata Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Akola	22.05.1999
40.	The Akola Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Akola	22.05.1999
41.	The Khamgaon Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Khamgaon	22.05.1999
42.	Ahmedabad Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Ahmedabad	22.04.1996
43.	Kalapur Commercial Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Ahmedabad	01.09.1988
44.	Madhavpura Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Ahmedabad	22.04.1996
45.	Rajkot Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Rajkot	01.09.1988
46.	Surat Peoples Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Surat	01.09.1988
47.	The Charotar Nagarik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Anand	22.05.1999
48.	The Mehsana Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Mehsana	29.01.2000
49.	Nutan Nagrik Sahakari Bank Ltd.	Ahmedabad	29.01.2000
50.	Sardar Bhiladwalla Pardi People's Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Killa Pardi (Dist. Valsad)	29.01.2000
51.	Co-operative Bank of Ahmedabad	Ahmedabad	29.01.2000
52.	Andhra Pradesh Mahesh Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Hyderabad	26.10.1996
53.	Vasavi Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Hyderabad	22.05.1999
54.	Amanat Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Bangalore	29.01.2000
55.	The Indian Mercantile Co-operative Bank Ltd.	Lucknow	04.11.2001

**Amendment of Mines and Minerals
Regulation and Development**

3578. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has a proposal to amend the existing Mines and Minerals Regulation and Development Act;

(b) whether the State Government has sought more powers under the Act;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government has examined the proposals of the State Government; and

(d) if so, the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) At present the Government is not considering any amendment to Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 (the Act).

(b) No proposal of the State Government seeking more powers under the Act is pending consideration of the Central Government. After consultation with stakeholders including State Governments, the Act was last amended in 1994 and 1999 and more powers under the Act were delegated to the State Governments by these amendments.

(c) and (d) In view of (b) above, do not arise.

[Translation]

Closure of Hindustan Zink Ltd.

3579. SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the date since when the factory of the Hindustan Zinc Limited located at Tundi in Jharkhand State has been lying closed;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to revive it alongwith the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to solve the problem arising out of thousands of labourers being rendered jobless due to closure of the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Government of India has disinvested its equity in Hindustan Zinc Limited (HZL) and has transferred the management control of HZL in favour of the strategic partner with effect from 11.4.2002. Currently Government of India holds 29.54% equity of HZL. The management of HZL has informed that the factory of HZL located at Tundoo, Jharkhand has not been closed. However, the operations of the Unit have been suspended with effect from 23rd February, 2004 on account of operational issues which the management is addressing to.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to (a) above.

Pending Excise Duty

3580. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether nearly 50 thousand cases are lying

pending with the central excise duty officers relating to central excise duty involving about 10 thousand crore rupees therein;

(b) if so, the reasons for not settling the above cases and since when these cases are pending and the actual number of such cases as on date and the amount involved therein;

(c) whether the parties having interests on the above cases are causing inordinate delay by resorting to procedural problems; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to remove these procedural problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As on 31.3.2004, 32968 cases are pending decision with the Departmental Adjudicating Officers and Commissioners (Appeals) involving an amount of Rs.12,004 crore (the said figures are provisional). While old cases are adjudicated, new cases crop up. Principles of natural justice have to be complied with in these proceedings. However, every possible effort is made for early decision of cases pending before the departmental officers and the Commissioners (Appeals).

(c) and (d) Parties do prefer the recovery proceedings to be delayed or postponed by resorting to various legal steps. Administrative and legislative steps, as considered necessary, are taken from time to time by the Department to expedite disposal of cases pending with the various. Departmental Officers. Some of the steps taken include effective monitoring, revision of powers of adjudication amongst various adjudicating authorities, suitably increasing the number of adjudicating officers and Commissioners (Appeals) and empowering the Zonal Chief Commissioners of Central Excise to assign appeal cases within the zone to any Commissioner (Appeals) to facilitate early disposal.

[English]

Loan Advance to Farmers and Small Entrepreneurs

3581. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the loan advanced to farmers and small entrepreneurs in the scheduled districts is very less compared to the other developed districts of State;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the steps taken to protect the interest of the farmers?

