

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. I contains No. 1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, July 19, 1991/Asadha 28,
1913 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at

Eleven of the Clock

(MR. SPEAKER in the Chair)

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Impact of Rupee Devaluation

[English]

*101. SHRI HARI KISHORE
SINGH :

SHRI MANORANJAN SUR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the likely impact of the recent devaluation of rupee *vis-a-vis* major international currencies on our foreign trade, foreign debt, balance of payments position and inflow of foreign currency from Non-Resident Indians sources; and

(b) the names of the international currencies included in the basket of our foreign trade.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) and (b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) The adjustments effected by the RBI in the external value of the rupee on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 would stabilise the balance of payments situation in the short-term and improve the balance of trade situation in the medium-term. These adjustments

would not involve any change in the foreign currency value of external debt. However, in rupee terms, external debt may increase by 21 to 23 per cent depending on the currency of denomination for each loan. These adjustments will increase the profitability of our exports, discourage non-essential imports, discourage illegal capital flight abroad and the resulting improvement in our balance of payments will restore the confidence of the NRIs in the Indian economy and encourage the inflow of foreign exchange from NRI sources.

(b) The international currencies that are important in the invoicing of India's foreign trade are the US dollar, the pound sterling, the deutsche mark and the Japanese Yen.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, a lot has been written about Government's statement regarding devaluation of rupee. But I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Financial Express dated 13th July in which a report of the Reserve Bank of India has been quoted. The report says that rupee will have to be devalued by over 15 per cent. This report relates to the year 1987. The Government has not taken the nation into confidence in the matter of devaluation of rupee. Not only that, they did it in two strokes. First of all, I would like to know the reasons why the Government did it twice? The Hon. Finance Minister is a renowned economist of international fame. I know him well and I hold him

in high esteem. But what led the Government to resort to devaluation twice? I think, the first devaluation was *suo motu* and the second one was under the pressure of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have been absolutely truthful that whatever action was taken, was taken in the interest of our own country and that it was a very calculated strategy to do it in two stages. I want to come clean before this House and I will explain to you why I did it in two stages.

We are living in a world of floating currencies. Nobody knows what is the right exchange rate for the rupee. It is a guessing game. There were rumours all through the previous month that given the balance of payments position of India, the value of the rupee cannot be sustained. In fact, the Commerce Minister in the previous Government himself had gone out on record saying to the Press that the right rate of exchange for the rupee is about Rs. 30. In that sort of environment, who would have believed that the rupee will not come under pressure? Therefore, as soon as our Government came into power, I noticed that there was very strong element of destabilisation and that destabilisation could really bring about a default situation because the Non-Resident depositors were getting nervous. They were taking large amounts of money out of our country. In that situation, within a short period of time, we decided that something had to be done.

Yesterday the former Prime Minister said that we did it in haste. I think this House should compliment us that faced with a grave situation, our response was appropriate, quick and decisive. If you look at the history of exchange rate changes in our country, you would find that the change in the exchange rate was under discussion in India from 1964 to 1966. Because of bickering within the Government, 3½ years were lost and the end result was that when the time came to act, it lacked in taking a decisive action. What we have done this time was a decisive action. We deliberately did it in two stages and I will explain to the House why we did it in two stages. First, we did not know what the true market equilibrium would be. Therefore, we said let us test the market. The first day what happened was, I asked the Governor of the Reserve Bank to depreciate the rupee and I kept quiet. I said, the Reserve Bank, in the normal exercise of its power, has used the basket mechanism. Then the markets took account of what was done and the general feeling was that the rupee had not reached the equilibrium point but for quite some time there would be no further devaluation after this eight to nine per cent depreciation. So, we passed time. For a time, therefore, people began to believe that the exchange rate will stay here, though over time it will depreciate. We controlled the destabilising speculation. The run on the rupee was stopped. Two days later, there appeared a mischievous news. Since India has many enemies abroad, a news was published in one of our national papers that the State Bank of India has defaulted on its international

obligations. Quite honestly, when I was that news early in the morning—we had already taken a decision to do the second stage in some days—I thought that this was the time to act because when the markets opened, if this news got spread that the State Bank of India had already defaulted, the Non-Resident depositors would rush to take their money out. So, in consultation with the Prime Minister and his colleagues, I decided that that was the occasion to act and that is how the Reserve Bank was instructed that before the opening of the market, the new exchange rate of the rupee should be fixed. So, all this was done as part of a calculated device. It was not done at the behest of the IMF. There is no truth in the allegation that IMF said that the first thing that we did was not sufficient, therefore, we did the second thing. It was part of a package worked out by me in consultation with the Prime Minister and his colleagues.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the previous Government came into being with the support of the Hon. Members of the Congress Party and the reputation of that Government was that it had sold itself into the hands of the Congress Party. Did it have some impact on our currency in the international market? According to yesterday's news report, Indian rupee has again dipped by 91 paise against Pound Sterling.

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not want to speak in any partisan manner because we

are dealing with a national issue . . . (Interruptions). I will speak the truth as I see it. And let me say that India's balance of payments has been weak for a number of years. It started weakening for quite some time, but when our Government was in power, that is, until November 1989, there was no question of lack of confidence in our currency . . . (Interruptions). This crisis of confidence started when there was a change in Government, a statement was made to the world that 'we have inherited an empty treasury', and the second thing which was done was that a massive scheme of loan waiving was launched which has a very serious effect not only on the domestic banking system, but also abroad and the people said that if at one stroke thousands of crores of rupees of loans could be written off, may be one day India would rise and say, 'Well, we will not honour all our commitments' This was the second act. Then from July onwards all that political instability that had happened had a devastating effect on the credit rating of our country. And then there was a change in Government. Then when the Government changed, I think the then Prime Minister was very keen that we should get I. M. F. loan. Yesterday he was vaxing eloquent about the evil that the IMF is, the evil that the World Bank is, but he was the one who was very keen that we should get the IMF loan. Now the IMF loan was given on certain conditions. Those conditions were accepted by the previous Government those conditions were announced by the previous Finance Minister in this very House, but when the time to implement them came, they developed

cold feet. And I think in the history of this country it has never happened before—the budget was to be presented, that Budget was not presented, the promises that were made to the people were not implemented and the credit rating sank.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY : I want to simply know what effect the devaluation will have on our trade where we carry our trade with the rupee. Bulk of our trade is carried by rupee and now there is devaluation. I want to know whether it will affect our exports and to what extent and if it is a fact that the cost of exports to the countries where we carry our trade with rupee has gone up and the stoppage of the CCS has affected the exports.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there will be some transitional problems. But let me say that the system that we have in our country places our exporters to the rupee areas at a great advantage today and therefore, in recent months our exports have grown, but we have nothing to import from them. The Soviet Union's state being what it is, they are not able and willing to supply even the contracted commodities. So, what is the use of merely saying that we want to go on exporting? We cannot export things if we cannot import things. Now, I recognise that there are some transitional problems: we would, I think, look at all those transitional problems because we want to work with the Soviet Union. The Soviet

Union has been a great friend of our country. All these problems will be looked at very carefully, but I do want to say that there is no need for saying that the rupee trade is going to be destroyed by the devaluation of the rupee.

What is this rupee trade? Very often it has a very heavy foreign exchange content. We import goods in free foreign exchange. Some people add something to it and then it goes to the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, in the process, saves foreign exchange. It is very short of foreign exchange. So, I am convinced that there is no danger to the growth of rupee trade regardless of what has been done.

SHRI ANANDGAJAPATI RAJU POOSAPATI : Mr. Speaker, Sir I want to ask the Hon. Finance Minister about a specific aspect of this devaluation of rupee. In the statement, the Finance Minister has said that the rupee had also been devalued to discourage non-essential imports. Now, what is the percentage of reduction in non-essential imports? What we understand is that the imports are essential imports; they are bulk imports. What are these imports which we are going to curtail?

Then the second part of the question is, other countries also would devalue their currencies once our currency goes down in its value. So, what is the percentage increase that you are envisaging in exports due to this devaluation?

Then, the third part is, as you earlier said, these currencies are adjusted to the basket of currencies. That is also not a realistic value. Then, what do you consider a realistic value for exchange value?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, when I said that this change in exchange rate would lead to reduction of non-essential imports. I was referring to the fact that these imports have become more costly than ever before and therefore, I do hope that there would be some positive effect of this rise in the cost of importing these non-essential goods. I am not in a position to tell you the precise effect, but over a period of time, you would see it in operation.

The second question was, what would be the percentage increase in exports. There too, I would be very honest, in economic and social phenomenon, it would be wrong on any body's part to say that he knew with certainty what would be the effect of changes. We have to take calculated risks and it is my belief that as a result of what we have done, India's exports will boom and not only India's exports of manufactured products, but India's exports of agricultural products also. In the past, we have had the scheme of Compensatory Support Facilities on a case-by-case; people were favoured; a part of the money went to the exporters and another part of the money went to the officials, but a large part of India's agricultural sector was totally left out of the purview in the belief that agricultural exports have no future. What we have done today is a generalised improvement in the incentive for ex-

ports and I am confident that, as a result of this, you would see India's agricultural exports particularly the processed exports, where there is a great scope, would get a big boost. I will not be able to quantify the effect and I think, my colleague, the Hon. Minister for Commerce had made a statement about the Government's export intentions either in this House or in the other House. If you give me notice, I am willing to answer that question as well.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: Mr. Sneaker, Sir, it is really very sad at least for me to listen to Shri Manmohan Singh arguing that the loan waiver scheme to the poor had affected international confidence on India. This I did not expect from him at least.

The question that I would like him to answer is what was the experience of our earlier devaluation? I would like to know all that we expected, were they realised at that time.

Part (b) is, who was the consumer of these non-essential imports? Do they have enough funds to stock 5% or 10%? Is it true or it is not true that the sale of Maruti car has not declined domestically? How high should the prices rise in order to reduce the import value of these items?

The quantity reduction, if there is at all any, would be more than overshadowed by the price escalation, import cost. Is this not the experience of other countries excluding China and some other countries which have a firm control over the export-import trade?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I was merely mentioning the facts. I was not criticising the loan waiver scheme. I was asked the question what certain things happened which weakened the confidence. In my opinion, honest opinion, this particular scheme weakened the confidence in the international market about India.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Is that your opinion or Government opinion ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I speak for the Government.

This is not to say that I am criticising anything.

Secondly, the Hon. Member asked, what is the earlier experience of devaluation. I recognise that the right Hon. gentleman belongs to a Party which has an ideological view.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : We are Hon. Members and not Hon. gentlemen !

MR. SPEAKER : An Hon. Member is a gentleman also.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : In this matter of the exchange rate, I find a strange conspiracy between the Extreme Right and the Extreme Left in our country. Both of them think that monkeying the exchange rate is something immoral. I think, that was not the tradition of India's freedom struggle.

MR. SPEAKER : No. There is no ideological question.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : He further asked about the 1966 experience, 1966 experience is not going to be repeated for the following reasons :

In 1966, we had a very small manufacturing base. Today, 70% of our exports are manufacturing exports. Given the proper incentives, these exports will grow. At that time Indian agricultural economy was also subsistent economy. Now India's agricultural economy has got a scientific temper. Given the incentives, exports of agriculture will also grow. You do not have to worry that 1966 experience will be repeated.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, while highlighting the impact of the rupee devaluation, the statement given by the Government has indicated fine prospects. According to them by this measure, the country will gain, namely increase of profitability of our exports ; it would discourage non-essential imports, discourage illegal capital flight abroad and would result in the improvement of our balance of payment position.

I would like to know from the gentleman and the Hon. Finance Minister—so long as he was not an Hon. Member, he was gentleman, now also he continues to be gentleman—we are Hon. Members. I want to know what special measures has the Government of India taken to discourage illegal capital flight abroad.

The other day while participation in the President's Address, Hon. Shri Jaswant Singh mentioned about the flow of Indian currency across the border and that flow of currency gets back in its way, which is for the disaster for the youth. It comes in the form of narcotics, drugs and in the form of automatic weapons.

May I know from the Hon. Minister what special measures has the Government taken after devaluation to see that this kind of most dangerous trade done through *havala* and through currency being sent across the border in trucks is effectively checked? I would not be satisfied with the routine measures that the Government of India has already taken.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what special measures have been taken by the Government to arrest this kind of outflow of our valuable rupee.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH Mr. Speaker, Sir, what we have done is one of the measures to discourage this illegal flight of capital. As a result of the greater attractiveness of the exchange rate, those who take capital out because they want to make more money through exchanges through black-market, they have now less of an incentive to do so. I must be very honest with you to say that this is not the totality of measures which will bring about an improvement. I take note of the suggestion that the Right Hon. Member has made. I do not have an answer today. If I am given proper notice, I will come back to this House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question does not relate to economics nor does it emanate from international trade etc. My question relates to the poor people of this country who are very much concerned about the devaluation of rupee. The Hon. Minister has

just now said that the devaluation would stabilise the balance of payment situation but it would not involve any change in the foreign currency value of external debt.

MR SPEAKER: Sonkar ji, you are not supposed to read it. Please put the question. There is no time since several members are yet to put questions.

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI. He has said that this devaluation is beneficial in many ways. Besides these two instalments of devaluation, this exercise was done in September, 1949 and June, 1966 also. At that time, the devaluation of rupee had resulted in rise in prices in general and spurt in the price of gold. This time also, the price of gold as well as prices in general have registered an increase in the country due to devaluation of rupee. I would request the Hon. Minister to break the chains of officialdom and tell us whether he would be able to contain the price rise? If so, how does he propose to do it and what steps are contemplated to check the rise in price of gold which has a direct bearing on the people?

MR SPEAKER: What, the gold?

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Sir, the people in rural areas in general including the poor purchase gold in large quantities on the occasion of marriage (Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Sir, I have already explained that we are

not in 1949. We are not in 1966. Therefore, the experience of 1949 and the experience of 1966 is no guide to what is going to happen in 1991. I have referred to the great diversity of India's economic structure that has taken place in the last 44 years of our independence and the House should also remember that in 1966, we were living from ship to mouth. We were deficient in food-grains production, but thanks to the increase in domestic production of food, we have today a very large buffer-stock of foodgrains. So, there should be no fear in anybody's mind that prices will go out of control.

SHRI CHANDRA TEFT YADAV: Sir, I must compliment the Finance Minister for his eternal optimism in a measure like devaluation that he has taken. But he will perhaps agree with me that it is not the only measure which will help boost our economy and bring stabilisation in our currency.

Will the Finance Minister take this House into confidence and inform what other measures he, as Finance Minister, has taken so that Indian currency rupee can become stable in the international market and our economy gets a boost.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a strategy, I have a credible programme. But I am only five days away from the presentation of the Budget. I do hope to convince right Hon. Members when I come before the House on the Budget day that we have a strategy that will work.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: I have two specific questions.

MR. SPEAKER: Not two, but only one.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: My question is in part (a) and (b). Sir, the main problem that confronted this present Government is Balance of Payments and devaluation of the Rupee. I would like to ask the Hon. Finance Minister whether the amount derived out of the sale of 46 tonnes of Gold could have been sufficient to phase out the Balance of Payments crisis. If that amount has been sufficient for one year's Balance of Payments position, then the Government ought to have postponed the devaluation of the Rupee because already we have sold 46 tonnes of Gold.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the question. I have already given half-an-hour to this question.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: It is a very important question. The whole nation is afraid of only devaluation. A simple common man, a man like me also hails from a village, we are afraid that our loans

MR. SPEAKER: Again, you are making a speech. Please ask a pointed question.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: Because of devaluation, there is doubt in the minds of so many people that simply the debt of Rs. one lakh crores has gone up to Rs. 1.6 lakh crores of debt by devaluation. Could the Government postpone devaluation? We have already solved the Balance of Payments crisis.

The other point is this: Has the Hon. Finance Minister got any plan to proclaim a general amnesty for

the Indian nationals who have illegally or legally deposited the huge amounts of money in Swiss Bank etc. ?

MR SPEAKER : I am not going to allow you These are disconnected questions You are going from one to the other question

SHRI K P. REDDAIAH : The devaluation of the Rupee could have been avoided. Let the profits be enjoyed by the Indian nationals instead of IMF and the World Bank. Is it true ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I do agree with the right Hon Member that there is a lot of Indian money illegally lying abroad But let me also assure the Member that this money is not going to come back if there is a doubt about the viability of our economic system, if there is a doubt about the viability of India's economy I have to create confidence in the Indian economy before these other things can work We are considering various things I request you not to further probe me on this question All these questions are under consideration. The right Hon Member said : Could you postpone the change in exchange rate ? I have already explained to the House that in the circumstances in which we were placed, we could not have postponed and if we had postponed, I think we would have done a great harm to this country, we would have defaulted and the consequences of that default would have been far more serious.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, very briefly I put two questions. Firstly, the Hon. Finance

Minister has suggested that on account of loan waiver scheme of the previous Government, India's . .

MR. SPEAKER : Let us not enter into ideological polemics. Please put the question

SHRI JASWANT SINGH : The Hon Finance Minister made this point That is why I wanted to say. I seek a clarification But I will not violate your ruling On this question of devaluation, as it is, the rupee has had its floating exchange rate against the basket of currencies. From the date of introduction of this floating exchange rate to this first formal devaluation how much was the actual devaluation of the rupee ?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH : I don't have the figures because the rupee started floating some time in 1972 I think And since then all the currencies of the world are floating and there is no unambiguous measure of devaluation or depreciation. You may go up with relation to one currency and you may go down with relation to another currency And also there are competitors of India. It is not easy to compile the figures There are some estimates and I need some notice We will supply that information to the Hon Member

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : I have a layman's question to ask . . . (Interruptions)

AN HON MEMBER : A laywoman's question.

MR. SPEAKER : Man includes woman.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: A little while ago, the Hon. Minister has talked about certain crisis of confidence generated among the international agencies as a result of the behaviour of the erst-while Government. Now, may I ask the Hon. Minister regarding the so-called mortgage of gold by the RBI, the transaction between RBI and the Bank of England which is said to be an act of mortgage rather than a direct sale? Now, when a person who has made a pledge, a mortgage and immediately afterwards hastens to transport that mortgaged property to the creditors' house, does that inspire the creditors confidence?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: May be that mortgaged property is not documented. That is the question.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I can say with full confidence that what we have done has convinced the international credit institutions, our international creditors and non-resident Indians that this country takes very seriously its international obligations. And there is return of confidence all over the world in India.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the next question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: I have a submission to make. You have allowed Members from that side to put questions. Please allow me also from this side to put a question.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

Projects from Maharashtra Pending Clearance

*102 **SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the projects and schemes proposed by the Government of Maharashtra pending clearance; and

(b) the action taken in each case so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) From the Government of Maharashtra 17 project estimates for works on National Highways aggregating to Rs. 156.03 crores, proposals for 11 roads to be declared as new National Highways and proposals for 801 Schemes aggregating to Rs. 359.82 crores under Central Road Fund, have been received

(b) Sanction of project estimates would be possible only after the regular budget 1991-92 is passed. Decision regarding New National Highways would be taken after finalisation of the Eighth Five Year Plan. The Schemes under Central Road Fund could not be considered for sanction as actual augmentation of the Fund has not yet taken place.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANTRAO PATIL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had promised in

1988 that 5 per cent of the surcharge levied on petrol and diesel would be paid to the State Governments. But no amount under this head has so far been received from the Centre even after three years. What the Hon. Minister has to say in this regard? Also, what action has been taken in regard to ongoing major works of roads and bridges in Maharashtra?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER The decision which was taken by the both Houses of Parliament in 1988 has not been accepted as yet by the Finance Minister. Still we have not received the money. (Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOU-DHURY In spite of the recommendation of the House. The previous Prime Minister had committed that they would release the money immediately. (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER Would you let me finish my answer? I am going back to the Cabinet again to implement the same decision which the House had taken. (Interruptions) Sir, I have four major road projects which are the most important ones about which the former Chief Minister here would be happy to know that the rehabilitation payment to Bombay is there which they have been asking for and to which the Hon. Member is referring. I would like to inform that this is a 60 kms long road totally and last year in December we had sanctioned about Rs. 17 crores and the work is in the advanced stage of progress, only 10 kms. is left.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAKASHBAPU VASANT-RAO PATIL Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has sent a number of proposals to the Central Government regarding privatisation of roads. I would like to know what assistance the Central Government proposes to give in the matter? Is the Government considering to issue sanction to the Mangal-bedha-Jai-Belgaon road shortly?

[English]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER This is a question of the change of the Act. The change of the Act is required before we go in for privatisation which I feel will be coming in this session. Otherwise in the next session surely we will be coming for this privatisation which is coming in the way. I am very much interested and my ministry is interested in going in for privatisation of the roads.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the Konkan belt, that is the coastal region. The development process has totally eluded this belt for the last 40 years and the main reason is lack of communication facilities. We have got only one road, that is Bombay-Goa Highway which in no way can be termed as a highway because there are many stretches where we can only drive at a speed of 20 kms per hour. The first priority of the Hon. Member should be to do something about this highway.

The second thing is that Maharashtra Government has given proposal

for eleven roads to be termed as national highways. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any priority is being given to this and whether the Western Coastal Highway is being given priority number one due to the backwardness of this coastal region.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I have received 17 proposals from the Maharashtra Government of which eleven we are considering. But everything will depend—after the presentation of the Budget—as to how much money our Ministry receives. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER. This a question relating to Maharashtra. So I would rather like Maharashtra Members to ask questions.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it was earlier stated that among the 17 projects, estimates in respect of which have been submitted, was a proposal for widening Dahisar—Manore section on Bombay—Ahmedabad National Highway measuring 78 kms. into four tracks. I would like to know whether that proposal has been included in it? If so, what is the cost thereof?

[*English*]

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I had just told you that I have received 17 proposals out of which 11 proposals as the national highways. I can only take a decision after I know what sort of money I am receiving.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, please give me protection. I have asked in

the Bombay—Ahmedabad highway there was a proposal for widening 78 kms. into four tracks. I would like to know whether that has been included in the 11 projects he has referred.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : There is a Bombay—Ahmedabad—Nanded—Jageshpur road—660 kms. I cannot tell you at this particular point whether the road you are referring to is included or not. If it is a part of this road, then it must be included in this.

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK : May I know from the Hon Minister as to what has been the contribution of Maharashtra during the last two years towards the Central Road Fund and out of that Central Road Fund what has been the total disbursement percentagewise during the last two years to Maharashtra for the improvement of roads in the State?

MR. SPEAKER : If the Minister has the statistics he can supply them later on.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I will supply him later on.

Balance of Trade

*103. **SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :**

SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the actual balance of trade in rupees/SDRs during the last three financial years, year-wise;

(b) the estimated value of exports and imports during 1990-91 in rupees and SDRs separately and the percentage increase in each has compared to 1989-90,

(c) the reasons which led to the increase in the quantum and value of imports during 1990-91, and

(d) the steps proposed to control imports during 1991-92 in value and quantum ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT

(a) The figures of balance of trade in rupees and SDRs during the last three financial years, year-wise, are as under —

BALANCE OF TRADE		
Year	Rs Crores	SDRs Million
1988-89	-8 003	-4,154
1989 90(P)	7,731	-3,618
1990 91(P)	- 10 644	4 283

(P . Provisional)

Source DGC&S, Calcutta

(b) The provisional figures of exports and imports during 1990-91, in rupees and SDRs, as compared to 1989-90 are given below —

(i) Rupee Terms

	(Rs Crores)		
	1989-90 (P)	1990 91 (P)	% increase
Exports	27,681	32,527	+ 17.5
Imports	35,412	43,171	+ 21.9
Balance of Trade	-7,731	-10,644	+ 37.7

(ii) SDR Terms

	(SDRs Million)		
	1989-90 (P)	1990-91 (P)	% increase
Exports	12,954	13,090	+1.0
Imports	16,572	17,373	+4.8
Balance of Trade	-3,618	-4,283	+18.4

(P . Provisional.)

