

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Fourteenth Lok Sabha)



Gazettes & Debates Unit
Parliament Library Building
Room No. FB-025
Block 'G'

(Vol. II contains Nos. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

EDITORIAL BOARD

G.C. Malhotra
Secretary- General
Lok Sabha

Anand B. Kulkarni
Joint Secretary

Sharda Prasad
Principal Chief Editor

Kiran Sahn
Chief Editor

Parmesh Kumar Sharma
Senior Editor

Sarita Nagpal
Editor

(Original English Proceeding included in English Version and Original Hindi Proceedings included in Hindi Version will be treated as authoritative and not the translation thereof)

CONTENTS

Fourteenth Series, Vol. II, Second Session, 2004/1926 (Saka)

No. 5, Friday, July 9, 2004/Asadha 18, 1926 (Saka)

SUBJECT	COLUMN
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 61-64	1-47
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	47
Starred Question Nos. 65-80	47-80
Unstarred Question Nos. 496-632, 634-648 and 650-651	81-236
PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE	236-267
BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE	267-270
ELECTION TO COMMITTEE	
Central Silk Board	270
MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE	270-271
SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS	
Re: Release of the Report on Tehelka Tapes by Forensic Laboratory, London	276-277
RAILWAY BUDGET 2004-2005 - GENERAL DISCUSSION	
AND	
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT - (RAILWAYS) 2004-2005	295-311, 316-323
Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta	295-299
Shri Shriniwas Dadasaheb Patil	299-301
Kunwar Manvendra Singh	301-305
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey	305-309
Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran	309-311
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	316-323
STATEMENT BY MINISTER	
Dissolution of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly	
Shri Shivrāj V. Patil	311-312
PRIVATE MEMBER'S BILLS - INTRODUCED	324-330
(i) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 21B)	
Shri Basu Deb Acharia	324

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

SUBJECT	COLUMN
(ii) Prevention of Terrorism (Repeal) Bill Shri C.K. Chandrappan	324
(iii) Abolition of Capital Punishment Bill Shri C.K. Chandrappan	324-325
(iv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 155) Shri C.K. Chandrappan	325
(v) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 16A) Shri C.K. Chandrappan	325
(vi) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of the Schedule) Shri Basu Deb Acharia	326
(vii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 16A) Shri Basu Deb Acharia	326
(viii) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of the Schedule) Shri Punnu Lal Mohale	326-327
(ix) Abolition of Child Labour in Hazardous Employment Bill Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	327
(x) Compulsory Voting Bill Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	327-328
(xi) Government Servants (Declaration of Assets and Investigation) Bill Shri Bachi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'	328
(xii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 16A) Shri Basu Deb Acharia	328-329
(xiii) Victims of Natural Calamities (Rehabilitation and Financial Assistance) Bill Shri Suresh Chandel	329
(xiv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new article 16A) Shri Mohan Singh	329-330
(xv) Representation of the people (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new Chapter IV A) Shri Mohan Singh	330

SUBJECT	COLUMN
(xvi) University of Allahabad Bill	
Shri Mohan Singh	330
RESOLUTION RE: RESERVATION FOR SC/STS AND BACKWARD COMMUNITIES IN PRIVATE SECTOR	331-365
Shri S. Ajaya Kumar	331-333
Shri Mohan Singh	333-336
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	336-339
Shri C.K. Chandrappan	339-341
Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale	341-344
Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan	344-347
Prof. M. Ramadass	347-350
Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav	350-354
Shri N.N. Krishna Das	354-355
Dr. Babu Rao Mediyam	355
Shri W. Wangyuh Konyak	355-357
Shri P. Karunakaran	357-358
Dr. Sebastian Paul	358-359
Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste	359-360
Shri Virchandra Paswan	360-366
ANNEXURE-I	367-370
Member-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	367-368
Member-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	368-370
ANNEXURE-II	371-372
Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions	371
Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions	371-372

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Somnath Chatterjee

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER

Shri Charanjit Singh Atwal

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN*

Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil

Shri Girdhar Gamang

Shri Manabendra Shah

SECRETARY-GENERAL

Shri G.C. Malhotra

*Nominated on 29-05-2004 by President

The following order was issued by the President of India on 29-05-2005.

"I hereby appoint S/Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Balasaheb Vikhe Patil, Girdhar Gamang and Manabendra Shah to be the persons before any of whom members of the house of people may make and subscribe the oath of affirmation in accordance with the provisions of article 99 of the Constitution of India.

**A.P.J. Abdul Kalam,
PRESIDENT OF INDIA"**

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 09, 2004/Asadha 18, 1926 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajganj, Bihar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar has been cheated in the Budget presented by the hon'ble Finance Minister yesterday. ...*(Interruptions)* Earlier Rs. four thousand crore were given to Bihar under "Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana" now it has been reduced to Rs. 2500 crore only. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, it has been noted. Shri Prabhunath Singh, you have made your point. Please allow the Question Hour.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rasa Singh, this is not the time to raise it. You will be allowed to speak during the debate on Budget. Q.No. 61 - Shri Giridhari Yadav.

11.01 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Corruption in Public Sector Banks

*61. SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the important recommendations made by the Mitra Committee;

(b) whether these recommendations are implemented by all the banks in the country;

(c) if so, whether in spite of these recommenda-

tions and steps taken by the Government, corruption and fraud cases are on the rise;

(d) if so, the cases so detected during the last two years till date, bank-wise;

(e) the reasons for increasing corruption in banks;

(f) whether the CBI has recently conducted raids on officers of some of the banks;

(g) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(h) the action taken by Government to check corruption in banks?

[English]

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The recommendations of the Mitra Committee Report submitted to RBI in August, 2001 comprise two parts-

Part I: Dealing with In-house Preventive Measures; and

Part II: Dealing with prohibitive aspects requiring legislative changes for implementation.

The major recommendations of the Mitra Committee include development of best practice code, internal check and control, criminalisation of financial frauds, separate investigating authority for investigating serious financial frauds, special court for trying such offences and separate Act to deal with financial frauds.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised that all the Public Sector Banks have implemented the recommendations contained in Part I of the Mitra Committee. RBI has set up the Board for Financial Supervision. Government have set up the Serious Fraud Investigation Office.

(c) to (e) A statement showing bank-wise number of fraud cases as reported by Public Sector Banks to Reserve Bank of India during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (upto March 2004) is at Annexure-I. RBI has reported that increase in the number of fraud cases during the year 2003 as compared to the cases reported during the year 2002, was mainly due to the increase in fraud cases in the area of credit cards and to some extent, in the housing loans/personal segment. RBI has also reported that during the calendar year 2002, 493 employees of public sector banks were awarded major/

* Not recorded.

minor penalties for their involvement in cases of corrupt practices as against 509 employees during the calendar year 2003. This indicates that there has been a marginal increase in the number of such cases during the year 2003 as compared to the year 2002. Some of the reasons for increase in such cases are: decline in moral values in the society at large, long drawn process of conviction, considerably long time taken by investigating agencies, etc.

(f) and (g) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has reported that it has registered 43 cases against 59 officials of 17 Public Sector Banks. CBI has also reported that raids were conducted by CBI during 1.1.2004 to 30.6.2004. Details of such cases are given in Annexure-II.

(h) Government have taken several measures to prevent corruption in the banking industry. Banks have been advised to strengthen the vigilance set up and introduce preventive and prohibitive measures. The functioning of vigilance system is reviewed during the course of onsite inspection. Steps to check corruption include introduction of a system of concurrent audit; monitoring of working of internal inspection and audit machinery at the top most level in banks; clear demarcation of duties and responsibilities of employees; periodical rotation of staff; prompt disciplinary action and awarding exemplary and deterrent punishment to the delinquent employees; intensive screening of candidates at the time of recruitment. In order to have a strong vigilance set up in banks to curb corruption, Chief Vigilance Officers have been appointed at the level of General Managers from among officers of RBI and other Banks in consultation with the Central Vigilance Commission. This system has been working quite effectively as these officers are from outside the Bank and can take steps to prevent corruption.

Annexure-I

Number of frauds as reported by Public Sector Banks to Reserve Bank of India during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004 (upto March).

Name of the Bank	2002	2003	2004 (upto March)
1	2	3	4
State Bank of India	416	477	68
(Overseas Branch)	04	10	00
State Bank of Blk. & Jaipur	20	19	07
State Bank of Hyderabad	39	48	18
State Bank of Indore	18	18	01
State Bank of Mysore	09	15	02

1	2	3	4
State Bank of Patiala	11	08	17
State Bank of Saurashtra	09	08	04
State Bank of Travancore	08	15	03
Allahabad Bank	49	36	09
Andhra Bank	49	52	12
Bank of Baroda	85	146	68
(Overseas Branch)	01	09	03
Bank of India	77	97	38
(Overseas Branch)	02	02	01
Bank of Maharashtra	06	10	02
Canara Bank	192	164	48
(Overseas Branch)	00	00	00
Central Bank of India	45	108	22
Corporation Bank	44	101	11
Dena Bank	26	46	14
Indian Bank	75	75	16
Indian Overseas Bank	48	54	14
Oriental Bank of Commerce	28	24	08
Punjab National Bank	65	267	64
Punjab & Sind Bank	22	30	06
Syndicate Bank	118	103	34
Union Bank of India	64	59	15
United Bank of India	45	42	10
UCO Bank	42	91	14
Vijaya Bank	26	59	11
Total	1643	2193	540

(Data provisional)

Annexure-II

Details of cases registered by Central Bureau of Investigation against the bank officials of Public Sector Banks in which raids have been conducted by CBI during 1.1.2004 to 30.6.2004

Name of the Bank	No. of Cases registered	No. of Officials raided
State Bank of India	05	07
State Bank of Indore	01	02
State Bank of Travancore	02	02
Allahabad Bank	02	05
Andhra Bank	02	01
Bank of Baroda	01	02
Bank of India	01	01
Canara Bank	03	02
Central Bank of India	06	12
Corporation Bank	01	03
Dena Bank	02	02
Oriental Bank of Commerce	03	06
Punjab National Bank	05	06
Syndicate Bank	02	01
UCO Bank	04	03
United Bank of India	02	02
Vijaya Bank	01	02
Total	43	59

(Data provisional)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to my question, the Government have accepted that the number of corruption and fraud cases in public sector banks have been increased. Through you, I would like to know from the Government that since the number of corruption and fraud cases are on the rise inspite of recommendation submitted by Mitra Committee, what concrete steps are being taken by the Government to check such cases.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the Mitra Committee recommendations are in two parts. The first part is dealing with in-house preventive measures. The RBI has followed up on the recommendations and has advised all the public sector banks to implement the recommendations. The RBI has advised us that these recommendations have been implemented and will continue to be monitored.

As regards the second part of the Mitra Committee recommendations dealing with the legislative changes, the Government is, in consultation with the Ministry of Law, examining the legislative changes that have to be made to implement those recommendations.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRIDHARI YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government propose to constitute any independent committee in this regard to handle the corruption and fraud cases effectively. I would like to know clearly whether the Government propose to constitute bank-wise an independent committee in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, there are enough agencies within the Government which deal with corruption and I would submit with respect that there may not be a need to set up one more committee. However, the Serious Fraud Investigation Office has been set up as an independent office within the Department of Company Affairs to investigate serious financial frauds. The SFIO is now functioning within the existing provisions of the Companies Act. Whether a separate legislation is required, will be examined in due course.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very serious question but the reply has been given very lightly. Earlier on 19.12.2003, a starred question number 270 was also raised in this House on the same subject. I would like to refer to that question also because at that time 1353 cases of fraud were reported in this very House in reply to that question. Out of them only 113 cases were referred to CBI though the guilty persons in the rest of 1240 cases are still the part of the same system. 1643 such cases were reported in 2002. Out of the figures given by the RBI in the present question, only 159 cases have been referred to CBI and the guilty persons in rest of the 1484 cases of fraud are still the part and parcel of the same system. Similarly, 2193 cases of fraud were reported in 2003, out of which only 170 cases were referred to CBI and the guilty persons in rest of the 2023 cases are still existing in the same system. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: My only question is whether the recommendations of Mitra Committee would be implemented in letter and spirit as Mitra Committee has submitted its recommendations in two parts. As hon'ble Prime Minister has stated, first part has 10 Heads in which separate recommendations have been made. I have the action taken report of the Committee also with me. Central Vigilance Commissioner had constituted a high power committee on the basis of these recommendations. High-power Committee further constituted a sub-committee which made all the recommendations ineffective. Not a single recommendation was followed faithfully. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please let him reply.

[Translation]

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: As you will allow me to raise only one question, my only question is whether the recommendations of Mitra Committee would be implemented completely or not. Secondly, only one recommendation of the Committee which RBI has also made, has been accepted by the Government. That recommendation was to bring a new statute because all the existing laws have failed completely to check the bank fraud. At the same time, recommendation was also made for Financial Fraud Investigation Prosecution and to enact Recovery and Restoration of Property Act. A mention was made regarding proletariat Class when nationalisation of banks took place. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is true. You have raised a very important question. Now let the Minister reply to it.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL: I would like to know whether efforts would be made immediately to bring a new legislation according to the recommendation of RBI and assurance be given in the House in this regard.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said, the Mitra Committee recommendations were submitted to Government in the year 2001. I believe, and that is how I see the record, they have been faithfully implemented in letter and spirit in 2002 and 2003. Since I have taken over, I assure the Member, I will also faithfully implement the varied recommendations.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, please be brief and come to the point.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: The offence of fraud is being committed on a large scale. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Mitra Committee Report has been made applicable to the Reserve Bank of India. If so, is the Government aware that the in-house proceedings of vigilance is quite inadequate? Many officers are remaining in the same post for 10 years to 12 years. There is no rotation of work and rotation of transfer. These are some of the things which now prevail in the banking industry. Therefore, I request the Government to bring in a legislation...

MR. SPEAKER: Put it in a question form; your request is not a question.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN: Therefore, I request the Government to bring in a legislation to prevent the fraud now prevalent in the banking industry.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Whatever is contained in Part-I of the Mitra Committee Report has been implemented by the RBI by advising all public sector banks, and RBI has reported that those measures have been taken in the public sector banks. Nevertheless, there is no gainsaying the fact that there is corruption and there is fraud among the employees of the public sector banks. But the answer is not to make a special legislation for that. The answer is to ensure that there is proper supervision and proper accountability at different levels of the banks. We are all agreed that banks must have commercial and functional autonomy. After having given them commercial and functional autonomy, we must ensure that at every level, senior officers and senior managers are held accountable for all that happens below them. That, I believe, RBI, as a regulator, is looking into. As owner of the public sector banks, the Government will also be very vigilant and squarely put the officers accountable for all that happens under their control.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that though the information given in reply to this question shows that the number of fraud cases have increased regularly in 2002 and 2003 but it does not provide adequate information regarding the action taken to check this practice. It has been stated that Vigilance Department has conducted raids also in this regard. I would like to know the number of persons against whom FIR was registered out of the total number of persons who were raided. Rules have provision for both departmental inquiry as well as lodging FIR. I would like to know the number of persons against whom departmental inquiry has been initiated alongwith the number of persons found guilty.

Also the number of persons against whom FIR has been lodged and the reasons, if this kind of action has not been initiated as yet. Laws have been enacted in this regard but why these are not being used.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I can certainly give the figures for the years 2002, 2003 and in calendar 2004, up to March, 2004. The number of convictions is: 2002 - 8; 2003 - 26; and up to March, 2004 - 4. The number of cases where major or minor penalties have been awarded through departmental action is: 2002 - 493; 2003 - 509; and up to March, 2004 - 151. The number of persons dismissed/discharged/removed out of those major penalties awarded is: 2002 - 96; 2003 - 84; and upto March, 2004 - 29.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also asked about the number of persons against whom F.I.R. has been lodged.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Have you got the information, Mr. Minister? Otherwise, send the same to the Hon. Member?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I will send the information to the Hon. Member. The number of FIRs would be large.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister has mentioned about the two parts of the report of the Mitra Commission. The first part has been implemented by RBI but the second part that is to be implemented by the Government of India contains the recommendations in regard to the setting up of special Courts and to enact a separate act to deal with the cases of fraud on the lines of the IPC and Cr.P.C. I would like to know as to what action is being taken by the Government of India to implement the recommendations of the Commission.

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as I said a little while earlier, the question of passing a separate legislation is under examination. At the moment, there is a Serious Frauds Investigation Office functioning as an independent office within the Department of Company Affairs. As to whether the legislation is required, I wish to state that it is under examination.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, one of the important items of the recommendations is estab-

lishment of Special courts. We have made some amendments concerning defaulters' cases to be referred to the Special Courts. May I know from the Hon. Finance Minister whether the Government would consider these cases to be dealt by the Special Courts for earlier adjudication and trial?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As and when a legislation is finalised, as and when we come to the conclusion that legislation is necessary and if we take a decision that such a legislation should be made, surely as part of that legislation, we will consider the suggestion of the Hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI ILYAS AZMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he agrees with what Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had once said that only 15 percent of the funds allocated by the centre for the purpose of construction and development is utilised and the rest 85 percent of funds get soaked up in the system due to prevailing corruption and irregularities. If so, I would like to know whether the Government propose to set up any permanent agency for investigating into the utilization of funds that are allocated for various schemes including SGRY.

[English]

SHRI SANTASRI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, though the Hon. Minister has been kind enough to have replied in detail, yet I would like to draw his kind attention, through you. The Hon. Minister has stated that the Government has taken several measures to prevent corruption in the banking industry and those measures have been enumerated here.

I would like to know whether the hon. Minister feels that these measures are sufficient enough to combat corruption in the banking sector.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member wants to know whether the measures are sufficient to combat corruption or not.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in matters relating to corruption, there can never be a level of satisfaction. Unless we reduce corruption to zero, how can I say I am satisfied?

The previous Government had taken some measures. I think, they are satisfactory measures. If they are not satisfactory, I will take proper action.

Withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored Schemes

*62. DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has taken a decision to withdraw some Centrally Sponsored Schemes related to the Ministry of Coal & Mines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the details of Centrally Sponsored Schemes relating to the Ministry being implemented in the country, State wise?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Question does not arise.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Question No. 62, Dr. Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram Shandil.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Drop the tainted Ministers from the Cabinet. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Until the tainted Ministers are dropped from the Cabinet, we will not listen to their replies in the House. Hence we walkout from the House.

11.16 hrs.

(At this stage Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra and some other hon. Members left the House.)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you all standing? Dr. Shandil, you please put your supplementary.

Nothing, except what Dr. Shandil says, will go on record.

(Interruptions)...*

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Sir, there is a vast scope for this item in our country. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that good quality coal is obtained from underground mines as compared to opencast mines. I would also like to know whether it is a fact that production of good quality coal in the country is low because of less mining from the underground mines.

MR. SPEAKER: Does this supplementary arise out of the main Question?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: The supplementary question asked by the hon. Member is not related to the original question. He will have to ask a separate question for it.

* Not recorded.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you may put a separate question.

DR. COL. (RETD.) DHANI RAM SHANDIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the problems being faced by the workers working in the mines. If so, what are the steps taken to improve their working conditions, including safety of the workers, specially those who are working in the underground mines?

MR. SPEAKER: Your main Question is about the withdrawal of Centrally Sponsored Schemes. Please put your supplementary on that.

Mr. Minister, are you in a position to answer this question?

[Translation]

SHRI SHIBU SOREN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the supplementary question of the hon. Member is also not related to the original question for this subject is not covered under the question.

[English]

Performance of RRBs

+

*63. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Regional Rural Banks and their sponsored banks functioning in the country, State-wise;

(b) the performance of these banks in priority sector lending during the last three years as on date;

(c) the profit and loss incurred by these banks during the said period;

(d) whether the Government has any proposal to revamp the working of RRBs; and

(e) if so, the steps propose to be taken in that direction?

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

Statement

(a) State-wise details of number of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) and number of Sponsor Banks are given at Annexure I.

(b) The performance under Priority sector lending by RRBs during the last three years is as given below:

Priority Sector Lending by RRBs

(Rs. in Crores)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Amount Disbursed	5894.77	7142.70	8846.60
% to the total loans disbursed	66.81	67.57	69.98

(c) Profit/Loss incurred by RRBs during the last three years is given at Annexure II.

(d) and (e) Several options for revamping of RRBs have been suggested. These include, interlia, delinking of RRBs from Sponsor Banks, amalgamation of RRBs at regional or state level, merger with Sponsor Banks, making RRBs subsidiaries of the Sponsor Banks, their consolidation into a National Rural Bank etc. Government has decided that each sponsor bank will be held squarely accountable for the performance of RRBs under its control. RRBs that adopt a new governance standard and that abide by the prudential regulations will qualify for receiving funds from the Government for restructuring.

Annexure-I

State-wise details of numbers of Regional Rural Banks and number of Sponsors Banks

S. No.	Name of State Government	No. of RRBs	No. of Sponsor Banks
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	16	5
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1	1
3.	Assam	5	2

1	2	3	4
4.	Bihar	16	4
5.	Chhattisgarh	5	3
6.	Gujarat	9	3
7.	Haryana	4	2
8.	Himachal Pradesh	2	2
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3	2
10.	Jharkhand	6	2
11.	Karnataka	13	6
12.	Kerala	2	2
13.	Madhya Pradesh	19	8
14.	Maharashtra	10	3
15.	Manipur	1	1
16.	Meghalaya	1	1
17.	Mizoram	1	1
18.	Nagaland	1	1
19.	Orissa	9	5
20.	Punjab	5	3
21.	Rajasthan	14	6
22.	Tamil Nadu	3	2
23.	Tripura	1	1
24.	Uttar Pradesh	36	10
25.	Uttaranchal	4	2
26.	West Bengal	9	3

Annexure-II

Loss and Profit by Regional Rural Banks during last three years

Sl. No.	Name of Regional Rural Banks	Profit/loss (-) 2001-02	Profit/loss (-) 2001-02	Profit/loss (-) 2002-03
1	2	3	4	5
1	Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank	362.01	365.38	791.68
2	Gurgaon Gramin Bank	2208.64	2906.80	3261.38
3	Hissar-Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank	352.72	323.47	431.45

1	2	3	4	5
4	Ambala Kurukshetra Gramin Bank	180.40	181.36	204.17
	Haryana	3103.77	3777.01	4688.68
5	Himachal Gramin Bank	404.14	404.14	288.25
6	Parvatiya Gramin Bank	160.53	160.53	123.18
	Himachal Pradesh	564.67	564.67	411.43
7	Jammu Rural Bank	762.10	868.47	991.61
8	Ellaqui Dehati Bank	-636.61	-618.62	-1210.48
9	Kannraz Rural Bank	3.61	87.06	-371.17
	Jammu and Kashmir	129.10	336.91	-590.04
10	Shivalik Kshetriya	544.98	751.02	905.23
11	Kapurthala Ferozpur Gramin Bank	225.46	504.72	858.13
12	Gurdaspur Amritsar Kshetriya Gramin Vikas Bank	852.01	1076.65	1203.41
13	Malwa Gramin Bank	508.89	415.94	361.78
14	Faridkot Bathinda Gramin Bank	185.35	176.32	215.26
	Punjab	2326.69	2924.65	3543.81
15	Jaipur Nagaur Anchalik Gramin Bank	536.71	436.46	630.18
16	Marwar Gramin Bank	262.18	390.14	548.60
17	Shekhawati Gramin Bank	642.44	890.49	1147.14
18	Marudhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-447.96	-370.06	-629.70
19	Alwar Bharatpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	413.10	702.62	971.51
20	Aravali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-473.27	-65.47	8.84
21	Hadoti Kshetriya Gramin Bank	201.35	113.58	49.50
22	Mewar Anchalik Gramin Bank	-60.32	2.54	33.44
23	Thar Anchalik Gramin Bank	4.94	57.86	16.82
24	Bundi Chitorgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	77.17	69.48	16.88
25	Bhilwara Ajmer Kshetriya Gramin Bank	218.30	261.14	385.19
26	Dungarpur Banaswara Gramin Bank	4.34	9.12	2.44
27	Ganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	143.64	82.39	88.98
28	Bikaner Kshetriya Gramin Bank	10.62	28.55	-99.58
	Rajasthan	1522.62	2580.29	3170.24

1	2	3	4	5
29	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank	-179.28	-835.94	-1118.66
	Arunachal Pradesh	-179.28	-835.94	-1118.66
30	Pragjyotish Gramin Bank	7.83	55.16	340.06
31	Lakhimi Gaonlia Bank	375.36	67.48	53.75
32	Cachar Gtamin Bank	191.55	179.58	18.82
33	Lungpl Dehangi Rural Bank	-162.66	-99.89	-325.50
34	Subansiri Gaonlia Bank	87.81	93.21	61.38
	Assam	499.89	295.54	148.51
35	Manipur Rural Bank	-32.04	-116.07	-214.90
	Manipur	-32.04	-116.07	-214.90
36	Khasi Jaintia Rural Bank	262.61	387.27	310.09
	Meghalaya	262.61	387.27	310.09
37	Mizoram Rural Bank	20.27	34.32	29.16
	Mizoram	20.27	34.32	29.16
38	Nagaland Rural Bank	9.14	2.38	-16.15
	Nagaland	9.14	2.38	-16.15
39	Tripura Gramin Bank	-818.78	25.96	205.01
	Tripura	-818.78	25.96	205.01
40	Bhojpur Rohtas Gramin Bank	1017.50	1172.75	1524.81
41	Champaran Gramin Bank	-496.69	16.97	-967.82
42	Magadh Gramin Bank	1408.01	1884.80	1665.93
43	Kosi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	252.45	556.67	68.99
44	Valshali Kshetriya Gramin Bank	20.79	-160.85	-1586.99
45	Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-281.10	-56.12	-752.08
46	Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank	20.23	-226.88	-607.76
47	Nalanda Gramin Bank	-226.00	-78.44	156.73
48	Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank	101.61	104.32	-576.87
49	Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	130.59	-138.77	-208.14
50	Gopalganj Kshetriya Gramin Bank	450.06	411.17	492.01
51	Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-34.74	6.59	-757.44

1	2	3	4	5
52	Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank	422.03	612.10	643.41
53	Patliputra Gramin Bank	70.83	187.34	190.28
54	Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank	82.96	2.11	-608.99
55	Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	215.66	123.80	65.30
	Bihar	3154.19	4417.56	-1261.63
56	Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank	174.51	-69.70	-918.36
57	Singhbhum Kshetriya Gramin Bank	125.69	45.38	-604.57
58	Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank	139.58	59.47	-423.52
59	Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-137.47	-336.86	-413.31
60	Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank	59.77	161.96	152.93
61	Hazaribagh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	312.83	189.40	236.77
	Jharkhand	674.91	49.65	-1970.06
62	Puri Gramin Bank	-148.86	17.96	48.11
63	Bolangir Anchalik Gramin Bank	-708.29	-628.95	-1596.85
64	Cuttack Gramya Bank	-209.50	-998.89	-988.45
65	Koraput Panchabati Gramin Bank	178.00	-399.90	-337.17
66	Kalahandi Anchalik Gramin Bank	17.25	-805.61	-188.44
67	Baltarani Gramin Bank	102.98	14.40	115.00
68	Balasore Gramin Bank	-926.34	-1056.76	-1285.99
69	Rushikulya Gramin Bank	305.80	308.76	863.72
70	Dhonkanal Gramin Bank	280.57	300.58	287.82
	Orissa	-1108.39	-3248.41	-3082.25
71	Gaur Gramin Bank	109.75	411.85	93.99
72	Mallabhum Gramin Bank	266.33	240.78	12.88
73	Mayurakshi Gramin Bank	155.35	125.13	-495.01
74	Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank	64.42	104.06	-353.00
75	Nadia Gramin Bank	183.87	107.04	35.04
76	Sagar Gramin Bank	503.16	512.48	202.61
77	Bardhaman Gramin Bank	68.04	323.36	23.52
78	Howrah Gramin Bank	121.53	298.98	366.10

1	2	3	4	5
79	Murshidabad Gramin Bank	55.81	121.59	126.07
	West Bengal	1528.26	2245.27	12.20
80	Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-230.55	-213.75	-164.06
81	Surguja Kshetriya Gramin Bank	61.35	30.77	42.92
82	Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-437.06	-414.11	-396.46
83	Durg-Rajnandgaon Gramin Bank	151.68	164.29	411.55
84	Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	176.93	110.30	91.88
	Chhattisgarh	14.25	-77.98	-14.17
85	Kshetriya Gramin Bank Hoshangabad	206.17	220.51	191.16
86	Rewa-Sidhi Gramin Bank	658.79	408.39	121.97
87	Bundelkhand Kshetriya Gramin Bank	250.45	178.92	9.79
88	Sharda Gramin Bank	230.65	128.25	180.76
89	Jhabua-Dhar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-92.16	61.75	-208.47
90	Shivpuri-Guna Kshetriya Gramin Bank	123.41	201.21	51.51
91	Damoh-Panna-Sagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	263.34	268.96	43.13
92	Dewas-Shajapur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	160.25	261.90	335.04
93	Nimar Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-20.13	-2.86	-99.47
94	Mandla-Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank	21.11	90.42	40.11
95	Chhindwara-Seoni Kshetriya Gramin Bank	28.88	83.41	13.80
96	Rajgarh-Sehore Kshetriya Gramin Bank	41.58	78.96	10.95
97	Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-76.28	21.14	14.20
98	Ratlam-Mandsaur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	117.84	171.27	136.39
99	Chambal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	103.53	141.04	31.02
100	Mahakaushal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-189.84	-284.41	-241.45
101	Indore-Ujjain Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1.50	-23.53	44.97
102	Gwalior-Datia Kshetriya Gramin Bank	150.74	191.23	145.64
103	Vidisha-Bhopal Kshetriya Gramin Bank	289.53	293.40	328.72
	Madhya Pradesh	2269.36	2489.96	1149.77
104	Nainital-Almora Kshetriya Gramin Bank	396.76	365.52	407.40
105	Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	217.15	204.84	274.90

1	2	3	4	5
106	Ganga-Yamuna Gramin Bank	90.67	105.49	28.18
107	Alaknanda Gramin Bank	139.42	86.84	46.02
	Uttaranchal	844.00	762.69	756.50
108	Prathama Bank	2617.03	2669.10	3662.09
109	Gorakhpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	2860.11	2879.92	1321.99
110	Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1979.66	2011.49	2017.84
111	Barabanki Gramin Bank	506.24	518.60	491.01
112	Raebareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank	347.55	404.43	325.95
113	Farrukhabad Gramin Bank	621.92	300.85	458.67
114	Bhagurath Gramin Bank	1930.08	1766.33	1826.37
115	Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank	611.36	682.59	374.04
116	Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	145.79	162.73	276.36
117	Avadh Gramin Bank	1032.60	760.72	798.07
118	Kanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	335.42	692.19	715.51
119	Sravasti Gramin Bank	966.30	643.87	682.92
120	Etawah Kshetriya Gramin Bank	314.26	87.34	-91.15
121	Kisan Gramin Bank	202.82	317.43	264.23
122	Kshetriya Kisan Gramin Bank	-296.64	-101.73	-430.06
123	Kashi Gramin Bank	580.41	908.68	681.27
124	Basti Gramin Bank	1040.57	1209.78	620.23
125	Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank	405.14	491.89	75.25
126	Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	399.29	515.52	583.83
127	Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank	590.39	626.70	686.09
128	Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	132.63	143.29	138.95
129	Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank	510.56	539.05	625.88
130	Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank	697.74	754.57	706.11
131	Aligarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank	1168.63	1221.29	1402.50
132	Tulsi Gramin Bank	580.28	425.42	649.47
133	Etah Gramin Bank	221.46	95.61	501.27
134	Gomti Gramin Bank	393.59	641.29	458.60

1	2	3	4	5
135	Chhatrasal Gramin Bank	256.66	281.73	453.96
136	Rani Lakshmi Bai Kshetriya Gramin Bank	-239.09	-273.87	15.61
137	Vidur Gramin Bank	332.69	501.71	502.11
138	Shahjahanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank	728.14	768.25	771.50
139	Vindhyavasini Gramin Bank	51.90	63.62	112.07
140	Sarayu Gramin Bank	754.30	907.72	986.22
141	Jamuna Gramin Bank	190.19	300.23	458.29
142	Muzaffarnagar Gramin Bank	136.39	311.11	265.10
143	Hindon Gramin Bank	202.58	155.47	165.28
	Uttar Pradesh	23106.37	24229.45	23553.44
144	Kutch Gramin Bank	359.25	585.33	592.39
145	Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank	465.00	339.46	402.10
146	Banaskantha-Mehasana Gramin Bank	181.59	65.27	100.07
147	Panchmahal Vadodara Gramin Bank	104.75	109.47	138.02
148	Surendranagar-Bhavnagar Gramin Bank	203.20	288.42	276.75
149	valsad-Dangs Gramin Bank	331.47	423.60	440.00
150	Surat-Bharuch Gramin Bank	42.95	-156.73	51.18
151	Sabarkantha-Gandhinagar Gramin Bank	216.09	247.01	255.10
152	Junagadh-Amreli Gramin Bank	209.79	154.87	144.98
	Gujarat	2114.09	2056.70	2400.59
153	Marathwada Gramin Bank	50.79	5.18	-1109.38
154	Aurangabad-Jalna Gramin Bank	455.29	502.35	-323.85
155	Chandrapur-Gadchiroli Gramin Bank	73.15	101.97	-295.51
156	Akola Gramin Bank	132.62	159.68	11.98
157	Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg Gramin Bank	57.31	-135.48	4.37
158	Solapur Gramin Bank	37.33	10.86	2.36
159	Bhandara Gramin Bank	-24.11	-215.48	-123.39
160	Yavatmal Gramin Bank	153.60	160.94	136.26
161	Buldhana Gramin Bank	124.57	196.85	131.77
162	Thane Gramin Bank	205.24	162.68	130.25
	Maharashtra	1265.79	949.55	-1435.14

1	2	3	4	5
163	Nagarjuna Grameena Bank	378.04	101.30	611.32
164	Rayalseema Gramin Bank	1102.41	1556.80	2150.14
165	Sri Visakha Gramin Bank	502.54	632.07	529.50
166	Sree Anantha Grameena Bank	1035.40	1112.86	1737.55
167	Shri Venkateshwara Grameena Bank	548.73	256.82	375.51
168	Sri Saraswathi Grameena Bank	259.11	422.74	508.77
169	Sangameshwara Grameena Bank	724.75	545.87	557.93
170	Manjira Grameena Bank	612.40	621.64	357.89
171	Pinakini Grameena Bank	810.55	312.66	845.21
172	Kakathiya Grameena Bank	128.88	-319.66	-230.99
173	Chaitanya Grameena Bank	165.89	301.45	330.30
174	Shri Sathavahana Grameena Bank	165.16	104.63	113.78
175	Golconda Grameena Bank	182.12	179.77	206.24
176	Sri Rama Grameena Bank	181.23	204.97	278.24
177	Kanakadurga Grameena Bank	196.60	189.92	196.12
178	Godavari Grameena Bank	86.52	68.18	266.16
	Andhra Pradesh	7080.33	6292.02	8833.67
179	Tunghabhadra Grameena Bank	1603.00	1610.00	1810.00
180	Malaprabha Grameen Bank	1579.51	920.26	1714.11
181	Cauvery Grameen Bank	197.42	665.50	178.45
182	Krishna Grameena Bank	963.87	422.55	535.81
183	Chitradurga Grameena Bank	382.80	543.81	553.28
184	Kalpatharu Grameena Bank	500.05	279.91	280.83
185	Kolar Grameena Bank	387.58	493.72	474.77
186	Bijapur Grameena Bank	1187.69	1258.36	1368.20
187	Chikmagalur Kodagu Grameena Bank	176.88	134.43	-96.04
188	Sahyadri Grameena Bank	252.03	262.72	284.64
189	Netravati Grameena Bank	83.27	109.51	113.54
190	Varada Grameena Bank	64.15	205.26	221.58

1	2	3	4	5
191	Vishwaraya Grameena Bank	100.86	145.55	162.66
	Karnataka	7479.11	7051.58	7601.83
192	South Malabar Gramin Bank	1474.58	1193.33	1853.72
193	North Malabar Gramina Bank	1785.43	905.16	1129.95
	Kerala	3260.01	2098.49	2983.65
194	Pandyan Grama Bank	515.74	815.91	1375.00
195	Adhiyaman Grama Bank	186.75	253.61	291.07
196	Vallalar Grama Bank	215.35	177.16	167.47
	Tamil Nadu	917.84	1246.68	1833.54
	Grand Total	60061.69	60787.21	51929.12

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to part (b) of my question, hon. Minister has provided the information on the credit given by the Regional Rural Banks (DRD's) in the priority sector during the last three years, Hon. Minister has stated about the amount disbursed in the year 2000-2001, 2001-2002, 2002-2003 but he has not provided figures for the months, April, May and June in new financial year 2003-2004. I want to know the figures of this duration from the hon. Minister and I would also like to know that how many of the 196 Regional Rural Banks are incurring losses and how many are running in profit? Besides, I would also like to know whether the Government propose to find out the reasons for the losses incurred by the Regional Rural Banks and also to take remedial action to do away with those irregularities that are causing losses so that these banks could be turned into profit making banks?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, the figures for 2003-04 will be available only after the accounts are audited and figures are then made available. They are not yet available.

As regards the number of RRBs which are functioning on a profit or at a loss, as on 31.3.2003, 156 RRBs made a profit and 40 RRBs are making losses. But if you look at the accumulated losses position, because of past losses, 97 RRBs have made accumulated losses.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in reply to the part (d) and (e) of the question hon. Minister has said that

several options for the revamping of the Regional Rural Banks have been suggested. These include inter-alia, delinking of Regional Rural Banks from the sponsor banks, amalgamation of Regional Rural Banks at regional or State level, merger with the sponsored banks and making RRB's subsidiaries of the sponsor Banks and their consolidation into Rural Banks. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that the information provided by him in regard to the proposal of setting up of National Rural Banks is not explicit. I would like to know whether any proposal to set up a National Rural Banks by merging Regional Rural Banks is pending consideration of the Government? If so, by when the Government is likely to implement the said proposal. Besides, I would also like to say that the interest rates of the loan disbursed by Rural Banks is more than that of National Rural Banks. I would like to know whether he proposes to bring the two at par?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, in my view, the formation of a National Rural Bank for RRBs is not the correct solution. In fact, a group of CMDs of public sector banks examined this proposal and have recommended that this is not the preferred solution.

As regards interest rates, RRBs lend from their own deposits. Refinance is only upto about 30 per cent or so. About 70 per cent of funds lent by RRBs are from RRBs' deposits. So, RRBs' deposits are taken at a rather high interest rate. Therefore, RRBs' lending rate has to compare with RRBs' deposit rate. It would, therefore, not be possible to bring about parity between RRB lending rates and commercial banks lending rates.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, it is a matter of great concern to the entire country that the RRBs and their sponsored banks are running at a loss year after year. They failed to come up to the expectations of the rural people like poor peasants, rural artisans and landless labourers. I want to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to how he will be able to make these banks economically viable so that the common man or a farmer in a village will be provided with financial help so that he is benefited and the unemployed youth in the village gets employment as the hon. Prime Minister has announced a new deal.

MR. SPEAKER: Very well put, young hon. Member!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I appreciate the sentiment of the hon. Member. But I also want to say that successive Governments have taken a series of steps to revitalise the RRBs. Beginning from 1994-95 and ending with March, 2000, successive Governments have infused Rs. 2,188 crore to 187 RRBs by way of recapitalisation.

As a result of that, as I said in an answer to an hon. Member's question, 157 RRBs have become profitable in the year ending 31st March, 2003. But, I think, given time, given better standards of Government, given proper monitoring, the remaining RRBs will also become profitable.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Sir, I would like to put one more question.

MR. SPEAKER: Make it part (b) of your question. I am allowing it because he is a first time Member. This is not to be repeated and not to be emulated by others.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Eighteen out of twenty-three RRBs run by Central Bank of India are always running under loss. They are running under loss at all times.

I have an article written in The Business Standard, which says eighteen out of twenty-three RRBs run by the Central Bank of India have posted an accumulated loss of Rs. 611.20 crore; twenty-one out of thirty RRBs run by the SBI have posted an accumulated loss of Rs. 584.97 crore; eleven RRBs run by United Bank of India are running under loss. They are always running under loss. What are the Government doing in order to avoid the losses? Are they going to set up an apex bank, like NABARD to look into this and structure them so that the rural people, the rural artisans, the landless labourers, the general masses and the general people are benefited, as it is mentioned in the Common Minimum Programme of your Government?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: It is right. As I said, if you take the accumulated losses, 97 banks have accumulated losses. But if you take the number as to how many became profitable

and how many have run into losses in the last year, I said the current losses are there only in 40 banks. Some of them are under the Central Bank of India, some of them are under the State Bank of India and some of them are under other sponsored banks.

Surely, the steps that have been taken have brought 157 banks into black and 40 banks are in the red. I am confident that with further measures to be taken, we can make other 40 banks also profitable. I am also confident that the credit package announced on 18th June will be implemented. I would urge the hon. Member as well as all other hon. Members to use the inter-session period to please travel within your constituency and come back and kindly tell me whether in your constituency banks are carrying out the credit package.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in part (d) of the question, it has been asked as to what steps are proposed to be taken by the Government in order to streamline the functioning of the Regional Rural Banks. Owing to the rampant corruption, no loan is sanctioned by these banks to the farmers without paying bribe to the employees of the banks.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a pointed question.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government propose to put a curb on this prevailing corruption and to simplify the services to the customer?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I would certainly not hide the fact that there is perhaps some corruption in disbursing some loans. But each RRB is under a sponsored bank. As I said in my Budget Speech yesterday, I am going to hold the respective bank squarely responsible for the performance of the RRBs.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I am very happy and proud to say that out of 16 RRBs in Andhra Pradesh, only one bank is making losses. The other banks are making a consolidated profit of Rs. 88 crore. The very purpose of starting the RRBs in those days or even now is to see that maximum credit is given to the rural people, particularly to farmers, to artisans, etc.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Yes, I am putting the question.

Keeping in view the discipline, character, integrity and the repayment level in Andhra Pradesh borrowers and also knowing that thousands of crores of NPAs are there in the nationalised banks, will the hon. Minister think in terms of transferring some of the deposits made in the nationalised banks in that particular area or district to the RRBs and arrange loans at a reduced rate of interest because they are earning profit and not incurring losses?

So, I just wanted to know from the hon. Minister whether he will encourage such banks which are running in profit and doing a great service in the rural areas which is our aim today.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When the hon. Member deposits his money in the State Bank of India, who am I to transfer it to an RRB? I cannot do that. The RRBs must, therefore, compete for these deposits and in competition with the State Bank or any other bank, the RRBs must attract these deposits. I have no power to transfer deposits from one bank to the other bank.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabodh Panda. Please put one pointed question.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My pointed question is this. So far as I can remember, the Standing Committee on Finance recommended to constitute an apex bank comprising all the RRBs. This recommendation stands. But today the hon. Minister replied that he is not in a position to set up a Central National Rural Bank. May I request the hon. Minister to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Finance?

MR. SPEAKER: This is a suggestion for action and no question.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA: My question is this. Is he contemplating to refer this matter to the Standing Committee on Finance? ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, are you going to refer it back to the Standing Committee?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It seems that he does not agree to it.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to your notice one thing. The information submitted by the Ministry is completely wrong. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I gave you opportunity when the last question was taken up. You cannot do it now. You are a senior Member. You should not set a bad example to others.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: In Annexure-II, they have given the details. In that, a bank that they have mentioned as failing in the State of Orissa does not actually fail in that State. They have submitted the information wrongly. You should direct the Government. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I earnestly appeal to you to take your seat.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said earlier, there is no proposal before the Government now to constitute a National Rural Bank. My view is that is not the answer to the problems of RRBs. The Sponsor Banks must be held squarely accountable and we hold them accountable. We can turn around the remaining banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, you have already said that.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD TAHIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to state that the main objective of setting up of the Regional Rural Banks was to provide easy loans to the people living in rural areas so that they could undertake any business or work of their choice while now the ground reality is this that widespread corruption is prevailing in these banks. If the palms of the officers are greased then the loan could be availed easily irrespective of whether the money sanctioned through loan is utilised in setting up of the desired project or not while the actual needy don't get loan. I would like to know whether the Government would evolve/set up such a mechanism so as to ensure that the people don't have to give bribe or commission to the officials of the banks so that the needy persons may get loans and the loans may not be misutilised?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: About corruption, he has already answered.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: As I said earlier, we will make the Sponsor Bank accountable for performance. Performance will improve. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Sir, please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not called you. You cannot intervene now.

I now call Prof. Ramadass.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Adhir Chowdhary.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Hon. Speaker, Sir, please listen to me. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Sorry. I have not called you. You just cannot stand up during Question Hour like this. Why should you do it?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: My information is that whatever information they have furnished, they have wrongly furnished. In Annexure-II, the Bank they have mentioned in Orissa is not in Orissa. How have they furnished it? This is a serious lapse. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have enough provisions. In the Rules, there are enough provisions for you to take action. If the hon. Minister gives incorrect answer, wrong answer deliberately, he will suffer.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stood up to put the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him. Please cooperate.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I already stood up to put the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: Please cooperate with me. You are a very distinguished Member. You should not set a bad precedent.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. M. RAMADASS: It was only I who put the supplementary.

MR. SPEAKER: First I asked you to put it. Then, I called him.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: I stood up.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. Please do it.

PROF. M. RAMADASS: Hon. Speaker, Sir, on the performance of the Regional Rural Banks, the Agriculture Credit Review Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. A.N. Khusro has made a number of valuable suggestions.

One of the opinions expressed by this Committee was

that the RRBs, in the sphere of rural credit, have been afflicted by a number of financial losses and the losses erode even the deposits of the banks. Therefore, the Committee had come to the conclusion that the RRBs have no place in the sphere of agricultural credit and they have recommended the amalgamation of RRBs with the Sponsor banks. Will the hon. Minister consider this recommendation of the Khusro Committee?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already replied to this question.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: My answer is 'no' and I submit with great respect that each Sponsor bank would be made accountable for its RRBs. They are not going to merge the RRBs with the Sponsor banks.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. I would request hon. Members not to put identical questions.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Finance Minister deserves to be appreciated for he has already taken a slew of healthy measures out to revamp and bolster this particular sector.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question. This is not the time for laudation.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: May I ask the hon. Minister as to whether any study has been made so far to ascertain the impact on income of those beneficiaries who have taken loan from RRBs before and after taking loan and what is the NPA so far accrued upon RRBs?

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, there are two questions. You answer the first one.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I am not aware of any study made on the status of any beneficiary who has borrowed from RRB. I am not aware of any such study. But if any such study had been made of any RRB or any cluster of RRBs, I shall find out and communicate to him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1993, the present Prime Minister, when he was the Finance Minister, announced that all the RRBs would be provided recapitalisation funds. All the RRBs have been given such funds except nine RRBs which were left out. Till date they have not received any recapitalisation fund to become viable. Out of 196 RRBs, 40 are incurring losses now. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government will provide necessary funds to make all the RRBs viable including those RRBs which are now incurring losses.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, 187 out of 196 RRBs were provided recapitalisation funds. Of the remaining nine, two

do not require any recapitalisation support and seven were not taken up for recapitalisation. The process could not be completed because of non-availability of Plan resources and resource constraints in the Non-Plan. I shall certainly look into whether those seven RRBs could be looked at this year or next year. I am talking about as to what happened up to 24th of May, 2004.

As far as making them profitable is concerned, I would like to request the hon. Member to please have confidence in these RRBs, their employees and their management. 157 RRBs are profitable and we will make the remaining 40 also profitable.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Thank you.

The last supplementary on this question. Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale. Have you got any question?

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: No, Sir.

Relief Package for Farmers

*64. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has recently announced relief package for farmers to increase the inflow of agricultural credits for next few years;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has laid down any guidelines for rescheduling of outstanding loans of farmers and have also introduced one-time settlement scheme;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) the extent to which the small and marginal farmers are likely to be benefited as a result thereof?

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

Statement

(a) and (b) The announcement on Agricultural Credit made by the Government on 18th June, 2004 envisages doubling the Flow of Agriculture Credit in 3 years and 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.

RBI and NABARD have already issued guidelines on 24th June and 29th June, 2004 to Commercial Banks and Rural Cooperatives and RRBs respectively to provide relief to farmers as per the announcement.

(c) and (d) As per the guidelines issued, the debts as on 31st March, 2004, of all farmers who have suffered production and income losses on account of natural calamities for 2 or more successive years during the past five years will be rescheduled/restructured by the Banks, provided the State Government concerned has declared such districts as calamity affected. The interest outstanding/accrued in the accounts of such borrowers (crop loans and agricultural term loans) up to 31st March, 2004 will be clubbed with the principal outstanding therein as on 31st March, 2004 and the amount thus arrived at shall be repayable over a period of 5 years, at current interest rates, including an initial moratorium of two years. For the loans already restructured, on account of natural calamities, as per the standing guidelines, the overdue instalments including interest thereon as on 31st March, 2004, will be taken into account for the purpose of restructuring. RBI has directed the banks to formulate their own guidelines for One Time Settlement (OTS) with the approval of their Board of Directors in respect of small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters till 24th June, 2004 and have become ineligible for fresh credit. Banks will complete the exercise of notifying defaulters, of the OTS guidelines, latest by 30th September, 2004 and all applications for OTS received from such defaulters would be processed within one month of their receipt.

(e) On restructuring/rescheduling of the accounts as above, the concerned farmers will become eligible for fresh loans. Banks will also review all cases of small and marginal farmers where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through OTS. A large number of small and marginal farmers will derive benefits and access to fresh credit with the implementation of these measures.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after a long time, this Government has presented a Budget with its thrust on agriculture. The whole country appreciates the Finance Minister for that. But let me express my apprehension regarding the measures announced by the Government. The farmers in our country committed suicide because on the

one side they were not getting enough price for their produce and on the other side recovery measures were staring in. So, my point is, in extreme cases, where there were repeated crop failures for two or three years, the Government should think of writing off debts and in other cases, the Government should consider to write off the interest. The farmers will be benefited by these measures only. All those farmers who committed suicide are medium and small farmers. So, in order to help the farmers, the Government should think on these lines.

Certain farmers and organisations, all over the country, have demanded like this. I would like to know whether the Government would consider this.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Farmers take institutional credit, farmers also take non-institutional credit. For the farmers, who are obliged to borrow from moneylenders and indigenous credit sources, our effort is to bring them into the institutional credit system. I can only express my deep sympathy with those farmers who are being pushed to the extreme limit of committing suicide. Relief measures for such farmers are being provided by the State Governments concerned and the Prime Minister, when he visited Andhra Pradesh, also announced certain relief measures. Therefore, for farmers within the institutional credit system, the June-18 Package has been announced. I think, we should give the June-18 Package a fair trial and then we should review the June-18 Package and its results after some time.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Sir, I genuinely appreciate the concerns shown by the Prime Minister when he went to Andhra Pradesh and announced relief measures for the families of those farmers who committed suicide. I would like to bring to the notice of this august House the suicides committed by the farmers in Kerala, especially in Wayanad and Palakkad districts. In Wayanad district alone, 91 farmers committed suicide, but unfortunately this was not brought to the focus of the nation.

I would like to know whether the Government would give relief measures, just like the Government announced in Andhra Pradesh, to the families of those farmers in Kerala who committed suicide.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am not aware, the hon. Member surely should be aware whether the State Government has already given them some relief. But if the State Government or the hon. Member, through the State Government, sends a proposal, I shall certainly look into the proposal. I have great sympathy for those families, I am deeply sorry, and I will look into it.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: Sir, I am happy that the hon. Minister has expressed deep sympathy for the families

of those peasants who committed suicide. But the fact of the matter is that this package has also come in the wake of mass suicides committed by farmers all over the country. When we met the Prime Minister, he said that the Government would be highly sensitive to the problems of the farmers and he also expressed the view and shared our view that a certain amount of debts could be written off and also the interest lowered. This package, I must say, does not reflect the real feelings of the farmers all over the country and the concern expressed by the Prime Minister.

Would the hon. Minister consider writing off whatever be the amount of certain loans - I am speaking of the institutional credit - and then also lowering the interest rate, maybe, say, to four per cent? Will he consider these proposals?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: These are really two parts of the question and I will try to answer both. As far as writing off of debts is concerned, I must also take into account the balancesheet of the institutions. Writing off is not free of cost, somebody has to bear the cost. We will have to make a deep study and find out who will take the hit. Will the bank take the hit or will the exchequer take the hit? This is not a question to which I can give an off-hand answer that, 'yes, we will write off the loans' because there is a cost to writing off and we have to examine carefully what is its impact on the banking system.

Secondly, as far as interest is concerned, the lending rates are inextricably linked with the rates at which money is available with the banks. Today, there is no bank which can access the line of credit at, say, three per cent in order to be able to lend at four per cent. Take for example, a commercial bank. A commercial bank's deposit rates determine the lending rates, RRBs' deposits determine the lending rates. Given the interest rate structure in this country, I can hardly foresee a situation where anyone will deposit in a bank at three per cent which can be lent at four per cent.

There is no line of credit for that.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA: The Government can subsidise the interest and also write off the loans. If we are asking for writing off of loans, we do not say that bank should shoulder the whole burden. It is for the Government to do so. You are doing that in various sectors

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, this is a question which we should debate when we have a general debate on the Budget. If we take the hit on the exchequer, we have to make a provision in the Budget, which means that we will have to cut some other Head of expenditure. We can debate this issue as part of the general debate on the Budget.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has said that neither loans nor the interest will be waived off. On the one hand interest and loans are not being waived off and neither they are being given something in lumpsum on the other hand subsidy is being reduced by the Government. In reply it has been stated that the Government has given this package, I would like to know as to what is the difference between the package of previous Government and this Government? The earlier Government had said that the flow will be doubled in three years, this Government is also saying the same. In common minimum programme, there was a special programme for farmers that interest will be waived off particularly in drought affected states. But I would like to say that people are committing suicide in Punjab, Kerala and other states also where drought has not taken place. The only solution to this is that the Government should either waive the interest or the loan. Rest is only the lip sympathy. I request hon'ble Minister to kindly clarify as to how the Government will benefit the farmers?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Hon. Member made a reference to my distinguished predecessor. I do not know if my distinguished predecessor offered to waive the interest or waive the principal. I do not recall his having made such a statement. ...*(interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: He said that he would do so.

MR. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Let me answer it. What we have done, after we took over, is that we have announced a package of relief. I am not saying this is the most satisfactory package but this is the best that can be done given the circumstances. My respectful submission is, let us give this package a fair trial. Let us review it after a reasonable period of time.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: By that time, many more people may commit suicide. What will you do then?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: As far as the nation is concerned, you have expressed your concern. I am sure the Government will look into it.

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker Sir, I am

thankful to you for calling me. All over the country - as such, Shri Ramji Lal Suman has brought a Motion here - farmers are committing suicide in a large number. There are two causes for that. One is that they are not getting remunerative prices and the other is - about which the other Members also have shown concern - that they are not able to pay interest on loan and the loan amount. The package which he has announced in the House is insufficient.

MR. SPEAKER: Will you put your question?

SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: I am putting the question, Sir. I would like that he should announce in the House to write off loans or writing off interest on loans. Some relief should be given to the farmer.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We share the sentiment expressed by the hon. Member but it is not possible for me to make such an off-hand announcement. One has to examine this issue very very carefully. There is a cost to writing off of a debt or writing off of the interest. Certainly, we shall keep in mind the sentiments expressed by the hon. Members.

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Mr. Speaker Sir, hon. former Prime Minister and former Finance Minister have announced on the floor of the House that interest will be written off in the drought-affected areas. It will be reimbursed within 5 years. That is the decision taken on the floor of the House. The decision so far has not been implemented anywhere in the country, particularly in the drought-prone areas. The Government has announced so many relief measures. It is okay. I am very happy. Those relief measures are not carried to the ground level. Eighteen per cent of credit should be given by the banks. That is the directive from the Reserve Bank of India. I was in the Standing Committee on Agriculture. I reviewed it throughout the country but not more than 13 or 14 per cent was given.

So, all these relief measures have to be implemented properly. You have to appoint a committee under the Chairmanship of the Member of Parliament in each parliamentary constituency so that it can inform the Government as to whether the decisions of the Government of India are being implemented or not. If the decisions are not implemented, then you have to initiate action. Otherwise, these measures will not be implemented.

Will the Minister appoint monitoring committees for the purpose of implementation of all these relief measures?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, a little while ago I said and I will repeat it, and I would respectfully urge hon. Members to please visit their constituencies in the inter-session period and review whether these measures are being implemented. If they are not being implemented, kindly bring it to my notice, and I will take action.

SHRI M.P. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Sir, I am coming from the district of Wayanad, where the number of suicides is the highest. In the last five years, the prices of coffee and pepper are sliding down. From Rs. 67 per kg. five years ago, it is Rs. 17 per kg. now; similar is the case in respect of pepper and other crops. Here, what you have said is that the interest amount would be clubbed with the principal amount. Under OTS, you are clubbing both principal and interest. That is, the interest amount plus the overdue amount becomes the principal amount, and on that principal amount, again you are charging interest. How can they pay? What is the relief in this? What is the precise relief that you are giving to the farmers? First of all, absolutely the remunerative prices are coming down. Secondly, the suicides are there because they cannot pay the amount. Now, in these relief measures, you have made them to pay interest on interest, that is compound interest. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, you have made your point.

SHRI M.P. VIRENDRA KUMAR: What is the relief that you have given to them particularly in Wayanad district?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I would request the hon. Member who is very well-versed in the matter of finance to kindly read paragraph 10, sub-paragraphs 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Agricultural Credit Package. This is the best relief that I could give under the circumstances. I said: "After reviewing this, after giving this a fair chance, we will review this and we will try to see what can be done." It is not correct to say that no relief has been granted. This package has been well received and let us see in implementation how much relief actually goes.

MR. SPEAKER: The same question is being repeated. Please put different supplementaries.

Now, Shri Prabhunath Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister that in yesterday's budget speech, he made good efforts to focus on small and marginal farmers but in flood and drought affected areas, the farmers remain distressed and do not get loan from banks due to non payment of previous debts. In such a situation, I would like to ask the hon'ble Minister that whether the Government will consider to provide loan to small and marginal farmers of those areas, which are identified as flood and drought affected areas despite non payment of earlier debts?