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

**Ownership/ Lease of Terminus by
Domestic Airlines**

3582. SHRI JUAL ORAM: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to allow domestic airlines to own or lease terminus at various airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has examined the proposal; and

(d) the steps taken in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

**Introduction of New Proforma
for Tax Payers**

3583. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has introduced AIR as a new proforma for the tax payers replacing Saral Format from the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main aim of Government in replacing the existing format?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The proposed Annual Information Return (AIR) will not replace the existing Saral Format for filing of return of income. Finance (No.2) Bill, 2004 proposes furnishing of an AIR by certain prescribed agencies and taxpayers in respect of certain financial transactions.

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

Additional Quota for Export

3584. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether in order to curb higher garment quota premium for exports, the Textile Ministry plans to open additional quota;

(b) if so, whether the Government's move is likely to facilitate genuine exporters;

(c) if so, whether the Government has also decided to bring down the quota price in the domestic market; and

(d) if so, the extent to which these decisions have helped the garment exporters?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Government has been opening additional quantities under the First Come First Serve System from time to time, after careful consideration of the availability, utilization and demand in the relevant country-categories. The purpose is to optimize quota utilization and to ensure that the quotas are available to the actual exporters on a continuous basis to the extent possible.

[Translation]

**Procedure of Employment of
Labour in Coal Mines**

3585. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appointment process in various coal mines/companies in the country is not transparent;

(b) if so, steps being taken by the Government to make it transparent; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No, Sir. The appointment process in coal companies is in accordance with the approved recruitment rules for different categories of employees.

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

[English]

Centres for Procurement of Jute

3586. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open additional centers for the procurement of jute during current year in the country particularly in West Bengal;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

HDFC Interest Rate

3587. SHRI RAJESH VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Housing Development Finance Corporation, India's largest home loan company, has hiked fixed interest rate on house loan recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) its impact on customers?

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

(b) The fixed rate on housing loans are being offered to customers in a band of 7.75% to 8.5% p.a. based on the credit quality and loan product. The earlier fixed interest rate was 7.5% to 8.5% p.a.

(c) A quarter percent hike in the interest rate increases the equated monthly installments (EMI) marginally making minimal impact on customers.

Cost Comparison in Government Outlets

3588. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:

SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

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

(a) whether the manufacturers obtaining DGS&D RC prices in respect of computers, office automation products, bulbs and tubelights and photocopier papers are selling the same items at lower than the RC prices in Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF, as a result, Government offices are patronizing them than DGS&D RC prices;

(b) whether the DGS&D RC prices of the above said items comparable with Kendriya Bhandar/NCCF;

(c) whether DGS&D is fraudulent by supplying items at higher rates;

(d) if so, is there any proposal to wind up DGS&D; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) to (c) The prices in the DGS&D Rate Contract (R/C) awarded to the manufacturers of the Computers, Bulbs, Tubelights and Photocopier papers were found to be lower than the sale prices of Kendriya Bhandar and NCCF of these manufacturers for the stores of same specifications/ configuration/ technical particulars, terms and conditions such as warranty, pre-despatch inspection etc. There is no DGS&D R/C under the title 'Office Automation Products'.

Further, all DGS&D R/Cs have a 'Fall Clause' which entitles DGS&D to enforce lower rate in case such R/C holders have sold or even offered to sell at prices lower than DGS&D R/C prices. Thus, DGS&D R/Cs have an in-built price safety mechanism.

(d) and (e) Does not arise.

FTA with US in Service Sector

3589. SHRI PRAKASH BAPU V. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have expressed its willingness to enter into a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in services sector with United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Indian interest have been kept in mind before taking such a decision;

(d) whether the US have serious reservation over liberalisation of service sector; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and action proposed by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Ban on Non-Banking Companies

3590. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR MANJHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to impose ban on some non-banking companies and de-register them;

- (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) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have not identified any specific company for imposing a ban on it and/ or de-register it.