(Conversion rates are Rs 21 368 per SDR during 1989-90 and Rs 24 849 per SDR during 1990-91)

Source DGC&S, Calcutta

(c) The increase in the import bill during 1990-91 was due to higher import of items like Petroleum and petroleum products, Edible oil, Pulses Pulp and waste paper, Project goods, Coal, Coke and briquettes, Metalliferous ores and metal scrap, Manufactures of metal, Paper board & manufactures, Crude rubber, etc.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to control imports during 1991-92 include far reaching changes in export-import policy linking all imports, barring essential imports like POL, Fertilizer, Edible oil, etc to exports, and abolition of supplementary licensing and residual OGL facility. In addition, the restrictions imposed by RBI on imports through enhanced cash margins and deposit requirement, and confining capital goods imports to available lines of credit would also compress imports. Moreover, the recent depreciation of the rupee *vis-a-vis* key currencies is also expected to reduce imports.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN.
Mr. Speaker. Sir. I deliberated asked for the actual balance of trade in rupees/SDRs. I find that because of the floating exchange rate since 1970s, there has been a continuous downward adjustment. I would call it devaluation, but I do not wish to offend the Hon Finance Minister who is a good friend of mine. Every downward adjustment has helped the Minister of Commerce to claim a rise in exports. But, there has been no rise to that extent in real terms, in quantities and real earnings. Due to the downward adjustment of the rupee

value, he claims, for example, that there was an increase in exports in rupee terms, of 17.5 per cent. That to my mind is a statistical trick which has been played on the House. Therefore, my question is,—it is a very basic question—will the Hon. Minister of Commerce devise a system of presenting the relevant data on the export statistics in a manner so as to place the real picture before the nation and the House? Let him not give an fallacious picture so that we may know the reality perhaps in terms of quantities involved, in terms of unit earnings rather than just claim the credit for a 20 per cent increase or a 15 per cent increase, because of the downward devaluation of the rupee.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I do not agree that the figures that have been given are fallacious. This is the practice which has been followed by successive Governments, that is giving the figures in Indian rupees, because the people of India understand these figures. I think the Hon. Members also like the figures in Indian rupees. But since I assumed Office in the last three weeks, on every occasion, I have taken pains to emphasise that I would like these figures to be given in hard currencies. Therefore, when I set the targets for this year—when I give the figures for this year—I will set the targets not only in Indian currencies, but also in hard currencies.

I agree with what the Hon. Member says that we should also know the figures in hard currencies; but to dismiss the figures in Indian currencies as fallacious, I am sorry, I cannot agree.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I said that you were misleading and giving a wrong picture to the country. (Interruptions)

Sir, my second supplementary is this : We speak of essential imports. Some examples are given like POL, Fertilizer, edible oil. Now, I would like to know as to what the hon. Minister considers to be non-essential imports and what is the contribution of these non-essential imports to the import figures that have been given to us, let us say, in rupee terms.

And arising out of that, another question arises that there was a report in the papers that we have committed funds available abroad, perhaps as a result of institutional and commercial lending which are tied down to specific projects, but we have not been able to utilise and so our imports have been held up, although the money has been available. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the reasons as to why this is so.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What is the second part of your question ?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : The second part of my question is this. We have been arguing that we are not in a position to pay our import bills and we make distinction between essential and non-essential imports. As far as the essential imports are concerned, there was a report that some institutional funds which have been committed in the past are available; we are not able to utilise them and in fact we have been paying an interest on that standing credit. Perhaps it was because they have been tied

down to a specific project or to capital goods supply from a specific country. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the specific reason as to why that fund has not been utilised for imports.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the second part of the question does not pertain to the Ministry of Commerce. I think, it should be addressed to the Finance Minister; he will be able to tell us whether there has been any credit which has been tied down or not tied down. As far as the first part of the question is concerned, there are non-essential imports taking place in this country.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am happy that you have admitted that.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Therefore, the previous Government did take a number of measures on import compression and that has resulted in import compression. This year we hope to achieve an import compression of about Rs. 3000 crores. In non-essential imports, there are two kinds and I will be very brief. One is that it can be a commodity which we do not require to import at all because there is a commodity in India which is competitive both in price and quality. That should not be imported.

Another kind of non-essential import is that if you are importing at a particular level and because of conspicuous consumption, the level goes up from 'X' to 'Y' the difference between 'X' and 'Y', according to me, is not essential. We must curb conspicuous consumption and bring down

the level of import of a commodity which is otherwise essential because the level of import is not essential.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: What about luxury items? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: In his reply, the Minister had said that confining the capital goods imports to available lines of credit would also compress imports.

May I request the Minister to answer about compressed imports in respect of other items which are supposed to be essential. I do not think that you are contemplating to compress the non-essential imports. Would you kindly say what is the result?

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: During the last three months.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: During the last three months, what is the result?

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question please.

SHRI NANI BHATTACHARYA: And how much are the compressed imports due to price rise and foreign exchange also?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, as a result of import compression measures taken by the previous Government, actual user licensees in 1990-91 over the corresponding period 1989-90 reduced by 24 per cent, registered exporters reduced by 1 per cent and

other categories reduced by 11 per cent.

I do not believe that there has been any import compression in essential items. It is not our intention to do any import compression in essential items. The measure that we have taken for import compression this year, I believe, will lead to import compression of approximately Rs. 3,000 crore. I think, the Indian economy particularly in manufacturing sector, can live with compression of about Rs. 3,000 crore.

I think, Mr. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee has prompted him about the last three months. The result is that in rupee terms, in April, total imports went down by 11.6 per cent, non-oil imports went down by 15 per cent.

In May, as compared to previous May, the total imports went up by only 1.2 per cent which means that there has been an effective import compression. Non-oil imports went down by 13.7 per cent. Import compression has taken place. *(Interruptions)*

Development of Minor Ports

*104. **SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minor ports in the various States proposed to be developed during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the total amount proposed to be spent thereon, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa has recommended to the Union Government for the development of Gopalpur minor port during the above period; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The development of minor ports is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. There is no proposal at present for Central Government to select or develop any minor port.

(c) and (d) A proposal was received in May, 1988 from Government of Orissa. The main traffic projected was thermal coal. In view of the existing and proposed facilities at Paradip Port, Central Government is of the view that a second outlet for thermal coal in the vicinity of Paradip will not be necessary during the VIII and at least till the middle of the IX Plan period.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question was about the details of the minor ports in the various States proposed to be developed during the Eighth Five Year Plan period. The answer is that it is the responsibility of the State Government.

In the second part of the answer he said that a proposal was received from the State Government of Orissa. Sir, if it is the responsibility of the State Government, then is the proposal rejected? .. (Interruptions) .. I have asked a specific question as to whether

the proposal has been received or not. In the first portion of the answer he says that it is the responsibility of the State Government and in the second portion, he says, 'However, a proposal has been received'. I would like to know from the Minister the total amount proposed to be spent, as I have asked in 'b' part of my question .. (Interruptions) .. He should answer my question Sir.

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : I would like to inform the hon. Member that I will not be able to answer questions which does not concern this Ministry. It concerns the State Government. A proposal was received for the Gopalpur port. But we find that it is not necessary because we have the facilities already at the Paradip Port.

SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI : If it is the responsibility of the State Government, then has the proposal been rejected ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : It is not the question of rejecting the proposal. I am already giving the required facilities at the second port.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what are the existing and proposed facilities at Paradip Port for transportation of thermal coal from Orissa through Paradip Port so that it does not necessitate for another minor port to be developed for the purpose. I belong to Orissa and so, I know that the facilities at Paradip Port are inadequate. I would also like to know as to whether or not any assessment has been made on the transportation of thermal coal from Orissa

to be sent to the South through Paradip Port and whether the existing facilities are adequate at that Port or not. If not, is he proposing to provide the necessary facilities there? It is a fact that huge amount of coal is required to be sent to the South from Orissa for a number of thermal power plants there?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : In view of the infrastructure already available at Paradip Port and also the large scale expansion of port facilities for handling thermal coal being planned there, a view was taken that a second outlet may not be necessary which the Orissa Government had asked for. But I would like to inform the House about one point. It is estimated that Paradip Port can be used for handling up to about 30 to 35 million tonnes of thermal coal. The Central Electricity Authority has projected that by 2000 AD, the export from Talcher Coal Fields for coastal thermal power station in South India would go up to 32 million tonnes and may even increase beyond 32 million tonnes. So, right up to 35 million tonnes, I have got the facilities.

Third Aircraft Carrier for Navy

*105. **PROF. K. V. THOMAS :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any decision has been taken for the construction of the Third Aircraft Carrier for the Indian Navy ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Sir, in the Eighth Lok Sabha, when a similar question was asked in this House, the then Defence Minister, Shri. K. C. Pant gave an answer that it was under consideration of the Government of India to have a third aircraft carrier and the present two aircraft carriers, particularly the INS Vikrant, are in an obsolete stage. I would like to know whether the Government is considering the need to acquire a third aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy, keeping the security environment in view.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR : Because of the high cost of the aircraft carrier, we are not in a position to afford a third aircraft carrier. We have taken a conscious decision to continue to use the two aircraft carriers only and that is sufficient at this stage.

AN HON. MEMBER : Sir, Army personnel were demanding one rank one pay .. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : This question pertains to aircraft carriers. Your supplementary is not relevant. Please sit down.

Use of Electronic Voting Machines

*107. **SHRI LAL K. ADVANI :**
SHRI ATAL BIHARI
VAJPAYEE :

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

(a) whether suggestions for use of electronic machines in elections have

been received to eliminate the cost of ballot boxes, ballot-papers, malpractices during counting and reduction of cost of election etc.;

(b) the action taken by the Government thereon and the action plan, if any, prepared by the Government in this regard;

(c) the number of electronic voting machines already acquired by the Election Commission and the expenditure incurred thereon; and

(d) how many times these machines have been used by the Commission so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGAIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Section 61A has been inserted in the Representation of the People Act, 1951, so as to empower the Commission to use electronic voting machines in such constituency or constituencies as it may, having regard to the circumstances of each case, specify. This section came into force w.e.f. 15-3-1989.

(c) 1.5 lakh electronic voting machines at a cost of about Rs. 75 crores were acquired by the Election Commission by 31-3-90. 444 machines were earlier acquired by the Election Commission at a cost of around rupees Twenty five lakhs during the period 1982—84.

(d) Electronic voting machines were tried for the first time in 50 polling stations of Parur Assembly constituency in Kerala in May, 1982 and subsequently in 10 more constituencies in different States as per details given in the Statement laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Constituencies where Electronic Voting Machines were Introduced in the Year 1982-83

Name of the State	Nature of Election	No. & Name of Constituency where Voting Machines were used	Month & Year of Election	Number of Machines used
1. Kerala	General	70—Parur A.C.	May., 1982	50
2. Nagaland	Do.	10—Northern Angami A.C.	Nov., 1982	12
3. Andhra Pradesh	Do.	191—Shad'nagar (SC) A.C.	Jan., 1983	126
4. Karnataka	Do.	84—Shanthinagar (SC) A.C.	Jan., 1983	75*
5. Tripura	Do.	9—Banamalipur A.C.	Jan., 1983	12*
6. Delhi	Do.	1—Sarojini Nagar M.C.	Feb., 1983	26*
7. Delhi	Do.	3—Gole Market (SC) M.C.	Feb., 1983	27*
8. Delhi	Do.	5—Delhi Cantt. M.C.	Feb., 1983	25*
9. Arunachal Pradesh	Bve election	22—Roing A.C.	April, 1983	25
10. Bihar	Do.	199—Chandi A.C.	June., 1983	159
11. Tripura	Do.	18—Charilam A.C.	Nov., 1983	19*

A.C.—ASSEMBLY CONSTITUENCY, M.C.—METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

*One common machine was used in two polling station located in the same premises.

 WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUERIES

[English]

One-Rank-One-Pay for Defence Personnel

*106 SHRI V S VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state .

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce one-rank-one-pay for the defence personnel;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether there is any system for redressal of grievances for the rank and file of the Defence forces, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

(c) and (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. Under the provisions of the Army, Navy and Air Force Acts and the Defence Services Regulations, there is a system for redressal of grievances of the rank and file of the Defence Forces. The details of the system of granting redressal are contained in Sections 26 and 27 of Army Act, 1950, Section 23 of Navy Act, 1957 and Sections 26 and 27 of Air Force Act, 1950, respectively. Extracts of these Sections are given in Annexure I, II & III, respectively.

2. In accordance with the aforesaid provisions whenever any officer/personnel perceives that he has suffered any personal oppression, injustice, ill treatment etc., he can make a written complaint addressed to his immediate superior. The Regulations contain provisions for transmission of the said complaint to the Central Government and also for direct appeal by the complainant to the next superior authority if no final reply to his complaint is received by him within 6 months.

ANNEXURE I

EXTRACTS OF SECTIONS 26 AND 27 OF ARMY ACT—1950

Remedy of aggrieved persons other than officers

26 (1) Any person subject to this Act other than an officer who deems himself wronged by any superior or other officer may, if not attached to a troop or company, complain to the officer under whose command or orders he is serving; and may, if attached to a troop or company, complain to the officer commanding the same

(2) When the officer complained against is the officer to whom any complaint should, under sub-section (1), be preferred, the aggrieved person may complain to such officer's next superior officer.

(3) Every officer receiving any such complaint shall make as complete an

investigation into it as may be possible for giving full redress to the complainant; or, when necessary, refer the complaint to superior authority.

(4) Every such complaint shall be preferred in such manner as may from time to time be specified by the proper authority.

(5) The Central Government may revise any decision by the Chief of the Army Staff under sub-section (2) but, subject thereto, the decision of the Chief of the Army Staff shall be final.

Remedy of aggrieved officers

27. Any officer who deems himself wronged by his commanding officer or any superior officer who on due application made to his commanding officer does not receive the redress to which he considers himself entitled, may complain to the Central Government in such manner as may from time to time be specified by the proper authority.

ANNEXURE II

EXTRACTS OF SECTION 23 OF NAVY ACT—1957

Remedy of aggrieved persons

23. (1) If an officer or seaman thinks that he has suffered any personal oppression, injustice or other ill-treatment at the hands of any superior officer, he may make a complaint in accordance with the regulations made under this Act.

(2) The regulations referred to in sub-section (1) shall provide for the complaint to be forwarded to the

Central Government for its consideration if the complainant is not satisfied with the decision on his complaint.

ANNEXURE III

EXTRACTS OF SECTIONS 26 AND 27 OF AIR FORCE ACT—1950

Remedy of aggrieved airmen

26 (1) Any airman who deems himself wronged by any superior or other officer may, if not attached to a unit or detachment, complain to the officer under whose command or orders he is serving; and may, if attached to a unit or detachment, complain to the officer commanding the same.

(2) When the officer complained against is the officer to whom any complaint should, under sub-section (1), be preferred, the aggrieved airman may complain to such officer's next superior officer, and if he thinks himself wronged by such superior officer, he may complain to the Chief of the Air Staff.

(3) Every officer receiving any such complaint shall make as complete an investigation into it as may be possible for giving full redress to the complainant, or, when necessary, refer the complaint to superior authority.

(4) Every such complaint shall be preferred in such manner as may from time to time be specified by the proper authority.

(5) The Central Government may revise any decision by the Chief of the Air Staff under sub section (2), but subject thereto, the decision of

the Chief of the Air Staff shall be final.

Remedy of aggrieved officers

27. Any officer who deems himself wronged by his commanding officer or any superior officer and who on due application made to his commanding officer does not receive the redress to which he considers himself entitled, may complain to the Central Government in such manner as may from time to time be specified by the proper authority.

Declaration of Main Central Road as National Highway in Kerala

*108. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to declare the Main Central Road from Angamalli to Trivandrum in Kerala as a National Highway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Aircraft Accidents in Indian Air Force

*109. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of aircraft accidents in the Indian Air Force is the highest in the world;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the comparative figures of such accidents during the last two years ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) to (c) : As information about the number of accidents and the accident rates in the Air Force's of various countries is not available, it is not possible to draw any comparison with the rate of accidents in the Indian Air Force. As such, there is no basis to conclude that the accident rate in the IAF is the highest in the world.

[*English*]

Restructuring Export Policy

*110 SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY :

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the export policy to provide a major thrust to exports:

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(c) to what extent the exports are expected to increase as a result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, on the 4th July, 1991 the Government has brought about major structural changes in

EXIM policy keeping in view the following objectives :—

- (a) the reduction or elimination of licensing and bring about greater automaticity,
- (b) export promotion,
- (c) optimal import compression,

The main features of the changes are as under :—

- (1) Replenishment licensing scheme (REP) has now become the principal instrument for export-related imports. It will now be called "EXIM Scrip" and can be freely traded;
- (2) All exports have a uniform REP rate of 30% of the freight on board (FOB) value from the present rates ranging from 5 to 20 per cent of the FOB value. Special rates for gems and jewellery, certain metal-based handicrafts and newspapers/journals/periodicals will, however, continue.
- (3) The new REP scheme gives maximum incentive to exporters whose import intensity is low like agricultural exports.
- (4) Advance Licensing Scheme, under which export linked imports are permitted, is being further simplified and strengthened. The REP rate for Advance license exports has been increased from 10% of the net foreign exchange (NFF) to 20% of the NFE.

(c) As a result of revamping of Import-Export Policy, exports are likely to increase.

[Translation]

Review of Textile Policy

*111. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the textile policy to tackle the problems of handloom, powerloom, synthetic mills, farmers, labourers and management at various level,

(b) if so, the results thereof;

(c) whether the farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce despite record cotton yield;

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard,

(e) whether the Government have studied the report of Abid Hussain Committee; and

(f) if so, the recommendations of the Committee accepted by the Government and the time by which these are likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (f) Government have appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Abid Hussain to review the progress of implementation of the Textile Policy, 1985. The Committee submitted its report in January, 1990. The recommendations of the Abid Hussain's Committee Report are under active consideration of the Government in consultation with State

Governments and various interests in textile industry, the concerned Central Ministries, etc. Government will announce its decisions on the recommendations of the Committee as early as possible.

The Government announces minimum support price for cotton which takes into account the cost of various inputs as well as reasonable return to the farmers. The cotton farmers have been able to sell their produce at prices higher than the minimum support price during 1990-91 season

[English]

Devaluation of Rupee

*112. SHRI DHARAMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the factors taken into consideration by the Government before devaluation of Indian currency in international market; and

(b) the details of assessment made, in respect of each hard currency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Adjustments in the external value of the rupee were effected on 1st and 3rd July, 1991 after due consideration of the balance of payments position, international competitiveness of our exports reflected by the movements in the real effective exchange rate of rupee, the state of our foreign exchange reserves and market perceptions and expectations regarding the exchange value of the rupee.

(b) The decision on the recent exchange rate adjustments of rupee was taken in the light of movements in India's real effective exchange rate taking into account the exchange rate behaviour of India's major trading partners, and the inflation rate in India and abroad, and was not based on movements in individual currencies or bilateral exchange rates.

[Translation]

Superannuation Age of Military Personnel

*113. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to raise the age of superannuation of military personnel also up to 58 years;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to raise the retirement age of all Defence Services personnel up to 58 years as this would be detrimental to the need of maintaining a youthful profile and fighting efficiency of the forces.

[English]

Closure of Jute Mills in West Bengal

*114. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Jute Mills in West Bengal which are at present

either lying closed or are working much below their capacity:

(b) the estimated loss of foreign exchange as a result of the closure of these mills and the number of workers rendered unemployed;

(c) whether the Government of West Bengal has time and again requested the Union Government for the take-over of these mills; and

(d) if so, how the Government propose to tackle this issue ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) The details of the jute mills in West Bengal that were lying closed, as on 30th June, 1991 are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Mill	No. of Workers	Date of Closure
1	Nuddca	4,000	2-6-88
2	Budge Budge	3,400	18-3-88
3	Agarpara	3,400	13-6-91
4	Anglo India	5,500	20-5-91
5	Prem Chand	900	17-10-90
Total		17,200	

Some jute mills like Bharat, Calcutta, Gourepore and Tirupati Jute Mills are working far below their rated capacity.

It is not possible to estimate the loss of foreign exchange as a result of closure of these mills.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government are of the view that take-over/nationalisation is no solution to the problem of sickness and Government will not, as a rule, intervene in such cases. Government have taken several measures for the revival of sick mills including creation of Jute Modernisation Fund to cater to the modernisation requirements of the jute industry, establishment of Special Jute Development Fund for restructuring the jute economy, enactment of mandatory use of jute packing for foodgrains,

sugar, cement and urea, grant of financial support for R&D activities and product diversification programmes, regular purchase of B. T will bags on cost plus basis, encouragement of diversification by providing facilities of excise exemption, concessional import duty, marketing support etc. Government have also set up a Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to determine and enforce remedial, preventive and ameliorative steps for the revival of sick industrial companies.

Taxi Fare Hike

*115. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news—item captioned 'Arbitrary pre-paid taxi

fare hike alleged' appearing in the Indian Express dated June 27, 1991; and

(b) if so, the corrective measures being taken for the convenience of the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The corrective measures being taken for the convenience of the passengers are :—

- (i) The fare charges are displayed at prominent places near the booths;
- (ii) Prompt action is taken against any complaint received;
- (iii) To ensure accuracy and reliability, the system is now being computerised;
- (iv) The Delhi Police are dropping the Zone system and the system of colony distance is being introduced;
- (v) The pre-paid booths are being equipped with :
 - (a) Public announcements system;
 - (b) TV with teletext facility.
- (vi) All pre-paid booths are proposed to be linked with MTNL net-work to ensure payment of voucher issued at one booth at any other booth in the city.

Suspension of Voluntary Retirement Scheme by S.T.C.

*116. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHDURY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has decided to suspend the voluntary retirement scheme and to retrench the surplus staff;

(b) whether any assessment has been made of the surplus staff at the level of officers and staff; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) STC has temporarily suspended the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(b) and (c) STC has commissioned the National Productivity Council to conduct a study to identify the extent and nature of surplus staff.

[*Translation*]

Disbursement of Loans for Purchase of essential Commodities

*117. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans advanced by the public sector banks and other public financial institutions for the purchase of various essential commodities during the last three years and the estimated amount proposed to be advanced during the current year;

(b) whether there is any proposal to discontinue the advancing of loans

by these banks and financial institutions to the private wholesalers in order to leave them to carry on their business by mobilising their own resources;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

DALBIR SINGH) : (a) The commercial banks advance loans for the purchase of essential commodities as well as for financing operation of wholesale traders. The following table gives the outstanding advances of the Banks against the selected essential commodities like foodgrains, sugar, major oil seeds, etc. for the last 3 years : -

	Amount (Rs. in crores)
March, 1988	1,722
March, 1989	2,128
March, 1990	2,424
February, 1991 (latest available)	2,400

The other public financial institutions do not advance loans for trading in essential commodities.

(b) No, Sir

(c) and (d) Does not arise

[English]

Sericulture Production

*118. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to strengthen the basic infrastructure so as to increase the sericulture production:

(b) how these steps would protect the interest of small, marginal and landless agricultural labourers; and

(c) the number and type of projects being implemented in West Bengal alongwith their financial outlay and output achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) In order to supplement the efforts of the State Sericulture Departments for development of sericulture in the country, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has taken steps to set up a country-wide network of Units for providing R&D, Extension, Training and Infra-structural support to the industry. As a result of the steps taken, the silk recovery has improved resulting in higher economic returns to the farmer. Besides, the following schemes are being implemented for assisting small, marginal and landless farmers :—

(a) Supply of mulberry cuttings/saplings at 50% cost.

(b) Free supply of rearing equipments to marginal farmers.

(c) Supply of nylon nets for Uzifly control at 50% cost.

- (d) Incentive Bonus to Bivoltine Silkworm rearers and reelers.
- (e) Arranging farmers study tour.
- (f) Establishment of mulberry demonstration farm at farmers field at CSB cost.
- (g) Working capital assistance to the reelers at subsidised interest for purchase of cocoons.
- (h) Arranging marketing and transportation facilities to the rearers for disposal of cocoons at reeling centres.
- (c) The details of sericulture projects being implemented at present in West Bengal are as under :—

NATIONAL SERICULTURE PROJECT (MULBERRY)

Period	5 Years (1989-90 to 1994-95)
Outlay (Rs. Lakhs)	4.989 00
Expenditure (Rs. Lakhs)	286.89 (1989-90 & 90-91)

National Sericulture Project

Under CSB component of National Sericulture Project (NSP) in West Bengal, one P4 Farm, one P3 Farm, two P2 Farms, three Grainages, fourteen Technical Service Centres and one Demonstration-cum-Training Centre have been established so far. Besides, assistance to 102 Chawkie Rearing Centres have also been done. These Units have started functioning recently.

Use of IAF Aircraft for Electioneering Purpose

*120. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of hours IAF aircraft and helicopters were used by the former Prime Minister and Deputy Prime Minister for electioneering purposes during the recent general elections ?

(b) the total amount that has become due for payment to the IAF on account of use of its aircraft and helicopters ;

(c) whether the amount has since been recovered ;

(d) if not, the reasons for the delay, and

(e) the steps to recover the same expeditiously ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) A total of 1307 : 10 hours of flying was used by the former Prime Minister for unofficial visits from 2nd April 1991, i.e. the date on which para VII of the Modal Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Political Parties and Candidates issued by the Election Commission came into effect, to 13th June 1991 i.e. the date on which the election campaign came to an end. The

former Deputy Prime Minister was not provided IAF aircraft for unofficial visits during this period

The total amount due for payment to the IAF on account of the use of its aircraft for the unofficial visits by the former Prime Minister is approximately Rs 412 lakhs (Rupees four hundred twelve lakhs)

(c) to (e) No, Sir Air Headquarters normally require 3-4 months for scrutiny before raising bills

Drug Smuggling on Indo-Pak Border

389 SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the drug, smuggling is on the increase on the Indo-Pak border,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor, and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR)

(a) The reports received indicate that drug smuggling on Indo-Pak border has not shown any increase

(b) and (c) Various steps have been taken to check drug smuggling on the Indo-Pak border in the recent past. A Zonal Unit of Narcotics Control Bureau has been set up at Jodhpur to look after the land border with Rajasthan. The Customs have also set up Preventive Organisation under the charge of an Additional Collector at Jodhpur with preventive ranges and

sectors along the border. High level meetings with various enforcement agencies like BSF, Customs and the Police are conducted to sharpen their investigative skills. The enforcement formations on the border are also kept apprised from time to time of the latest modus-operandi, routes used by traffickers and methods of concealment adopted.