Along with this, I would also like to bring to the notice of hon'ble Minister that the money spent on the basic amenities,

provided to small and marginal farmers, who are sent to jail for non payment of loan by bank officials, are recovered from them only. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister whether the Government will issue instructions to state Governments that daily expenses on the farmers, sent to jail for not repaying loan, should not be recovered from them only.

Sir, I would like to tell that State Governments do not recover money from criminals and bear all their expenses themselves whereas when the farmers are sent to jail for non payment of loan, then the state Government recover all the expenses from them. I would like to ask as to whether the hon'ble Minister will give instructions to state Governments that these expenses should not be recovered from farmers?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Jail people realise money!

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I am sure that the hon. Member knows the facts. I am not aware of any case where a farmer has been put in jail by a bank for non-payment of loan. Under the laws, I know, there is no question of a jail sentence for non-payment of loan. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in Bihar when a farmer is sent to jail for not repaying loan, then the State Government of Bihar recover expenses from him only. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that in Bihar state, expenses on farmers in jail are recovered from the farmers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I am giving so many opportunities. This is a very vital issue.

Therefore, I am allowing. I have already allowed seven supplementary questions. I will give further opportunities. Please sit down. Do not take the time. Only five minutes' time is left.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do this.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I will request Shri Prabhunath Singh to send the particulars of those occasions to the hon. Minister. He says he has no information.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: I have no information. But if you give me the information, I will certainly see that these things do not happen.

MR. SPEAKER: It is good.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Lalu ji is sitting here, I would like to tell him that when such people are arrested and sent to jail. ...(Interruptions) I will send you this in writing. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: You send me those details.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri P.C. Thomas, are you interested in putting a supplementary? I have called your name twice.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, about the guidelines for restructuring the loan, he has mentioned about the farmer who sustains production and income losses on account of natural calamities for two or more successive years.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. There is hardly any time left.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: After one year, in some crops, say crops like pepper, coffee, tea and rubber, the whole thing is washed off. There is no opportunity for a second calamity.

MR. SPEAKER: You put your question.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: So, I would seek the indulgence of the Minister to change this guideline and make it available to whoever is the farmer, irrespective of whatever he plants, to get the relief of this loan for reconstruction. Some of the State Governments do not give the correct details also. With regard to suicides in Kerala, the Government of Kerala did not give the correct details. Therefore, the answer given by the Minister of Agriculture was that there was no suicide reported from Kerala, and we, the MPs, are now facing the difficulties because the answer had come like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put a question. There is hardly any time left.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: The newspapers have written that the MPs are not taking up the matter. So, I would submit that please do not bend on the basis of the State Government's

report and do not wait for two or three calamities to take place. So, what will be the response of the Government in this regard?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, my learned friend is reading sub-paragraph (1) of paragraph 10. But I would urge him also to read sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 10. "If a farmer is in arrears, and has become ineligible for fresh credit, as earlier credits have been categorized as sub-standard and doubtful, guidelines will be issued — they have since been issued — by the respective banks for re-scheduling, so that such farmers become eligible." You must read all the sub-paragraphs together. I think virtually all farmers will be covered under one or the other sub-paragraph.

SHRI SUDHANGSHU SEAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister regarding floriculture business. As he told yesterday, he would be putting more stress on exploring floriculture business. These flowers are produced by growers, but in our country, we do not have the proper infrastructure. You know, as soon as we cut flowers from the fields, we need to have air-conditioned, refrigerated vans and cold storage apparatus in different places giving subsidy to the growers. Do you have any plan to extend more support to these growers so that they can involve more on floriculture business? It is having a very big global market. So, do you have any plan to extend co-operation to the growers?

MR. SPEAKER: He is asking about floriculture farmers.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: When the Mission is set up for horticulture, it will certainly embrace flowers also.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit to the hon'ble Minister that an announcement has been made in the House regarding providing relief package for the farmers of entire country. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief. You put a pointed Question. There is hardly any time left.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJARAM PAL: In various parts of my constituencies, crops have been destroyed completely due to hailstorm and incidents of fire. On the other hand there are such farmers also, who have taken loan from banks on the basis of forged papers but today their land is on the verge of auction. Whether the hon'ble Minister will provide some assistance to those farmers from this relief package?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, if the farmers have been given loans on the basis of forged papers, how can I grant relief?

SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Sir, we are all aware that the farmer is suffering because the input costs are going up while the price of the produce is coming down. The measures announced by the hon. Minister of Finance are only temporary solutions. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance what is the long-term solution that he proposes. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, I will certainly look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Participation in Development / Construction of Airports

*65. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI NIHAL CHAND:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow participation of private Indian and foreign companies in the development/construction of our Airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any move to open up the domestic Air service to foreign Airline companies;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the names of airports developed in the country during last three years, State-wise and those proposed for in the near future?

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

(b) As per 'Policy on Airport Infrastructure' of 1997 foreign equity participation upto 74% in airport projects, is permitted through the automatic approval route and upto 100% which special permission.

However, as far as restructuring process of Delhi and Mumbai airports is concerned, maximum permissible limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the proposed Joint Venture

Company has been limited to 49% only. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Government of India Public Sector Undertakings will hold 26% equity. Remaining 25% equity will be held by Indian entities (Indian Companies). For this purpose, the Indian company is defined as a company incorporated in India and 100% owned by Indian entities.

(c) There is no proposal at present to open up domestic air service to foreign airline companies.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Several airports in various states have been developed/upgraded/modernised during the last three years and include those in Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and in West Bengal. There are several airports which are proposed to be developed/upgraded/modernised during the 10th five year plan in various states of India.

Special Economic Zone

*66. SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:

SHRI A.K. MOORTHY:

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

(a) whether Special Economic Zone (SEZ) are proposed to be set up at various cities/towns in the country;

(b) if so, the broad features of the projected SEZ alongwith their locations;

(c) the steps taken so far in that direction; and

(d) by when these are likely to come up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) New Special Economic Zone (SEZ) are being set up in the public, private, joint sector or by the State Governments.

(b) Approval has so far been given for setting up 25 SEZs on the basis of proposals received from State Governments and their agencies and private promoters. Broad features of the approved SEZs are indicated in the statement enclosed.

(c) and (d) The new SEZs are in the nature of large infrastructure projects with a long gestation period. Of the 25 SEZs approved for establishment, SEZs at Indore (Madhya Pradesh), Salt Lake (West Bengal), Jaipur (Rajasthan), Jodhpur (Rajasthan) and Moradabad (U.P.) are now ready for operation. The other SEZs are at various stages of

implementation. Since the SEZs have been approved for establishment in the private/joint sector or by the State Governments, it is not possible to indicate a time frame by

which the Zones are likely to be set up. However, periodic meetings are held by the Department of Commerce with the promoters of SEZs to expedite the projects.

Statement

Broad features of approved Special Economic Zones

S. No.	Location	Name of the developer	Sector
1.	Positra (Gujarat)	Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructural Ltd.	Multi-Product
2.	Nangunery (Tamil Nadu)	Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	-do-
3.	Navi-Mumbai (Maharashtra)	City and Industrial Development Corporation of Maharashtra Ltd. (CIDCO)	-do-
4.	Paradeep (Orissa)	Govt. of Orissa	-do-
5.	Gopalpur (Orissa)	Industrial Development Corporation of Orissa	-do-
6.	Kulpi (West Bengal)	Govt. of West Bengal	-do-
7.	Salt Lake, Kolkata (West Bengal)	West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Gem & Jewellery
8.	Bhadohi (Uttar Pradesh)	UP State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Multi-Product
9.	Kanpur (Uttar Pradesh)	UP State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	-do-
10.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	Greater Noida Development Authority.	-do-
11.	Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh)	UP State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	Handicrafts
12.	Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)	AP Industrial Infrastructure Corporation Ltd.	Multi-Product
13.	Indore (Madhya Pradesh)	Madhya Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.	-do-
14.	Hassan (Karnataka)	Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board	-do-
15.	Vallarpadam/Purthuvypeen (Kerala)	Cochin Port Trust	Port based SEZ
16.	Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh)	Kakinada Seaports Ltd.	-do-
17.	Kopta (Maha Mumbai) (Maharashtra)	Gujarat Positra Port Infrastructural Ltd.	Multi-Product
18.	Sitapur, Jaipur (Rajasthan)	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Ltd.	Gem & Jewellery
19.	Boranada Jodhpur (Rajasthan)	Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation	Handicrafts and Guargum
20.	Dahej (Gujarat)	Gujarat Infrastructure Development Corporation	Multi-product
21.	Balkampady (Karnataka)	Kanara Chamber of Commerce & Industry	-do-
22.	Mundra (Gujarat)	M/s Mundra Special Economic Zone Ltd.	-do-
23.	Ranchi (Jharkhand)	M/s Ranchi Industrial Area Development Authority	-do-
24.	Greater Noida (Uttar Pradesh)	M/s Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts	Handicrafts
25.	Kolkata (West Bengal)	M/s M.L. Dalmiya & Co. Ltd.	Leather Products

Competition from China in Textiles

*67. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's textile industry is facing tough competition from China;

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to support the Indian textile industry to enable them to face the challenge;

(c) the bottlenecks identified by the Government coming in the way of improving the textile production in the country; and

(d) the time by which the bottlenecks are likely to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Yes, Sir. In view of the changing global economic environment, the Indian textile industry is facing competition from many countries including China.

(b) to (d) Technology obsolescence, low productivity, high cost of production, structural anomalies in fiscal duty, high interest rates, inadequate infrastructure facilities, etc. have been some of the bottlenecks adversely affecting the competitiveness of Indian textile industry. Taking note of challenges posed by changing global economic environment, the Government announced the National Textile Policy in November 2000 and taken various initiatives to enhance the competitiveness of Indian textile industry. Some of the important initiatives taken are:

- (i) Rationalisation of fiscal duty structure undertaken so as to attract investment and modernisation;
- (ii) Launching of the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) to facilitate the modernisation and upgradation of the sector;
- (iii) For accelerating modernization of the powerlooms segment of the textile industry, 20% Capital assistance is available on investment 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) With a view to making textile production competitive, the custom duty on various capital goods brought down from 25% to 5%;
- (vii) 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;
- (viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme "Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has also been launched;
- (ix) Cotton Technology Mission launched to improve the productivity and quality of cotton;
- (x) 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;
- (xi) 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;
- (xii) For boosting exports of textile and clothing Government provides financial assistance to Textile Export Promotion Councils under Marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme;
- (xiii) 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;
- (xiv) National Institute for Fashion Technology (NIFT), its six branches and Apparel Training & Design Centres (ATDCs) are running various courses/programmes to meet skilled manpower requirements of textile industry especially apparel in the field of design, merchandising and marketing;
- (xv) 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;

(xvi) 100% Foreign Direct Investment permitted through automatic route in the textile sector with certain exceptions; and

(xvii) Refund of taxes and duties on exports through drawback route.

Sick NTC Mills

*68. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:

SHRI ANANTA NAYAK:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills under NTC at present, State-wise;

(b) the number of sick mills;

(c) whether any of these sick NTC mills are proposed to be revived;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the policy of the Government on closed/loss making NTC mills?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) After closing 65 mills, NTC has 54 mills out of which 53 are running and one is under closure. State-wise details are given in enclosed statement-I.

(b) All these 54 mills are sick.

(c) and (d) 53 mills are proposed to be revived as per the rehabilitation schemes approved by BIFR. Details of these mills are given in enclosed statement-II

(e) The policy of the Government is to revive all revivable mills and close the non revivable mills after giving VRS to affected employees. As per the policy out of 66 unviable mills, 65 have already been closed under ID Act. However, this policy is under review.

Statement-I

National Textile Corporation Limited

State-wise number of Mills under NTC

S. No.	State	No. of Mills		
		Running	Closed	Under Closure
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Punjab	2	2	
2.	Rajasthan	3	1	

1	2	3	4	5
3.	Chhattisgarh	0	1	
4.	Madhya Pradesh	2	4	
5.	Uttar Pradesh	2	9	
6.	Maharashtra	17	18	
7.	Gujarat	2	9	
8.	Andhra Pradesh	2	4	
9.	Karnataka	2	2	
10.	Kerala	5	0	
11.	Pondicherry (Mahe)	1	0	
12.	Assam	1	0	
13.	Bihar	1	1	
14.	Orissa	1	0	
15.	West Bengal	3	9	
16.	Tamil Nadu	8	5	
17.	Pondicherry	1	0	1
Total		53	65	1

Statement-II

National Textile Corporation Limited List of 53 Viable Mills

S. No.	Name of the Mills	Location
1	2	3
I.	NTC (APKKM) Ltd.	
a.	Andhra Pradesh	
1	Tirupati Cotton Mills	Renigunta
2	Ananthapur Cotton Mills	Tadapatri
b.	Karnataka	
3	Minerva Mills	Bangalore
4	Sree Yallama Cotton Mills	Davangere
c.	Kerala	
5	Algappa Tex.Mills	Alagappanagar
6	Cannanore Spg.& Wvg. Mills	Cannanore
7	Kerala Laxmi Mills	Trichur

1	2	3
	8 Vijayamohini Mills	Trivandrum
	9 Parvathi Mills	Quilon
d.	Mahe	
	10 Cannanore Spg. & Wvg. Mills	Mahe
II.	NTC (DPR) Ltd.	
a.	Punjab	
	11 Kharar Tex. Mills	Kharar
	12 Suraj Textile Mills	Malout
b.	Rajasthan	
	13 Udaipur Cotton Mills	Udaipur
	14 Mahalaxmi Mills	Beawar
	15 Shree Bijay Cotton Mills	Shree Bijaynagar
III.	NTC (Guj.) Ltd.	
a.	Gujarat	
	16 Ahmedabad New Tex. Mills	Ahmedabad
	17 Rajnagar Tex. Mills No.1	Ahmedabad
IV.	NTC (MN) Ltd.	
a.	Maharashtra	
	18 India United Mills Dye Works	Mumbai
	19 India United Mills No.1	Mumbai
	20 Kohinoor Mills No.1	Mumbai
	21 Tata Mills	Mumbai
	22 Podar Mills	Mumbai
	23 RBBA Mills	Hinganghat
	24 India United Mill No.5	Mumbai
	25 Savatram Ram Prasad Mills	Akola
V.	NTC (MP) Ltd.	
a.	Madhya Pradesh	
	26 Burhanpur Tapti Mills	Burhanpur
	27 New Bhopal Tex. Mills	Bhopal

1	2	3
	VI. NTC (SM) Ltd.	
a.	Maharashtra	
	28 Apollo Tex. Mills	Mumbai
	29 Barshi Tex. Mills	Barshi
	30 Chalisgaon Tex. Mills	Chalisgaon
	31 Finlay Mills	Mumbai
	32 Dhule Tex. Mills	Dhule
	33 Goldmohur Mills	Mumbai
	34 Nanded Tex. Mills	Nanded
	35 New City of Bombay Mfg. Mills	Mumbai
	36 Aurangabad Textile Mills	Aurangabad
	VII. NTC (UP) Ltd.	
a.	Uttar Pradesh	
	37 Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Maunathbharanjan
	38 Swadeshi Cotton Mills	Naini
	VIII. NTC (WBABO) Ltd.	
a.	West Bengal	
	39 Laxminarayan Cotton Mills	Rishra
	40 Sodepur Cotton Mills	Sodepur
	41 Arati Cotton Mills	Dass Nagar
b.	Bihar	
	42 Bihar Co-Operative Mills	Mokameh
c.	Orissa	
	43 Orissa Cotton Mills	Bhagatpur
d.	Assam	
	44 Associated Industries	Chandrapur
	IX. N.T.C. (TN & P) Ltd.	
	Tamil Nadu	
	45 Cambodia Mills	Coimbatore
	46 Coimbatore Murugan Mills	Coimbatore
	47 Pankaja Mills	Coimbatore
	48 Pioneer Spinners Mills	Kamudakudi

1	2	3
	49 Sri Rangavilas S.& W. Mills	Coimbatore
	50 Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit	Kalayarkoil
	51 Sri Sarda Mills	Coimbatore
	52 Coimbatore Spg.& Wvg. Mills	Coimbatore
	Pondicherry	
	53 Sri Bharati Mills	Pondicherry

BALCO Sale Agreement

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

(a) whether according to the BALCO sale agreement with Sterlite the remaining 49% of Government equity has to be handed over to Sterlite;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the real asset value of BALCO and the terms of agreement thereon;

(c) whether the central trade unions like AITUC, CITU and other representative bodies have asked the Government to review the sale agreement and to stop the proposal to sell the remaining 49% of Government equity in BALCO;

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

(e) whether any investigations have been carried out into the BALCO sale; and

(f) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) As per Clause 5.8 of the Shareholders Agreement (SHA) signed between Government of India, M/s Sterlite Industries (India) Limited (SIIL) and Bharat Aluminum Company Limited (BALCO - the Company), upon the expiry of the third anniversary of the Closing Date (i.e. 2nd March, 2004), and at any time thereafter, the Strategic Partner (SP) shall have the option to issue a notice ("Call Notice") to the Government, thereby requiring the Government to sell to the SP within a period of 60 (sixty) days from the date of receipt of the Call Notice (the "Call Notice"), all but not less than all the voting equity shares in the Company then held by the Government, (the "Called Shares") and the Government in that event shall be under mandatory obligation to sell the Called Shares as aforesaid. The Parties shall cause the Fair Value of the Called Shares to be determined within 30 days of the date of receipt of the Call Notice.

As per the provisions of Schedule 6.1(a) in determining the Fair Value of the relevant voting equity shares of the Company, the Independent valuer shall take into account various factors, including, but not limited to the following:

- (i) Discounted cash flow principles;
- (ii) Commonly used valuation multiples of comparable transactions;
- (iii) If the Company is listed, the current price of the voting equity shares of the Company as quoted on the stock exchange(s) where they are primarily traded;
- (iv) The Securities and Exchange Board of India's guidelines and principles of valuation, if applicable;
- (v) Whether such voting equity shares of the Company which are subject to the transaction of purchase and sale constitute minority block or a majority block of all of the issued and outstanding voting equity shares of the Company;
- (vi) Whether such equity shares have any contractual rights with respect to the Company attached to them and appropriate discount or premium shall be applied to its valuation on the basis thereof;
- (vii) Discounted principles, if the selling party is insolvent, for assuming any restriction and obligations attached to the shares.

The valuation arrived at by the independent valuer is made as an expert and not as an umpire or arbitrator and shall be final and binding on the parties and no appeal shall lie from such valuation.

The Call notice dated 19th March, 2004 from SIIL to acquire 10,81,06,005 equity shares (49% of the total) held by the Government of India in BALCO has been received.

(c) Bharat Aluminum Mazdoor Sangh (INTUC) has asked the Government to review the sale agreement and to stop the sale of the remaining 49% of Equity held by the Government in BALCO.

(d) The Call Option exercised by the Strategic Partner is under the provisions of the Shareholders Agreement entered into at the time of disinvestment which requires the Government to sell the called shares as per the procedure provided.

(e) and (f) No Sir, however, the Hon'ble Supreme Court

in its judgement of 10th December, 2001 had upheld the policy and the procedure adopted by the Government for the disinvestment of BALCO.

Sale of Excess Land

*70. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is contemplating to sell excess land available with various NTC mills;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the total available land with each NTC mill;

(c) whether the funds raised through sale of such excess land would be invested for reviving various sick NTC mills and also to upgrade their technologies;

(d) If so, the details thereof; and

(e) If not, the reasons therefore?

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

(b) Details of surplus land identified for sale and status of sale of such lands as on 31.5.2004 are enclosed as statement-I and II respectively.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The proceeds from the sale of surplus land are to be utilized/invested for meeting the revival expenses of the mills such as –

(i) Modernisation/Technological upgradation

(ii) Margin Money for working capital

(iii) Liquidation of liabilities/payment of statutory dues

(iv) Payment to pressing creditors

(v) Servicing of Bonds

(e) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Details of Surplus Land to be sold

S.No.	Name of the Mill	State	Status	Area	Status of Land
1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (APKK & M) Ltd.					
1	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	Karnataka	Viable	57.79	F.H.
2	Kerala Luxmi Mills, Trichur	Kerala	Viable	30.11	F.H.
3	Azamjahi Mills, Warrangal	Andhra Pradesh	Unviable	200.25	F.H.
4	Netha Mills, Secunderabad	Andhra Pradesh	Unviable	10.84	F.H.
5	Adoni Mills, Adoni	Andhra Pradesh	Unviable	7.17	F.H.
6	Nataraj Spg. Mills, Nirmal	Andhra Pradesh	Unviable	70.00	F.H.
7	MSK Mills, Gulbarga	Karnataka	Unviable	205.32	F.H.
8	Sree Yallamma, Tolahunse	Karnataka	Viable	98.80	F.H.
9	Tirupathi Mills, Reningunta	Andhra Pradesh	Viable	47.36	F.H.
10	Anantpur Mills, Tadpatri	Andhra Pradesh	Viable	9.25	F.H.
11	Alagappa Mills, Aigappanagar	Kerala	Viable	8.06	F.H.
Total				744.95	
NTC (DP & R) Ltd.					
12	Ajudhia Mills, Azadpur	Delhi	Closed	8.98	F.H.
13	Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	Rajasthan	Viable	29.77	F.H.

1	2	3	4	5	6
14	Edward mills, Beawar	Rajasthan	Unviable	18.28	F.H.
15	Dayalbagh Mills, Amritsar	Punjab	Unviable	9.84	L.H.
16	Panipat Wollen, Kharar	Punjab	Unviable	20.29	F.H.
17	Mahalakshmi, Beawar	Rajasthan	Viable	5.17	F.H.
Total				92.33	

NTC (Gujarat) Ltd.

18	Ahmedabad New Tex, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Viable	7.45	F.H.
19	Rajkot Textile, Rajkot	Gujarat	Unviable	8.72	F.H.
20	Ahmedabad Jupiter, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Unviable	22.44	F.H.
21	Jehangir Mills, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Unviable	16.30	F.H.
22	Rajnagar-1, Ahmedabad	Gujarat	Viable	12.11	L.H.
23	New Maneckchowk, Ahmd.	Gujarat	Unviable	8.99	L.H.
24	Mahalaxmi Mills, Bhavnagar	Gujarat	Unviable	16.32	L.H.
25	Himadri Textile Mills, Ahmd.	Gujarat	Unviable	7.22	F.H.
26	Petlad Textile, Petlad	Gujarat	Unviable	29.28	L.H.
27	Viramgam Textile, Viramgam	Gujarat	Unviable	50.91	F.H./L.H.
28	Fine Knitting Mills	Gujarat	Unviable	8.38	
Total				188.12	

NTC (MN) Ltd.

29	Indu Mills No.1, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	8.71	F.H.
30	Indu Mills No.6, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	4.57	F.H.
31	Indu Mills No.2, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	16.04	F.H.
32	Jam Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	7.99	F.H.
33	Indu Mills No.4, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	7.79	F.H.
34	Sitaram Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	8.43	F.H.
35,36, 37	Kohinoor No.1, 2 & 3, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	19.39	L.H.
38	Tata Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	10.62	L.H.
39	Model Mills, Nagpur	Maharashtra	Unviable	33.31	F.H.
40	R.S.R.G. Mohta S&G Mills Akola	Maharashtra	Unviable	15.81	F.H.

1	2	3	4	5	6
41	Vidharbha Mills, Berar Achalpur	Maharashtra	Unviable	17.05	F.H.
42	Indu Mills No.3, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	5.4	
Total				155.11	

NTC (MP) Ltd.

43	New Bhopal Mills, Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	Viable	79.10	F.H.
44	Burhanpur Tapti, Burhanpur	Madhya Pradesh	Viable	42.85	F.H.
45	Indore Malwa, Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Unviable	103.80	F.H.
46	Hira Mills, Ujjain	Madhya Pradesh	Unviable	69.20	F.H.
47	Kalyanmal, Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Unviable	33.57	F.H.
48	Swadeshi Indore	Madhya Pradesh	Unviable	15.32	F.H.
49	Bengal Nagpur Mills, Rajnandgaon	Chhattisgarh	Unviable	52.10	F.H.
Total				395.94	

NTC (SM) Ltd.

50	Apollo Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	9.98	F.H.
51	Gold Mohur Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Viable	6.52	F.H.
52	Madhusudan Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	18.05	F.H.
53	Mumbai Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	23.83	F.H.
54	Jupiter Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	10.91	F.H.
55	Elphinstone Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	8.91	F.H.
56	Bharat Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	8.37	F.H.
57	New Hind Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	8.33	L.H.
58	Digvijay Textile Mills, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	9.33	L.H.
59	Aurangabad Mills, Aurangabad	Maharashtra	Unviable	15.74	F.H.
60	Podar Process, Mumbai	Maharashtra	Unviable	2.39	F.H.
61	Nanded Mills, P.B.No. 10, Nanded	Maharashtra	Viable	91.42	F.H.
62	Chalisgaon Mills, Chalisgaon	Maharashtra	Viable	17.54	F.H.
63	Dhule Mills, P.B. No. 2, Dhule	Maharashtra	Viable	12.80	F.H.
64	Barshi Mills, P.B.No. 30, Barshi	Maharashtra	Viable	36.50	L.H.
Total				280.62	

1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (UP) Ltd.					
65	Swadeshi Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	55.86	F.H.
66	Atherton Mills, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	20.70	F.H.
67	Laxmi Rattan Mills, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	13.48	F.H.
68	Swadeshi Mills, Maunathbhanjan	Uttar Pradesh	Viable	9.20	F.H.
69	New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	29.67	L.H.
70	Muir Mills, Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	37.28	L.H.
71	Shri Vikram Mills, Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	8.14	F.H./L.H.
72	Raebareli Mills, Raebareli	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	30.43	F.H.
73	Lord Krishna, Saharanpur	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	24.70	F.H.
74	Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras	Uttar Pradesh	Unviable	7.56	L.H.
Total				237.02	

NTC (WBABO) Ltd.					
75	Laxmi Narayan, Rishra	West Bengal	Viable	14.83	F.H.
76	Rampooria, Serampore	West Bengal	Unviable	30.60	F.H.
77	Bengal Laxmi, Serampore	West Bengal	Unviable	27.97	F.H.
78	Bangasri, Sukhchar	West Bengal	Unviable	29.08	F.H.
79	Central Cotton, Belur	West Bengal	Unviable	11.67	F.H.
80	Jyoti Weaving, Kolkata	West Bengal	Unviable	4.29	F.M.
81	Sri Mahalaxmi, Palta	West Bengal	Unviable	11.24	F.H.
82	Bengal Fine - 2, Kattaganj	West Bengal	Unviable	19.44	F.H.
83	Bengal Fine -1, Konnagar	West Bengal	Unviable	18.83	F.H.
84	Gaya Cotton Mills, Gaya	Bihar	Unviable	32.77	F.H.
85	Arati Cotton Mills, Howrah	West Bengal	Unviable	6.25	F.H.
86	Manidra B.T., Cossimbazar	West Bengal	Unviable	35.28	F.H.
87	Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur	Orissa	Viable	62.17	F.H.
88	Bihar Cooperative, Mokameh	Bihar	Unviable	22.20	F.H.
89	Associated Indus., Chandrapur	Assam	Unviable	50.00	F.H.
Total				376.62	

NTC (TNP) & (HC) Ltd.

NTC (TNP) Ltd.

90	Kothandaram Mills, Madurai	Coimbatore	Closed	2.66	F.H.
91	Sri Ranga Vilas, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Viable	17.2	F.H.

1	2	3	4	5	6
92	Pankala, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Viable	11.07	F.H.
93	Coimbatore Murigan, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Viable	2.31	F.H.
94	Om Parashakti, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Unviable	14.25	F.H.
95	Krishnaveni, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Unviable	4.52	F.H.
96	Balarama Varma, Tirunelveli	Coimbatore	Unviable	20.2	F.H.
97	Somasundaram, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Unviable	7.43	F.H.
98	Sri Sarda Mills, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Viable	3.45	F.H.
99	Coimbatore S & W Mills, Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Viable	20.49	F.H.
100	Kaleeshwar "A", Coimbatore	Coimbatore	Unviable	16.06	F.H.
101	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry	Pondicherry	Unviable	42.3	F.H.
Total				161.94	
Grand Total				2697.53	

Note: F.H. = Free Hold L.H. = Lease Hold

Statement-II

Status Report of Sale of Land as on 31.5.2004

S. No.	Name of the Mill	Total Area of land available for sale (In acres)	Area of Land/ Advertised for sale (In acres)	Reserve price of the advertised land/ (Rs. Crores)	Price at which the advertised land sold (Rs. Crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6
NTC (APKK&M) Ltd., Bgl.					
1	Alagappa Mills, Trichur	8.06	7.34	0.80	0.78
2	Mysore Mills (APKK&M)	25.66	18.69	84.35	79.16
3	Natraj Mills (APKK&M)	70.00	70.00	2.31	2.31
4	MSK Mills, Gulbarga	208.42	165.20	16.62	17.08
5	Netha Mills, Secunderabad	11.48	9.83	22.32	24.35
6	Minerva Mills, Bangalore	30.00	28.16	67.03	69.17
7	Kerala Luxmi Mills	27.44	27.44	3.97	2.15
8	Azam Jahi Mills, Warrangal	201.09	65.69	13.16	18.00
NTC (DP&R) Ltd., N. Delhi					
9	Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	8.28	8.28	0.92	1.05

1	2	3	4	5	6
10	Suraj Textile Mills, Malout	7.05	7.05	0.30	0.56
11	Bijaynagar Cotton Mills	7.83	7.83	2.08	1.95
	NTC (UP) Ltd., Kanpur				
12	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Naini	6.43	6.43	3.15	3.2
13	Bijli Cotton Mills, Hathras (UP)	7.56	5.82	4.32	4.69
14	Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	56.00	5.65	6.6	7.5
15	Lord Krishna Tex. Mills (UP)	20.53	1.54	1.00	1.08
16	Swadeshi Cotton Mills (Mau)	4.80	4.80	3.00	3.15
	NTC (MP) Ltd., Indore				
17	Kalyanmai Mills, Indore	33.57	33.57	16.77	20
	NTC (MN) Ltd., Mumbai				
18	RBBA Mills (Plot No. 1 with old bungalow)	5.95	0.02	0.04	0.18
	Ginning & Processing Factory	5.95	3.05	0.21	0.40
19	Savatram Ram Prasad Mills, Akola	0.52	0.09	0.03	0.09
20	Vidarbha Mills, Achalpur (Plot No. 1 & 2 Plot No. 6)	51.16 51.16	4.99 3.22	0.21 0.05	0.50 0.35
21	Model Mills (Plot No. 3)	40.28	1.32	0.72	1.23
	Model Mills (Plot No. 2)	40.28	0.41	0.25	0.36
	Model Mills (Plot No. 1) Near S.T Stand	40.33	8.35	95.0	9.50
22	RSRG Mills, Akola	37.04	1.10	0.10	0.44
	NTC (SM) Ltd., Mumbai				
23	Barshi Mills, Barshi	1.87	1.87	0.10	0.12
24	Dhule Textile Mills, Dhule	12.75	12.75	1.31	2.52
25	Challisgaon Mills, Challisgaon	16.11	16.11	3.01	3.64
	NTC (TN&P) Ltd., Coimbatore				
26	Swadeshi Cotton Mills	53.30	10.37	13.23	13.23
27	Pankaja Mills	0.403	0.403	0.62	0.69
28	Omparasakthi Mills	14.25	14.25	4.09	4.50
29	Kalleswarar 'A' Mills (site No.2)	0.19	0.19	0.57	0.54
30	Sri Rangavilas Mills	17.20	6.21	7.82	7.82
	Total	1112.883	558.023	290.56	302.29

[Translation]

Safety of Airports

*71. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken special steps with regard to safety and security of airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to bring a legislation to deal with the security of airports in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) At all airports in the country, adequate security arrangements are in force according to the guidelines of Annexure 17 of International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) and India's National Civil Aviation Security Programme.

(c) and (d) The proposal to bring a civil aviation security legislation is at a nascent stage.

Privatisation of Mines

*72. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to privatise a number of mines in the country;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) to (c) India is endowed with significant mineral resources and produces 89 minerals, 4 of which are fuel minerals, 11 are metallic minerals, 52 are non-metallic minerals, including 11 atomic minerals and 22 minor minerals. The Department of Mines administers the Mines and Minerals (Development & Regulation) Act, 1957 (MMDR Act, 1957) in respect of all minerals other than coal, lignite, natural gas and petroleum. The Department of Coal administers the MMDR Act, 1957 for coal and lignite, while the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas administers oil and natural gas under specific statutes. The atomic minerals are administered by the Department of Atomic Energy.

In the Indian federal structure, State Governments are the owners of minerals in their respective territorial jurisdiction and issue Reconnaissance Permits, Prospecting Licences and Mining Leases over these minerals. In respect of ten minerals included in Part 'C' of the First Schedule of the MMDR Act, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary before grant of mineral concessions.

Significant private investment has been made in the mining sector and as per information given by the Indian Bureau of Mines, out of 3108 working mines in the country, nearly two thirds i.e. 2287 mines are in the private sector and 821 mines are in the public sector.

[English]

Pending Court Cases

*73. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL:

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI:

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

(a) whether the Government has identified the reasons for pendency of large number of cases with various courts;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the estimated number of cases pending with Supreme Court and various High Courts, in each State/UT;

(d) the number of cases pending in Supreme Court over five years and over 10 years in High Courts; and

(e) the effective steps proposed to be taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) There are many reasons for pendency of cases in various courts. Some of these reasons include inadequacy of judge strength, non-filling up of vacancies of judges, lawyer's strike and frequent adjournment of cases.

(c) and (d) The estimated number of cases pending with Supreme Court and various High Courts in each State and UT and the number of cases pending in Supreme Court over five years and over 10 years in High court are shown in the enclosed statement.

(e) The Government has been periodically monitoring the pendency position in various courts. The steps taken for speedy disposal of pending cases, include timely filling the vacancies of judges, increasing the judge strength,

grouping of cases involving common questions of law, constitution of specialized benches, organizing Lok Adalats at regular intervals, encouraging alternative modes of dispute

resolution like negotiation, mediation and arbitration and setting up of special tribunals like Central Administrative Tribunals, State Administrative Tribunals, Income Tax Appellate Tribunals, Family Courts, Labour Courts etc.

Statement

Sl. No.	Court	As on	Number of Cases Pending	Number of Cases Pending over 5 years
1.	Supreme Court	1.7.2004	29,315	1943
Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	As on	Number of Cases Pending	Number of Cases Pending over 10 years
1	Allahabad	31/12/2003	971819	340076
2.	Andhra Pradesh	31/12/2003	145183	4606
3.	Bombay	31/12/2002	297411	34513
4.	Calcutta	30/06/2003	210313	93986
5.	Delhi	31/03/2004	97513	17900
6.	Guwahati	31/12/2002	49093	11
7.	Gujarat	31/12/2003	141633	16944
8.	Himachal Pradesh	31/12/2003	21420	38
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	31/03/2004	44987	355
10.	Karnataka	31/12/2003	114289	747
11.	Kerala	31/12/2003	127327	1227
12.	Madhya Pradesh	31/12/2003	190876	8113
13.	Madras	31/12/2003	239313	4789
14.	Orissa	31/12/2003	172013	7327
15.	Patna	30/09/2003	89289	5822
16.	Punjab and Haryana	31/12/2003	273210	55763
17.	Rajasthan	31/03/2004	170705	15320
18.	Sikkim	31/12/2003	69	2
19.	Uttaranchal	31/12/2003	35861	6718
20.	Jharkhand	31/12/2001	14465	Not available
21.	Chhattisgarh	31/10/2002	39638	Not available
Total			3446397	614257

Misuse of Export Promotion Schemes

*74. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN:

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of companies in Delhi who have cheated Government during the last two years by misusing Export Promotion Scheme, such as Duty Drawback, Duty Free Replenishment Certificate Scheme and Duty Exemption Pass Book Scheme;

(b) the total amount involved in these cheating cases;

(c) the number of persons arrested and the number of convictions in these cases; and

(d) the steps to check misuse of export promotion schemes in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) 213 companies in Delhi have cheated the Government during the last 2 years by misusing export promotion schemes such as Duty Drawback Scheme, Duty Free Replenishment Certificate Scheme and Duty Entitlement Pass Book Scheme.

(b) An amount of Rs. 208.11 Cr. is involved in these cases.

(c) 56 persons have been arrested in these cases. These cases are still under trial and hence no one has been convicted so far.

(d) The export promotion schemes have various in-built safeguards to prevent their misuse. Some of these are as follows:-

- (i) Licenses issued under Advance Licensing Scheme are subject to actual user condition and are non-transferable,
- (ii) Capital goods imported under Export Promotion Capital Goods Scheme are subject to actual user condition till fulfilment of export obligation.
- (iii) A nexus is specified for duty free import under Duty Free Replenishment Certificate Scheme.
- (iv) Value caps are specified to prevent unintended benefits to unscrupulous importers and exporters in respect of Duty Entitlement Passbook Scheme whenever it has been brought to the

notice of the Government that unscrupulous exporters are misusing this scheme by over-invoicing. Value caps have been specified in respect of 360 entries till date.

- (v) Drawback Caps have been specified in All Industry Rates of Drawback to prevent availing of higher drawback by over-invoicing. Present Market Value checks have also been provided for goods exported to sensitive destinations.

Further steps taken to combat such frauds are:

- (i) Enhancing the effectiveness of intelligence-based checks by DGRI.
- (ii) Special targeting of risk-prone commodities and exporters for critical examination of the goods/declarations.
- (iii) Critical verification of market value of export goods.
- (iv) Random and parameter-based selection for examination and scrutiny of export consignments being built into automated system of Customs clearance.

Air Services on Short-Haul routes

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

(a) whether the Government is planning to provide air services on Short-haul routes covering major tourist destinations and major urban cities covering a distance of 200-300 Kms;

(b) if so, the details thereof including those identified;

(c) whether private sector airlines would be given an incentive package to start services on these Short-Haul routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL) : (a) to (d) Airlines are free to choose routes based on their commercial judgment subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines. Government has given various fiscal incentives to smaller aircraft with a view to promoting short haul routes.

Merger of Banks

*76. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to merge the public sector banks in the country;

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

(c) the criteria adopted for their merger;

(d) whether several employees are likely to be affected by these merger;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) the benefits that would accrue to the Government on the merger of public sector banks;

(g) whether the Government also proposes to set up a massive development financial institution by merging them; and

(h) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Decisions regarding mergers have to be taken by the managements of the concerned banks. Government, as the common shareholder, will only play a supportive role.

(c) and (d) Mergers, based on the principles of synergies and business complementarities will be helpful in branch network rationalization and in improving competitiveness of the merged entities.

(d) and (e) In their merger schemes, Banks are expected to build in adequate safeguards to protect the interests of the employees.

(g) No, Sir.

(h) Does not arise.

Shortage of Non-Coking Power Grade Coal

*77. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Plants are facing shortage of non-coking power grade coal;

(b) If so, the details thereof and the reasons for such shortage; and

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) and (b) Even though Coal India Limited (CIL) has supplied during the year 2003-04, 233.27 million tonnes of coal to the power utilities as against annual plan target of 225.99 million tonnes fixed by the Inter-Ministerial Group under the aegis of the Planning Commission, some power stations had turned critical i.e., having stocks of coal less than 7 days' consumption. The reason for some of the power houses to turn critical is increased plant load factor and higher demand for power.

(c) A contingency coal movement plan for power utilities for the period April-June 04 was prepared by an inter-ministerial group comprising Ministries of Railways, Power & Coal on the initiative of the Cabinet Secretariat to build up coal stock in power plants. CIL and Indian Railways accorded an overriding priority to power sector in despatch and movement of coal. Thus during the quarters of January to March 2004 and April to June 2004 totally 125.097 million tonnes of coal have been dispatched by Coal India Limited to power utilities as against the actual supply of 112.752 million tonnes in the corresponding quarters of the previous year. Close monitoring by the Inter-Ministerial group on day-to-day basis resulted in significant reduction in number of critical power plants in the country. On account of coordinated efforts by all concerned, it could be ensured that there were no outages in power utilities on account of non availability of coal.

Ministry of Coal also has taken steps to expedite the sanction and grounding of new coal projects to augment coal supplies specially to the power sector.

Government have also reduced the import duty on thermal coal which now stands at 5% with a view to enabling power houses to import more coal to supplement their needs on account of increased generation of power.

Medical Insurance for Senior Citizens

*78. SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE:

SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether insurance companies do not accept medical insurance proposal and renew existing medical insurance for persons above 70 years of age;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether under existing norms persons above 80 years of age are excluded from medical insurance cover;

(d) If so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government is aware that some countries have a mandatory requirement regarding 'Medical Insurance' as a pre-condition for issue of 'visa' and thus senior citizens face harassment due to non-availability of medical insurance;

(f) whether the Government propose to take suitable steps and issue instructions to ensure provision for medical insurance coverage of senior citizens without any age restrictions; and

(g) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Insurance companies do offer medical insurance to persons above the age of 70 years also. However, due to the vulnerability of senior citizens to various diseases coupled with adverse claims ratio, some insurance companies do not have such a product.

(c) and (d) Insurance companies do not offer fresh medical insurance cover for persons above the age of 80 years. However, major insurance companies make it available to such persons, on case to case basis, subject to the policy being in force without break.

(e) Mandatory requirement of medical insurance as a precondition, by some countries, for issue of 'visa' to applicants including senior citizens could be fulfilled by purchasing it from the companies which are already offering overseas medical insurance cover even to persons above 70 years of age.

(f) and (g) Major insurance companies are already offering both domestic and overseas medical insurance policies to senior citizens also, with appropriate conditions, having regard to their age and health status. Therefore, there is no need to issue any instructions in this regard.

G-20 Doha Meet

*79. SHRI K.S. RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the delegation from India attended the G-20 meet at Doha;

(b) If so, the issues discussed and the number and details of agreements signed during the meet;

(c) the extent to which these agreements would help in the development of agriculture, trade and industrial sectors;

(d) whether there has been any political resolution among the countries in the Doha round of the WTO regarding the framework for liberalisation of trade in agriculture; and

(e) If so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir, there was no G-20 meet at Doha.

(b) and (c) The question of signing agreements therefore does not arise.

(d) and (e) No agreement has been reached in respect of the framework or modalities for negotiations on agriculture, and WTO Members are continuing their negotiations to ensure that the objectives enshrined in the Doha Ministerial Declaration of 14 November 2001 are met. India's aim in these negotiations is to secure enhanced market access for our country's products, to effect substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support and elimination of export subsidies by developed countries, and to secure appropriate flexibility to serve development objectives, to safeguard the concerns of our vulnerable sections including the small and marginal farmers and to ensure food and livelihood security of our population.

[Translation]

Rakesh Mohan Committee on small savings

*80. SHRI PRABODH PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(b) whether the Government has accepted the recommendations of committee on small savings;

(c) If so, the main recommendations of this report;

(d) whether the Government proposed to cut in the interest rate in small savings;

(e) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (f) The Rakesh Mohan Committee has submitted its report to the Government. The Committee has suggested certain criteria for fixing interest rates on small savings schemes and the features of a new savings scheme for senior citizens.

The decision of the Government on interest rates on small savings schemes and on the new savings scheme for senior citizens has already been announced in the House while presenting the Budget for 2004-05.

*[English]***Bannin of Explosives**

496. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gelatine is being used mostly by the P.W. Naxalites for preparation of explosives; and

(b) the action taken by the Ministry to monitor phasing out of production of Nitro-glycerin based explosives?

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

(a) Nitro-Glycerine (NG) based explosives are reportedly the preferred choice of extremists and anti social groups.

(b) The Government has issued a Notification (No. GSR No. 59 (E)) on 21.1.2004 prohibiting the possession, sale and use of Nitro-Glycerine based explosives throughout the country with effect from 1.4.2004 under section 6.1(a) of the Explosives Act, 1884.

Bilateral Trade between India and China

497. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of bilateral trade between India and China during the last three years as well as on date;

(b) whether balance of trade was in favour of China during the above period;

(c) If so, the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase India's export to China to enhance its trade with that country;

(d) whether any discussion was held with regard to trade during the recent visit of Indian Foreign Minister; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the steps taken or being taken by the Government to increase the Indian export to China?

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

(a) The volume of bilateral trade between India and China for 2000-01, 2001-02, April-February 2002-03 and 2003-04 is as follows:

(Value in US \$ million)

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (P)	2002-03 (Apr-Feb) (P)	2003-04 (Apr-Feb) (P)
India's exports to China PRP	828.68	951.95	1961.11	1693.46	2496.81
India's Imports from China PRP	1492.49	2036.39	2782.50	2527.17	3611.16
Total	2321.17	2988.34	4743.61	4220.63	6107.97
Balance of Trade	-663.81	-1084.44	-821.39	-833.71	-1114.35

(P): Provisional (Source : DGCIS)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Steps being taken, on an on-going basis, for increasing Indo-China trade include participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, organizing buyer-seller meets, exchange of delegations at both governmental and business levels, exchange of information, etc.

(d) and (e) No specific trade related issue was discussed during the recent visit of India's External Affairs Minister to China. However, both sides agreed that it was important to continue to sustain the development of trade relations.

Support Price of Tobacco

498. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco farmers of Andhra

Pradesh have sought support price in view of low prices in the market; and

(b) 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) No, Sir. The price of Flue Cured Virginia Tobacco in the ongoing auctions in Andhra Pradesh is ruling above the Minimum Support Price for the commodity.

(b) Does not arise.

Income Tax Evasion by Cooperative Societies

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

(a) whether the most of the co-operative societies do not file returns of income and are evading the payment of income tax to the Government in crores of rupees;

(b) If so, whether the Income Tax Department has failed to collect hundreds of crores of rupees from the co-operative societies registered in different parts of the country: and

(c) If so, the action taken by the Government to ensure that the co-operative societies file their income tax returns and to realize its dues from the co-operative societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) There is no evidence to suggest that most of the co-operative societies having taxable income are not filing their returns of income or are evading payment of tax. Wherever any default on the part of co-operative societies in filing their returns or payment of taxes due comes to the notice of the department, appropriate action is taken.

(b) and (c) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

Political Rights to Tamang and Limbas

500. SHRI M. K. SUBBA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite passing of the Constitution SC/ST Order (Second Amendment) Act, 2002 recognising Tamangs and Limbas as Tribals of Sikkim, the persons belonging to these Tribes were not allowed to fight elections to the reserved Assembly Constituencies during the recent Legislative Assembly polls;

(b) if so, the reasons for such continuing discriminations against the Tamangs and Limbas;

(c) whether another Legislation is to be brought for granting their political right as tribals; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per the provisions of sub-section (1A) of section 7 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, there is no separate reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim other than the reservation provided in that section for Sikkimese of Bhutia-Lepcha origin.

(c) No, Sir. The Ministry of Home Affairs, which is administratively concerned with the subject of composition of the Legislative Assembly of Sikkim, has informed that at present there is no proposal to bring any legislation either to increase the seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly or to

make Tamangs and Limboos communities eligible to stand for elections against twelve seats reserved for Bhutia and Lepchas in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

National Judicial Commission

501. SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to constitute the National Judicial Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main functions of the said Commission; and

(d) the time by which it likely to be set up?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Jewellery Exports

502. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total value of jewellery exported from the country during each of the last two years;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of jewellery; and

(c) the export promotion schemes being implemented in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The exports of jewellery items to different countries during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 are as follows:

(Rs. in Lakhs)				
Year	Gold Jewellery	Non-Gold Jewellery	Imitation Jewellery	Total
2002-03	630419.32	43770.67	19595.90	593785.89
2003-04 (April to November 2003) (Provisional)	466683.38	32205.72	14872.10	513761.10

Source: Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) Kolkata.

(b) and (c) The Government and Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), have taken several steps to increase the export of Gem and Jewellery from India and to enhance competitiveness in the world markets. Some of these are given below:

- The Government have formulated exports friendly Export Import Policy and have provided funds from Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI) schemes;
- Ministry of Commerce and Industry have prepared a Medium Term Export Strategy for various sectors including Gem and Jewellery sector;
- Duty concessions on import of coloured gemstones;
- The GJEPC promotes the images of Indian Gems and Jewellery abroad through advertisements, publicity and participation in international fairs, organising buyer-seller meets and direct approach to market retailers;
- The GJEPC identifies new markets by organising market study through consultants. It also deputed Indian designers to various international trade fairs and exhibitions to study the latest trend in designs;
- The GJEPC promotes export of Hallmark jewellery from India so that customers abroad can be assured of quality and purity of Indian made Jewellery; and
- Government have provided funds to set up the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre of Jewellery Design and Manufacture at Surat and Indian Institute of Gem and Jewellery at Mumbai to give a fillip to jewellery design and manufacture.

[English]

WTO Dispute Settlement Body

503. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the dispute settlement body of the W.T.O. has recently ruled that the huge substitutes given by the U.S. Government to its cotton-growers violates the norms of International trade;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) its possible impact on the economies of the developing countries including India;

(d) whether the Government has urged the WTO to make the dispute settlement mechanism fair by making it rule oriented; If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some industrialised countries are putting pressure to bring in non-trade related issues within the discipline of WTO; if so, the reaction of WTO; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to face such a situation?

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

(a) to (c) At the request of Brazil, a dispute settlement Panel was established by the Dispute Settlement Body of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in March 2003 regarding the subsidies granted by the United States to cotton growers. India is a third party to this dispute. In accordance with the provisions of WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding and the Working Procedures for this dispute, the report of the Panel has not yet been circulated to the WTO Member countries and is confidential. At this juncture the report of the Panel has been made available only to Brazil and the United States which are the main parties to the dispute. The possible impact of the ruling on the economies of developing countries including India can be assessed only after the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body adopts the recommendations of the Panel in this dispute.

(d) As part of the ongoing negotiations on WTO's Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU) India, along with certain other developing countries, has raised issues of particular concern seeking improvement and clarification in the DSU.

(e) and (f) Some developed countries have, in the past, sought to bring non-trade related issues within the WTO for making disciplines. Examination of certain issues, such as "trade and investment" and "trade and competition policy" has taken place in the WTO for identifying their relationship, if any, with trade and to the WTO framework. India's position is that in the absence of any clear relationship with trade, these two issues should not be negotiated for the establishment of any agreement at the WTO. The position of India, as well as that of several developing countries, has ensured that negotiations on these two issues do not commence in the absence of an explicit consensus at the WTO.

The linkage between trade and environment has also been under discussion in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) since 1995 as mandated by Marrakesh

Decision on Trade and Environment. The Doha Ministerial Declaration in 2001 provided a mandate for negotiations on certain limited aspects under trade and environment. India is actively participating in these negotiations and putting forth its views along with other like-minded developing and developed countries.

The linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Singapore in 1996 as well as in the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Seattle in 1999. India in coordination with other like-minded countries, had effectively opposed the inclusion of this linkage in both the Conferences.

Fish Export

504. SHRI P. RAJENDRAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been conducted to assess the impact of new import policy of USA (anti dumping act) on Indian fish exports;

(b) If so, the outcome thereof;

(c) the total fishery export for the each of last three years, State-wise, category-wise;

(d) whether steps have been contemplated to protect the prawn export industry of Kerala from the adverse effect of the import policy of USA;

(e) If so, the details thereof;

(f) the quantum of foreign exchange earned by the country through fish export; and

(g) the details of foreign exchange earnings State-wise, category wise and country-wise for each of last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVA): (a) to (g) Anti-dumping legislation is in existence in almost all countries, including the USA and India. Anti-dumping duties can be imposed by a country against imports from another country based on the price aspects. The Southern Shrimp Alliance (SSA) of USA had filed an Anti-dumping action against selected shrimp exporting countries, including India, in the USA. The Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) has been taking necessary steps to defend the interests of shrimp exporters of India, including Kerala in this action. The Government have been providing all necessary assistance in this regard. The findings of the U.S. authorities in the case are yet to be announced.

State-wise figures of marine products exports are not maintained. However, the major country-wise and major variety-wise export of marine products and foreign exchange earned during the last three years, as per information available, are as follows:

(i) Major country-wise exports of marine products

Country	Value: In Million US \$		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)
USA	299.05	424.51	320.47
European Union	241.01	287.84	300.25
Japan	383.07	317.17	237.57
China	125.66	158.23	144.96
South East Asia	113.35	133.15	104.12
Middle East	38.10	42.40	41.46
Others	53.11	61.60	63.03
Total	1253.35	1424.90	1211.86

(ii) Major variety-wise exports of marine products

Item	Value: In Million US \$		
	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04 (Provisional)
Frozen Shrimp	871.03	953.44	783.00
Frozen Fish	150.04	174.63	127.90
Frozen Cuttle Fish	58.93	86.37	90.92
Frozen Squid	69.36	79.83	78.14
Dried Items	14.30	17.46	27.84
Live Items	8.54	11.12	10.07
Chilled Items	13.39	12.27	12.55
Others	67.76	89.78	81.42
Total	1253.35	1424.90	1211.86

[Translation]

Free Legal Aid to Poor

505. SHRI AJIT JOGI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons to whom free legal aid has been provided during the last three years, state-wise;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the income limit for free legal aid to poor, from the existing ceiling of Rs.50,000;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) If not, the reason therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A statement showing number of persons provided free legal aid during the last three years is enclosed.

(b) There is no proposal to increase the income limit from the existing ceiling of Rs.50,000/- in respect of cases before the Supreme Court.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The income limit in respect of cases before the Supreme Court was increased from Rs.18,000/- to Rs.50,000/- only in the year 2000.

Statement

Number of persons provided Free Legal Aid during the last three financial years viz. 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

S. No.	Name of the SLSA	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	905	522	1,236
2	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-	94
3	Assam	15,118	14,862	22,586
4	Bihar	509	-	730
5	Chhattisgarh	-	-	6,364
6	Goa	116	231	416
7	Gujarat		798	5,021
8	Haryana	1,645	1,598	1,934
9	Himachal Pradesh	403	363	320
10	Jammu and Kashmir	1,579	1,193	777
11	Jharkhand	-	8685	507
12	Karnataka	1361	1,493	1,749

1	2	3	4	5
13	Kerala	1,017	402	545
14	Madhya Pradesh	45,300	39,845	17,594
15	Maharashtra	7,405	6,894	5,593
16	Manipur	-	-	-
17	Meghalaya	1	29	6
18	Mizoram	643	978	680
19	Nagaland	69	547	237
20	Orissa	1,692	1,521	1,398
21	Punjab	2,102	3,159	3,420
22	Rajasthan	2,588	5,401	7,947
23	Sikkim	331	324	179
24	Tamil Nadu	14,759	134,196	142,697
25	Tripura		42	232
26	Uttar Pradesh	1,057,372	1,037,860	791,025
27	Uttaranchal	-	203	1,287
28	West Bengal	-	1,366	1,202
29	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	-	-	-
30	Chandigarh	299	448	574
31	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	-	-	-
32	Daman and Diu	-	-	-
33	Delhi	5,698	7,516	12,721
34	Lakshadweep	-	-	-
35	Pondicherry	184	1,103	1,564
36	SCLSC	601	648	820

[English]

Agriculture Credit Fund

506. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sanctioning committee of the recently set up Agriculture Credit Fund has sanctioned Rs.176 crores to various States for projects relating to minor irrigation, soil and water conservation, flood protection and agro forestry;

(b) if so, the total amount provided to each State under this scheme; and

(c) the details of utilization of these funds as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the first meeting of the Sanctioning Committee of the Agriculture Infrastructure and Credit Fund, Rs.176 crore has been sanctioned to 9 States as per details given below:

S.No.	Name of State	Sector	Sanctioned (Rs. Crore)
1.	Bihar	Medium Irrigation components	12.73
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Irrigation & Flood Protection	22.48
3.	Karnataka	Minor Irrigation, Soil & Water Conservation	46.87
4.	Kerala	-do-	3.90
5.	Nagaland	Agro-Forestry	4.51
6.	Orissa	Minor Irrigation and Flood Protection	62.27
7.	Tripura	Cold Storage	3.17
8.	Uttaranchal	Minor Irrigation	3.47
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Flood Protection	16.60
Total			176.00

(c) The funds sanctioned would be utilized by the State Governments in a period of three years.

Reducing Agricultural Import

507. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR KANODIA:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

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

(a) whether the Government is considering reduction in agricultural imports to strengthen the indigenous primary sector; and

(b) if so, has the Government, so far, taken any action in this regard and 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) Development of indigenous agriculture is one of the most important objectives of the Government. All imports in the country are subject to applicable rates of Customs duties and also subject to domestic laws, rules, orders, regulations, technical specifications, environmental and safety norms as applicable to domestically produced goods. This should provide adequate protection to the indigenous primary sector. Government is absolutely determined to ensure through appropriate use of the tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any detriment or injury to the indigenous sector. Towards this end import duties on a number of products including wheat, rice, maize, edible oils, pulses, cotton, cloves, pepper, tea, coffee, arecanut, apple etc. have been increased in the last five years.

Kisan Credit Card

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

(a) the number of Kisan Credit Cards issued during the past three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the performance of the scheme;

(c) whether the Government intends to enhance such credits and broad base its issue to all States, Districts and villages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government has launched another scheme for the benefit of farmers; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) issued during the last three years, viz. 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004, are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) The overall performance of the Scheme has been satisfactory and the scheme has helped to make credit delivery to farmers hassle free and cost effective. As reported by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), a total number of 4.14 crore KCCs have been so far issued by the banking sector as on 31.3.2004.

(c) and (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) commissioned sample survey of the scheme has suggested further improvements in the scheme. In order that all the eligible agricultural borrowers are issued the cards, the banks will be advised to prepare an action plan for covering all the

agriculturalists under the scheme. Further, investment credit and production credit are proposed to be integrated and covered under the KCC to facilitate drawals by the borrowers in a hassle free manner. The interest on these loans shall be at reasonable rates, RBI will also advise the State Bankers' Committees to review the existing scales of finance.

(e) and (f) Government has recently announced a plan of action to increase the Ground Level Credit Flow to Agriculture by 30% during the current financial year.