- (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Pharmaceutical Export Promotion Council

3591. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of guidelines accepted by the Government for forming separate export promotion councils;
- (b) whether formation of separate council for pharmaceuticals formed recently was examined in light of the above guidelines;
- (c) if so, the reasons for accepting corpus funding by a State Government on the condition to have headquarters of the council in Hyderabad;
- (d) whether Government is willing to consider formation of other councils for pharmaceuticals if such conditional corpus funding is provided by other States; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) As per the guidelines for the formation of a new Export promotion Council, a corpus of Rs. 3 crore would be raised by the industry.

(b) The decision to form an Export Promotion Council for export of drugs and pharmaceuticals was a conscious decision to take advantage of the growth the sector was poised to achieve in the global market.

(c) The acceptance of corpus funding of Rs. 3 crore from a State Government and the choice of Hyderabad as the headquarter were decided by Pharmexcil and not imposed by the Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, the Department of Commerce is willing to consider any proposal, which is in the interest of exports of the country.

Excess Holding of Goods In Warehouses

3592. SHRI KAILASH BAITHA:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 1999-2002, provisions of Customs Act, 1962 were not observed and instructions issued by this Ministry were not followed resulting in excess holding of goods in warehouses, improper control, non-submission of bonds etc. resulting in involvement of revenue of Rs. 4400 crore;

- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether any responsibility has been fixed into the matter;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the measures taken by the Government to ensure strict implementation of the instructions issued by it?

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.

Production of Urea by NLC, Tamil Nadu

3593. SHRI S. K. KHARVENTHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fertilizer plant of Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) in Tamil Nadu has stopped producing urea;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to restart production of urea by this plant;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) NLC's fertilizer plant could not achieve its optimum capacity due to some deficiencies in lignite gasification. To overcome this problem, NLC switched over to oil gasification with furnace oil as feedstock. However, the plant continued incurring losses and its cumulative losses as on 31.3.2002 stood at Rs.393.90 crores. NLC then appointed M/s. ICICI as consultant for evaluating the commercial feasibility of the plant. M/s. ICICI recommended for disinvestment of the plant to third parties or for the closure of the plant owing to low capacity resulting in low economies

of scale, low capacity utilisation, inefficient feed-stock and outdated technology, high energy consumption, high vintage of the plant and high cost of production coupled with unremunerative retention price.

The NLC Board noted the recommendations of M/s ICI and approved the closure of fertiliser plant. Accordingly, the fertiliser plant was closed in January, 2003.

- (c) No. Sir.
- (d) Does not arise in view of (c) above.
- (e) The urea plant is not commercially viable.

Strike in BALCO

3594. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the workers of Bharat Aluminium Company (BALCO) went on a day long strike on July 22, 2004 protesting against the proposed total privatisation of the company; and

(b) if so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The management of Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO) has informed that on a strike called by the unions, other than the representative union (INTUC), a section of the workers had gone on a day long strike on 22nd July, 2004 against the disinvestment of remaining 49% equity held by the Government of India in BALCO.

(b) A decision to disinvest remaining equity in BALCO will be processed in terms of relevant Articles of the Share Holders Agreement (SHA) between the Government of India and the Strategic Partner, namely Sterlite Industries (India) Limited.

Consumer Non-Durables

3595. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth in consumer non-durables has fallen sharply from 12.0 percent in 2002-03 to 5.7 per cent in 2003-2004;

(b) if so, the reasons for this fall; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to boost the consumer non-durable industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) As per the latest data on Index of Industrial Production (IIP) (Base year 1993-94=100) released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO), the growth rate in output of consumer non-durable goods slowed down from 12.0 per cent in 2002-03 to 5.8 per cent in 2003-04. This slow down is an outcome of a number of factors, which among others, include demand and supply factors, relative prices, and availability of substitutes.

(c) Government has put in place various policies to promote industrial growth. These include delicensing of industrial capacity, liberalisation of foreign trade regime and rationalisation of customs duty, excise duty and corporation taxes. Further, Union Budget for 2004-05 has made number of announcements, which will have a favourable impact on industrial growth. These include setting up of National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council to suggest measures to enhance competitiveness in the manufacturing sector, establishment of the Investment Commission to woo and facilitate both domestic and foreign businesses to invest in India and rationalisation of excise and customs duties. Renewed focus on investment and infrastructure and expanded employment programme would inject purchasing power into the economy and help increase in demand for consumer non-durables.