Construction of Second Bridge over Yamuna River Near I. T. O. Delhi

390 SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state

(a) whether a foundation stone was laid recently for construction of a bridge over Yamuna river at I T O Delhi,

(b) if so, when the actual construction work will start and how long it will take to complete different stages of construction

(c) whether tenders have been called and contract given,

(d) if so, to whom and estimated cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) It is too early to indicate when the construction will start as the project is yet to be sanctioned. The project is expected to be completed within four years from the date of commencement

(c) No, Sir

(d) Does not arise

[*Translation*]**Provision of N. T. C. Cloth at Cheaper Rates to Readymade Garments Entrepreneurs**

391. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to provide the cloth manufactured by the National Textile Corporation units to self-employed entrepreneurs engaged in manufacturing readymade garments in Madhubani and Darbhanga districts of Bihar and to facilitate the export of their goods ;

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

(c) the overall production of the National Textile Corporation with its total value during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) and (b) Self employed entrepreneurs are free to purchase their requirement of cloth from NTC for manufacturing readymade garments for exports. However, no special scheme exists for this purpose.

(c) The production of cloth and market yarn produced by NTC mills during the last 3 years and its value is given below .—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Production		Value
	Cloth (million mtrs.)	Market Yarn (mn. kps.)	
1988-89	691.66	77.11	1097.79
1989-90	662.24	90.64	1273.07
1990-91	606.63	96.87	1228.15

[*English*]**Remittances from NRIs**

392. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the remittance from the NRIs during 1990-91 and the two preceding years in terms of SDRs and rupees ;

(b) whether there has been a noticeable fall in the inward remittance or

use in withdrawal during recent months, and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to raise the inflow and to reduce the outflow ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) The remittances from NRIs in foreign currency deposits during 1988-89 to 1990-91 were as under :

Period	NR(F)		ICNR	
	Rs. Crore (Equivalent)	SDR Million (Equivalent)	Rs. Crore (Equivalent)	SDR Million (Equivalent)
1988-89 (Actuals)	235	122	2,230	1,158
1989-90 (Prov. Est.)	—4	—2	2,179	1,020
1990-91 (Prov.)	—146	—59	265	103

(b) Available data shows that there was noticeable fall in inward remittances and perceptible net outflow under NR(E) and FCNR schemes in April-May, 1991.

(c) The strain on the Balance of Payments was aggravated by the Gulf crisis, and this resulted in a sharp drain on the foreign exchange reserves. The downward adjustment of the rupee in relation to major foreign currencies and the trade policy reforms announced recently are some of the steps taken to correct the imbalance in the external sector. With the introduction of substantive corrective measures, it is expected that the trend will be reversed and inflows will normalise.

[Translation]

Inquiry into Malpractices in Sainik School, Chittoargarh

393 SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a memorandum demanding inquiry into the malpractices in Sainik School, Chittoargarh was submitted to the Government on January 8, 1990;

(b) whether any inquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d)

A letter dated 8-1-90 containing allegations of maladministration and misuse of position against the former

Principal of Sainik School, Chittoargarh was received by Government. The Principal of the School was transferred on 10-2-90 and an Inquiry was conducted by the Inspecting Officer, Sainik Schools. The report of the Chairman, Local Board of Administration on the Inquiry Report is awaited.

[English]

Foreign Exchange Baulging in Public Sector Banks

394. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Forex siphoned from banks through forged documents" that appeared in the Economic Times dated 9 April, 1991;

(b) if so, the details of the public sector banks which issued forged documents to the delinquent traders;

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange involved in the forgery and whether any persons/bank officials responsible for the loss/forgery have been booked;

(d) if so, the action taken against the guilty persons and the steps taken to check the recurrence of such losses/forgery in future; and

(e) the number of complaints received against the public sector banks during the last six months by the Consumer Grievance Cell, Bank-wise; and

(f) the action taken thereon?

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

(b) and (c) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that scrutiny of the accounts of Khand branch of Union Bank of India carried out in March, 1991 has brought to light certain procedural lapses. Though bank's funds were not involved, remittances equivalent to Rs. 568 58 lakhs were fraudulently effected under forged import documents in the case of 32 import bills. The bank's internal auditors detected the fraud. According to the bank, the fraud was committed by external forces.

(d) The matter was referred by Union Bank of India to the RBI, who in turn, reported it to the Directorate of Enforcement. The Directorate has taken up the investigation. The bank

has transferred the concerned Chief Manager and reiterated its instructions/guidelines for handling of import collection documents to caution branches against recurrence of such instances.

(e) and (f) The Grievance Cell in the Central Office of Reserve Bank of India receives complaints against banks/branches in regard to deficiencies relating to certain aspects of their working like delay in issue on Drafts, sanction of loans etc The Bankwise position showing the number of complaints received in the last 6 months (i.e. from 1-1-91 to 30-6-91) is given in the statement attached. The Grievance Cell of RBI themselves investigate some cases where considered necessary and obtains the comments from their Regional Offices and the concerned banks, while the remaining cases are sent to such offices for appropriate action.

STATEMENT

Sl No	Name of Bank	No of complaints received	Sent to Banks/RBI's Regional Offices for appropriate action	Sent to RBI's Regional Offices/Banks for investigation/comments
1	State Bank of India	197	154	43
2	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	10	8	2
3	State Bank of Hyderabad	16	11	2
4	State Bank of Indore	10	9	1
5	State Bank of Mysore	5	2	3
6	State Bank of Patna	14	10	4
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	8	4	4
8	State Bank of Travancore	6	2	4
9	Allahabad Bank	26	20	6
10	Andhra Bank	26	18	8
11	Bank of Baroda	50	27	23

STATEMENT—contd.

12	Bank of India	61	32	29
13	Bank of Maharashtra	31	19	12
14	Canara Bank	44	27	17
15	Central Bank of India	23	21	2
16	Corporation Bank	25	18	7
17	Dena Bank	23	18	5
18	Indian Bank	21	13	8
19	Indian Overseas Bank	26	18	8
20	New Bank of India	51	43	8
21	Oriental Bank of Commerce	23	19	4
22	Punjab & Sind Bank	57	50	7
23	Punjab National Bank	75	62	13
24	Syndicate Bank	40	30	10
25	UCO Bank	41	31	10
26	Union Bank of India	30	28	2
27	United Bank of India	18	14	4
28	Vijaya Bank	69	49	20
	TOTAL	1,026	760	266

Police Officer Occupying C.M.D. Office in Kanpur

395. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Police Officer had illegally made his entry on a closed holiday in or about mid of May, 1991 into the Office of Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Public Sector Company in Kanpur under his ministry;

(b) whether he continued in the said office for about three or four days until the Ministry concerned intervened ;

(c) whether the same officer has again taken over the position in the said company since 7th June, 1991 ; and

(d) if so, the facts in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) On the basis of a communications issued by Govt. of India, the State Govt. of U.P. had placed the services of an I.P.S. Officer, at the disposal of British India Corporation Ltd. (BIC) Kanpur on 17th May, 1991 for appointment as Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the Corporation. However, pending notification regarding his appointment as

CMD, the officer concerned was informed on 23rd May, 1991 to await further communication from Govt of India. Subsequently after issue of notification the Officer was advised by Govt. of India to take charge of the post. He resumed charge on 7th June 1991

Elevation of High Court Judges to Supreme Court

396. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of High Court Judges elevated to the Supreme Court during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 ;

(b) their seniority in the All India List of Judges on the date of elevation ;

(c) the number of posts of Judges of the Supreme Court as on April 1, 1988, April 1, 1989, April 1, 1990 and April 1, 1991 and the vacancies on these dates and

(d) the time by which the existing vacancies are likely to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) (a) The requisite information is given in the attached statement-I.

(b) Appointments of Judges are made in terms of article 124 of the Constitution of India and the person considered suitable is appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India. There is no All India Service of High Court Judges.

(c) The requisite information is given in the attached statement-II

(d) The process of consultation for filling up the existing vacancies of Judges in the Supreme Court is on and it is not possible to indicate precisely by which time, the existing vacancies are likely to be filled up

STATEMENT I

S. No	Name of the Judge	Date of Appointment in the Supreme Court
1	S/Shri Justice N D Ojha	19-01-88
2	S R Pandian	14-12-88
3	Dr T. K Thonmen	14-12-88
4	A M Ahluwari	14-12-88
5	K N Sarkia	14-12-88
6	Kuldip Singh	14-12-88
7	Jagdish Sharan Verma	03-06-89
8	V Ramaswami	06-10-89
9	P B Sawant	06-10-89
10	N M Kasliwal	06-10-89
11	Madanmohan Puri	06-10-89
12	K Ramaswami	06-10-89
13	Kumari Bevi, Meera Sahib Fathima	06-10-89
14	K J Reddy	11-01-90
15	S C Agarwal	11-01-90
16	Rani Manohar Sahai	11-01-90
17	Yogeshwar Dayal	22-01-91

STATEMENT II

Date as on	Sanctioned strength	Actual strength	Vacancies
1st April, 1988	26	17	9
1st April, 1989	26	20	6
1st April, 1990	26	25	1
1st April, 1991	26	23	3

Cancellation of Right of Occupation and Continuation of Lessees in Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut Cantonment Areas

397. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKARA MURTHY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Defence Estates, Lucknow and the Government have received any representation during the past three months from the residents of Lucknow, Kanpur and Meerut cantonments for cancelling the right of occupation and continuation of lessees in the leasehold land premises where the lease periods have since expired, and

(b) if so, the steps taken to remove the erstwhile lessees ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of reply to (a) above, question does not arise.

[Translation]

Recruitment of SCs/STs in Armed Forces

398. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is

much less in three Services of the Armed Forces (Navy, Army and Air Force) ; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to give proper representation to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Armed Forces ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) Selection to all ranks in the Armed Forces is open to all eligible Indian nationals, irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion. As such, there is no reservation quota in favour of any caste, tribe or community.

[English]

Manufacture of Infantry Weapons

399. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has achieved self-sufficiency in manufacture of small arms and ammunition in relation to re-equipping of the infantry,

(b) if so, whether such infantry weapons are comparable with small arms developed and in use by other countries, in efficiency, quality and cost-wise ;

(c) the contribution made by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (D.R.D.O.) in that regard;

(d) whether there is any scope for export promotion of such small arms; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) All Infantry weapons requirements of the Army are being met indigenously. The existing family of Small Arms in use in the Infantry is proposed to be replaced, in a phased manner, by a new Small Arms System, designed and developed by the Defence Research & Development Organisation in association with the Ordnance Factories, which is lighter, more handy and accurate and equipped with superior firepower. While the new Weapons System is comparable with those in use in other countries on efficiency and quality, the cost comparison can be drawn only after establishment of its bulk production.

(d) and (e) Exports can be considered only after meeting the total internal requirements.

Modernisation of Indian Air Force

400. SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state?

(a) whether there is a proposal to modernise the Indian Air Force and also to plan for renewal and replacement of certain categories of armaments;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision on the report of Arun Singh Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Modernisation of the Air Force, to keep pace with national security requirements, is a continuous process. The Committee, under the chairmanship of Shri Arun Singh, was established to examine matters relating to Defence Expenditure.

[Translation]

Uniform Civil Code

401. SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce uniform Civil Code for all citizens;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be introduced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) Introduction of Uniform Civil Code for all citizens will necessarily involve changes in the personal laws of minority communities. The consistent policy of the Government has been not to interfere on its own in the personal

laws of the minority communities unless initiative for the change comes from such communities.

(b) The following steps have been taken to improve the profitability of the mills under NTC :—

Financial Position of Textile Units under N.T.C.

402. SHRI SATYNARAYAN JATIYA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the profit/loss of each textile units under the National Textile Corporation as per their annual accounts furnished at the end of the financial year 1990-91, statewise; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government to make them viable under the textile policy and the impact thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) A statement showing the provisional profit/loss of each Textile unit under NTC, state-wise, during 1990-91 is enclosed.

- modernisation
- pruning uneconomic capacities
- optimising economic capacities
- selective modernisation
- higher productivity
- labour rationalisation
- competitive purchase of raw materials
- higher yarn production
- lower cloth production
- price optimisation
- product upgradation.

As a result of the measures taken by NTC/Govt., the losses of mills were reduced by about 35% during 1989-90 and further by about 5% during 1990-91.

STATEMENT

Profit/Loss of Mills under NTC during the Financial Year 1990-91., Statewise

		(Rs. in Crores)
Name of the State, Union Territory	Name of the Mills	Profit/loss during 1990-91 (Prov.)
<i>Punjab</i>	1. Dayalbagh Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Amritsar	--0.04
	2. Suraj Textile Mills, Malout	+0.31
	3. Kharar Textile Mills, Kharar	+0.74
	4. Panipat Woollen Mills, Kharar	-2.71
<i>Rajasthan</i>	1. Shri Bijay Cotton Mills, Bijay Nagari	+0.26
	2. Udaipur Cotton Mills, Udaipur	+0.38
	3. Mahalaxmi Mills, Beawar	+0.25
	4. Edward Mills, Beawar	+0.08
<i>Delhi</i>	1. Ajudhia Textile Mills, Delhi	--2.74

STATEMENT—contd.

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of the Mills	Profit/loss during 1990-91 (Prov.)
<i>West Bengal</i>	1. Bengal Textile Mills, Murshidabad	1 13
	2. Luxmi Narayan Cotton Mills, Rishra	-1.74
	3. Arati Cotton Mills, Dassnagar	-1.11
	4. Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills, No. II, Kotagum	-0.79
	5. Kanoria Industries, Konnagar	-0.82
	6. Central Cotton Mills, Howrah	-4.62
	7. Bengal Fine Spg. & Wvg. Mills, No. I, Konnagar	1.66
	8. Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills, Serampore	-3.30
	9. Shree Mahalaxmi Cotton Mills, Palta	-3.06
	10. Rampooria Cotton Mills, Serampore	-3.26
	11. Bengasi Cotton Mills, Sukchar	-1.65
	12. Jyoti Wvg. Factory, Calcutta	-1.30
	13. Manindra Mills, Cossimbazar	-1.21
	14. Sodapore Cotton Mills, Sodapore	-0.98
<i>Bihar</i>	1. Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills, Gaya	1.70
	2. Bihar Co-operative Spg. Mills, Mokamal	-1.15
<i>Orissa</i>	1. Orissa Cotton Mills, Bhagatpur	-0.67
<i>Assam</i>	1. Associated Industries, Kamrup	-1.31
<i>Tamil Nadu</i>	1. Om Parasakthi Mills, Coimbatore	+0.04
	2. Combodia Mills, Coimbatore	+0.94
	3. Krishnaveni Textile Mills, Coimbatore	+0.60
	4. Sri Rangavilas Ginning Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Pedamedu	+1.03
	5. Pankaja Mills, Coimbatore	+1.30
	6. Pioneer Spinners, Kamudakudi	+0.49
	7. Kaleeswarar Mills 'B' Unit, Kalyanarkoil	+1.89
	8. Coimbatore Murugan Mills, Coimbatore	+1.47
	9. Somasundaram Mills, Coimbatore	+0.63
	10. Kaleeswarar Mills, 'A' Unit, Coimbatore	+0.07
	11. Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg. Mills, Coimbatore	+0.93
	12. Sri Sarda Mills, Coimbatore	+0.90
	13. Balamverma Textile Mills, Shencottah	+0.79
	14. Kothadram Spg. Mills, Madurai	-

STATEMENT—contd

		(Rs. in Crores)
State of the State/ Union Territory	Name of the Mills	Profit/loss during 1990-91 (Prov.)
<i>Pondicherry</i>	1 Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Pondicherry	0 79
	2 Sri Bharathi Mills, Pondichery	0 06
<i>Uttar Pradesh</i>	<i>Nationalised</i>	
	1 New Victoria Mills, Kanpur	-7 67
	2 Muir Mills, Kanpur	- 7 13
	3 Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Kanpur	- 9 44
	4 Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Nani	-1 14
	5 Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Maunith Bhanjan	-0 02
	6 Sri Vikram Cotton Mills, Lucknow	-1 81
	7 Lord Krishna Textile Mills, Saharanpur	-3 78
	8 Biji Cotton Mills, Hathras	-1 15
9 Raebareli Textile Mills, Raebareli	-0 59	
<i>Managed Mills</i>	1 Jasmintan Cotton Mills, Kanpur	-13 41
	2 Atherton Mills, Kanpur	-11 91
<i>Andhra Pradesh</i>	1 Azam Jahi Mills, Warangal	-2 72
	2 Adoni Cotton Mills, Adoni	+0 12
	3 Anantapur Cotton Mills, Tadpatri	-0 23
	4 Natraj Spg & Wvg Mills, Nirmal	+0 33
	5 Netha Spg Mills, Secunderabad	-0 25
	6 Tirupathi Cotton Mills, Renigunta	0 35
<i>Kerala</i>	1 Alagappa Textiles Mills, Alagappanagar	0 91
	2 Cannanore Spg & Wvg Mills, Cannanore	+0 86
	3 Kerala Lakshmi Mills, Trichur	+1 44
	4 Parvathi Mills, Quilon	-1 32
	5 Vijaymohini Spg & Wvg Mills, Trivandrum	1 08
<i>Mahe</i>	1 Cannanore Spg & Wvg Mills, Mahe	0 76
<i>Karnataka</i>	1 Muerva Mills, Bangalore	-2 96
	2 Mysore Spg & Wvg Mills, Bangalore	-8 00
	3 M S K Mills, Gulbarga	-2 58
	4 Sree Yellamma CW and Silk Mills, Davangere	0 46

STATEMENT—contd.

(Rs. in Crores)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of the Mills	Profit/loss during 1990-91 (Prov.)
<i>Maharashtra</i>	1 India United Mills No 1, Bombay	-2.31
	2 India United Mills No 2, Bombay	-2.08
	3 India United Mills No 3, Bombay	-2.53
	4 India United Mills No 4, Bombay	
	5 India United Mills No 5, Bombay	-1.25
	6 India United Dye Works Bombay	-1.22
	7 Model Mills, Nagpur	-3.46
	8 R S R G Spg & Wvg Mills, Akola	-0.79
	9 R N B A Spg & Wvg Mills, Hinghghat	-0.30
	10 Savatram Ramprasad Mills, Akola	-0.85
	11 Vidarbha Mills (Bairat) Achalpur	-0.60
<i>Maharashtra</i>	1 Bursli Textile Mills, Bombay	0.00
	2 Apollo Textile Mills, Bombay	0.77
	3 Bharat Textile Mills, Bombay	-0.18
	4 Digvijay Textile Mills, Bombay	2.07
	5 Jupiter Textile Mills, Bombay	-3.13
	6 New Hind Textile Mills Bombay	-3.41
	7 Mumbai Textile Mills, Bombay	-3.45
	8 Aurangabad Textile Mills, Aurangabad	-0.82
	9 Chalisgaon Textile Mills, Chalisgaon	-0.21
	10 Dhule Textile Mills, Dhule	-0.70
	11 Nanded Textile Mills, Nanded	-2.53
<i>Maharashtra</i>	<i>Managea Mills</i>	
	1 Elphinstone Spg & Wvg Mills (UC)	-3.14
	2 Finlay Mills	-1.60
	3 Gold Mohur Mills	-1.39
	4 Jam Manufacturing Mills	-4.56
	5 Kohnoot Mills (1, 2 & 3)	-7.62
	6 Shree Madhusudhan Mills	-4.89
	7 New City of Bombay Mills	1.038
	8 Podar Mills	1.56
	9 Podar Processors	+0.24
	10 Shree Sitaram Mills	-4.44
11 Tala Mills	-5.69	
<i>Gujarat</i>	1 Rajkot Textile Mills, Rajkot	-1.17
	2 Mahalaxmi Textile Mills, Bhavnagar	-2.11
	3 Petlad Textile Mills, Petlad	-2.38
	4 Ahmedabad New Textile Mills, Ahmedabad	-2.73

STATEMENT—contd.

		(Rs. in Crores)
Name of the State/ Union Territory	Name of the Mills	Profit/loss during 1990-91 (Prov.)
<i>Gujarat—Cont</i>	5 Ahmedabad Jupiter Textile Mills Ahmedabad	3 41
	6 Jehangir Textile Mills Ahmedabad	2 22
	7 Rajnagar Mills No. 1 Ahmedabad	}
	8 Rajnagar Mills No. 2 Ahmedabad	
	9 Viramgaon Textile Mills Viramgaon	-2 17
	10 New Manekchowk Textile Mills Ahmedabad	-1 43
	11 Himadri Textile Mills Ahmedabad	1 19
12 Fine Knitting Mills Ahmedabad	-	
<i>Madhya Pradesh</i>	1 Indore Malwa Mills, Indore	-4 87
	2 Kalyanmal Mills, Indore	-2 33
	3 Swadeshi C & T Mills Indore	-3 51
	4 Hira Mills, Ujjain	-4 25
	5 Burhanpur Tapti Mills, Burhanpur	-0 62
	6 Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills, Rajnandgaon	-2 23
	7 New Bhopal Textile Mills, Bhopal	-1 22

Classification of Cities

(d) whether the Government propose to upgrade Aurangabad city, and

403 SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(e) if so, when?

(a) the criteria fixed for the classification of cities,

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE)

(b) whether the classification is made on the basis of population,

(a) and (b) For the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance and Compensatory (city) Allowance, cities/towns are classified with reference to population as given below :

(c) if so, the category in which Aurangabad (Maharashtra) stands,

Population of the city	Classification
More than 16 Lakhs	A
Above 8 Lakhs but not exceeding 16 lakhs	B-1
Above 4 Lakhs but not exceeding 8 lakhs	B 2
Above 50,000 but not exceeding 4 lakhs	C

For the purpose of grant of House Rent Allowance, population obtaining within the Municipal area of the city and for Compensatory (city) Allowance, the population of the Urban Agglomeration of the city, wherever it exists, otherwise that of the Municipal area of the city is taken into account.

(c) As per the population figures of 1981 census, Aurangabad in Maharashtra is a 'C' class city.

(d) and (e) The question of re-classification of Aurangabad can be taken up only after population figures of 1991 census become available.

[English]

Appointment of Fifth Pay Commission

404. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint the Fifth Pay Commission as the dearness allowance has crossed fifty per cent mark thereby eroding the pay scales in terms of real value;

(b) if so, when

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(d) whether Government also propose to convert the existing dearness allowance into dearness pay to give benefit to the retiring Government servants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (c) No, Sir. Increase in the quantum of Dearness Allowance is not

the criteria for appointment of Pay Commission.

(d) A demand to treat a portion of Dearness Allowance as Dearness Pay for all purposes except pension was raised by the Staff Side in the last meeting of the National Council (JCM). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Murders on Polling Booths in Bihar

405. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of murders on polling booths which took place in Bihar on 20 May and 12 June, 1991, Lok Sabha Constituency-wise;

(b) the names of voters killed on 12 June 1991 in Jalepy and Beupatti Assembly segments of Muthibani Lok Sabha constituency; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government is this regard and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The primary responsibility for maintenance of law and order is of the concerned State Government. The Central Government, however, remain

in touch with the State Governments and constantly monitor and review the situation. As and when necessary, suitable assistance is provided to the State Government. State Government is, however, being addressed to indicate the specific steps taken by them in this regard.

Loans to Victims of Disturbances after Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

406 SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have directed the Reserve Bank of India to issue instructions to the Commercial Banks to provide loan assistance at concessional rate of interest to the identified victims of the disturbances following the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi to re-start their economic activity

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL BIR SINGH): (a) No Sir. As per the practice being presently followed, in the event of riots/disturbances, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on receipt of reports/request from the concerned State Government in this behalf and after taking into account the nature and magnitude of the disturbances, advises banks to extend rehabilitation assistance to the affected persons on the lines of guidelines applicable in respect of persons affected by natural calamities.

(b) Does not arise,

(c) The existing practice followed by RBI cover such situations adequately. Hence no need was felt by the Government to issue fresh instructions in this regard.

Candidates killed in Punjab

407. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state the number of candidates and their bodyguards killed after the announcement to conduct the poll in Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): According to the information available as on 16-7-91, 23 contesting candidates and 21 body guards of the candidates have been killed since the announcement of poll in Punjab.

Declaration of Roads in Kerala as National Highways

408. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any of the existing roads in Kerala as National Highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Kerala has suggested any plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Declaration of new National Highways would be considered only after the formulation of the 8th Five Year Plan.

(b) Does not arise at present.

(c) and (d) In the 8th Five Year Plan, the State Government of Kerala has requested for the inclusion of four State Roads in the National Highway grid. Action on these proposals is possible only after finalisation of the 8th Plan.