Statement

State-wise details of the number of Kisan Credit Cards Issued by the banking industry during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04

S. No.	Name of the State/ Union Territory	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	581	615	396
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1037738	968096	921403
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	334	2074	3260
4.	Assam	13063	42566	54681
5.	Bihar	283218	262095	480620
6.	Chandigarh	5	0	1
7.	Chhattisgarh	92976	151259	155941
8.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	4	3
9.	Daman and Diu	0	0	0
10.	Goa	831	1940	1819
11.	Gujarat	404447	455403	246413
12.	Haryana	405539	386570	268507
13.	Himachal Pradesh	34738	25122	37232
14.	Jammu and Kashmir	12952	6410	5522
15.	Jharkhand	87120	33145	57831
16.	Karnataka	724942	430635	555639
17.	Kerala	274472	355785	392968
18.	Lakshadweep	35	34	80
19.	Madhya Pradesh	496049	507649	1270196

1	2	3	4	5
20.	Maharashtra	914705	843401	300458
21.	Manipur	475	1458	3130
22.	Meghalaya	1574	2093	8481
23.	Mizoram	1099	1500	1369
24.	Nagaland	16	1351	2466
25.	NCT of Delhi	594	435	577
26.	Orissa	353125	506741	536700
27.	Pondicherry	4207	3509	2612
28.	Punjab	607325	197364	152622
29.	Rajasthan	310416	184414	577526
30.	Sikkim	577	626	1144
31.	Tamil Nadu	728989	605321	357746
32.	Tripura	2527	4591	8329
33.	Uttar Pradesh	2130624	2033625	2283770
34.	Uttaranchal	74586	72686	79489
35.	West Bengal	340655	207249	477702
Total		9340534	8223766	9246633

[Translation]

Export of Onions

509. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

SHRI ALOK KUMAR MEHTA:

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR:

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

(a) variety-wise details of the export of onion during each of the last three years and target fixed for export during the current year;

(b) whether there is a persistent demand particularly from rose onion growers to increase the export quota of onions, if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for want of unrestricted export of onions;

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to lift restriction on the export of onion to enable the farmers to get remunerative price; and

(e) whether the Government is thinking of formulating a permanent Export policy for onion and implement the same at the earliest so that onion farmers get a minimum price of Rs. 600 per quintal?

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

(a) Variety-wise details of the export of onion is not maintained. However, the total quantity and value of onion exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (in Lakh Tonnes)	Value (in Rs. crores)
2001-02	4.42	332.42
2002-03	5.88	361.80
2003-04 (Apr. 03-Nov. 03)	4.77	355.25

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

Exports being dependent on a host of external and internal factors, no targets as such are or can be fixed.

(b) to (e) No Sir. As per the extant EXIM Policy, the export of onions is free without any quantitative restrictions. The export of onions is canalized through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) and other State Trading Enterprises (STEs).

Production of Cash Crops

510. SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and other Asian countries producing Rubber, Tea and other cash crops propose to form an association/organisation on the lines of the oil producing countries;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) If not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c) India is already a member of various Inter-Governmental organisations viz. Inter-Governmental Group on Tea, International Coffee Organisation, Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, International Pepper Community etc., set up for bringing together major producing

and consuming countries of tea, coffee, natural rubber, pepper etc. for the purpose of exchanging views and debating on policy issues on these commodities.

[English]

Assistance to States by NABARD

511. SHRI PRAKASHBAPU V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Bank of Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been providing loan assistance to the States for irrigation schemes under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF);

(b) If so, the details of the loan assistance provided by NABARD to Maharashtra during the last three years; and

(c) the details of Irrigation schemes undertaken by the Maharashtra Government during the period?

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

(b) and (c) The details of the loan assistance provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to Maharashtra under Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) for irrigation schemes during the last three years are given below:

Year	No. of Schemes	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Crores)
2001-2002	81	173.79
2002-2003	63	216.92
2003-2004	Nil	Nil
Total	144	390.71

Irrigation schemes undertaken are in the districts of Ahmadnagar, Aurangabad, Beed, Dhule, Jalgaon, Jalna, Kolhapur, Latur, Nagpur, Nanded, Osmanabad, Wardha, Yavatmal, Washim, Gondia and Nandurbar.

Micro Finance and Micro Credit

512. SHRI AJAY MAKEN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to improve micro-finance and micro-credit in the agriculture sector and for rural poor;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government intends to take services of NGOs for this purpose;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government is planning to increase the share of rural poor and agriculture sector in Government Bank lending;

- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether the Government intends to resolve the issue of collateral security for farmers;
- (h) if so, the details thereof;
- (i) whether the Government proposes to give any special discounts for small and marginal farmers; and
- (j) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has been evolving various strategies and policies to promote micro-finance and micro-credit schemes since 1992. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also been taking measures to give a fillip to the micro finance initiative through creating an enabling environment for fostering the growth of micro-finance in all sectors including agriculture. As a result, 10,79,091 Self Help Groups (SHGs) were linked with various banks as on 31st March, 2004. Some of the recent initiatives taken by NABARD/RBI to improve the coverage and out reach of micro-finance and micro-credit include:

- (i) Identification of 13 states as priority states to scale-up the SHG programme in view of the slow progress and high incidence of poverty in these states;
- (ii) Enlisting the support of banks at the corporate level;
- (iii) Increasing the participation of cooperative banks;
- (iv) Associating village communities, people's institutions, rural volunteers and individuals to participate in the programme as SHG promoters;
- (v) Increasing the effectiveness of existing SHGs by propagating 'Self-rating' tools;
- (vi) Financing of Self Help Groups (SHGs) as part of banks' lending to priority sector/weaker sections.

(c) and (d) The programme on micro-credit and micro-finance has been implemented by NABARD mostly through Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). NABARD has supported 785 NGOs, which have formed 72290 SHGs.

(e) and (f) A plan of action has been prepared to increase the Ground Level Credit Flow from commercial banks, RRBs and Cooperative Banks by 30% during the current year. All commercial banks have also been asked to enhance their credit flow to weaker sections from the present 6.7% to the required level of 10%. RBI on 18th May, 2004 has advised banks to waive the margin/security requirement for agriculture loans upto Rs. 50,000 and in case of agro business and agro clinics for loans upto Rs. 5 lakh.

(g) and (h) As per the monetary policy announced by Reserve Bank of India for the year 2004-2005, agricultural loans upto Rs. 50,000/- are exempted from collateral securities.

(i) and (j) RBI and NABARD have issued guidelines to all banks envisaging relief measures for distressed farmers including formulation of One Time Settlement (OTS) Scheme for small and marginal farmers who have been declared as defaulters till 24th June, 2004 and have become ineligible for fresh credit. Banks have been advised to complete the exercise of notifying defaulters latest by 30th September, 2004 and to process applications received from such defaulters within one month of their receipt. Banks have also been advised to ensure that settlement is done without discrimination and in a transparent manner so that farmers can access fresh credit. Management of banks has also been advised to review the cases where credit has been denied on the sole ground that a loan account was settled through compromise or write-off.

Domestic Airport at Kokrajhar

513. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has contemplated to take up appropriate initiatives and effective, action plan to sanction and set up a domestic airport at Kokrajhar, Head Quarters of the constitutionally recognised Scheduled Tribal Area – "Bodoland Territorial Area District (BTAD)" and its Administrative machinery – "Bodoland Territorial Council (BTC)" in Lower Assam in order to provide Air Service connectivity to the people of Bodoland Territory, since the concerned tragic Tribal territory has been deprived of bare minimum of an Airport;

(b) If so, the details of the actions taken so far in this regard;

(c) If not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) time by which an appropriate action in this regard will be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Airports Authority of India has no plan to set up a domestic airport at Kokrajhar during the 10th Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kokrajhar is located on a major State road about 10 Kms from the National Highway No.31. The airports at Rupsi in Assam and Cooch Behar in West Bengal are in the vicinity of Kokrajhar. These airports are non-operational due to absence of air traffic. Given the above, airport at Kokrajhar is not contemplated at present.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Community Development by CIL

514. SHRI BHUBNESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Ltd. has reduced funds for community development from 20% of the budget to a mere 5% during the last five years;

(b) the amount spent for providing drinking water, health, education and roads to the villages located around the mines as well as to the displaced persons;

(c) whether the Government is aware that there is

a resentment among the people of villages located nearby coal mines due to reduction in the said amount; and

(d) If so, whether the Government propose to undertake the development work by restoring the amount for community development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No Sir. Coal India Limited has not reduced funds for expenditure on community development during the last 5 years. As a part of Community Development programme amount spent on Drinking Water, Health, Education and Roads etc. to the villages located around the mines as well as to the displaced persons during 1998-99 to 2002-2003 are given below:

(Rs. In Lakh)

1998-99 Actual	1999-2000 Actual	2000-2001 Actual	2001-2002 Actual	2002-2003 Actual
966.28	855.31	919.81	1203.21	1436.59

In view of the above it is evident that the amount of expenditure is gradually increasing from 2000-2001.

(c) and (d) Do not arise in view of the reply to part (a) and (b) above.

Export Quota

515. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has decided that the chrome ore export quota for this year will not increase and would be same as that of 2003;

(b) if so, the policy of the Govt. in the past and at present;

(c) the reasons for not increasing the quota in comparison to the year 2003;

(d) whether the Union Government are aware that the Steel Manufacturers are facing difficulties due to absence of revision of the export quota; and

(e) the efforts being made/proposed to be made by the Government to remove the difficulties being faced by the Steel Manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Steel have recommended that the chrome ore export quota for this year should be the same as that for the year 2003. Under the Exim Policy for the years 2002-2007, Friable and Lumpy Chrome ore is regulated under the State Trading regime, and exported through MMTC, with a quantitative cap of 4 lakh metric tonnes per annum in the following manner:

(a)	Chrome ore other than			
(i)	beneficiated chrome ore fines/concentrates (average feed grade to be less than 42% Cr ₂ O ₃) and	Restricted (Export permitted under licence other than categories at (b) to (d) below)	-	No ceiling
(ii)	those categories of chrome ores mentioned in (b) to (d) below as permitted through STEs (State Trading Enterprise)			
(b)	Low silica friable/fine ore with Cr ₂ O ₃ not exceeding 52% and silica exceeding 4% And	STE (For export through MMTC)	3.6 Lakh Tonnes	Within the overall ceiling of 4.0 Lakh Tonnes
(c)	Chrome lumps with Cr ₂ O ₃ not exceeding 40%			
(d)	Low silica friable/fine chromite ore with Cr ₂ O ₃ in range of 52%-54% and silica exceeding 4%	STE (For export through MMTC)	0.4 Lakh Tonnes	

However, in the year 2002-03, under a special dispensation, the annual quantitative cap of 4 lakh metric tonnes was enhanced by 1 lakh metric tonne.

(c) The chrome ore, being a scarce and exhaustible mineral, with no further exploration being done to estimate higher availability of reserves, domestic value addition, like ferro chrome and charge chrome is preferred rather than exporting the ore. Further, the increased export of chrome ore to the countries, which are competing with India in export of value-added chrome products, may adversely affect the interests of the domestic industry.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of reply to (d) above.

[English]

Revival of NTC Mills in Gujarat

516. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Textile Corporation (NTC) has decided to revive some NTC mills in the State of Gujarat following the rehabilitation scheme approved by the Board of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) for textile mills;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of rehabilitation scheme approved by the BIFR; and

(c) to what extent the textile workers would be benefited from the rehabilitation programme for the NTC?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) BIFR has approved the rehabilitation scheme for NTC (Guj.) Ltd. involving revival of 2 viable mills and closure of 9 unviable mills.

(b) The estimated cost of the rehabilitation scheme is Rs 486.04 crores.

(c) It is expected that with the implementation of rehabilitation scheme, the company would be able to provide productive employment to nearly 1375 workers.

Marketing Development Assistance Scheme

517. SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Marketing Development Assistance Scheme introduced in 2000 in the handloom sector in lieu of rebate is significant;

(b) if not, whether the Government has any plan to reintroduce the 20% rebate scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Market Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme was not introduced in the year 2000. However, a scheme with the same name was introduced in 1988-89 and has since been discontinued w.e.f. 1.4.2000. The Scheme of Marketing Development Assistance has played a significant role in marketing of handloom goods during the period of its operation.

(b) There is no proposal at present to re-introduce 20% rebate scheme.

(c) Does not arise

Shortage of Staff in the Coal Subsidiaries

518. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coal India Limited is facing acute shortage of staff in some of the coal subsidiaries which are crucial for enforcing safety in coal mines;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to fill up these vacancies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) As informed by Coal India Limited, there is no acute shortage of staff for enforcing safety in coal mines in its subsidiaries. However, there is a marginal shortage in the category of Overman and Mining Sirdar in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited.

(b) and (c) The vacancies are caused mainly due to superannuation, death etc. The following steps are taken to fill up the vacancies:

- (1) Authorizing/promoting employees who possess/acquire certificate of competency.
- (2) By encouraging and giving training to employees to appear in examination being conducted by Directorate General of Mines Safety (DGMS) for acquiring certificates of competency as Overman and Mining Sirdar.
- (3) By Inter-Subsidiary transfer, from where there is surplus.
- (4) By outside recruitment.

[Translation]

Rehabilitation of Displaced Persons

519. SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons displaced so far by Eastern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited subsidiaries of Coal India Limited;

(b) the number of persons rehabilitated and employed by these subsidiary companies so far; and

(c) the time by which the remaining displaced persons are proposed to be rehabilitated/employed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) As informed by Coal India Limited, the number of persons displaced, rehabilitated and employed so far by Eastern Coalfields Limited, Central Coalfields Limited and Bharat Coking Coal Limited are given in the table below:

Name of the Company	No. of families displaced	No. of families rehabilitated	No. of persons employed
Eastern Coalfields Limited	1313	1313	11191
Bharat Coking Coal Limited	1573	1573	4498
Central Coalfields Limited	1332	1332	4678

(c) Rehabilitation and employment of displaced persons is a continuous processes and are done in a phased manner, in accordance with the company's norms and policy.

Production of Minerals

520. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of minerals produced during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) whether there has been an increase/decrease in the production of minerals during the current year;

(c) If so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the production of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) The state-wise value of mineral production during the years 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 is given in enclosed statement.

(b) and (c) The Index of mineral production (base year 1993-94 = 100) for the year 2003-04 was 147.00 (Provisional) as compared to 140.56 for the year 2002-03 showing a growth of 4.6%.

(d) To encourage production in mining sector, exploration and exploitation of all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals have been thrown open to private investment as per National Mineral Policy, 1993. All efforts are being made to increase investment in mining sector by creating investment friendly climate and removing bottlenecks to attract such investment.

Statement

Value of Mineral Production, 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 (Excluding Atomic Minerals)

State/ Union Territory	(Value in Rs.'000)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03 (Provisional)
1	2	3	4
India	587652535	608323691	635403509
Andhra Pradesh	47515959	52310910	55589860
Arunachal Pradesh	435983	380283	415503
Assam	33238238	32665952	30323068
Bihar	9822813	9798485	9787692
Chhattisgarh	38366432	37284528	39541388
Goa	2944212	3963243	50323920
Gujarat	46019867	49662038	51869802
Haryana	1564275	1520089	1498377
Himachal Pradesh	643294	833586	844738
Jammu and Kashmir	265462	223101	217465
Jharkhand	49673380	46110953	46943331
Karnataka	8873723	10565171	10642762
Kerala	1535328	1598073	1633378
Madhya Pradesh	30514183	37260100	38563247

1	2	3	4
Maharashtra	25203065	27894264	28607998
Manipur	2432	2432	2432
Meghalaya	2606298	3275705	2820596
Mizoram	922	922	922
Nagaland	775	775	775
Orissa	26897232	28509852	33664017
Punjab	49921	144056	144056
Rajasthan	23067853	23344610	24745677
Sikkim	20883	15321	5852
Tamil Nadu	16550208	17932416	18483503
Tripura	681116	764497	818497
Uttar Pradesh	21891274	22546810	23618196
Uttaranchal	54584	60399	68509
West Bengal	21552451	24978871	23932599
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	64196	185418	185418
Chandigarh	469	469	469
Daman and Diu	86	228	228
Pondicherry	871	1624	1624
Offshore	177594950	174488510	185387610

[English]

Modernisation of NTC Mills

521. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has introduced modernisation plan in respect of NTC mills in Mumbai;

(b) If so, the number of mills found viable and are proposed to be run as also the number of mills which are proposed to be closed down;

(c) the number of mills which are proposed to be run but are in dilapidated condition and unsafe for the workers to work;

(d) whether the Government has since undertaken renovation work of these mills; and

(e) If so, the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. 10 mills out of 25 NTC mills in Mumbai would be modernized under the rehabilitation scheme approved by BIFR/GOI. Remaining 15 mills are slated for closure.

(c) to (e) Some blocks of Mumbai-based Kohinoor Mills No.1 and India United Mills No.1 have been certified to be dilapidated condition and unsafe, therefore activities have been stopped in such areas. Similarly, some portion of Mumbai-based Finlay Mills and New City Mills are also in dilapidated condition. Finlay mill is proposed to be relocated in the premises of Digvijay Mills, Mumbai and Kohinoor Mills No.1 is to be merged in Tata Mills, Mumbai. In case of India United Mills No.1 and New City Mills, the necessary repairs of the dilapidated portion of the buildings will take care of the matter.

[Translation]

Dues from Private Airlines

522. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government charges any fixed fee from private Airlines for use of its airports;

(b) If so, the details and specified rules in this regard;

(c) whether a large amount of fee is due from certain Airlines;

(d) If so, the details thereof Airlines-wise; and

(e) the action taken to recover them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Airports Authority of India (AAI) levies Airport charges in the form of Route Navigation Facility Charges, Terminal Navigation Landing Charges, Landing and Parking Charges from all airlines including private airlines for use of the Airport facilities/ airport infrastructure of AAI. These charges are levied as per the provisions of Section 22 of the AAI Act, 1994.

(c) and (d) As far as private scheduled airlines which are in operation are concerned, they are given 15 day's credit facility. Dues (in Rs. crore) from such airlines as on 30.6.2004 are as follows: Jet Airways: 10.64, Sahara Airlines: 6.88,

Archana Airways: 0.39, Air Deccan: 0.68, Jagson Airlines: 1.14 and UP Airways: 0.14.

Dues are also outstanding from a number of private airlines who have closed down their operations details (in crores of rupees) of such outstanding dues are as follows: East West Airlines: 16.22, NEPC: 3.55, Skyline NEPC: 1.66, Elbee Airlines: 0.96, Continental Aviation: 1.84, VIF Airways: 0.25 and Modiluft: 0.45.

(e) AAI has initiated action under the Public Premises Eviction Act as well as Civil Court Proceedings for recovery of the dues.

[English]

Restriction of the Import in U.S.A.

523. SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the restrictions imposed by USA such as increased taxation on Indian imports are affecting Indian exports;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOAN): (a) and (b) Indian imports into the USA have not been subjected to increased import duty. However, trade measures like antidumping duties have been contemplated/imposed by the USA from time to time for the imports of specific products from certain countries, including India, which have affected our exports of products such as shrimps etc.

(c) Government constantly monitors such trade measures, which are taken up at the appropriate forum.

Inventory on Yarn

524. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the weavers of Andhra Pradesh have requested for creation of Rs.100 crore as revolving fund and Rs.25 crore for maintaining inventory on yarn etc.; and

(b) If so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested to sanction an amount of Rs.25.00 crore for purchase of yarn and Rs.25.00 crore for Export

Development as "Revolving Fund" to the Andhra Pradesh State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society Ltd. (APCO) to facilitate smooth supply of duty free yarn under the "Scheme for Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn" and to promote Export Development of APCO fabrics. Earlier also the office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms had received request from State Government of Andhra Pradesh to release of Rs.10.00 crore as "revolving fund" in favour of APCO for supply of yarn under CENVAT scheme. There is no provision under any of the schemes implemented by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms for providing financial assistance for a revolving fund as requested by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. The position has been intimated to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh.

Warehouse at Kakinada Port

525. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether C&AG in its Report No.3 of 2003 (PSUs) in Para 6.4.2 on page 35 has brought out that an infructuous expenditure of Rs. 5.11 crore was incurred on the construction of a warehouse at Kakinada Port at a time when the export of commodities had been falling;

(b) whether the management went ahead with the construction of the warehouse on the ground that surrendering the plot midway would have resulted not only in financial loss but would also create an adverse image of STC;

(c) whether the Ministry replied that since the transaction under scrutiny related to business/commercial activity of the company, it was not in a position to offer any comment;

(d) whether C&AG did not accept the contention of the Ministry stating that they should have suspended the work to restrict further losses with regard to the financial prudence; and

(e) If so, the action Government propose to take in the matter against the Board of Directors/Management?

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

(b) After receipt of a Detailed Project Report from M/s Rail India Technical & Economic Services (RITES) and in view of the then booming commodity market, Board of Directors of STC approved undertaking of construction of warehouse at Kakinada Port. However, a conscious decision was taken by the management of STC to restrict construction

of warehouse to 50% of the available area. Thus, the amount of investment was restricted and kept under control. The management also decided that STC would operate this warehouse on commercial lines so as to make the project viable in the event of decline in commodities export.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Yes Sir, C&AG did not accept the contention of the Ministry/Management. However, STC has now reported that till June, 2004 outgoing in the form of lease charges to Kakinada Port Trust and property tax to Kakinada Municipality were to the extent of Rs. 34.97 lakhs against which the revenue generated (till June 2004) by way of renting out the warehouse has been Rs. 46.40 lakhs, thereby generating a surplus of Rs. 11.43 lakhs.

(e) No final decision has been taken by Government on this.

[Translation]

Inspection of Export Firms

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

(a) whether there has been inspection of export firms by the Government during the last three years to identify the firms not following the norms; if so, the details thereof;

(b) the total number of export firms against whom complaints have been received by the Government and have been blacklisted;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action against the blacklisted firms; 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) to (d) Inspection of export firms are not carried out on routine basis. However, whenever violation/non-compliance of the provision of Customs Act; Central Excise Act/Foreign Trade (Development & Regulation) Act, Exim Policy or any other Export related Acts/Rules/Procedures is observed/ reported, detailed investigation is carried out by field formation of concerned wings of Government such as Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Directorate of Central Excise Intelligence, Directorate General of Foreign Trade etc. At times, agencies like Central Bureau of Investigation are also associated with such investigations. Such investigations also include inspection of records of concerned export firms. Based on the outcome of such investigations/inspections, necessary action is taken against the defaulter firms under

the provisions of respective Acts/Rules. Since various Govt. agencies having countrywide network of field formations are involved in the process, there is no centralised data of the number of complaints received by various agencies of the Govt. and action taken by them against the defaulter firms.

[English]

Disinvestment of Profitable PSUs

527. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of public representatives have urged the Government to roll back the disinvestment of profit making Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) in the country;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of the Union Government thereto;

(d) whether a demand has been made to workout a policy for loss making as well as profitable PSUs;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) action taken/to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (f) The Policy of the Government on disinvestment as stated in the National Common Minimum Programme is given hereunder:

The Government is committed to a strong and effective public sector whose social objectives are met by its commercial functioning. But for this, there is need for selectivity and a strategic focus. It is pledged to devolve full managerial and commercial autonomy to successful, profit-making companies operating in a competitive environment. Generally profit making companies will not be privatised.

All privatisations will be considered on a transparent and consultative case-by-case basis. The existing "navaratna" companies will be retained in the public sector while these companies raise resources from the capital market. While every effort will be made to modernize and restructure sick public sector companies and revive sick industry, chronically loss-making companies will either be sold-off, or closed, after all workers have got their legitimate dues and compensation. The Government will induct private industry to turn around companies that have potential for revival.

The Government believes that privatisation should increase competition, not decrease it. It will not support the emergence of any monopoly that only restricts competition. It also believes that there must be a direct link between privatisation and social needs - like, for example, the use of privatisation revenues for designated social sector schemes. Public sector companies and nationalised banks will be encouraged to enter the capital market to raise resources and offer new investment avenues to retail investors.

Mediclaim Policy of New India Assurance Company

528. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though the individual mediclaim policy was introduced way back in 1986 by the public sector New India Assurance Company, the coverage has not picked up satisfactorily; and

(b) if so, the details of the mediclaim policy and the reasons for lower coverage and the steps proposed to be taken to popularise the scheme?

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

(b) Mediclaim Policy:- The policy provides for reimbursement of medical expenses for hospitalisation/domiciliary hospitalisation in India. The sum insured varies from Rs.15,000/- to Rs.5 lacs and is available to persons in the age group of 15 to 80 years. Children between the age of 3 months and 5 years can also be covered with additional premium. Depending upon the age group and sum insured, the premium varies from Rs.213/- to Rs.17,156/- per annum per person.

Reasons for low coverage:- The reasons for low coverage of mediclaim, interalia, include absence of cashless facility, provisions of sub-limits of benefits and lack of adequate publicity of the product.

Steps taken/proposed to be taken to popularise the policy:- Cashless Service has been introduced through Third Party Administrators (TPAs). Sub-limits of benefits have also been removed. Drive for recruitment and training thereafter of agents has been initiated. Intensive publicity and advertisement campaigns have also been launched.

[Translation]

High Court Bench in Western Uttar Pradesh

529. SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demand to set up a Bench of the High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) If not, the reasons for non-setting up the above Bench so far; and

(d) the time by which it is likely to be set up there in view of the difficulty being faced by the people of that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI. K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) In its report dated 30th April, 1986, the Jaswant Singh Commission interalia recommended establishment of a permanent Bench of the Allahabad High Court at Agra and two circuit Benches thereof at Nainital and Dehradun by Parliamentary legislation. The Commission also suggested broad principles and criteria to be followed in assessing the expediency and desirability of setting up a Bench of the High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench.

The setting up of a High Court Bench is considered only when a complete proposal is received from the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

No specific proposal, complete in all aspects, has been received in this regard from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The then Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court in his letter of September 16, 2001 has conveyed that he endorsed the consistent views held by his predecessors against creation of any Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western U.P. He said that with the bifurcation of Uttar Pradesh into two States, several districts of Western U.P. have gone under the territorial jurisdiction of Uttaranchal High Court. Under these circumstances, the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court has adduced no justification for creation of any Bench of the Allahabad High Court in Western Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

Introducing Greater Affordability in Aviation

530. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to introduce some mechanism to bring air travel within the reach of average citizens;

(b) If so, the details thereof alongwith the steps proposed/taken in this regard; and

- (c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) To make air travel more affordable Government has abolished Inland Air Travel Tax, reduced excise on Aircraft Turbine Fuel (ATF) and reduced airport charges.

- (c) Does not arise.

Euro Currency

531. SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any plan to take up initiative for making reserve of Euro currency in view of beginning of the end of dollar raj;

- (b) If so, the action being taken in this regard;

- (c) If not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves are kept in major convertible currencies like US Dollar, Euro, Pound Sterling, and Japanese Yen. Euro is one of the major currencies in which India's foreign exchange reserves are maintained. Decisions on the exposure in respect of currencies are taken on the basis of likely currency movements and other medium-term considerations, such as, the necessity of maintaining major portion of reserves in the intervention currency, of maintaining the approximate currency profile of the reserves in alignment with the external trade invoicing pattern, and of the benefits from diversification of currency risk. In view of its importance, Euro has also been made RBI's intervention currency in the domestic foreign exchange market in addition to US Dollars.

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

[Translation]

Embezzlement in Union Bank of India

532. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether cases of embezzlement in three branches of Union Bank of India, New Delhi have been reported and during the inquiry the officials have admitted to having committed crime;

(b) If so, whether some innocent officials have also been suspended in these cases to save the skin of higher officers who have been found involved therein;

(c) whether concurrent audit of all branches of Union Bank of India is conducted but the audit party failed to detect any of the aforesaid irregularities;

(d) whether the Government has received any letter from Member of Parliament in June, 2004 regarding reinstating the innocent officials; and

(e) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Union Bank of India has informed that frauds in their four branches in New Delhi were detected. Based on the reports in these cases, the Disciplinary Authority has suspended three Branch Managers, two Managers and one Accountant. Out of the above one Branch Manager and one Manager have admitted to have committed the lapses, which led to the fraud and one Branch Manager, who has committed serious irregularities in two branches, is absconding. Bank has confirmed that no efforts are being made to protect anyone.

(c) Out of these four branches, three are under concurrent audit and the auditors have not reported any serious irregularities. However, in two branches they have reported about the excesses allowed in certain advances accounts.

(d) Ministry of Finance has not received any letter from Member of Parliament in June, 2004 regarding reinstating the innocent officials of Union Bank of India.

- (e) Does not arise.

[English]

RBI Report on Growth Savings and Investments

533. SHRI P.K. VASUDEVAN NAIR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report on Growth savings and investments prepared by RBI has noted that domestic industry's contribution to the GDP growth declined to 18 per cent in 2003-2004 from 34 per cent in preceding year; and

(b) If so, the details and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its report on 'Macroeconomic and Monetary Developments in 2003-04' issued with the 'Annual Policy Statement for 2004-05' on May 18, 2004 has

indicated that the industry's contribution to the growth of real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) declined to 18 per cent in 2003-04 from 34 per cent in the preceding year. The industry sector (comprising mining and quarrying, manufacturing, electricity, gas and water supply), recorded a higher growth of 6.8 per cent in 2003-04 compared with 6.2 per cent in 2002-03. The decline in the contribution of industry sector in 2003-04, despite a higher growth is mainly attributable to a significant improvement in the contribution of agriculture and allied activities from a negative 31.4 per cent in 2002-03 on account of drought to 24.2 per cent in 2003-04. The relative contribution of a specific sector to the growth of GDP depends not only on its own performance but also on the performance of other sectors.

**Malpractice in Allotment of Cases
in Insurance Companies**

534. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD:

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI D. VASAVA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are malpractices in allotment of the cases to Advocates in the National Insurance, the Oriental Insurance, the New India Insurance companies in Delhi and cases allotted in consideration of money;

(b) if so, the details of the cases allotted during the last two years, company-wise;

(c) the reasons of such discrimination;

(d) the efforts made to check this malpractice; and

(e) the achievement made following these efforts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The General Insurers' Public Sector Association (the co-ordinating body of public sector general insurance companies) has informed that there is no such malpractice in allotment of cases to Advocates.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Social Development of Country

535. SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether strong revival of credit off take from corporate and apprehension of huge Government borrowing to meet social development the rate of interest on home and personal loan may go up in second quarter of the fiscal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to ensure speedy and uninterrupted social development of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Commercial banks have the freedom to decide their lending rates on credit limits of over Rs. 2 lakh for various types of loans, including personal/housing loans. Interest rates on personal/housing loans will continue to depend on the general level of lending rates and the overall perception of credit risk, as at present. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act 2003, which has come into operation from July 5, 2004 mandates the Central Government to take appropriate measures to reduce the fiscal deficit and revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by March 31, 2008. In view of this, overall borrowings of the Central Government are unlikely to be huge relative to past trends. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) expects to conduct debt management without serious pressure on overall liquidity. The overall stance of monetary policy for 2004-05, as indicated by the RBI, is provision of adequate liquidity to meet credit growth and support investment and export demand in the economy.

Social development continues to remain one of the priorities of the Government. The development of the social sector is addressed through appropriate budgetary allocations and enabling policies.

[Translation]

Vacancy of Posts Reserved for SCs/STs

536. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether some posts reserved for scheduled castes/scheduled tribes under various categories are lying vacant in various departments and undertakings under this Ministry;

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

(c) whether the officials of various categories working in various departments and undertakings under this Ministry have been promoted;

(d) whether new recruitment have also been made during the last three years;

(e) if so, the details about new recruitment made under various categories during the said period and during the current year, year-wise and category-wise;

(f) whether prescribed guidelines have been followed for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes people; and

(g) If not, the corrective measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The detailed information may be seen in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The detailed information may be seen in the enclosed statement-II.

(f) Yes, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

Statement-I

Department	Group A		Group B		Group C		Group D		Total	
	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST	SC	ST
Coal (Including PSUs and subordinate offices)	71	39	207	170	227	474	82	447	587	1130
Mines (Including PSUs and subordinate offices)	155	102	10	28	131	182	94	40	390	352

Statement-II

Department/Year	SC				ST				Others	Total
	A	B	C	D	A	B	C	D		
Coal 2001-02	-	-	54	29	-	-	-	2	331	416
2002-03	-	7	140	5	-	44	57	40	93	386
2003-04	6	9	21	76	-	-	4	9	386	511
Mines 2001-02	-	-	67	72	-	-	25	28	279	471
2002-03	-	11	24	5	-	4	36	9	209	298
2003-04	4	15	4	3	1	9	10	4	181	231

[English]

Export of Motor Vehicles

537. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR MODI:

SHRI DALPAT SINGH PARSTE:

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

(a) the number of passenger cars exported by the country during each of the last three years, model-wise;

(b) whether there has been any increase in the export of passenger cars during the current year;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the foreign exchange earned by the country during the aforesaid period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGO VAN) : (a) The number of passenger cars exported by the country during the last three years is given in Table "A" below.

Information pertaining to model-wise exports of passenger cars is not available.

Table "A"

Year	Number of Passenger Cars exported
2001-02	50108
2002-03	70828
2003-04	126249

(Source: Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM))

(b) and (c) There appears to be an increase in the export of passenger cars during the current year 2004-05 (April-May 04) compared to the exports in the corresponding period last year as per the figures given in Table "B" below:

Table "B"

Year	No. of Passenger Cars exported	Value of passenger cars exported
2004-05 (April-May)	23551	Rs. 715.95 crores
2003-04 (April-May)	15928	Rs. 484.21 crores

(Source: Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers, (SIAM))

(d) The foreign exchange earned during the last three years, in equivalent Indian Rupees, is given in Table "C" below:

Table "C"

Year	Value of Passenger Cars exported
2001-02	Rs.418.28 Crores
2002-03	Rs.897.11 Crores
2003-04* (April-November)	Rs. 787.89 Crores

(Source: DGCI&S Kolkata)

* Export figures for the year 2003-04 are yet to be finalised.

Vanished Companies

538. SHRIMATI MINATI SEN: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of fraud and vanishing companies who had cheated the investors money and the amount thereof as on date; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to track them and recover the money?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) At present, 122 companies stand identified as vanishing companies. These companies had come out with public issues involving Rs. 838 crores.

(b) A Coordination and Monitoring Committee, co-chaired by Chairman, Securities and Exchange Board of India and Secretary, Ministry of Company Affairs has been set up

for taking legal action against unscrupulous Promoters/Directors. Accordingly, action has been initiated against Promoters/Directors of the vanishing companies for violations under the Companies Act. Cases against several vanishing companies and their Promoters/Directors have also been registered with Police for offences punishable under Sections 420, 406, 403, 415, 418 and 424 of the Indian Penal Code.

Missing of Voters Name from Electoral Rolls

539. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

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

(a) whether a large number of voters found their names missing in the electoral rolls in the recently conducted General Elections to Lok Sabha and some Assemblies; and

(b) If so, the action taken by the Government to ensure that names of eligible voters do not miss from the electoral rolls?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India has informed that it had received some complaints regarding names missing from the electoral rolls during the recently conducted General Elections to Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Orissa and Sikkim. The Commission has ordered an appropriate enquiry to ascertain the reason behind the missing names in a large number of cases. In respect of Maharashtra, especially Mumbai, the number of complaints were more. Since the General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly of Maharashtra is due to be held in September-October, 2004, the Commission has ordered another special summary revision in the entire State of Maharashtra with the same qualifying date i.e. 01.01.2004 before the General Elections to the State Legislative Assembly to give an opportunity to all the persons whose names were missing as well as other eligible persons to get their names enrolled. The programme of special summary revision has commenced with draft publication of rolls on 15.06.2004 and the final publication is scheduled for 11.08.2004.

In respect of all other States and Union territories, the Commission has decided to revise the rolls w.r.t. 01.01.2005 as the qualifying date. In the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Jammu and Kashmir, the nature of revision will be intensive, i.e. by way of house-to-house enumeration. In rest of the States, the revision shall be special summary, i.e., the existing rolls of 2004 shall be published in draft for inviting

claims and objections from the eligible persons. In the States of Arunachal Pradesh and Maharashtra, the programme of revision with 01.01.2005 as the qualifying date shall be finalized only after the completion of the ensuing General Elections to the State Legislative Assemblies.

Recovery of Dues

540. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether crores of rupees are yet to be recovered due to grant of stay by the courts, settlement commission, IATA and income tax authorities etc;

(b) if so, the steps taken to get the stay orders vacated and to recover the amount; and

(c) whether the financial condition of the Government do not entail laxity in the recovery of its dues?

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

(b) and (c) Recovery of a tax is a continuous process, involving the use of statutory provisions which include charging of interest, levy of penalty, attachment and sale of movable/immovable properties. In respect of cases where stay orders against recovery have been passed by the appellate bodies, special measures are taken to file petitions for urgent hearing or for deciding the cases on priority. Periodical review and monitoring of cases involving high demands are also regularly undertaken at various levels and necessary instructions are issued from time to time for effecting recovery of the outstanding taxes. All possible steps for recovery of dues are taken.

Revision of Coal Royalty

541. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to review the coal royalty;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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) of the question.

(c) As per Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, upward review of

rate of royalty shall not be done more than once during any period of 3 years. The royalty on coal was enhanced on 16.08.2002. Therefore, it can be reviewed only after 16.08.2005.

Landing slots by Jet Airways

542. DR. PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has designated Jet Airways to operate as scheduled air service to/from UK, Singapore, Malaysia, South East Asia and West European Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Jet Airways have sought landing slots from concerned authorities in above countries without proper clearances from DGCA and other authorities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken/proposed in response to the details and reasons advanced by the Jet Airways?

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

(b) Do not arise.

(c) to (e) As far as overseas routes are concerned, Government has permitted private scheduled airlines to operate only to SAARC countries subject to designation. Jet Airways has informed that they had applied for slots at London, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Bangkok airports on their own volition for planning purposes to evaluate slot availability. According to Jet Airways, this was done with a clear understanding that such slots would be utilized only after Government granted requisite permission to undertake such operations.

Merger of IFCI and IDBI

543. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has examined the proposal of merger of IFCI with IDBI;

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

(c) whether the Government have also received proposal of merger of all DFIs to form a mega institution for industrial development of the country; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Government have explored all possible alternatives for maintaining the long term sustainability of development financial institutions. In this context, the merger of IFCI with other FIs and Public Sector Bank has also been considered. IFCI is a company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 with no direct shareholding of the Government. As such, the merger of IFCI with IDBI or another bank would be decided by the Board of Directors of IFCI depending on the entity which offers maximum synergy from a merger.

Distribution of Domestic Routes

544. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Airlines has asked the Government to redistribute domestic routes between itself and Air India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government had set up a committee to rework the schedule of route rationalization;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations; and

(e) the status of implementation thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) A committee was constituted to examine the issue of route rationalization between Air India and Indian Airlines on international routes. In the meantime, Air India and Indian Airlines signed a Memorandum of Understanding to rationalize their international routes and decided to meet periodically to discuss this issue. The Committee set up by the Government has taken note of the Memorandum of Understanding between the two airlines and has decided to meet only in case of irreconcilable differences between the two airlines.

Smuggling of Cows

545. SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a large herds of non-milching cows are regularly smuggled out to Pakistan and Bangladesh along our borders in Rajasthan and West Bengal for slaughter despite surveillance by Indian security forces along the border; and

(b) if so, the steps taken, if any, to curb this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Madam. The number of cases of smuggling of cows and the number of cows seized during the past three years on Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal is as under:

Year	No. of cases of seizure	No. of cows seized
2002-2003	2,878	12,217
2003-2004	3,826	19,078
2004-2005 (upto June, 2004)	1,737	5,166

However, no case of such smuggling have been detected along the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan.

(b) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling.

Export and Import of Rubber

546. SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been any agreement to give sanctions to companies for the import of natural rubber to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been any export of natural rubber from India to any foreign country; 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) With the removal of Quantitative Restrictions from 1.4.2001 onwards, natural rubber can be imported freely by paying the prescribed customs duty and no sanction of the Government is required for importing natural rubber.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. During the year 2003-04, 75,905 Tonnes of natural rubber was exported from India to 39 countries, details of which are given in the enclosed statement.

Statement*Country-wise Export of Natural Rubber during 2003-04*

S. No.	Country	Quantity exported (In tonnes)
1	2	3
1.	China	31226.100
2.	Sri Lanka	9994.836
3.	Malaysia	7775.330
4.	Turkey	4336.975
5.	Spain	3221.626
6.	Germany	2469.400
7.	Singapore	1936.000
8.	Nepal	1797.825
9.	Belgium	1650.605
10.	Pakistan	1532.600
11.	Indonesia	1444.000
12.	U.K.	1236.150
13.	Iran	864.300
14.	Brazil	758.490
15.	Ukraine	648.000
16.	Australia	618.540
17.	U.A.E.	581.200
18.	Syria	578.256
19.	Russia	400.000
20.	Egypt	385.000
21.	New Zealand	365.580
22.	Kenya	321.300
23.	Bangladesh	298.048
24.	Netherland	236.500
25.	France	226.400
26.	Korea	218.000

1	2	3
27.	Poland	145.960
28.	Taiwn	115.000
29.	South Africa	76.000
30.	Hungary	109.000
31.	Saudi Arabia	57.000
32.	Japan	56.000
33.	Colombia	49.832
34.	Thailand	42.280
35.	Argentina	40.000
36.	Greece	38.000
37.	Romania	19.000
38.	Chile	19.000
39.	U.S.A.	16.400
Grand Total		75904.533
Rounded		75905.000

International Hub Airport at Nagpur/Agra547. **SHRI EKNATH MAHADEO GAIKWAD:****SHRI RAJ BABBAR:**

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of geographical location of Nagpur at the centre of the country and to give impetus to the economic development of Vidharba region and Central India as whole, the Government has been considering developing a Multi-Modal International Hub Airport for Passengers and Cargo, at Nagpur;

(b) If so, the broad features of the contemplated International Airport;

(c) the progress made so far since August, 2001;

(d) whether there is a proposal to set up an International Airport at Agra also to attract foreign tourists;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the time by which it is likely to be constructed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The State

Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal to develop Nagpur airport as a Multi Modal International Hub Airport for Passenger and Cargo. In response to the proposal, Ministry of Civil Aviation has advised Government of Maharashtra to conduct a due diligence of Airport infrastructure at Nagpur and prepare a Road map for all activities to be undertaken like joint survey and determining requirement of land, techno-economic feasibility etc. Further appropriate decision will be taken on the basis of the report of due diligence and feasibility study.

(d) and (e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Polymer Currency Notes

548. DR. M. JAGANNATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "why put your money on plastic" appearing in the 'Indian Express', dated the June 16, 2004 highlighting the advantages and savings on the use of polymer currency notes;

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

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any committee to go through the claims of the Australian firm in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) to (e) A Committee of Experts set up to examine the aspects of printing of Indian bank notes on polymer substrate had found the proposal unsuitable. Based on their recommendations, it was decided in consultation with RBI not to pursue the matter. RBI have reiterated their earlier stand. There is no proposal presently under consideration of the Government for use of polymer notes in India.

[Translation]

Air Connection between States

549. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is pending with the Government to connect Bhopal with Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad and Bangalore in order to promote tourism in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be cleared?

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

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

Loss making Airports

550. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether several airports of the country are running under losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof as on date; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

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

(b) During the year 2003-04, 115 airports of Airports Authority of India, including 38 non-operational airports had incurred a total loss of Rs. 274.92 crores.

(c) Airports Authority of India is taking steps to increase the non-aeronautical revenue at these airports to the extent possible and also to reduce the controllable expenditure.

[English]

Pakistani and Bangladeshi in Voters List

551. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that a number of Pakistani and Bangladeshi nationals have been included in the voters' list in various States;

(b) if so, whether the Government have any proposal to strike out their names from the list;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (c) The Election Commission of India has informed that only Indian citizens are eligible for inclusion in the electoral roll. However, sometimes, during house-to-house enumeration or during the period of filing claims and objections, names of some persons find their way into the

electoral rolls due to false information provided by the applicants. The Commission has provided a Statement (enclosed) which is laid on the Table of the House, containing the details of cases of Bangladeshis only, who have been wrongfully included in the electoral rolls in the States of Assam, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and the National Capital Territory of Delhi. The Commission has, however, stated that it does not have data of such cases available with it with regard to the existing electoral rolls of 2004.

(b) The Commission has decided to revise electoral rolls with 01-01-2005 as qualifying date in which inclusion of new electors and deletion of ineligible names in the roll shall be done as per the existing law. This exercise may also result in deletion of names that might have been included in the roll by mistake.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Specific Cases of Registration of Foreigners (Bangladeshi) reported by the States/UTs

(a) Assam

In 126 Assembly Constituencies of the State 200,930 cases of doubtful nationality were identified and referred to competent authority. Out of these, as of now in case of 2749 cases citizenship status have been confirmed and accepted by the Competent Authority, 502 cases have been declared as illegal migrants and 197679 cases are pending with Competent Authority.

(b) Maharashtra

The C.I.D Branch of Mumbai Police reported to the DEO, Mumbai Suburban that six Bangladesh nationals were included in the electoral rolls of 39-Amdl and 49-Kurla Assembly Constituency in Mumbai Suburban District (Five and one respectively). The Electoral Registration Officers of above Constituencies have initiated action on the basis of police report under rule 21 of R.E. Rule 1960 to enquire the status of their citizenship. Their names will be deleted from the rolls if they are proved to be Bangladesh nationals after enquiry.

The DEO, Raigad has reported that one elector named Shri Patware Gulab Mustafa Fajmuddin has been included in the electoral rolls of 13-Shriwardhan Assembly Constituency since 1995. The police has filed case in the Court of JMFC, Shriwardhan against 9 Bangladesh nationals in June 2001 for unauthorised stay in India. Out of these, the name of only one Bangladeshi national viz. Shri Patware Gulab Mustafa Fajmuddin has been found to be enrolled in the roll of 13-Shriwardhan AC. The Hon'ble Court has ordered to

handover eight Bangladeshis excluding Patware Gulab Mustafa Fajmuddin to the BSF, Calcutta. Accordingly, the Police handed over the eight Bangladeshi on 17th December 2001. The Hon. Court has released Shri Patware Gulab Mustafa Fajmuddin on bail and the matter is pending trial.

(c) Orissa

After enquiry, 370 names of Bangladeshi were found in the Electoral Roll of 2002 and the same have been deleted. Similarly, names of 197 Bangladeshis were found in Electoral Rolls of 2003 for which action is being taken to delete their names. Besides 2 names of Bangladeshi are identified in the Electoral Rolls of 2003 of 135-Sundargarh A.C. which are not deleted as the same are subjudice in the Hon'ble court of Orissa.

(d) Uttar Pradesh

District Election Officers Faizabad, Raibareli and Jhansi have reported that 14, 3 and 1 name respectively of Bangladesh nationals were enrolled in the rolls of 2002. These names have been deleted from the rolls of 2002.

(e) NCT of Delhi

There are few names of Bangladeshis found to exist in the Electoral Rolls. Election Deptt. of Govt. of NCT of Delhi has received lists of Bangladeshi migrants from its Home Deptt. for taking necessary action for the deletion of their names (if exist) from the Electoral roll of the concerned assembly constituency in NCT of Delhi. The list of Bangladeshi migrants were sent to concerned Electoral Registration Officers for taking further necessary action to delete the names from the Electoral Roll. As per the information received from the concerned Electoral Registration Officers of Assembly Constituencies in NCT of Delhi, they have so far deleted 75 names appearing in the rolls. This has now become a routine process i.e. the receipt of the lists of Bangladeshi migrants and inquiry/deletion. Therefore, the action of enquiry etc. is still under progress into some lists of Bangladeshi migrants at the offices of Electoral Registration Officers.

[English]

Permission to Private Airlines

553. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed private airlines to fly to SAARC Countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any decision in this connection was taken during last SAARC Summit;

(d) If so, whether the Pakistan Government has rejected Indian proposal to allow private airlines to fly to their country; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Government have permitted private scheduled Indian carriers to operate to SAARC countries, subject to availability of traffic rights and provision in the respective Air Services Agreements for designation of multiple airlines. On the basis of their requests, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have so far been designated to operate to Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The proposal of Government of India to amend the existing Air Services Agreement to provide for designation of multiple airlines for operations of air services between the two countries, has not been acceded to by Government of Pakistan for the present;

[Translation]

Air Service between India and Pakistan

554. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any decision to start air-service between India and Pakistan was taken during the second week of June, 2004; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) In pursuance to the decision taken in the technical level talks between India and Pakistan held on 1.12.2003, air services between the two countries were restored with effect from 1.1.2004.

[English]

Raids on Tehelka

555. SHRI K. S. RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of raids conducted by various agencies under his Ministry on the office and residence of owner of Tehelka and his partners during the last four years;

(b) the outcome of each raids; and

(c) the action taken on the basis of the findings of the raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No search was conducted on M/s. Buffalo Networks Pvt. Ltd., the owner of Tehelka by the agencies under the Ministry of Finance. However, searches were conducted by the Income Tax officials at 4 premises of M/s. First Global Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd. (one of the shareholders of M/s. Buffalo Networks Pvt. Ltd.) and 3 residential premises of Shri Shankar Sharma (one of the Directors of M/s. Buffalo Networks Pvt. Ltd.).

(b) The search action has led to seizure of jewellery of the value of Rs. 1,61,701, computer servers, CDs, floppies, books of accounts and other documents evidencing substantial tax evasion.

(c) The Department has completed block assessments u/s 158BC of the Income-tax Act, 1961 in the case of Shri Shankar Sharma and M/s First Global Stock Broking Pvt. Ltd., determining the undisclosed income for the block period at Rs. 40.34 crore and Rs.682.27 crore respectively.

[Translation]

Vacant Posts of Judges

556. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

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

(a) the number of posts of judges vacant in High Courts till date, High Court-wise;

(b) whether the Government has decided to fill up all these posts of judges lying vacant; and

(c) If so, the time by which all the vacant posts are likely to be filled up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) A Statement showing the vacancy position, High Court wise, is enclosed.

(b) and (c) Filling up of vacancies in the High Courts is a continuous consultative process among the Constitutional authorities. While every effort is made to fill up the existing vacancies expeditiously, vacancies do keep arising on account of retirements, resignation or elevation of Judges.

Pursuant to the Supreme Court Judgment of October 6, 1993 read with their Advisory Opinion of October 28, 1998, the process of initiation of proposal for appointment of Judges of a High Court lies with the Chief Justice of that High Court. The Government has, however, been requesting the Chief Justices of the High Courts, Chief Ministers and the Governors of the States, from time to time, to initiate proposals for filling up of the present and vacancies anticipated during the next six months.

Statement*Position as on 05-07-2004*

Sl. No.	Name of the High Court	Approved strength	Judges in position	Vacancies
1	Allahabad	95	71	24
2	Andhra Pradesh	39	29	10
3	Bombay	60	55	05
4	Calcutta	50	43	07
5	Chhattisgarh	08	03	05
6	Delhi	33	25	08
7	Guwahati	19	12	07
8	Gujarat	42	31	11
9	Himachal Pradesh	09	06	03
10	Jammu and Kashmir	14	07	07
11	Jharkhand	12	11	01
12	Karnataka	40	29	11
13	Kerala	29	22	07
14	Madhya Pradesh	42	25	17
15	Madras	49	29	20
16	Orissa	22	11	11
17	Patna	43	22	21
18	Punjab and Haryana	53	28	25
19	Rajasthan	40	21	19
20	Sikkim	03	02	01
21	Uttaranchal	09	07	02
Total		711	489	222

*[English]***Protection of the Environment**

557. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal companies do not pay adequate attention to the protection of the environment;

(b) If so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken/propose to be taken by the Government to ensure proper protection of the environment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The coal companies pay adequate attention to the protection of the environment.

(c) The following measures are being taken by the coal companies to protect the environment:

Preparation of Environment Management Plan (EMP): Before starting the operation of a mine, a well designed EMP is prepared backed by the environmental impact assessment (EIA). The EMP is supported by the base line data generated for the project site. Approval of the EMP by Ministry of Environment and Forests is a precondition for approval of project. Regular monitoring of implementation of the provisions of the EMP is done as per requirement of MoEF and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs). During the operation of a mine the following mitigatory measures are also taken:-

- Topsoil preservation:- meticulous excavation of the topsoil, its storing and use during plantation in the reclaimed area is being done in the opencast mines wherever applicable. Collection of topsoil and its reuse for the plantation in reclaimed area is followed as a routine job.
- Tree plantation is a traditional activity in coal mines. Every year in the big opencast mines around 50 lakh saplings are planted on OB dumps, reclaimed back filled areas, empty lands and avenues.
- Air pollution - Action are being taken for suppression of dust in the opencast mines which includes, installation of dust extractors in drills in opencast mines commissioning mobile and static water sprinklers in haul roads, black topping of coal transportation roads, plantation along avenues and enclosing conveyor belts.
- Water pollution: efforts are being made to make all types of discharges from the mine to have environmental parameters within acceptable limits before these are discharged to the natural watercourse. Arrangements are also made in

some of the projects to reuse the treated effluents from the workshops within the mine itself to have near zero discharge. The efforts include commissioning oil and grease traps in the excavation workshops to make discharges free from oil and grease, commissioning sedimentation ponds for mine discharges, commissioning integrated effluent treatment plants to deal with workshop, mine as well as coal handling plant discharges in big mines, commissioning sewage treatment plants to deal with the domestic effluents and construction of bunds and catch drains around Over Burden dumps.

- Noise pollution: noise level is regularly monitored in day as well as night hours at pre-fixed monitoring stations to assess the noise level. Action is taken to reduce the noise level when ever necessary.
- Blasting vibration: whenever there is habitation within 500 meter from the mine, vibration monitoring of blasting operation is done and blasting operation is controlled accordingly to keep the vibration level within permissible limit.
- Environmental Monitoring: air, water & noise samples are collected as per standard at pre-fixed stations at regular interval as prescribed by laws to find out the level of pollution and efficacy of the mitigatory measures adopted. Blasting vibrations are measured as per Director General Mines Safety (DGMS) guidelines in the opencast mines, water level in the wells in and around the mining activity area are measured regularly to find out effect of mining on ground water, if any. As per result of monitoring, the environmental parameters are normally within acceptable range and whenever any deviation is detected, action are initiated to normalize the situations.
- Land pollution: During mining operation itself all non-active external Over Burden dumps are reclaimed and plantation is done extensively with different variety of samplings including medical plants. Voids are backfilled with over-burden simultaneously as the mine progresses.
- After the mine is exhausted, all the reclaimed land (filled with OB/top soil) is covered with dense plantation. Recently a few of the reclaimed sites are being used for growing paddy/vegetable crops/medicinal plants by the

project affected people. Some left out voids are converted into water reservoir which becomes source of water for domestic use and fisheries for the habitats who continue to live after the mine is closed.

[Translation]

Export of Readymade Garments

558. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the year-wise quantum of readymade garments exported during the last three years;
- (b) whether India has received fresh orders for export of readymade garments;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the time by which the Garments are likely to be exported?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) As per available DGCI&S data, the readymade garments exports during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 has been as given below:-

Year	Value (in US\$ Million)
April 2000-March 2001	5087.0
April 2001-March 2002	4618.7
April 2002-March 2003	5031.5

(b) to (d) Government is not directly engaged in the export of readymade garments. The exports are effected by the Indian readymade garment exporters on the basis of the individual contracts entered into with their respective overseas buyers.

However, as per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, readymade garment exports during the period April-February 2003-2004 have amounted to US\$ 4946.7 million as compared to export of US\$ 4746.4 million during the corresponding period of 2002, recording a growth of 4.2%.

[English]

Insurance Industry

559. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has decided to give a new look to the Insurance industry;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is considering to have changes including allowing 49% foreign equity participation and also merging of Insurance laws and certain amendments to the Insurance Act, 1999;

(d) If so, the main charges proposed in this regard; and

(e) the time by which these are likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) Reforms in the insurance sector are a continuous process. The Government has decided to raise Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) limit for Insurance Sector to 49%, which has been announced in the Budget Speech, No decision has been taken regarding merging of Insurance laws and other amendments to Insurance Act, 1938.

NTC Mills in Mumbai

560. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of NTC mills which are in dilapidated condition in Mumbai;

(b) the number of accidents reported in these mills during the last three years and the number of workers killed/injured in these accidents;

(c) the amount of compensation paid to each of the family of those killed/injured;

(d) the total number of workers in these mills;

(e) the number of workers who have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme;

(f) whether all the VRS cases have been settled; and

(g) If not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Four out of 25 Mumbai based NTC mills are in dilapidated condition.

(b) During the last three years, only two accidents occurred and two workers received minor injuries.

(c) The workers being insured under ESI Scheme, compensation, if any, is settled by the Employees State Insurance Corporation.

(d) The total number of workers/employees on roll of the working mills in Mumbai are 14016 as on 1.6.2004 out of which 4693 are working in these 4 mills.

(e) 10626 workers/employees of Mumbai based mills have opted for MVRS in the closed and working mills as on 1.6.2004.

(f) 10537 workers/employees have been paid VRS compensation and 89 workers/employees have been retained for carrying out various jobs.

(g) These employees have been retained for carrying out critical jobs like finalization of accounts and settlement of statutory dues of PF/ESI and will be relieved under VRS, as soon as these jobs are over.

Import of Rubber

561. SHRI P. C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to stop import by implementing Advance Licence Scheme on Rubber, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether the Government intend to launch a scheme in lieu of Advance Licence Scheme to import rubber for its supply to manufacturers through STC or any other agency?

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

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Meat Export

562. SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of meat exported from India to other countries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government are contemplating to impose ban on the export of meat; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is likely to be imposed and the benefits expected to be accrued from this ban?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) The total quantity of meat exported during the last three years is as under:

Year	Quantity (in MTs)
2001-02	248386
2002-03	305552
2003-04 (Apr. 03 to Nov. 03)	215161

Source: DGCI&S, Kolkata.

- (b) No, Sir.
(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Outstanding Taxes against Corporate Houses

563. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA:
SHRI SURESH CHANDEL:
SHRI S. P. Y. REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the outstanding amount of taxes including income-tax, central excise, corporation tax etc. against corporate houses, industrialists and Government officials along with the since when outstanding during the last three years, company-wise and sector-wise;
(b) the reasons for not realizing the outstanding amount;
(c) whether the Government has announced any rebate and incentives to encourage timely deposit of income tax;
(d) if so, the details thereof; and
(e) the steps taken by the Government to simplify the tax system and realization of outstanding amount?