IDBI in Banking Service

3596. DR. RAJESH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has converted Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) into a banking company;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the cities identified for opening new branches of IDBI, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The Industrial Development Bank (Transfer of Undertaking & Repeal) Act, 2003 provides for the transfer and vesting of the undertaking of the Industrial Development Bank of India to a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956. This company shall be deemed to be a banking company and as such, shall, in addition to the business which may be carried on and transacted by the Development Bank, carry on banking business. The company, however, is yet to be registered.

(b) When IDBI becomes a Banking Company under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 it would be in a position to lower its cost of funds, raise adequate resources, have a diversified lending portfolio and earn more fee based income. With this, IDBI would be in a position to continue to provide project finance to the industry, which would otherwise become difficult due to problems in raising resources.

(c) The issue of opening more branches will be considered by IDBI only after the conversion of IDBI into a banking company is effected consequent upon the formation of the company and its registration under the Companies Act, 1956.

Interest on LIC Loans

3597. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the prevailing rates of interest on LIC loans;
- (b) whether there is any proposal for further reducing the interest on LIC loans;
- (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) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC), has informed that the prevailing rate of interest on LIC loans is 10.5% p.a. compounded half yearly.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir. LIC has informed that interest rates are likely to be reviewed after the valuation result as on 31.3.2004 is finalized.

(d) Does not arise.

12.01 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now an hon. Member to take his oath.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Dr. Chinta Mohan.

12.14 hrs.

MEMBER SWORN

Dr. Chinta Mohan (Tirupathi)

12.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Handicrafts and Handlooms Exports Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 536/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, and its subsidiary Companies for the year 2002-2003.
- (ii) Annual Report of the British India Corporation Limited, Kanpur, and its subsidiary Companies for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 537/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2002- 2003, together with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Institute of Textile Management, Coimbatore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 538/04]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the High Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 394 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 24 of the High Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 539/04]

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 each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) The Companies (Issue of Indian Depository Receipts) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 131 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2004.
- (ii) The Companies (Particulars of Employees) (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 212 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 540/04]

- (2) (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1479 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 2003 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 26 (E) dated the 9th January, 2003 issued under section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 541/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (I) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and the Department of Coal, Ministry of Coal and Mines, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 542/04]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 457 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 2004 containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 100 (E) dated the 4th February, 2004 issued under Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 543/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992:-

- (i) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Depositories and Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification S.O. 696 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2004.
- (ii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Procedure for Holding Enquiry by Enquiry Officer and Imposing Penalties) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification S.O. 853 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2004.
- (iii) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Database of Market Participants) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification S.O. 854 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 2004.
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Buy-Back of Securities) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification S.O. 745 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th June, 2004.
- (v) The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Central Database of Market Participants) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification S.O. 884 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 3rd August, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 544/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) S.O. 850 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of import.
- (ii) S.O. 851 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th July, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa for the purpose of assessment of export.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 545/04]

- (3) A copy of the Income-Tax (8th Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 812(E) in Gazette of India dated the 14th July, 2004 under of section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961, together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 546/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004 under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 547/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004, along with Audited Accounts under sub-section (5) of sections 19 and 24 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export-Import Bank of India, Mumbai, for the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 548/04]

- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 and 1980:-

- (i) The Andhra Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. 666/20/P/92 in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2004.

- (ii) The Syndicate Bank (Employees') Pension, (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. 508/SWD/PEN in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 2004.

- (iii) The Dena Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. IR/ AMEN/02/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2004.

- (iv) The Corporation Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. PAD:IR:PEN:Amend:61:2004-05 in Gazette of India dated the 5th June, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 549/04]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Borrowing and Lending in Rupees) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 453 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004.

- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a

Person Resident Outside India) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 454 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th July, 2004.

- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Remittance of Assets) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 493 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2004.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Deposit) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 494 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 4th August, 2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 550/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English version) issued under sections 8 and 10 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:-

- (i) S.O. 726 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2004 regarding relaxation of provision of section 10 of Tobacco Board Act, 1975 in the state of Andhra Pradesh for the period mentioned therein and to permit the sale of excess FCV Tobacco of the registered and unregistered growers at the auction platforms authorised by the Tobacco Board.
- (ii) S.O. 727 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th June, 2004 containing Order regarding extra fee and service charges on excess and unauthorized Tobacco during the year 2003-2004.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 551/04]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2002-2003, along-with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and

English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tobacco Board, Guntur, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 552/04]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks for the year 2002-2003 under section 126 of the Trade and Merchandise Marks Act, 1958.

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 553/04]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Manufacturing Technology Institute, Bangalore, for the year 2002-2003.

- (6) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 554/04]

- (7) A copy of the Spices Board (Registration of Exporters) Amendment Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. Admn./Reg./01/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 21st June, 2004 under section 40 of the Spices Board Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 555/04]

- (8) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the India Trade Promotion Organisation and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 556/04]

- (9) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 237 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India-dated the 25th February, 2004 containing order notifying the Shakumbhari Straw Products Limited, Unit-III, District Moradabad, in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a mill producing newsprint issued under section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 557/04]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, along-with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Sports Goods Export Promotion Council, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003.
- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. L.T. 558/04]

MR. SPEAKER: I wish to compliment all the Chairmen and hon. Members for the efforts made to file their Reports.

12.02½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS

First and Second Report

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilisers (2004-05):-

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals); and
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers (Department of Fertilisers).

12.2½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

First Report

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur): Sir, I beg to present a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the First Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2004-2005.

ACTION TAKEN STATEMENT

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Sir, I beg to lay a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Statement showing action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter I of the Twelfth Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2003-2004.

12.03 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

First to Fifth Report

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Sir, I beg to present a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:-

- (1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Finance (Deptts. of Economic Affairs, Expenditure and Disinvestment);
- (2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue);
- (3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Planning;
- (4) Fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; and
- (5) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Ministry of Company Affairs.

12.03¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM
AND NATURAL GAS**

First Report

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Visakhapatnam): Sir, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2004-2005) on Demands for Grants (2004-05) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.03¼ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT**

**One Hundred Forty-ninth to One Hundred
Fifty-first Report**

[English]

SHRI MANJUNATH KUNNUR (Dharwad South): Sir, I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:-

- (1) One Hundred forth-ninth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy;
- (2) One Hundred fiftieth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Secondary and Higher Education; and
- (3) One Hundred fifty-first Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2004-2005) of the Department of Women and Child Development.

12.04 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce

that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 23rd of August, 2004 will consist of:-

1. Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2004-05.
2. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (Railways) No.3 Bill, 2004.
3. Discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants for 2004-05 under the control of the Ministry of:-
 - (a) Agriculture
 - (b) Defence
 - (c) Human Resource Development
4. Submission to the Vote of the House of outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2004-05 at 6.00 p.m. on Thursday, the 26th of August, 2004.
5. Introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation (No.3) Bill, 2004.
6. Consideration and passing of the Finance (No.3) Bill, 2004.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Sanction may be accorded to the Arwabhaia Lake Project of Bilaspur district in Chhattisgarh state which is under consideration of the Irrigation Department, completion of which will result in irrigation of 1000 acres of land and thereby improving the economic condition of the farmers.
2. Widening work of the Chakarmatha air strip in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh State be taken up. Earlier, a 16 seater plane used to provide air service there but that has now been discontinued. The said Vayudoot service should be restored in order to benefit citizens there.

[English]

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Non-availability of cooking gas in several parts of the country due to severe shortage of cylinders.
2. Situation arising due to the unprecedented rise in unemployment in the country.

[Translation]

PROF. S. P. SINGH BHAGEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Discussion on cause and solution of the falling ground water level which may threaten the very existence of human being one day.
2. Review of parochial issue creating danger to the unity and integrity of the country.

DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. Priority should be given to the need of providing basic infrastructure facilities in rural areas of the country. There is a need to make additional provision for road, education, health, drinking water, power and to implement the programmes in this connection.
2. There is a need to give priority to providing telecommunication and telephone services in villages. The waiting list for providing telephone connections in villages should be cleared. WLL Services should be provided in rural areas in Ujjain and Ratlam districts of Madhya Pradesh and waiting list for providing telephone-connections in rural areas should be cleared without delay.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's business:-

1. Thirty-three per cent Women Reservation Bill be introduced in its present form in this Session.
2. Domestic Violence Against Women Bill with recommendation made by delegates of All India Democratic Women Association (AIDWA) be placed and passed in this Session.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI (Jodhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Jagnarayan Vyas University Jodhpur may be accorded the status of National University.
2. Jodhpur Airport may be named as Maharaj Umed Singh Airport.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I had submitted three items for inclusion in the agenda, but only two are mentioned here.

MR. SPEAKER: Three items are not allowed.

SHRI TEK LAL MAHTO (Giridih): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The population of six panchayats namely Champi, Pichari, Angwall, Chalkari, Rohar and Chando of Peterwar under Bokaro and Giridih districts in Jharkhand is about 50 thousand. Everyday a lot of people come to Bermo, Kathara, Phusro, Govindpur Project, Bokaro Thermal and Jarangdih for employment and for shopping. They have to face a lot of difficulty for want of a bridge between Khetko and Kathara across Damodar river. Therefore, there is a need to construct a bridge there on the above river.
2. 800 workers were working in the Hindustan Zinc Factory at Dhanbad, Jharkhand. Later on, half of the working staff were retrenched and only 400 workers remained in the service. Six months back the management closed the factory without giving any prior notice to the workers. Now starvation situation has arisen before the workers. A welfare state like ours should immediately reopen this factory.

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda.

1. The Chaura Chauri Express train may be given 2 minutes stoppage at Manauri railway station which is at a distance of 20 k.m. from the historic city of Allahabad, U.P.
2. As per the orders of the High Court the employees of one of the units of National Textile Corporation Ltd. at Naini, Allahabad, U.P. which is under the Ministry of Textile may

be given the proper pay scale as directed by the court.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:-

1. The long-pending demand of the workers of ISSCO, Burnpur for its modernisation. This year, ISSCO has made a cash profit. A subsidiary company of SAIL should take over for its modernisation and Government should come out to waive the loan and follow the people's mandate.
2. The employees of Airports Authority of Delhi and Mumbai Airports submit an alternative time-bound plan for upgradation and modernisation of airports under the existing set up. It is a profit making public sector unit. So, it should not be disinvested to the private players.

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY (Maharajganj, U.P.): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the following items may be included in the next week's agenda

1. The Ganesh Sugar Mill at Anand Nagar, District Maharajganj, UP which is under Textile Ministry and has been closed down may be reopened and the dues of its employees may be closed immediately.
2. Regarding payment of arrears of sugarcane farmers of Maharajganj area and non payment of the cost of sugarcane to farmers as determined by the government by private sugar mills.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, non-bailable warrant has been issued against Miss Uma Bharti. I have given a notice in this regard.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): We all have given notices. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will take up item no-15.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have not got it. But let us finish the motions for election first. We are on item no. 15.

12.11 hrs.

ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES

(I) Tea Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): Sir, I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of section 4(3) (f) of the Tea Act, 1953 read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(2) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 31st March, 2005, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(3) (f) of the Tea Act, 1953 read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(2) of the Tea Rules, 1954, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tea Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 31st March, 2005, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(II) Tobacco Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of section 4(4)(b) of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rule 4(1) of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(4)(b) of the Tobacco

Board Act, 1975, read with rule 4(1) of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Coffee Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of section 4(2)(b) of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(2) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 22nd April, 2006, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(2)(b) of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(2) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 22nd April, 2006, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Rubber Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to move the following:-

"That in pursuance of section 4(3)(e) of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(2) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 2nd September, 2006, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(3)(e) of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(2) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board, for the remaining term of the Board, that is, up to 2nd September, 2006, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(v) Marine Products Export Development Authority