Glut in Rubber Market in Cochin

409. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of a glut in the Rubber market in Cochin due to change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to solve the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no glut in the Rubber market in Cochin. As on 5th July, 1991, the prices were ruling at Rs. 2,115 for RMA-4 grade and Rs. 1,980 for lot rubber per quintal. There is no price fall as compared to the price that prevailed before the announcement of change in the credit policy of the Reserve Bank of India.

Acquisition of Ballistic Missiles by Pakistan

410. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the acquisition of an unspecified number of M-11 Chinese ballistic missiles by Pakistan recently has posed threat to India's security;

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

(c) the steps Government propose to take to meet any kind of challenge from Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government closely monitor all developments impinging on national security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Assistance of Private Sector in Public Transport System

411. SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the private sector

to enter into construction and maintenance of roads and also to run public transport system as suggested by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry:

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The private sector is already participating in many areas of the public transportation system. About 2/3rds of the passenger buses in the country are owned and operated by private operators. The private construction companies are playing a dominant role in undertaking road and bridge construction projects, funded by Government. Further ways of associating private sector with the financing of road construction are being examined by Government.

- (c) Does not arise.

National Highways in Maharashtra

412. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to widen and develop National Highways passing through Maharashtra especially in backward region of Western Maharashtra, during 1991-92 and 1992-93;

- (b) if so, the details thereof, and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH

TYTLER): (a) to (c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and works are sanctioned keeping in view the traffic intensity, existing conditions of the National Highways, inter se priority on all-India basis and availability of funds. Accordingly for Maharashtra works costing Rs. 325.45 crores including works costing Rs. 53.10 crores in Western Maharashtra have been included in the Annual Plan of works to be sanctioned during 1991-92. Such Annual Plan for 1992-93 is yet to be prepared.

[Translation]

Implementation of One-Rank One Pension Scheme to Ex-Servicemen

413. PROF. PREM DHUMAL :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR
GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to implement the one-rank, one-pension scheme for the ex-servicemen;

(b) if so, when it is likely to be implemented; and

- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) A scheme for the grant of an ad-hoc exgratia increase in pension to Armed forces personnel below officer rank who retired before 1-1-1986 was approved by the Government on 1-11-90. The next Government considered the matter but deferred decision on the issue. The entire matter shall

be reviewed, taking the financial, legal and other related aspects in view.

Compensatory Allowance to Employees in Himachal Pradesh

414 PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give compensatory allowance to the employees of the Central Government and Central Public Sector Undertakings working at present in Himachal Pradesh on the pattern of compensatory allowance being given to the employees of Himachal Pradesh Government;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE):

(a) to (c) Orders for the grant of Special Compensatory (Remote Locality) Allowance to the Central Government employees serving in the State of Himachal Pradesh have been issued on 31-5-91 on the pattern of classification of areas adopted by the State Government. These orders are not applicable to the employees of Public Sector Undertakings who have their own scheme for payment of Compensatory Allowances.

[English]

Increase in Government and Private Borrowings

415. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage increase registered in the Government and private borrowings during the last three years and the latest figures of external debt in foreign exchange;

(b) the amount of money that was to be paid to repay the external debt during 1990 and up to 31 May, 1991 and how much of it was paid; and

(c) the reasons for not maintaining the balance of payments schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The percentage increase/decrease in the external borrowings during the last three years is as follows:

	Government borrowings (Including IMF)	Private borrowings
1988-89	(—)0 25	(—)36.43
1989-90	8 71	45.62
1990-91	78 25	(—)3 51

The above are exclusive of borrowings by public sector undertakings and financial institutions. The total external debt outstanding as on 31st March 1991 is estimated to be US \$ 51493 Million.

(b) The amount to be paid to repay the external debt and paid during 1990 (January to December) and during January to May 91 are estimated to be Rs. 5267 crores and Rs. 2558 crores respectively.

(c) Does not arise.

Cases pending in Courts

416 SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI · Will the Minister of LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state ·

(a) the number of cases disposed of by the Supreme Court, High Courts, Central Administrative Tribunal and Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission etc. during the last three years,

(b) the number of cases pending in which the judgements have not yet been announced though arguments have been completed a number of times, and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the expeditious disposal of the pending cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMFNTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM)

A Supreme Court and the High Courts

(a) The available information in respect of the Supreme Court and the High Courts is furnished in the Statement attached.

(b) In the Supreme Court, the total number of cases in respect of which arguments have been completed but judgments have not yet been delivered is 359. However, some of these are group matters and if a group matter is to be treated as one case the number of cases in which the judgments are yet to be delivered will be only 121.

Similar information in respect of High Courts is being collected and will be furnished

(c) Various steps have been taken to expedite disposal of pending cases in the Courts. The judge strength has been increased from time to time. Procedural improvements and modifications to speed up disposal of cases have been made. The various Courts are taking suitable steps such as grouping of cases involving common questions of law giving priority to cases requiring quick disposal, constitution of specialised benches etc. The various recommendations contained in the report of the Arrears' Committee (Malimath Committee) which went into the problem of arrears in the High Courts, have been forwarded to all concerned such as State Governments, Central Ministries and all the High Courts for similar follow up action.

The Benches are being so constituted in the Supreme Court that they function for a longer period and work so allocated that similar matters are posted before the same Bench.

B Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) and the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTPC)

(a) to (c) It may be pointed out that the CAT and MRTPC are not courts of law but specialised tribunals that have been set up for adjudicating disputes that may arise in the course of administration of specific regulatory Acts of Parliament. The desired information in respect of these two bodies is being collected and will be furnished.

STATEMENT

Name of the Court	Number of Cases Disposed of during the Year		
	1988	1989	1990
Supreme Court	44,252	48,118	56,343
<i>High Courts</i>			
1. Allahabad	60,356	51,258	26,730*
2. Andhra Pradesh	98,675	92,846	75,605
3. Bombay	64,749	53,188	54,877
4. Calcutta	37,468	44,672	21,104*
5. Delhi	30,169	37,089	32,749
6. Guwahati	7,246	9,642	8,655
7. Gujarat	20,235	19,403	9,855*
8. Himachal Pradesh	23,327	10,915(a)	Not available
9. Jammu & Kashmir	17,915	15,689	Not available
10. Karnataka	41,468	31,949	Not available
11. Kerala	70,223	1,04,595	68,014
12. Madhya Pradesh	42,397	47,003	41,747
13. Madras	64,352	99,743	1,03,023
14. Orissa	15,878	28,364	27,560
15. Patna	37,421	43,408	Not available
16. Punjab & Haryana	56,327	69,555	66,622
17. Rajasthan	26,626	26,974	28,686
18. Sikkim	96	81	57

(a) Information is for the half year ending 30-6-89

*Information is for the year ending 30-6-90

Accident of HS-748 AVRO Aircraft

417. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any investigation has been made into the accident on 25 March, 1991 at Yelahanka air base involving a HS-748 Avro in which 28 young officers of the Indian Air Force lost their lives;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to prevent the recurrence of such accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Court of Inquiry which investigated the accident found that it was caused due to loss of power in the right engine of the aircraft at a critical stage soon after take off.

(c) Efforts to minimise accidents is an ongoing process. Every accident is investigated by a Court of Inquiry comprising specialists. Based on the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry, follow up action is taken to prevent recurrence of similar accidents. Whenever any adverse trend or weak area is observed, special joint studies are carried out with the help of specialists from the manufacturers and the users to look into the problem and take suitable remedial measures.

Discussion with US Delegation on Special 301 Provisions of U. S. Trade Legislation

418 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level United States official delegation had held discussions with Indian Official on special 301 provisions of the US trade legislation pertaining to intellectual property rights; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) A team of US officials visited New Delhi for consultations under Special 301 provisions of the US Omnibus Trade & Competitiveness Act, 1988 on 1-2 July, 1991. During the consultations, which were held at a technical level, the US team explained its concerns, and the rationale behind them, in respect of Indian laws and policies on patent protection, trade marks, copyright, enforcement of copyright and market access for motion pictures. The Indian delegation stated the position as it obtained in these areas in India and the historical and developmental contexts and the public policy concerns which underlay Indian laws and the policies.

While there were similarities between the US and the Indian views on copyright laws and on their stricter enforcement, there were different perceptions on Patents and access to foreign trade marks. In respect of motion pictures the existing agreement

between US exporters' association and the Indian canalising agency, National Film Development Corporation, is being renegotiated.

The consultations helped both sides to arrive at a fuller understanding of the concerns of each other. Consultations are expected to continue when both governments have had more time to reflect upon the concerns of each other.

Rupee Devaluation

419. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently devalued the rupee against major foreign currencies; and

(b) if so, the details and purpose thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India effected an exchange rate adjustment on 1 July, 1991 in which the value of the rupee declined by about 7 to 9 per cent against the major currencies (the pound sterling, the US dollar, the deutsche mark, yen and French franc). There was another exchange rate adjustment on 3 July, 1991 in which the value of the rupee declined by about 11 per cent against the major currencies. Between 28 June and 3 July, 1991, the value of rupee declined by 17 to 19 per cent vis-a-vis the five major currencies while these major currencies appreciated vis-a-vis the rupee by about 21 to 23 per cent.

These adjustments had been necessitated by the growing external and internal imbalances in the economy. The balance of payments situation had become very critical reflected by a sharp drawdown of reserves. Since October, 1990 there has been an appreciation in the real effective exchange rate of the rupee as a result of a relatively high rate of inflation in the country *vis-à-vis* India's major trading partners and a much slower rate of depreciation in the nominal exchange rate leading to an erosion in the international competitiveness of the economy. It was equally necessary to stem the destabilising market expectations which were generated by perceptions about the exchange value of the rupee. It is expected that these exchange rate adjustments would stabilise the balance of payments situation in the short-term and improve the balance of trade situation in the medium-term.

[Translation]

Construction of Bye-Pass on National Highway No. 24 at Faridpur (Bareilly)

420. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 915 on November 17, 1988 and state :

(a) whether any provision was made to construct a bye-pass to reduce congestion on the segment of National Highway No. 24 passing through Faridpur (Bareilly), Uttar Pradesh, in the list of bye-passes to be constructed in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the reasons for not constructing this bye-pass so far; and

(c) the time by which the Government propose to construct this bye-pass ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar

421. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar affected by rains and floods during the last three years; and

(b) the amount spent on their repairs ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) Generally all the National Highways in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar were affected by rains and floods during the last three years.

(b) The amount spent on their repairs during the last three years is as under :

Year	(Rs. in lakhs)	
	Bihar	Uttar Pradesh
1988-89	472.174	653.47
1989-90	286.550	440.87
1990-91	174.693	(up to Feb. 1991) 293.92
TOTAL	933.417	1,388.26

Manufacturers of Road Vehicles

422 SHRI RAJVEER SINGH .
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleas-
ed to state .

(a) the names of big companies en-
gaged in the manufacture of road
vehicles, and

(b) their income and expenditure
during the last three years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY
AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGRAJAN
KUMARMANGALAM) . (a) and (b)
Requisite information relating to
names of companies engaged in the
manufacture of road vehicles and their
income and expenditure during the
last three years as per available balance
sheets is given in the attached statement

STATEMENT

(Rs in lakhs)				
No	Name of Company	Year ended	Income	Expenditure
1	2	3	4	5
1	Maruti Udyog Ltd	March 90	1,25,396	1,20,137
		March 89	98,460	95,437
		March 88	80,321	77,642
2	Andhra Pradesh Scooters Ltd	March 90	71	437
		March 89	36	303
		July 88	82	485
3	Scooters India Ltd	March 90	1,032	5,069
		March 89	1,105	4,391
		March 88	1,212	3,868
4	Scooters Kerala Ltd	March 90	96	125
		March 89	85	104
		March 88	33	57
5	Tamil Nadu Mopeds Ltd.	March 90	93	162
		March 89	79	117
		March 88	40	132
6	Tata Engineering & Locomotive Ltd	March 90	1,96,910	1,82,081
		March 89	1,67,642	1,59,129
		March 88	1,40,255	1,37,050
7	Ashok Leyland Ltd	March 90	86,429	83,389
		December 88	52,910	50,852
		December 87	42,960	42,046
8	Bajaj Tempo Ltd	March 90	22,121	20,975
		March 89	25,961	25,571
		September 87	15,600	15,392
9	D.C.M. Toyota Ltd.	March 90	10,037	9,382
		March 89	4,588	4,614
		September 88	9,279	9,850

STATEMENT—contd.

1	2	3	4	5
10	Mahindra Nissan Allwyn Ltd.	March 90	5,248	5,557
		March 89	2,766	3,573
		June 88	3,460	3,864
11	Swaraj Mazda Ltd	March 90	9,154	9,030
		March 89	9,023	9,155
		December 87	3,821	4,060
12	Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd	March 90	92,161	90,324
		March 89	99,279	97,115
		October 87	59,928	58,329
13	Eicher Motors Ltd	March 90	11,145	11,069
		March 89	9,272	9,614
		April 88	6,272	6,465
14	Hindustan Motors Ltd.	March 90	63,171	62,930
		March 89	53,725	54,377
		March 88	43,219	43,488
15	Premier Automobile Ltd.	June 90	56,175	54,119
		June 89	46,517	44,808
		June 88	34,700	33,370
16	Standard Motor Products of India Ltd.	March 90	11	984
		March 89	1,954	3,667
		March 88	3,236	5,274
17	Sipani Automobiles Ltd	March 90	648	457
		(15 months—1-1-89—31-3-90)		
		December 88	359	308
18	Bajaj Auto Ltd	March 90	1,06,463	96,353
		March 89	62,423	58,923
		June 88	55,283	51,658
19	Kinetic Honda Motor Ltd.	June 90	13,224	12,785
		March 89	7,110	6,953
		January 88	3,093	3,651
20	LML Ltd.	March 90	22,576	22,532
		March 89	18,543	18,470
		March 88	27,267	27,872
21	Maharashtra Scooters Ltd.	March 90	12,380	10,744
		March 89	9,587	8,527
		March 88	6,562	6,087
22	Escorts Ltd.	March 90	76,982	73,513
		March 89	78,336	76,196
		December 87	48,233	47,134
23	Enfield India Ltd.	March 90	7,318	7,893
		March 89	5,411	5,547
		June 88	6,634	7,152

STATEMENT—contd.

1	2	3	4	5
24	Hero Honda Motors Ltd.	March 90 March 89 June 88	15,262 10,454 11,087	15,295 10,951 10,915
25	Gujarat Narmada Auto Ltd.	March 90 March 89 June 88	3,748 3,122 3,550	4,716 3,548 3,932
26	TVS-Suzuki Ltd.	March 90 March 89 February 88	14,373 17,659 12,574	14,925 17,350 13,475
27	Automobile Products of India Ltd.	March 90 March 89 December 87	3,174 4,262 2,779	3,608 4,251 4,251
28	Majestic Auto Ltd.	March 90 March 89 March 88	4,195 2,416 3,082	4,678 2,656 2,965
29	Vespa Car Co. Ltd.	March 90 March 89 September 87	1,257 3,112 1,147	1,627 3,637 1,448
30	Kinetic Engineering Ltd.	March 90 March 89 June 88	12,450 8,940 10,191	11,849 8,610 9,543
31	Sooraj Automobiles Ltd.	March 90 March 89 March 88	130 150 115	138 161 126
32	India Automobiles Ltd.	March 90 March 89 March 88	27 80 92	64 115 127
33	Kelvinator of India Ltd.	June 90 June 89 June 88	29,758 23,340 19,454	28,369 22,350 18,765
34	Brooke Bond India Ltd.	December 90 December 89 December 88	64,952 55,175 63,894	59,903 50,253 57,905

NOTES :

1. Big companies have been taken to mean such of the companies as have a paid up capital of Rs. 50 lakhs and above.
2. Road vehicles have been taken to include heavy vehicles, light vehicles, vans, jeeps, matadors, three wheelers, scooters, motor cycles and mopeds, etc.
3. Some of the companies engaged in the manufacture of road vehicles are also engaged in other activities. The total income of such companies is the aggregate of receipts both from the sale of road vehicles and other items they manufacture. Similarly, expenditure incurred on raw materials and wages, etc. is not exclusively for roads vehicles.

Revenue Earned from Excise and Customs Duty

423. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the revenue earned during 1990-91 after the increase in the excise and customs duty;

(b) whether there has been any adverse effect on the revenue earnings during the year;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) how it is proposed to be rectified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) the provisional estimates of revenue realisation from customs and central excise duty in 1990-91 is as under:—

Customs	— Rs. 20,567.70 crores
Excise	— Rs. 24,355.65 crores

The figures are as per departmental records and the excise revenues are exclusive of cesses not administered by the Department of Revenue.

(b) The above revenue realisation represent a growth of 9.73% in respect of excise duties and 14.85% in respect of customs duties as compared to the same during the previous year.

(c) and (d) Does not arise.

Special Incentives to Bank Employees Rural Areas

424. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide any special incentives to the bank employees working in rural areas; and

(b) if, the details thereof and by what time these are likely to be provided?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Recruitment Procedure in Public Sector Banks

425 SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a uniform procedure for the recruitment of employees in various cadres/grades in the public sector banks;

(b) if so, the details of agencies working for this purpose;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor,

(d) whether the Government propose to adopt a uniform procedure for recruitment in all cadres/grades of public sector banks, and

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

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

(b) to (e) 15 Banking Service Recruitment Boards and one Central Recruitment Board have been entrusted

with the responsibility of conducting recruitment process for officers and clerical cadre for 28 Public Sector Bank as per the jurisdiction indicated in the attached statement.

The recruitment to the subordinate cadre of public sector banks is made by the banks themselves through the Employment Exchanges

STATEMENT

Jurisdiction of BSRBS, CRB for Recruitment to Officers and Clerical Cadre

Sl No.	BSRB/CRB	Jurisdiction for Recruitment of Personnel	
		Clerical Cadre in the 28 Public Sector & all the cadres in Kshetriya Gramin Banks in the State/UT	Officers Cadre for the Banks
1	2	3	4
1	Bangalore	Karnataka	Canara Bank Vijaya Bank Corporation Bank
2	Baroda . . .	Gujarat, Diu Daman, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Bank of Baroda Dena Bank
3	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	Central Bank of India
4	Bhubaneswar	Orissa	—
5	Bombay . . .	Maharashtra & Goa	Bank of India Bank of Maharashtra, Union Bank
6	Calcutta . . .	West Bengal, Sikkim & Andaman-Nicobar Islands	UCO Bank
7	Chandigarh .	Punjab, Himachal & Jammu & Kashmir	
8	Delhi	UT of Delhi & Haryana	Punjab National Bank, Punjab & Sind Bank, New Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce
9	Guwahati . . .	Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram Nagaland, Iripura & Manipur	United Bank of India
10	Hyderabad . . .	Andhra Pradesh	Syndicate Bank, Andhra Bank
11	Jaipur .	Rajasthan	—
12	Lucknow .	Uttar Pradesh	Allahabad Bank
13	Madras	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	Indian Bank, Indian Overseas Bank
14	Patna	Bihar	—
15	Trivandrum . . .	Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep Islands	—
16	CRB* (Bombay) . . .	—	State Bank & Seven Associate Banks

*The Recruitment Board which handles Officers recruitment in SBI and its Associate Banks is called as Central Recruitment Board (CRB).

Recruitment of Women in Military

426. **SHRI SANTOSHI KUMAR GANGWAR**: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to recruit women in other fields of the military besides Army Medical Corps and Military Nursing Service ; and

(b) if so, when the said proposal is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) Proposals of the three Defence services regarding the induction of women in selected branches received by the Govt. are under examination for an early decision.

[English]

Procurement of Speed-Boats Lakshadweep

427. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED**: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of speed-boats being procured for Lakshadweep as per the provision made in the plan ;

(b) the name of the country and the manufacturing company with which the order has been placed ;

(c) the specified speed of the boats in aviation knots ;

(d) the time of the delivery of boats fixed by the Government and whether the same is being adhered to ; and

(e) if not, the reasons for delay and the approximate time by which the

boats are likely to be received and pressed into service ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Two

(b) Orders have been placed on M/s Tille Scheepsbouw, Netherlands.

(c) 25 knots.

(d) The contractual delivery date for the two ferries was 12-9-90 at Cochin. The same has not been adhered to by the builders.

(e) The main reasons for delay have non-performance of the contract by the Yard and their sub contractors, problems with weld joints due to improper welding, dispute with the Yard on recovery of liquidated damages for delayed delivery and release of stage payment etc. The two ferries are now almost ready for shipment and are expected to reach Cochin by mid September, 1991, subject to a settlement being arrived at with the Yard. The ferries will be commissioned for operation soon after they are delivered.

Procurement of Mechanised Barges for Lakshadweep

428. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED**: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether some mechanised barges are being procured for Lakshadweep ;

(b) the date when order was placed and with whom specifying the number of such mechanised barges ;

(c) the date of delivery as per the order ;

(d) whether the date of delivery has not been adhered to ;

(e) whether any penalty clause was there in the agreement ;

(f) whether extension of time has been granted ; and

(g) whether the price of the barges would be escalated due to lapse of time and consequently upset the budget provisions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYLTER) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Orders were placed on 30-5-89 with M/s Alcock Ashdown & Co. Ltd., Bhavnagar for construction and delivery of four nos. cargo barges of 300 DWT each.

(c) As per the contract, the dates of delivery of the four barges are 20-2-91, 17-4-91, 12-6-91 and 7-8-91, respectively.

(d) Yes, Sir. Though the contractual delivery dates for the first three vessels are already over, the vessels have not been delivered so far. The delivery of the fourth vessel is also likely to be delayed.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The Yard has sought extension of time for delivery but no decision has been taken by the Government so far.

(g) The contracts entered into with the Yard do not provide for any escalation except for increase in price

on account of exchange rate variation during the pendency of the contract. The Yard has, however, sought increase in price of the barges due to changes in statutory rules after signing of the contract and on account of certain modifications carried out to meet the technical specifications. No decision has been taken by the Government in this regard so far.

Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme

429. SHRI KANSHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Gujarat Government has requested for extension of the Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Fund Scheme in case of partial closure/partial reopening ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the action taken by the Government on the request of Reserve Bank of India for lending to new managements who are willing to re-open the closed textile mills ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has not been possible to extend the scheme to partially closed mills due to funds constraints.

(c) The proposal of the Government of Gujarat for relaxation of norms for grant of working capital to sick textile units was discussed in a meeting with representatives of Department of Banking, Reserve Bank of India, Industrial Development Bank

of India and the Government of Gujarat. While general relaxation of the norms was not agreed to, the representatives of Reserve Bank of India and Industrial Development Bank of India agreed to consider relaxation of guidelines on a case to case basis, upon merits.

Income-tax Raids in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta

430. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income-tax department conducted raids in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta during 1990-91;

(b) if so, the details of the premises searched, the arrests made and the amount of concealed income detected;

(c) whether the documents collected during searches have been examined and prosecution launched against individuals; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) to (d) The details of the searches conducted by the Income-tax department during the financial year 1990-91 in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta are as under:

Place	No of searches conducted	Value of prima facie unaccounted assets seized (Rs. in crores)	Amount of concealed income disclosed during searches (Rs. in crores)
Delhi	814	32.09	15.85
Bombay	1,062	61.10	133.82
Calcutta	668	29.93	8.76

Besides, prime-facie unaccounted assets, books of accounts and incriminating documents were also seized in the course of searches. The scrutiny of the seized books of accounts and documents and follow-up action, as called for in the Income Tax Act have been taken up.

There is no provision in the Income-tax Act for the arrest of persons whose premises are searched.

The question of launching prosecution arises only on completion of assessment.

Rupee Trade with USSR

431. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news item "Trade/Rupee payment agreements—The Options for India" appearing in the Economic Times dated July 1, 1991;

(b) if so, the present and future status of the rupee trade with USSR; and

(c) the steps the Government have taken to release funds out of the balances held by the USSR in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBRAM) : (a) Yes. Sir

(b) The Trade Agreement between India and the USSR providing for trading on the basis of payments in non-convertible Indian Rupees is valid upto 31st December, 1995.

(c) Such balances belong to the USSR and are at its disposal for use in accordance with the Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement.

Constitution of Textile Export Promotion Fund

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

(a) wheter a fund known as Textile Export Promotion Fund has been constituted by the Government ;

(b) if so, whether the Government would lay a copy of Orders creating such a fund on the Table of the House;

(c) the source and amount of funding ; and

(d) the amounts disbursed so far with dates of disbursements, amounts, purposes and beneficiaries etc ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) Government while formulating the

long term Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for 1988—90, decided to introduce a scheme known as Open Tender System This scheme envisaged allotment of superfast categories on the basis of the premium offered by the exporters The premium collected under the Open Tender System (Rs 56 62 crores) was put in a Textile Export Promotion Fund, created for the purpose. In pursuance of the decision to create the Textile Export Promotion Fund, a Sponsoring Committee to identify and formulate specific export promotion projects was constituted. A copy of the order constituting this Committee is given below as statement. The total amount disbursed from the Textile Export Promotion Fund was Rs. 42.50 lakhs. This amount was released to the Apparel Export Promotion Council for carrying out overseas publicity for the second India Garment Fair at Bombay in January 1989, as well as the matric and generic publicity for the year 1988-89.