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

[Translation]

Accidents in Mines

564. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the comparative data of the number of people injured/killed in various coal mines in the country during the last three years, till date;

(b) the action taken by the Government in such cases against guilty officers;

(c) the compensation provided to each of the persons injured and the families of each of the persons died in each of these cases;

(d) if so, the time when assistance was given and if not, the reasons therefore, and;

(e) the remedial measures taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Comparative data of the number of people injured/killed in accidents in various coal mines in the country during the year 2002 till June'04 is given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) The Director General of Mines Safety (DGMS) is the authority empowered to enforce the Mines Act-1952, which governs safety in coal mines. DGMS conducts enquiry into each fatal accident and is empowered to prosecute the persons held responsible for a mine accident, in a court of Law. The Action taken by the Government in such cases against guilty officers is given in the enclosed Statement-II.

(c) Year-wise amount of compensation paid by CIL and SCCL to the families of the persons killed in mining accidents is given in the enclosed Statement-III.

(d) Timely assistance is being provided.

(e) The remedial measures taken by DGMS to prevent recurrence of such accidents is given in the enclosed Statement-IV.

Statement-I

The Company-wise data of the number of people injured/killed in accidents in various Coal Mines in the Country during the last three years as on 30.06.2004

Year/Company	2002				2003				2004* (upto 30.06.04)			
	No. of Accidents		No. of persons		No. of Accidents		No. of persons		No. of Accidents		No. of persons	
	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Seriously Injured	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Seriously Injured	Fatal	Serious	Killed	Seriously Injured
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
BCCL	10	68	11	81	12	60	13	63	4	14	4	14
CCL	11	26	11	28	6	22	6	24	4	8	4	8
ECL	9	191	12	192	13	170	13	178	9	38	10	39
MCL	3	17	3	17	7	12	7	12	3	6	3	6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
NCL	1	9	1	9	2	18	2	18	1	1	1	1
NEC	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	2	-
SECL	13	111	16	119	11	90	11	94	5	25	5	25
WCL	15	60	15	63	10	67	13	70	5	24	5	26
Sub Total (CIL)	62	482	69	509	61	439	65	459	33	116	34	119
SCCL	14	117	23	125	19	66	44	69	5	25	7	27
IISCO	-	9	-	9	-	12	-	12	-	4	-	4
TISCO	3	8	3	9	3	3	3	3	2	3	4	4
Others	1	2	1	2	-	4	-	4	1	3	1	3
Total	80	618	96	654	83	524	112	547	41	151	46	157

* Data for 2003 & 2004 are provisional.

Statement-II

*Action Taken Against Persons held Responsible
for Fatal Accidents in Coal Mines*

Type of Action	Year		
	2002	2003	2004*
A. Action taken by DG MS			
Suspension/Cancellation of Certificate	0	0	0
Warning Issued	3	0	1
Prosecution Launched	28	25	0
Misadventure - No Action	9	10	0
Other Action Taken	5	1	0
B. Action taken by Management			
Suspended from duty	37	43	0
Debarred from Promotion	0	0	0
Demoted	2	2	0
Transferred	0	0	0
Increment Withheld	28	9	0
Service Terminated	9	7	0
Warned by Management	21	17	0
Disciplinary action	2	3	0
Total	144	117	1

Figures are number of persons.

Data for the years 2003 and 2004 are provisional. Data for 2004 are as on 30.06.2004.

Action against delinquents for accidents that occurred in the year 2004 is under process.

Statement-III

*Compensation paid to the dependants of the
persons killed in CIL's mines in the year 2002*

(Amount in Rs.)		
Accident Date	Victim Name	Compensation
1	2	3
4-Jan-02	Ramu Mahato	113410
3-Apr-02	Bikram Singh	171000
3-Apr-02	Arjun Ravidas	148000
1-May-02	Bindeshwar Prasad	153130
4-Jun-02	C.H. Israil Mia	242000
13-Jun-02	Sukumar Singha	180000
31-Aug-02	Dipak Kumar Dubey	50000
28-Sep-02	Mohan Mehera	320471
29-Oct-02	R.B. Pandey*	
10-Dec-02	Budhni Bhulan	161940
15-Jan-02	Manbodh	201660
2-Feb-02	Bishwanath Munda	179060
10-Mar-02	Sriprasad Singh	319600
10-Mar-02	Lalji Kumar	332580
25-Mar-02	Niranjan Mahato	192140

1	2	3
4-Apr-02	Nemchand Mahato	278260
7-Jun-02	Harsoo Bhuiyan	194640
19-Jun-02	Kalpatia Kamin	299340
11-Dec-02	Atwa Munda	299340
21-Dec-02	Chattu Mahto	299340
9-Jan-02	Tanik Paswan	149670
25-Jan-02	Kamruddin Khan	135560
25-Jan-02	Sovani Devi	172530
25-Jan-02	Kamala Devi	172530
25-Jan-02	Lakshmi Devi	205950
25-Mar-02	Basir Mia	278260
30-May-02	Ram Lakhan Beldar	124000
7-Aug-02	Chaitra Keotla	15000
19-Aug-02	K K Saini	312940
20-Sep-02	R N Prasad	201600
27-Sep-02	Jagdish Paswan	139130
2-Oct-02	Mahadeo Bagdi	50000
22-Nov-02	Khirao Thakur	263900
4-Mar-02	Akshay Pradhan	143890
26-Mar-02	Rabi Behera	172520
27-Apr-02	Dilharan Das	433820
25-May-02	Golekha Bhutia	219950
2-Sep-02	Ram Vridh	401300
3-Jan-02	Deonath	128303
24-Feb-02	Dipak Taunk	199400
16-Mar-02	Shri Kabutar	332580
20-Apr-02	Hari Ram Sahu	362740
4-May-02	Shambhu Prasad	345040
23-May-02	Lagansai	181370
26-Jun-02	Habeeb	292400
16-Jul-02	Nathu#	
17-Oct-02	Narendra Kr Pal	423580

1	2	3
15-Nov-02	Budhsen	319600
15-Nov-02	Bhaiya Lal	351080
26-Nov-02	Baiga Ram	326140
7-Dec-02	Satish Kumar	199400
17-Dec-02	Kunwar Bahadur	292400
17-Dec-02	Johan	362741
17-Dec-02	Govind	356980
30-Jan-02	Mahesh	333912
8-Feb-02	Marasimha Murthy	364670
6-Apr-02	Usmohammed Mahomudin	131950
13-Apr-02	Apurva Samanta	358349
13-May-02	N.N. Janabandhu	292400
5-Jun-02	Jhabu	365240
25-Aug-02	Ramji	55632
19-Sep-02	Musafir Jamuna	249400
30-Oct-02	Premial	139130
17-Nov-02	Sudesh Kumar	419840
28-Nov-02	Maiku	285360
4-Dec-02	Dhani Ram	299340
7-Dec-02	H.L. Nagle	159800
28-Dec-02	Pradeep Nagina Pal	394120
29-Dec-02	Gajraj Bharosa	121050
Total		16172408

NB: Data is subject to modification after reconciliation by DGMS.

* Executive, not applicable

Not eligible.

*Compensation paid to the dependants of the persons
killed in CIL's mines in the year 2003*

(Amount in Rs.)

Accident Date	Victim Name	Compensation
1	2	3
6-Feb-03	Kailash Mahato	149000
13-Apr-03	Bhogendra Jha	159670

1	2	3
13-May-03	Paramhansh Ravidas	159800
24-May-03	Bhairav Singh	326000
28-May-03	Anil Singh	278260
21-Jul-03	Narayan Mahato	153160
26-Jul-03	Mustakim Ansari	209920
29-Jul-03	Lakhan Nunia	117410
18-Aug-03	Darshan Mahato	175540
18-Aug-03	Jagannath Bishwakarma	128330
23-Nov-03	Charan Mondal	186900
7-Dec-03	Dilip Kumar Nonia	415960
11-Dec-03	Sanjoy Kumar Mahato	51000
25-May-03	Kameshwar Mahto	384280
29-May-03	Suraj Deo Mahto	135560
19-Jul-03	Faguiat Kewat	362740
8-Dec-03	Lakeshwar	436940
21-Dec-03	Sanichar Oraon	299340
12-Jan-03	Raju Dhangar	389282
26-Feb-03	Ganesh Bhuiyan	242100
28-Apr-03	Saroj Chatterjee	319600
3-May-03	Krishna Chouhan	362740
19-May-03	Rameshwar Paswan	25000
14-Jul-03	Siyalal Rai	138000
6-Aug-03	Anath Gorai	142642
25-Sep-03	A.K. Chatterjee	312940
22-Oct-03	Raj Kumar Gosain	178490
25-Nov-03	Sarju Yadav	271120
18-Dec-03	Jutia Goura	394120
30-Dec-03	Rameshwar Paswan	249400
12-Mar-03	Sumanta Pradhan	220000
14-May-03	M.A. Haque	326000

1	2	3
31-May-03	R N Biswal†	
7-Jun-03	Shyam Prasad	124700
24-Jun-03	Gagan Bihari Gamayak	175000
13-Nov-03	V V Giri	225220
6-Dec-03	Rajkumar Prasad	207863
4-Jun-03	Ramavatar Ram	157190
4-Aug-03	Teej Ram	216896
27-Aug-03	Satya Prakash Singh	442400
1-Feb-03	Milan Singh	373800
24-Feb-03	Dhaniram	159800
14-Mar-03	Sitaram	161328
25-Mar-03	Chandrashekhar	338800
9-Apr-03	Sundar Lal*	
4-May-03	Hasmuddin	326140
5-Jul-03	Paharoo	285360
29-Jul-03	Pannalal	362740
29-Oct-03	Sunil Singh	407700
25-Dec-03	Panna Ram	Under process
28-Jan-03	Abdul Salam	379120
28-Jan-03	Ramashrey Kushwaha	423580
28-Jan-03	Rajanand Ramanath	373800
28-Jan-03	Arvind Khandekar	398800
26-Apr-03	Bhuja Ram	312940
18-Jun-03	Kishore	256660
27-Jun-03	Ramakant Lokhande	319600
17-Jul-03	Salikram Mahadeo Belpure	292400
8-Oct-03	Aklu Jhakari	285360
28-Oct-03	Jokhan	142680
Total Compensation		14851121

NB: Data is subject to modification after reconciliation by DGMS.

† Sub-judge

* As per forensic report suicide but DGMS yet to be confirmed. Not paid yet.

Compensation paid to the dependants of the persons killed in CIL's mines in the year 2004

(Amount in Rs.)		
Accident Date	Victim Name	Compensation
1	2	3
27-Feb-04	Bishnupada Lohar	278260
3-Mar-04	Paramananda Goswami	285360
3-Mar-04	Surendra Prasad	407700
20-May-04	Tulsi Kumhar	70000
28-Jan-04	Bhusan Prasad	345000
18-Feb-04	Kalla Ganju	338880
25-Apr-04	Dhanu Oraon	271120
20-May-04	Budga Ram	228288
4-Jan-04	Bhagwan Ram	407700
4-Jan-04	Dilip Bouri	373800
3-Feb-04	Gaur Chand Gandhi	306160
15-Feb-04	Subodh Bouri	389000
26-Feb-04	Dasharath Dhangar	Under Process
28-Mar-04	Tarak Nath Gope	362740

1	2	3
7-Apr-04	B.K. Mani Mishra	338880
15-Apr-04	S.K. Naim	Under Process
7-Mar-04	Ajit Kumar Malla	249850
19-Mar-04	Bijay Pradhan	418460
27-May-04	Braja Singh	345040
1-Apr-04	B.K. Choudhary	Under Process
27-Feb-04	Mihir Roy Choudhary	299340
18-May-04	R Chenaiya	398800
20-Feb-04	Puran	398500
12-Mar-04	Awadesh Kumar	359480
14-Apr-04	Bijendra Yadav	Under Process
16-May-04	Antram Rathore	256660
6-Feb-04	Harshal Sawale	411900
11-Feb-04	Chandra Khapre	411900
6-Apr-04	Lataru Ramteke	292400
22-May-04	R B Munjewar	Under Process
Total Compensation paid		8245218

NB: Data is subject to modification after reconciliation by DGMS.

List of Fatalities showing amount of workmen compensation paid in SCCL in respect of each case for the year 2002

Name/Designation S/Shri	Date	Amount of Compensation Paid (Rs.)
1	2	3
M Rayamallu, Gen. Mazdoor	09-01-2002	3,19,600
1. A Bakkaiah, Mining Sirdar	25-02-02	1. 2,85,360
2. E Ellaiah, Timberman		
3. J Rajaiah, Coal Filler		2. 3,34,040
4. P Lingaiah, Coal Filler		3. 3,73,800
5. M Venkati, Timberman		4. 4,23,580
		5. 3,19,600
B Janardhan Rao, Mining Sirdar	18-03-2002	3,01,840

1	2	3
S P Bartholomew, Gen. Mazdoor	26-03-2002	3,19,600
K Rajam, Lineman	06-04-2002	3,53,580
1. P Ramchander, Timberman	15-05-2002	1. 3,19,600
2. P Ramesh, Support Mazdoor		2. 3,68,340
P Mogili, Timberman	21-06-2002	3,45,040
1. K Rajaiah, Supportman	17-07-2002	1. 3,13,940
2. S Prakash Rao, Badli Filler		2. 4,04,320
Gunda Rayalingu, Coal filler	17.08.2002	3,48,677
1. G.Sambaiah, Timberman	27.08.02	1. 3,32,580
2. K.Bakkaiah, Coal filler (Act. T/Man)		2. 3,79,120
1. Posham, Coal Filler (Act.T/Man)		3. 3,62,740
Anumndla Raghavulu, Con. Operator	30.09.02	3,20,600
Nampalli Ramesh, Coal filler (Act. T/Man)	18.10.02	3,84,280
Anumala Rajalah, Coal cutter	10.11.02	3,69,340
1. Kothuri Ramulu, Coal filler	12.11.02	1. 4,12,900
2. Kondra Jakkaiah, Coal filler		2. 3,63,740

*The Details of Compensation Paid to the Families of deceased workmen in SCCL
in respect of fatal accidents occurred during 2003*

Name of the person with designation S/Shri	Date of Accident	Compensation paid (Rupees)
1	2	3
M Rama Linga Murthy, EP Operator	10-01-2003	360080
Maturi Rajalah, Coal Filler	22-03-2003	408700
Varma Jalapathi, Coal Filler	25-03-2003	369340
P Nageswara Rao, Contractor worker	21-05-2003/ 29.05.2003	255933
Ramilla Rajalah, Coal Filler	31-05-2003	389280
P Kondala Rao, Contractor Worker	03-06-2003	299664
Bitu Singh, Contractor worker	09-06-2003	Under process
Kairy Mallaiah, HOM	16-06-2003	333580
Rampalli Mallaiah, Elec	16-06-2003	385280
Kunta Sammaiah, Fitter	16-06-2003	399800

1	2	3
Thaduri Rayamallu, Trammer	16-06-2003	300340
Ejjagiri Ramchander, Gen. Mazdoor	16-06-2003	339880
Dasari Satyanarayan, Gen. Mazdoor	16-06-2003	374800
Arelli Venkataiah, Gen. Maz.	16-06-2003	286360
Pulyala Narsaiah, Tyndal	16-06-2003	279260
Thatikonda Srinivas, Badli Filler	16-06-2003	424580
Kukkala Komaralah, Badli filler	16-06-2003	420840
Lekkala Buchaiah, Pump Operator	16-06-2003	327140
Vavilala Venkataswamy, Badli Filler	16-06-2003	424580
Katta Venkata Srinivasu, Badli Filler	16-06-2003	440900
Thalla Thirupathi, Badli Filler	16-06-2003	416960
Kondamuru Gopal Reddy, Coal Filler	16-06-2003	327140
Puli Venkaty, Coal Filler	16-06-2003	320600
Ragam Bapu, Badli Filler	16-06-2003	424580
Kosnam Rajaiah, Trammer	28-06-2003	356980
K Yadgiri, Gen. Mazdoor	27-08-2003	351080
Kalvala Durgalah, Coal Filler	28.08.2003	351000
Lambu Mallalah, Sr. Mining Sirdar	III shift of 16-10-2003	315440
Adapa Ashok, Coal Cutter	16-10-2003	328640
Meenugu Chandralah, Coal Cutter	16-10-2003	287860
Mamidi Mallesh, Timberman	16-10-2003	259160
Ragula Narayana Rao, Coal Filler	16-10-2003	328640
Thota Bapu, Coal Filler	16-10-2003	315449
Kasetti Narayana, Coal Filler	16-10-2003	359480
Kannuri Rayamallu, Coal Filler	16-10-2003	353580
Pidugu Komaralah, Timberman	16-10-2003	396620
Manthani Rajam, Timberman	16-10-2003	322100
Emuria Shankar, Timberman	14-11-2003 proved fatal on 6-11-2003	285360

1	2	3
Musli Satyanarayana, Contractor Worker	III-shift of 23-11-2003 at 5.10 AM	Under process
Chunchu Laxmalah, Gen. Mazdoor	02-12-2003 Died on 03-12-2003	332580
Chintirala Nagulu, Surface Gen. Mazdoor	III shift of 07-12-2003 1.40 AM	333580
Godisala Mallaiah, Coal Cutter	10-12-2003 - 11.45AM - I-Shift	
B Rajalingu, Coal Cutter	15-12-2003	315440
V Srinivasa Rao Suface Trammer	30-12-2003	

Note: From Sl. No.8 to 24, in addition to the compensation paid under Workmen's Compensation Act, a special exgratia of Rs. 6,00,000/- to each worker has been declared by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of A.P. (Rs.3,00,000/- from Company and Rs.3,00,000/- from Chief Minister Relief Fund)

*Details of Compensation paid to the families
of deceased workmen in SCCL in respect of fatal
accidents during the year 2004 (up to June)*

Name & Designations of fatally injured person S/Shri	Date of Accident	Compensation Paid (Rupees)
S. Narasaiah, Coal filler	11.02.04	3,01,840
(1) Neelam Shankaraiah, Coal filler	14.02.04	3,45,040
(2) Boda Desai, Coal filler	14.02.04	3,32,530
K. Satyanarayana, E.P. Operator	25.02.04	NA
Sukka Rayamallu, Support Mazdoor	15.05.04	3,26,140
(1) K.Sambaiah, Coal cutter	22.05.04	3,19,600
(2) D.Thirupathi Goud, CC Trainee	22.05.04	3,94,120
Engu Hanumanthu, Coal Filler	26.06.04	3,56,980

Statement-IV

The remedial measures taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of accidents in future is as follows:

Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed there under. The safety laws are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. The Directorate General of Mines Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety

measures. These provisions are required to be complied with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance of the safety provisions, and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act., 1952.

Action taken subsequent to enquiries includes:

- (a) Warning to delinquent
- (b) Suspension of certificate
- (c) Modification in the method of working
- (d) Action by management such as suspension, stoppage of increment, demotion and dismissal from service
- (e) Prosecution in a court of law
- (f) Pointing out contraventions
- (g) Withdrawal of permission
- (h) Issue of improvement notices
- (i) Prohibition of employment
- (j) Informal stoppages

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is also promoting a number of other initiatives such as:

- Conference on safety in mines
- Self-regulation by managements
- Workers' participation in safety management
- Tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels
- Training of work persons
- Observance of Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns
- National Safety Awards

[English]

Fiscal Deficit

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

- (a) whether International Monetary Fund has warned that India's high fiscal deficit is not sustainable;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for such high deficit; and
- (c) the steps taken or to be taken by the Government to tackle the issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has been sharing its concern about the sustainability of high fiscal deficits in India in its annual reviews. In its recent issue of World Economic Outlook (April 2004), the IMF has emphasised the urgency of fiscal consolidation in the context of economic recovery. The factors that contributed to high fiscal deficit in India are, inter-alia, relating higher levels of expenditure on salaries, unfunded pensions, mounting interest payments, improperly targeted subsidies and the deterioration in the tax-GDP ratio.

(c) The Government is conscious of the need for addressing the problem of high fiscal deficits. An important step taken in this direction in the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act in 2003, which was notified on July 2, 2004 and came into force from July 5, 2004. The Act mandates the Government to take appropriate steps to reduce the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit so as to eliminate revenue deficit by March 31, 2008.

Value of Rupee

566. SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the value of rupee started depreciating steadily against the dollar and other major foreign currencies in the inter-bank foreign exchange market;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the last three months;
- (c) the reasons for the depreciation of rupee value;
- (d) the per capita foreign loan till date; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to strengthen the rupee against major foreign currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The average monthly exchange rate of the Rupee vis-a-vis US Dollar, Pound Sterling, Euro and Japanese yen during April-June 2004 is shown in the table below:

Month	Rs/Dollar	Rs/Pound Sterling	Rs/Euro	Rs/Yen
April '04	43.93	79.24	52.66	40.81
May'04	45.25	80.88	54.35	40.37
June'04	45.51	83.21	55.25	41.59

(c) The movement of the Rupee against major currencies is broadly market determined.

(d) India's per capita external debt at the end of March 2004 was US\$ 104.9.

(e) India's exchange rate policy focuses on managing volatility with no fixed rate target, allowing the underlying demand and supply conditions to determine the exchange rate movements over time in an orderly way. The RBI continues to monitor closely the developments in the financial markets at home and abroad, and carefully coordinates its market operations with appropriate monetary, administrative and other measures, as considered necessary from time to time.

Anti-Smuggling Laws

567. SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "...as anti-smuggling laws go up in smoke" as appearing in the Times of India dated the June 14, 2004;
- (b) if so, the facts reported in the news-item;
- (c) whether foreign made cigarettes are being smuggled through shipping containers in the name of "Dal-chawal" as appearing in the news-item;
- (d) if so, the number of cases registered during each of the last three years in this regard; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to check such smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Madam. However, it is not possible to precisely quantify the market share of smuggled cigarettes in India.

(c) One such case was detected in Mumbai in January, 2003 where cigarettes were mis-declared as "Green Mung Beans".

(d) The number of cases of smuggling of foreign made cigarettes is as under:

Year	No. of seizure cases
2001-2002	4749
2002-2003	461
2003-2004	565
2004-2005 (upto June 2004)	138

(e) All Customs field formations including Directorate of Revenue Intelligence are alert and vigilant to prevent and detect smuggling of contraband items including foreign made cigarettes.

[Translation]

Fruits Under OGL

568. SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether permission of import of apples and other fruits under Open General Licence Scheme is adversely affecting fruit-growers in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) If so, whether any survey or study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess the adverse impact thereof; and

(c) the details of incentives being provided to fruit-growers by the Government for promoting export of their apples and other fruits?

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

(a) and (b) Import restrictions on apple and other fruits have been removed in accordance with the economic liberalization policy and in keeping with our international commitment. However, subsequent to removal of quantitative restrictions on imports, the customs duty on apple imports was raised from 35% to the maximum bound rate of 50% during 2000-2001. In addition, import of all primary agricultural products, including apple and other fruits, are subject to an import permit.

(c) Government has notified setting up of AEZs on various fruits like apples in Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, pineapples in West Bengal and Tripura,

Mangoes in Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh among others. Central and State Governments are encouraging exports by providing infrastructural support such as setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities, concessional credit etc. Government has also been encouraging export of fruits, including apples by arranging buyer seller meets, participation in international fairs and exhibitions by assistance schemes or concessional credit for promoting exports.

[English]

Investment Commission

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

(a) whether the Government proposes to set up Investment Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government is contemplating to merge Foreign Investment Promotion Board in the Investment Commission;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the terms of reference of Investment Commission?

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

(b) to (e) As stated in the Finance Minister's Budget speech 2004-05, Government propose to establish an Investment Commission which will have the broad authority of the Government to engage, discuss with and invite domestic and foreign businesses to invest in India. Many of the functions of Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) could be put on the automatic route and leave FIPB as a one-stop service centre and facilitator. The function of wooing domestic and foreign investors will be performed by the proposed Investment Commission.

WTO Conference

570. SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

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

(a) whether the Government has chalked out any strategy to take up the issues at the next round of WTO Conference. If so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has drawn attention of the WTO to eliminate the existing barriers on its services export. If so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there has been any agreement amongst WTO member countries to comply to the foreign investment in education sector, If so, the policy framed 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) The strategy for the next WTO Ministerial Conference will be chalked out as and when any decision is taken regarding the dates of the Conference.

(b) In the on-going WTO negotiations for progressive liberalisation of trade in Services under the Doha Work Programme, India has taken steps to address the twin issue of barriers to movement of natural persons and cross-border trade. The steps taken by India include proposals for liberalisation of movement of professionals, securing access for provision of remote services and making specific requests to our important trading partners in sectors of export interest to India, such as Computer-related Services, Health Services, Accountancy Services and Engineering Services. In this regard, India is working together with like-minded WTO Members.

(c) No, Sir. There is no agreement amongst WTO Members on foreign investment in the education sector. Commitments undertaken by Members regarding liberalisation of various sectors, including education, flow out of the final outcome of the ongoing Services' negotiations among the WTO Members.

Recovery of Dues from SEBs/PSUs

571. SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that Coal India Limited (CIL) is to recover more than Rs. 6000 crore from various State Electricity Boards/Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) If so, the details thereof and since when;

(c) the steps taken to recover the amount;

(d) whether any amount of outstanding arrears is disputed; and

(e) If so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Coal sale outstanding of subsidiary companies of Coal India as on 30.6.2004 (Provisional) is Rs. 4085.76 crores from State Electricity Boards and Public Sector Undertakings.

(b) The details of outstanding coal sales dues as on 30.06.2004 (Provisional) from SEBs/PSUs are given in the enclosed statement. The said outstanding coal sale dues have accumulated over a period of more than 10 years.

(c) Details of measures taken by Govt. are given below:

- 1) The Ministry of Coal and Ministry of Power have jointly put in place umpires to settle the disputes between the SEBs/PCs and the coal companies of CIL.
- 2) Govt. of India formulated a securitization scheme to settle the outstanding coal sale dues of SEBs upto the period 30.09.2001.
- 3) A system of Fuel Supply Agreement (FSA) has been initiated to take care of issues like Sampling, Weighment and Quality of coal.

(d) and (e) As per statement.

Statement

Sectorwise disputed and undisputed dues relating to Govt. and Public Sector undertakings as on 30.06.2004 (Provisional)

(Rupees in crores)

Sector	SEBs/PCs	Dues as on 30.06.2004		
		Disputed	Undisputed	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Power				
	Bihar State Electricity Board	40.86	157.39	198.25
	Jharkhand State Electricity Board	13.32	16.08	29.40
	Uttar Pradesh Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam	32.02	50.97	82.99

1	2	3	4	5
	Punjab State Electricity Board	122.57	72.11	194.68
	Tamilnadu Electricity Board	251.72	25.74	277.46
	Haryana Power Generation Corporation Ltd.	0.13	6.20	6.33
	Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd.	15.77	78.46	94.23
	Maharashtra State Electricity Board	31.79	137.22	169.01
	Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board	211.03	437.28	648.31
	Chattisgarh State Electricity Board	20.91	68.06	88.97
	Gujarat Electricity Board	49.09	44.31	93.40
	West Bengal State Electricity Board	4.11	0	4.11
	West Bengal Power Dev. Corpn. Ltd.	73.71	346.18	419.89
	Andhra Pradesh Generation Company	0	9.64	9.64
	Karnataka Power Corporation Limited	0	5.38	5.38
	Durgapur Project Limited	0.08	12.79	12.87
	Damodar Valley Corporation	98.11	111.89	210.00
	Delhi Vidyut Board	4.43	-2.35	2.08
	Badarpur Thermal Power Station	136.56	394.87	531.43
	National Thermal Power Corporation	80.06	282.34	362.40
	Disergarh Power Supply	0	1.99	1.99
	Tenughat Vidyut Nigam Limited	0.25	51.71	51.96
	Orissa Power Grid Corporation	1.14	14.57	15.71
	Total Power	1187.66	2322.83	3510.49
Steel				
	Steel Authority of India Limited	368.19	46.34	414.53
	Indian Iron & Steel Company	80.72	5.00	85.72
	Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited	9.88	8.17	17.85
	Total Steel	458.59	59.51	518.10
	Govt.	27.15	30.02	57.17
	Grand Total	1673.40	2412.36	4085.76

* This was mainly on account of quality and quantity of coal.

Expansion of Air Space

572. SHRI P. S. GADHAVI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is contemplating to make air space management more flexible to facilitate ten to fifteen per cent expansion in the Indian air space;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether at present the air space is divided between civil and military operations;
- (d) if so, the percentages of air space available to military organization and civilian aircrafts;
- (e) whether the Civil Aviation and Indian Air Force authorities have discussed air safety measures; and
- (f) if so, the outcome of the discussion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, the flexible use of airspace is only to permit civil aircraft to use the airspace exclusively reserved for military purposes for optimum utilization of Indian airspace. It does not lead to expansion of the existing Indian airspace.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Airspace available to military and civil aircraft is 35% and 65% of the total of the Indian airspace respectively.

(e) and (f) Discussion with Indian Air Force on air safety measures is a regular ongoing exercise.

Expansion of Air India/Indian Airlines

573. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Air India/Indian Airlines have started their fleet replacement and expansion programmes;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the airbuses replaced/leased out so far and proposed to be replaced and leased out under the programmes;
- (c) whether the expansion plan has been delayed for long; and
- (d) if so, the steps in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The proposals for acquisition of aircrafts by Air India and Indian Airlines are under consideration of Government.

[Translation]

Delay of Flights

574. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether delay of flights has become a normal phenomenon;
- (b) if so, the details thereof particularly Jaipur-Jodhpur-Mumbai flights and IC 601-Delhi to Lucknow flights in recent times including the frequency of their delays;
- (c) whether the Government has taken the delay of these flights seriously;
- (d) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to increase the frequency of air service from Jodhpur and change the time schedule of its flights; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) During the period January, 2004 to May, 2004, there were no primary delays involving Alliance Air flight CD-7471/7472 operating Jaipur-Jodhpur-Mumbai sectors ex-Jaipur due to the reasons within the control of Indian Airlines.

Similarly during the period January, 2004 to May, 2004 on Indian Airlines flight IC-601 operating on the sector (Delhi-Lucknow) the number of primary delays within the control of Indian Airlines was 4 which works out to 2.68% of the total takeoffs.

(c) and (d) Indian Airlines and Alliance Air constantly endeavour to improve their on-time performance. All delays and cancellations are monitored and analysed on daily basis with a view to identifying the causes and taking appropriate remedial action.

(e) and (f) The airlines are free to choose routes and frequency for operation based on their commercial considerations subject to Route Dispersal Guidelines.

[English]

Disuse of Air Strips

575. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of air strips are lying unused for a long time in the country;

(b) if so, the details of unused air strips and total expenditure, being incurred by the Government on these strips;

(c) whether the Government proposes to make maximum use of these air strips to make more businessman like use of such public facilities;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There are 33 airstrips belonging to Airports Authority of India which are lying unused.

The total expenditure incurred on these airstrips during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are Rs.1.30, Rs.1.17 and Rs.1.35 crores respectively.

(c) and (d) Utilization of unused airstrips depends totally upon the traffic availability at these places for commencing air operations. Due to absence of sufficient air traffic, Airports Authority of India (AAI) has no plans, at present, to make these airstrips operational.

(e) Does not arise.

Promotion of Self Help Groups

576. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various branches of different public sector banks are promoting Self Help Group (SHG) in the country particularly in Rajasthan and Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance extended by each bank in promoting SHG in that State during the last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) A total number of 35294 branches of commercial banks, Regional Rural Banks and cooperative banks are participating in the promotion of Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank linkage Programme implemented by NABARD. As on 31.3.2004, a total of 10.79 lakh SHGs have been credit linked by the banks involving a cumulative bank loan of Rs.3904 crores.

(b) The details of assistance extended by commercial banks, regional rural banks and cooperative

banks in Rajasthan and Orissa during the years 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 are given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Particulars	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
Rajasthan			
No. of SHGs financed	6948	10178	11104
Amount given by Commercial Banks	476.30	612.90	929.46
RRBs	578.90	1375.80	1338.63
DCCBs	147.20	317.10	443.73
Total	1202.40	2305.80	2711.82
Orissa			
No. of SHGs financed	11665	21719	35316
Amount given by Commercial Banks	313.30	847.40	2867.01
RRBs	790.80	1829.60	4056.74
DCCBs	155.50	359.80	720.59
Total	1259.60	3036.80	7644.34

Voting Rights to NRI

577. SHRI A. K. MOORTHY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a demand for giving voting rights to non-resident Indians; 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) Owing to practical and administrative difficulties, the proposal for grant of voting rights to non-resident Indians (that is, those who are not ordinarily resident in India) has not been found feasible.

Financial Crisis faced by States

578. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States are facing crisis in respect of financial resources;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any request from the Chief Ministers of various State Governments for financial assistance to resolve their financial crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, some States have reported debt stress and liquidity mismatch. Details of States having debt to Gross Domestic Product ratio in excess of 30% are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d) States of Kerala, Nagaland, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh have requested for advance release of Share in Central Taxes or Normal Central Assistance or Non-Plan Gap Grant or their Share in Small Savings since April 1st, 2004. Some States have requested for debt write-off as well.

Government of India in such cases has advanced States entitlements of Plan and Non-plan grants to enable the States to overcome their short term liquidity constraints. However, Debt Relief comes within the purview of the 12th Finance Commission (TFC).

Government of India is also implementing a Debt Swap Scheme whereby States are being enabled to swap high cost debt carrying interest rate of 13% or above. Total debt to be swapped exceeds 1,00,000 crore and Rs.75,273 crore already stands swapped.

Statement

2002-03 (RE) State	(% ratio) Debt/ GSDP ratio
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	31.5
Arunachal Pradesh	48.0
Assam.	38.9
Bihar	50.1
Goa	40.8
Gujarat	33.1
Himachal Pradesh	77.9

1	2
Jammu and Kashmir	64.8
Kerala	35.2
Manipur	63.5
Meghalaya	36.0
Mizoram	89.8
Nagaland	68.1
Orissa	61.9
Punjab	45.0
Rajasthan	42.8
Sikkim	41.4
Tripura	63.4
Uttar Pradesh	36.5
West Bengal	40.7

Export Credit

579. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Reserve Bank of India has drawn any negative list of various Banks abroad, whose letter of credits are not acceptable to Indian Banks;

(b) whether it is true that Bank of India, Chandni Chowk Branch does not allow export credits against letter of credits received from non-prime Banks;

(c) the name of countries where line of credit is available to exporters by Exim Bank; and

(d) the steps the Government proposes to boost exports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Reserve Bank of India has not drawn any negative list of various banks abroad whose letters of credit are not acceptable to Indian Banks.

(b) No case of refusal of grant of export Credit (Pre-shipment and/or Post-shipment finance) against letter of credits issued by non-prime banks by the Chandni Chowk Branch of the Bank has come to the notice of the Bank of India.

(c) Exim Bank has currently in place 29 Lines of Credit covering 61 countries in Asia, Africa, Latin America, Confederation of Independent States, Russia and East Europe.

(d) To give boost India's Exports, Government steps include Gold Card Scheme for credit worthy exporters with good track records for easy availability of export credit on best terms, duty free import facility for service sector, concept of agri-export zones, removal of quantitative restrictions, introduction of Special Economic Zone Scheme, streamlining of the EPCG scheme, reduction of transaction cost, non-tariff barriers, etc.

Mining in Orissa

580. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of precious and semi-precious stone mines in Orissa leased out to the private sector foreign companies;

(b) the term and conditions laid down for leasing out these mines;

(c) the manner in which the State of Orissa is benefited by leasing out the precious and semi-precious stone mines in the State;

(d) whether some high grade bauxite deposit areas have been found in Keonjhar and Sundargarh Districts in Orissa;

(e) If so, the details thereof; and

(f) the expected quantum of bauxite deposited in the areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) No mines for precious and semi-precious stones have been leased out to the private sector foreign companies in Orissa.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of the answer given at (a) above.

(d) Chemical and refractory grade bauxites are considered high grade bauxites. Such high grade bauxites have not been found in Keonjhar and Sundargarh districts.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer at (d) above.

(f) The reserves of bauxite found in Keonjhar district are unclassified. A reserve of 5 million tonnes are placed under this category. In Sundargarh district, the reserves

of bauxite are metallurgical grade and total reserves are estimated to be around 4 million tonnes.

Vacant Posts in Income Tax Department in Orissa

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

(a) the number of posts lying vacant in the Income Tax Department in Orissa;

(b) the date since when these posts are not filled up;

(c) the reasons for not filling up these posts so far; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up the vacancies at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) 147 posts are lying vacant in the Income Tax Department in Orissa.

(b) These posts have arisen due to retirement, promotion to higher grades and restructuring of the Income Tax Department.

(c) These vacancies could not be ruled in the light of instructions issued by Department of Personnel and Training vide their OM No. 2/8/2001-PIC dt. 16.5.2001.

(d) Vacancies are filled in accordance with the instructions contained in Department of Personnel and Training OM No. 2/8/2001-PIC dt. 16.5.2001 and Recruitment Rules applicable to the posts.

Income Tax Evasion

582. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total volume of income tax evaded by the tax payers during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the steps taken to realise the same so far;

(c) whether the Government has any special contingent plan in this regard;

(d) If so, the details thereof, and

(e) If not, the steps contemplated to recover the tax arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) On the basis

of the income tax assessments made pursuant to searches conducted under Section 132 of the Income Tax Act the tax evasion for the last three financial years is found to be as under:

F.Y.	Tax Evaded (Rs. in crore)
2001-02	1717.17
2002-03	1546.40
2003-04	5041.71

(b) The Income Tax Act provides for various measures to recover the tax dues in such cases. Accordingly, the cash seized during search and seizure operations is adjusted against the tax demand of the assessee. Other assets seized during the search and seizure are also liable to be used for realization of the tax demand, if the assessee does not pay the tax. Refunds, if any, arising in the case for any year(s) are also appropriated against the pending demands. Attachment and sale of moveable and immoveable assets of the defaulters is also carried out as provided in the Second Schedule to the Income Tax Act. Penal provisions in the IT Act are also invoked to enforce collection of tax arrears in such cases.

(c) to (e) In view of the various measures provided in the IT Act itself for recovery of the tax dues as outlined above, no special contingent plan has been considered necessary.

Relief Package for Farmers

583. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that against the stipulated 18% target of agriculture credit, the public sector banks achieved only 13-14 percent of total credit to agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor and the measures proposed to be taken by the Government/banks to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) As reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) credit to agriculture by Public Sector Banks has increased in absolute terms from Rs. 73507 crore (15.3% of net bank credit) as on 31st March, 2003 to Rs. 85872 crore (15.45% of net bank credit) as on 31st March, 2004. The target of 18% was achieved by 7 public sector banks as on 31st March, 2004. The main reasons for the shortfall in agricultural credit as a percentage of NBC are:

(i) Bank credit to other sectors growing at a faster rate;

- (ii) Drought situation in some parts of the country;
- (iii) Crash in prices of some agricultural commodities adversely affecting the credit off-take in agriculture;
- (iv) Low capital formation in agriculture resulting in poor credit absorption capacity in many areas;
- (v) Write-off of non-performing loans leading to reduction in the outstanding advances in the case of some banks;
- (vi) Absence of up-to-date land records in several states to facilitate provision of agricultural credit; and
- (vii) Inability of the small and marginal farmers to provide the required collateral.

RBI and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) have taken several steps to increase the flow of credit to agriculture. These include, formulation of Special Agricultural Credit Plans (SACPs), opening of Specialised Agricultural Finance Branches (SAFBs), implementation of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Scheme, setting up of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) with NABARD, introduction of scheme for financing agri-clinics and agri-business centers, introduction of scheme for financing farmers for purchase of land for agricultural purposes, introduction of produce marketing loans, loans for storage facilities, waiver of margin/security requirements, etc. Besides, during the current year, it is targeted to achieve a growth rate of 30% in disbursement of agriculture credit.

Loans to Students for Higher Education

584. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the fact that students seeking loans from banks for higher education are facing hardship due to lengthy procedures of the bank;

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

(c) whether the Government proposes to give foreign guarantee to the bank to give loans to the students to pursue higher education without asking for any collateral or guarantees of the parents; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

- (b) Does not arise.
- (c) No, Sir.
- (d) Does not arise.

Export of Sub-Standard Clothes

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

(a) whether the Government is aware that some export firms are exporting sub-standard clothes; and

(b) if so, the number of the firms exporting such material penalised by the customs department during the period from 2001 to 2004 alongwith the action taken against them till date?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Production and Export of Tea

586. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:
 SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:
 SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL:
 SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI:
 SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:
 SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH:
 SHRI Y. G. MAHAJAN:

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

(a) whether there has been fall in the quantity of tea produced by the tea producing states against the target fixed during the preceding three years; if so, the measures taken to increase the production;

(b) whether the export share of tea in the world market have gone down, if so, the reasons thereof and the steps taken to expand the export share of tea;

(c) whether the Government propose to establish factories of small tea growers on cooperative basis; if so, do the Government intend to safeguard the interest of small growers; and

(d) whether the Government is intending to spread the network of Tea Auction Centres if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) During the year 2001-02, there was a marginal fall in tea production as compared to the target set. However, during the subsequent years 2002-03 and 2003-04, the quantity of tea produced was more or less at par with the targets set. A number of development schemes are being implemented by the Tea Board during the Tenth Five Year Plan for enhancing productivity, quality and marketability of tea produced in the country. Financial and technical assistance is provided for various plantation development activities like replanting, rejuvenation, creation of irrigation facilities, modernisation of tea factories and training of small tea growers etc.

(b) Yes Sir. The major reasons for overall decline in the share of the Indian tea in the world market are the stiff competition being faced from other producing and exporting countries like Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia, Vietnam and Kenya, various tariff and non-tariff measures imposed by some of the tea importing countries like Russia, Egypt and Iran, lower off-take by Russia due to change in consumer preferences and higher prices of Indian tea due to high cost of production.

With a view to boost the export of tea, Tea Board is implementing a medium term export strategy prepared through private consultants. Tea Board has also taken various steps which include encouraging production of quality teas specially orthodox type of teas, participation in major trade fairs/exhibitions abroad, lending promotional support to Indian exporters in marketing Indian brands, field sampling at speciality stores and in principal markets, launching media campaigns to increase consumer awareness, exchange of tea delegations, grant of transport subsidy for tea exported through Inland Container Depot Amingaon etc.

(c) The small growers are encouraged to set up cooperative manufacturing units and financial assistance is provided by the Tea Board for the purpose. Tea Board is also giving direct financial assistance to the small tea growers for undertaking new plantation, replantation, replacement planting, rejuvenation pruning and infilling, setting up of self help groups, organizing study tours, raising of nurseries for supply of good quality planting materials etc. Besides, grant-in-aid is also provided for extending advisory services and organizing training programme on modern aspects of tea cultivation. In order to ensure a reasonable return for the green leaf produced by the small tea growers, Tea Board is implementing a price sharing formula between the small tea growers and manufacturers of made tea with effect from 1.4.2004.

(d) Besides according approval for opening one auction centre in Jalpaiguri in North Bengal recently, Tea Board has taken action to convert manual auction centres to electronic centres to improve the efficiency of the tea purchase

systems and reduce transaction time and costs. The auction centres at Coimbatore and Guwahati have already been converted to electronic centres.

New Civil Aviation Policy

587. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRI K. S. RAO:

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated a new Civil Aviation Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof including privatisation of airports, foreign direct investment and helicopter services;

(c) whether the Government is also considering to set up some new airports in the country;

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

(e) the steps taken/proposed to improve operational transparency particularly of public airlines; and

(f) the time by which the new aviation policy is likely to be announced alongwith the features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The new civil aviation policy is under preparation.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Government has approved the setting up of new airports of international standard at Devanahalli in Karnataka, Shamshabad in Andhra Pradesh and Mopa in Goa.

(e) Operation of all airlines in the country are subject to regulations of DGCA with regards to safety, standards and licencing. Besides, the public airlines are subject to oversight by various agencies such as Board of Directors, which includes government nominees, Comptroller Auditor General (CAG), Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) and the Parliament.

(f) As the policy is to be formulated only after discussions with all concerned no time limit has been set.

Working of Customs Department

588. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the appraisers in the custom department posted at various ICD in Delhi do not clear inputs imported for export production on Saturdays;

(b) if so, the justification for such practice;

(c) whether exporters are asked to get confirmation letters for their advance licenses issued before registration by these, appraisers; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to reduce transaction costs for clearance of inputs required for export production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The import sheds at the three Commissionerates of Delhi - Air Cargo (Import & General), Air Cargo (Export) and Internal Container Depots are kept operational on all Saturdays except Second Saturdays. On all Saturdays except Second Saturdays, appraisers examine and clear import cargo including import of inputs for export production.

(c) Yes, Sir. Confirmation letters in respect of Advance Licences are obtained before their registration by the customs as a precaution against forgery of the licences.

(d) Some of the major steps taken to reduce transaction cost of inputs for export production are, introduction of the EDI system and reduction in the number of documents required to be submitted for export incentive schemes.

Exploration of Non-fuel and Non-Atomic Minerals

589. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has thrown open the exploration and exploitation of some non-fuel and non-atomic minerals to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons why these minerals are being given to private sector for exploration and exploitation; and

(d) the response of private sector to the proposal of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) 13 minerals namely, iron ore, manganese, chrome, sulphur, gold, diamond, copper, lead, zinc, molybdenum, tungsten, nickel and platinum group of minerals which were earlier reserved for exploitation by public sector were thrown open

for private investment in 1993. Since then all non-fuel and non-atomic minerals are open for exploration and exploitation by the private sector.

(c) The reason for opening up the mining sector for private sector is to attract private sector investment and induct foreign technology and foreign equity participation in exploration and mining for important minerals.

(d) The non-fuel and non-atomic minerals sector have received large investments from the private sector which is contributing substantially to the development of the mineral sector in the country.

The Global Mining Community has reacted positively to India's investment policies and Indian subsidiaries of eighteen major international mining companies have registered their presence in the country. 165 Reconnaissance Permits having an area of 2,19,665 sq kms in ten states have already been granted. Furthermore, Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has granted 73 approvals to investors from twenty countries for Foreign Direct Investment in mining sector involving an investment of Rs. 4044 crores.

Declaration of Cities as A-1 Cities

590. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted by Government to declare the cities as A-1 cities;

(b) If so, whether it is also a fact that Hyderabad city fulfils all the conditions required to get A-1 city status; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to declare Hyderabad city as A-1 city at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per the criteria laid down by the 5th Central Pay Commission and accepted by the Government, the cities/towns having the population of 50 lakhs and above are classified as A-1 cities for the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance (HRA) and City Compensatory Allowance (CCA). The population within Municipality limits is taken into consideration for HRA and population within Urban Agglomeration limits of the city is taken into consideration for CCA.

(b) No, Sir. The population of Hyderabad has been indicated in the 1991 census as 29,63,638 within Municipality limit and 43,44,437 in its UA limit. It does not fulfil the criteria for classification as A-1 city.

(c) The classification of the cities will be reviewed after the final population figures of census 2001 of the cities within Municipality and Urban Agglomeration areas are released by the Registrar General of India.

[Translation]

Varishth Pension Bima Yojana

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

(a) whether the Government propose to enhance the subsidy amount to Rs.150 crore for the pension scheme of the senior citizens under Varishth Pension Bima Yojana; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the modalities to be followed for mobilisation and allocation of funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) In the Budget Estimates 2004-05, Rs. 150 crore has been provided for interest subsidy to Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana. Actual amount of interest subsidy is calculated on the basis of difference between the pension payout and the income earned by LIC from the fund. Government is committed to meet the subsidy requirement to LIC for the scheme. The expenditure on interest subsidy would be met out of receipts under the Consolidated Fund of India.

[English]

Export of Leather and Leather Items

592. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a scope to promote the export of leather and leather items from India;

(b) If so, the efforts made in this regard during last three years and to what extent the exports have increased;

(c) whether any such plan has been drawn up for 2004-05; 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) Yes Sir. The Government of India has taken steps to promote the export of leather products inter-alia through export promotion schemes such as Market Development Assistance (MDA) and Market Access Initiative (MAI). Exports

of leather and leather products have recorded an increase from US\$ 1604 million in 1999-2000 to US\$ 2005 million (provisional) during 2003-2004.

(c) and (d) 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).

[Translation]

Restructuring of U.P. Handloom Corporation

593. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for package of Rs.102.68 crores having the Union Government's share of Rs.25.67 crores, for the rehabilitation restructuring of Uttar Pradesh State Handloom Corporation Limited, submitted by Uttar Pradesh Government is under consideration with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the probable date of approval and disbursement to the State Government;

(c) whether the Government is considering the possibilities of opening a branch of National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) in Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the probable date of establishment of the branch?

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

(b) "In principle" approval of the Government of India has been accorded to the proposal for restructuring of Uttar Pradesh State Handloom Corporation. However, sanction of the Government of India on the said proposal will be considered only after completion of certain actions by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, which have been duly communicated to the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

(c) No, Sir. There is no proposal for opening of a branch of NIFT in Uttar Pradesh.

(d) Doesn't arise.

[English]

FDI Policy

594. SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS:

SHRI GURUDAS DASGUPTA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review the FDI policy in respect of some sectors like Civil Aviation, Defence, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present FDI cap on various sectors, Sector-wise;

(d) the present FDI inflow into the country compared to other Asian Countries;

(e) the details of FDI Investment in India upto 31.03.2004, sector-wise; and

(f) the manner in which the Government propose to attract the foreign investors to increase the FDI inflow?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Government has put in place a liberal and transparent FDI Policy and most of the sectors have been placed under the automatic route, except for a small negative list. FDI up to 100% is permitted on the automatic route, for most activities/sectors except for a few sectors such as defence equipment, telecom, civil aviation, insurance, exploration and mining of diamonds and precious stones, broadcasting, etc., where caps have been prescribed based on strategic and sectoral considerations. The FDI policy, including sectoral policies and caps, is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

(c) The FDI cap for various sectors are detailed in Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's web-site <http://dlpp.nic.in>

(d) FDI inflows into comparable Asian Countries as per WIR 2003 published by the UNCTAD is at statement-I enclosed.

(e) Sector-wise Inflow of FDI during the period from August 1, 1991 to April 30, 2004 is at statement-II enclosed.

(f) The Government has initiated steps to undertake various promotional activities which include aggressive marketing of investment opportunities in India, its competitive advantages, direct contact with potential investors, organization of specific investment promotion

events, dissemination of information on investment, policies and procedure and maintaining an informative website including an on-line chat facility.

Statement-I

FDI Inflows in major Asian Countries during calendar year 2002

(Millions of dollars)

Country	2002
1	2
1. China	52700
2. Hong Kong	13718
3. Indonesia	-1523

1	2
4. Korea, Republic of	1972
5. Malaysia	3203
6. Pakistan	823
7. Philippines	1111
8. Singapore	7655
9. Sri Lanka	242
10. Thailand	1069
11. India	3449*

* Figures for India is the old definition which does not take into account reinvested earnings, other capital etc., Revised FDI, in alignment with international best practice, for 2001-02 is US\$ 6131 million.

Statement-II

Sector wise Actual Inflow of FDI Received From 01/08/1991 to 30/04/2004

S.No.	Sector	Amount of Inflow (Rupees Crore)	% With Inflow @
1	2	3	4
1.	Metallurgical Industries	1280.81	1.32
2.	Fuels (Power & Oil Refinery)	9883.57	10.16
3.	Boilers And Steam Generating Plant	15.93	0.02
4.	Prime Movers other than Electrical	105.33	0.11
5.	Electricals Equipment (Incl. S/W & Elec.)	14115.03	14.51
6.	Telecommunications	10727.04	11.03
7.	Transportation Industry	11592.75	11.92
8.	Industrial Machinery	642.00	0.66
9.	Machine Tools	514.95	0.53
10.	Agricultural Machinery	273.78	0.28
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	103.44	0.11
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	1650.35	1.70
13.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	672.60	0.69
14.	Medical And Surgical Appliances	417.47	0.43
15.	Industrial Instruments	77.53	0.08
16.	Scientific Instruments	61.05	0.06
17.	Mathematical Surveying and Drawing	0.02	0.00

1	2	3	4
18.	Fertilizers	287.78	0.30
19.	Chemicals other than Fertilizers	5710.02	5.87
20.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	33.14	0.03
21.	Dye-Stuffs	53.78	0.06
22.	Drugs And Pharmaceuticals	2239.77	2.30
23.	Textiles (Include Dyed, Printed)	1164.19	1.20
24.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	1279.40	1.32
25.	Sugar	45.33	0.05
26.	Fermentation Industries	245.55	0.25
27.	Food Processing Industries	4345.23	4.47
28.	Vegetable Oils and Vanaspati	54.73	0.06
29.	Soaps Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	2.42	0.00
30.	Rubber Goods	830.67	0.85
31.	Leather, Leather Goods And Pickers	190.80	0.20
32.	Glue And Gelatin	147.58	0.15
33.	Glass	988.45	1.02
34.	Ceramics	201.43	0.21
35.	Cement and Gypsum Products	1260.71	1.30
36.	Timber Products	0.92	0.00
37.	Consultancy Services	727.90	0.75
38.	Service Sector	8220.07	8.45
39.	Hotel & Tourism	901.00	0.93
40.	Trading	1310.68	1.35
41.	Miscellaneous Industries	14892.66	15.31
42.	Euro Issues (GDR)**	28303.76	
43.	Acquisition of Shares #	7278.02	
44.	Advance of Inflow	9466.22	
45.	Stock Swapped	256.50	
46.	NRI-RBI Scheme*	8426.95	@
Grand Total		150999.29	

Note:

* Special NRI Schemes Administered By RBI From 01/01/1991 to 30/04/2004. No Country wise details are available with RBI.

** The Amount of Inflows raised through GDRs/ADRs/FCCBs against the FDI Approvals Accorded by FIPB during the period from June 1994 to April 2004.

Reported By RBI, Mumbai-Transfer of Shares from Resident to Non-Resident Under FEMA during January 1998 to April 2004.

@ % Figures do not take into account the amount of FDI Inflows for ADR/GDR, FCCB's Acquisition of Existing Shares, Advance Pending for Allotment of Shares and RBI-NRI schemes as these are not categorised country wise/sector wise.

*[Translation]***Land for Khajurian Airport**

595. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Madhya Pradesh administration has provided free of cost land for development of Khajuraho Airport;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in the construction work after the land acquisition?

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

(b) The additional land measuring 355.66 acres at Khajuraho Airport has been handed over by State Government of Madhya Pradesh to Airports Authority of India (AAI) free of cost.

(c) AAI has taken up the work of runway extension from 6,000 ft. to 7,500 ft. AAI has finalised proposals and scope of works for construction of a new terminal building, apron, taxiway, car park area and other related infrastructures to facilitate operation of AB-320 type of aircraft. However, the progress of work is hampered as the State Government of M.P. has to take action for diversion of canals, removal of hillock and approach link roads passing through the runway extension area.

*[Translation]***Fast Track Courts**

596. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA:

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN:

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

(a) the number of Fast Track Courts set up so far and made functional in the country;

(b) the amount released to each State as grants for setting up of such Fast Track Courts; and

(c) the number of Fast Track Courts proposed to be set up during 2004-2005, State/Union Territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) So far, 1686 Fast Track Courts have been set up in the country, out of which 1488 courts have been made functional.

(b) A Statement showing the amount released to each State for setting up of Fast Track Courts is placed at statement-I enclosed.

(c) A Statement showing the number of Fast Track Courts to be set up by the States and the Union Territories during 2004-2005 is placed at statement-II enclosed.

Statement-I*The amount released for Fast Track Courts*

(Rs. in Lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Amount released by Ministry of Finance
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2,250.00
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	52.69
3.	Assam	530.10
4.	Bihar	4,766.40
5.	Chhattisgarh	791.10
6.	Goa	125.10
7.	Gujarat	1,939.41
8.	Haryana	422.31
9.	Himachal Pradesh	108.59
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	300.60
11.	Jharkhand	2,319.30
12.	Karnataka	2,431.80
13.	Kerala	815.25
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2,223.90
15.	Maharashtra	4,352.40
16.	Manipur	90.00
17.	Meghalaya	90.00
18.	Mizoram	90.00
19.	Nagaland	54.90
20.	Orissa	1,866.60

1	2	3
21.	Punjab	746.10
22.	Rajasthan	2,166.30
23.	Sikkim	29.70
24.	Tamil Nadu	1,151.90
25.	Tripura	73.80
26.	Uttaranchal	1,173.60
27.	Uttar Pradesh	6,319.80
28.	West Bengal	3,972.60
Total		41,254.25

Statement-II

Statement showing the number of Fast Track Courts to be set up by the States/Union Territories during 2004-2005

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of FTCs Earmarked	No. of FTCs notified by the States	No. of FTCs to be set up by the States
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	86	86	0
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	5	3	2*
3.	Assam	20	20	0
4.	Bihar	183	183	0
5.	Chhattisgarh	31	31	0
6.	Goa	5	5	0
7.	Gujarat	166	166	0
8.	Haryana	36	15	21
9.	Himachal Pradesh	9	9	0
10.	Jammu and Kashmir	12	12	0
11.	Jharkhand	89	89	0
12.	Karnataka	93	93	0
13.	Kerala	37	27	10
14.	Madhya Pradesh	85	85	0

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Maharashtra	187	187	0
16.	Manipur	3	2	1
17.	Meghalaya	3	3	0
18.	Mizoram	3	3	0
19.	Nagaland	3	2	1
20.	Orissa	72	72	0
21.	Punjab	29	17	12
22.	Rajasthan	83	83	0
23.	Sikkim	3	2	1
24.	Tamil Nadu	49	49	0
25.	Tripura	3	3	0
26.	Uttaranchal	45	45	0
27.	Uttar Pradesh	242	242	0
28.	West Bengal	152	152	0
29.	Chandigarh	1	0	1
30.	Delhi	20	0	20
Total		1755	1686	69

* Arunachal Pradesh has informed that they do not intend to set up the remaining two fast track courts due to lower pendency of cases in the State.