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4(3)(c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, read with rule 4(2) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, for the remaining term of the Authority, that is, up to 3 June, 2005, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4(3)(c) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, read with rule 4(2) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Rules, 1972, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, for the remaining term of the Authority, that is, up to 3 June, 2005, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

(vi) Spices Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 3(3)(b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(1) of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker

may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Spices Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act, and Rules made thereunder."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 3(3)(b) of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rules 4(1)(b) and 5(1) of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from among themselves to serve as Members of the Spices Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act, and Rules made thereunder."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government should give a statement regarding disrespectful utterances made out by Mani Shankar Aiyar against Veer Savarkar ji. ... (Interruptions) The Government is now saying that those are his personal views and the Government has nothing to do. This is absolutely wrong. ... (Interruptions) Please allow the discussion on this issue in the House. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down silently. D.P. Yadavji Please take your seat.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You must learn to sit down when the Speaker is standing. Do not give bad example of indiscipline.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur: Uma Bharti Government should be sacked.. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): Mr. Speaker, the warrants issued against Uma Bharti. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are 38 items. It is my job to see that as many hon. Members get opportunity to raise their issue as possible. I am earnestly appealing to all of you, try to be brief. These are all important issues which Members considered fit to mention and I wish to give them the opportunity. I am appealing to all of you that I shall go according to the serial that has come to me. Please cooperate so that all hon. Members can present their points of view.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. You perhaps do not need the Speaker.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Do you not need anybody? Can you take your own decision? Every hon. Member is taking his own decision. I wish I could make you sit here just now as only then you will realise what is happening.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you please allow the discussion on the issue of disrespect of Veer Savarkar by Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Leader is here. You have made your point very clearly.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: My request is, you have mentioned the point. By mentioning again and again a national leader as a patriot, are you enhancing his image? You have mentioned that.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Veer Savarkar ji has been insulted, this Govt. is responsible for that. This is quite improper for this Government to disassociate itself from this issue. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am sure, all the matters are important, but what can be done? When an hon. Member gives notice of a motion, obviously it is on an important matter.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am trying to control the House. Please cooperate.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.22 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE (Ratnagiri): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the Government about Veer Savarkar ji is absolutely wrong. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Except for Geeteji, no one else's speech will be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: The Government cannot go back on its responsibility. Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar is Hon'ble Minister for Petroleum. He has insulted Savarkarji and the Government saying that he has nothing to do with the Government is outrageous. ... (Interruptions) The statement made by the leader of the House is also absolutely wrong. ... (Interruptions) Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar ji is hon'ble Minister and despite being Minister, he has shown disrespect to Savarkarji. Therefore, this is Government's responsibility and the Government can not evade its responsibility. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Betiah): BJP leaders speak dual things. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The discussion on the situation in Manipur, under rule 193, is very important.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH MISHRA (Varanasi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, people of Madhya Pradesh want to know as to where their Chief Minister is. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

* Not recorded.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir arrest warrant has been issued against Uma Bharti. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, you all please listen to me.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the arrest warrant issued against Uma Bharti. ... (Interruptions)

14.05 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Sushil Kumar Modi and some other hon'ble Members came and stood on the Floor near the Table)

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3.30 p.m.

14.05 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

15.30 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair)

PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE – Contd.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. 83/2004-Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th August, 2004, together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002, under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in the Library, See No. L.T. 558-A/04]

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we have to take up Private Members' Business.

...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my request is that. ...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Firstly you listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

15.31 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up item no. 24.

SHRI NIKHILANANDA SAR (Burdwan): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th August, 2004."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the

Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th August, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will now take up item no. 25 - Further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri P.K. Vasudevan Nair.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This has been the convention that discussion on the Private Members Business is not interrupted. I fail to understand as to why you Members are behaving this way on this issue. This is not good.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing is to be recorded.

(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 23rd August, 2004 at 11 a.m.

15.35 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 23, 2004/Bhadrapada 1, 1926 (Saka).

* Not recorded.

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**Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in
Lok Sabha (Eleventh Edition) and Printed by Sunlight Printers, Delhi - 110006**