STATEMENT

No./1/9/87-EP (T&J)I

Government of India

Ministry of Textiles

Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi.

Dated, the 15th March, 1988.

ORDER

It has been decided to constitute a Sponsoring Committee to identify and formulate specific projects which are to be funded by Textile Export Promotion Fund, set up by the Government out of the revenues derived from

the premia collected under the Open Tender System of the Garment Export Entitlement Distribution Policy 1988—90. The Sponsoring Committee will submit the projects to the Government for approval. The composition of the Sponsoring Committee will be as follows :—

- (1) Joint Secretary (Incharge of Textile Exports), Ministry of Textiles, Govt of India Chairman
- (2) A representative from Office of Textile Commissioner, Bombay Member
- (3) A representative from Finance Division, Ministry of Textiles Member
- (4) Director General Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi Member
- (5) Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council, New Delhi Member
- (6) Shri Mohan Jeet Singh Former Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council Member
- (7) Shri Suresh Kewal Ramani Chairman, E P Committee, Apparel Export Promotion Council, Bombay Member
- (8) Shri Ashok Chug, Vice-Chairman, Apparel Export Promotion Council (Southern Region) Member
- (9) Director, (In charge of Textile Export) Ministry of Textiles Member-Secretary

The Committee will itself decide the rules and procedures to be followed in identifying and selecting projects for the approval of the Government

Cotton Exports

433 SHRI RAM NAIK Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) the details of cotton exports (bales and value) during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91,

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the cotton export during 1991-92;

(c) if so, the details thereof, and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

Sd/-

(R. Poornalingam)

Director

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The details of export of cotton during the cotton seasons 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as follows :—

Cotton season (Sept—Aug)	Quantity (in lakh bales of 170 Kg each)	Value (Rs. in crores)
1988-89	0 76	72 14
1989-90	13 71	610 52
1990-91 (Upto 1-7-91)	11 74	554 98

(b) to (d) The export of cotton from the country is regulated by release of export quotas by Government during the cotton season. It is not possible to indicate at this stage, the position regarding export of cotton during the 1991-92 cotton season since relevant factors like its availability based on the crop, domestic requirement, domestic and international price situation, etc., will have to be kept in mind by Government while releasing quotas for export of cotton.

Private Sector Participation in Mutual Funds

434. **SHRI RAM NAIK :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to allow the private sector participation in the mutual funds; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) Government have set up a Study Group to examine the functioning of Mutual Funds in the country

and evolve a suitable framework for legislation for regulation of Mutual Funds including such funds which may be set up in the Joint/private sector

Outstanding Dues Against Textile Units

435. **DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of textile units in Northern India which have not paid the dues of financial institutions in time during the last three years ; and

(b) the details of the outstanding dues, unit-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) and (b) In view of the legal provisions regarding obligations as to fidelity and secrecy and as per the practice customary among bankers, the details relating to individual constituents of financial institutions cannot be divulged. However, the total number and the amounts overdue from textile units in northern India, which have defaulted in the repayment of dues to the

financial institutions (IDBI, IFCI, years, as reported by them are as ICI & IRBI) during the last three follows :

Name of the Institution	Year	No of units	(Rs. in lakhs)
			Amounts overdue
IDBI	1987-88	22	817 15
	1988-89	23	1,635 10
	1989-90	15	1,606 12
IFCI	1987-88	19	859.67
	1988-89	15	530 41
	1989-90	14	709 84
ICICI	1987-88	32	769 00
	1988-89	28	770 00
	1989-90	40	1,098 00
IRBI	1987-88	6	154 22
	1988-89	5	238.93
	1989-90	9	333 36

New National Highways

[Translation]

Export of Cotton and Textiles

436. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare any new National Highways ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) The question of declaring new National Highways would be considered only after the 8th Five Year Plan is finalised.

437. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the value of cotton and textiles exported during the last three years ;

(b) whether the Government propose to give priority to textiles over cotton for export with a view to promote textile industry ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) The details of export of cotton and cotton textiles during 1988-89 to 1990-91 are as follows :—

Year	Value (Rs. in crores)	
	Export of cotton	Export of cotton textiles
1988-89	72.14	1,341
1989-90	610.52	1,825
1990-91	554.98	2,461
	(as on 1-7-91)	

(b) to (d) Government's endeavour is always to promote exports of value added products. Therefore, quotas for export of cotton are released by Government after fully catering to the requirements of the domestic textile industry, including handloom and powerloom sectors to encourage them to export value added items.

[English]

Steamer Services Between Bombay and Ratnagiri

438 SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to strengthen the steamer services between Bombay and Ratnagiri ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have permitted M/s Satva Giri Shipping Company to acquire two High Speed Catamarans. Reeflink-II and Capricorn Reef-Seeker, for playing on the Bombay-Ratnagiri-Panaji route. This Shipping Company has since deposited initial payments to the seller in respect of Reeflink-II while the sanction for acquisition of Reef-seeker is valid upto 14-8-1991. The Government have also permitted

M/s Link-on-Sea-Link to acquire a Catamaran to ply on Bombay-Goa route and this sanction is valid upto 31-10-1991.

(c) Does not arise.

National Highway No. 17

439. SHRI GOVINDRAO NIKAM: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and widen the National Highway No. 17 (Panvel to Goa) ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the allocation made during the last three years for this National Highway was very low in comparison to other National Highways, and

(d) if so, whether the Government propose to increase the amount of allocation for this National Highway during the current Financial year

THE MINISTER OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Development including widening of 80 km. length of the National Highway No. 17 at a cost of Rs. 27.95 crores has been proposed in the Annual Plan for sanction during 1991-92.

(c) and (d) The allocation is not made separately for each highway. The allocation is made State-wise.

Regularisation of Labourers Recruited in Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantt.

440. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of labourers recruited in 505 Army Base Workshop Delhi Cantt. in May, 1985 have not been regularised so far;

(b) whether the labourers recruited in 512 E.M.E. Workshop, Pune during the same period have already been regularised :

(c) if so, the details thereof ;

(d) the reasons for not regularising the labourers recruited in 505 Army Base Workshop so far, and

(e) the time by which they are likely to be regularised ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The services of 105 workers employed in 505 Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantt. during April and May 1985 are yet to be regularised.

(b) and (c) The services of 79, 59 and 41 workers employed in 512 Army Base Workshop, Pune, were regularised through Government Orders dated 3-5-89, 20-12-90 and 10-4-91 respectively.

(d) and (e) Particulars of all employees of 505 Army Base Workshop who were recruited during the ban period in 1985, whose services are to be regularised, have been obtained from the Army HQs for obtaining collective approval of the concerned authorities, on urgent basis.

[Translation]

Cadre-Review Committee Reports for Staff in E.M.E. Workshops

441. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a cadre-review committee was constituted for the industrial and non-industrial staff in the F.M.E. workshops;

(b) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(c) whether the Government have decided to implement the recommendations made by the committee

(d) if so, when these will be enforced; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Not yet, Sir.

(c) to (e) Do not arise

[English]

Thrust Areas for Exports

442. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the structural reforms being considered to improve the total value of exports over imports;

(b) whether mere preferences of electronic goods, marine products, leather goods, gems and jewellery as

the thrust areas for exports will help in achieving higher percentage growth in exports, and

(c) the main import items which account for almost fifty per cent of the total import bill ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) (a) The Government have recently introduced for reaching reforms in the export-import policy aimed at reducing controls through licensing, strengthening export incentives and linking import capability in a wide range of imports to export earnings

(b) The broad approach of export strategy has been to identify product-groups in which we have a good export potential and to provide for these a policy frame which is helpful in increasing exports Accordingly fifteen (15) broad sectors were identified for making special thrust in market abroad without ignoring the importance of increasing exports from other sectors

(c) The bulk imports such as Petroleum & petroleum products Fertilizers Edible oil Non-ferrous metals Metal-

iferrous Ores & metal scrap, Iron & Steel, and imports of Pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, put together accounted for about fifty per cent of our total imports during 1990-91

Waiving of Loan to Farmers

443 SHRI R PRABHU

SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total amount of farmers' loans waived by the Government during the last two years till date State-wise and bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAIBIR SINGH) The hon ble Members are perhaps referring to the Agricultural & Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) Scheme 1990 under which debt relief was extended by Government to eligible borrowers including farmers with effect from 15-5-1990 The Public Sector Bank-wise and the corresponding State-wise position with regard to the waiver of loans effected under the ARDR Scheme to eligible borrowers is given in the attached Statement I and II respectively

STATEMENT I

Sr No	Name of the Bank	Amount (Rs in lakhs)
1	2	1
1	State Bank of India	80,336
2	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	5,275
3	State Bank of Hyderabad	8,115
4	State Bank of India	1,896
5	State Bank of Mysore	4,499
6	State Bank of Patiala	1,458
7	State Bank of Saurashtra	1,483

STATEMENT I—contd

1	2	3
8	State Bank of Travancore	1,617
9	Allahabad Bank	6,279
10	Andhra Bank	4,577
11	Bank of Baroda	14,380
12	Bank of India	12,003
13	Bank of Maharashtra	4,667
14	Canara Bank	13,005
15	Central Bank of India	26,763
16	Corporation Bank	2,136
17	Dena Bank	4,924
18	Indian Bank	6,626
19	Indian Overseas Bank	11,366
20	New Bank of India	1,775
21	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1,410
22	Punjab National Bank	14,712
23	Punjab & Sind Bank	2,269
24	Syndicate Bank	13,731
25	United Bank of India	6,390
26	Union Bank of India	10,771
27	UCO Bank	12,777
28	Vijaya Bank	1,709
TOTAL		2,75,912

STATEMENT II

Sr No	State/Union Territory	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1	Andhra Pradesh	41,345
2	Arunachal Pradesh	64
3	Assam	5,784
4	Bihar	19,598
5	Goa	282
6	Gujarat	13,803
7	Haryana	8,232
8	Himachal Pradesh	2,148
9	Jammu & Kashmir	439
10	Karnataka	27,610
11	Kerala	6,642
12	Madhya Pradesh	15,738
13	Maharashtra	25,635
14	Manipur	434

STATEMENT II—contd.

1	2	3
15	Meghalaya	644
16	Mizoram	98
17	Nagaland	618
18	Orissa	12,111
19	Punjab	7,682
20	Rajasthan	15,493
21	Sikkim	268
22	Tamil Nadu	23,112
23	Triprura	794
24	Uttar Pradesh	28,976
25	West Bengal	16,856
26	Chandigarh	74
27	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	15
28	Daman & Diu	11
29	Delhi	452
30	Lakshadweep	3
31	Pondicherry	725
32	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	36
TOTAL		2,75,922

Imports during 1990-91

444 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the value of imports during 1990-91 from Japan, United Kingdom, U.S.A., U.S.S.R. and Germany separately,

(b) the value of machinery and equipment, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, organic and inorganic chemicals, resins and plastics and scientific instruments imported during 1990-91 from each of the aforesaid countries,

(c) whether some of the imported materials can be manufactured/produced indigenously; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) A statement is given below

(c) and (d) As per the Import & Export Policy 1990-93, Raw materials, Components and Consumables have been classified under the categories of (i) Banned, (ii) Restricted, (iii) Limited permissible, (iv) Canalised and (v) Open General Licence. The raw materials, components and consumables, appearing in the restricted list, limited permissible or canalised list are available to varying degrees indigenously. Import is sought to be made only to bridge the gap between demand and supply in view of the foreign exchange resources position. Supply of canalised items may be obtained from the canalising agency only

if such items are not available in the country and the Government has taken a decision to import such items through the canalising agency. Import of items appearing in Restricted list and permissible list used to be allowed against a supplementary licence. However, Government vide Public Notice No 172-ITC (PN)/90-93 dated 4-7-91 has amended the provision and all actual users other than those in small scale sector and those engaged in the manufacture of life saving drugs and life saving equipment will be required

to meet their requirement appearing in the limited permissible list against RLP licences. Import of such items will have to be made by them against REP licence which are freely transferable. Under Deemed exports scheme certain supplies made indigenously are an effective form of import substitution. Under Duty Exemption Scheme import of all import parts needed for export production are considered on merits duty free so that exporter gets the same at international prices to become competitive.

STATEMENT

Imports from Specified Countries during, 1990-91

Principal Imports	(Value Rs Crores)				
	Japan	UK	USA	USSR	German
(i) Machinery	150	542	1208	59	1254
(ii) Iron & Steel	477	121	120	13	483
(iii) Non ferrous metals	27	50	20	2	36
(iv) Organic & inorganic Chemicals	70	36	443	35	254
(v) Artificial resins & Plastic materials	75	15	206	3	55
(vi) Professional and Scientific instruments	221	93	263	1	185
TOTAL (Incl others)	3246	2920	5237	2557	3477

Production of I-72 and BMP-2 Combat Vehicles

445 SHRI BHAGY GOBAR DHAN Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the indigenous production of I-72 tanks and BMP 2 Infantry Combat Vehicles has been adequate to meet requirements of the armoury

(b) the cost of production of each as it rolls out of factory,

(c) the imported parts if any, used in manufacture, and

(d) whether these compare favourably with tanks and combat vehicles

produced elsewhere in terms of fire power, mobility, armour, communication and land navigation systems?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) (a) I-72 Tanks and BMP II vehicles are being produced as per the requirements of the Services

(b) The cost of production of each I 72 and BMP 2 for 1990-91 was Rs 245.43 lakhs and Rs 106.2 lakhs respectively

(c) While efforts at indigenisation are under way, some parts are still being imported

(d) Yes, Sir, in its weight class

Effect of Rupee Devaluation

446 SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) how the devaluation of rupee will help in restructuring country's fiscal and economic activities,

(b) whether it will increase the current year's import bill substantially, and

(c) if so, the estimated additional liability on that account?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMLASHWAR THAKUR)

(a) Recent adjustments in exchange rate of the rupee are expected to stabilise the balance of payments situation in the short-term and improve the balance of trade in the medium-term. A realistic exchange rate is a necessary factor for restructuring of the economy and not a sufficient condition

(b) and (c) The change in the import bill during the current year will depend on the changes in unit value and volume of imports during the year. It is too early to make an estimate at this stage

Battery Buses in Delhi

447 DR C SILVERA Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government propose to add 100 new battery buses to its existing fleet of battery buses in Delhi during the current year

(b) whether the Government have called for performance report of these buses,

(c) if so, the progress of such report,

(d) whether any tentative new routes have been decided to ply new battery buses,

(e) if so, the details thereof,

(f) if not, the time by which these routes are likely to be identified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH GYLFER) (a) The Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) proposes to add 25 more buses during the current year

(b) and (c) DEDA have sponsored National Productivity Council for techno-economic evaluation of battery buses. National Productivity Council have submitted their report

(d) No, Sir

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

(f) The routes will be decided at the time the buses become ready for taking delivery by Delhi Energy Development Agency

Selling of Surplus Land by Sick Mills in Bombay

448 SHRI RAM NAIK Will the MINISTER OF TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Government have received any proposals for selling the surplus land of the closed textile mills in Greater Bombay,

(b) if so, the details thereof including the names of such textile mills, land available and proposed for selling,

(c) whether the proposals have been approved by the Union Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : (a) to (d) This subject matter comes under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

[Translation]

Army Personnel Killed in Sri Lanka

449. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJ-PAYEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

	Killed	Injured
Officers	55	162
JCOs	77	192
ORs	1,033	2,657

(b) and (c) 1 Naval Officer, 1 Sailor and 28 ORs who were reported missing for over six months have since been presumed killed as, despite all possible efforts, they could not be traced.

[English]

Improvement in D.T.C. Service

450. SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have approved some buses to be added to the D.T.C. fleet this year;

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

(a) the number of jawans and officers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force injured and killed in Sri Lanka, separately ;

(b) whether some soldiers are still missing; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to trace them ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) The number of jawans and officers of the Indian Peace Keeping Force injured and killed during 1987 operations is given below :—

(c) whether the Government are aware of alleged rude staff behaviour, reckless driving and poor maintenance of buses in D.T.C.; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the D.T.C. service in the next six months ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) and (b) There is a provision of Rs. 43.25 crores for the year 1991-92 for acquisition of buses on 'Replacement account'. 54 P.O. buses have also been inducted during the current financial year to meet the ever increasing needs of travelling public. More number of private buses are not coming under DTC due to unremunerative fare.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The steps taken to improve DTC service in the next six months are :—

1. Maintenance of DTC vehicles as per the recommendations of Chassis Manufacturers.
2. Replacement of old buses by new buses.
3. Augmentation of DTC fleet by adding private buses.
4. Improvement of crew behaviour and quality of service.
5. Prompt grievance redressal for staff, commuters accident victims and suppliers etc.
6. Route rationalisation.

Proposal to Reinforce and Widen Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi

451. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKERA MURTHY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to reinforce and widen the Nizamuddin Bridge in Delhi in view of the growing density of traffic;

(b) whether the condition of the bridge is safe and sound for vehicles;

(c) whether almost the entire bridge is in darkness at night; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to provide sufficient lighting arrangements on the bridge ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir. Studies are being carried out in this regard.

(b) Yes, Sir. However, certain load and speed restrictions have been enforced in view of increased traffic.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, provision of an improved lighting system is under consideration.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Seized Gold and Silver

452. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE : SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of smuggled gold and silver seized during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the authority under whose custody it is kept; and

(c) how it is utilised by the Government to improve the financial situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The

quantity of smuggled gold and silver seized during the last three years, year-wise, is given below :

Year	Gold (in Kgs. approx.)	Silver (in Kgs. approx.)
1988	6,094	16,992
1989	8,215	99,322
1990	5,596	2,20,313

(b) The seized gold and silver, after complying with necessary legal formalities, are taken from the custody of Customs Collectorates and are deposited in India Government Mints for safe custody till disposal.

(c) The confiscated gold is used by Reserve Bank of India and State Bank of India to operate important schemes like Gold Jewellery Export Promotion and Replenishment Scheme and to strengthen the economy through the sale or mortgage of gold if necessary. Since October, 1990, the confiscated silver is also being sold in the domestic markets at domestic price.

Bank Loans to Farmers

453. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any public sector bank has launched the scheme to provide short-term loans to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of loans received by the farmers through various banks during the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to launch any new schemes to provide short-term and long-term loans to the farmers; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) All public sector banks provide short term loans by way of crop loans on an on going basis. Such loans are provided to farmers for seasonal crops for both kharif and rabi seasons. Such loans are granted as per scale of finance approved for different crops. Loans granted to farmers are treated as agricultural advances for which the rate of interest are concessional and margin and security norms are liberal. For all agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000 both short term and term loans, no margin is to be taken by banks. For loans in excess of Rs. 10,000 banks may take margin between 15% and 25% depending upon the purpose and quantum of loan. Further no collateral security by way of mortgage of land or charge on land or third party guarantee is to be obtained by banks for crop loans upto Rs. 10,000 and term loans upto Rs. 40,000 where moveable assets are created.

(c) The amount of direct agricultural advances outstanding during the last three years from public sector banks are as follows:

As at the end of	Amount (Rs. in crores)
March 1989	12,833
March 1990	15,082
March 1991	15,857

(d) and (e) Public sector banks formulate schemes on their own and also participate in the schemes sponsored by the Government like Special Food-grains Production Programme, West-land Development, Forest Plantation Lift Irrigation schemes etc. by meeting the credit needs of the farmers

[English]

Foreign Tours by Officers

454 SHRI HARI KEWAI PRA-SAD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have imposed a ban on the foreign tours of Government officers and the officers of Public Sector Undertakings on Government expenses,

(b) if so, the number of Government officers and the officers of Public Sector Undertakings who went on foreign tours on Government expense during the last six months and the reasons necessitating their visits and

(c) the achievements made by them during their foreign visits ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHI)

(a) Yes, Sir

Government have imposed a ban on foreign tours of Government officers with certain exceptions which, inter-alia, include tours for commercial, aid or foreign policy negotiations. The Department of Public Enterprises have also been asked to take similar action

in respect of all Public Sector Undertakings

(b) and (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as possible

[Translation]

Review of Functioning of Officers Responsible for Checking Smuggling of Gold

455 SHRI HARI KEWAI PRA-SAD Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have reviewed the functioning of officers responsible to check the smuggling of gold

(b) whether any erring officers or employees responsible for checking smuggling of gold have been arrested in this connection, and

(c) if so, the names and designations of such officers and the action taken so far against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMLISHWAR THAKUR)

(a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

[English]

Outstanding Excise Duty

456 SHRI SANAT KUMAR BANDAI Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) the amount of Central Excise Duty over Rs one crore and above

outstanding against the various Industrial Houses, Companies etc. as on 1 April, 1991; and

(b) the effective steps being taken to recover the same in view of the present critical financial position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI REMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) Rs. 748.45 crores approximately (based on confirmed demands of Rs. one crore in each Central Excise Collectorate).

(b) Appropriate administrative, legal and other measures as are considered necessary continue to be taken.

Income Tax Outstanding Against Film Stars

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

(a) the amount of Income-tax outstanding against the Bombay and Madras-based film stars as on 1 April, 1991; and

(b) the measures being taken to enforce recovery of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) Information available in the Central Board of Direct Taxes is regarding only such film stars who owe income-tax of more than Rs. one lakh each. The number of such Bombay and Madras-based film stars is 69 as on 1-4-91 and the total income tax due from them on that date was Rs. 8.24 crores.

(b) A large part of the demand had either not fallen due for payment as on 1-4-91 or is disputed in appeals etc. In some cases, the courts, the Settlement Commission or the departmental authorities have either stayed the recovery or allowed payment to be made in instalments. Action taken in other cases includes levy of penalty for non-payment, attachment of defaulter's bank accounts, debts etc. and reference of the matter to the Tax Recovery Officer which enables him, inter-alia, to attach and sell the assets of defaulter. Administratively, the recovery of demands is periodically monitored at various levels depending on the amount in arrears. Steps are also taken for expeditious disposal of appeals.

Modernisation of Ishapore Rifle Factory, Calcutta

458. **SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been chalked out to modernise the Ishapore Rifle Factory, Calcutta and undertake the manufacture of present day most up-to-date weaponry, guns and rifles;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof and estimated capital outlay involved; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A project for creation of new capacities for manufacture of new Small Weapons system has been undertaken. Another project for augmentation of existing capacities has also been

undertaken. The capital outlay involved in these two projects is Rs. 84.79 crore approximately

(c) Does not arise in view of replies to (a) & (b) above.

Construction of Second Bridge over Hooghly

459. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction of the second bridge over the Hooghly at Calcutta has been considerably delayed.

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) its impact on the cost over-runs; and

(d) the latest target set down for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTIER) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir Second Hooghly Bridge, under construction at Calcutta, falls on a State Road and is, therefore, essentially the responsibility of the Government of West Bengal. The bridge, originally scheduled to be completed by 1985, has been delayed, inter-alia, due to accidental collapse of the Howrah Pylon Frection Crane and slow progress on fabrication and erection of elements of superstructure.

(c) The bridge is now estimated to cost Rs. 415.00 crores (approximately) as against Rs. 250.00 crores estimated earlier,

(d) The latest target date for its completion as intimated by the State Government is December, 1991.

Sanitation Problem in Kanpur Cantonment Area

460. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from residents of Kanpur cantonment area against the failure of the Kanpur Cantonment Board to provide proper sanitation and healthy living conditions there;

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

(c) the steps being taken to identify and solve the problems ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR). (a) to (c) Shri A. K. Dey, tenant of A/5, Napier Road, Shanti Nagar, Kanpur-4 represented to the Executive Officer, Cantonment Board, Kanpur, vide his registered letter dated 20-12-90, proposing conversion of four Service Privies into water borne sanitary systems at the aforesaid premises, under his occupation, and indicated his willingness to bear the cost after conversion of the same by the Cantonment Board. His request was duly considered and he was advised that as the Service Privies are to be located at a private premises, their conversion should be done by the owner/occupant, at his own cost, and cannot be undertaken by the Cantonment Board. It was also clarified to Shri Dey that the Cantonment Board, Kanpur, would approve any proposal for the conversion of dry

latrines into water borne sanitation systems by the residents at their own cost, and have been approving such proposals. He was advised, in Feb 1991, to submit a separate application, in the prescribed form, alongwith the plans for approval.

[Translation]

Incidents of Fire and Theft in Army Headquarters

461. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been incidents of fire and theft in the Army Headquarters;

(b) if so, the date on which these incidents occurred during the last three years and the items damaged;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for these incidents; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard and action taken against the guilty officers ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : (a) and (b) During the last three years (ending 30th June, 1991) there was no incident of fire in the various offices of the Army Headquarters except five incidents of electrical short-circuiting resulting in damage of electrical wiring, switch board etc. During the same period, there was one incident of theft which took place sometime between 22nd July, 1988 after office hours and 0900 hour on 26th July, 1988 (the intervening days were holidays) in which 75 case files were stolen.

(c) and (d) A Court of Inquiry was ordered in regard to the theft incident and on the basis of its recommendations suitable departmental/administrative action has been taken against the Service personnel and the civilian employees found guilty.