[English]

Debt Burden on States

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

(a) the debt burden of various States as on 31st March, 2004;

(b) whether any State Government has sought the assistance of the Union Government to reduce their debt burden;

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

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per column (3) of the statement enclosed.

(b) to (d) Requests are received from State Governments from time to time in this regard. In order to help the States, Government of India formulated a Debt Swap Scheme which enables the States to pre-pay high cost Government of India loans of the State Governments, bearing interest rate of 13% and above amounting to Rs. 1,14,000 crores as on 31.3.2002 with low coupon bearing Small Savings and Additional Open Market Borrowings. An amount of Rs 75,273 crores has been swapped so far. This scheme has helped States to reduce their interest burden.

Government of India is also operating a debt relief scheme on the recommendations of the Eleventh Finance Commission.

Government of India has also decided to enable the States to refinance their high cost debt under RIDF with the help of Additional Open Market Borrowings. State-wise details of high cost debt swapped and debt relief granted are shown in columns (4) and (5) of the statement enclosed.

Statement

Debt Burden of States

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	States	Total debt outstanding as on 31.03.2004	Total Debt Swapped (upto 1.07.2004)	Debt Relief under the award of EFC
1	2	3	4	5
1	Andhra Pradesh	57574	4969.23	77.52
2	Arunachal Pradesh	1118	142.45	1.72
3	Assam	15043	1301.12	
4	Bihar	* 49882	3126.53	
5	Chhattisgarh		920.26	
6	Goa	3449	362.49	
7	Gujarat	55318	7570.75	
8	Haryana	19712	2332.23	
9	Himachal Pradesh	13035	1233.72	
10	Jammu and Kashmir	11916	919.59	
11	Jharkhand		1330.98	
12	Karnataka	38091	3704.48	
13	Kerala	33708	2194.54	
14	Madhya Pradesh	*40888	2683.4	
15	Maharashtra	71759	8990	
16	Manipur	2463	137.54	2.47
17	Meghalaya	1738	115.77	
18	Mizoram	1793	90.21	
19	Nagaland	2904	109.01	
20	Orissa	33756	1668.96	

1	2	3	4	5
21	Punjab	42057	4338.98	42.11
22	Rajasthan	48714	3981.46	
23	Sikkim	908	54.61	
24	Tamil Nadu	44835	4542.55	7.89
25	Tripura	3831	250.04	
26	Uttaranchal		1752.21	
27	Uttar Pradesh	*104079	8496.56	
28	West Bengal	79575	7953.06	
Total		778146	75272.73	131.71

* The states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh include the liabilities of newly formed States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Uttaranchal, respectively.

Source for Column 3: RBI Bulletin 2003-2004 on State finances

Export of Fruits

598. SHRI ABDUL RASHID SHAHEEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to enter into the world market with a brand name for exporting items from India;

(b) if so, whether the Government has made efforts to export fruits such as mangoes, apples, oranges etc. by making them competitive and market-oriented in the world markets; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the outcome of efforts made for the export of fruits?

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

(a) No, Sir. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), however, has a scheme for registered exporters for award of 'Quality Produce of India' logo for agricultural export items which meet the specific criteria laid down under the scheme.

(b) Some of the efforts to make the exports of fruits competitive and market oriented in the world market are:-

- Providing financial assistance through various plan schemes which are aimed at improving the productivity and reducing the cost of production of farmers, processors and exporters.
- Developing grading and marketing standards for different fruits and vegetables under the AGMARK Act.

- Participation in important international trade fairs to provide to the exporters an orientation to the international market demands.
- Implementation of the concept of Agri Export Zone (AEZ) seeking to address the problems of production, processing and marketing right through the supply chain.
- Organising product specific market promotion campaign viz. for mangoes in Europe, Middle East, China, Singapore and Malaysia.

Outcome of efforts made for the exports of fruits are as follows:-

- The export performance of mangoes, apples and oranges during 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 are as under:-

Fruits	Value of exports (Rs. Crore)		
	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03
Mangoes	68.60	80.99	84.19
Apple	4.17	13.39	15.71
Orange	27.37	31.87	28.46

- As a result of mango promotion campaign carried out by APEDA, China has recently allowed import of mangoes. A protocol is also being developed for exports of mangoes to Japan.
- Maharashtra State Agriculture Marketing Board (MSAMB) has sent a trial container of oranges to

the middle east which may boost exports of Indian oranges to the Middle East.

Branches of Nationalised Banks

599. SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the number and names of nationalised banks functioning in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) the number and names of nationalised banks where evening banking facility are available in above States;
- (c) whether the Government propose to start evening banking facility in some more branches of its present nationalised banks to facilitate the industrial workers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the number of new branches opened by each nationalised bank during the year 2003-2004?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As on 31.3.2004, there were 3836 and 4037 branches of 19 nationalised banks functioning in the States of Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, respectively.

(b) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has not prescribed any norm for fixing banking hours of bank branches. This is decided by the banks themselves. It has, therefore, informed that no data/information about evening banking facility is available with them.

(e) RBI has reported that 301 new branches were opened in the country by all the nationalised banks during the year 2003-04.

Panel to Finalise Trade Issues

600. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has set up a panel of Ministers to finalise the strategy on trade issues particularly on agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of Government in United Nations Conference on Trade and Development meeting held recently in Brazil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGO VAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Cabinet Committee on WTO Matters

chaired by the Prime Minister, and consisting of Minister of Defence, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers and Minister of Steel, Minister of Finance, Minister of Textiles, Minister of Commerce and Industry, Minister of Rural Development, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Science and Technology and Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Department of Ocean Development, will consider and decide on all issues, including on agriculture, pertaining to the World Trade Organization.

(c) The Eleventh Ministerial Conference of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from 14-18 June 2004. The Ministerial Conference, which meets every four years, is UNCTAD's highest decision-making body. Its mandate covers independent policy analysis, consensus building, and technical assistance. The UNCTAD Ministerial Conference thus sets priorities and guidelines for the organization in each of these three pillars. India, as a member of the developing countries' Group known as 'G-77 and China', successfully highlighted the concerns of developing countries under the multilateral trading system, and emphasized the centrality of development in any process of globalization. India drew attention to the essentiality of policy space and policy flexibility to incorporate development strategies of national governments. UNCTAD which has provided an invaluable forum for advancing the inter-relationship between trade and development, from both the national and international perspective, across the three pillars of its mandate, should continue its work and provide necessary inputs to the developing countries.

[Translation]

Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojna

601. PROF. MAHADEORAO SHIWANKAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount granted to Maharashtra under "Deendayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana" on 1 April, 2000; and
- (b) if so, the details of benefits accrued to National and State level Hathkargha Institutions, Primary and Core weavers organizations, Non-Governmental and Voluntary Organisations during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) The Government of Maharashtra has not been granted any funds under Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY) since inception of the scheme i.e. April 2001,

as no viable proposal has been received from Government of Maharashtra under the scheme.

(b) Under DDHPY, as on 31st March, 2004, a sum of Rs.22,114.81 lakh has been released in favour of 22 States, 1 Union Territory and 2 National Level Organisations comprising of Rs.12,886.40 lakh under Marketing Incentive component and Rs.9228.41 lakh under Basic Input component for implementation of 2934 projects.

Foreign Equity in Aviation Sector

602. SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH :

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to allow foreign investors to pick only up to 49% stake in the Joint Venture for privatization programme for Airports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Indian investors and firms reported to be interested in bidding for the project;

(d) the last date for inviting Expressions of Interest (EOI);

(e) the details of Naresh Chandra Committee recommendations thereon; and

(f) the status of its implementation as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In the proposed restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports through public private participation, maximum permissible limit of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the proposed Joint Venture Company have been limited to 49% only. Airports Authority of India (AAI) and other Government of India's Public Sector Undertakings will hold 26% equity. Remaining 25% equity will be held by Indian entities (Indian companies). For this purpose, the Indian company is defined as a company incorporated in India and 100% owned by Indian entities.

(c) and (d) The last date for receipt of Expressions of Interest is 20th July, 2004. Hence, Expression of Interest are yet to be received.

(e) and (f) The Naresh Chandra Committee is in favour

of encouraging private participation in the Airports. The views of this committee shall, inter-alia, be considered while finalising the Civil Aviation Policy.

Opening of Offices of Banks Abroad

603. SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to open representative offices of banks abroad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives behind opening such offices; and

(d) the amount likely to be spent thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) examines proposals received from banks for setting up offices abroad including representatives offices. Inter Departmental Committee of Government considers these proposals for clearance before RBI grants licence. Recently, in a meeting held on 2nd April, 2004, IDC approved following proposals to open representative offices:

1. State Bank of India - Angola
2. Bank of Baroda - Thailand
3. Indian Overseas bank - China

(c) The main purpose of a representative office is generally to liaise and canvass business for the parent bank, as these offices are not allowed to carry on any banking business in the host country. Banks prefer this option when they are not sure of the business potential and environment of a place but would like to weigh their option for setting up a branch or subsidiary at a future date based on the experience of a representative office.

(d) The amount spent by the banks for opening a representative office and running it, depends upon the country/ city, where the office is opened as also on the strength of the office.

[English]

Interest Rate of Loans

604. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided

to ease the fiscal stress of States by planning a 50-100 basis point cut in the interest charged on fresh loans to States;

(b) If so, whether reduction in interest rate on plan loans has provided some relief in easing their debt burden;

(c) If so, the total deduction of interest rate on fresh loans in 2004-2005 to be considered;

(d) the extent in which this reduction of interest rates has helped States for debt relief; and

(e) the States which have been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (e) The Union Government has announced the decision regarding the rate of interest on loans to State Governments in the Budget 2004-05, presented on July 8, 2004.

Royalty Rate of Minerals

605. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the royalty rate of minerals have not been revised since long;

(b) if so, the steps taken to revise the rate of royalty of minerals at the earliest; and

(c) the steps taken to pay the interim relief to the States pending the proposal to revise the rate of minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Royalty rates for minor minerals defined under Section 3(e) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 are notified by respective State Governments. Royalty rates for major minerals (other than coal and lignite) were last notified by the Deptt. of Mines vide Gazette Notification GSR No. 713(E) dated 12.9.2000. Royalty rates for coal and lignite were last revised vide Gazette Notification GSR 572(E) dated 16.8.2002 and GSR 187(E) dated 15.3.2001 respectively by Deptt. of Coal.

(b) A Study Group for revision of royalty rates for minerals (other than coal and lignite) was constituted under the chairpersonship of the then Additional Secretary, Ministry of Mines and its report has been submitted to the Government after detailed consultation with State Governments and other Stake holders. Revision of royalty rates of minerals (other than coal and lignite) is in an advanced stage of processing and will be notified after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

(c) Under the provisions of Section 9(3) of Mines

and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957, the Central Government can not enhance the rates of royalty more than once during any period of three years. It is also not mandatory under the Act to revise rates of royalty every three years. Therefore, the question of paying interim relief to States does not arise.

Recovery of Guarantee Fee

606. SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer given to Unstarred Question No. 4947 dated August 24, 2001 regarding recovery of guarantee fee and state:

(a) whether the Government has been able to collect only 0.33 percent of the guaranteed amount outstanding as on March 31, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons for recovering such a small amount and by when the entire amount will be recovered; and

(c) the total amount of the guarantee fee yet to be recovered together with the details thereof as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Guarantee fee is being levied and recovered on the basis of instructions issued from time to time. In a number of cases, guarantee pertains to period prior to application of these orders, and hence would be exempt from payment of fee. In certain other cases, the Government has decided not to levy guarantee fee as part of restructuring of Public Sector Undertaking. In other cases, guarantee fee concessions have also been provided. Receipt from guarantee fee is monitored by all Ministries/Departments.

[Translation]

VRS in Banks

607. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of banks which have launched Voluntary Retirement Scheme for their employees and officers during last year;

(b) the number of employees willing to opt VRS in each bank as on date;

(c) whether the remaining banks propose to follow it; and

(d) if so, the time by which they would introduce VRS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OFFINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Voluntary Retirement Scheme has not been launched by any of the public sector banks for their employees and officers during the last year.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Share of Central Taxes to States

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

(a) whether the Government is actively considering a proposal for devolution of greater share of central taxes to the States;

(b) if so, the details of the plan of the Government; and

(c) the time by which proposals are likely to be implemented?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Disinvestment of NALCO

609. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposal for the disinvestment of NALCO, a profit making enterprise;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) if not, whether the Government has any proposal for further investment to modernise NALCO and make it profitable; 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) The Government on 27.7.2001 approved for open market sale of 30% of the Government equity in National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) to be followed in the second stage by a sale of the balance equity to a strategic partner, bringing the Government equity down to 26% after reserving up to 2% of the equity for NALCO employees. The due diligence by Qualified Interested Parties (QIPs), which began on 28.10.2002 at Angul and Damanjodi units of NALCO was disrupted and subsequently the process was stopped.

Thereafter, following the statement that "the disinvestment status of NALCO is being reviewed" of the then Prime Minister at Bhubaneswar on July 15, 2003, the disinvestment in NALCO has not been pursued.

(c) and (d) NALCO has submitted a proposal for second phase expansion of its Bauxite mines, Alumina refinery, Aluminium smelter and Captive Power Plant (CPP) capacity at an investment cost of Rs. 4091.51 crore at July 2003 price level to be financed entirely by the Company's internal resources and commercial borrowings. The capacity of the various facilities of the Company after the proposed second phase expansion will be as under:

Sector	Present Capacity	Capacity after proposed expansion
Bauxite Mine (tpa)*	48,00,000	63,00,000
Alumina Refinery (tpa)	15,75,000	21,00,000
Aluminium Smelter (tpa)	3,45,000	4,60,000
Captive Power Plant (MW)**	960	1,200

* tpa - tonnes per annum

**MW - Mega Watt

The Public Investment Board (PIB) in, its meeting dated 6.2.2004 has cleared the above project and it is now awaiting a decision of the competent authority in the Government.

[Translation]

Export of Handloom Items

610. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the Handloom items exported to various countries during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government has formulated any special scheme keeping in view the increasing demand of Indian Handloom products in other countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) Major Handloom items exported during the last three years are broadly classified under two categories: cotton handloom fabrics, comprising real madras handkerchiefs, lungies, dhotis, sarees, shirlings, furnishings etc. and cotton handloom made-ups, comprising bed linen, table linen, toilet and kitchen linen, curtains, carpets and floor coverings, bedspread/bed covers, other furnishing articles, clothing accessories etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In order to give impetus to the export of handloom products, a scheme namely "Development of Exportable Products and their Marketing (DEPM)" had been in operation since 1996-97 till the end of the 9th Plan. The scheme continues to be implemented during the 10th Five Year Plan under the name of "Handloom Export Scheme". The Handloom Export Scheme envisages provision of financial assistance to the handloom agencies such as National and State Level Handloom Corporations, Apex Cooperative Societies, Primary handloom Weavers' Cooperative Societies and Private Handloom Exporters for development of export worthy handloom products, publicity & International marketing thereof and setting up of value addition/quality control units. Financial assistance is also provided under the scheme to Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC), Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms (ACASH) etc. for organising participation of their members in International fairs/exhibitions/Buyer -Seller-Meets.

Details of financial assistance provided under the scheme to various handloom agencies during the last three years are as under:

S.No.	Year	Financial assistance provided (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2001-2002	Rs. 325.02
2.	2002-2003	Rs. 305.90
3.	2003-2004	Rs. 441.68

[English]

Uniform Civil Code

611. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court advised the Government to bring forward a law to provide for a Uniform Civil Code;

(b) if so, whether the Government has proposed to bring necessary legislation in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof in this regard; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The Supreme Court of India in its judgement delivered on the 21st July, 2003 in the matter of John Vallamattom Vs. Union of India and anr.[2003(5) SCALE 384] has made certain observations in respect of enactment of a Uniform Civil Code.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Bringing in a Uniform Civil Code involves changes in the Personal Laws including those of the minority communities. It has been the consistent policy of the Central Government not to interfere in the Personal Laws of the minority communities unless the necessary initiatives for such changes come from a sizable cross-section of such community themselves.

Insurance Scheme for BPL

612. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has introduced any new Insurance Scheme for the people living below poverty line;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted to identify the people living below poverty line alongwith number of such people in the country, State-wise;

(d) the total amount likely to be paid by the Union Government and the State Government as premium annually;

(e) whether the age group suggested earlier by Ministry of Finance has been changed now; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the number of persons likely to be benefited by this policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) A community based Universal Health Insurance Scheme is being implemented by the four public sector general insurance companies w.e.f. 14.7.2003 for the poorer sections of the society including BPL families. The scheme provide for reimbursement of hospitalization expenses upto Rs.30,000/- which can be availed individually or collectively by the members of the family, personal accident cover of Rs.25,000/- for death of earning head of family and compensation to loss of earnings of earning member @ Rs.50/- per day upto a maximum of 15 days. The premium under the scheme is Rs.365/- per annum for individual, Rs.548/- per annum for family of 5 members including 3 children and Rs.730/- per annum for family of 7 members (including 3 children and dependent parents). In order to make the scheme affordable, Govt. provides a premium subsidy of Rs.100/- per BPL family.

(c) The criteria adopted by the Planning Commission to determine the people living below poverty

line is based on per capita consumption expenditure @ Rs.49.09 per month in rural areas and Rs.56.64 per month in urban areas at 1973-74 prices at national level corresponding to a basket of goods and services anchored on a norm of per capita daily calorie requirement of 2400 kcal in rural areas and 2100 kcal in urban areas. The number of persons living below poverty line in the country in the year 1999-2000 was estimated to be 260.3 million. The State-wise figures are given in the Statement enclosed.

(d) For the Universal Health Insurance Scheme, the Central Government has released an amount of Rs.1.80 crore to the four public sector general insurance companies as premium subsidy for BPL families for the year 2003-04. The State-Governments do not have any share under the scheme.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The scheme has covered 4,16,688 families including 9252 BPL families as on 31.3.2004.

Statement

State-wise population below poverty line, 1999-2000

S.No.	State/UTs	No. of the persons (in lacs)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	119.01
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	3.98
3.	Assam	94.55
4.	Bihar	425.64
5.	Goa	0.70
6.	Gujarat	67.89
7.	Haryana	17.34
8.	Himachal Pradesh	5.12
9.	Jammu and Kashmir	3.46
10.	Karnataka	104.40
11.	Kerala	41.04
12.	Madhya Pradesh	298.54
13.	Maharashtra	227.99
14.	Manipur	7.19
15.	Meghalaya	8.23
16.	Mizoram	1.85

1	2	3
17.	Nagaland	5.49
18.	Orissa	169.09
19.	Punjab	14.49
20.	Rajasthan	81.83
21.	Sikkim	2.05
22.	Tamil Nadu	130.48
23.	Tripura	130.02
24.	Uttar Pradesh	529.89
25.	West Bengal	213.49
26.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.82
27.	Chandigarh	0.51
28.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0.33
29.	Daman and Diu	0.06
30.	Delhi	11.49
31.	Lakshadweep	0.11
32.	Pondicherry	2.41
Total		2602.40

Public Deposit by Non-Banking Companies

613. SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any mechanism put in place to oversee the funding of Residuary Non-Banking Financial Companies having access to public deposits;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether periodic inspections are conducted to scrutinise the working of these institutions; and

(d) If so, when such inspections were last carried out regarding the affairs of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd. together with the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) The Residuary Non-Banking Companies (RNBCs) are regulated by the RBI under the provisions of RNBC Directions, 1987 issued by the Reserve Bank in terms of the powers vested by Chapter IIIB of the RBI Act, 1934.

(c) 'RNBCs' are subjected to inspection every year.

(d) RBI have reported that an inspection of the books of account and other records of the company was conducted under Section 45N of the RBI Act, 1934 between November 03, 2003 and January 09, 2004 with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2003. The inspection revealed that the company was complying with provisions of section 45 IA (Net Owned Fund), 45 IB (Liquid asset requirement) and 45 IC (transfer of profit to reserves) of RBI Act. The inspection revealed certain operational irregularities. The company has been directed to rectify these irregularities/deficiencies immediately.

European Companies

614. SHRI PARSURAM MAJHI: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has received proposals from European companies to set up their business in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the kind of business these companies are planning to set up in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 49 European companies have been incorporated under the Companies Act, 1956 during the preceding financial year for establishing their places of business in India. The kind of business these companies are planning is in diverse fields by way of establishing liaison offices, branch offices, project offices, etc.

[Translation]

Financial Assistance to Rajasthan

615. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided to the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years;

(b) whether twenty schemes of the Government of Rajasthan are still pending with the Ministry; and

(c) if so, the time by which amount would be allocated for the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Financial

assistance (other than the assistance available to the State under Finance Commission's award) provided to the Government of Rajasthan during the last three years is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Head	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
1.	Plan Assistance	3628.18	4761.14	6577.65
2.	Medium Term Loan	0.00	463.00	0.00
3.	Additional open Market Borrowings (other than for Debt Swap)	0.00	732.00	300.00
4.	Ways and Means Advance	0.00	198.00	0.00
Total		3628.18	6154.14	6877.65

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Recruitment of Employees

616. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the system of recruiting employees including pilots, cabin crew, technical staff, etc. in Alliance Air;

(b) whether most of the employees are on contract basis in Alliance Air;

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

(d) whether the Government effects retrenchment of the employees of Alliance Air after a particular period; and

(e) if so, the details of the grounds on which it is carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Recruitment of employees including Pilots, Cabin Crew, Technical staff etc. in Alliance Air is done through a transparent recruitment process which includes inviting applications from eligible candidates through advertisements and selecting suitable candidates from various posts through Written Tests, Group Discussion and Personal interviews. In some cases retired employees particularly in Technical cadres from Indian

Airlines Ltd. are also inducted on contractual basis depending on the operational requirement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement showing function-wise/category-wise employees in Alliance Air as on 1st June, 2004 is

enclosed. The reason for having contractual appointments is that it provides flexibility to the management and is in the best interest to the organisation.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. Only in cases of the employees whose performance including conduct and attendance is not found satisfactory termination of contractual appointment is resorted to.

Statement

Function-wise/Category-wise break-up as on 01-06-2004

S. No.	Category	Deputation	Contractual		Total
			B-737	ATR	
1.	Pilots P1	0	31	13	44
	P2	1	33	11	45
	Total	1	64	24	89
2.	Cabin Crew**	0	154	17	171
3.	Operations	0	82	0	82
	Deptt.* (Flt. Desp. Ops. TT&M FCS.FS)				
4.	Licensed	5	43	18	64
	Engineers*** AME				
5.	Technicians	0	38	44	82
6.	Others IAL 24	62	219	21	302
	SHOD 34				
	PCDF 01				
	UP Police 03				
7.	Security	0	43	0	43
	Attendants				
	Grand Total	68	643	122	833

External Debt

617. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI BHUPENDRASINH SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's external debt has increased at an alarming rate during the year 2003;

(b) if so, the details of the external debt position as on June 30, 2004;

(c) whether the Government has decided to take any concrete steps to minimise the external debt; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. As on December 31, 2003, India's external debt stock was Rs. 511,861 crore or US \$ 112.13 billion representing an increase of 1.2 per cent in rupee terms or 6.5 per cent in US dollar terms as compared to the debt stock as on 31.12.2002. The higher rate of increase in US dollar terms was due to the depreciation of the US dollar against other constituent currencies.

(b) As per the latest data available, India's external debt stock, as on March 31, 2004 stood at Rs. 489,168 crore or US \$ 112,593 million.

(c) and (d) The external debt management policy pursued by the Government includes emphasis on raising funds on concessional terms and from less expensive sources with longer maturities, monitoring of short-term debt, prepaying high cost loans and encouraging non-debt creating capital flows.

Value Added Tax

618. SHRI SURESH KURUP:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRIMATI KRISHNA TIRATH:

SHRI P. K. VASUDEVAN NAIR:

SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether meeting of State Finance Ministers was held in Delhi on Value Added Tax (VAT);

(b) if so, the decision taken in the meeting;

(c) whether all the State Governments have agreed to implement the nation-wide Value Added Tax (VAT) regime from April 1, 2005;

(d) if so, the salient features of the regime;

(e) whether there is any commitment to examine possible losses to the States by the introduction of VAT; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers was held on 18.6.2004. The broad consensus in the meeting was to implement VAT with effect from 1st April, 2005.

(d) Salient features of the VAT regime include multi-stage destination based taxation with input tax credits. It is a State-level tax allowing flexibility in legislative provisions with certain minimum agreed convergence parameters.

(e) and (f) The Central Government has already assured the States to compensate them on the basis of principles and levels of compensation to be decided in consultation with the Empowered Committee, in the event of loss of revenue as a result of introduction of VAT.

[Translation]

Retirement Age of Central Government Employees

619. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN:

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to reduce the retirement age of Central Government employees from 60 years to 58 years is under the consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith criteria drawn up for the purpose;

(c) whether it is also proposed to retire the Government employees who have continuously served for a period of 33 years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Defaulting Companies

620. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALARAO PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government feels that the existing laws against the defaulting companies who duped the small investors are not sufficient and effective; and

(b) if so, the action plan drawn up by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Many shortcomings in the legal provisions of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 that were noticed earlier have been removed by amending the SEBI Act in 2002. The powers of SEBI have been considerably enhanced with respect to inspection, investigation and enforcement. In addition, growing importance of the securities markets in the economy had placed new demands upon SEBI in terms of organizational structure and institutional capacity. The 2002 amendment of the SEBI Act sought to address this aspect too by strengthening the mechanism available to SEBI for investigation and enforcement so that it is better equipped to investigate and enforce against market malpractices.

(b) In 1999 a joint mechanism between SEBI and Department of Company Affairs (DCA) was set up for taking stringent action against unscrupulous promoters who raised moneys from investors and misused them. Accordingly, a Central Coordination and Monitoring Committee (CMC) co-chaired by Secretary DCA and Chairman SEBI has been set up. In the first meeting of this Committee it was decided that regional Task Forces be set up with Regional Directors/Registrar of Companies of respective regions as conveners,

and representatives of Regional Officers of SEBI and Stock Exchanges as members. The main task of these Task Forces is to identify the companies, which have disappeared, or which have misutilised funds mobilized from the investors, and suggest appropriate action in terms of Companies Act, 1956 or SEBI Act, 1992.

Inflation Rate

621. SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY:

SHRI UDAY SINGH:

SHRI C. K CHANDRAPAN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the rise in prices of petroleum products, food and manufactured articles including metals caused a sharp increase in the rate of inflation;

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

(c) whether the Government has formulated any strategy to check the price rise and to contain inflation rate; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The annual rate of inflation on point to point basis in terms of wholesale Price Index (Base: 1993-94) as on 19th June 2004, stood at 5.87 per cent compared to 5.21 per cent a year ago. Details of broad group-wise inflation rates are given in table below:

Group/Items	Wt.(%)	Annual Rate of inflation (%) (at the end of 3rd week of June)	
		2004-2005	2003-2004
1	2	3	4
All commodities	100.00	5.87	5.21
Primary articles	22.03	1.35	7.07
Food articles	15.40	0.21	3.50
Non-food articles	6.14	3.07	17.73
Fuel, power, light & lub.	14.23	9.79	4.77
Coal Mining	1.75	9.22	0.00

1	2	3	4
Mineral Oils	6.99	14.96	4.29
Liquified petroleum gas	1.84	9.47	0.00
Kerosene	0.69	-0.31	0.00
Petrol	0.89	17.92	3.62
High Speed diesel oil	2.02	19.43	3.91
Manufactured products	63.75	6.44	4.55
Food products	11.54	3.61	8.14
Basic Metals Alloys & Metals Products	8.34	28.30	11.46

(c) and (d) Government's anti-inflationary policies include strict fiscal and monetary discipline, effective management of supply-demand through liberal imports of essential commodities and strengthening of public distribution system for foodgrains.

Increase in Coal Prices

622. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coal India Limited has increased the price of coal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rationale behind this hike;

(c) whether the quality of coal produced in India is at par with other developed countries;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to improve the quality of indigenous coal; and

(e) the percentage of coal being extracted during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The recent increase in price of coal by Coal India Limited ranges from an average of Rs.81.35 per Tonne in case of coal supplies to power sector to Rs.251.82 per

tonne in case of coking coal. The weighted average increase in price of coal comes to approximately 16.7%. The price increase is with effect from 16.6.2004.

Some of the main considerations necessitating this price increase include steep increase in cost of major inputs like power, diesel and steel etc. since the last coal price increase resulting in increased cost of production for coal; steep increase in price of coal in the international market; rationalization of coal prices in some subsidiaries to realize the due worth of their coal to the consumers and for raising resources for modernization of existing mines and investment in up-coming projects required for bridging the increasing gap between demand and supply of coal in the country etc. Seven subsidiaries of Coal India Ltd., last increased the price 2-3 years back and Northern Coalfields Ltd. did so in October, 2003.

(c) Quality of coal produced in India is generally poor compared to coal produced in many other countries mainly due to its drift theory origin, which has resulted in intimate mixing of mineral matter in coal alongwith presence of large number of thin bands of extraneous matter.

(d) Indian coal being inherently of inferior quality cannot, in general, be brought at par with international coal. However, by resorting to coal beneficiation, the ash content of Indian coal can be reduced to some extent thereby increasing its heat value. Government has encouraged setting up of coal beneficiation plants by the BOO (Built own Operate) operators in different coalfields to make available washed coal to the linked consumers.

(e) Coal production in India during 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 has been 327.79, 341.27 and 361.17 million tones (provisional) respectively.

Revamped Trade Policy

623. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the present Government has revamped trade policy;

(b) if so, whether a 25 Members Advisory Group has been constituted to advise on the export/import related issues;

(c) whether the new policy will focus on agriculture and employment generation;

(d) whether the Government is also considering promoting FDI to enhance agriculture exports and create additional jobs; and

(e) If so, by what time this new trade policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) A new Foreign Trade Policy is under formulation and would be announced in August, 2004. No Advisory Group has been constituted by the Government as yet. The new Policy would focus on thrust areas which include agriculture. The New Foreign Trade Policy is aimed at boosting exports, including agricultural exports and creating additional employment.

Sixth Pay Commission

624. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:

SHRI A. K. MOORTHY:

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to constitute Sixth Pay Commission for Central Government Employees;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the said Commission is likely to be constituted; and

(d) the likely time frame for submitting its report?

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

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Does not arise.

Fall in Share Market

625. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:

SHRI MOHAN SINGH:

SHRI LAKSHMAN SETH:

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a sharp fall in the share market just after the declaration of election results of Lok Sabha for 2004;

- (b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has analysed the reasons;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof;
- (e) whether some vested interests were behind the sharp fall in the share market;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the corrective action taken or likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Election results were declared on May 13, 2004. Sensex closed at 5399.47 on May 13, 2004. Markets fell on May 14, 2004 (Friday) and the Sensex closed on May 14, 2004 at 5069.87, a fall of 329.6 points or 6.1% and Nifty at 1582.40 or down 135.10 points (-7.87%).

On May 17, 2004 (Monday), markets fell further with the Sensex closing at 4505.16, a fall of 564.71 points or 11.14% and Nifty closing at 1388.75 (-193.65) or down by 12.24%. During trading on May 17, 2004, market halted twice at around 10:16 am and again at 11:18 am. These halts were triggered by the circuit breaker mechanism which causes the market to halt for one hour when market index falls by 10% and for two hours when the market index falls by 15%. After touching a low of 4227.5 after the first trading halt, market recovered in the last session when trading resumed at around 1:16 pm.

(c) to (g) Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has informed that detailed investigations are continuing with regard to certain specific transactions which impacted the fluctuations in indices on and around May 17, 2004 and that regulatory action will be taken against any market player found to have resorted to any manipulation.

In spite of significant volatility in the index on two consecutive trading days (i.e., on May 14 and May 17, 2004) the settlement and payment went through without any hitch, and there has been no broker default or broker failure. The robustness of the risk management system has been proven as the market withstood higher volatility as against the normal built in capacity of systems.

SEBI risk management policy provides for automatic trading halt in all the stock exchanges under certain conditions. As a result of the efficiency of the risk management system, real time monitoring of the broker positions, provision for automated disablement of terminals and market wide circuit breakers, the market could withstand the volatility of this magnitude without any disruption or settlement failure. In

fact, the exchanges did not have to draw upon the settlement guarantee fund.

SEBI keeps under constant watch the developments in the capital markets in consultation with the stock exchanges, depositories and other agencies for detecting and preventing any manipulation and taking deterrent action.

Interest on Agriculture Loan

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

- (a) whether full benefits of declining rate of interest have not been percolating to the agriculture sector;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the rate of interest being charged on agriculture loans to farmers in comparison to the interest charged to other sectors; and
- (d) the steps taken to pass on the benefits of lower rate of interest to agriculture sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) Interest rate in banks have been deregulated and Boards of Banks are free to determine the rates. Since July, 2003 Public Sector Banks have reviewed and revised downward interest rates on crop loans upto Rs.50,000 to 9%. Subsequently, the Public Sector Banks reviewed the position and further reduced the interest rate to 8.5%. Now, the interest on loans upto Rs.2 lakhs on agriculture lending is 2% to 2.5% below the Benchmark Prime Lending Rate (BPLR) of most of the banks. The BPLR of the public sector banks with effect from 1st January/February, 2004 have been in the range of 10% to 11.5%. For loans above Rs.2 lakhs, banks determine their rates based on their commercial judgement taking into consideration cost of funds, Non-Performing Assets and transaction cost.

[Translation]

Outstanding Taxes against Companies

627. SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the outstanding taxes on domestic and multi-national companies as on date, company-wise;
- (b) whether the Government are aware that many companies are selling their manufactured products from the factories without paying excise duties;
- (c) if so, the details of such companies and the action taken against them, so far;

(d) the concrete action taken by the Government for expeditious realization of tax; and

(e) by when the tax is likely to be realized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) The total amount outstanding in respect of direct taxes and indirect taxes as on 31-3-2004 is given below:

Direct Taxes	(Rs. in Crore)	
	Indirect Taxes	
	Central Excise	Customs
87885.21	12613.00 (Approx.)	2725.63

Information in respect of arrears of domestic and multi-national companies are not centrally maintained. To furnish the details company-wise would require compilation of data from all the field formations spread throughout the country, and the time and expenses required would not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

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

(d) The steps taken for expeditious realisation of outstanding tax dues include speedy action for recovery of realisable arrears of duty, monitoring cases before different Courts/Tribunal moving petitions before Courts and other appellate authorities for early hearing and disposal of pending cases and expediting disposal of cases pending with Commissioners (Appeals).

(e) In view of several stages of litigation, the time frame within which an outstanding due would be realised can not be fixed in advance. However, recovery of outstanding taxes is a continuous process under which old demands are liquidated and new demands are added regularly. Therefore, it is not possible to comment as to when the taxes outstanding as on date would be realised.

[English]

Income Tax Arrears in Orissa

628. SHRI ANANTA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of arrears of Income Tax pending with various corporate sectors and individuals in the Eastern States and particularly in Orissa;

(b) the amount of Income Tax due for payment by each corporate sector as on date; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the collection of arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) As per information centrally maintained, as on 31.3.2004 a total of 558 cases of arrears over Rs. 1 crore pertain to the various charges of the Eastern Zone, including Orissa.

(b) As per information available as on 31.3.2004 in cases of arrears over Rs. 1 crore, arrears amounting to Rs. 3775 crores pertain to 295 Corporate cases. These arrears are in various stages of process, including appeal. Information in respect of each case requires collection of details from field units, involving substantial time & effort, which may not be commensurate with the objective sought to be achieved.

(c) Recovery of tax is effected through machinery as provided under chapter XVII & Second Schedule of the Income Tax Act, 1961. Measures taken to expedite the dues would depend on the facts of each case. Besides, special units at Important Chief Commissionerates have been set up to monitor collection of demand. Appellate authorities, including ITAT and Settlement Commission, have also been requested for priority disposal of stay cases and high demand appeals.

Import Restrictions

629. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have freed certain items from import/export licensing restrictions;

(b) if so, the details thereof and has there been sudden spurt in their imports due to this;

(c) whether imports licensing restrictions is a part of country's obligation towards W.T.O.;

(d) if so, whether the domestic industries as well as Directorate of Anti-Dumping are facing lot of difficulties; and

(e) the measures being taken by Government to save Indian farmers and domestic industries from adverse impact of the said decision as well as to reduce the over burden of Directorate of Anti-Dumping?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) to (e) India has been following a continuous policy of removal of restrictions since 1991 in keeping with its international commitment. Recently in the mini-Exim Policy announced on 28.1.04, 10 items of import and one category of item of export were made free. All restrictions on import are

maintained in terms of Article XX and XXI of the GATT Agreement. Imports are closely monitored and the Government is determined to ensure through the use of tariff and other mechanisms that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic farmers and industry. Towards that end import duties on a number of items have been increased in the last few years. Based on the applications filed by the domestic industry, the DGAD has from 1992 till 30.6.2004, initiated anti-dumping investigations into 169 cases involving a number of countries.

Revival of Domestic Industries

630. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR:

SHRI TUKARAM GANGADHAR GADAKH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether huge funds of the Government, banks and financial institutions were blocked in domestic industries, which were closed due to entry of multi-national companies;

(b) if so, the total amount involved;

(c) the steps Government proposed to take to recover those funds;

(d) the number of closed/sick units in the country as on date, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government is contemplating to provide special package for revival of closed/sick units in the States;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps taken by the Government for revival of sick units and providing jobs to the workers of closed units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has no information on the closure of industries due to entry of multi-national companies.

(d) The number of sick units (non SSI and SSI) and closed units, State-wise, as on March 2003 is given in the statement enclosed. However, it has been intimated by RBI that the details of closed SSI units is not available.

(e) to (g) RBI has prescribed guidelines for rehabilitation for sick industrial units both in small-scale, medium-scale and large-scale. The OTS Scheme of RBI is also applicable to sick/closed units. Cases of sick units have also been referred to BIFR for examining the possibility of formation of rehabilitation scheme. BIFR has approved 627 rehabilitation schemes as on 31st March 2004. Under the CDR mechanism 82 cases have been approved involving total debts of Rs. 61765.26 crores as on March 2004. RBI has issued guidelines in January 2002 based on recommendations of Kohli Working Group for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. RBI has advised banks some broad parameters for grant of relief and concession in respect of viable sick SSI units, viz. Interest on Working Capital, Funded Interest Term Loan, Working Capital Term Loan, Term Loan and Contingency Loan Assistance.

Statement

S. No.	States/Union Territories	No. of Sick/Weak Units		Total Sick Units	No. of Closed Units*
		(Non-SSI)	SSI		(Non-SSI)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	9	15	24	2
2.	Assam	31	3592	3623	14
3.	Meghalaya	11	119	130	3
4.	Mizoram	4	11	15	3
5.	Jharkhand	27	2766	2793	14
6.	Bihar	52	16479	16531	32
7.	West Bengal	240	44496	44736	121
8.	Nagaland	17	154	171	8

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Manipur	2	1012	1014	2
10.	Orissa	59	8489	8548	25
11.	Sikkim	1	31	32	1
12.	Tripura	1	1793	1794	0
13.	Uttar Pradesh	208	15768	15976	129
14.	Uttaranchal	23	467	490	12
15.	Chhattisgarh	24	386	410	14
16.	Delhi	130	1999	2129	58
17.	Punjab	107	3022	3129	53
18.	Haryana	102	1515	1617	53
19.	Chandigarh	27	233	260	13
20.	Jammu and Kashmir	14	2114	2128	6
21.	Himachal Pradesh	28	618	646	17
22.	Rajasthan	109	4005	4114	48
23.	Gujarat	380	4723	5103	229
24.	Maharashtra	618	4762	5380	292
25.	Daman and Diu	14	23	37	6
26.	Goa	14	119	133	6
27.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	15	12	27	8
28.	Madhya Pradesh	138	11601	11739	60
29.	Andhra Pradesh	342	6589	6931	173
30.	Karnataka	210	3180	3390	119
31.	Tamil Nadu	358	13517	13875	158
32.	Kerala	64	14133	14197	24
33.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0	21	21	0
34.	Pondicherry	17	216	233	8
Total		3396	167980	171376	1711

* Details of closed units for SSI Units are not available.

[Translation]

Schemes for Handloom Sectors

631. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector banks have drawn

up some schemes for the development and to increase job opportunities in handloom sector during the last three years;

(b) If so, the details thereof; and

(c) the achievements made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b)

Reserve Bank of India has issued circular in September, 2003 to all Scheduled Commercial Banks for implementation of Swarozgar Credit Card (SCC) scheme. The salient features of SCC scheme are as under:

- The Scheme provides credit i.e. working capital or block capital or both to small artisans, handloom-weavers, service sector, fishermen, self-employed persons, rickshaw owners and other micro-entrepreneurs in a flexible, hassle free and cost-effective manner.
- The facility may also include a reasonable component for consumption needs.
- The SCC is valid for 5 years and renewable on a yearly basis subject to satisfactory operation of the account.
- The normal limit of loan to be fixed under the scheme is Rs. 25,000/- but in deserving cases banks may consider higher limits.
- Beneficiaries under the scheme would automatically be covered under group insurance scheme and the premium has to be shared between the banks and the beneficiaries.

Besides, Indian Bankers' Association has issued circular to its member banks for implementation of Artisan Credit Card Scheme. Under the scheme all artisans registered with the Development Commissioners (Handicrafts) involved in manufacturing/production process and Self Help Groups are eligible to get loans up to Rs. 2 lakhs.

(c) As per the information from NABARD, 29,000 Swarozgar Credit Cards have been issued till March, 2004 with credit amounting to Rs. 64.26 lakhs to self employed persons, including handloom weavers.

[English]

New Foreign Trade Policy

632. SHRI SHIVAJI ADHALRAO PATIL:

SHRI K S. RAO:

SHRI PRABODH PANDA:

SHRI KAILASH MEGHWAL:

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

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce New Exim Policy;

(b) if so, by when and the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the New Exim policy would be able to increase export and import; if so, to what extent;

(d) whether initial target of 1% share in world export proposed to be achieved by the end of 2007 will change to 2% by 2009;

(e) if so, the manner in which Government propose to achieve the enhanced target; and

(f) whether the export target for 2004-2005 have been fixed; if so, the measures taken to achieve the target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) A new Foreign Trade Policy is under formulation and would be announced in August, 2004. The new Policy would focus on thrust areas such as textile, leather, gems and jewellery, handicraft, handloom, agriculture sectors. The New Foreign Trade Policy is aimed at boosting exports, including agricultural exports and creating additional employment.

(f) The export target for 2004-2005 envisages a growth of 16% in exports over 2003-04. This is to be achieved by sector specific incentives, further procedural simplification and new initiatives to be announced in the Foreign Trade Policy.

Extension of Twelfth Finance Commission

634. SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH:

SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI VIJOY KRISHNA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the term of Twelfth Finance Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Commission is likely to give its report?

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

(b) The term of 12th Finance Commission has been extended upto 31st December, 2004.

(c) Advancement of the Lok Sabha elections as well as the elections in some States, presentation of interim budget by several State governments and the Union government affected the schedule of the Finance Commission.

(d) The Commission has been requested to submit its report by 30th November, 2004.

Intellectual Property Rights

635. SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America has once again put India on the priority watch list of its 301 provision of the trade law over inadequate protection of intellectual property rights;

(b) if so, whether India's amendment of patent has become effective from May, 2003 but has been termed as inadequate; and

(c) if so, the main reasons for the same and what steps Government is contemplating to further improve its patent laws?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V. K S. ELANGOVAN): (a) India has been retained in the Priority Watch List of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) alongwith 14 other trading Partners of the United States.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. According to the Special 301 Report, the Indian Patent Law is inadequate as it exempts protection to biotechnological inventions, methods for agriculture and horticulture, processes for the treatment of humans, animals or plants and substances prepared by chemical processes.

Indian Intellectual Property Laws are fully TRIPS (Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights) compliant. The existing law effectively balances and calibrates intellectual property protection with public health, national security and public interest concerns. However, India is required to amend the Patents Act by 1st January, 2005 to provide for product patent for inventions in the fields of food, chemicals and pharmaceuticals in terms of India's obligation under the TRIPS Agreement.

Rural Housing Scheme

636. SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rural housing scheme funded by the nationalised banks in the country;

(b) whether any nationalised banks has extended loan to the rural people of Rajasthan during any of last three years;

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

(d) the plan formulated by the nationalized banks to promote rural housing in the State?

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.

Non-Utilization of Funds by Andhra Government

637. SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the allocated funds for the development of various existing development projects were not utilized by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details of the projects sanctioned, the amount allocated and funds utilized by the State Government during the above period;

(c) the reasons advanced by the State Government for not utilization of fund so allocated; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government to ensure that the allocated funds is utilized within the stipulated period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (d) In the Textile Sector no state-wise allocation of funds is made. However, funds are released to States as per approval schemes on the basis of technically viable proposals received from the respective State Governments including the State of Andhra Pradesh. The status of fund release to the State of Andhra Pradesh during the last three years for approved schemes in respect of Handloom, Sericulture Wool and Export Sectors is as under:

Sl. No.	Project sanctioned/Scheme	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	UC received
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Work-shed-cum-Housing	253.96	-	92.805	66.52
2.	Group Insurance	-	2.27	-	2.27
3.	Deen Dayal Hathkargha Protsahan Yojana (DDHPY)	744.18	469.92	1000.00	1000.00
4.	Market Development Assistance Scheme	262.35	70.07	499.81	332.42
5.	Marketing Incentive (DDHPY)	432.64	693.38	648.45	1126.02

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Scheme for reimbursement of one time rebate @10% given by the handloom agencies on sale of handloom cloth during 2002-03 to 2004-05.	-	-	262.31	262.31
7.	Handloom Export Scheme	6.00	-	-	-
8.	Marketing Promotion Programme	52.47	61.882	42.88	156.232
9.	Reimbursement of CENVAT on Hank Yarn	-	-	96.60	7.30
10.	Integrated Sheep & Wool Development Project	239.19 (from 1997-98 to 2002-03)			184.16
11.	Machine Shearing cum Training Project	4.68 (from 1998-99 to 2003-04)			-
12.	Textile Centre Infrastructure Development project at Warangal			366	-
13.	Textile Centre Infrastructure Development project at Pashmylariam			1000	-
14.	Textile Centre Infrastructure Development project at Sircilla			428	98
15.	Apparel Park at Vishakhapatnam			1669	-
16.	UNDP Assisted sub Programme on Development on Non-Mulberry Silks	18.47	10.81	-	29.28
17.	Catalytic Development Programme	348.68	1425.86	876.76	1755.11

The scheme from Sl. No. 12-15 were launched in March 2002.

No reason has been advanced by State Government for non-submission of utilization certificate. The Government of India from time to time addresses the State Government including the Government of Andhra Pradesh, for timely completion of projects and submission of utilization certificates expeditiously towards the amount released under various on-going schemes.

Foreign Exchange Reserves

638. SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether foreign exchange reserve has shown a declining trend during the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to restore and increase the foreign exchange reserve level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) India's foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US\$118.5 billion at end-April 2004, increased by US\$889 million to US\$ 119.4 billion

at end-May 2004, and stood at US\$119.4 billion on June 25, 2004, showing virtually no change over the end-May 2004 level.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Increase in Air Fares

639. SHRIMATI NIVEDITA MANE:

SHRI MUNAWAR HASSAN:

SHRI S. D. MANDLIK:

SHRI CHENGARA SURENDRAN:

Will the Minister CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether public and private Airlines operating in the country have increased their fares and freight charges recently;

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

(c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure nominal increase; and

(d) the steps being taken to ensure corresponding improvements in facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Airlines, Jet Airways and Air Sahara have increased domestic Rupee fare by 10% effective 21st June, 2004 with a view to offset the increase in fuel cost. There has been no increase in freight charges.

(c) Air fares are not regulated by the Government and the airlines are free to charge air fares as per their commercial judgement.

(d) Though the rise in airfare is to offset the rise in fuel cost, the competitive market ensures that the airlines constantly endeavour to upgrade and add value to the product offered to the passengers.

Production in Powerlooms

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

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to provide subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of powerlooms in the country at present State-wise; and

(d) the quantum of textile produced annually by powerloom?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) Government has provided, w.e.f. 6th November 2003, by way of enlargement of Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme, a credit linked capital subsidy @ 20 per cent to Small Scale powerloom units for weaving machinery of bench-marked technology, costing upto Rs. 60 lakhs. In view of this no other Scheme is being contemplated by the Government to provide subsidy for technical advancement of small powerlooms.

(c) A list showing the number of powerlooms in the country at present State-wise is given in the enclosed statement.

(d) The quantum of textiles produced by powerloom sector during 2003-04 is 27,258 million sq. meter, which accounts for 67% of the total cloth production of the country.

Statement

State/Union Territory	No. of Power Looms (as on 30.04.04)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	44020
Assam	2726
Bihar	2894

1	2
Goa	122
Gujarat	320870
Haryana	9882
Himachal Pradesh	1461
Jammu and Kashmir	65
Karnataka	81869
Kerala	2731
Madhya Pradesh	67841
Maharashtra	839029
Orissa	3319
Punjab	23606
Rajasthan	32249
Tamil Nadu	334372
Uttar Pradesh	65934
West Bengal	4457
Delhi	1102
Arunachal Pradesh	0
Manipur	0
Chandigarh (UT)	42
Haveli (UT)	930
Pondicherry (UT)	830
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	0
Daman and Diu,	
Lakshadweep (UT)	
Total	1840351

Programme for Women's Welfare

641. SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether women's groups recently met the Finance Minister and sought 40% resources allocated for various programmes for women with proper monitoring arrangements; and

(b) If so, the action proposed in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The representation of the Women's Groups will provide valuable inputs to the Government for allocation of plan resources to various schemes and programmes.

[Translation]

Productivity of Powerlooms and Textiles

642. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether 21 percent of the total production cost in manufacturing of cloth in the country is assessed on power;

(b) If not, the facts in this regard along with the cost assessed on power manufacturing countries of the world; and

(c) whether keeping in view the prevailing power supply situation and high power tariff, there is a need to provide incentives to handicraft sector under textile industry?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The international production cost comparison for the year 2003, as obtained from International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF), shows the power cost as 15%, 16% and 17% of fabric cost in India in case of Textured Yarn Fabric (Synthetic), O-E Yarn Fabric (Cotton) & Ring Yarn Fabric (Cotton & Blended) respectively. It may be seen from the figures furnished in Annexure-I that the Cost of power is lowest in Brazil i.e. 6%-7% of the fabric cost. Power cost is highest in India for Ring Yarn Fabric (Cotton & Blended) (17%) and O-E Yarn Fabric (Cotton) (16%), while in case of Textured Yarn Fabric (Synthetic), Power cost in Italy is the highest i.e. 28% of the fabric cost.

(c) Handicraft items are made by hand often with the use of simple tools which require no power or very little power. As such, no incentive in this regard is needed in the handicraft sector.

Export of Apparel

643. SHRI SUBHASH SURESHCHANDRA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the countries to which export of apparel was made during each of the last three years;

(b) the quantum of foreign exchange earned during the said period;

(c) whether export of apparel has declined during the current year; and

(d) If so, the reasons therefor?

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 DGCI&S data, the readymade garments exports during the last three years i.e. 2000-01, 2001-02 and 2002-03 have been, as given below:

Year	Value (in US\$ Million)
April 2000-March 2001	5087.0
April 2001-March 2002	4618.7
April 2002-March 2003	5031.5

(c) No, Sir. As per available Directorate General of Commerce Intelligence & Statistics (DGCI&S) data, readymade garment exports during the period April-February 2003-2004 have amounted to US\$ 4946.7 million as compared to export of US\$ 4746.4 million during the corresponding period of 2002, recording a growth of 4.2%.

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

[English]

Concessions Demanded by Delegation of Andhra Pradesh Weavers

644. SHRI KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU:

DR. M. JAGANNATH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation of Andhra Weavers has sought certain concessions and measures to revive handlooms, handicrafts and power looms in the un-organized sector; and

(b) If so, their demands and action taken thereon by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Textiles has received representations from Andhra Weavers. The demands include withdrawal of excise duty on Hank Yarn used by handlooms,

opening of yarn banks etc. With the withdrawal of exemption of excise duty on hank yarn w.e.f. 01.03.2002, the Government has been implementing the Scheme for reimbursement of excise duty on hank yarn to handloom weavers. Under the scheme National Handloom Development Corporation has supplied 299.25 lakh kgs of duty free yarn in 2002-03 and 141.61 lakh kgs of duty free yarn in 2003-04. Of this, 10.35 lakh kgs of yarn was supplied in Andhra Pradesh in 2002-03 and 14.16 lakh kgs of duty free yarn was supplied in Andhra Pradesh in 2003-04. 94 yarn depots have been set up in the country for supply of hank yarn to weavers. Of these, 15 depots are in Andhra Pradesh.

Cashew Board

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

(a) whether the Government has any plan to set up a Cashew Board with head quarters in Kerala, if so, the modalities fixed for the setting up of Cashew Board; and

(b) whether the Government has any plan to announce an economic package to help the Cashew sector, if so, the details of the package?

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

Pay Scale of NTC Workers

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

(a) whether the Government has any proposal for revision of pay scale and Dearness Allowance of NTC workers as their counterpart in Corporate Offices which have estimated disparity in the range of 642 percent between the two sections of workers;

(b) whether the Supreme Court has also sought explanation in this regard from the Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

(3) DA would be paid for every point increase above the quarterly average index above 1708 as is being paid to the IDA employees on 100% neutralization basis with effect from 1.4.2004. There will be no revision of HRA and other allowances.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Central Fund for Bodo Handloom Products

647. SHRI SANSUMA KHUNGGUR BWISW-MUTHIARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has proposed to provide necessary Central Fund for the promotion, development and export of the indigenous Bodo (Tribal) handloom products and textiles the way the handloom products and textiles of other Tribal people of the country have been patronized so far;

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

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by what time Government would take appropriate action in this regard so as to fulfil the long pending aspirations of unemployed Bodo youths?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) There is no specific handloom scheme for the development, promotion and export of the handloom products and textiles of the tribal people of the country. The various developmental schemes, including the export scheme, operational in the handloom sector at present aim to promote and develop handlooms in general, including the tribal handlooms. The Government will consider providing necessary central fund under the appropriate scheme for the promotion, development and export of the indigenous Bodo tribal handloom products when a specific proposal in this regard is received.

Shifting of Headquarters

648. SHRI SUNIL KHAN:

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY:

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is actively considering to shift CIL and DVC office from Kolkata to Ranchi;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the nationalized coal companies due to such step have refused to renew the lease for several mines;

(d) whether the shifting of office of CIL from Kolkata to Ranchi will affect on the functioning of CIL subsidiaries;

(e) whether the shifting of office is likely to adversely affect their employees;

(f) if so, the action taken by the Government to protect the interests of the employees; and

(g) whether the Government has consulted the employees in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI SHIBU SOREN): (a) Government has received representations in this regard and an appropriate decision will be taken after due consideration of all issues.

(b) to (g) Do not arise in view of the answer given in part (a) of the question.

[Translation]

Trade Centre

650. SHRI RAJNARAYAN BUDHOLIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have permitted Israel to establish a trade centre in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which such centre is likely to be set-up in the country together with the name of the city in which it is proposed to be located; and

(d) the objectives behind setting up of such trade centre?

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

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Increase in Handicraft Trade

651. SHRI JASWANT SINGH BISHNOI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase in the trade of handicrafts registered during last three years; State-wise;

(b) whether any special scheme is being implemented for promoting handicrafts trade; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) State-wise export data on handicrafts is not maintained. However the percentage increase in handicrafts exports including handknotted carpets registered during the last three years is as under:

S. No.	Years	Exports (Rs. in crores)	% Increase
1.	2001-02	9205.63	(-) 0.70
2.	2002-03	10933.67	+ 18.77
3.	2003-04	12765.18	+ 16.75

(b) and (c) For promoting handicrafts trade office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) Implements 'Export Promotion' scheme which envisages development & promotion of exportable products, identification of markets, participation in fairs & exhibitions, publicity abroad etc. The other promotional steps include: organization of Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair/Carpet Expo and setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Noida to provide round the clock marketing outlets for the foreign buyers.

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

- (1) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Handloom Development Corporation

Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 83/04]

- (2) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cotton Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 84/04]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Tea (Marketing) Control (Amendment) Order, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.270 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004, under sub-section (3) of section 49 of the Tea Act, 1953.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 85/04]

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Law Commission of India:-
- (i) One Hundred Eighty Sixth Report on Proposal to Constitute Environment Courts - September, 2003.
 - (ii) One Hundred Eighty Seventh Report on Mode of Execution of Death Sentence and Incidental Matters - October, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 86/04]

- (2) A copy of the Supreme Court Judges (Amendment) Rules, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 202 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 2004 under sub-section (3) of the Section 24 of the Supreme Court Judges (Salaries and Conditions of Service) Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 87/04]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Thirty Second Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) pertaining to the execution of the provisions of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 for the period from the 1st January, 2002 to 31st December, 2002 under section 62 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 88/04]

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Since he is one of the tainted Ministers so we oppose him and do not recognise him.

[English]

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 296 of the Income-Tax Act, 1961:-
- (i) S.O. 3447 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Goods Transport Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.
 - (ii) S.O. 3448 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Sri Aurobindo Society, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
 - (iii) S.O. 3449 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Goods Transport Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999, subject to certain conditions.
 - (iv) S.O. 3450 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Goods Transport Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
 - (v) S.O. 3451 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "EAN-INDIA, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the

Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

- (vi) S.O. 3452 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Grocery Markets and Shops Boards, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (vii) S.O. 3453 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Grocery Markets and Shops Boards, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (viii) S.O. 3454 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur, Rajasthan" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (ix) S.O. 3455 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Children's Film Society, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.
- (x) S.O. 3456 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "German Leprosy Relief Association Rehabilitation Fund, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. 3457 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Exhibition Society, Hyderabad" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for

the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.

- (xii) S.O. 3458 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Shree Gadge Maharaj Mission, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O. 3459 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "All Bengal Women's Union, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O. 3460 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xv) S.O. 3461 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Council for Leather Export, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-1993 to 1994-1995, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. 3462 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Annapurna Mahila Mandal, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvii) S.O. 3463 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "Council for Leather Export, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961

- for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-1987 to 1988-1989, subject to certain conditions.
- (xviii) S.O. 3464 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Railway Goods Clearing and Forwarding Establishment Labour Board, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.
- (xix) S.O. 3469 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "The Tribune Trust, Chandigarh" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2004-2005 to 2006-2007, subject to certain conditions.
- (xx) S.O. 3470 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003 regarding exemption to the "National Stock Exchange Investor's Protection Fund Trust, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1996-1997 to 1998-1999, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxi) S.O. 300 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Indian Women Scientist Association, Vashi, Navi Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxii) S.O. 301 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Council for Leather Export, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-1990 to 1991-1992, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiii) S.O. 302 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Jallianwalla Bagh National Memorial Trust, Amritsar" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxiv) S.O. 303 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Southern Health Improvement Samity, P.O. Bhangar, Distt. 24 Parganas, West Bengal" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxv) S.O. 304 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Charitable Trust, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvi) S.O. 305 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "National Children's Fund, 5, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1993-1994 to 1995-1996, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxvii) S.O. 306 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Karnataka Chief Minister's Medical Relief Society, Bangalore" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxviii) S.O. 307 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "National Children's Fund, 5, Siri Institutional Area, Hauz Khas, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1990-1991 to 1992-1993, subject to certain conditions.

- (xxix) S.O. 308 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Sarva Seva Sangh, Sevagram, Wardha (Maharashtra)" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxx) S.O. 313 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Bhartiya Bhasha Parishad, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxi) S.O. 314 published in Gazette of India dated the 14th February, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Haryana Chief Minister's War Heroes' Relief Fund, Panchkula" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxii) S.O. 702 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "National Children's Fund, Hauz Khas, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 703 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Jyotirmath Badrikashram Himalaya, Sri Guru Paduka Bhawan, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 704 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "The Hindu Women's Welfare Society Shraddhanand Mahila Ashram, Matunga (East), Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxv) S.O. 705 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Centre for Social Studies, Surat" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 706 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Ramakrishna Abhedananda Mission, Kolkata" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 715 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "The Bar Council of India, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1997-1998 to 1999-2000, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 716 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Council for Leather Exports, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xxxix) S.O. 717 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Sri Ahobila Math Samskrita Vidya Abhivardhini Sabha, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xi) S.O. 718 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "The Indo-Japan Centre, Chennai" under section 10

- (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1998-1999 to 2000-2001, subject to certain conditions.
- (xii) S.O. 719 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Bhartiya Adim Jati Sewak Sangh, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiii) S.O. 720 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency, Hyderabad" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1992-1993 to 1994-1995, subject to certain conditions.
- (xliii) S.O. 721 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Tamil Nadu Trade Promotion Organisation, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (xliv) S.O. 722 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Maratha Mandir Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1999-2000 to 2001-2002, subject to certain conditions.
- (xiv) S.O. 723 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency, Hyderabad" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1995-1996 to 1997-1998, subject to certain conditions.
- (xvi) S.O. 727 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Mysore Resettlement and Development Agency, Bangalore" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2003-2004 to 2005-2006, subject to certain conditions.
- (xlvii) S.O. 728 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Media Lab Asia, Mumbai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (xlviii) S.O. 729 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Andhra Pradesh State Seed Certification Agency, Hyderabad" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1989-1990 to 1991-1992, subject to certain conditions.
- (xlix) S.O. 730 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "West Zone Cultural Centre, Udaipur (Rajasthan)" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2001-2002 to 2003-2004, subject to certain conditions.
- (i) S.O. 731 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage, New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (ii) S.O. 732 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Aga Khan Rural Support Programme (India), New Delhi" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2000-2001 to 2002-2003, subject to certain conditions.

- (iii) S.O. 733 published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2004 regarding exemption to the "Institute for Financial Management and Research, Chennai" under section 10 (23C) of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 2002-2003 to 2004-2005, subject to certain conditions.
- (liii) S.O. 169 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding notification of Industrial areas in the State of Sikkim for availing benefits of exemption from Income-Tax under section 80-I C of the said Act.
- (liv) S.O. 205 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O. 169 (E) dated the 6th February, 2004.
- (iv) S.O. 400 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding notification of Industrial areas in the North-East for availing benefits of exemption from Income-Tax under section 80-I C of the said Act.
- (ivi) The Income-Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 434 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (lvii) The Income-Tax (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 514 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 89/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:-

- (i) G.S.R 133 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.

- (ii) G.S.R 138 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (iii) G.S.R 150 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (iv) G.S.R 152 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 105/99-Cus., dated the 10th August, 1999.
- (v) G.S.R 156 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2002-Cus., dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (vi) G.S.R 199 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (vii) G.S.R 211 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 39/96-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1996.
- (viii) G.S.R 201 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding protection of human, animal and plant life and health, prohibiting the import of hazardous wastes into India and export thereof out of India.
- (ix) S.O. 191 (E) published in Gazette of

India dated the 12th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT), dated the 3rd August, 2001.

- (x) S.O. 233 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 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.
- (xi) S.O. 234 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th February, 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.
- (xii) S.O. 236 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xiii) S.O. 284 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xiv) S.O. 361 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xv) S.O. 393 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 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.
- (xvi) S.O. 394 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th March, 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.

- (xvii) S.O. 489 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (NT), dated the 3rd August, 2001.
- (xviii) S.O. 537 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 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.
- (xix) S.O. 538 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 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.
- (xx) S.O. 631 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 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.
- (xxi) S.O. 632 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th May, 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.
- (xxii) The Customs House Agents Licensing Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 132 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 145 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th April, 2004 together

- with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 52/2003-Cus., dated the 31st March, 2003.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 159 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2003-Cus. (NT), dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxv) The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 160 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (xxvi) The Special Economic Zones (Customs Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 161 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 162 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 44/2003-Cus. (NT) to 51/2003-Cus., all dated 22nd July, 2003, Notification Nos. 60/2003-Cus., and 61/2003-Cus., dated the 1st August, 2003.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 164 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 113/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxix) G.S.R. 165 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 114/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxx) G.S.R. 166 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 115/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxxi) G.S.R. 239 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2003-Cus. (NT), dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxxii) The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 240 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (xxxiii) The Special Economic Zones (Customs Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 241 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.
- (xxxiv) G.S.R. 242 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 44/2003-Cus. (NT), to 51/2003-Cus., all dated 22nd July, 2003, Notification Nos. 60/2003-Cus., and 61/2003-Cus., dated the 1st August, 2003.
- (xxxv) G.S.R. 244 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 113/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxxvi) G.S.R. 245 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 114/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xxxvii) G.S.R. 246 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 115/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003 together with a Corrigendum thereto dated the 21st June, 2004.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>(xxxviii) G.S.R. 293 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2003-Cus. (NT), dated the 22nd July, 2003.</p> | <p>(xli) The Special Economic Zones (Customs Procedures) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 306 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.</p> |
| <p>(xxxix) The Special Economic Zones (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 294 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.</p> | <p>(xlvii) G.S.R. 307 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to specify Boranada Special Economic Zone at Jodhpur in the State of Rajasthan as a Special Economic Zone.</p> |
| <p>(xi) The Special Economic Zones (Customs Procedures) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 295 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.</p> | <p>(xlviii) G.S.R. 308 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to specify Manikanchan Special Economic Zone at Salt Lake, Kolkata, as a Special Economic Zone.</p> |
| <p>(xii) G.S.R. 296 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 44/2003-Cus. (NT), to 51/2003-Cus., all dated 22nd July, 2003, Notification Nos. 60/2003-Cus., and 61/2003-Cus., dated the 1st August, 2003.</p> | <p>(xlix) G.S.R. 309 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to specify Moradabad Special Economic Zone at Moradabad in the State of Uttar Pradesh as a Special Economic Zone.</p> |
| <p>(xlii) G.S.R. 298 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 113/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.</p> | <p>(i) G.S.R. 81 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum regarding expansion of the list of donees for duty free import of second hand computers.</p> |
| <p>(xliii) G.S.R. 299 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 114/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.</p> | <p>(ii) G.S.R. 82 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th January, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 52/2003-Cus., dated the 31st March, 2003.</p> |
| <p>(xliv) G.S.R. 300 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 115/2003-Cus., dated the 22nd July, 2003.</p> | <p>(lii) G.S.R. 311 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 12th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum allowing concessional rate of duty on the import of gold and silver when imported into India other than through post, courier or baggage.</p> |
| <p>(xlv) The Special Economic Zones (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 305 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.</p> | <p>(liii) G.S.R. 314 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in seventeen Notification mentioned therein.</p> |

(liv) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) Amendment Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 345 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 17th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

(lv) The Courier Imports and Exports (Clearance) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 359 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum.

(lvi) G.S.R. 376 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum, making certain amendments in four Notifications mentioned therein.

(lvii) G.S.R. 117 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 31/86-Cus. (N.T.), dated the 5th February, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 90/04]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944:-

(i) G.S.R. 102(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 6th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(ii) G.S.R. 153(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.

(iii) G.S.R. 157(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 8/2002-CE, dated the 1st March, 2002.

(iv) G.S.R. 210 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE, dated the 16th March, 1995.

(v) G.S.R. 144 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 22/2003-CE, dated the 31st March, 2003.

(vi) G.S.R. 163 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 58/2003-CE (NT), dated the 22nd July, 2003.

(vii) G.S.R. 167 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 58/2003-CE and 59/2003-CE, dated the 22nd July, 2003.

(viii) G.S.R. 243 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 58/2003-CE (N.T.), dated the 22nd July, 2003.

(ix) G.S.R. 247 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 58/2003-CE and 59/2003-CE, dated the 22nd July, 2003.

(x) G.S.R. 297 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 58/2003-CE (N.T.), dated the 22nd July, 2003.

(xi) G.S.R. 301 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. 58/2003-CE and 59/2003-CE, dated the 22nd July, 2003.

- (xii) G.S.R. 310 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 58/2003-CE, dated the 22nd July, 2003.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 98 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2002-CE (NT) dated the 8th March, 2002.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 122 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum empowering Central Excise Officers not below the rank of Assistant Commissioner for the purposes of Section 11 of the Central Excise Act, 1944.
- (xv) G.S.R. 139 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2002-CE (N.T.) dated the 8th March, 2002.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 350 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 43/2001-CE (N.T.) dated the 26th June, 2001.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 973 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st December, 2003 together with an Explanatory Memorandum exempting whole of Central Excise duty payable in respect of intermediate goods as mentioned therein arising during the course of manufacture of imitation Jewellery on which the duty of excise was not being levied during the period from 1st April, 1996 to 28th February, 2001.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 360 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th June, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 6/2002 dated the 1st March, 2002.
- (4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975:-
- (i) G.S.R. 108 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to revise the rates of anti-dumping duty levied on imports of Ethylene Propylene Diene Rubber originating in or exported from Korea RP as recommended by the Designated Authority in its mid-term review.
- (ii) G.S.R. 109 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 122/2000-Cus. dated the 27th September, 2000.
- (iii) G.S.R. 110 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on all imports of Green Veneer ~~Taco~~ originating in or exported from ~~China~~ & Taipei at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (iv) ~~of India~~ G.S.R. 127 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Potassium Carbonate, originating in or exported from European Union, China PR, Korea RP and Taiwan at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.
- (v) G.S.R. 151 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 123/2001-Customs dated the 12th December, 2001.
- (vi) G.S.R. 250 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose provisional antidumping duty on Melamine, originating in or exported from the People's Republic of China, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 91/04]

(vii) G.S.R. 267 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Titanium Dioxide-Anatase grade, originating in or exported from China PR, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

(viii) G.S.R. 268 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on plastic ophthalmic lenses, originating in or exported from China at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

(ix) G.S.R. 269 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 139/2003-Cus., dated the 5th September, 2003.

(x) G.S.R. 274 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th April, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to impose final anti-dumping duty on Oxo-alcohol, originating in or exported from Poland, Czech Republic, Russia, Iran, United States of America and European Union, at the rates recommended by the Designated Authority.

(xi) G.S.R. 302 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th May, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 89/2003-Cus. dated the 4th June, 2003.

(xii) G.S.R. 354 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th June, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to rescind Notification No. 167/2003-Cus. dated the 13th November, 2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 92/04]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

(i) G.S.R. 101 (E) published in Gazette of

India dated the 5th February, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to restrict the service tax leviable on taxable services provided by a tour operator for a tour, to an amount calculated on ten per cent of the gross amount charged by such operator from any person.

(ii) G.S.R. 248 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 2004 together with an Explanatory Memorandum seeking to supersede the Notification No. 17/2002-Service Tax dated the 21st November, 2002 so as to provide exemption from service tax to all taxable services provided to SEZ Developer and to all the units in SEZ.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 93/04]

(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) Acts, 1970 and 1980:-

(i) The Syndicate Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. 2667/PD/SWD/PEN in Gazette of India dated the 4th December, 2003.

(ii) The Bank of India (Employees) Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2002 published in Notification No. TBD/PC/2002-03/1 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd November, 2002 together with Corrigenda thereto (In Hindi version only) published in Notification Nos. TBD/PC/2002-03/3 dated the 3rd May, 2003 and TBD/PC/2003-04/01 dated the 4th October, 2003.

(iii) The Vijaya Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2001 published in Notification No. PER/PA&PD/PENS/1335 in Gazette of India dated the 5th July, 2003 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No 27 dated the 6th September, 2003.

(iv) The Bank of Baroda (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2003

- published in Notification No. HO: HRM: 95: E1: REG: 28 in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 2003.
- (v) The Vijaya Bank Officer Employees' (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. PER/IRD/614/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 6th March, 2004.
- (vi) The Allahabad Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. Admn. 5/7771 in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 2004.
- (vii) The Bank of India (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. TBD/PC/2003-04/02 in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2004.
- (viii) The Canara Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. IRS: 228A:6488:PS in Gazette of India dated the 17th April, 2004.
- (ix) The Indian Overseas Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 published in Notification No. PAD/PEN/001/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 24th May, 2004.
- (x) The UCO Bank (Employees') Pension (Amendment) Regulations, 2003 published in Notification No. PEN:1:2003 in Gazette of India dated the 20th December, 2003.
- (7) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at Item Nos. (ii) and (iii) of (5) above.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 94/04]
- (8) A copy of the Export-Import Bank Officers Service (Amendment) Regulations, 2004 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F.No. 11/4/95-IR & 11/2/98-IR/No. EXIM/Service/2004 in Gazette of India dated the 29th March, 2004 under sub-section (3) of section 39 of the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 95/04]
- (9) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation, Mumbai, for the year ended the 31st March, 2004 alongwith Audited Accounts under sub-section (2) of section 32 of the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act, 1961.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 96/04]
- (10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 17A of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972:-
- (10) (i) The General Insurance Officer's Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 7 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2004.
- (10) (ii) The General Insurance Employees' Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 8 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st January, 2004,
- (10) (iii) The General Insurance Corporation of India Officers' Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 454 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2004.
- (10) (iv) The General Insurance Corporation of India Employees' Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme, 2004 published in Notification No. S.O. 455 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd April, 2004.
- [Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 97/04]
- (11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956:-
- (i) The Life Insurance Corporation of India (Daily Allowance and Hotel Charges to Employees on Tour) (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 286 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004.
- (ii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class I Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment)

Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 287 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004.

- (iii) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Development Officers (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 288 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004.

- (iv) The Life Insurance Corporation of India Class III and Class IV Employees (Revision of Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Rules, 2004 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 289(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th April, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 98/04]

- (12) A copy of the Report on Trend and Progress of Housing in India (Hindi and English versions) for the period ended the 30th June, 2001 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 99/04]

- (13) A copy of the Report on Trend and Progress of Housing in India (Hindi and English versions) for the period ended the 30th June, 2002 under section 42 of the National Housing Bank Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 100/04]

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The issue of 1986 is being presented now, the issue of 1986 regarding giving rebate in Income Tax is being taken up after so many years.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It would be referred to the Committee. When the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table is set up, your matter would be referred to it.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The matter related to the Income Tax of 1986, 1988 and 1989 is being taken up even now. It is not clear as to when committee will be constituted, but Mr. Speaker, Sir, who will reply till the committee is constituted.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: These issues are sent to the Committee. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

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 papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (i) Memorandum of Understanding between the MMTC Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 101/04]

- (ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited and the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2004-2005.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 102/04]

- (2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of section 619 A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Limited, Mumbai, 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. 103/04]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations, New Delhi, 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. 104/04]

- (6) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Spices Board, Cochin, for the year 2002-2003, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 105/04]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, 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 Council for Leather Exports, Chennai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 106/04]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Footwear Design and Development Institute, Noida, for the year 2002-2003.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions)

showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 107/04]

- (11) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Engineering Export Promotion Council, Kolkata, for the year 2002-2003.

- (12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 108/04]

- (13) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Mumbai, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 109/04]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2002-2003, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Diamond Institute, Surat, for the year 2002-2003.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 110/04]

- (15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963:-

- (i) The Export of Egg Products (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in

Notification No. S.O.1443 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2003.

- (ii) The Export of Honey (Quality Control, Inspection and Monitoring) (Amendment) Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O.1444 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 19th December, 2003.
- (iii) The Export of Dried Fish (Quality Control and Inspection) Amendment Rules, 2003 published in Notification No. S.O. 233 in Gazette of India dated the 31st January, 2004.

[Placed in Library. See No. L.T. 111/04]

12.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing Monday, the 12th of July, 2004 will consist of:-

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion and adoption of Resolution to be moved by Minister of Railways for constitution of a new Railway Convention Committee (Fourteenth Lok Sabha) for determination of 'Rate of dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues and other ancillary matters'.
3. General discussion on General Budget, 2004-05.
4. Discussion and voting on the following Demands and introduction, consideration and passing of the Appropriation Bills relating thereto:-
 - (a) Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2004-05
 - (b) Demands for Excess Grants (General) for 2001-02

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please include the following items in the next week's business:

1. Central University status would be progressively given to the Rajasthan University.
2. A Golf Course of International Standards and tourist complex should be established in Jaipur and a big tourist spot should be developed in Jhalawar.

[English]

SHRIMATI MINATI SEN (Jalpaiguri): Sir, please include the following items in the next week's business:

1. Problems faced by workers in tea estates.
2. Introduction and passing of Women's Reservation Bill in the on-going Budget Session.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNULAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to widen and renovate the Chakarbhata air strip in Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh State as the persons in Railway Zone headquarters, Commissioner's office, SECL Coal Headquarters, Korba Thermal Power Station and Dagori Sponge Factory are deprived of air facility to travel other places.
2. Need to make Bilaspur-Paudhi (Mungell) Mandla Highway in Chhattisgarh State a national highway through NABARD scheme or the World Bank assistance so that all the roads in Chhattisgarh State are connected with national highway.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA (Kheri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. It is on account of the adoption of the policies of globalisation and liberalisation, agriculture has become a loss making business in India. So there is need to hold comprehensive discussion on this issue.
2. In a changing situation while on the one hand Government are paying attention to the economic reforms for meeting the target, and

on other hand, it is not able to implement comprehensive administrative and legal reforms to increase the utility and productivity of human resources available in the country.

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:

Situation arising from the non-implementation of long pending Dikshit award in respect of resolving the boundary disputes between Haryana and Uttar Pradesh which has resulted in growing tension between the farmers of both the States. The Central Government, therefore, may intervene in the matter and implement the award without further delay.

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:-

Development in the course of implementation of land reforms policy in the States.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, please include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. Thousands of acres of arable land of farmers in various districts of Uttar Pradesh are lying idle due to waterlogging. In Allahabad, Barna river and Kaushambi and Alwara lake farmers are on the verge of starvation.
2. Thousands of acres of land in Uttar Pradesh that comes under canal command area is unirrigated. There is no water in canals for last 35-40 years. Tube-well is not feasible. Saldpur and Gushalli lift irrigation project should be implemented on Yamuna river in Kaushambi district, Uttar Pradesh.

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the following items may be included in the next weeks' agenda:-

- (1) Need to provide long pending salaries and statutory dues of the workers of various P.S.U.'s for example H.S.C.L. Durgapur Unit for 43 months, Bokaro Unit for five months and B.O.G.L. for six months.
- (2) To encourage the younger generation, unemployment allowances should be given.

[Translation]

PROF. S. P. SINGH BAGHEL (Jalesar): Mr. Speaker, Sir,

please include the following items in the next week's agenda:

1. 54 percent of the total population of the country are youths below 25 years of age and they are the future of this country. There is need to accord special status to this age group for imparting employment oriented education.
2. The falling water level is a matter of serious concern today. So a discussion should be held on the suggestions for the upliftment of falling water table.

12.07 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Silk Board

[English]

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): Sir, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 4 (3) (c) of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 4 (3) (c) of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four Members from among themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.09 hrs.

MOTION RE: FIRST REPORT OF THE BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th July, 2004."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the First Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 7th July, 2004."

The motion was adopted.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I have given a notice. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, though yesterday was the day for Budget, still you accepted my request and gave me opportunity to raise question regarding Arunachal Pradesh. Then, I had demanded from the Government to give statement regarding the constitutional position of Arunachal Pradesh as to what is the position there? Now I am surprised to note that today the Minister of Home Affairs is going to give formal statement in Rajya Sabha.

[English]

I have seen that the Rajya Sabhas List of Business says that Shri Shivraj Vishwanath Patil.

MR. SPEAKER: You are mentioning the other House.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Mention of the other House only in order to point out.

[Translation]

as Shri Gulam Nabi Azad is present in the House and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs always takes care that if any statement is to be given it should be given in both the Houses. It never happens that the statement is given in other House and not in this House especially when it was demanded here yesterday. I was of the impression that the Government would give statement in this regard. So, I would like to request for both the things. My first demand is that the statement should be given today and secondly there should never be such omission as it has been formally announced regarding giving statement in other House. It is duly printed.

[English]

It is Revised List of Business of the Rajya Sabha that

the hon. Minister of Home Affairs will make a statement there. There should have been no omission here. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Yogi Aditya Nath to speak. Is he here? You just associate yourself. Your leader has already spoken.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me find out.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, a statement will be made here.

MR. SPEAKER: He says a statement will be made here.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABIAZAD): *Suo motu* the Chair yesterday, before the rise of the House, gave direction to the Government that the hon. Minister of Home Affairs should give a statement. So, it was not as if it was *suo motu* by the Government. It was as per the direction. But we have no objection. We will make a statement in this House also.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI : Even though it may not be *suo motu* and it is at the direction of the Chair, it is an established practice that if a formal statement should be made on an important issue in one House, it is invariably made in the other House also and particularly when the matter has been raised here.

MR. SPEAKER: They have already agreed. Mr. Minister, will you make it today?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, it will be today itself.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): Sir, there is a serious matter that has come into light in the State of Karnataka. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go through this. The list is already there. I have called Yogi Aditya Nath

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I have already requested you. I have given a notice for submission in 'Zero Hour'.

MR. SPEAKER: I have called him.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: It is very important and very serious. Therefore, I am requesting you. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Your matter is not admissible. I have told you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it cannot be like that.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go through this. I have assured you that I will come to you.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, you need to listen to me first.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me go through the names which are already there. I have called your party member.

Yogi Aditya Nath, you speak on item no. 1. Item no. 2 is covered.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of hon'ble Minister of Railways towards the nexus between the corrupt officers in the Ministry of Railways and the Mafia Organisations. Its latest example is the newly constructed railway station of Gorakhpur. The previous Government had sanctioned Rs. two crore for the construction of new railway station. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, is this Zero Hour? ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Yes, I have said that it is unlisted matters. You did not listen to me. I called the hon. Leader of Opposition on that basis.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYA NATH: The building of the station was constructed. The platform was also ready before the onset of monsoon, but the very first rain damaged the entire station badly. The reason for this is that the corrupt officials of Ministry of Railways gave contract to a firm which was already black listed for withdrawing funds in an improper manner under the various schemes meant for Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the hon'ble Prime Minister that high-level inquiry should be conducted in this regard and stern action should be taken against the erring officials. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue of Karnataka is very serious. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this is a very important matter. This is something where a former Assistant Commissioner of Police has stated that the top Congress leaders are involved in Telgi scam. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is very unfortunate. I am giving everybody an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: They have collected Rs. 20 crore and given to Veerappan. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have given an opportunity to the hon. Leader of Opposition as soon as I got this notice.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, this is very important. Our demand is that the CBI should inquire into this allegation.

MR. SPEAKER: Why do you not have a little patience?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, it is a deposition before a Magistrate. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please allow me to look into this. The hon. Members have given notices.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, but I have requested you that it is a very important and very urgent matter. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am not minimising any issue. All the issues are important. I shall come to it. Please have patience. They are all your colleagues here.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, there was an answer in Parliament recently from the Agriculture Minister that suicide deaths in Kerala were reported to be nil. Actually, as has been stated a little while ago, more than 91 deaths have occurred in Wynad district. In Kasargod district, I have gone to the houses where families were in great grief.

Sir, the Government of Kerala has given a report stating that there were no suicide deaths. It is a very serious matter. So, I have also moved a notice of privilege under Rule 222 of the Rules of Procedure. That may be considered because if the Government of Kerala has not given the correct details, let that be known. If what is being divulged in the House is not correct and is misleading, action has to be taken against that answer also which has been given.

MR. SPEAKER: We shall look into your request.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Sir, I would like to know if something has been done or if something could be done on that notice.

MR. SPEAKER: It has not yet come to me. We shall look into it.

SHRI P. C. THOMAS: The notice has already been given.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall look into it when it comes to me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there has been continuous hike in the prices of petroleum products. When these people were in the power. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I request all the hon. Members to be brief so that all the Members may be accommodated.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am complying with your orders completely. When these people were in power, prices of petroleum products were hiked and with assuming charge of the new Government, the prices of petroleum products have been hiked. The only logic behind this is placed that the prices of crude oil in the international market have increased. We are hiking the prices of petroleum products in consonance with the price hike in international market. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Government that as a result of the hike in the prices of petroleum products the State Governments have increased the electricity tariff and the Central Government have also hiked the price of coal. Can the sources of fuel be left at the mercy of free market? The original and basic question is that our country has no fuel policy. As the then Minister of Petroleum, Shri Ram Naikji had accepted in this august House that the basic price of petrol is Rs. 13-14 per litre. The main reason of steep hike in the prices is the excessive taxes of the Central and State Governments. Therefore, I would like to tell you that these prices include taxes of the Central Government at the rate of 16 percent, 10 percent, 1.50 percent and 6 percent and taxes of the state Government at the rate of 8 percent to 40 percent per litre. It is on account of this that there is steep hike in the prices of petroleum products. This affects the poor people directly and it has also impact on those people who do not consume petroleum products directly as with the hike in transportation charge, the prices of essential commodities are automatically hiked. This is a very serious issue. I would like to request the Government to formulate a fuel policy. The Government should ensure and take a serious note for reducing the excessive taxes being imposed by the Central and State Governments.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia. Please be brief so that we can cover many subjects.

12.20 hrs.

RE: RELEASE OF THE REPORT ON TEHELKA TAPE BY FORENSIC LABORATORY, LONDON

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, three years back, the entire country was rocked when the corruption was exposed by Tehelka. Sir, an allegation was made against Tehelka that the tapes that were used were doctored, but in the month of April, the forensic laboratory of London has submitted its report and they have stated that the tapes are not doctored.

They have found that the tapes are genuine.

Sir, we have seen how the journalists of First Global were hounded and harassed by various Government agencies. Sir, immediately after the exposure, there was a demand for action, which was raised on the floor of this House, but no action has yet been taken against those persons who were involved in the corruption case.

Sir, I would like to know from the Government - in the light of the report that has been submitted by the Forensic Laboratory, London - whether any action will be taken by the Government against those persons who were found involved in the defence deal corruption case?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABODH PANDA (Midnapore): Sir, the Government should respond on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. It is entirely upon the Government to decide.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Bettiah): Mr. Speaker, Sir, what about that matter?

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Sir, the Government should respond on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SUNIL KHAN (Durgapur): Sir, the Government should respond on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Sir, the Defence Minister should make a statement. Sir, the Defence Minister should respond on this issue. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please, the hon. Defence Minister is saying something. Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, it is not the normal practice for the Government to instantly react and respond on any issue. I have noted the points and observations made by the hon. Members, and in due course of time whatever action would be taken, the august House will be taken into confidence. Accordingly, the House will be appropriately communicated and informed about it. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down. The Leader of the House has already spoken on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' (Begusarai): Mr. Speaker, Sir yesterday hon'ble Minister of Finance had announced in his budget speech in this House that Bihar has been provided a special package worth Rs. 3225 crore under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana ...(National Uniform Development Scheme). ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj, Bihar): Sir, I have also to speak on the same subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Okay. Let him conclude first.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN': Sir, the fact is that National Democratic Alliance Government led by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had allocated Rs. four thousand crore to the state of Bihar under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, out of which Rs. One thousand crore have been spent. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister of Finance whether this amount of Rs. 3225 crore announced by him is in addition to those four thousand crore rupees or is included in that. If it is a part of that only, this is injustice to Bihar because when the then Prime Minister had made announcement of allocating Rs. Four thousand crore to the state of Bihar, Lalaji had given a statement that that was a package allocated under 'Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana' and not a special package. Hence, how that amount has been announced as special package and by doing so they are praising themselves? Therefore, I would like hon'ble Minister of Finance to make it clear.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you can associate yourself with Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh 'Lalan'.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh is a very senior Member, and you need not prompt him.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Hon Members, these are important issues. Why are you disturbing the hon. Member?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramdas Athawale, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Prabhunath Singh, you just associate yourself with the earlier hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the beginning of Question Hour, I had raised this question and now my colleague Rajiv Ranjan ji had also raised the same question.

MR. SPEAKER: I have given an opportunity to you also.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Associating myself with him I would like to say that hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here. There is a situation of uncertainty. The people of Bihar want to know under which scheme the funds have been allocated.

[Translation]

Some funds were already spent out of the money allocated by the previous Government, whether that amount has been deducted or the money has been given in addition to sanctioned funds, Hon'ble Minister of finance should give clarification in this regard in the House. If he does not do this, it would be like cheating the people of Bihar. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You are very forceful.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You kindly take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: The people of Bihar want

to know whether the package announced by the hon'ble Minister for Bihar is the same old package or the Government is going to provide a new package? The hon'ble Minister is present over here, he should clarify it. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is entirely for the hon. Minister to decide whether to respond instantly or not.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: It is a question of deciding the people of Bihar. Therefore, it should be made clear that whether the funds sanctioned for Bihar form part of the previous package or same additional amount is being given. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I cannot compel him, and you know that very well.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Both the hon. Members cannot speak simultaneously. Only one of you can speak at a time.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here. I urge upon you to direct him to give clarification in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You know very well that I cannot compel the Minister to answer.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Nalanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble Minister of Finance should give clarification in this regard.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has heard you. You have raised a very important issue. I have no doubt the Government will consider it. Now, I give the floor to Shri Shailendra Kumar. Certainly they will consider it, I have no doubt about it. You have raised a very important issue. I have given you full opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA KUMAR (Chail): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of students' admission in universities is getting serious day by day. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Shailendra Kumar's remarks will go on record and nothing else will be recorded.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: You please sit down. Please do not get up on every issue.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Two very competent hon. Members have made their points on this issue. Why are you disturbing them? You are spoiling their point. I am also allowing Shri Nitish Kumar to add to what they have already said.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad): Sir, we want a clarification from the Minister as to whether this package is only for Bihar or whether it will also benefit Jammu and Kashmir, North-East and Bihar. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you know the procedure, I have given them full opportunity.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised very important issues pertaining to Bihar. Without any notice, I am giving opportunity to Shri Nitish Kumar to speak on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the issue raised by hon'ble Raviranj Singh Ji and hon'ble Prabhunath Singh Ji, I would like to submit to the hon'ble Finance Minister that Bihar was given special package under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna, a promise was made at the time of re-organisation of Bihar and it was on this basis that the Government of India had provided package to Bihar under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna. At that time, hon'ble Lalu Prasad Ji who is present over here, said that Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna is a subject of state and if the Government allocate something under it then it is not a package.

Firstly, the NDA Government had given package to Bihar under Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojna. Are you approving the same package given to Bihar by the NDA Government then an announcement to this effect should be made. Secondly, some amount of sanctioned funds was allocated for power sector or sub-transmission and so far as I remember

*Not recorded.

the figures, probably Rs. 365 crore were also released and the Governor of Bihar had made a mention of it in his address to Bihar Legislature. Therefore, seeking clarification by hon'ble Members is justified. Therefore, I would like to ask whether it is the same package or another package.

Thirdly, the Bihar Government had demanded package of Rs. One lakh and 79 thousand crore after getting it approved from Bihar Legislative Assembly. What happened to that package. Some people raised this issue during election campaign in Bihar and objected that they had demanded this amount from the Union Government, but they did not get it. We have got right to know as to what happened to 1 lakh 79 thousand crore rupees. Only a meagre amount of Rs. 3 thousand 225 crore rupees has been sanctioned and even this is not clear whether this provision is under old package or additional one. It is like much do about nothing. This is an appropriate occasion, therefore, I would like to seek clarification from Minister of Finance in this regard.
...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have made your point. This is not the time for debate.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is not an issue of debate. Hon'ble Minister of Finance is present over here and he has made a mention of it in his budget speech. Now he can clarify whether it is the same package or an additional one. The hon'ble Minister of Finance is present here he can speak about it and if he does not speak, then it means that he had made announcement about the same old package. If he is not speaking, then it is clear that it is an old package and he has made a false promise....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He has listened to your point. Thank you very much, Nitish ji.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, thank you very much. By giving me time to speak, you followed the convention. I would like to thank you for associating me with issue even without giving the notice.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Very well, you can draw your conclusions. I give the floor to Shri Shailendra Kumar.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be clarified.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What can I do? I have given you full opportunity and also to Nitishji without any notice. I have given you the opportunity without any notice because it is a very serious and important matter. I give the floor to Shri Shailendra Kumar.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The cat is out of the bag.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRAKUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of admission in universities is getting serious in the entire country. The admission of students from primary to university level is becoming difficult day by day. I would like the Government of India to implement uniform admission policy. Education for all movement should be launched and the students belonging to financially backward class or middle class or higher class should be provided equal opportunities of education. This is a very serious matter for the entire country. The people of these classes are not getting admission to schools. Alongwith it the reservation policy is not being followed in universities and schools. Through you I would like to urge upon the Government to simplify admission policy and to launch movement under uniform education policy, so that all may get admission, all may get education.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI (Garhwal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Prime Minister towards my parliamentary constituency: Three days back this area was hit by natural calamity. There was loss of life and property at highway No. 58 which leads to Shri Badrinath Dham. About 30-40 people are said to have died, many vehicles went down into the river and 500 meter long highway has been completely destroyed. Three days ago, about three to five thousand people were entrapped at Badrinath who have been facing many hardships.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please be brief so that I can accommodate others. You have made a very important point.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI: I have just started, Sir. Let me say something.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please continue.

[Translation]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B. C. KHANDURI: Sir, I wrote to hon'ble Prime Minister on 7th giving details of the situation prevailing there but no information has been received from him till now though action has been initiated there. I had brought three things to his notice. Firstly arrangements should be made to rescue the people trapped there. Secondly a large number of people injured there should be sent to hospital. Thirdly, compensation should be given to the families of the people died there. The fourth and the most important thing is that the national highway no. 58, whose maintenance is under the jurisdiction of Centre, should be repaired immediately so that the pilgrimage could be started again. Just now the pilgrimage has been stopped for 20 days but large number of pilgrims trapped there want to move ahead. I request the Central Government to allocate funds immediately for the construction of national highway. The maintenance of this road is assigned to Border Security Organisation. Funds should be allocated to this organisation so that the road could be repaired and pilgrimage could be started again.

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Speaker, Sir, while associating myself with the statement of hon'ble Member, I would like to state that a similar incident has taken place in my parliamentary constituency Almora in which 31 people have died. I have written to hon'ble Prime Minister demanding relief in this regard. I request to provide immediate relief to solve both the problems.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important issue. A news item was published in newspapers on 6th that National Commission for Scheduled Tribe is a constitutional body. I cannot divulge about the persons who are Members of this organisation. Appointments in this organisation have been made according to Constitution but the Government are taking steps to remove those persons. This Commission is related with SC/ST people. Action is not being taken in respect of empowering this Commission due to which people are distressed. Issues regarding reservations are before the Commission. I would like to know as to whether the Government would announce a clear policy in this regard.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an important issue. Whenever we visit our parliamentary constituency, people make complaints to us that telephones are not being installed even after booking 6-7 years ago. They say that Telephone Department comes under Central Government and inspite of my being in the Parliament they are not getting the telephone connections. Some private companies have come forward to install

telephones but they prefer to install them in urban areas than in rural areas. Through you, I. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you yourself had been the Chairman of Standing Committee on Communication. You had stated that the National Telecommunication Policy, 1994 and 1999 should be reconsidered. ... (Interruptions) It was decided in the Committee that telephone should be given to rural people on priority basis. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It should be done immediately.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: But no action has been taken in this regard. I request that attention should be paid toward this problem. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have raised a very important issue.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Madhusudan Mistry, please, cooperate. I am trying to accommodate many more hon. Members than I ordinarily do. If you are brief, many hon. Members would be accommodated.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY (Sabarkantha): Sir, this is to draw the attention of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, through you, that their guidelines which have been issued to regularise forest land for cultivation to those who are cultivating this land prior to October, 1980 have not been adhered to and implemented by a number of State Governments. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No cross-talk please.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN MISTRY: As a result of this, new forest boundaries are drawn within a number of States. Farmers have been evicted and they are being harassed. Land disputes are not being settled. It has created a situation of resentment in the entire tribal belt. Hence, I request the Ministry of Environment & Forests, through you, to take stock of those erring States which are not implementing the guideline of the Ministry. The Ministry should settle all those who are evicted in spite of having valid Government proof on their forestland and the same should be regularised in favour of them. Thank you very much, Sir. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to Yamuna issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that I will come to that issue.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There is some order of priority as we receive the notices. You know that. You have been teaching us as Minister also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, river Yamuna flowing through Haryana and Uttar Pradesh merges in river Ganga are flowing through Bihar and Bengal reaches Ganga Sagar. Delhi Government constituted Bhurelal Committee which was assigned to submit its report on checking pollution in river Yamuna. It has stated in its report:

[English]

" The 22-km stretch of river Yamuna from Waziarabad to Okhla Barrage, which was just two per cent of the river, carried about 70 per cent of pollution load. The stretch in environmental parlance is "dead" as the dissolved oxygen at Nizamuddin, Okhla was found to be zero."

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this river has been polluted completely. Fishes do not survive in it. It is in bad condition. People come to take a dip in this holy river. A dirty nallah is flowing along. Delhi Government is in power for the last 6 years. Japan Government gave Rs. 500 crore and Rs. 1 thousand crores were allocated by Central Government. That amount has been spent fully. However, Yamuna became more dirty and polluted. Slums have been created there due to the politics of vote bank. Factories have been established near the river and their waste is being thrown into it. Flowing through Bihar and Bengal, this river reaches Ganga Sagar where lakhs and crores of people take holy dip in it and also use this water to drink, therefore, stringent steps should be taken for cleaning the river Yamuna and protecting it from pollution.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Bhargava, you have raised this earlier also.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, an announcement was made in the House regarding conferring of international status to Jaipur aerodrome. I would like to submit to the present Government that the previous Government helped in a great way but the present Government has neither issued any ordinance nor made any arrangements to provide funds in this regard. I request that the ordinance in this regard may be issued and adequate funds should be arranged so that it could be conferred with the status of international airport. Jaipur city was established by Maharaja Mansingh. Therefore, the international aerodrome should be named after him. ...(Interruptions)

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had stated that they would be given time to speak but by the time the stipulated time of the House would be over. ...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: When I have committed, I will fulfil.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have made a commitment in the House, I have not committed about the time. Why should I ignore other hon. Members?

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)...

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to that. I am quickly going through the list. I am appealing to all the hon. Members to be very brief so that more Members can take part in this unlisted business. I will come to it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting all the hon. Members to please be brief while making their submissions.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot force me to break the queue. No, sorry.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Bir Singh Mahato speaks.

(Interruptions)...

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR (Bangalore South): It is a matter of national interest. ...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not trying to bail out anybody, I can assure you. You need not have that apprehension.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are not saying that you are trying to bail out anybody. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I shall come to it and I shall give my ruling.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO (Purulia): Sir, a large number of Bengali-speaking people of Purulia in West Bengal, and Ranchi and Saraikala district of Jharkhand do not have the facility to watch the Bengali TV programmes.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice is on Ayodhya Hill. Please speak on that.

SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: Sir, I, therefore, urge upon the Government to set up a high power transmitter in the Ayodhya Hill in the district of Purulia.

SHRI ADHIR CHOWDHARY (Berhampore, West Bengal): Sir, it is a matter of great concern and anguish that we have not been able to protect and safeguard the memorabilia and noble medallion belonging to Rabindra Nath Tagore. Not even a single article of the booty has yet been recovered.

Sir, it has been reported that the construction and other programmes, destroying the environment - which was conceived as ideal by the great poet, have been going on in connivance with the local administration. Even the manuscripts are being taken by the scholars as away as Kolkata and are being returned at convenience.

I would submit that because it is a central university, the upkeep of this university is incumbent upon the Central Government. So, the Central Government should deploy adequate security personnel to protect the environment and to protect the piece of Rabindra Nath Tagore.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Dr. Dharendra Agarwal. Please be brief and just mention the issue.

[Translation]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL (Chatra): Betwa National Forests under my parliamentary constituency is famous for Sagwan (teak) trees. After the election was over, when I visited my constituency, I found that all the Sagwan trees were being cut. People here do the business in horns of animals, their skins and ivory. This way entire forest has been cut. I had lodged an FIR to this effect on 16 June, but no action was taken against forest officials. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You had given notice about Netarhat Field Firing Range.

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Sir, I was mentioning about Betwa National Forest.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to mention only about Netarhat Field Firing Range. Just mention about that.

[Translation]

DR. DHIRENDRA AGARWAL: Netrahat under my parliamentary constituency is a very beautiful place. A field firing range is being constructed here. It will be a great threat to the environment. Displacement of poor tribals may also take place. My submission is that field firing range should not be constructed at this place so that tribals may get sigh of relief.

SHRI PRADEEP GANDHI (Rajnandgaon): Hon. Speaker, Sir, yesterday, hon. Finance Minister, during his Budget speech said that the Government would provide jobs to one person in each family at least for 100 days, whereas Delhi Government is displacing several workers from industrial units which has created a problem of livelihood for 63 thousand people. My submission is that UPA Government had said that it would generate employment for the people whereas present Government of NCT, Delhi is rendering people jobless. It is a serious crisis which has put their livelihood in danger. The Government should pay attention towards it.

SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA (Faridabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Supreme Court has ordered that these industrial units be shifted from here.

SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA (Hoshiarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw attention of the Government towards a very important issue of my parliamentary constituency. The soil in this area contains excess salinity. Therefore, if any animal passing through that area eats something from the ground it contracts foot and mouth disease. If a person eats fruits and vegetables grown in this area, his hair start falling. Scientists say it is because of excess of salinity in the soil. If Gypsum is used in it and water cycle is changed then this problem can be solved. My submission is that the Government should pay immediate attention towards, it so that problem can be solved.

SHRI HARIBHAU RATHOD (Yavatmal): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the House to the problems of farmers of my Parliamentary constituency Yavatmal in Vidharbha in Maharashtra which is predominately inhabited by tribals. Onset of rain in this area got delayed by 20 days and thus the seeds sown by the farmers have gone waste. If the Govt. do not help them to buy seeds again, the farmers would be ruined and they will be forced to commit suicide. If the Government help the farmers it can prevent

them from committing suicide. My submission is that the Government should render them help.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very important issue.

[Translation]

DR. KARAN SINGH YADAV (Alwar): Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention of the House towards problem of Rajasthan. A Ravi-Beas Water Agreement between Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana was signed by Chief Ministers of these states in 1981 under the Chairmanship of the then Prime Minister, whereby Rajasthan was to get 8.6 MFA water. Recently, Punjab Assembly passed a resolution unanimously terminating said agreement and further resolved that not a drop of water will be allowed to flow to Rajasthan or any other states. It is a matter of grave concern for the farmers of Rajasthan. The farmers in Rajasthan fully depend on Ganga Canal and Rajasthan Canal. Water to these canals is supplied from rivers flowing through Punjab. These water heads should have been transferred to Bhakra Management Board, which is under the control of Punjab Govt., through Ravi-Beas Agreement. When Punjab Govt. desires it releases water, when it desires otherwise, it stops. I would not waste more time, but I would request hon. Minister of Water Resources and the Chairman of UPA Government, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi to compel the Punjab Government to release full share of water to Rajasthan.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, I also would like to associate myself with this issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Okay, very well. If you are only to associate with this, then you can associate.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, it is a very serious one. I would like to say something. ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KISHAN SINGH SANGWAN (Sonapat): I, too have given a notice on this subject, therefore, I too would like to speak on it.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: No speeches are allowed.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The names of those hon. Members will be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have received two notices. One notice is from Shri Ananth Kumar in which he has referred to the reported deposition made before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate in Bangalore regarding multi-State stamp paper scam, and alleged the involvement of an hon. Minister who is not a Member of this House.

Another notice is from Shri D.V. Sadanand Gowda regarding reported deposition made in connection with the stamp paper scam, alleging involvement of the former Chief Minister of Karnataka, who is a Central Minister.

The rules are very clear.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him to explain.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I will ask him. Please wait. Why are you impatient? I am allowing everybody.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Before giving the ruling, I would like to say something. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have not yet given the ruling. I am only drawing your attention, at the moment, to the rules.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You are jumping!

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: We are not jumping into the well! ...(Interruptions)

SHRI D.V. SADANAND GOWDA (Mangalore): Otherwise, the issue is very serious that we are supposed to jump! ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Do not be so excited. You have put me here just to do something.

SHRIANANTH KUMAR: It is to save us! ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Save me also please!

On this, there are certain rules. Rule 353 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha is there. There is also a clear statement on the position in Kaul and Shakhdar. I am requesting the hon. Members to comply with the rules. If you comply with the rules, then I shall certainly do something. I am not rejecting it now.

But so far as the notice concerning an hon. Minister who is not a Member of this House is concerned, I am disallowing it. It is not permitted. So far as the other motion given notice of by Shri Sadanand Gowda is concerned, he refers to a Central Minister.

Please follow the rules. I may indicate for your kind knowledge Rule 353 of our Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha. You know it, but it is just to remind you. You may also look into 'Kaul and Shakhdar', page 918. It will help us in deciding this matter. Therefore, you may comply with that and come to the House later on.

Shri Ananth Kumar's notice has been rejected.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How can you reject it?
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have given my ruling that the notice has been rejected. I have already said, 'No' because such serious allegations have been made against a person who is not present here.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, there is no Motion before the House. How can you reject it?

MR. SPEAKER: Do you want to mention it?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will be recorded.

*(Interruptions)...**

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Hundred times names have been mentioned in this House. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: May-be it has been mentioned hundred times but it will not be done hundred and one times.

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Sir, the Members on the other side are mentioning Shri Narendra Modi's name everyday. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are making allegations against a person who cannot answer here. I will not allow this. However, so far as the issue of a Central Minister, raised by Shri Sadanand Gowda, is concerned, I can allow that.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: How can you allow the Members to take the name of Shri Narendra Modi?
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Whom shall I listen to? If all of you speak together, I cannot listen to anybody.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Harin Pathak, you have not given any notice. You should not come to his help. All of you please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE (Canara): The person we are referring to is not a Member of this House, but he is a Minister in this Government. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You have not given any notice. Please go to your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE: It is a serious issue.
...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Everybody should go to his seat. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am requesting him. Will you dictate to me? Please do not dictate to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Great injustice is being done to me. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: What injustice?

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: When Shri Narendra Modi's name is taken in the House, it is being allowed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I am not bound by anything else but by

* Not recorded.

the rules. You can make your submission but I will decide about its admissibility. I shall decide about it.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please do not do that. You are a senior Member. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall decide whether it will remain on record or not.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: No, I will not allow this. There is no subject before the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Thank you very much for allowing me to raise an important issue. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I shall decide whether it will remain on record or not.

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am making a submission. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I will not allow this type of functioning.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): He cannot take the name of a person who is not present in the House. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Will all of you please take your seats? You are all hon. Members of the House.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, unfortunately two menaces are emerging from the State of Karnataka.

One is stamp paper scam and another is Veerappan menace. Unfortunately, the Congress misrule is responsible for these two scams. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the submission of Shri Ananth Kumar.

(Interruptions)...*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, you very well know that two teams, one each from the State of Maharashtra and the State of Karnataka, are investigating these cases. One team is investigating stamp paper scam and another is investigating Veerappan's case. According to the Supreme Court decision, even the CBI is investigating the stamp paper scam. While the stamp paper scam investigation is going on, some police officers are also deposing before the Judicial Magistrate. When a former Assistant Commissioner of Police, Shri Sangram Singh, deposed, he mentioned the names of the former Chief Minister, the existing Minister and the name of one of the present central Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: You are only referring to the deposition and nothing else. All right. I will decide the admissibility.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am completing. In connection with stamp paper scam as well as Veerappan's case, he has said that the former Chief Minister. ...(Interruptions)

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

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, I am only telling that. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, kindly protect us. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have asked you to speak and you are speaking.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, please allow me to conclude. I am saying that Rs.20 crore had been paid as ransom to Veerappan. The former Assistant Commissioner of Police, Shri Sangram Singh has said. ...(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It will not be recorded. The names of the Ministers will not be recorded.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Sir, our demand is that the CBI should call the people whose names have been mentioned by former ACP, Shri Sangram Singh, for deposition. ...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded.

* Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p.m.

12.58 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.04 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at
four minutes past fourteen of the clock.*

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *In the Chair*)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before we take up item no. 11 and 12, I would like to inform the House that as demanded the Hon. Minister had to make statement on Arunachal Pradesh. The Hon. Minister is making his statement there at 2 of the clock. He will make his statement immediately after his statement is over there.

14.05 hrs.

RAILWAY BUDGET 2004-05 -
GENERAL DISCUSSION
AND
DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT -
(RAILWAYS) 2004-05-*contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up item Nos. 11 and 12 together, that is, the general discussion on the Railway Budget and voting on the Demands for Grants on Account (Railways).

*Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta may initiate the discussion today.

[Translation]

SHRI BHUVANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazari-bagh): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is the maiden Railway Budget of United Progressive Alliance Government and I would like to congratulate Hon. Minister of Railways Shri Lalu Prasad Ji for presenting common man, poor and minorities friendly Railway Budget in the House. He has taken certain steps which show that those people who had been neglected so far have been taken care of in this Railway Budget. He has made provision of free tickets for unemployed youths who bought their own tickets to travel for interviews. At the same time he has assured in his Railway Budget to

strengthen the women ticket checking squads and to impart them training. As far as reserved posts for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes are concerned, lot of backlog vacancies are laying unfilled. He has said that the Ministry will launch a special drive for filling up those backlog vacancies. At the same time he has also said that, special arrangements for transportation of vegetables, fruits grown by the farmers are made so that the produce can be transported to other places and farmers do not face problems.

He has proposed for construction of shelters at railway stations for license holder porters. He has announced 25% reservation for Scheduled Tribes, Poors, Dalits and Handicapped in the allotment of stalls at railway stations and junctions which were acquired by a certain class of people till now. He has announced 25 per cent reservation for poor people working at the stalls is for the last 50 years.

Besides, from the security point of view, he has said that from now onwards the recruitment of CRPF will not be done by the Railway Board but by the security officers. At the same time he has planned to promote the public sector by manufacturing trains wheels in the country itself. He has, in the Railway Budget, proposed for setting up wheel manufacturing unit to avoid the import.

There are some flaws in the announcements made by him in the Railway Budget, which have not been discussed. I would especially like to say that all the states should have been treated equally in the present Railway Budget this has not been done. The people of Kerala have the feeling that Kerala has not been paid attention and Kerala has not been provided with what it required. At the same time, he has neglected Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and many other states.

Likewise, commuters in suburban trains and the local trains have not been talked about in this Budget. Condition of those local trains is very deplorable and people face problems in travelling. I have travelled by suburban trains in Kerala, Kolkata, Mumbai and other places and have seen that the condition is very bad and yet there has been no provision in this Railway Budget for their maintenance and repairing. Besides, thousands and lacs of common people commute in the local trains daily in the cities in Kolkata, Tamil Nadu, Delhi and they face lot of problems but no provision has been made in the present Railway Budget for the betterment in this regard. At the same time, you might be noticing that there is huge shortage of workers in the Railway Board and due to the shortage of workers, proper repairing of trains is not done and Railways property is not taken care of properly which causes rise in train accidents. I through you would like to submit to the Hon. Minister Shri Lalu Prasadji that shortage of workers is the cause of frequent train accidents. In order to check these accidents, a drive to fulfil this shortage of workers in a time bound period should be carried out otherwise these accidents will go on increasing.

Sir, as you know that for the last three-four years the number of train accidents has been increasing. About 400-500 people are killed in train accidents every year. If special attention is not paid in this regard, I think, these accidents will go on increasing. Besides, vacant posts of workers should be filled up by recruiting Dalits, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes. Minorities or Backward classes under the drive announced by the Hon. Railway Minister.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, till recent past Jharkhand was a part of Bihar. Hon. Minister of Railway, Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav Ji presented the Railway Budget here. I would like to submit to him that Jharkhand is the younger brother of Bihar and being a younger brother, you should have taken care of Jharkhand but you have neglected it in your Railway Budget. No announcement regarding laying new railway-line has been made. Hon. Railway Minister in his Budget speech, had himself mentioned it and said that he has written letters to all Members of Parliament in this regard. Replying that letter, I had said that Hazaribagh is not only the district headquarter but also the headquarter of the Commissionery. Its surrounding areas are rich in Coal and Mica. But unfortunately, even after 55 years of independence, Hazaribagh has not been connected with railway line.

Three years ago i.e. the year 2002, a movement was launched to connect Hazaribagh with railway line. I, myself initiated the movement to connect Hazaribagh with railway line and was sent to jail. Thousands of people were sent to jail in this connection. This railway line had been approved before 1996 but Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee laid its foundation stone in the year 2002. The then Railway Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar had also visited the place. Some work had also started but all came to a halt six months before election. Likewise, some work was also started to connect Giridih to Kodarma for which the former Member of Parliament Shri Ratilal Prasad Verma carried on his movement, but now the work in this regard has also been discontinued.

Now the people there are of the opinion that this work will not be restarted as the National Democratic Alliance Government is no more in power. It is being publicised on a large scale by the National Democratic Alliance and Bhartiya Janta Party that the works of this railway line will not be completed as Shri Yashwant Sinha ji has lost in the election. I had apprised Hon. Railway Minister of the slow progress of work at Kodarma-Ranchi Line, which goes upto Hazaribagh. It is a matter of regret that the National Democratic Alliance Government has cheated us. The Central Government did not release fund to the Deptt. of Railways saying that the Government of Jharkhand would bear two-third of its total expenditure and the Central Government would bear one-third. This was the way the work started. At present, National Democratic Alliance Government is there in Jharkhand. It has not provided Rs. 250 Crore which it was supposed to.

I would like to submit to the Hon. Railway Minister that it has not been mentioned even in your Railway Budget. Through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Railway Minister that Hazaribagh should be connected with railway line. Two main lines - one from Purnia to Ranchi and the other from Kodarma to Giridih are those, which have been lying neglected even after 55 years of the independence.

Nothing has been said in the budget in regard to connecting them with the rail line. A provision of not a single pie has been made in the budget for this purpose. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that the interests of people of Hazaribagh and Jharkhand have not been taken care of in the budget.

Through you, I would like to say that out of the eight schemes about which I had drawn the attention of the hon. Minister by writing a letter only one has found mention in the budget and the remaining seven have not been mentioned in it. I request you to begin the work of implementing these schemes also.

Only one passenger train city link runs between Dhanbad and Gaya and agitations have been staged several times in order to provide stoppage of the said train. Cases against fifties of persons have been registered during the said agitations. It takes six to seven hours for the people of Purnia and other places to travel to Gaya by road while train takes only half an hour due to which people have to face a lot of hardships. During one such agitations at Chauba station one Shri Manoj was shot dead but still city link was not given stoppage there. The people of Chaube, Parsabad, Sharmatand, Hirodi had to face a lot of problem as city link express has not been provided stoppage at the said places.

I would like to request hon. Minister to make arrangement for providing halt to the city link express at these places.

Dozen of people have to lose their lives at Maskedih in Jharkhand due to the lack of railway crossing there. I request you to ensure the continuation of a railway crossing there. The construction of an overbridge at the Barki Pona Station be ensured as accidents frequently occur here. Similarly, these kinds of incidents keep on taking place in Rajrappa from where 7-8 trains pass through to reach various states of the country.

Ranchi is the capital of Jharkhand. Rajdhani runs for two days in a week from here due to which the people of Jharkhand are feeling a neglected lot. I would like to request the hon. Minister to run Rajdhani seven days a week from Ranchi so that the people of that area may be provided relief.

The people of Kodarma, Giridih, Hazaribagh, Chatra

[Shri Bhuvaneshwar Prasad Mehta]

including the MP's, MLA's or common man have to travel to various places. There is a stoppage of Bhubaneswar Rajdhani at these places for two days besides the Ranchi Rajdhani that runs two days a week from the said places. However, there is no alternate arrangement for the people here for the rest of three days a week. Hence, Saldah Rajdhani be provided a stoppage at Kodarma for three days so that the people may find convenience in traveling to and fro.

Lastly, I would like to humbly remind the hon. Minister that Jharkhand has been ignored in this budget. Jharkhand being the part of Bihar before being carved out as a separate state, I would request you not to ignore Jharkhand and include the schemes of Jharkhand in your budget to ensure the development of Railways there. With these words I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I request the next speaker to speak, Shri Shriniwas Patil has requested to allow him to lay his speech on the Table of the House. I permit him to lay his speech on the Table of the House.

*SHRI SHRINIWAS DADASAHEB PATIL (Karad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party - Nationalist Congress Party, I seek your permission to lay on the Table of the House my written speech on Railway Budget presented by Lal Prasadji on 6th July, 2004 for the year 2004-05.