[English]

National Highway No. 31 in Bihar

462. SHRI SYED SHAHABUD-DIN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the length of the National Highway No. 31 which falls in Bihar;

(b) the amount allocated for its repair, maintenance and widening during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) the amount actually released to the State, year-wise and spent by the State, year-wise;

(d) the estimated allocation for 1991-92 with brief particulars of the works to be undertaken;

(e) whether the proposed railway flyover at Kishanganj, Bihar is likely to be taken up during 1991-92; and

(f) if not, the reasons for the delay in implementing this approved project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) The total length of National Highway No. 31 which falls in Bihar is 451 kms.

(b) and (c) The amount allocated and spent for all National Highways in Bihar and amount released and spent by the State Govt. for repairs, maintenance and improvements of Natio-

nal Highway No 31 during the last three years is given as per statement 'A'

(d) The estimated allocation for 1991-92 for National Highways in Bihar is as under

Sl No	Sub-head	Estimated allocation (Rs in lakhs)
1	Maintenance & Repairs	743.88
2	Original Works	1,100.00

Brief particulars of major works to be undertaken during 1991-92 on National Highway No 31 are given as

per statement "B" (e) and (f) No Sir The project is not yet ready

STATEMENT A

Funds Allocated, Released and Spent on all the National Highway and on National Highway No 31 in Bihar during the last three years

Year	All National Highway in Bihar		National Highway No 31 as reported by State	
	Funds allocated	Funds spent	Funds released	Funds spent
A Maintenance & Repairs (Rs in lakhs)				
1988-89	1,168.21	973.96	326.037	326.037
1989-90	951.90	974.75	237.00	237.00
1990-91	1,148.83	644.15	249.764	249.764
		(upto 2/91)		
B Original Works				
1988-89	1,200.00	1,025.97	55.886	55.886
1989-90	700.00	699.10	102.226	102.226
1990-91	800.00	906.61	220.254	230.254
		(upto 2/91)		

STATEMENT B

Major Road Works to be Undertaken during 1991-92 on National Highway No 31

Sl No	Name of work	Sanctioned	Demand for
		Estimated cost	1991-92
			(Rs in lakhs)
1	Strengthening in kms 133 to 148 in stretches	118.06	20.00
2	First stage strengthening in kms 295 to 297	64.35	15.00
3	First stage strengthening in kms 169 to 179	150.82	35.00
4	Strengthening in kms 381 to 400 and 411 to 420	403.02	40.00
5	Strengthening in km 215 to 226	99.74	20.00
6	Strengthening in kms 266 to 273	98.52	20.00
7	Strengthening in kms 370 to 380	154.87	15.00
TOTAL		1,089.38	165.00

[Translation]

Outstanding Taxes

463. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of persons who owe more than Rs. One lakh as Income-tax and other Central taxes; and

(b) what immediate steps are being taken by the Government for the recovery of the amounts due from them for the last two years or more ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (RAMESHWAR THAKUR) :

(a) There were about 3036 assesses who owe Central Excise of Rs. One lakh or more as on 1-7-90. The total arrears of Central Excise duty stood at Rs. 1027.61 crores. There were 4627 persons against whom arrears of Income Tax (including corporation tax) of Rs. Ten lakh or more were outstanding as on 31-12-90. The total demands due from these assesses were Rs. 3055.15 crores.

(b) Appropriate administrative, legal and other measures as necessary

continue to be taken. Most of the arrears are in appeal/Court cases. Courts are moved for early hearings and vacation of stays.

Cancellation of L.I.C. Policies

464. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of policies cancelled by the Life Insurance Corporation of India during 1989-90, State-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of arrangements made by the Life Insurance Corporation and General Insurance Corporation to attend to the grievances of the public effectively ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Life Insurance Corporation of India do not maintain State-wise record. Zone-wise figures are given below :—

Zone	No. of policies discontinued by being not taken up in 1989-90
Northern Zone	3,720
Central Zone	1,676
Eastern Zone	254
South Central & Southern Zone	185
Western Zone	2,062
ALL INDIA TOTAL	7,897

(b) While the main reason for cancellation of the policies was non payment of premia, a few cases of suppression of material facts on the part of the life assured came to light which led to declaring the policies as null and void.

(c) Grievance Redressal Cells/Committees have been set up at the Branch Offices, Divisional Offices, Zonal/Regional Offices and Central/Head Offices. Due publicity is also given in the press notifying the appointment of Grievance Redressal Officers for the facility of the insuring public.

R.B.I.'s Analysis of Industrial Sickness

465. SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently conducted an analysis of the causes of industrial sickness; and

(b) if so, the details and the outcome thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Refund of Money of Investors by Companies in Madras

466. DR. G. L. KANAUIJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of companies in Madras which had invited applications for public issue of equity shares in January, 1990;

(b) whether the application money has not been refunded to many applicants so far despite non-allotment of shares;

(c) if so, the number of such applicants and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

(a) The following companies had invited applications for public issue of equity shares in January, 1990 :

(i) TVS Whirlpool Limited

(ii) Cetex Petro Chemicals Limited

(iii) Dynavision Limited

(iv) Manali Petro Chemicals Limited.

(b) According to the available information, all the applicants have been refunded the amount due to non-allotment of shares.

(c) In view of reply to (b) above, the question does not arise.

(d) Whenever complaints regarding non-receipt of refund orders are received, these complaints are forwarded to the respective Stock Exchanges/Companies for appropriate action.

Enquiry into Submarine Contracts

467. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the progress made so far in regard to the enquiry being conducted into the irregularities in the submarine contracts ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR) : The CBI have registered a Regular Case No. RC-1 (A)/90/ACU (I)/CBI/New Delhi dated 5th March 1990 and investigations are in progress. They have completed examination of a number of witnesses as also of some of the accused persons. They have taken over a large number of files/documents, etc., pertaining to the SSK submarine contracts from the various concerned Ministries/Departments and these have been examined by them. Assistance/cooperation has also been sought from some foreign countries/foreign Courts in order to facilitate the investigations.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip) Though more than two lakh people are residing in the Ranaghat Sub-Division, there is a lot of inconvenience due to lack of communication facilities. The telephone lines are there but they are always out of order. This area is near the Bangladesh border. There are important Central Government offices, LIC offices and so many other offices. Even these offices could not be run because the telephones are not in order. I request the Hon. Minister to look into the matter and ensure that telephones are in working order.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Anand Ahirwar ..

SHRI TARA SINGH (Kurukshetra) : Sir, nineteen pilgrims were brutally murdered .. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have called Shri Ahirwar. I will come to you later.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR (Sagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 24th June, 1991 from 8 00 p.m. to 12.30 p.m. the police brutally beat up Harijan women, children and Rajaram Ahirwar, former Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat Makronia in Sagar district of Madhya Pradesh. The policemen also threatened that all the Harijan of this area would be wiped out. In the entire episode, the role of the district administration and the police has been suspicious with the result that there is a fear and resentment among the people even today. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has remained indifferent throughout this incident. I would request the Hon. Minister Home Affairs to order a high-level CBI inquiry into this incident and dismiss the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, such incidents have become a matter of daily occurrence. A discussion under rule 193 should be allowed on this issue. (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (Agra) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, according to a news report captioned "Farukhabad Jhansi se hataya gaya cross Bar Pranali Agra mein madhne ki koshish" (Move to install Cross Bar System removed from Farukhabad Jhansi in Agra) appearing in the daily "Amer Ojhala of 16th July, 1991

published from Agra, obsolete and out of date technique and equipment removed from elsewhere is being used by the local telephone authorities in an attempt to install Cross Bar telephone exchange in Agra despite Central Government's policy to encourage latest technique and assurance to install electronic telephone exchange in Agra. If succeeds, the move will add to the woes of telephone users of Agra who are already fed up with the unsatisfactory telephone service besides wasting the money from the public exchequer.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Communications to immediately intervene in the matter and get an electronic exchange installed in Agra. The former Minister of Communications had already made an announcement to this effect at Agra.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to tell the Central Government that an amount of rupees 3000 crores is outstanding against the Central Government as this amount has not been paid to the U.P. Government for the last one year. The State Government should have made efforts to get this amount last year from the Centre as it was the sanctioned amount, but the Government remained entangled in other things instead. An amount of Rs. 1370 crore is the sanctioned grant for the year 1990-91, but the payment has yet to be made. Sanctioned loan amounting to Rs. 787 crore has yet to be received. An amount of Rs. 139 crores pertaining to family welfare for the last and the current year is also outstand-

ing. Besides, an amount of Rs. 700 crores relating to Anpara project has also not been given. Thus, the total arrears come to over Rs. 3000 crores. As a result, the development works throughout the State are held up. Since the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is present in the House, I would request him to pay attention to it and tell us the time by which the outstanding amount would be paid.

12.06 hrs.

Re. Murder of 19 Pilgrims in U.P.

[English]

SHRI TARA SINGH (Kurukshetra): A news item was there in the Paper yesterday about the brutal murder of 19 pilgrims and the matter was also raised yesterday. Sir, this is a very serious matter. We have learnt that some persons in U.P. are bent upon driving out all the farmers who are settler there. I request that the Government should enquire into this matter.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Speaker, Sir I would like to present before the House a grave aspect of the issue which Hon. Shri Tara Singh has just now raised. A news report about the killed pilgrims say that they were made to get off a bus and taken into police custody a day before they were killed. Thereafter, they were taken to a guest House and kept there. The following day they were taken to two different ghats in

two groups and were killed in fake encounter.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if the Uttar Pradesh police takes the innocent people into custody and kills them in fake encounter, which is nothing short of a genocide, it will have a terrible repercussion on the people of Punjab living in the entire country, especially the Sikhs. Already, we are witnessing killing of people for the last 6-7 years. Therefore, my submission is that since the U.P. police have lost our confidence, the officers responsible for this incident should be suspended and a C.B.I. inquiry should be ordered in this case to get to the truth because the story that has appeared in the newspaper is very awesome. Therefore, through this august House I demand that a CBI inquiry should be ordered to investigate the whole episode and its report be laid on the Table of the House, so that the entire House could see how innocent people were dragged from the buses and done to death. C.B.I. inquiry is a must to check recurrence of such incidents in future.

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, yesterday we demanded that the Home Minister should make a statement on this .. (*Interruptions*) ..

We are very concerned about it. The Home Minister should make a Statement on this .. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Speaker,

Sir, uniformity in education is essential for restructuring the country. In India, different types of education is imparted in different areas. The present day system of education is producing two classes of people—one is ruling class and the other is service class. As a result thereof, disparities are increasing. Democracy in the country is shaking and discontentment among the people is increasing. The extremist forces are fast rising in the country. The poor, backward classes and the people belonging to oppressed classes are losing faith in democracy. Therefore, if the country is to be saved, it is essential to be about uniformity in education and electoral reforms in the country. Only then the country can be saved. .. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: This is a very serious matter. What happened to that incident where 19 pilgrims were shot dead by the police? The Home Minister should make a statement .. (*Interruptions*) ..

I have also given a notice on a very important subject.

MR. SPEAKER: I will come to that.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Shri Buta Singh is very serious. The Government should take it seriously. I am raising another matter. .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you may direct the Government to make a statement in the House. You send a small team of the Members of Parliament there. A horrible news has appeared in the Times of India and nobody can remain silent after reading it. I want that you may direct the Government to make a statement.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN
Mr. Speaker, Sir, this year is being celebrated as the birth centenary of Babasaheb Ambedkar. We had fixed the target in respect of clearing the backlog of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1990, 1991 and 1992 and it was decided that the backlog upto the year 1991 would be cleared. But ever since our Government fell, no action has been taken in this direction. The members of the SC & ST Welfare Association of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore are sitting on fast for the last five days and the condition of their leader Muttu Mankam is serious. According to a news report appearing in today's newspaper, the Government has imposed a ban on fresh recruitment. I feel that it would be a cruel joke. The Government is closing the doors of employment for the unemployed youth. I would like to know the steps being taken by the Government to achieve the target pertaining to the clearance of the backlog up to the year 1991?

We were going to introduce a bill in this House. Our Hon. Former Speaker is sitting by my side, he had announced that a bill would be introduced in the next session. This was

"legislation for reservation". Since the rules framed hitherto for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are backed only by Government orders, we demand that legislation to give them legal force should be introduced in the House in the current session itself and the backlog of quota should be cleared during the current year—'the Year For Social Justice'. The bill so brought should contain a provision to punish the officers found guilty on this score with imprisonment. We had drafted a bill on these lines for introduction in the House. The Government should introduce the bill in the current session itself and also see to it that it is passed. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want a clear direction from you to the Government of India, otherwise, this matter is going to be a matter of public agitation. It will be a worst kind of an agitation in Delhi. It is not a matter of any Party, it is a question where innocent people had been brutally killed after they had been kept in custody for one day. (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the matter raised by Shri Buta Singh and other esteemed Members in the House is naturally one which attracts not only immediate attention but the facts as alleged are really very shocking. Though we cannot say that we have all the facts and we can give a statement on that but I do agree that on this matter, the Government will try to get all the facts from the

Government of Uttar Pradesh and will try to see that whatever has gone wrong should be correct and if there is any lapse on anybody's part, adequate and proper action will be taken

(Interruptions)

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Mr Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Leader is duty bound to come to this House as soon as he is able to get the facts from the Uttar Pradesh Government, he must bring them before the House.

Sir, I demand that they should be brought before the House

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : That is not something on which I can say anything. But if the Hon. Speaker so desires and if the Hon. Member so feels, a Committee can be appointed and we will certainly help in that.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the moment I read *The Times on India* yesterday, I felt extremely concerned because this incident happened perhaps three-four days earlier. My own opinion is that, even if, say, any of these persons were not bonafied pilgrims and they were terrorists on whose heads there was an award, even then that do not justify any killing. But, in this case, there have been two versions that have come till now. I thought that the Government, in the meanwhile, after the matter was raised yesterday, might be able to give us some account. On the one side, we have our own base in the Party. The U.P. Government is run by my Party. Therefore, I, as a representative of the Party, also owe a responsibility. Therefore, we decided that a team of facts finding of MPs

would be visiting those areas immediately and ascertaining whatever facts it can collect. The Government also has assured the House that they will find out the facts. But I would like to say, that, if the version published in the paper yesterday is true, it is a very serious matter and therefore proper action must be taken against whosoever is responsible. One can understand a situation that obtains in Punjab where excesses are committed here and there. But, so far as UP is concerned, I am very particular that if there is anything wrong, action must be taken (Interruptions).

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I talked to Shri Advaniji also. He was in complete agreement that a thorough probe should be made into this incident. The most startling aspect of this is that whatever they be, even if they were so called terrorists, they were in the custody of the police a day before this killing took place. Therefore, once they were in the custody of the police, the police had no business. And this encounter is a false encounter to the extent that the police brought them in trucks and jeeps; and they were made to stand as targets and the police killed them in a most cold-blooded manner. Therefore, the Leader of the House has been pleased to say, let there be a team of the Members of Parliament nominated by you.

The second thing is that the Government of India, as in the past, there has been a precedent, always comes to this House with the facts collected from the State Government. I would expect the Hon. Leader of the House to assure this House that they will give

a factual note, a factual statement to this House so that all of us can discuss it.

MR. SPEAKER : Now what has been said on the Floor of this House is known to all of us. Now, I think, it would be in the fitness of things to have a statement from the Government; and the Government will make a statement, as soon as possible. After a statement is received, with the agreement of all the parties, if it is necessary, a team can also be constituted, a group can be constituted with the agreement of all the parties. It can be done.

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman-Nicobar) : Mr Speaker, Sir, the previous Government headed by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi had constituted an Island Development Authority, it was headed by the Prime Minister himself for the development of island territory of our country, reservation and protection of those areas, particularly for special type of problems which had to be tackled by the Island Development Authority. I am sorry to say, when Mr. V. P. Singh came to power, that Island Development Authority was scrapped. Now the problems of those remote areas are multiplying. Not only that. Many facilities which the people were getting earlier, particularly the air services, the helicopter service, the shipping services, all were withdrawn and only recently after the coming of this present Government the shipping service has started from Port Blair to Calcutta. Before that it was also suspended. That is why, I like to request the

Government once again to constitute the Island Development Authority in the same form which was prevailing earlier so that the remote island territories and backward areas could be looked after.

SHRI PALAI K. M. MATHEW (Idukki) : A highly explosive situation has developed in Kerala as a result of the massive and aggressive agitation of the farmers. These farmers are mainly the settlers in the backward mountain districts of Idukki and elsewhere. They have been demanding title deeds, Pattayams, for the lands which they have been possessing for the last quarter of a century. Now, they are on a war path. They demand a *de jure* recognition of their *de facto* possession of the lands which they have been holding for 25 years and more. Now, the Central Forest Department is putting up certain hurdles in terms of pure technicalities which are unreal and unsustainable. I request the Government to give clearance to the Government of Kerala so that this problem is amicably solved before it is too late and before it goes beyond control.

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : India's dependence on imported technology has been a very severe strain on our foreign exchange whatever foreign exchange we have got, or we have not got, and also the domestic production of petroleum has been stagnating since early 1980s. In this situation, it is a matter of great concern that there seems to be a great delay and also negligence in tapping areas where there can be possible oil reserves. For instance,

there has been some seismic evidence according to which there could be rich oil reserves stretched over a ten kilometre wide belt across three districts. the three southern districts of West Bengal and since 1984 two attempts have been made to sink oil wells there and both the attempts have had to be abandoned Unfortunately, the ONGC has not conducted any inquiry into either of these abandoned projects, as to why they had to be abandoned I would request the Government to take a serious look at this matter to conduct an inquiry and to see that possible oil wells are tapped . . . (Interruptions) Interested parties are stopping it, there is suspicion of sabotage

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : There are serious charges about this Certain vested interests have sabotaged the drilling operations in these areas This is not an ordinary matter

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Tej Narayan Singh.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Government had to give Rs 30 crore under the Siddarth Scheme for the development of Bhojpur district of Bihar. But not even a single penny has been released. Therefore, I would request the Central Government to release the same, so that the development work could start there.

SHRI CHANDUBHAI DESHMUKH (Bharuch) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the law and order situation in my district Bharuch is deteriorating. There is looting and killing in broad daylight in Walia and Jhagaria Tehsils and

terrorism and naxalism is fast spreading Trees worth over Rs one and a half crore have been cut in Walia Tehsil. Many complaints have been registered with the police but no action has been taken so far 70 houses were set ablaze, 70 shops were looted and property worth Rs one crore was damaged in Ankaleshwar during the elections but the Gujarat Government has not paid even a single penny as compensation 13 posts of Sub-inspectors are vacant in my district Bharuch Mr Speaker Sir, the police force is also unadequate there. During the last one year three collectors, three B.D.Os., three D.S.Ps and three S.D.Ms. have been transferred from Bharuch district I would urge the Government to provide compensation to those whose property has been damaged during the elections

[English]

SHRI RAMFESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to bring a serious issue to the notice of the Government In today's *Hindustan Times* it is reported 'Plot to kill Seshan', which says

"The State security sleuths have sounded their counterparts in Delhi about the possible entry of a top Babar Khalsa group led by Lt General Dharam Singh Kastiwari in the national capital with a view to kill Chief Election Commissioner

The plot to assassinate Mr. Seshan, who is believed to have messed up the Punjab elections, has been uncovered with the arrest of two close associates of Kastiwari by the Majitha Police. . ."

Sir, this a serious matter I request the Government to conduct an inquiry on this matter and also provide fool-proof security to Chief Election Commissioner

SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar) Sir I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a different type of killing that had taken place in Orissa. The findings of the one man Commission appointed by the Orissa High Court in 1988 had established now that large scale starvation deaths had taken place in Kalahandi District of Orissa. The Retired District Judge who constituted the one man Commission had further said that this was the usual attempt to suppress these starvation deaths inspite of the fact that the medical certificate had attributed the deaths to anaemia which is the inevitable result of lack of food for a long time.

Sir this is another type of killing. Now also the situation has not improved much. Because of deforestation by the administration backed contractors, continuous droughts, non-availability of work in the interior areas and above all due to age-long exploitation of these people by the landlords and moneylenders this has become a chronic problem in Orissa.

I would urge upon the Government and the Prime Minister to look into the problem with the urgency it demands and provide immediate relief for these starving people and at the same time to help the State Government to chalk out a plan immediately in order to remedy the situation.

SHRI HARADHAN ROY (Asansol) Sir, the Eastern Coalfields Ltd under Coal India Limited is drawing sand unscientifically from Damodar river for stowing sand in the coal mines. As a result, large scale erosion is taking place every day and night endangering the safety of lives and properties of a large number of villages like Pubra, Madanpur, Baska, Sreeram-pur of Andal P S Dt Burdwan West Bengal. In future this might endanger the Andal Railway Station and Durgapur Industrial Complex.

A joint committee was constituted by the Government of India where West Bengal Government and other experts were associated to go into the matter and suggest ways and means for its remedy. The Committee recommended some protective measures but the Eastern Coalfields Limited took no action as yet.

So I like to draw the attention of the Minister of Coal and Environment concerned to take immediate safety measures for the protection of the bank and also to safeguard the lives and properties of affected villages and its people.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA
The World Bank in its report in the month of June 1990 had suggested three measures for re-structuring of financial and banking system of our country. The Government of India is in a haste to privatise or de-nationalise the banks which were nationalised in 1969. We all supported this move of the then Government when the banks were nationalised. After devaluation and transhipment of gold, in order to

satisfy the IMF masters, the Government of India is now to privatise the nationalised banks and the public sector which is considered to be the commanding heights of our economy. Both the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister are present. The Prime Minister will reply to the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. So I would like him to clarify whether there was any instruction from the World Bank or the IMF to de-nationalise our nationalised banks and whether Government has already taken a decision to allow equity in the State Bank of India and other nationalised banks. So I demand that either the Finance Minister or the Prime Minister should clarify whether such a decision has been taken or not.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAINATI SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Sir, I would like to bring to your notice an important matter in few words about Eastern Uttar Pradesh. There is severe drought in 15—20 districts of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. The wells are drying up. There is no water in the tube wells. The canals are also dry because water is not released in these canals during the monsoons. Paddy has not been transplanted. The crops of Jwar, Maize and Bajra have withered away. The crop of Jowar has been extensively damaged in over one lakh acre of land. I would like to request through you, the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Lal Krishna Advani, the leader of opposition and all in all of the Uttar Pradesh Government, that Eastern Uttar Pradesh is passing through a serious crisis and lakhs of people are

on the verge of starvation. They should immediately instruct to the State Government to provide relief immediately so that the people are saved from starvation (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER. Whatever you are speaking, is not going on record.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that in spite of serious economic crisis Uttar Pradesh Government is making untiring efforts to solve the drinking water problem and is engaged in relief works. The Centre is yet to release Rs. 3 thousand crore which has been sanctioned for various schemes but the former Chief Minister Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav never made any effort in this direction (*Interruptions*). The Uttar Pradesh Government is determined to solve these problems and therefore, I request the Hon. Prime Minister to release Rs. 3,000 crore which is due to the Uttar Pradesh Government (*Interruptions*). My submission is the Centre should immediately release the due amount for various Schemes to the Uttar Pradesh Government as it would help in effectively dealing with the drinking water problem and the severe drought situation that the state is facing today (*Interruptions*).

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the economic situation in Bihar is critical for the past many years. Bihar was getting Rs. 70 crore from the Coal Sector alone every year. It was a main source of income for the State but now it is impossible

to bridge the deficit. Keeping in view the economic crisis in the State, I would request the Central Government to take decision on the proposal regarding increasing the rate of royalty on coal and issue notification at an early date as I am told it is pending before the Cabinet for approval.

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari) : Mr Speaker, Sir, there are about 4,000 technical assistants in medical colleges of Delhi and though their demands have been agreed to by the third and fourth Pay Commission, yet the Delhi Administration has not paid any attention to them and as a result they are on a strike with an eight point charter of demands. The position is that if their demands are not met, all the hospitals will have to close down. I want to draw the attention of the Hon Health Minister to the fact that Deans and Directors of the Medical College have agreed to their demands. Therefore, I request the Hon Health Minister to accept their demands and ask them to join duty. This is very essential and has been pending for quite some time.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr Speaker, Sir, Pakistan has been trying to spread hatred through false propaganda on Radio and Television in the border areas of the country in a systematic way for many years. Unfortunately, the Indian Radio and Television has not been able to counter it. Recently serial named 'Muquadama Kashmir Ka' was shown on the Pakistani Television these days. The people in Jammu are so agitated, that day before yesterday

they burnt the effigies of the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharief and the markets remained closed for two days in protest. The Serial is making efforts for character assassination of Indian leaders and is trying to paint them in most objectionable manner. Therefore I would like to submit to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to make arrangements to show better programmes on Television in comparison to Pakistan so that the people residing in border areas are not affected by Pakistani programmes.

[English]

SHRI KODIKKUNNIL SURESH (Adoor) : Mr Speaker, Sir, in Kerala South West, monsoon has set from 1-6-1991 accompanied by severe sea erosion, high velocity winds floods, land slides etc. The intensity of the rain still continues throughout the State.