I congratulate him for taking a bold decision to stop use of plastic and thermocoal articles and thank him for giving encouragement to earthen pots "Kulhad" which will give employment to Kumhars and people in rural India and also for use of Khadi cloth and yarn spun or Kargha in railways. He has given patronage to the milk products to be used in trains which are produced by cooperative dairy farms having farmers as their members.

Sir, I come from Karad in Satara in Maharashtra which town is connected with the freedom movement of 1942 with its leader late Shri Yashvantrao Chavan, Ex. Dy. Prime Minister of the country. The Railway station is on South Central Railway in Pune Division. The policy to connect two metropolitan cities such as Pune and Bangalore is given birth by the announcement of Shri Lalujji. He has announced that the survey work of doubling the broadgauge track between Pune-Miraj and Kolhapur will be given priority. This was long pending demand of Members of Parliament in south Maharashtra. I hope priority will be given to the starting and completing the survey work announced by Shri Lalujji. Train named Mahalaxmi starts in the evening from Kolhapur for Mumbai. About 9 to 10 Ministers and about 40 to 45 MLAs do take advantage of the journey by this train which reaches

Mumbai next day early morning; and again on its return journey leaves Mumbai in the evening same day and reaches Kolhapur next day early morning. I will be obliged, if for the convenience of the above mentioned Ministers and MLAs, if present II Class air-conditioned coach is replaced by a first class coach. It will improve the efficiency of above mentioned Ministers and MLAs from this area, because they will have full comfort in the first class coach.

Karad is the main Railway station in my constituency. The building of Railway station is more than 100 years old and need total replacement. The facilities such as waiting room, toilets, urinals and street light, lights on platforms and length of covered platforms are outdated, as such I seek intervention of Hon'ble Railway Minister to start construction of new building for Railway station with modern and enough facilities. The total income from this station is Rs.24.50 crores per annum.

The main income is from goods transport and main item is sugar as there are 11 sugar factories in the background. The loading facility is too poor. No covered siding is available. As such there is lot of inconvenience in loading bags of sugar in rainy season. Mechanical loading facility under covered platform to load at least four or five wagons simultaneously shall solve the problem faced by sugar factories of today. The regular old platform is at low level and also having no enough full length to deplete the passengers. I am happy that Hon'ble Lalujji has now announced the policy of raising the existing platforms and also extending their length to meet the requirement.

The station at Karad is having the facility of Reservation by computers. The station is 7 kms away from main town and as such it is requested that one or two terminals be given to RTS's in the town at Karad. To implement the policy of employing the Gatemen at more than thousand unmanned gates on Railways in India is very much appreciated. There are two or three gates which are closed after sunset and only opened next morning in my constituency such as Kharad near Kalgoan, in between Shirwade and Targaon Railway Stations. They need the Gatemen to man the gate after sunset till sunrise.

Old gates near Koparde village between Karad and Shirwade Railway stations need widening because of heavy traffic to and fro. Sometimes in sugarcane crushing season, due to vehicles which transport sugarcane the traffic in this gate is jammed due to narrow opening. I request the Minister to please send the team to inspect the said gate and do the needful.

- a. Kolhapur-Dwarka Express should be started.
- b. Bangalore-New Delhi Rajdhani Express

should run once in a week via Hubli. This shall benefit Pune city.

c. A superfast train between Kolhapur and Pune should be started.

Due to some legal hurdles STD booths are not allotted on platforms. Government should intervene in this regard and must see that STD booths on priority are opened so that on one hand, facility will be given to people and employment is also generated for youths.

Waiting rooms for upper class passengers should be made air-conditioned.

With the above, I wind up my speech and earnestly hope that the Hon. Railway Minister shall give personal attention to the points raised by me; and shall get the needs of the people fulfilled.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Railway Budget and would like to express my gratitude to the president of Congress Shrimati Sonia Gandhi on my own behalf and on behalf of the countrymen. I am grateful to her that after visiting thousands of Kms. of Indian hinterland and feeling the pulse and the sentiments of all the sections of Indian society. She has, after due deliberations with the hon. Minister of Railways, heaped him present a dream rail budget which could not have been conceived by the opposition in their wildest of dreams. The Members of opposition were short of words when the budget was presented and distracted from discussing budget, rather they indulged in criticizing over hon. Member Shrimati Soniaji. Besides, I would also like to express my gratitude to hon. Minister of Railways on my own behalf and on behalf of countrymen for this budget which is a milestone in the history of independent India in that unlike the previous budgets in which the passenger fares and freight rates continued to be raised every time, affecting the common Indian in some way or the other, this budget has, for the first time, kept these rates unchanged. I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Laluj and hon. Narainbhai Rathwa, the Minister of State for this achievement.

They have given a big relief to the countrymen by presenting such a budget be it farmer, worker, businessman or a middle class person and they deserve congratulations for it. I would also like to mention that the day after the Railway Budget was presented, it was reported in the headlines of the newspapers that the wife of hon. Minister who is the Chief Minister of Bihar had urged upon the hon. Minister not to raise the fares in the budget. ...*(Interruptions)* If this is the case, hon. Chief Minister of Bihar deserves special congratulations for it and I on behalf of the House and my countrymen and on my own behalf express my gratitude to

her for being so much vigilant about the welfare of the countrymen. I would also like to express my heartiest of gratitude to hon. Minister for making special provisions in the budget for the war-widows, harijans, minorities, backward classes, poors, women and handicapped persons that is an unprecedented step. He has also made a provision that a person accompanying a blind person on rail journey would be entitled to get specific concessions. He deserves special congratulations for it. His step reminds me of Rajiv Gandhi who had convened a conference of Railway coolies in Talkatora Stadium to provide them some relief and assistance. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for making the provision of pension for that class which keeps on carrying the luggage and other material day and night.

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI LALU PRASAD):
Their wives have also been allowed to travel.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: He deserves kudos for it. He has also paid attention towards rural areas. I would like to thank you for providing special trains for the farmers, poor workers, poor villagers and special facilities for the soldiers. Each of this class is feeling grateful to you for it. The hon. Minister has also taken care of the unemployed youth in the country whose number is swelling day by day. They have been allowed to travel free while boarding a train to face the interview board seeking to get Government job. Hence, I welcome this step on behalf of the House and the countrymen for paying attention and respecting the sentiments of students and unemployed youths. I would like to congratulate you again for not increasing the freight rates for increase in it affects every citizen be it farmer, worker, businessman or we belonging to middle-class or service class in some way or the other because the increase in freight rate percolates down to all those articles that are of daily use to these people. Hence the prices of various articles in the market have remained unchanged owing to lack of increase in the freight rates and I express my gratitude to you for it.

As far the railway safety is concerned, that has found a mention in this budget. The railway safety has been breached to a great extent and hon. Minister has talked of taking remedial measures streamline it. I remember well that train accidents became a regular feature during the previous regime whose part was the hon. Member sitting opposite me. A lot of people used to lose their lives in those trains accidents. I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Railways to accord top priority to check the railway accidents. Besides, the compensation being provided to the kiths and kins of the persons dying in rail accidents should be increased.

The incidents of robberies and theft are increasing and there is a need to go into the background thereof. Unemployment is increasing in the country. Yesterday, while

[Kunwar Manvendra Singh]

presenting the budget, hon. Minister of Finance had mentioned about providing employment to the youth. The House should seriously contemplate on the ways so that the youth may not be distracted from the right path and do not take resort to theft and robberies. Hence the Government should try to provide employment to the youth within five years so that these incidents of robberies, murders and theft could be checked and youth could be lead to the right direction. All the Members should contemplate on it and formulate a scheme that is extremely important for the youth. The burden of increasing population and price-rise is affecting youth, hence they are towing on the wrong path.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards inadequate Railway arrangements. During the Congress regime when Railway was headed by Bansilalji and late Shri Madhavrao Scindiaji, a lot of progress was made in this regard. We daily witness the inadequacy of arrangements and trains at platform, while traveling. Hon. Minister himself witnessed the messy state of affairs at railway stations while he made a surprise visit there recently in Delhi. His suggestion to improve the sanitation in trains and platforms is a welcome step. During the regime of NDA, the bed-sheets etc. made available by Railways used to be very filthy. Railways charges money for it from the passengers, hence it is its responsibility to provide clean beds and healthy food to the passengers. If the situation does not improve during his tenure then he would be held responsible for it. Therefore he needs to pay special attention towards this aspect. I have heard that mafia used to dominate the contracts in Railways that resulted in the derailment of the entire system of catering and bedding. Hence the hon. Minister should pay special attention towards it so that the passengers may get clean beds and good quality food. Even you might have seen on T.V. or read in newspapers that several passengers fell ill after consuming the unhealthy food served in the trains like Rajdhani Express and Shatabdi Express. This was a matter of shame for the then Government and Railway Minister. The hon. Minister will have to pay attention towards it. Recently when I was travelling in AC-II Class Sleeper of August Kranti Express on 3rd July, I saw the water running from the taps in toilet. The previous Government is responsible for making maintenance system reach such a sorry state of affairs. Hence I urge upon you to pay special attention towards the maintenance aspect in trains.

SHRI RAM KRIPALYADAV (Patna): They have (previous Governments) caused this riot in the system during the last five years.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I agree with you. Now I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards reservation facility in Railways. The people in various parts of the country have sometimes to travel on a very short notice

in emergency situations. Hence, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to make arrangement for providing special reservation to the people so that they may be able to undertake their journey in emergency without facing any inconvenience.

While concluding, would like to say something about my Constituency Mathura. I am fortunate to represent Mathura for the third time. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No running commentary please.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: I am of the view that hon. Minister is a descendent of Lord Krishna and my maternal linkage is in Awagarh. Hence hon. Minister is like my maternal uncle. Hence my relationship with hon. Minister is both due to his being a descendent of Lord Krishna and also because of this relationship.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : We both were together till the others spoil the party and indulge in foulplay.

SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA: Beware that there is a jail in Mathura itself for those who are scamesters.

SHRI LALU PRASAD : It is the prison that has proved my saviour.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are 15 more Members from your side to participate in the discussion. Please wind up. No running commentary, Madam.

[Translation]

Laluji how would it do if you start doing running commentary?

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Minister's duty is to inform and assert and I am doing the same.

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Minister, Sir, lakhs of people from the country as well as abroad visit Mathura. Toofan Mail runs from there to Calcutta since the Britishers.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeyaji.

[Translation]

KUNWAR MANVENDRA SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker,

Sir, I may kindly be given five minutes more. I have heard several people saying that the Minister is having a painting of Vishwakarma in his office. I would request the hon. Minister to display a painting of Shri Radha Krishanji also in his office. "Meri Bhav Badha Haro Radha Nagari Sol, Jo Tan Ki Chai Pare Shyam Harit Dute Hol." I wish that God make your path free from all obstacles so that you may run your Ministry smoothly and efficiently. I wish to present all my demands in writing to the hon. Minister and I hope that he would concede them.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing the Railway Budget 2004-2005. Presenting this budget, the hon. Minister has tried to make several attractive announcements. These announcements seem attractive from outside but the required measures to be taken for providing resources for fulfilling them in the fixed time period have not been mentioned in this Budget. Therefore, it is but natural and I must clearly say that these announcements are to remain only announcements and perhaps, their implementation will not be possible.

Sir, hon. Minister has said in his budget speech that gauge conversion of one thousand kilometre railway line will be done. I could not understand that though he announced the gauge conversion of one thousand kilometre railway line but he did not mention the period to complete the conversion work and the amount to be spent. Likewise, he has also proposed for doubling of lines, safety and updating the old surveys. But going through the whole budget, does not make clear what measures are going to be taken for the arrangements of funds. This is right that he has taken two-three correct steps but I think that the Ministry of Railways will not get the required amount. He has mentioned the expenditure of Rs.14,498 crore in his budget speech but no specific target is seen in making the provision for funds. He has proposed of taking loan by the Railway Finance Corporation from the market but the corporation wants loan at lower rate of interest. The uncertainty prevails regarding the availability of the loan. The hon. Minister is requested to clarify it while replying in the House.

Now I would like to draw your kind attention towards some other facts. Earlier it was said by the department of Railways that a Railway Traffic Authority or Regulatory Authority will be set up. But nothing has been said in the budget in this connection - whether this authority will be set up or not. When we talk about traffic safety or protection in railway, the hon. Minister should clarify about the position of traffic authority. The hon. Minister has proposed to set up scrap recycling unit. I could not understand how much it will cost in collecting the scrap from all over the country and what would be the difference between the cost price of a commodity purchased from the market and its cost price by recycling?

The hon. Minister should make it clear. As I could guess, the Ministry of Railways will have to bear loss and no gain is to accrue, though proposal for setting up the unit is a right one. Likewise, you have also proposed for setting up of another unit. Whether it is set up in Bihar or in some other State but utilisation of the capacity of present units has been neglected. The capacity of units established in Kapurthala or Chennai or Tamil Nadu is not being fully utilised. The production in these units is less than 60 per cent. If the capacity is enhanced, the needs of railways can be fulfilled. On the other hand, we are fulfilling the need of railways through imports. There are somethings which we have to import. It would be far better if these are manufactured indigenously instead of being imported.

At the same time the hon. Minister has mentioned conferring additional powers to the Railway Police in his budget speech. They already have rights but to my mind, these rights are rather being misused. There is no provision that those officers may check the luggage but they ask the passengers to show the tickets and harass them. Before conferring upon them more rights it may be ensured that these powers will not be misused and that these will help to ensure the safety and protection in Railways. Through you, I want to draw the attention towards the children of employees and officers. There are dispensaries, schools and colleges run by the Department of Railways. But the admission is so restricted that the children of officers and employees of Railways do not get admissions there. The condition of dispensaries is miserable. Proper arrangements for the treatment of patients suffering from specific diseases are not available there. They also face problems where they are referred. Had you paid your kind attention towards these three issues, the budget would have been proclaimed useful. It does not seem reasonable that the announcements made would prove great useful or bring a sea change.

I would like to draw your kind attention towards two-three points in regard to gauge conversion. The former Minister of Railways Shri Nitish Kumar had fixed a target to complete the work of gauge conversion in the time period of 2004-2005 but now the work of gauge conversion will be completed where it is in progress till 2004-2005, how the target will be achieved - have not been mentioned anywhere. It has not been clarified - whether the works which were due to be completed in 2004-2005 will be completed or not. I would like to present two-three examples before you. The work of gauge conversion from Neemuch to Ratlam which comes under Western Railways was to be completed in 2004-2005 but the provision of only Rs.25 crore has been made in the budget whereas attracting the kind attention of the Ministry of Railways and of yourself I had pointed out that sufficient amount for this purpose should be provided otherwise this target is not going to be achieved in 2004-2005. The amount

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandey]

has not been provided for that. Completion of that line provides double and alternative line from Ratlam to Kota. On the one hand the Government propose to link Udaipur from Chittor and on the other hand you have proposed for survey from Ratlam to Mau and from Ratlam to Banswara via Dungarpur. These surveys are being carried out for years. Before making new announcements, it has not been mentioned what are proposed to be taken for the completion of new surveys and how long it will take to start the work after the completion of surveys. I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister towards them. This will facilitate the gauge conversion directly from Ratlam to Chittor. The work between Ratlam-Neemach is in progress, between Neemach-Chittor and Chittor-Kota, it has been completed and between Chittor and Udaipur it is about to be completed but if the Chittor-Ajmer section remains incomplete, the gauge conversion on other section would be of no use because till the gauge conversion between Mau and Ajmer rail section is not fully completed, its utility will not be proved.

You have proposed to increase the railway facilities. You have given an attractive slogan-village-on-wheels on the lines of Palace-on-Wheels. This is very good. It is for you to decide of what nature it would be and by which people or general public it will be used and what will be its structure. At present, the situation is that general coaches are not available, passengers are not getting seats. Passengers travel sitting on the roof tops of the coaches. The need is to increase the unreserved coaches or general coaches instead of reserved coaches in maximum number. More coaches be attached to the trains. The number of coaches be increased to 22, 25, 26. The number of those coaches be increased in which general passengers travel, otherwise village-on-wheels will always remain useless.

Citing 2-3 examples from my constituency, I would like to elaborate my point. Ratlam-Neemach gauge conversion be completed expeditiously. Tracks and sleepers have been laid. Sides have been widened the work of signalling is in progress hence some additional amount be provided for this purpose. I had requested to him and the Railway Board to provide Rs.70-80 crore to complete this project. Completion of that line will prove very useful. Therefore, it should be completed as early as possible. It will be useful from the view point of passenger traffic and industrial area. There was a mention of updating the survey from Ujjain to Ramganj Mandi. This was said earlier also, therefore, this survey should be updated and work on this line be started at the earliest. He should make efforts in this direction. I think, that line would be more useful and beneficial.

There are some railway crossings where construction of overbridges is necessary. Construction of overbridge at Ratlam is in progress but construction of another overbridge

is also needed. Construction of overbridge near Jawara is needed. There is also need to construct a rail overbridge at Neemach. There are some level crossings which require the deployment of watchman for 24 hours. People have to face many problems and accidents take place due to non-deployment of watchmen at the level crossings and gates are get opened by calling the watchman from station. Therefore, arrangements for the deployment of the watchman at these level crossings for 24 hours should be made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the railway reservation which the hon. Minister has mentioned in his budget speech. Railway reservation is a very important issue. The hon. Minister has proposed to extend the facility of railway reservation through computers. It is good that this facility is being extended but where the computerised reservation facility is available, there is so shortage of the staff that people have to wait in queue for hours. How and by which time will he meet this shortage? Simultaneously, he has also mentioned the continuous increase in losses in railways. He has himself accepted in the Railways Annual Report 2002-2003 that suburban trains are running in huge losses. Revenue loss of crores of rupees incur due to suburban trains running in Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. He should state that he will make up this loss so that passengers travelling in suburban trains could get benefit and the revenue losses be compensated. He has admitted at page 96 of the Annual Report 2003-2004 that this loss is about Rs.650.70 crore. With regret, I have to say that the hon. Minister of Railways has not mentioned any arrangement to offset this deficit.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has mentioned at page 3 of his Railway Budget speech that the number of train accidents has decreased. This is an old affair. This year has just begun and the train accidents are increasing during his term. Just a month has passed after assuming his charge. In his speech, he has mentioned that due to human errors accidents may take place and these accidents continue taking place, who is responsible for this. I think, this is not so. These accidents are continuously taking place somewhere or the other due to the inefficiency of Railways or due to lack of infrastructure. Due to efforts made by our former Minister of Railways, the number of accidents had decreased. Will the hon. Minister of Railways make efforts to reduce the number of these accidents. I would thank him if he does so, but at present train accidents are increasing. Efforts to avoid them should be made.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these days excessive filths are scattered at the railway stations. Mere saying or delivering speech is not sufficient for cleaning the railway stations. Just yesterday, I was travelling by Rajdhani Express. Toilet in AC first class coach was very dirty. You can yourself imagine as

to what would be the condition in general class coaches. Merely saying cleanliness will not serve our purpose. Complete vigilance is needed in this matter. Passengers should be provided amenities. The hon. Minister can go and see himself how uncleared the stations are and what sort of mismanagement is there. He should make improvement in the prevailing mismanagement.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Railways has proposed for gauge conversion, doubling of line and electrification. I would like to tell once again as I do not know from where the funds for these projects will come. Only making announcements is sufficient. These announcements should be implemented. Merely saying or making it attractive is not sufficient. These schemes are needed to be implemented.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise 2-3 issues of my Parliamentary constituency. Shamgarh, in my parliamentary constituency is one of the major railway stations under Western Railways. I have requested in writing for providing stoppage of Jammu-Tawi-Mumbai superfast Express at this station. Likewise, I have also requested for stoppage of Jaipur-Durg-Dhanbad-Ahmedabad Express Trains. Alongwith this, I have demanded for stoppage of Nizamuddin Inter-city Express at Garoth station. The platforms of many stations under western railway alongwith nearby roads which falls under my constituency should be repaired. A new train should be introduced between Ratlam-Kota. Simultaneously, I have requested to run an additional train on the metre-gauge section from Ujjain to Chittorgarh until the work of conversion of broadgauge line is completed. I hope that he will pay his attention towards all these issues and as I have said I further repeat that he will try to sort out these problems by providing more comfortable coaches or general coaches. Arrangements should be made to provide better educational and medical facilities to the children of officers and employees. I also request to pay more attention towards passenger facilities. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI M.S.K. BHAVANI RAJENTHIRAN (Ramanathapuram): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir Vanakkam!

"Iyattralum Eettalum Kaththalum Kaththa

Vaguththalum Valla Tharasu."

This is a Kural written by the great poet 'Thiruvalluvar' and these are the most suitable words for the preparation of any budget.

I take this opportunity to express my endless gratitude to our esteemed and the most respected leader of our D.M.K. Party, hon. Dr. Kalaingar and our beloved former Minister

Murasoliyar for the opportunity bestowed on me to be here in this august House and also my wholehearted thanks to you, Sir, for having given me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Railway Budget for the year 2004-05.

First of all, I want to express my gratitude to our hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad and the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways, Shri Velu, I.A.S., for having sanctioned the broad gauge from Madurai to Manamadurai in the Ramesawram Section that covers some 48 kms.

The Budget is mostly welcomed by all the sections of the society, as it is purely redesigned by the noble policies of the father of our nation, the great Mahatma Gandhi. The introduction of the utilisation of khadi and khaddar instead of cotton and our traditional pot instead of plastic cup paves way for the rural development. I think that hon. Minister of Railways, Shri Lalu Prasad, has proved himself that he is an appreciable leader of the poor people in the society.

Being a woman parliamentarian, it is a great pride that the consideration of the appointment of women ticket collectors is a pioneer scheme introduced for the first time in our country.

Moreover, the concessions for the unemployed youth attending interviews for Central Government jobs and the widows of Defence personnel killed in action against extremists are welcome ones.

Thus, the Railway Budget gives many welfare measures purely supporting the poor, the weaker and the downtrodden sections of the entire society, as there is no hike in the fare and freight.

In spite of all these, I could not control myself from expressing my grievances about the announcements of broad gauge in our area, Ramanathapuram. We, actually, are in the dire need of broad gauge up to Rameswaram.

Rameswaram, the most famous pilgrimage as well as the historical centre, where 7000 tourists are visiting daily, is not only a cultural link but is also the 'Commercial Hub', as there is a revenue of Rs. 10 crore per year. I feel proud to say that the first citizen of our country, our President, Shri A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, hails from Rameswaram.

The extension of broad gauge up to Rameswaram is most essential for the implementation of Sethu Samuthram Project. This broad gauge not only helps to meet the transport needs of our backward area but also helps to bind dispersed areas to promote national integration. If the project is implemented, the revenue will go up by 20 per cent from the present annual revenue of Rs. 10 crore.

[Shrimati M.S.K. Bhavani Rajenthiran]

The formation of a railway track is most essential between Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari via Sayakudi and Tuticorin. It will develop commercial importance in and around the Tuticorin port and also helps to extend the viable commercial and cultural link to Kanyakumari. As the east coast road between Ramanathapuram and Kanyakumari is now in the process, when the broad gauge is brought up parallel to this road, it will surely help to promote the import and export activities and the economy of our most backward area will shoot-up high.

Hope our grievances should be taken into consideration as early as possible by the Ministry of Railways.

Before I conclude my speech, I welcome this 'poor man's Budget' on behalf of our D.M.K. Party.

Again, Sir, I extend my heartiest thanks to you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I request the next speaker, I would like to make an announcement regarding statement to be made by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs with regard to the dissolution of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly.

I request the hon. Minister to make the statement.

14.55 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Dissolution of Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRISHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Thank you, Sir.

As per the existing constitutional provision, the total number of Ministers including the Chief Minister in the Council of Ministers in the States were to be brought down to fifteen per cent of the total number of members of the Legislative Assembly but not less than twelve within six months from the 7th January, 2004, that is 6th July, 2004.

The Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh had a strength of 60 members. Therefore, the number of Ministers including the Chief Minister in the Council of Ministers in Arunachal Pradesh was to be reduced to twelve by the 6th July, 2004.

On the 6th July, 2004, the Council of Ministers of Arunachal Pradesh had a total of 33 Ministers. All the Ministers except Shri Kameng Dolo, Deputy Chief Minister tendered their resignations to the Chief Minister. On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor accepted the resignation of 21 members on 6.7.2004.

After downsizing, the Council of Ministers met on the same day and resolved to recommend to the Governor to dissolve the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly with immediate effect, and authorised Shri Gegong Apang, Chief Minister to advise and recommend to the Governor to dissolve the Assembly. The Governor, in exercise of powers conferred under Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution, on the recommendation of the Council of Ministers, dissolved the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly with effect from 6.7.2004. He sent a report to this effect to the President on the 7th July, 2004.

On the 7th July, 2004, a group of former members of the Legislative Assembly numbering 25 belonging to different parties, 13 of them belong to the Congress Party, 10 of them belong to the BJP and two of them were independents, met the Governor and presented a petition alleging that the dissolution of the State Assembly was illegal and undemocratic, and that the whole process was undertaken to avoid any investigation into the financial scam which was being looked into by a House Committee constituted for this purpose. The Governor had sent a letter to the President of India on the 7th July, 2004 evening recommending action under Article 356(1)(c) of the Constitution.

Later, in the evening of the same day (7.7.2004), the full Cabinet met the Governor and impressed upon him that the dissolution of the State Assembly on the 6.7.2004 under Article 174(2)(b) of the Constitution is irreversible and absolute and hence there is no justification in sending the communication to the President recommending implementation of the provisions under Article 356(1)(c). The Governor subsequently wrote another letter to the President on the same date stating that the earlier letter recommending action under Article 356(1)(c) should be ignored as the same was signed under duress. This letter dated 7th July, 2004 was received by the President on the 8th July, 2004 morning.

On the 8th July, 2004, the Governor wrote another letter to the President stating that he has further reviewed the situation in the light of the representations submitted by various groups of the Legislative Assembly and also the constitutional aspects of the issue. He has stated that the dissolution of the Legislative Assembly already notified was final and no review is permissible under the Constitution of India. He has further mentioned in the letter that the law and order situation is normal as on the date and there is no constitutional breakdown and therefore, his earlier recommendation to invoke Article 356(1)(c) may be ignored.

15.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU (Arunachal West): Sir, I just want an assurance from the hon. Home Minister that President's rule will not be imposed. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No questions please.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Sir, I am just seeking an assurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH (Bhilwara): Sir, there cannot be a discussion, but clarifications can be asked. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Sir, he is an hon. MP from Arunachal Pradesh. He can ask a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi): What is happening? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Since there is a constitutional crisis, the hon. MP is on his legs to ask a clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: Sir, I want an assurance from the hon. Home Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, we can always ask clarifications. This has been the practice in the Parliament. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it cannot be a one-sided affair. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Kripal Yadav.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. Please accommodate.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: We can ask clarifications. We can ask questions. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, we have to ask clarifications.. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have called my name. I am ready to speak but the hon. Members are interrupting me. Hence I am unable to start my speech. I need your protection. You ask them to maintain order so that I may start my speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, never in the history of India, a thing like this has happened. It is the break-down of the whole Constitution and when it is a break-down of the whole Constitution, you do not want us to ask clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, please listen to me.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am of the view that this subject be taken up on Monday when the debate on the dismissal of Governors is scheduled to take place. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, let us ask some clarifications. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHIREN RIJJU: I want an assurance. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, I am not going to give any assurance to the House. Your own Member is saying that there is a break-down of the Constitution. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: There is no question of constitutional break-down. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: No assurance can be given in such matters without going into the details. The Government shall take appropriate decision in appropriate manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please listen to me.

[Translation]

PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the only thing is that the Governor has stated that he has been made to write the letter under duress. It is correct for you to defend your Governor but who are the people who have co-erced Governor into writing a letter? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: First, please listen to me. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Rule 372 says:

"A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I am seeking your indulgence because some statements have been made by the hon. Members and they are part of the record. Now, they are forgetting that it was their Government in the State.

They are forgetting that the caretaker Government there had their own Chief Minister, and they are forgetting that it is they who are responsible for all these things that are happening there. Now, they are asking us to take action and give clarifications on this issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI KHIREN RIJIJU: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, whatever happened was at the residence of the Governor. ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has put forth his point of view but not I. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to ask one question only. ...*(Interruptions)* Nobody has ever been denied the opportunity to seek clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jharkhand): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can the hon. Member ask the question. Once you have given the ruling then no questions can be asked. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI LALU PRASAD : Why discussion on the Railway Budget is being delayed. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)...**

SHRI TAPIR GAO (Arunachal East): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know one thing. What circumstances compelled the Governor to write a letter to the hon. President? ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, please give me a chance to ask a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already called Shri Yadav. I will allow you after Shri Ram Kripal Yadav concludes his speech.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, under what duress did the Governor write a letter to the hon. President of India?

SHRI VIJAYENDRA PAL SINGH: Sir, all sorts of reports are being published in the newspapers since this incident happened. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down. This is not allowed.

15.07 hrs.

(SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG in the Chair)

RAILWAY BUDGET 2004-2005 - GENERAL DISCUSSION

AND

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT - (RAILWAYS) 2004-2005 - *Contd.*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): Sir, I have been given the opportunity to speak on a very important subject. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Railways, hon. Prime Minister and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi for presenting the Railway Budget.

Sir, this budget has been introduced by the UPA Government for the year 2004-2005. For the first time such a comprehensive budget has been presented by any Railway Minister that takes care of all including the poor, deprived persons, women, backward, minorities people in rural areas and who belong to the upper strata of the society. The budget should have been unanimously welcomed by the opposition e.g. NDA Members. This year's railway budget is suffice to show the attitude of this Government towards the people vis-a-vis the attitude and intent of the NDA Government during its six year rule. You would soon find out the intent of the UPA Government. Though the NDA Government used to propagate swadeshi but they have brought the country to ruins. Swadeshi should be close to heart and the hon. Minister has shown through one or two of its decisions as to who is the real proponent of the concept of Swadeshi. Where has the country been taken during their six years rule - is this shining India. You might have heard about the rhetorics of feel good and shining India. However, we want to ameliorate the poor of the country. The hon. Minister of Railways want that due attention be paid towards Kulhar, Khadi, buttermilk, lassi etc. Right

* Not recorded

now the hon. Member was mentioning as to which company has been given the tender of supplying these things.

I had toured my constituency Patliputra which is a historical land and is the land of Guru Govind Singh, Jai Prakash Narain, Ashok, Lord Buddha and Sufi Saints, to thank the people for electing me. There I went to a village where the potters came to one and on asking as to whether they are earning their bread they all replied in affirmative and started wishing and thanking me. On being inquired they stated that our leader Lalu Prasad Yadav have again given them back the opportunity to earn livelihood and this is not mere lip service it is hundred percent true. I realised that one decision of Lalaji has given back the opportunity to earn livelihood to all there who are connected with the business of making earthen pots that had been snatched from them several years ago. They wanted to express their gratitude to me, our leader Shri Lalaji and our party. All of them have at once found work and are running short of the clay as they have been given the order to prepare thousands of kulhars. Such examples are not rare but numerous.

For a policy to be implemented fairly, one should be honest in one's intent and if it is not so no policy can be productive. The history of the country in the past 54 years is a witness to it. New laws had been enacted but a law has no force unless implemented. We have got a long heritage. One decision of Lalaji has given new a lease of life to all those poor weavers who were connected to handloom and powerloom industry and were ruining their fortune and were apprehensive about their future. If there is anyone who has truly and sincerely tried to implement the Gandhian philosophy, it is Shri Lalu Yadav and Manmohan Singh's Government and the people of the opposition should try to learn a lesson from it. *...(Interruptions)* You have said correctly that how they can implement the Gandhian philosophy. *...(Interruptions)** They have no respect for Gandhiji. I would like to thank the hon. Minister of Railways. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I request that the word issued by the hon. Member be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): The word should not be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: The word used by the hon. Member should be expunged. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: ...* This should be on record. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi): Unparliamentary word may be expunged from the proceedings.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The objectionable words will be expunged from the proceedings of the House.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: 81 percent of the population of the country including the poor, dalit, exploited and adivasi people which were not paid any attention by the previous Government have welcomed the Budget. This figure is only theirs on which they reply too much. They have stated that this is good budget and has been supported by the people belonging to all the sections of the society including the poor. What is being said is anathema to them. The sensex has started to pick up but they are not feeling good and nor are they likely to feel good. The entire country has been ruined by them. They are saying that this is a budget with strong bias in favour of Bihar. He is the first Minister of Railways in the country who had paid attention to the sufferings of Bihar and has given something to Bihar. Bihar is yet to get its due.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Railways that he has given very little to Bihar. It won't suffice. *...(Interruptions)* Besides Bihar he has to pay attention towards other backward States also. He has paid some attention towards their plight but it would not serve the purpose.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you hail from Orissa which is a poor State. Bihar has always been subjected to unjust treatment. Since the inception of the First Five Year Plan in the country, Bihar has always been denied its due. Bihar is a backward, poor and exploited State. I am of the opinion that if the country is to be taken forward on the path of equitable development then it is essential to provide proper attention to poor States like Bihar. *...(Interruptions)* Then can they understand. *...(Interruptions)* Mere rhetoric will not serve any purpose. Only Ram Mandir at Ayodhya is close to their heart. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: They are not concerned about Railways. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: You would soon face the music. *...(Interruptions)* If you try to deceive Lord Ram, your intellect would lose its shin. Your ability to discern has already been destroyed. *...(Interruptions)* You have ruined the entire country. *...(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: You speak on Railway Budget. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am coming to that. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadavji, you address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member is going off the track. Please ask him to come to the rail-track.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I am going to take on you also. *...(Interruptions)* Does not train go to Ayodhya? Every now and then, the other side raises the issue of Ayodhya. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for starting a new train for Ayodhya. We are the ardent followers of Rama, not the people like you who stage massacres and riots in the name of Rama. We are not like you. We believe in work. Lord Rama himself had been a Karmyogin and we would like to prove ourselves so. The present Government wants that the poor and the ordinary masses of the country. *...(Interruptions)* That who is truly Rambhakt too. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Yadavji, please address the Chair.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: We are God fearing persons. "Allah- Ishwar Tero Nam, Sabko Sammati De Bhagwan" (Allah and Ishwar are the different names of your lord. Let all be bestowed with wisdom). The masses of the country are yearning. The land of Bihar is historical and from there Gandhiji started his political journey.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might be remembering. These people do not remember history. From the same land of Bihar has risen Shri Lal Prasad Yadavji who has transformed the fortune of the country. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: I had also taken part in agitations. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: It is true that you demonstrated your zeal and organised rallies and had swept the opposition aside. *...(Interruptions)* Shri Lal Krishna Advani was arrested in Bihar. They bear that grouse till this day and hence have always tried to harass Shri Lal Prasadji. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI LALU PRASAD: The tug of war is going on. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: This tug of war is continuing. I would like to say only this much that the hon. Minister has obliged everyone by paying attention to the people living below the poverty line who had not been taken note of by anybody. Nobody has paid attention towards the porters etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have just started. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have been speaking for more than 15 minutes.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Please cooperate with me, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You also have to cooperate with me because other Members will have to speak. Other Members are in the queue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I have only given background and now I will speak on the budget. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now you conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: I request you. *...(Interruptions)* The hon. Ministers has paid attention towards not only porters and vendors but also towards their families and dependents. I would like to thank him for it. He has also created a record by making provision for the destitutes and elderly. Till now only the interests of the people belonging to the upper sections of society had been watched and the interests of the poor was not taken care of by anyone. The hon. Minister of Railways has fulfilled their aspirations. He has made it possible for those poor persons to undertake the pilgrimage to the place like Ajmer Sharief and Gaya etc. at lower rates who could not have imagined even in their dreams that they would be able to undertake the journey to these places. I would like to extend my cordial thanks to him for taking this step. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, you conclude.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I need your protection. *...(Interruptions)* The hon. Minister has not raised the freight rate. The Members of the Opposition are asking as how would the Railway mop up the revenues then. I would like to submit that, we are capable enough and with the cooperation of the staff and officers of the Railways and by virtue of our own hardwork we would make it possible without pushing the common people into difficulties. The hon. Minister has also struck out mafias from Railways. History is witness to the fact that the hon. Minister has struck at the roots of mafia to weed it out which used to dominate the

entire railway machinery and get the tenders at throwaway prices for the last 54-55 years. Who has done this historical act prior to him? You have brought transparency to the contractorship and also weeded out corruption. The hon. Minister wants the benefits to percolate down to the masses. Facts would come out if an inquiry is conducted into the irregularities made in foreign purchasing. I do not want to speak about that. Hon. Railway Minister is looking into it.

Opening of a factory in Chhapra is also a commendable step. People raised objections in this regard. But what is the problem in opening a factory there. Chhapra has been a neglected area. Reviving the Jamalpur factory is also a welcome step. Railway accessories manufacturing units in Bihar, Muzaffarpur and Mokama were closed down under a conspiracy and injustice was done to Bihar. Hon. Railway Minister has to pay attention towards it. People of Bihar and the entire country have set their eyes on Hon. Railway Minister. People have great hopes from him. He has ended the monopoly of Wheeler Book Company. Reservation given to backward classes, youth, Dalit, minorities and exploited people is also commendable. Population is rising in our country day by day but employment opportunities are not increasing in that proportion. The decision taken by him is in the interest of unemployed youth. Poor candidates going for job interviews can travel free in train. It is a historical step. It should be welcomed but no body is doing so. *...(Interruptions)* Earlier no one was paying attention towards the passenger trains. We have hopes from him in this regard. He made all arrangements for cleanliness immediately after becoming the Minister. The passenger trains are in a very bad shape. I request him to inspect the condition of passenger trains himself. There are several such passenger trains in Bihar and the same situation is prevailing in other parts of the country also. Therefore, I would like to request him to improve the condition of the passenger trains in which common people of the country travel. Common people do not travel in A.C. coaches and even the sophisticated people also travel in passenger trains. Poor people travel in it. A train has been introduced for poor people, which is also a welcome step. He has given importance to railway safety though they are saying that no attention has been given to safety. He has made provision to recruit 8000 constables in railways and has paid attention towards the technical irregularities also. *...(Interruptions)* He is saying that crimes are taking place in Bihar only. All the states of the country. *...(Interruptions)* please calculate whether it is more in Bihar or in Maharashtra. *...(Interruptions)* and he is saying that such incidents take place in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Member yields, I would just say something. *...(Interruptions)*

The hon. Member is saying that the last NDA Government never took any step for safety measures in the Railways. In this regard, I would request the hon. Member to kindly see para 9 of page 3 of the Railway Minister's speech. Here, it is clearly written that 'as a result of various safety measures and sustained efforts, the number of consequential train accidents has come down from 473 in 2000-01 to 414 in 2001-02' *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deo, he is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: It is further written that 'the number of train accidents has come down to 351 in 2002-03 and further 325 in 2003-04.' At that time, it was the NDA Government. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SURENDRA PRAKASH GOEL (Hapur): Mr. Chairman, why he is interrupting?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Bikram Keshari Deo, please take your seat. He is not yielding.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Sir, he should not mislead the House. *...(Interruptions)* In fact, the Railway Minister has praised the previous Government on the safety aspects. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Deo, please take your seat. He is not yielding.

...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, nothing will go on record except what Shri Ram Kripal Yadav speaks.

*(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that I am going to wind up in a few minutes. At present Rajdhani Express runs for three days in a week from Patna. I would be grateful to you if this train runs daily. This train always remains over loaded. Therefore, it should be run daily. I would request you to complete the survey work for laying railway line between Bihata and Aurangabad. Four districts would be benefited by it. A large number of poor people are living in that area. If the railway line is laid in the districts of Patna, Arwal, Jahanabad

* Not recorded

[Shri Ram Kripal Yadav]

and Aurangabad then it would be beneficial for the poor people. Hon. Railways Minister may please pay attention towards it. I would also like to submit about Sadrisopur station of my constituency. The situation there is very bad. I would request him to introduce a METRO Train in Patna. The Hon. Minister himself has realised that the entire area from the banks of Ganga to Patna is over-loaded with traffic. A large number of people are being affected by it. Therefore, I have made this request.

15.28 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the chair*]

I will conclude after mentioning two-three points. A METRO train may please be introduced there. There is water-logged area (JALLA) near Banka Ghat. Railway line remains affected there. A METRO may please be introduced from Patna Sahib. He has started DMU from Patna Digha but it goes upto Patna city only. It may please be started from Patna Junction and extended upto Malsalani via Patna City to facilitate the public especially the poor people. He will be highly appreciated for it. There is water logged area near Bankaghat station. It is also very important. It will help almost 50 thousand farmers. There is no pantry car in Vikramshila-Delhi-Bhagalpur train. Please provide the pantry car in this train. The coaches in Delhi-Howrah Jan Shatabdi train are in poor condition. Kindly get them changed. The train between Bhagalpur and Delhi may also be changed. Jamalpur railway station may please be modernized.

I will conclude while submitting one more thing. I would be grateful to hon. Minister is the condition of Bihara railway station is improved. The work regarding the construction of bridges on River Ganga in my area and in Mungyr is going on at a low pace. I request the Railway Minister to get the construction work completed at the earliest.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your speech is finished now. Thank you.

Now, we will take up Private Members' Business. Please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: With this, I would like to express my gratitude toward the Hon. Railway Minister for presenting such a nice Railway Budget. It would help in development of not only Bihar but also the entire country. Unemployed youth would also get employment.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Private Members' Business. Please sit down. Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

Nothing else will go on record now.

(Interruptions)...*

15.30 hrs.

(I) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004**

(Insertion of new article 21 B)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

[English]

(II) PREVENTION OF TERRORISM
(REPEAL) BILL, 2004**

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to repeal the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 2002."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

(III) ABOLITION OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT
BILL, 2004**

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of capital punishment in India.

* Not recorded

** Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of capital punishment in India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

(iv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Amendment of article 155)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

(v) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Insertion of article 16A)

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (Trichur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

(vi) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Amendment of the Schedule)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.35½ hrs.

(vii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Amendment of the new article 16A)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

(viii) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Amendment to Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE (Bilaspur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHALE: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

(ix) ABOLITION OF CHILD LABOUR IN
HAZARDOUS EMPLOYMENT, 2004*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour in hazardous employment and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the abolition of child labour in hazardous employment and for matters connected therewith.."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.

15.37½ hrs.

(x) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2004*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.**

15.38 hrs.

(xi) GOVERNMENT SERVANTS (DECLARATION
OF ASSETS AND INVESTIGATION) BILL, 2004*

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and investigation of assets held by Government servants employed in certain departments and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for declaration and investigation of assets held by Government servants employed in certain departments and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA': I introduce the Bill.

15.38½ hrs.

(xii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Insertion of new article 16A)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: I introduce the Bill.**

15.39 hrs.

(xiii) VICTIMS OF NATURAL CALAMITIES
(REHABILITATION AND FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE) BILL, 2004*

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL (Hamirpur, U.P.): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and financial assistance to the victims of natural calamities such as flood, drought, cyclone, hailstorm and earthquake and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the rehabilitation and financial assistance to the victims of natural calamities such as flood, drought, cyclone, hailstorm and earthquake and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SURESH CHANDEL: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

(xiv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*
(Insertion of new article 16A)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce the Bill.**

15.41 hrs.

(xv) REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2004*

(Insertion of new article IVA)

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

(xvi) UNIVERSITY OF ALLAHABAD BILL, 2004*

[English]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish and maintain a teaching and residential University at Allahabad and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish and maintain a teaching and residential University at Allahabad and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 9-7-2004.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President

15.44 hrs.

**RESOLUTION RE: RESERVATION FOR SCs/STs
AND BACKWARD COMMUNITIES IN
PRIVATE SECTOR**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Private Members' Resolution regarding Reservation for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Backward communities in private sector to be moved by Shri S. Ajaya Kumar. Before we take up the Resolution for discussion, we have to fix the time for discussion on this Resolution. Generally, two hours are allotted in the first instance. If the House agrees, two hours may be allotted for discussion.

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR (Ottapalam): I beg to move:

"Having regard to the fact that unemployment situation in the country has aggravated due to disinvestment, privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings, downsizing of Government services and non-recruitment in Government Departments which has adversely affected the weaker sections particularly SC/STs and backward communities, this House urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for reservation in employment in favour of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and socially and educationally backward classes in private sector also."

The unemployment situation in the country is becoming more and more alarming as the generation of employment in all sectors has not registered an increase in tune with the increasing demand and also in many sectors the trend has been negative particularly during the last decade.

As per the report of the National Sample Survey Organisation, the rate of growth of employment declined from 2.7 per cent per annum in 1993-94 to 1.07 per cent per annum in 1994-2000. According to the Report, the number of unemployed increased from 20 million in 1993-94 to 27 millions in 1999-2000 and also the incidence of unemployment increased from 5.99 per cent in 1993-94 to 7.32 per cent in 1999-2000. At the end of 1996, there were over 36 million persons registered on the employment exchange of India. The number increased to 94 million by the year 2002. The rate of employment generation in the organised sector has declined from 2.4 per cent during 1971-81 period to 1.6 per cent per year during the 1981-91 period and to 0.8 per cent during the 1991-95 period basically due to the industrial sickness as result of ill-conceived economic policies pursued by the successive Governments and it is well demonstrated in the industrial growth rate as stated in

the Economic Survey 2003-04. In the agriculture sector also, the situation is highly disappointing as the employment in this sector dropped to 57 per cent in 1999-2000 from 60 per cent in 1993-94.

The problem of depletion of employment is clearly linked to the LPG policies pursued by the successive Governments at the Centre and the States for over one decade.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the other socially and economically backward communities are the ones who are most hit by this situation. The industrial units in the Public Sector and also the Central and State Governments were the major areas of employment generation and in these sectors the socially backward communities and other weaker sections enjoyed the chances of getting employment through the existing reservation policy only. But with the policy of privatising the Public Sector Units, downsizing of Government services and the ban on recruitment minimized the avenues of employment for these sections.

Agriculture sector used to provide about 60 per cent of the total employment in the country. More than 70 per cent of the people depend on this sector. Agriculture sector suffered heavily during this period owing to the above said policies. The decision of the Government to include agricultural produce in the list of reducing of import tariffs in accordance with the WTO conditions played havoc with our agriculture sector. Also, the stand of the Government cutting down the public investment in this sector coupled with the severe drought situations prevailed in many parts of the country in successive years crippled the Indian agriculture. Due to this situation, there were drastic reduction in the agricultural activities resulting in millions of agricultural labourers losing their work and means of livelihood and life security.

The Economic Survey 2003-04 says:

"More than 58 per cent of the population depends on agriculture, a sector producing only 22 per cent of GDP. While an acceleration in agricultural growth to 4 to 4.5 per cent is imperative, even with such growth, the share of agriculture in GDP is likely to reduce further. Therefore, there is a need to absorb excess agricultural labour in other sectors."

Sir, here it should be noted that the work force in the agriculture sector, especially in the rural areas are down in respect of the most vulnerable sections, like the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society. Therefore, to accommodate these sections, new avenues have to be explored and identified. Since the private sector is given priority of development and since there is a

reduction in the employment opportunities in public sector and Government sectors, extending the existing reservation facilities to the private sector is a must.

I urge upon the Government to actively facilitate the above perspective to ensure that the privilege of reservation is extended for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities to the private sector also. The unambiguous directive drawn in the National Common Minimum Programme is to be implemented with a definite time frame.

In this context, I wish to express my apprehension of possible delays and even vacillation from various constituencies in this regard. Corporate private sector is already up in arms against this idea in the name of efficiency and the dominating feudalistic mindset may also work in vehemence. Only with the will and determination of the Government, we will be able to achieve this great national goal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Resolution moved:

"Having regard to the fact that unemployment situation in the country has aggravated due to disinvestment, privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings, downsizing of Government services and non-recruitment in Government Departments which has adversely affected the weaker sections particularly SC/STs and backward communities, this House urges upon the Government to take immediate steps for reservation in employment in favour of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and socially and educationally backward classes in private sector also."

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the resolution moved by friend Shri S. Ajaya Kumar for the consideration of this House.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today, the biggest problem in the country is unemployment. Connecting this problem with the poorest of the poor and weaker section of the society, this resolution has been moved at an appropriate time to attract the attention of the Government and the country towards this problem. From the experience of 80 years of freedom struggle of our country, the framers of our constitution had understood the fact that if steps at official level are not taken for the upliftment of socially and educationally backward people, our society will remain in the same condition as it was thousands years ago. Framers of our constitution made two types of provisions for the upliftment of those people. The First provision provides for representation to the representative bodies of poor and dalit sections of the society.

Second provision states that the President of India would appoint a Commission to study the plight of socially and educationally backward people and Government of India would make efforts to solve the problems of those sections as per the recommendations of the Commission. In 1953, during the tenure of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Kaka Kalelkar Commission was constituted which submitted its recommendations in three years. However, those recommendations were not implemented. Thereafter, Government of India did not make any effort to implement them. In 1977 Janta Party came into power which had given assurance and made commitment in its election manifesto to implement the Kaka Kalelkar Commission report if it comes into power. But there were parties within the Janta Party and internal bickerings were going on and under the pressure of those who used to loot a big share of the majority sections of the society, Janata Party could not implement the report of Kaka Kalelkar Commission. Under some circumstances it was stated that the report of Kaka Kalelkar Commission has been obsolete and a new Commission should be constituted. In 1978-79, Mandal Commission was constituted which submitted its report in 1982 but its recommendations were also not implemented. In 1990 after the struggle of 8 years, its recommendations were implemented. Thereafter, a wave of privatisation spread in the country. When an atmosphere of globalisation and privatisation was created in this country, an allegation was levelled that this was a conspiracy to encroach upon or violate the rights given by the Constitution to Weaker and backward classes of the society. Now the Government in its common minimum programme, prepared for the smooth functioning of the Government, has appealed that it would get reservation law passed for providing jobs in private sector also to these sections of society consulting all sections and then it would like to implement it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the news items published in newspapers reveal that those sections whose interests are going to be affected by it, have refused to accept this decision of the Government. The big industrial houses have challenged this decisions and have stated that they need suitable candidates, they do not need to implement this reservation system. However, I think that this question of suitable candidate has always been raised to use it as a weapon to usurp the rights of weaker sections of the society. Through you, I would like to request that the Government should take firm action in this regard. Today, hon'ble Lalu Prasad ji is being praised for presenting the good railway budget. However, I would like to request him that in the recent years when Railways business is on the rise the number of its employees which stood at 21 lakh 10 years ago has been reduced to 16 lakh only. Who is most affected by it? Earlier commercial banks were the major areas of employment for the educated youths of the country. 10 years ago, 10 lakh people were employed in these banks but now the strength of the employees has been reduced to 8 lakh only in the

[Shri Mohan Singh]

name of automation and computerisation. In this manner employment opportunities for 2 lakh youths have been reduced in banking sector alone during the last 10 years.

I would also like to submit that as per the Committee of Ahluwalia Commission constituted by the Government through Planning Commission on eradication of unemployment, 4.5 crore educated youths are unemployed in the country at present. The document placed before the House shows maximum rise in unemployment in West Bengal at the rate of 18%. Kerala is at second place with the increasing rate of 14%. Uttar Pradesh and Bihar show the lowest increase in unemployment, Sir, can we believe these official figures. There are two basic reasons for the figures of poverty in Bihar and unemployment in Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Kerala. First is that there is almost 100% literacy among women, youths and men in Kerala. There is awareness among youths in West Bengal. Therefore educated unemployed youth who come on roads seeking jobs from Govt. get themselves registered in employment exchanges. That is why these two states have the highest percentage of unemployment. However, the States which are still backward and where most of the people are illiterate and unaware, show less number of unemployed though unemployment is increasing there also.

16.00 hrs.

Therefore, I want to submit that the need of the hour is that Government should intervene in all these sectors. Unfortunately, reservation has not been implemented till date in our judiciary which is also known as upper judiciary and which has all the responsibility to enforce legislative provisions made in our Constitution. As a result, poor, weak, dalit and backward people are not heard appropriately when they approach Court also. Economic offenders are able to get justice from Judiciary of India. Such people get full liberty in the name of natural justice. But when we approach judiciary seeking our just rights given to us under Constitution, it puts them in abeyance. Therefore, for the sake of justice, I demand from Govt. of India that reservation law should be applicable in Judiciary also as it is being implemented in all bodies of people's representatives be it Lok Sabha or Legislative Assembly.

Further I demand that in view of the present scenario of social development, a universal law should be enacted to make the reservation mandatory in all the employment providing agencies be it public sector or private sector or the multinational companies. The great leaders of our country studied thousands of years old Indian history and after understanding the social disparities and social backwardness of the country, they made an effective provision in the Constitution of the country. The ambit of that law should be

expanded and it should be made mandatory in all the employment providing institutions in the country.

While thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak, I support this resolution and I also extend thanks to Shri Ajaya Kumar to present this resolution in the House at most appropriate time.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is beyond doubt that unemployment is increasing in the country at an alarming rate. I recall a couplet of Ramcharitmanas in this regard. Tulsidas ji has written-

*"Jas-Jas Sursa badanu badhava,
tasu doon kapi roop dikhava"*

There is a mythological legend that "Maryada Purshotam Shri Ram" reached at sea-shore to go across the sea. But before him, Hanuman ji as a messenger of Shri Ram was crossing the sea to go to Lanka. At that time, Goddess of Snakes, Sursa emerged there and opened her mouth to stop Hanumanji. As Sursa started enlarging her mouth, Hanumanji also doubled his size as compared to her mouth.

Similarly, whichever Government came to power in the country after independence, undoubtedly it made efforts to remove unemployment but the problem is that the growth rate of population is higher than the rate of production. As a result, a right proportion could not be maintained between growth rate of production and population and unemployment is rising on a large scale. We have to think seriously to get rid of unemployment. We have to do something to remove the resentment prevailing in unemployed persons.

Our Constitution provides reservation to dalits, exploited, deprived, suppressed, scheduled castes and scheduled tribe people, be it in political sector or in the matter of employment. Initially this reservation was for 10 years but this time period continued to be extended. Later on, when Mandal Commissions's Report was implemented, OBCs were also given reservation. Consequently, there is a provision for 15% reservation to scheduled castes, 7.5% reservation to scheduled tribes and 27% reservation to other backward classes in central Government's jobs. The reservation quota for OBCs is 21% in some states and it differs in some other States also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, apart from this, reservation is being provided for the upliftment of ex-servicemen, handicapped, widows and minorities. It is on account of this that the limit of reservation keeps on increasing. Hon. Shri Ajaya Kumar in his proposal, has highlighted the fact that it is on account of disinvestments of public sector and consequent reduction in Government services and restriction on the recruitment in Government departments that the problem of

unemployment in the country has become more grave and the people belonging to the weaker sections of society especially SCs/STs have been affected. The steps should be taken to provide employment and reservation to the SCs/STs and the socially backward sections of society at the earliest. The present motion has been moved with this spirit in mind.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this proposal is very good from the point of view of the principles and the social justice. It should be welcomed however, somewhere the politics of vote is working behind this. Somewhere the limit of reservation will have to be fixed and practical approach to be adopted. The present Prime Minister while he was the Minister of finance in Narsimha Rao Government had adopted the policy of liberalization and globalisation and had signed on W.T.O. We talk about liberalization, globalisation, privatization and competition. If we want to compete and remain competitive then we cannot do it by reservation alone. After all, we will have to adopt practical approach and take into account ability and competence along with reservation. First of all, we will have to make those sections competent whom we want to provide employment. They will be provided employment in private sectors only after achieving ability and competence.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there are bigger institutes like Indian Institute of Management in the country from where thousands of students come out after completing their study. Whatever may be their religion, castes or class the students of all religion, castes and class compete for banking and other services after attaining ability and competence. No discrimination is made on the basis of castes or class. Whether they are minorities, majority exploited or dalits, employment is provided to them all. On what basis they get these jobs, they are provided employment on the basis of their ability and competence. No body objects if employment is provided after making them competent. On the one hand while I support it in principle and on other hand I would like to submit that we should adopt practical approval in the matter of employment.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some section of UPA Govt. are adamant for providing reservation in private sector since the formation of the government. If the reservation in private sector were so essential, the Prime Minister like Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, Shri Morarji Desai, Shri Chandra Shekhar, Shri Deve Gowda ji, Shri Gujral ji, Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh ji and hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee would have advocated for providing reservation in private sector but they did not do so despite remaining in power. Now when there is saturation in government jobs and lucrative jobs are left only in private companies, they are demanding reservation in private sector. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is need to provide reservation in jobs in private companies. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not yielding. I request that the hon. Member should remain seated and allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Athawale ji, you please sit down. You will also be given opportunity to speak. You should speak when you are allowed to do so.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present condition of our Public Sector Undertakings is known to all. Their cases are going on in BIFR. Thousands of employees of Public Sector Undertakings are being retrenched under the voluntary retirement scheme. Most of the public sector undertakings are running in loss. It is due to this fact, leftists always bring some proposal for the revival of sick units so that they may become profitable and earn profit. The companies which are in private sector have to face global competition whether it is from China, America, England or France. Foreign Companies are establishing their units in India and Indian companies are going in other countries. It is on account of their ability and competence that they are joining Information Technology and other sectors. If a person is suitable, competent and expert in Management and has received training and meets all requirements then he or she must be placed in private sector without discrimination on the basis of caste and class. However, through you I would like to submit to the House that if a person who has not received any training and is not competent is employed only because he or she is SC/ST or OBC then the production of the company will get affected and it will not be able to compete in global market. All the major industrial Unions like, CCI, Indian Chamber of Commerce and other big organizations such as FICCI are giving joint statement regarding the reservations in private sectors since then this idea has been floated. "Ek taraf edhar ati, ek taraf udhar ati"

[English]

Excess of everything is bad.

[Translation]

Excess of everything cannot be regarded as good. On the one hand while the representatives of Industries and employees in private sector are opposing the reservation in private sector and on the other hand some of the allies in the Government are advocating for the reservation in private sector so there should be some sort of middle path. Industry Federations have stated that they are ready for imparting training. The government should provide necessary facilities to the Dalit sections. ...*(Interruptions)* let me finish my speech. I am talking a little bit away from the popular line. I am supporting it in principle.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

Sir, I would like to submit that if the Government agree to provide required facilities and financial assistance to the SC/ST OBC students for their training and make them competent, then there will be no any difficulties in providing them employment in private sector. If all types of facilities are provided to SC/ST and OBC students for their education and they are made competent for competition then they may get employment easily. I personally feel that they will get employment everywhere and will be in better position to avail the benefit of reservation.

Sir, with your permission I would like to quote whatever has been stated by the federation of industry and others. That is also a view point and we should think over it. It says "In a press conference raising the issue of reservation, the chairman of CII remarked that it is a serious and complex issue and it is essential to go at the root for the concrete solution. He said that we are living in globalised economic system. In this situation, how can one compromise with ability and competence. Regarding the competition, he said that how can one compromise on it. He said that in view of the priorities and social responsibilities of the government they are ready to impart training to the people belonging backward class for making them competent for various industrial sectors. Alluding towards the danger of reservation in private sectors he told that as the report of the World Economic Forum in the global competition of development India have slipped to 56th position by losing 8 steps while in industrial competitiveness it is still at 37th position". Earlier India was at higher rank and now it has slipped to 56th position while in industrial competitiveness it is still at 37th position. In the industrial competitiveness our country is at 37th position. However from the global view point. We have come down in that competition. So China is much ahead of India in this respect. Not only this there is huge disparity among various States of the country regarding the competition. So, keeping in view this competition, we will have to find out lasting solution to this problem by taking practical steps so that we may provide opportunity of employment in private sector to the exploited sectors of society and make India prosperous by maintaining the existence of the country in the present economic age. Many thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPA (Trichur): Sir, I stand to support the Resolution moved by Shri Ajaya Kumar. I was amazed at hearing the speech made from the BJP bench. It reminded me of the arguments advanced by the leaders of apartheid to the people of Africa that 'you are not civilized enough, you are not educated enough and you cannot be independent, whereas we are educated, we are civilized and we will rule you for thousand years.' I do not know how this kind of argument can be advanced here.

Here is a case where unemployment is acute. There is no credible statistics by which we can say that there is so much of unemployment. Some say it is four crores and some say it is six crores and all that, but the fact of the matter is that in this country there is a lot of unemployment. When there is a lot of unemployment, at the same time, as the Mover of the Resolution had pointed out, there are various areas where employment opportunities are denied. Employment opportunities are denied in the Government in the name of no recruitment. Employment opportunities are denied in the Government and in private companies in the name of downsizing. Employment opportunities are again denied to the most down-trodden section in the public sector undertakings because they are privatised or disinvested. So, this creates a certain new situation in the country. Over and above, it is a question of tackling serious unemployment situation.

Here, these new policies create conditions where people, who would have otherwise got employment opportunities, are denied these. Now, take the case of the present Budget proposals. In the Budget, it is proposed that disinvestment is going to take place in a big way in LIC, civil aviation and telecom. I think these are the three sectors proposed. These are the areas where people used to get employment based on reservation. Now, it may be FICCI's argument or it may be CII's argument that they want competitive edge, this and that. That is precisely what the champions of apartheid also were arguing that those people were not civilised enough and that they were not educated enough.

Here, in this country, the Constitution stands committed that the people, the STs and SCs who, due to historical reasons, are not provided the opportunities to come forward in life, should be taken by hand and put to the forefront. When we advance, when the society advances, we want those people also to go along with us. If your argument is accepted that they should be trained first, that they should be educated first, then they will have to wait for centuries to get employment. You are supporting reservation, but it would be a left-handed compliment. We are saying that reservation should be there. In the given conditions of India, when reservation, as a matter of principle, is accepted in the Constitution, here are certain new areas where opportunities are denied because of the Government's policy. We want reservation to ensure job opportunities in those sectors where disinvestment and privatisation are taking place.

Another point is, India got independence 57 years ago. Now, 57 years have passed.

A child born in 1947 would turn 60 in another three years; still we could not do much justice to the backward

classes and the tribals. There are many appalling stories one could narrate. The tribals who wanted shelter and job had agitated in Kerala were shot down. The tribal who got killed was not compensated, whereas the policeman who shot them down was compensated, this happened to the Muthanga incident. The tribals were not compensated by the Government. This happened even 57 years after we attained independence. This is the condition of the poor, especially the socially oppressed, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So, how are we going to implement the pledge made by the founding fathers of the Constitution? This is a thing that everyone of us sitting here should get a little more worried about. If that has to be done, concrete steps have to be visualised by which the backlog could be eliminated.

The proposal is that in Private Sector employment there should be reservation based on backwardness for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I do not think, there is anything wrong in the demand. Why somebody should get worried because the FICCI has said something. The FICCI and other organisations might be thinking only in terms of making more profits in their business but this House should be more concerned about the health of the country, the future of the country and the future of the most down-trodden sections. Therefore, I say, this is a serious proposal which deserves serious consideration of the House. This is a proposal that has come at the right time, because more privatisation means more denial of jobs to the socially oppressed. So, I propose that more serious thought should be given to this proposal. Maybe, if we cannot right now adopt this Resolution, you may think in terms of setting up a Parliamentary Committee to examine this proposal and come forth with a Report so that the House could debate and decide to the Report.

I support this Resolution. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE (Pandharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Ajay Kumarji has raised in the House the issue of providing reservation to the persons of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in private sector, so as to provide them social-justice. In the proposal, it has been said that people of socially, economically and educationally weaker sections for thousands of years should be uplifted by providing them assistance. Their upliftment is meaningless if they are not provided with power. The Congress Party, our R.P.I., Communist Party and all other parties had raised the issue of providing reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in this election. If the representatives of FICCI and CJI talk of merit, I would like to say that the Constitution of this country was framed by Shri Babasaheb Ambedkarji. Babasaheb Ambedkarji belonged to Dalit Class.

Likewise, the writer of 'The Ramayana' Maharshi Valmiki was from Scheduled Castes. Maharshi Vyas also belonged to Backward Class. The former President also belonged to Dalit Class. He has handled the affairs of the country very well. The Deputy Prime Minister, Shri Jagjeevan Ramji was also from Dalit Class. His daughter Shrimati Meira Kumar is a Minister here.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you also come from Dalit Class. Presently, you are running the House. Likewise, Chief Ministers of many states are from Dalit Class. What I mean to say is that everyone has merit. The reservation policy does not mean to increase 20 percent seats if a factory needs, 100 employees to be run. If you have to fill up hundred seats, you will have to provide reservations to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per the norms of reservation policy. If the issue of social-justice is to be talked about, the industrialists of our country should not have this sort of opinion. They live in India and if they want the welfare of the people of India, they should not have such opinion. The Congress Party led Government and Shrimati Sonia Gandhi had assured us. Dr. Manmohan Singh has assumed the office of Prime Minister. Reservation should be made available in private sector. This needs an amendment in the Constitution. The people who want to oppose this, let them oppose. Dissension should be there in democracy. You formulate the law. Those who have to run the factory will have to provide reservation. My suggestion is that reservation for SCs and STs should be provided in private sector. In the industries which are to be privatised, the Government should hold 51 percent shares and only 49 percent share should be of private sector. In this way the reservation policy will remain automatically implemented.

The population of Scheduled Castes was 15 percent when the Constitution was framed. But their population has immensely increased in 54 years and some other castes have been included in the list of SCs. 15 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and 7.5 percent reservation for Scheduled Tribes was available earlier. Now 10 percent reservation for Scheduled Castes and 10 percent reservation for Scheduled Tribes should be provided. There is a need to increase this percentage by 5.5 percent. My point is not to express that reservation for others should not be provided. Till now, reservations for all categories have not been completed in 54 years by the Government be it of any party. Reservation in class one and class two has also not been completed till now. Private sectors should not take it as they have to recruit SCs and STs by removing others. These people should be recruited in their places as and when they get retirement. Reservation in new factories should be provided only in accordance with reservation policy. We are sons-in-law of the Government, we are getting a lot. 3 percent reservation should be provided for Brahmin community in

[Shri Ramdas Bandu Athawale]

addition to 22.5 percent and 5.5 percent. We have no objection in providing reservation to people of rest of the castes in proportion to their population.

There is a caste namely Ghumandu in the state of Maharashtra. It consists 10 percent of the total population. My suggestion is that this community should also be provided with the facilities being provided to the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and for this purpose there is a need to formulate Third Schedule. They should get this facility in the field of education and services. There is a need to provide reservation to the people of that community in Politics, Parliament, Assembly, Zila Parishad and Panchayat. This is my suggestion. Meera Kumarji, my another suggestion is that there is a need to include reservation in the Ninth schedule. If this reservation is included in the Ninth Schedule then a legal restriction would automatically be imposed on moving the court and reservation can get protection. Hence, this should be included in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

At the same time, if reservation is to be given full protection, there is a need to formulate a reservation Act. If it takes 54 years in the implementation of reservation policy, it is not a good thing. Once a reservation Act is formulated, every officer will have to comply with it in filling up the reserved post. Whether it is Supreme Court or High Court, judges are available there. If more judges are appointed there, cases can be disposed off at early dates. It is on account of this that there should not be any doubt about their quality. Besides, out of five Memorandums, three have been withdrawn but they have not been implemented so far. That also needs a serious thought. The U.P.A. Government need to withdraw the pending office Memorandums. He can give a serious consideration on the papers concerned. If Constitution has given directives regarding implementation of reservation policy, if there are laws, reservations should certainly be filled up. I support the proposal which Ajay Kumarji has moved regarding providing reservation in private sector. Let them oppose who have objections. We should not pay much attention to these objections. Rawatji, I was of the view that you were supporting from that side. When you were in this side you were a good speaker.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: We are supporting in principle.

SHRI RAMDAS BANDU ATHAWALE: You did support but when you were in this side, everything was right but being in that side it seems something suspicious. I have listened your speeches. You were a good speaker on the issue of Dalits whenever it was raised. You have also supported. Now you are right in that side too. There should not be double opinion in the House. Adivasis and Dalits should be uplifted. Even today, atrocities are also being committed against them.

They are not allowed to enter the temples as well. Their condition is not good in rural areas. Hence, they should be provided justice. I would like to tell the U.P.A. Government that Adivasis and Dalits have extended their support to a large extent and it is on account of this that we have come in power. Therefore, it would be better, if their interests are protected. People of these classes should be dispensed justice, whether I get ministerial birth or not and the Government should work for the welfare of these classes. I believe that Manmohan Singhji led Government will consider about the reservation in private Sector. With these words, I conclude and thank Ajay Kumarji.

[English]

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, I support the Resolution. Now, we are all aware that there is a constitutional provision for reservation.

In the Constitution, it was provided only for ten years. Dr. Ambedkar was very particular that the reservation should not be a rule of perpetuity. It is not a long-standing process, and it is for a temporary period only. The law of perpetuity does not govern reservation. But, unfortunately the situation presently available in the country is otherwise. We have amended the Constitution regarding reservation about five or six times. What was the purpose of doing so? It was for the simple purpose of extending the period of reservation. The framers of the Constitution provided it for ten years, but in spite of that fact the socio-conditions available in the nation remained static.

I am a person who has participated in the freedom struggle. I am still alive and I was one of the persons who hoisted the national flag on 15 August 1947. Even today the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes remain as they were when we won the freedom, of course, there may be some cosmetic changes. But the basic fact is that the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes could not be brought to the mainstream. We thought of making the persons who were socially backward equal to all others. They must be equal to the forward community. That was the aim, but we could not achieve that aim. That is due to lack of political determination. The rulers who were governing the country did not have a will to make the provisions effective of making the reservation process a non-entity. Unfortunately, that could not be done.

Now, it may be stated that the Nehru era followed a policy of public enterprises. We had more or less nationalised almost all services like banking, railways, telephones, etc. All these were nationalised, and there was a provision for reservation for the backward classes as well as for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Now, it is an era of globalisation, privatisation, liberalisation and a good name is given to it, namely, reform process. Reform process is the name given to this change. What is the result of that change? Every day employment opportunities are getting diminished in the public sector as well as in the private sector. Reservation quota in the public sector is getting diminished, employment opportunities are getting diminished, and unemployment is the order of the day. In such a situation, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will be in a deplorable state of affairs.

What is the thinking of the judiciary? Of course, the judicial pronouncements have enshrined the individual rights of the citizens, but in the matter of collective rights, the judiciary is taking a reverse step. They are not even rising up to the occasion in collective rights, that is, collective bargaining by the workers. They say that the workers have no right to strike. They have given a decision against the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act. The workers do not get a right to strike at work, and the Supreme Court declares strike itself as illegal. Why is it so? It is because they are also following the policies of commercialisation, liberalisation, globalisation, privatisation, and those policies have influenced the judiciary also. The judiciary is also influenced by these trends in the society like globalisation and privatisation.

In the world of competition the judiciary is a part of it. But they will say that for individual rights they will be all right, but for collective rights the judiciary will be negative. That is what we see nowadays. Even processions are banned. You cannot take a procession on a public road. For what purpose do they take out a procession? It is to get the citizens' grievances redressed, and that is being denied by the judiciary by taking a negative attitude in support of globalisation. Globalisation has influenced even the Indian judiciary. We all know that India is a party to so many international treaties. We are a party to the World Trade Organisation. We have the World Trade Treaty; we are also a member or we belong to the International Labour Organisation. India is a signatory to the International Labour Law. The International Labour Law is very, very particular that the workers have a right to strike work. However, the Supreme Court is not aware of it. They have given a verdict against the International Labour Law. India has become an uncivilised nation by this verdict; denying the right of the workers to strike work for getting their grievances redressed. The collective bargaining is denied in India by the Indian judiciary. A judiciary which stood for independence, a judiciary which stood for citizens' rights, they had gone to the extent of denying these collective rights. That is the trend of the day.

The social backwardness is not because of the fault of somebody. The social backwardness is due to some social systems which prevailed in India, that is, *Varnashrama*

Dharma, which was the order of the day. The SC/ST people were treated as untouchables. They were denied the right to walk on a public road. They were denied the right to study in public schools. Even Dr. Ambedkar had to attend the school in a separate batch, at a separate place. He was not allowed to dine with his classmates in the same class. He was not allowed to take lessons along with them. He was seated at a different place. That was the situation available in India. These people were treated as untouchables and they could not be seen as human beings. That was the situation available in India. That is the historical background which is not one man's creation. Since they were socially backward, since they were untouchables, even the basic rights were denied to these people. When India became free, we made some statutes, and untouchability is an offence now. In spite of those facts, the SC/ST people are even now denied their legitimate rights.

What is the position in the public service? Even when the Railway Budget was introduced day before yesterday by our Railway Minister, it was stated that even in respect of appointment of railway employees, they could not fill up the gaps in the reservation quota of SCs and STs because suitable candidates or qualified persons were not available. Therefore, there is a backlog in the matter of filling up of SC/ST quota even in Railways. In public service also, they are denied the opportunity of getting employment for a long time. That injustice has not been redressed so far. Now, we are facing a situation where almost all these public undertakings are being privatised, and getting employment for the SCs and STs is becoming very, very acute. This can be remedied only by a statutory measure. There must be some political determination to save these SC/ST people from ruin. In what way can we save them? The Supreme Court may take a different view, but whenever licences are issued for starting a private enterprise or a private firm, there must be a condition preceded that they will observe rules of reservation in the matter of employment. That is not an encroachment of the fundamental rights. Even reasonable restrictions can be imposed on fundamental rights. So, when a State Government or the Central Government issues a licence to a new private enterprise, it must be made a condition precedent that reservation should be made available in all categories of employment in that particular concern. That must be a condition precedent in the matter of issuing licences. What is the difficulty?

If at all the Supreme Court finds that this is opposed to the fundamental rights, then Constitutional protection could be given to this provision by bringing it under the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. We can put in a separate clause to this effect and invoke it whenever a licence is obtained by a private concern from a State Government or the Central Government. What is the difficulty? So, if there is a will, there

[Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan]

is a way! If the State Governments and the Central Government have the sincere will to implement this provision of appointing SCs and STs, it could be done by giving Constitutional protection to the legislation that is being discussed. We can make legislation like that.

The Governments are issuing licences for setting up universities; for setting up medical colleges, for starting railway and telecommunication facilities, etc. In almost all the fields of activity, the State and Central Governments are issuing licences. When a licence, or registration or recognition is granted, it must be made a condition precedent, it must be made mandatory, that that would be subject to the rule of reservation. Can we do that? If we can do that, something can be done in this regard.

That is why, at the outset, I have very definitely said that if there is a political will, there is a way. If there is a will to protect the SCs and STs, we can find an easy method of giving a real answer to the demand made by the Mover of the Resolution. I strongly support him.

PROF. M. RAMADASS (Pondicherry): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the motion moved by Mr. Ajaya Kumar, which has got far-reaching ramifications for the socio-economic development of the under privileged communities of this country. This Resolution is about the need for reservation in employment in the private sector. There is a case for it and there is a case against it.

The Hon. Member from the BJP bench, I think, was almost confused on whether to provide a case for or against this Resolution. Ultimately, he ended up in a dilemma. He said that merit is important. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is opposing it. The private sector is opposing it. It is being said that the globalisation process will be halted and the whole world will come to a grinding halt. I do not think there is a grain of truth in the argument provided by the BJP Member or by the captains of industry in this country.

Merit cannot be tested the way in which they want to test it. Saying that SC, ST and Backward Classes people are devoid of merit is, to say the least, an insult to the two largest communities of this country. How can he presume that these people do not have merit? You teach them, you train them, then provide them jobs, and then provide jobs to everybody. What has our experience taught us?

We are not saying that people from the backward communities, or scheduled communities, are wanting in any respect. There are scientists from these communities; there are great administrators from these communities; and there are academicians from these communities. Where else have they not shined? Where have they been found wanting in

merit? Do you think they would be wanting in merit working in the private sector? Who is contributing to the productivity of the private sector today? It is the workers who have gone from the SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes communities. Who are contributing to the production and productivity of the various private sector industries? They are exploiting the labour of these communities and show the profits and say that merit is very important. Are they not meritorious people who are contributing to the output which is being exported to the foreign countries through which you are getting greater amount of foreign exchange? Where is the question of merit? They are not wanting in it. I do not think that the profitability of the private sector will go down if they employ the people from these communities. They are equally competent; they are equally meritorious; they are equally efficacious; and they are equally efficient. Therefore, you cannot put an argument that everything will go to doldrums if these people are employed in private sector.

Secondly, I would like to ask the question as to what is the component of private sector as such. What is private in the private sector? Everything is public there. You take a large-scale industry; you take a medium scale industry or any institution in the private sector. Who is financing these industries in the private sector? It is the Industrial Development Bank of India which is a public corporation which is financing these industries. The commercial banks are giving credit. The Government is giving credit. Everything is provided by the Government. Therefore, there is no such thing as a private sector. If the private sector people and the captains of industries who spend five per cent or ten per cent of their capital cannot presume themselves as the owners of the properties which they create. I would say in the language of Mahatma Gandhi that they are only the trustees of the public property. Private sector is only the trustee of the public property. Therefore, they have a social responsibility towards the people of this country, who are numerically strong. In this case, the numerically stronger people come from the SCs, STs and OBCs who constitute about 85 per cent of the population of this country. If the private sector people cannot respect the sentiments; if they cannot understand the backwardness of these people, if they cannot provide livelihood to the people, and if they cannot ensure security of their lives, we do not require this kind of private sector in this country. If they want to coexist in this country, if they want to enjoy the privileges and if they want to enjoy the concessions of the Government of India or the various State Governments, which are provided at the taxpayer's expense - every penny that is given by the Government to the private sector is indirectly the taxpayers money of this country - they have the responsibility towards the society and they have to provide jobs to these people. Therefore, they cannot shirk away or say that they cannot employ them.

It is really amazing that the Parliament of India have to take into account the views of these people who are financed by the Government itself. Hon. Member comes to this House and says that the will of the CII is more important in deciding the fate and destiny of this country.

I am reminded of the classical statement of Jawaharlal Nehru. He said that to wipe out every tear from every Indian eye has been our ambition, that may be beyond us. But as long as there are tears, our work will not be over. This was the mission of India. This was the mission of Independence. This was the mission of freedom.

Sir, you will agree that even today the tears in the eyes of Indians have not been wiped out. That means our work has not been completed. Who are the people who are filled with these tears? It is the SCs, STs and Other Backward Classes communities, who are not vertically moved in the scale of development. There is a horizontal mobility here and there but they have not really moved in proportion to the size of the population. There may be a microscopic minority among these people who have moved and who have proved their mettle in various walks of life wherever they have gone. Therefore, Sir, we cannot discount the case for reservation for OBCs, SCs and STs in the private sector in the present circumstance.

If the Government had taken the path of socialistic pattern as envisaged by the Indian Constitution and as espoused by Jawaharlal Nehru and as championed by Dr. Ambedkar, the great forefathers of this country, and if they had gone into the path of socialistic pattern in building up the public sector, we would not have been begging with the private sector for reservation in jobs. But unfortunately, we have reversed the growth path. We have taken up the socialistic pattern of society from 1951 and we came up to 1986. From 1986, we have reversed the path towards the private sector. The agony of this country is that we are reversing the paths and progress with great implications for this country and because today in the name of economic reforms, we would like to support the private sector, we want to nourish the private sector. The people are losing jobs. In the name of economic reforms we have downsized our Government departments; we have downsized the expenditure for the Government departments; we have disinvested in the public sector. These are all the areas which have provided employment opportunities to these people with reservation principle. The principle of reservation was there but now all the gates are getting closed. You are opening the gates of the private sector. I do not say that you are opening the Pandora's box but you are opening up the doors of the private sector and the private sector has to accept the social responsibility and they will have to provide jobs to these people.

That is why the Common Minimum Programme which has been agreed to by all the coalition parties has endorsed the view that there should be reservation for SCs and STs in the private sector. Fortunately enough, the Mover of the Resolution has added the Other Backward classes also. Therefore, when the Resolution is accepted, it should be accepted in toto. We should be able to provide the respective percentage of reservation after a careful study of the whole issue. Therefore, we should be able to accept this principle of reservation in the private sector and this is one of the ways of helping these downtrodden people to come up. What will happen to those who are educated in these communities, who happen to be the first generation learners. I would like to remind you, Sir, that they are not second generation learners. They go to the schools, colleges, and universities to get degrees with great toil and moil. With great financial constraints, the parents of these children educate them and they get their degrees. When you say that there are no jobs in the public sector and if you say that they are from backward communities, therefore, there are no jobs for them in the private sector, where will they go? They get frustrated and the radical among the frustrated, turn into different kinds of people. When the parents find that their children do not get a job, they lament on educating their children. The second boy or girl is not educated and they are asked to go back to their traditional occupations. If he is a son of an agricultural labourer, he will have to be only an agricultural labourer. If he is a son of a fisherman, he has to become a fisherman only. Then, where is the social mobility for which the Indian Constitution stands? Therefore, it is the Constitutional duty of this august House that we should unanimously decide to move this Resolution and bring about a Bill or amendment to the Constitution. In whatever capacity - I am not an expert to say as that - it is required. It should be brought and unanimously accepted.

17.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhunjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to extend my thanks to Shri Ajay Kumar ji for moving this motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to say one thing. Now we have little time so it will be better if each of the Member speaks only for five minutes.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: There are 23-24 members of my party in the House. I have not spoken even for a single minute.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will be better for us. I want that every one should be accommodated.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: We always cooperate with the Chair.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may continue.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to extend my compliments to Shri Ajay Kumar ji for moving this Private Member's Bill as it is fully in consonance with the provisions of the constitution. It is clearly mentioned in Article 15(4) and 16(4) of the constitution -

[English]

Socially and educationally backward classes of citizens or for the scheduled castes and the scheduled Tribes....

[Translation]

That means these people will not be deprived which means that there are provisions in the constitution for providing special opportunity to them. Similarly in Article 16(4) of the constitution it is mentioned that there will be no discrimination against them. Now situation is changing. After 56 years of independence new scenario is emerging. The process of privatization is leading to economic changes and the policy of globalisation and privatization are adopted in the name of economic liberalization. The policy of disinvestments has reduced the opportunities of employment. So the need of the hour is to find out the way to strike balance in changing contemporary scenario. Hence, the provision of reservation to SC, ST and OBC in private sector undertaking is essential. Rasa Singh Rawat ji is a veteran Member and probably he has been elected for the fifth time in the House. It agonized me while I was listening to him. I felt pain because it is a question of mentality. When there will upliftment in the country there will be upliftment of the people below poverty line, the poorest of the poor people. Mahatma Gandhi was the greatest leader of this country who faced this nation. His dream was for Antyodaya - the upliftment of the last person. Where the objective of the upliftment of the last person of society will be achieved? The constitution is full of such provisions. It is contained in article 15(4) and 16(4) of the constitution regarding the fundamental Rights. But how the social justice will be given to these deprived classes? I honour the views of Rasa Singh Rawat ji that it will affect the quality, there will be no healthy competition and it is a matter of competence, however, I was surprised to note that how did he acquire such mentality. Today in a charging scenario when the process of privatization is going on the employment opportunities are declining. Where will they go? Where will so many people go? If they are not accommodated in private sector where will they go? Where will the people who are very much poor those who are dalits, deprived, OBC extremely backward, go? 54 per cent people belong to backward class

and if scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are included then it is 24 per cent. If the present Census 2001 is taken as base the population of scheduled castes and scheduled tribes has further increased. The reason for the poverty of the people below poverty line is unemployment. Since there is unemployment they are poor. Those who are living in poverty are not able to afford two Square meals. You are talking about competence. They have all their memory with them selves. Will those who are destined to work in the fields and forests and whose fate is attached with menial works, not get reservation in private sector? What do you want? Where do you want to lead this country? Is it not true vision of BJP to make a harmonious society? I am personally hurt to listen to Rasa Singh Rawat ji in the House. Normally I do not discuss such things. However, I would like to submit that the mention of competence in the speech of Rasa Singh Rawat ji reflects the feudal mentality that will widen the social gap between upper and lower strata of society. First give us opportunity only after that, please judge whether we can compete with others or not. It has been proved in India. Where is talent? When the constitution was being framed at the time of independence, was there any match to the talent of Dr. Ambedkar? Where had their intelligence and talent gone? They considered Dr. Ambedkar most intelligent. First give us opportunity and then see whether we can compete or not. First let us swim. We are deprived of opportunity and then it is propagated that we are not able to compete. Our competence will be tested only when we are given opportunity to hold responsible posts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this resolution it has been advocated to give opportunity to these sections. Dr. Lohia had also said this and had propounded the principle of equal opportunity. The competence and ability of the weaker sections, backward class will be proved only when special opportunity is given to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a saying- where there is will there is way. The present government has will. That is why it has been clearly mentioned in national common minimum programme of UPA government that it will certainly consider providing reservation to weaker sections and SC/ST people. It has been clearly indicated in it. It is the commitment of the United Progressive Alliance and when there is commitment there should not be objection from any corner.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like that provision should be made in the Tenth Schedule of the constitution for the reservation of SC/ST and OBC people and the reservation should be made on the basis of percentage of population of the said categories. It should also be ensured that reservation is provided to different categories of people as per the percentage of their population. If the population of SC is more,

more seats should be reserved for them. Similarly if the population of ST is less, less number of seats should be reserved for them. In the same way, reservation should be provided to OBC population also as per their numerical strength.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, here the issue of ability and competence has been raised. I would like to submit that whosoever party is in power, it has social responsibility. It is the social responsibility of every government to uplift the backward people. I am sorry to submit that Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat did not consider it and raised the question of competence and capability. He said that practical approach should be adopted regarding the capability and reservation should be provided on the basis of competence. In fact that the policy of his party would also have been to uplift those who are backward and oppressed and are leading inferior quality of life. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since my name has been mentioned so through you, I would like to clarify and submit to the hon. Member that I support this resolution in principle and supporting this resolution and adopting the pragmatic approach have urged to follow middle path so that remain intact and the necessity of the country is also fulfilled.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very much like the saying: 'to swallow the camel, to strain at the guars.' If the backward section of the country is not socially and educationally uplifted how will they be uplifted. From where did come the pragmatic approach? Such literacy jargons are the source of exploitation. What is pragmatism in it what is its practical aspect? What is the meaning of practical aspect in this context? Do this class not work for creating the wealth for the country? Right from the agriculture to all types of menial works are done by this class but today the same class is being suppressed. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you come from Punjab. You must be aware that right from the lifting and stitching to the porting of wheat bags in the market all menial jobs are done by the same class. The rich people can not eat money. They will eat wheat and rice. It is the same class that cultivate it. The vegetables are grown by the poor people. This is the class that feed rich people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, view can it be that those who feed others will remain hungry themselves. What kind of country do that side want to make? Disparity is increasing in the country and the small development of country can be achieved only by eradicating it. Balanced society can be made only when proper opportunity is provided to lower class for their upliftment and equal opportunity is provided. Doctor Saheb has rightly remarked that we will have to wipe the

tears of the poor. Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat ji will pardon me as I am going to submit a little bit harsh thing. Though I do not use unparliamentary expressions, however, what I am going to submit is a little bit harsh. If such mentality prevails in society and tears of the poor are not wiped and they are suppressed under such mentality then those tears will be dried up and it will take the form of acid. Once it comes out it will not be good for the country. That is why we should wipe the tears of SC/ST people and present the situation to deteriorate further. I would like to request only this that the reservation should be provided to each of the class in ratio of their population.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS (Paighat): I rise to support the Resolution moved by my colleague, Shri Ajaya Kumar. Major points have already been covered by the earlier speakers. I will not take much of the time of the House in repeating them.

At the outset, I must say that the situation demands that we pass this Resolution. I must tell the House the situation prevailing in our country now. There is a provision in the Constitution giving certain percentage of reservation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the backward communities in the public sector as well as Government services. For the last ten years, as pointed out by my senior colleague Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, there is a total recruitment ban not only in the Central services but also in the State services. Everybody can see what is happening. When a person retires from a post, with his retirement that post also retires or disappears. There is not at all new recruitment, even on the compassionate grounds. In this House, I think either in 2002 or 2003, while presenting the Budget an announcement was made to ban the Banking Recruitment Board. It was abolished. There is no recruitment either in the Railways or in the public sector. Our public sector is almost disappearing. Foreign capitalists are coming to our country. Almost 70 per cent of equity participation in aviation sector is by foreigners. Our public sector is almost disappearing. In such a situation what is the meaning of giving this reservation to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities? What is meant by having such a provision in our Constitution when there is no recruitment either in public sector or in Central as well as State Government services?

This is the reality. So, the situation demands that we pass this Resolution. We have to enact and insert this provision in our Constitution. My senior colleague, Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat, is a very good friend of mine. While supporting this Resolution he had pointed out certain pragmatic difficulties. I once again say, where there is a will there is a way. We have to find out a way to tackle these pragmatic

[Shri N.N. Krishnadas]

difficulties and enact such legislation. The whole of our public sector is disappearing. There is a total ban in the recruitment everywhere. So, the situation demands it and this is the justification to pass this Resolution.

I do not want to take much of the time of the House. All the valid points have been covered by the earlier speakers. It is my request that this august House should unanimously adopt this Resolution moved by Shri Ajaya Kumar. We have to find out a way to tackle these constitutional technicalities.

With these words, I support this Resolution. I would request this august House to adopt this Resolution unanimously.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to go for some urgent work. Since the Chairperson is not present here, I may request Shri Hannan Mollah to be in the Chair for some time.

17.16 hrs.

(SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH in the Chair)

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM (Bhadrachalam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I want to speak on the Railway Budget.

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Sir, he wants to speak on the Railway Budget.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are having discussion on the Resolution regarding reservation of jobs in private sector for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. If you want to speak on this, you can speak. You are a new Member but you have to change the subject.

DR. BABU RAO MEDIYAM: Sir, I want to support the Resolution put forward by the hon. Member, Shri Ajaya Kumar. It is the need of the hour today because in our country, most of the toiling masses comprise of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They are being denied jobs now. Definitely there are jobs in the private sector. But there is no reservation in private sector. So it is essential to have an Act to improve the financial position and dignity of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as they belong to the suppressed section. They are socially and economically backward. Even after so many years of independence, the backwardness of these communities have not been removed. That is why, such an Act is very much required. I support this Resolution.

SHRI W. WANGYUH KONYAK (Nagaland): Mr. Chairman, Sir, all the senior Members have touched the subject of reservation in public sector undertakings. I come from Nagaland. We cannot talk about reservation in PSUs in the North-East because there is no PSU. If we talk about

reservation, there is no meaning. In Nagaland, there is not even a single PSU. But I am really happy that my friend, Shri Ajaya Kumar has moved this Resolution. I support his Resolution.

Insurgency in the North-East is gaining ground. One of my senior friends from the North-East is sitting here. Insurgency in the North-Eastern States is gaining ground because of rising unemployment. Even if there are vacancies for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the advertisement for the same reaches them late due to problems in communication. Again, after having appeared for a post that is reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, they find their names towards the end of the merit list and as a result they do not get the job. Even though there is a provision for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribe candidates, yet they do not enjoy that facility in real terms. That is why insurgency is gaining ground in the North-East.

Sir, Mizoram has the highest literacy rate in the country. The graduates in Manipur State are not finding jobs and as a result they are pulling rickshaws to earn their livelihood and some of them are taking to underground activities. In the State of Nagaland, hundreds and thousands of graduates are appearing in the interview for one post. The ones who do not get the job are taking to anti-social activities and are creating a problem for the society. It is easy to do that because there is no recruitment policy as such for joining the insurgency groups. It is because of unemployment that the problem of insurgency is becoming more critical in the North-East.

Sir, the Central Government has banned the creation of posts in the North-Eastern States, particularly in the State of Nagaland for the last six to seven years. There is no job opportunity. Where do these educated youths go? They have no option but to join the anti-national groups. In Nagaland, only a sum of Rs. 5000/- is allocated from the PMRY. We requested the Central Government for enhancement of this amount to Rs. 15,000/-. But our request was not acceded to. There is no job avenue. A sum of Rs. 5,000/- is not enough. How can the State Government provide job opportunities to 50,000 educated youths with a sum of just Rs. 5000/-? We requested the Central Government for enhancement of this amount to at least Rs. 10,000/-. But that request also was not acceded to.

Sir, secondly, the North-East is referred to as one State in all the speeches that are made. I would like to put it on record that the different States of the North-East has different problems. In every matter, the North-East is considered as one unit. The grants received by the different States of the North-East cannot be compared with anyone State of the country because as individual units we are getting lesser amount.

Sir, therefore, I would like to request the Central Government that the ban on creation of posts in the North-East should be lifted. Secondly, there should be an enhancement of the quota of the PMRY and other Centrally-sponsored schemes and a special employment package may kindly be announced for the North-East. It is because the educated young youths of the North-East have no other job opportunity except to enter into anti-national activities.

Sir, with these words, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Ajaya Kumar.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (Kasargod): I support this Resolution moved by Shri Ajaya Kumar. It is very sad to note that even after 57 years of Independence, we are discussing whether reservation is needed or not. It is again sad to note that some of our learned colleagues of this Parliament are saying that it is not practical and proper. This is not a question of competence. As stated by other comrades and learned colleagues, this is a question of social justice. As stated by Shri Ajaya Kumar and other hon. Members, we know that a number of public sector undertakings are reduced year after year because of the policies adopted by the Government.

When we think of some of the private enterprises and private sector undertakings, some years ago they were owned by the Government. So, it is due to the policies of the Government that many of the public factories and institutions have become private now. So, it is justifiable to say that it is the duty of the Government to provide reservation in the private sector because the management of these private institutions are using the amenities, assets and all other facilities created by the Government. They are using the facilities created by the Government when they were public sector units in the earlier days. They were not owned by the private sector people. They were owned by the public sector and the assets were really owned by the Government.

On the one hand, it is the duty of the Government to implement this policy strictly. When we privatise any institution, there should be reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs. There are some segment of the private institutions, though we say that they are private institutions, yet they are aided by the Government. They are assisted by the Government. Take, for example, some educational institutions in Kerala. There are private schools or aided schools there. But salaries and all other facilities are given by the Government, not by the private owners. They admit the students and appoint teachers, but the salaries are given by the Government. But there is no reservation in these private schools. This may be a new information to many of our friends. This is one segment of the private sector that we have seen.

There should be no hesitation to implement the question of reservation. This is high time and too late to have any restriction. It is high time that we should have a direction from the side of the Government to give reservation to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities. There is no need to have any other discussion. It is because when we give jobs to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities, they are not going to sleep in the factories or in the Government offices. They are going to work. They are part of the society. As stated by many other hon. Members, they are downtrodden people, and they are agriculture workers. They are working in the minds and they are working under difficult conditions. It is the duty of the society to provide reservation without any hesitation and without any doubt. We are bound to give reservation in all the institutions.

I would like to point out one more issue. In Kerala, there are self-financing schools and colleges. But they are using many facilities created by the Government. But there is no obligation on the part of the management to give reservation when it comes to teachers' appointment or admission of students. Though there is quota, it gets reduced year after year.

DR. SEBASTIAN PAUL (Emakulam): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

At the outset, I would like to say that I fully support the Resolution moved by the hon. Member Shri S. Ajaya Kumar. I think that after hearing the well-documented presentation of Shri Ajaya Kumar and the enlightened speeches of the hon. Members, supporting the Resolution, this august House can adopt the Resolution unanimously. It will be in the good tradition of this august Institution. In the name of social justice, right from the very beginning, we are expressing concern for the down-trodden and the deprived people. That is why the principle of reservation was adopted in the Constitution.

Here, I would like to say that it was our endeavour to extend that benefit to other weaker sections also. But even after more than half a century, we know what the ground reality is. Vast masses of this down-trodden, deprived people, who are called the dalits or Other Backward Classes or communities, are still lingering in poverty, ignorance and social backwardness. Their valuable constitutional rights, their cherished human rights are being denied to them. It was just for the purpose of empowering them that we envisaged the idea of reservation. We have given opportunity for them to share power and authority. But what is happening?

It is a reality that we all know, we all share that with the advent of globalisation, the Government is withdrawing steadily from various sectors including the service sector. The employment opportunity available with the Government

[Dr. Sebastian Paul]

or the public sector is fast dwindling. There is a constitutional guarantee for these people for providing reservation. But that guarantee, in a very short while from now, will remain only on paper. It is so because, in reality, actually no employment will be there in the Government or the public sector for these people to share. So, it is the bounden duty of the Government, as a consequence of its withdrawal from employment-generating activities, to ensure that these people get their due share which is denied to them as a result of this globalisation in the private sector. Now, the private sector is replacing the public sector.

As many of our hon. Members have pointed out, there is absolutely nothing which we can call private in the private sector. It is also a part of the public sector. Or, one should say that the so-called private sector is also the property of the people, the property of the country. Resources are provided by the State. In this changed context, in the globalised context, we are demanding that the due share of these deprived sections of society, which is being denied, should be compensated. The only way of compensation is to ensure that these sections get their due share in the private sector. Whether it is a multi-national company or an Indian private company or any other firm, it should not give this as a charity. These people are knocking at their door for justice. But it will not be heeded to by them. So, it is the duty of this Parliament to ensure that what is denied to them is ensured to them.

It is my humble wish that this august House should adopt this Resolution unanimously thereby enabling the Government or forcing the Government to make the necessary law ensuring these people their due share in the nation's wealth.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (Mandla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Resolution moved by Shri Ajaya Kumar has been presented here. All the hon. Members who have expressed their opinion share the same sentiment. So keeping in view the sentiments of all the Members today it is essential that employment should be provided so SC/ST and Backward class people in private sector as well. All the hon. Members have said it in one voice that it is essential for the government to formulate laws in this direction and UPA government also desire so. So serious thought should be accorded to it. Today is Private Member's business so we are discussing this issue however it is essential that such resolution should be moved in the House by the Government. No Member has any objection to it as all hon. Members have expressed their views in favour of this resolution. Keeping in view the sentiment of the Members there is need to take concrete steps on this issue. The poor and SC/ST people are not getting benefits of developments in various sectors all over the world. Those

sectors will be influenced by our sentiments. So concrete laws must be formulated today or tomorrow on this issue so that SC/ST and backward class people may be supported. I would like to request all my colleagues all our great leaders that there should be serious pondering over this issue. Nothing will come out of it if we will merely express our views. I would like that a bill of this effect should be moved by the government with the consent of all the Members so that such mistakes may be corrected. With these words I conclude.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you since you have given me an opportunity to speak on such an important issue. Simultaneously, I would also thank Shri S. Ajaya Kumarji who brought this Bill. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was listening to the views of hon. Members and I am happy to say that all the Members unanimously wanted that the deprived class, Dalits, SCs and STs and backward people should be provided reservation in private sector. UPA Government have resolved in this regard and they have included it in their agenda. When there is a unanimity in the House, meanwhile we hear opposite views also which disturbs us mentally. It is to be pondered over as to why dalits, backwards and people from weaker section are economically unsound. I do not want to discuss in detail about their economic condition as there is shortage of time.

17.42 hrs.

(MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, they have no cloth to wear, no bread to eat and no means of livelihood nor the house to stay. The issue of competence and incompetence has forced them to live economically unsound. I would like to quote an example from Mahabharata. During the course of Mahabharata war, Arjuna was thinking that he is the mightiest person in the world. When he conveyed this to Shri Krishna, Shri Krishna said, "You are not strong, you are a fool." Today people want to debate the issue of competence and incompetence. When Shri Krishna told Arjuna that he is not strong but a fool. On this, Arjuna told that when I hit Karna with an arrow, his chariot goes reverse by seven and a half hand and when Karna leave arrow at me, my chariot goes reverse by three and a half hand. Therefore, I am more powerful. I would like to tell those who want to raise the issue of competence and incompetence that Shri Krishna had told Arjuna that I am charioting with the responsibility of all the three worlds and blessing of Hanumanji are with us, still if Karna hits you with an arrow, your chariot goes reverse by three-and-a-half hand. If I leave you alone on this chariot, we cannot imagine what will happen to it. Therefore competence is in born. As my predecessor speaker hon. Devendra Prasad Yadavji has told that if one give them a chance to swim they

can prove themselves a good swimmer. The people who have occupied more land are raising the issue of competence and incompetence. They do not know how to use Khurpi, Kudal or tractor in the fields. By raising this type of issues, they want to keep them deprived of their rights. If these people are given an opportunity, they prove that they are far better, be it the field of computer, education, science or health. Those who have raised the issue of competence and incompetence have claimed that they are not competent and those people only have put them in bad state. Handful of people only, who took the responsibility of defending the country have rendered them deprived.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Virchandra Paswan, please wait a minute. You may continue after the announcement.

The time allotted for discussion on this Resolution is over. Four more hon. Members have to speak on this Resolution.

Will someone intervene? The Mover has the right to reply to the Debate. If the House agrees, the time for the Resolution may be increased by half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMJI LAL SUMAN (Firozabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue and a meaningful discussion should be held on it. I feel, the time allotted for it is inadequate. It is not necessary that it should be completed today itself. Next day also we should hold discussion on it. I, too, want to speak on this issue. Four Members are still left and all other Members also want to speak on this issue. My submission is that it should be taken up again. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will see, first let half-an-hour be over.

[English]

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this being a very important issue, the debate on this resolution may be taken up next time also. ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, hon. Members are telling that it is very important issue and you too would agree to it. A detailed discussion should be held on it. Very good suggestions are being put forward by hon. Members. The Government desire that more and more suggestions be tendered on it. Everyone is of the

view that if need arises, it should be taken up next time also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now it will be upto 6 and further also it would be taken up.

SHRI VIRCHANDRA PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask them where their competence had gone when foreigners were attacking our country one by one and the country became slave. Where had their competence gone then? I am proud to say that people of all the castes and religions including dalits, backwards and minorities are safeguarding our borders. People from each class are deployed there and that is why our border is safe today. The enemy dare not looking at us as our forces are safeguarding our frontiers. When only these people were responsible for defending the country, where their competence had gone then? The invaders used to come and go back after ruining us. These people enslaved the country. Therefore, when they talk of competence many ideas come to us. I want them to realise that I am not their enemy. They have forgotten the world but I cannot. I feel that the creator is one. All of us are the children of one creator. They have put our brothers in pitiable condition. Today, I don't want to take revenge but I want them to realise the sins or wrong done by them in the past, otherwise the condition in future is going to be explosive and the country will be destabilised. If they want to save the country, keep it united, create cordial atmosphere, want to see everyone happy in the country and to provide them living, they will have to be broad minded. They became narrow-minded. Thus coming generations will not forgive them. Today, they are alive, they can think of their sons or grandsons, but if they do not survive, there will be none to think of them. Whatever they have built, will be ruined. If they do not create good conditions or atmosphere, there will be nobody safe in the days to come. If, we create good atmosphere in the country, have good ideas, then coming generations will feel better and secure under good atmosphere and better law and order situation provided by us and everyone will get livelihood. Therefore, if they talk of country, its culture and history then they will have to think of basic ideas of its creation. Though, I have lot to say but in view of time constraints, I would like to take up a few points.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my senior colleagues are sitting here who have awakened the poor living in village who were suffering from inferiority complex. They have asked these poor people to rise above this feeling and march ahead. Some used to work with khurpi or kudal in the fields, some used to pull rickshaw and others were labourers. But, they are better than those who beg. Still, they say that they are from good families. In fact, it is not so because they thug and cheat the people. Therefore, I used to request the people to depend upon your deeds and hard work and there is no

[Shri Virchandra Paswan]

harm in it. Thus, I want to tell them that there is no question of reservation in it. It merely reflects a mentality. Being rich or poor in society is not a parameter of competence. A person born in the family of a landlord knows where the toilet or bedroom or common room is in the bungalow. But how a person would know who is born elsewhere and he cannot be termed as incompetent in absence of his knowledge about a bungalow. As such, he can not be called incompetent.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this time I have been elected to the Parliament. I do not know about its corridors. The people living in villages and earning their livelihood by working in fields are more competent than these people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end, I would like to say that dalits, backward or tribals can be poor but they cannot be disloyal to the nation. The country is saved only by virtue of their being. Thus, they should get their due right in every sphere. One does not become rich by joining service. The purpose behind their joining service is so that they can see what sort of policies are being framed and implemented for them. Are these people not being cheated? I would like to ask you have they committed any sin that they are denied their right. Appointing authority closed the file by writing- 'No suitable candidate found'. Through you, I would like to tell the House that lakhs of posts, not only in Central Government but the State Government also are not filled up even upto three years only on this pretence. In fact, ads are not published and then in fourth year, the posts are dereserved on the pretext that 'No suitable candidate could be found'. This matter has been taken up not only by the High Court but the Supreme Court also and hon. Court ruled that the posts should be advertised not for just three years but up to 10-15 years. But now, the posts are dereserved after three years only. Depriving lakhs of people the employment opportunity. If it was not so, people could get job. Very large number of people are involved in it, who have done injustice to the poor.

In the end, I would request those who have done injustice to them should accept it, rectify their wrong and should repent. Each one of us needs to think over as to how India can be saved and kept united. If the fact of oppression of the poor, and cheating them continues, the country cannot be saved as people of different castes, religions and areas stays together. If we want to create the sense of nationality, we will have to respect every one and give equal opportunities also and we will have to think of prosperity of every section of society.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell

the House that till now these people have been exploited and cheated a lot. This injustice should be done away including irregularities in implementation of reservation policies, whereby lakhs of people have been deprived job.

I would like to quote an example relating to appointment of lecturers in colleges and universities. Before 1990, percentage of marks for ascertaining eligibility for appointment to the post of lecturers for reserved candidates was 45 percent and 52.5 percent for General candidates. But UGC increased the eligibility marks to 55 percent from 45 percent for reserved category whereas for general candidates increase was from 52.5 percent to 55 percent. One can think how justified the hike is? For reserved category a hike of 10 marks, i.e. from 45 to 55 percent where as for general category a hike of only 2.5 marks, i.e. from 52.5 to 55 percent. It is clever conspiracy of those who raise the issue of competence or incompetence. It is an effort to deprive them of the job opportunities. This step deprived large number of people the job in colleges and universities as when they were appearing for P.G exams, they were under the impression that if they get 45 percent marks, they would be eligible. But, great injustice was done to them and eligibility marks were increased by ten percent. But some changes have been carried out in it and 55 percent would be reduced to 50 percent. But, the Government should ponder over as to how many posts were left unfulfilled through this conspiracy and how many posts were dereserved and how many appointments were made? The Government should find out how many posts were dereserved and the backlog should be cleared now. The Government should launch a special drive to fill up such posts.

I would like to tell one more thing that in colleges and universities there are such people amongst those who raise the issue of competence or incompetence, who score 50, 55 or 60 percent marks and some even score up to 70,75 and 80 percent marks. I have practically seen, I would like to tell that, though it is a bitter truth, many people amongst these top scores have their uncles, grandfathers, brothers etc. in universities who manipulate and make 40 percent marks as 80 percent. Students from dalit category who score 55 or 60 percent marks, do so on the basis of their own efforts and they are far better than those who score 80 percent marks. Therefore, the criteria of competence is often used to suppress them. Therefore, my submission is that eligibility marks in India should be specified on caste basis and on the basis of their total population and eligibility and they should be provided job. The benefit of reservation, this may, is being availed indirectly by these people and backward people are not getting benefits.

18.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this practice is being followed by each Government which hurts me. If just one crore rupees are spent for the poor, dalits or backwards, the Government claims that one lakh people have availed the benefit and tall claims or figures are presented before the media. There are people who have gulped thousands of crores of rupees, but such people are never talked about. Therefore, the Government should not mislead the people by just spending one crore rupees on one lakh people and claiming one lakh people as beneficiaries. I support the resolution relating to reservation in private sector.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Discussion on this Resolution will continue on the next allotted day for Private Members' Resolutions.

The Lok Sabha stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 12th July, 2004 at 11.00 a.m.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourns: 'till Eleven of the Clock
on Monday, July 12, 2004/Asadha 21, 1926 (Saka).*

ANNEXURE-I**Member-wise Index to the Starred
List of Questions**

(Answer Date: 09-Jul-2004)

Names	Question No.
1	2
Shri Adsul, Anandrao V.	78(c)
Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	72
Shri Chakraborty, Ajoy	70
Shri Chand, Nihal	65(c)
Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	64(c)
Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	71
Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	76
Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	73(c)
Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	66
Shri Geete, Anant Gangaram	78
Dr. Jagannath M.	67
Shri Khan, Sunil	69
Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	65
Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	71(c)
Shri Kumar, Virendra	63
Shri Kurup, Suresh	64
Shri Mahato, Bir Singh	74(c)
Shri Majhi, Parsuram	68
Smt Mane, Nivedita	77(c)
Shri Meghwal, Kailash	61(c)
Shri Moorthy, A.K.	66(c)
Shri Nayak, Ananta	68(c)
Shri Panda, Prabodh	80
Shri Patil, Shivaji Adhalrao	73
Shri Patil, Shriniwas	75
Shri Rao, K.S.	79
Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	74
Dr. Shandil, Col. (Retd.) Dhani Ram	62

1	2
Shri Singh, Dushant	63(c)
Shri Singh, Kirit Vardhan	77
Shri Singh, Uday	76(c)
Shri Yadav, Giridhari	61

**Member-Wise Index to the Unstarred
List of Questions**

(Answer Date: 09-Jul-2004)

Names	Question No.
1	2
Shri Achana, Basu Deb	543, 646
Shri Ajaya Kumar, S.	523
Shri Athawale, Ramdas Bandu	526, 564, 607, 610, 627
Shri Babbar, Raj	547(c)
Shri Bishnoi, Jaswant Singh	509, 556(c), 574, 615, 651
Shri Budholiya, Rajnarayan	550, 596, 650,
Shri Bwiswmuthiary, Sansuma Khunggur	513, 647
Shri Chandel, Suresh	502, 532, 563(c), 568
Shri Chandrappan, C.K.	583, 608, 621(c)
Shri Chavan, Harishchandra	501, 586(c)
Shri Choudhary, Nikhil Kumar	510
Shri Chouhan, Shivraj Singh	549, 595, 619, 631
Shri Chowdhury, Adhir	579, 588, 621
Shri Dasgupta, Gurudas	528, 566, 594(c)
Shri Deshmukh, Subhash Sureshchandra	586(c), 643
Shri Gadakh, Tukaram Gangadhar	507(c), 509(c), 527(c), 630(c)
Shri Gadhavi, P.S.	516, 572
Shri Gaikwad, Eknath M.	547
Smt. Gandhi, Maneka	545
Shri Gandhi, Pradeep	520, 558, 587(c), 603
Shri Hassan, Munawar	529, 639(c)
Dr. Jagannath, M.	498, 524, 548, 644(c)
Shri Jha, Raghunath	499, 563, 606, 626
Shri Jogi, Ajit	505

1	2
Shri Kalmadi, Suresh	544, 574(c)
Shri Kamat, Gurudas	518, 557, 616
Shri Kanodia, Mahesh	507
Shri Karunakaran, P.	517, 645
Shri Khaire, Chandrakant	539, 611, 624(c), 638
Shri Khan, Sunil	648
Shri Krishna, Vijoy	540, 571, 618(c), 622(c), 634(c)
Shri Krishnadas, N.N.	546, 594
Shri Kumar, B. Vinod	509(c), 578, 612, 629
Shri Kumar, Nikhil	617(c), 622(c)
Shri Kumar, Nitish	642
Shri Kumar, Virendra	586, 592, 617, 630
Shri Kurup, Suresh	587, 618
Shri Mahajan, Y.G.	562, 586(c)
Shri Majhi, Parsuram	581, 586(c), 614
Shri Maken, Ajay	512
Shri Mandal, Sanat Kumar	541, 648(c)
Shri Mandlik, S.D.	618(c), 639(c)
Smt. Mane, Nivedita	618(c), 622(c), 634(c), 639
Shri Marandi, Babu Lal	519
Shri Meghwal, Kailash	569, 570, 587(c), 632 (c)
Shri Mehta, Alok Kumar	509(c)
Shri Mehta, Bhuvaneshwar Prasad	514
Shri Modi, Sushil Kumar	520(c), 537
Shri Mohale, Punnu Lal	536
Shri Moorthy, A.K.	577, 624(c)
Shri Nair, P.K. Vasudevan	533, 618(c)
Shri Nayak, Ananta	573, 580, 589, 628
Shri Nishad, Mahendra Prasad	593
Shri Owaisi, Asaduddin	497, 575, 590, 625, 637
Shri Panda, Prabodh	556, 571(c), 602, 632 (c)
Dr. Pandeya, Laxminarayan	648(c)
Shri Parste, Dalpat Singh	537(c)
Shri Paswan, Sukdeo	531, 587(c), 596(c)

1	2
Dr. Patasani, Prasanna Kumar	542
Shri Patil, Prakash Bapu V.	511
Shri Patil, Shivaji Adhalrao	551, 597, 620, 632
Shri Patil, Shrinivas	539(c), 584, 599, 602(c)
Shri Pradhan, Dharmendra	648(c)
Shri Prasad, Harikewal	534, 552(c)
Smt. Purandeswari, D.	641
Shri Rajendran, P.	504
Shri Rao, K.S.	555, 587(c), 632(c)
Shri Rao, Rayapati Sambasiva	506, 559, 604, 623, 635
Shri Rawale, Mohan	521, 560
Shri Reddy, S.P.Y.	503, 563(c), 582, 613
Shri Satpathy, Tathagata	527, 565, 586(c) 609, 619(c)
Smt. Sen, Minati	538, 625(c)
Shri Seth, Lakshman	566(c), 625(c)
Shri Shaheen, Abdul Rashid	552, 598
Dr. Shandil. Col. (Retd.) Dhanl Ram	585, 591
Prof. Shiwankar, Mahadeorao	515, 554, 601
Shri Singh, Dushyant	576, 605, 624, 636
Shri Singh, Kirti Vardhan	553, 600, 622, 634
Shri Singh, Mohan	622 (c), 625 (c)
Shri Singh, Prabhunath	525
Shri Singh, Uday	621 (c)
Shri Solanki, Bhupendrasinh	507 (c), 617 (c)
Shri Sonowal, Sarbananda	586 (c)
Shri Subba, M.K.	500
Shri Surendra, Chengara	639 (c)
Shri Thomas, P.C.	508, 561
Smt. Tirath, Krishna	530, 567, 587 (c), 602 (c), 618 (c)
Shri Tripathy, Braja Kishore	535, 570(c), 602 (c), 648(c)
Shri Varma, Ratilal Kalidas	640
Shri Vasava, Mansukhbhai D.	534(c)
Shri Yadav, Ram Kripal	522
Shri Yerrannaidu, Kinjarapu	496, 570(c), 644

ANNEXURE-II***Ministry-wise Index to Starred List of Questions***

Civil Aviation	:	65, 71, 75
Coal and Mines		62, 72, 77
Commerce and Industry	:	66, 79
Company Affairs	:	
Finance		61, 63, 64, 69, 74, 76, 78, 80
Law and Justice		73
Textiles	:	67, 68, 70

Ministry-wise Index to Unstarred List of Questions

Civil Aviation	:	513, 522, 530, 542, 544, 547, 549, 550, 553, 554, 572, 573, 574, 575, 587, 593, 602, 616, 639
Coal and Mines		514, 518, 519, 520, 536, 541, 557, 564, 571, 580, 589, 605, 609, 622, 633, 648

Commerce and Industry	:	496, 497, 498, 502, 503, 504, 507, 509, 510, 515, 523, 525, 526, 537, 546, 561, 562, 568, 570, 586, 592, 598, 600, 623, 629, 632, 635, 645, 650
-----------------------	---	---

Company Affairs		538, 614
-----------------	--	----------

Finance		499, 506, 508, 511, 512, 527, 528, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 540, 543, 545, 548, 555, 559, 563, 565, 566, 567, 569, 576, 578, 579, 581, 582, 583, 584, 588, 590, 591, 594, 597, 599, 603, 604, 606, 607, 608, 612, 613, 615, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 630, 631, 634, 636, 638, 641
---------	--	---

Law and Justice	:	500, 501, 505, 529, 539, 551, 552, 556, 577, 596, 611
-----------------	---	--

Textiles		516, 517, 521, 524, 558, 560, 585, 593, 601, 610, 637, 640, 642, 643, 644, 646, 647, 649, 651
----------	--	--

© 2004 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

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