My Constituency Adoor is a part of Oulon District. The landslide has highly affected areas like Orukunnu, Ottakkal in Themmala Panchayat. Because of this a lot of agricultural crops were damaged in that area. The landslide situation is still continuing.

May I request the Government of India to take necessary steps to send a central team to study conditions in the area affected by the landslide and take measure for protecting the lives of the people of the area. . . (Interruptions)**

[Translation]

MR SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padraura). Sir, I have given a notice under Rule 193 The Gorakhpur unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited situated in Gorakhpur division is the only major public sector undertaking in eastern Uttar Pradesh. From 1968 to 1975 this unit utilized its production capacity to the maximum and earned pride of place among public sector undertakings in the country. Presently its technology has become obsolete. Due to erratic power supply, delay in supply of raw material, delayed sanctioning of funds by the Centre for the annual overhaul of the plant and neglect on the part of the management, this unit has been running into losses for the last seven years. But the management and the earlier Government paid little attention to it; as a result of which neither this unit has been expanded nor the new plant has been set up. Unfortunately, there was an accident in the plant on 10th June, 1990. Since then the plant is lying closed. Thousands of labourers have been rendered jobless. (Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER : Please be brief you need not read the entire notice.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : The plant is closed for the last one year. Thousands of people have been rendered jobless and agriculture in eastern U.P. has been adversely affected because this plant produces urea.

I would like to state that a new plant should be set up there and till the new plant becomes operational, the existing plant should be restarted. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Sir, a story published on the front page of today's Navbharat Times and confirmed by the Hon. Minister says that the Government has imposed a ban on fresh recruitment in Central Government services. This step has been taken to reduce Government expenditure. There is already a ban on recruitment in public sector undertakings. There are five crore unemployed people in this country and yet this ban has been imposed in the name of cutting down Government expenditure. The Hon. Minister of State Shri Shantaram has said that such a proposal is under consideration. How can we talk of reservation when there are no jobs available?

Shri Arjun Singh was talking of backward castes. The Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister are present here and I would like to say that this issue has a direct bearing on the future of crores of Indian youth. Has the Government taken any such decision because the Hon. Minister's name appears in the story published in the newspaper? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : At least you can say whether this story about the Government imposing a ban is true or not. (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is not an ordinary matter. It concerns the future of the five crore unemployed people of this country. So I would appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister or the Hon. Finance Minister to make a statement in this matter.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Papers laid on the Table. Shri Ashok Gehlot.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Commerce that 208 employees of Export Inspection Council have been declared surplus, they have been served with the notice of termination from their jobs. This is a very serious matter and I request the Prime Minister to look into it . (Interruptions) . .

The way the Commerce Ministry is winding up its offices, the Commerce Minister will himself become surplus one day. I do not want that to happen and I call upon the Government to immediately withdraw those orders of termination. . . (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have gone to the other item now

12.45 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

(i) Annual Report of and Review on the working of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Calcutta for 1989-90, etc.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90

along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Jute Manufacturers Development Council, Calcutta, for the year 1989-90

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above

[Placed in Library See No 11 77/91]

(ii) Notifications under the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : I beg to lay on the Table

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 124 of the Major Port Trusts, Act, 1963 :—

(i) GSR 15(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th January, 1991 approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees (Family Security Fund) Regulations, 1991.

(ii) G.S.R. 78(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th February, 1991 approving the Calcutta Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Regulations, 1991.

(iii) G S R 83(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 20th February, 1991 approving the Kandla Port Trust (Recruitment of Heads of Department) Regulations, 1991

(iv) G S R 92(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th February, 1991 approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employces (Recruitment Seniority and Promotion) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1991

(v) G S R 130(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 13th March, 1991 approving the Visakhapatnam Port Employces (Festival Advance) Regulations, 1991

(vi) G S R 169(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st March, 1991 approving the Paradip Port (Authorisation of Pilots) (Amendment) Regulations, 1991

(vii) G S R 297(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th June, 1991 approving the amendment to Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour Regulation, 1986

[Placed in Library See No LI-78/91]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English Versions) under subsection (2) of section 103 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963 —

(a) (i) Annual Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Bombay Port Trust for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library See No LI-79/91]

(b) (i) Annual Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Paradip Port Trust for the year 1989-90

[Placed in Library See No LI-80/91]

(c) (i) Annual Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Kandla Port Trust for the year 1989-90

[Placed in Library See No LI-81/91]

(d) (i) Annual Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon

(ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Madras Port Trust for the year 1989-90

[Placed in Library See No LI-82/91]

(e) (i) Annual Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the

year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon .

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Mormugao Port Trust for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library See No LT-83/91]

- (f) (i) Annual Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1989-90 together with Audit Report thereon

- (ii) Review by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Visakhapatnam Port Trust for the year 1989-90

[Placed in Library See No LT-84/91]

(3) Six statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above

[Placed in Library See No LT-79-84/91]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Calcutta Dock Labour Board for the year 1989-90

(5) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above

[Placed in Library See No LT-85/91]

(ii) Statements showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing the action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha —

- (1) Statement No XXX—Fifth Session 1986
(Placed in Library See No LT-86/91)
- (2) Statement No XXVIII—Eighth Session 1987
(Placed in Library See No LT-87/91)
- (3) Statement No XXV—II Part of Eighth Session, 1987
(Placed in Library See No LT-88/91)
- (4) Statement No XXIV—Ninth Session 1987
(Placed in Library See No LT-89/91)
- (5) Statement No XXII—Tenth Session 1988
(Placed in Library See No LT-90/91)
- (6) Statement No XVIII—Eleventh Session 1988
(Placed in Library See No LT-91/91)
- (7) Statement No XV—Twelfth Session, 1988
(Placed in Library See No LT-92/91)

} Eighth Lok Sabha

(8) Statement No. XIV—Thirteenth Session, 1989 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-93/91)	}	Eighth Lok Sabha
(9) Statement No. XI—Fourteenth Session, 1989 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-94/91)		
(10) Statement No. IX—First Session, 1989 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-95/91)		
(11) Statement No. VIII—Second Session, 1990 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-96/91)	}	Ninth Lok Sabha
(12) Statement No. IV—Third Session, 1990 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-97/91)		
(13) Statement No. II—Sixth Session, 1991 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-98/91)	}	
(14) Statement No. I—Seventh Session, 1991 (Placed in Library. See No. LT-99/91)		

(iv) **Notifications under the Government savings Banks Act, 1873, etc.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI DALBIR SINGH : I beg to
lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 15 of the Government Saving Banks Act, 1873 :—

(i) The Post Office Recurring Deposit (Second Amendment) Rules, 1991 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 190(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1991.

(ii) The Post Office Time Deposit (Amendment) Rules, 1991 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 191(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1991.

(iii) The National Savings Scheme (Amendment) Rules, 1991 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 253(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd May, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-100/91]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. F. No. 15/10/91-NS II (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd April, 1991 making certain amendments to the Notification No. F. 2/19/89-NS. II dated the 12th December, 1990 regarding amendments to the Deposit Scheme for Retiring Employees of Public Sector Companies 1991

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-101/91]

(3) A copy of the Twentieth Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1989-90

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-102/91]

(4) 9 copy of the Industrial Development Bank of India General Regulations (Amendment) Regulations, 1990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 6583-RPD in Gazette of India dated the 10th September, 1990 under sub-section (4) of section 37 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-103/91]

(5) A copy of the Industrial Finance Corporation (Amendment) Rules, 1988 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1207(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th December, 1988 under sub-section (2) of section 42 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-104/91]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts under section 29 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956.

(ii) A statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government on the working of the Life Insurance Corporation of India for the year 1989-90.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-105/91]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1989-90 under sub-section (3) of section 38 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951.

(ii) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Accounts of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1989-90 under sub-section (7) of section 37 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working

of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1989-90.

(8) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-106/91]

(9) A copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution :—

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 2 of 1991)—Union Government (Scientific Department).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-107/91]

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 5 of 1991)—Union Government (Revenue Receipts—Direct Taxes).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-108/91]

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990—Central Action Plan (Income Tax)—1988-89 (No. 6 of 1991)—Union Government (Revenue Receipts—Direct Taxes).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-109/91]

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year ended the 31st March, 1990 (No. 10 of 1991)-- Union Government (Railways).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-110/91]

(10) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Railways for the year 1989-90, Part-I—Review (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-111/91]

(11) A copy of the Appropriation Accounts, Railways for the year 1989-90, Part-II—Detailed Appropriation Accounts (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-112/91]

(12) A copy of the Block Accounts (including capital statements comprising the Loan Accounts), Balance sheets and Profit and Loss Accounts of Railways for the year 1989-90 (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-113/91]

(v) Notifications under the Customs Act, 1962

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : I beg to lay on the Table—

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :—

- (i) G.S.R 110(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th

March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to the Crude Petroleum when imported into India from the auxiliary duty of customs.

- (ii) G.S.R 111(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified goods when imported into India from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

- (iii) G.S.R 112(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain goods from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs which are wholly or partially exempted from the basic duty of customs leviable thereon.

- (iv) G.S.R 113(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain goods from the auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 per cent ad valorem which are wholly or partially exempted from the basic duty of customs.

- (v) G.S.R 114(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to certain goods from the auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 25 per cent ad valorem.

- (vi) G.S.R. 115(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing partial exemption from auxiliary duty in excess of 25 per cent ad valorem on certain goods which are partially exempted from the basic duty of customs.
- (vii) G.S.R. 116(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the level of auxiliary duty on component parts of simulators of aeroplane etc
- (viii) G.S.R. 117(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing partial exemption from auxiliary duty on exposed cinematographic film.
- (ix) G.S.R. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty on component part of medical electric equipments.
- (x) G.S.R. 119(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty of customs on component parts of machinery imported for initial setting up of specified machinery.
- (xi) G.S.R. 120(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty of customs on copper wires, bars etc. produced out of copper rivets etc. exported earlier.
- (xii) G.S.R. 121(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption from levy of auxiliary duty of customs on all goods during the period from the 5th March, 1991 to the 31st March, 1991, to avoid double levy.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 122(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding certain notifications relating to auxiliary duty of customs.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 131(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to Crude Petroleum from so much of the auxiliary duty of customs.
- (xv) G.S.R. 132(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified goods from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 133(E) published in Gazette of India dated the

- 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods which are partially or wholly exempted from the duty of customs from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 134(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding partial exemption from auxiliary duty of customs in excess of 5 per cent ad valorem on certain goods which are wholly or partially exempted from basic duty of customs.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 135(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing partial exemption from auxiliary duty in excess of 25 per cent ad valorem on specified goods
- (xix) G.S.R. 136(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing partial exemption from auxiliary duty in excess of 25 per cent ad valorem on certain goods which are partially exempted from the basic duty of customs.
- (xx) G.S.R. 137(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the level of auxiliary duty on component parts of simulators or aeroplane etc.
- (xxi) G.S.R. 138(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing partial exemption from auxiliary duty of customs on exposed cinematographic film.
- (xxii) G.S.R. 139(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty of customs on the component parts of medical electronic equipments.
- (xxiii) G.S.R. 140(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty of customs on the components part of machinery imported for initial setting up of specified machinery.
- (xxiv) G.S.R. 141(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum prescribing the rate of auxiliary duty of customs on the copper wires, bars etc produced out of copper rivets etc. exported earlier.
- (xxv) G.S.R. 153(E) and G.S.R. 154(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding

exemption to raw materials, components and parts when imported into India for the manufacture in bond of specified ocean going vessels from the whole of basic, additional and auxiliary duties of customs leviable thereon.

- (xxvi) G.S.R. 181(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th March, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 33/91-Cus., dated the 19th March, 1991.
- (xxvii) G.S.R. 195(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st April, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 35/90-Cus., dated the 20th March, 1990.
- (xxviii) G.S.R. 259(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1991 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notification No. 211/83-Cus., dated the 23rd July, 1983.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-114/91]

12.47 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir,
I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (d) of Section 4 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

(ii) Tobacco Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
(SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir,
I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (b) of Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner

as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the Said Act and the Rules made thereunder”.

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (4) (b) of Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, read with rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board rules, 1976, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Tobacco Board, subject to the other provisions of the Said Act and the Rules made thereunder”

The motion was adopted.

(iii) Coffee Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board for a period of three years commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder”.

MR SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section

(2) (b) of Section 4 of the Coffee Act, 1942 read with rule 4(1) of the Coffee Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Coffee Board for a period of three years commencing from the date of notification by the Government subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder”

The motion was adopted.

(iv) Rubber Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(1) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board for a period of three years commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder”

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (c) of Section 4 of the Rubber Act, 1947 read with rule 4(1) of the Rubber Rules, 1955, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from

among themselves to serve as members of the Rubber Board for a period of three years commencing from the date of notification by the Government, subject to other provisions of the said Act and the Rules made thereunder”.

The motion was adopted.

(v) Spices Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (b) of Section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rule 4 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board, subject to the other provisions of said Act and the Rules made thereunder”.

MR. SPEAKER. The questions is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (3) (b) of Section 3 of the Spices Board Act, 1986, read with rule 4 of the Spices Board Rules, 1987, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Spices Board, subject to the other provisions of said Act and the Rules made there under”.

The motion was adopted.

(vi) National Welfare Board for Seafarers

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) . Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of Rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules”.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of Rule 4(i) of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers Rules, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the National Welfare Board for Seafarers, subject to the other provisions of the said Rules”.

The motion was adopted.

(vii) National Shipping Board

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, 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 National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act”.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section (2) (a) of Section 4 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, 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 National Shipping Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act”.

The motion was adopted.

(viii) Central Silk board

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT) : Sir, I beg to move :

“That in pursuance of sub-section 3(c) of Section 4 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”.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

“That in pursuance of sub-section 3(c) of Section 4 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.

12.51 hrs.

MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We will take up matters under rule 377 after we finish the discussion and voting of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address moved on 16th July, 1991.

Shri Jeevarathinam was on his legs, he may speak for some more time

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. Under the rules of business of this House, the mover of a motion is entitled to speak on the Motion. The Hon Member from Nagaland has moved an amendment to the Motion. It is also a Motion and so he is entitled to speak. Yesterday, it was agreed that the House would sit up to 8.00 p.m. and he was supposed to speak, but quorum was not there and so he could not speak yesterday.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood your point of order. Your point of order is out of order. I will allow that Member to speak. Please take your seat now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, today is Friday and so we must have Lunch break. The Prime Minister should be requested to reply to the

Motion after the Lunch break, because we want to go to mosque for Friday prayers.

MR. SPEAKER : In fact the Prime Minister wanted to reply to the debate yesterday itself. It was postponed because some more Members wanted to speak.

[Translation]

***SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM** (Arakkonam) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, let me resume my speech on the President's Address

I was referring to the drinking water problem. The Tribunal on Cauvery river water dispute has given its interim award. The award is yet to be published and I request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to immediately order the acceptance of the award.

The Palar river water dispute is also pending for a long time. Palar originates from the Nandi hills in Mysore. In violation of an agreement of 1802, the Karnataka Govt. has built a dam in Pethamangalam. This has resulted in low water supply in Palar river. During dry seasons, there is no water in the river. Water is not available in North Arcot and Chinglepat districts even at 400 or 500 feet below the ground level. Even the agricultural wells and drinking water reservoirs dry up. I, therefore, request the Hon. Minister to persuade the Karnataka Govt. to release adequate water in Palar river.

Sir, I must also draw your attention to coal shortage in Tamil Nadu. The coal shortage has seriously affected

power production and thereby has also hampered industrial production. I, therefore, suggest to the Govt. that they should resort to importing coal from other countries. We had a very bad experience with coalition Governments. They did not function at all. Only the Congress can provide a Government which works on the basis of socialism and secularism. The verdict in the last general elections was for the Congress. All parties should respect that verdict. The opposition parties must, therefore, give up their ideas of having a coalition Government and work in cooperation with the Congress Govt.

Yesterday, the Hon. Finance Minister spoke to the House detailing the economic crisis that the country is faced with. With a view to saving the country from the debt trap, I appeal to all parties to come together and work unitedly towards the economic progress of the country. All devotees of Ram must for the time being give up the demand for Ram Mandir in larger national interest.

The Hon. former Prime Minister, who spoke yesterday, gave a warning that an agitation would soon be started for implementing the Mandal Commission Report. I appeal to him not to go ahead with the agitation and save this country from caste and communal disaster. United we stand, divided we fall. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI IMCHALEMBA (Nagaland) : I thank you Mr. Speaker for

*Translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

giving me time to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address

I would like to point out some aspects which were ignored in the President's Address particularly with reference to the Northeastern region. Many senior and esteemed Members of the House have expressed their concern about the growing lawlessness and militancy in the country. I for one share with them the concern in no lesser degree. I would like to point out that all these activities are carried out by the organised groups in different parts of the country. But all these groups may not have the same background and the same history. That is why, it would be wrong if we try to club them together to find out a common solution.

About the Northeastern region, all these subversive movements in the Northeast initially started as a peaceful and popular movement. I want to stress that today this peaceful and democratic movement has turned to violence because of our mistake. I think, we have to keep that thing in our mind. Even today, in the northeastern region, the situation has been going from bad to worse. It is because we are trying to find a military solution to the problem by ignoring the popular sentiments involved behind this movement. I think, if we are honest, let us agree on the thing that the situation in the Northeast has become serious after the ban on ULFA and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN). If we are honest, let us admit that even today we are seeking a military solution to the problem by ignoring the political aspects

of the problem. Let us accept this particular fact.

It is for this reason that as soon as the ban was imposed on NSCN, the Nagaland Government voiced its objection and passed a Resolution about which I would like to state briefly here. It was on 29-11-1990.

"That Council of Ministers in an emergency meeting today discussed the recent announcement of the Government of India banning the NSCN under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967. The Council of Ministers noted that the policy of the present Government in the State has been one of reconciliation with all factions of the underground with a view to bringing them to the negotiating table for a dialogue with the Government of India."

13. 00 hrs.

These things show that the Council of Ministers feel that the recent action of the Government of India cannot be conducive to the process of reconciliation and that the State Government should find a lasting political solution. The Council of Ministers expressed their regret over the fact that the State Government was not consulted by the Government of India before the declaration was made. It, therefore, requested the Government of India to review its stand.

My point is the ban was imposed without consulting the State Government and by imposing this ban, lot of problems have been created. Today Nagaland appears to be peaceful. But I would like to say that this peace is

deceptive. What is inside is quite different. Unless a situation is created whereby negotiations and discussions can take place with the underground, imposing ban is going to do more harm than good.

If military opposition of the kind that has taken place in Assam, had it taken place in Nagaland, I would like to say that the situation would have been worse than what it is today

The Nagaland Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution in the month of March this year. I want to go on record.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani) : Please adjourn the House.

MR SPEAKER : I will adjourn the House after the Member completes his speech. Prime Minister may speak at 2.15 PM after lunch hour.

SHRI IMCHALEMBA : Nagaland Assembly has passed a resolution stating that the cardinal principle for durable solution to Naga political problem is through love and understanding and discussion across the table.

The people and the Government have been trying their best through all sections of people to come to an understanding for solving their vexed problem through peaceful means. Both the public and the undergrounds have agreed in principle to solve the problem with love and understanding but not with arms confrontation. It has found its results and widely experienced in the past and even now peace-

ful means is the only solution to Naga problem.

It is, therefore, that this House expresses its deep concern by declaring NSCN unhelpful organisation and further urges to start negotiations with all sections of Naga underground with the spirit of love and understanding for permanent solution to Naga political problem.

These are some of the fact. If the State Government passes such Ordinances declaring them when discussions are going on, you create a problem. It should not be done without going into the detail and without taking the House into confidence.

ULFA was banned and when situation became serious, only then the offer of talks with ULFA have started. They have not to do anything before it was banned. That is my point.

These are some of the anomalies and I think revocation of the ban imposed on ULFA and National Socialist Council of Nagaland is very important. This is directly connected with the present situation emerging in the North-East India.

There are two other points. I would like to say about a very dangerous situation I would like to say that a very dangerous situation is gradually emerging in the North-East. That is, the Autonomous States Demand Committee. The people of Karbi Anglong and the people of North Cachar District have been demanding for an Autonomous State within the State of Assam. Further, I would like to say that so far their demand has

been peaceful and democratic. I know the people of this country and particular the people of Karbi Anglong and North Cachar District. A feeling is gradually creeping into their minds that unless you resort to some undemocratic means to put forward your demand or grievance, the democratically elected leaders in Delhi do not pay any heed these days and whether one likes it or not one has to do something about it. That is the feeling existing there today. It is a very dangerous thing. People are beginning to lose faith in the very system under which they are made to live.

Sir, to resolve this problem, a provision has already been incorporated into the Constitution Article 244A of the Constitution has clearly laid down the basis under which this problem can be solved. It gives a very clear provision for these two States; Karbi Anglong and the North Cachar District, for an Autonomous State within the State of Assam. As I said earlier, that provision has already been laid down under the Constitution through the 22nd Constitution Amendment which has passed in 1971. That Amendment gives special provision for the creation of an Autonomous State within the State of Assam. That was passed in 1971. For the last 20 years, this provision has been kept unimplemented. Even a small child becomes an adult in 20 years. This is a very important matter.

MR SPEAKER : I know it is very important.

SHRI IMCHALEMBA : A militant situation is existing there. After this Amendment which was incorpo-

rated into the Constitution in 1971, the people of Karbi Anglong and the people of North Cachar District are not saying that they want to go away from Assam. Of course, the provision is already there. What they are demanding is greater autonomy under the nomenclature of Autonomous State within the State of Assam. Even this Parliament in its Amendment has given that nomenclature. What difficulty is there to resolve this problem? I am not saying that the Assam Government should take note of this. They can be taken into confidence. I don't see any reason why the people of Assam will not agree to resolve this particular issue. This is one of the important forums through which I want to make this point. I hope the Government will take this matter very seriously.

The last point which I want to make is about the withdrawal of the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, 1972. Of all the Acts that have been passed by the Indian Parliament, perhaps this is the most repressive Act that we have ever passed. In areas where this Act, the Armed Forces Special Powers Act, has been applied, I want to tell very frankly that it has left behind an indelible mark of suffering and torture on the face of the people. People who do not have the practical experience of this Act may not take it seriously. But people who have some practical experience of this Act, have experienced the cruelty of this Act. There cannot be any more cruel Act than this in the whole of this country. Under this Act, the State and its Armed Forces are given extraordinary powers. They are armed with extraordinary

powers, beyond the limits set by the Constitution. Army personnel up to the rank of Junior Commissioned Officers have authority and the power to shoot and kill people, to enter and search and arrest anybody, without warrant, on mere suspicion. When this law is applied, there is no civil administration, and the army takes over. What is most is that this law has been applied indiscriminately among the peaceful citizens. That is why, I want to request the Prime Minister and the Home Minister that these have to be reduced. It cannot be applied like that. Appliance of this law will gradually turn the people against the nation. This Act is particularly meant for the people of North-East India Therefore, it is my request that this Act has to be withdrawn from those States where today it is applied, like, Assam, Nagaland and Manipur.

With these words, I thank you
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Chaudhury to speak. You have to finish your speech within two minutes

SHRI SATYENDRA NATH BROHMO CHAUDHURY (Kokrajhar) : In two minutes? Then I will not speak. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH (Machhli-patnam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Motion moved by Sardar Buta Singh. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please bear m mind that you have to be very brief. You just make the point.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH : I am just making the points.

In para 11 of the Presidential Address, it has been mentioned that the Government recognises that the country is in the midst of an economic crisis of unprecedented magnitude. There is no mention in the Address why has this unprecedented situation cropped up—whether it has cropped up all of a sudden or is it due to the continuous default, malpractices and corrupt practices adopted by this Government for the last forty years?

I want to bring it to the notice of the August House that after obtaining the votes from the 100 per cent people of this nation or whatever it might be, this House is serving the purpose of only five per cent of the population of this country. That is the basic reason why, including me, after having seen the administration for the last 42 years, one should not become a naxalite or why one should not become a terrorist. I shall narrate one point for the kind consideration of the Government I am not going to deal with as to how the corruption is taking place and how the IDBI and IFCI banks are being looted by the vested interests who account for the two per cent of the population of this country. I am not going into details about it. Everybody knows that how this one lakh crores of rupees of foreign debt has been siphoned off by a vicious circle and vested interests and how they are bringing it back by giving as a loan to Government by NRI's etc.

In such circumstances, why one should not become a naxalite. Even after 43 years of Independence, the position of a Harijan, the position of

an Adivasi and the position of a farmer in a village is the same as it prevailed in the year 1947 except the persons like me or the persons like others who had left the village and reached the town. This Congress Government made available ample opportunities for 2% of population to loot the country to the extent possible that one can loot.

That is the situation prevailing in this country. And the condition of 80 per cent of the population of this country remains the same. Now, I will try to give one or two instances.

Soon after the taking over of the Chief Ministership of Tamilnadu, Ms. Jayalalitha, has announced prohibition in her State. You can understand Sir, that prohibited drink is a poor man's drink. The cost of one litre of arrack in the country is fifty paise per litre or one rupee per litre. There are many intellectuals; many opposition parties; and towering personalities in this country. They know that a litre of arrack worth Re. 1 is being sold for Rs. 60 to the poor men—that is—Adivasis, Harijans and other backward classes of this country. Who are munting this money? Every State is getting 500 to 600 crores of rupees from the blood of the poor men. Nobody is going to stop this atrocity; nobody is going to question? Then why one should not become terrorist.

Regarding the fishermen. I would like to pose a question. The fishermen in the coastal areas face a lot of difficulties during cyclone times and without food, shelter and clothing and they somehow survive. Now the Government of India had sanctioned some

trolleys and some other fishing equipments and boats. To whom have these been given, Sir? They have given them to multi-crorepatis; but on what terms and conditions? They have given to multi-crorepatis with 95 per cent of the Government loan towards purchase of trolleys ignoring the fishermen who are there for ages together. The crorepatis have to put only 5% of their money.

In the country now a new phenomenon is taking place. In Andhra Pradesh, there is a seven star culture—this pertains to Hospitals. The Government on the one side says that we are in economic crisis but they are sanctioning seven star hospitals to people who want to put in their black money earned illegally into this operation. Our Government hospitals are not only having any medicines and even phenyle to clean the bathrooms and latrines of the Hospitals is not supplied to them. This is the situation. In this operation they siphoned off 25% of foreign exchange by importing equipment.

No doubt, the Government under the rule of the Congress had developed the country tremendously. But in whose hands is the wealth? That is the question. Everybody says including the opposition that there is no dearth of wealth in this country. But in whose hands is it? It is in the hands of the vested interests; in the hands of the politicians and is in the hands of the bureaucracy. The whole 80 per cent of the population including the farming community was ignored for the last 44 years. I want to bring to the notice of this House the situation prevailing in this country. The Finance

Minister has said the country's economy was seriously damaged because of waiver of farmers' loans. I want to bring to the notice of this House, Sir, that the maximum amount due to waiver of farmers' loans might have gone upto Rs. 600 crores or below Rs. 1,000 crores. For the last 42 years, there has been Rs. 64,000 crores of loans to the industrialists and waiver of interest on this loan has taken place. Is it not the unjustified statement of the Finance Minister? When a farmer is producing several million tonnes of foodgrains, you must be proud of the Indian farmer. Earlier we were importing foodgrains and what ever we had been paying towards the transport charges of the foodgrains from America have not been paid to them by this waived. By way of arrack selling you are getting Rs. 20,000 crores from the molasses for which the input is the sugarcane. I think the people of this entire country has got confidence in the Hon. Finance Minister and therefore he should not be cowed down by the Congressmen who are riding over him.

We have to forget partylines. About Mandal Commission my parents have taught me—otherwise this trouble could not have come in this country—
[Translation]
that we must wish a true brahmin if
[English]

we happen to met him on the way. I am a Yadav, Kurmi. 52% backwardness is here in this country. They are serving the country honestly, they have not tasted corruption—either political corruption or economic corruption. They have not entered into this field; they are honest persons. I

am a hundred percent Hindu. When a Hindu is getting a small benefit from the Government of India by way of
[Translation]

reservation they have inflamed passions in the entire country these BJP and the
[English]

Congress vested interests I am a hundred percent Hindu; how can you protect Hindutva when I am getting a small benefit from the Government and you don't tolerate it? The whole country is sought to be kept under the custodianship of these Sharmas. You have brought this country to this state

When Shri N.T. Rama Rao took charge, 50% of the country's corruption has been stopped. You made NTR as a scapegoat. I will tell you how NTR has stopped corruption He has taken up a scheme.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you have to conclude please. Now you must conclude.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH : I will bow down to the Chair's orders. Sir, only one point When Shri N.T. Rama Rao took charge he honestly tried to eradicate corruption He took the list of IAS and IPS people He asked them as to what was their asset as on date and whether it was not disproportionate to their known earnings.

MR. SPEAKER : Now you will please conclude. This is the limit now.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH : Sir, the country is facing a critical situation wherein we want to support the Government to solve the problems to

the extent possible . . . (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : We have at 3.30 p.m. Private Members Business. We have to complete the President's Address before that. Now conclude.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH : I thank you for your kindness.

MR. SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1.25 p.m.

The Lok Sabha than adjourned for Lunch till Twentyfive minutes past Fourteen of the clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at twenty-six minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[*English*]

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am very grateful to the Hon. Members who have participated in this debate. I feel that the debate has been maintained at a high level, as it fits this August House.

Sir, it would not be possible for me to mention Hon. Members by name and deal with what they had to say. Therefore, I would like to take a few important topics which were dwelt upon by most of the Members, perhaps all of the Members and try to intervene on those topics separately, giving the opinion of the Government.

Sir, one observation, which was made by some Members was about the style of the Address—some called it dull, some called it colourless, etc. I have no comment on that except to say that the President perhaps wanted to explain things in plain language for the benefit of Members. I do not think we should fault him on that. This is the newly elected House and we would like—I would like—the President to explain things at length, instead of making it short. I would be happy and I am sure many of the Members would be happy to find that most points have been elaborated at length. So, the style, as far as it goes, is very appropriate to the occasion and I would not agree with those Members who might have found it too long or not very interesting and so on. In any case, in the Address of the President of India to Parliament, we do not look for what may be called, 'interesting things'. It is not so much 'the interesting things', as useful things, as things which the Members should in all responsibility take up for consideration and decision. These are the things which are normally and should be contained in the President's Address and that is what the Address contained.

Sir, I would also not like to dwell too long on some of the comments made by some Members, repeating what has been said many times before, namely that this is a minority Government. Now there is no need to repeat that. We have agreed that this is a minority Government. And even being a minority Government, it has to take decisions which other minority Governments formerly could not take

or did not take. This is a speciality with this minority Government. Members have called the Congress Party the largest single party in the House. That is true as far as it goes. But it is a little more than that. If my strength had been 119 or 120, I would still be the largest single party in the House. My number does not stop at 120. So, it is not only the largest single party but also a party which has got almost a near majority. Therefore, the difference between 120 and 240 is so obvious that we do not have to peg my number at 120. It is 240 or 241 which means that I only require 10, 12 or 13 to make the grade. But I have already said that I do not really attach any great importance to this number or whatever I am short of. I have said already that my approach to problems of the country is going to be different. I would like to go by consensus. I would like to make conscious efforts to create that consensus. While the decision is going to be the Congress Government's decision, while the responsibility for the decision, the responsibility of facing the consequences of the decision is going to be mine, I would at least like to satisfy myself that in every important case, I have done everything in my power to see that a consensus is created. So, that has been my approach and that is going to be my approach. So, the number I am short of or the number I am at, these numbers are really not very material. I would again appeal to the Members of the House not go on harping on this—being short by 15 or 14. This point we can forget and perhaps divert our attention and concentrate our attention on the real problems which face the whole

country, the whole House all of us together.

There is a vision which the Congress Party has always had before it. Without that vision, the Congress Party would not have been able to survive and function effectively for more than 106 years. It is not for nothing, it is not an accident of history, that this party has lived so long and promises to live longer. The point is that we have a vision. And this vision takes a holistic view of the whole of India. It takes every individual, it takes every section of society, it takes every area of the country, every region of the country into consideration and takes that holistic view. We do not go by bits and pieces. We do attempt problems by bits and pieces individually. But we always try to juxtapose that problem in the totality of the country and that is the vision which has never been dimmed. We have not allowed that vision to be dimmed.

We wanted this vision to be translated into action, into reality by what has come to be called continuity with change. Now we have continued to be what we are. And at the same time, we have changed enormously from what we have been at a given point of time. Take any Indian village for instance. Most of us come from villages. Can I say that my village today is the same as it was 50 years ago or 40 years ago or 60 years ago? No, I cannot say that. I cannot even say that my village is what it was five years ago or ten years ago. But still my village is called by the same name. It has the same appearance—more or less. It has the same basic features as it had, say,

100 years ago. Therefore, there is a continuity and there is a change. These two things go hand in hand and our culture is really at the root of all this. We have not believed in sudden changes. We have not believed in the clash of the opposites. We have not believed in that kind of thesis and antithesis which perhaps has animated some other systems. Therefore, I would like to say that when we ask for a change, we have to keep up the continuity and bring the change into it. For instance, take our laws, the ancient laws of India. They have changed enormously. But they have not really changed so that one law has been repealed and the other law has been written afresh. It is not like that. We have changed by interpretation, we have changed by certain new features being harmoniously blended into the old laws. That is how even our ancient legal system of India has survived for thousands of years. So, we believe change by usage. The law may say anything. But in a particular locality, if the usage has come to stay, it has acquired the force of law. That is what we believe in. We change by usage; we change by interpretation, we change by the whole approach to a particular subject. While the law might remain or the letter of the law may remain, the way we interpret it, the way we apply it to real life situations changes and that is how we bring change. So, it is continuity with change plus whatever modern ideas have been brought into this change.

Change has been brought by modernisation. Modernisation is not just what we have been talking about for the last four or five years. When we

changed from the old *takli* to *charka*, that was modernisation. And when we changed from *charka* with which Gandhiji started to *amber charka*, that was further modernisation. And when that changed to *textool charka*, that was further modernisation. So modernisation process has been going on without our knowing because it has not been sudden. The change has not been abrupt. The change has not been such as it does away with the past and starts to bring the future afresh. That has not been the approach and therefore, it is change with continuity that has come. And the society has never been static. Let us understand this. It has never been static. It has always been dynamic. It has been going on. So, this has been a feature of Indian history. Sometimes, the country might have suffered as a result of all these changes but mostly the country has gone ahead. Panditji has said many times and perhaps it has been said by many other writers also that whenever this change stopped, whenever there was a stagnation in any department of life in India, the country has suffered and the society has suffered. Therefore, these are only some episodes which could be considered exceptional rather than a rule in Indian life. Life has been changing and all change has been generally in the positive direction. There has been no change in the negative direction as far as one can see. This brings us to the question of science and technology. Sir, always the advent of science and technology, advent of any innovation has been to solve problems. It is not science for the sake of science itself without any utility. It has always been utilitarian. We have always found

that when we change for a better method, whether it is from one *sharka* to another, whether it is from one system to another, in the weavers' or dyeing process and in so many processes which we have in the villages. I am not talking of the big industries. I am talking of economic life as it is conducted in the villages of India. There has always been innovation and every innovation has been for the better, for greater benefit to the people concerned.

Now, technology has always had this objective in India. Technology is not just what we consider technology today. Any application of a scientific principle to real life situation is technology and that technology has always been for the betterment of the people and particularly, modern technology in the last five to ten years. We have tried to apply that to solve the problems of the country.

Now Sir, I would give a very small and a very commonplace example. We have been talking about drinking water to villages. Yes, lakhs and lakhs of villages have got drinking water during the last 40 years. But there are, at least, many thousands of villages which still have to get it. When Rajivji was here, he started the Special Technology Mission for drinking water. That mission got off to a very good start and within two or three years, they found a solution to some of the most intractable problems with regard to giving drinking water to villages. What is the experience of each one of us? We go to the village, give money to the B.D.O. or anyone

who is in charge of development there and the people sink a well and they find sheet-rock. People sink a well and they find brackish water. People sink a well and they get water which is full of flouride. What is the remedy? You go next year, give more money and find more flouride, more sheet-rock, more of the same! The problem is never solved. So, it is not a question of money. It is no longer a question of money. We have seen villages, I know villages where three or four times in three or four parts of village, we dug wells, we bored wells, but nothing happened. The same sheet-rock came. Is it a question of money? Is it a question of attention? Is it a question of someone not being able to do anything? I submit in this drinking water well, which is a very very common experience, the question is one of technology and not so much of money or attention. These are the problems which we have come across.

Take immunisation for instance. We send the vaccine to a village. In the vicinity of the town the vaccine is very effective. Go hundred miles and the vaccine becomes water. You think that the child is going to be saved. The child is not saved because the vaccine has lost its efficacy. There is what is called a cold chain for this vaccine. If that cold chain is broken anywhere, the vaccine becomes useless. On our books, it is written that it has been issued. We make statements in the Legislative Assembly or in Parliament that such and such a village has been sent vaccine. But that vaccine does not work. What is the thing that is missing? I would say that in a country like India, we have not

undertaken the necessary research to find vaccines which do not get deteriorated by heat or high temperature. These vaccines have come to us from other countries. If you take Ayurveda, a medicine which is 200 years old, which is 100 years old is still used. People are proud of these medicines. They do not get deteriorated by the lapse of time. This is the kind of medicine that we want in this country. The medicines that we are using or the vaccines that we are using should be neutral to changes in temperature. Have we taken real determined efforts to find such a thing? We have not done it because we have been just going by certain easy methods. Now is the time when we have to go into tougher methods of research and development so that all these things which do not suit our conditions here are changed into those which do suit our conditions here. These are the challenges of science and technology. These are the challenges which all sections of the House, all people of this country, every Government, State, district administration and Central Government have to attend to. There is no use of making these matters a party matter. Anybody might say that there is a death of a child because of bad vaccine. Yes, there will be. It may be in U.P., it may be in Andhra, it may be in a State ruled by one party or a State ruled by another party. The vaccine does not make any distinction between one party or another. Nor does the disease. Therefore, we have to attend to problems which are politics-neutral or party-neutral. And most of our problems are party-neutral. When we politicise them and when we make

them into party issues, the trouble comes and then action and reaction start operating. Therefore, Sir, this is the kind of future that we have to forge for this country and this is what I would appeal to all the Members to appreciate. The approach of this Government has to be problem oriented, solution oriented and the problem so long as it is above party line, it cuts across parties, will have to be attended to from that point of view and in that spirit.

Now, the President said something about drinking water. We have to attend to this drinking water problem on a continuing basis. It is not as if you give a well to a village and the problem is solved. It is not solved. The Water table is going down every year. The Water Table goes down because we use more and more water for irrigation. More and more water is pumped out and more and more wells are sunk for irrigation. This is the reason why even drinking water wells go dry when the season is not good or there is no rain fall. We have to think of doing this on a continuing basis. If it has to be on a continuing basis, there has to be an agency to look into it and that is the kind of agency we would like to set up in the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi because he actually found a logical answer to this problem. He was looking to the answer, for the solution, based on technology and that is why we have decided to name this after him so that this programme continues and gives satisfaction to the people because without water there cannot be life. So, this life sustaining thing called water needs to be given to all people

in this country. It is not enough to say that there are so many villages still not getting water after 40 years. That is a slogan. Anyone can repeat that. But repeating that is not going to solve that because there are very tough areas where you just cannot get water. Particularly, in Rajasthan, Jakhari ji was telling to me that in his area people have to go 8, 10, 12 or 15 miles—to fetch water. If that is the only work women folk are supposed to do then it is a very sorry state of affair. But then this again is not because there was any lack of attention. It is because of the terrain; because of the condition there. It is because of the fact that we have not really thought in terms of meeting those challenges on the basis of modern knowledge and technology. So, this has to be our approach to this problem.

Indira Mahila Yojna has been mentioned in the President's Address. This is something which has not been thought of so far. It is by the women, for the women and of the women. The idea is that the entire initiative of this Yojna has to come into the hands of the women and it does not have to be administered by men who by definition may not understand the problems of women as well as women do. So, this idea that the whole programme has to be administered, has to be implemented by women themselves empowers women. What we mean by empowerment of women will happen only when we squarely place responsibility and power on their shoulders and give a programme like this.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I would like

to seek a clarification. You have said that you want above party oriented programme. National Commission on Indian Women was such an above party oriented programme. I seek clarification as to why have not you as yet declared that you are going to set up a National Commission. Please clarify that. . . (Interruptions)

When I talk of women I do not mean women of the Congress Party alone. I can assure that. That assurance is there. All of them are included. (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA (Jadavpur) : All those women are silent, Sir. . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT) (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : You are not committed to women. Our Government is committed to women. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Do not shout all the time.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : You please ask your Prime Minister to agree to your demands. Let him declare that on the floor of the House.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Our Prime Minister will do something for the women. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I did not bargain for these exchanges. In any case, my task would be to

make all of them sit together in a room while we watch from outside and I am sure, they will come out with a real good solution. . . (*Interruptions*)

This is a conceptual matter which I would like the Hon. Members to appreciate. I find, everyday, women coming up to me saying that her husband has left her. She comes with two children, she does not know where to go and she does not know what to do. These are examples which abound everywhere in this country. It is not as if only it happens in one area and it does not happen in another area. It only means that the position which this society has given to women has been perpetually of a subsidiary nature, of a dependent nature.

The idea in the Indira Mahila Yojana is to break these shackles, if possible. We would like to do that. That is why, when it comes to the rights of women, Rajivji wanted a Commissioner for the rights of women rather than generally for women. He made that distinction because the problems of women, if you really analyse them, they can be traced to one point that their rights seem to be inferior to the rights of men. So, it is a question of right which everything boils down to and that is why he conceived to the idea of a Commissioner for women's rights. We would go ahead with that. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : That has been rejected by all the women's organisations. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : We would like to start on that again.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : All the Parties were committed to that. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I have no problem. I have no doubt that every Party will be committed equally strongly to the idea of women knowing about their rights and also getting their rights by any legal method that is available. This society must be able to give that right to women and if it does not, then to that extent the society itself will remain backward. I have no doubt about that. That is why, this Indira Mahila Yojana and the Commission for women's rights and may be so many other innovations which we may stumble into as we go along, all these things are package that is being considered for women. I am sure that everyone agrees. But, it so happens that it has been initiated by this Party and this Party's Government. So, one does not have to find fault with that. Only thing is, let us all come together and do it. If there is any flaw in it, please point out. There is no question of standing on prestige, we would certainly change whatever there is to change. We will certainly correct, whatever there is to correct.

Sir, about economic recovery, the programme which has been brought out in the last few days, has been very widely commented upon.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee is walking out. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : She has as much right to walk out as she wants. But I am sure, she is not walking out. She just went out.

The package of industrial policy reforms, we hope to bring about in the next few days and we will come before the House and the House will be able to comment on that. The only thing is the whole package on the fiscal side, on the economic side, on the side of trade and on the side of industry, this is the whole package and this package again. I would like to stress that brings about change with continuity. Nothing is abruptly changing. Nothing is being taken out. Nothing is being removed and something else is put in its place.

And this is a great advantage of what we call the mixed economy propounded by Panditji. I should like to imagine what would have happened in this country, if the mixed economy concept has not been there, has not been ingrained in our economy and in our thought right from the beginning for the last 40 years. What has been happening in some other countries where rigidity has been the rule? How much more difficult would it have been to change to the new system or whatever orientation of the old system? We would have had much greater difficulty to face if we had to bring about changes that we are bringing about more or less smoothly with a little criticism here and there but quite successfully today.

After all, the largest single economic activity in this country is in private hand, has always been in private hand and will ever remain in private hand as far as I could see; and that is agriculture. We passed resolutions about cooperative farming; we passed resolutions about collectivisation here and there, but, ultimately, it is the

farmer of India who has risen to great heights; he has shown that he can handle the food problem of this country, whereas in any other kind of organisation, we have seen possibilities: we have seen distinct instances of total failure. So, I would not like to compare one with another. But the point is that we have this very big overarching idea of mixed economy in which we can bring about all these changes.

Some Hon. Member was asking me whether there has been a decision to de-nationalise banks. I would say there is no decision to de-nationalise any bank. But whatever changes I would like to bring in the working of the banking system today, no one can deny that a host of changes are needed; a large number of changes are needed in the working of the banks. You go to any bank in a village. The Clerk or the Manager in that village is the richest man in the village; he is a lord of the village; he is the lord of ten villages all round. Is this fair? Should we inflict this kind of system on a society which is completely rural, predominantly rural, consisting of poor people? Is it fair to do that?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): What changes do you want to bring in?

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: We will tell you what they are. I am the pro-changer; you are the non-changer here. Don't worry. I am not going to change without asking you, without consulting you. I will certainly hold you as one of the persons responsible for change. There is no doubt about it. I am amenable to reasons. If you convince me that the

changes I am contemplating are not good, I am prepared to take them back. I am prepared to modify them. So, I have an open mind I only want you also to open your mind a little. We should not start with the assumption that what we already know is the last thing. From that point of view, we will approach every problem in this country.

Now about the Eighth Plan, we have had two yearly plans already. I think we should not go on with annual plans, that is going to be suicidal for our economy and for our development. I propose to take up this matter immediately and the Eighth Plan will begin sharp on the First of April, 1992. This is the time we take to prepare the plan. It is nowhere complete; it is in a state where it needs some time to be completed to be prepared, and that is why, I declare here on the Floor of this House that the Eighth Plan will start on the First of April, 1992.

15.00 hrs.

That much time will be taken. For preparing the Plan that much time will necessarily be taken. In fact, we have taken much longer time in the past and whatever has to be done, it will have to be completed in these few months and it will come on 1st April 1992.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : Or you choose some other date instead of 1st April.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO
That does not matter.

I now come to some of the most difficult problems which have been

exercising the minds of Parliament as well as the people of India like Punjab and Kashmir.

Now I come to Punjab first. We have had a long experience, some times good but mostly very bitter on Punjab where all our efforts to bring about the situation where the problem is solved amicably have been thwarted by elements whose description is known to all of us.

Since we had the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, everyone stood by the Accord. But for various reasons the Accord could not be completely implemented and before it was implemented we ran into other problems. This year there was an idea that we should hold elections. Now I would like to say that holding of elections is nothing new. When Charan Singh was Home Minister about three-four years ago, we had several meetings to consult the people of Punjab, political parties and others whether elections to Panchayats or elections to the Assembly would be possible, whether they think that they are desirable. So it is not for the first time that we have thought of elections or anyone has thought of elections. Elections have been there in the mind of the Government right from the beginning. We were told time and again that the time was not ripe for elections. In fact, at one of our meetings, very interestingly, the members said, "Why do you hold elections for Panchayats first? Why do you not hold elections for the Assemblies? If it is a question of candidates being killed, why do you not start with the Assembly candidates? Why do you go to the Panchayats, poor Panchayats, villages?" This is the kind of

sarcastic remarks that some of the representatives coming from the villages in Punjab made at that time. I think Shankar Raoji would remember that. I was there and some others were also there

So, it is a question of finding the right moved for elections and right atmosphere for elections, not finding our own intentions. Our intentions have been there for elections all the time.

Sir, when elections were announced this year, we clearly got the signals that the situation in Punjab, whatever we might think of the virtue of elections, was not congenial to holding a free and fair election. I remember that there was a meeting of all the party representatives at the State level. Raviiji said, "You please go and attend that meeting." When the Punjab Congressmen came, he said, "You go, attend that meeting and whatever you come up with, we will consider that." As far as I can recollect, Buta Singhji and others will bear me out, there was a unanimous decision, a unanimous assessment, of all the parties that the elections should not be held because the conditions there are not ripe for elections, are not congenial for elections. Between Chandigarh and Delhi, however, when they came here and reported to their party leaders, I do not know what happened, within a day or two some parties seem to have changed their minds. Fair enough. But the point is that when we know that objective conditions there are not congenial for elections, then the reasons for changing one's mind do not lie in Punjab. They could lie only in our own minds. So, they are subjective and not objective in one word. This is

what I could conclude because what happened there is also known, it is admitted what happened here is also admitted. Meanwhile, Sir, there is another complication that faced us. This is what I would like the Hon. Members, the leaders of parties to consider because, I think, it is very important for the unity of India. One or two members came out with a statement that his party would contest the elections in Punjab only on the issue of seeking self-determination for his brethren leading to formation of a sovereign Sikh State Khalistan. Now this is not an excuse. Let me tell you. We have to hold elections in every State every five years if not earlier of course. But if at any election, an issue comes, which goes against the Constitution of India, which raises an issue of separation, of secession, am I to participate in that election? And if I do, what is the implication? That is what we have to consider. What is the remedy, we will come to that later. But is this a real problem or not? I would respectfully submit that if ten parties are participating in the elections, the Congress would be willing to lose, to win, to draw or whatever so long as the election is within the four corners of the Indian Constitution. After all we have been out of power in the State of Tamil Nadu for 23 years and heavens have not fallen. We have not come to power in West Bengal for a long number of years and heavens have not fallen. This is democracy. Any party which is voted to power by the people comes to power. But when there is an election, the implication of which clearly, not necessarily by the winning party, but while any party participat-

ing in that election, if it is interpreted as a referendum for a separate country, I would like to stop there and say, stop in my tracks and say, "There is something wrong here I will have to set this right before I go for elections" This is what the Congress Party decided. I attach great importance to this. We will go for elections in Punjab I would say that even if there is no law and order situation—suppose it is absolutely peaceful, Punjab is absolutely peaceful, any other State where you have elections is absolutely peaceful—and still if one of the parties says, "I demand a separate country I would fight this election on the basis of secession", I do not think you can go on with that election. Whether he loses or you lose or I lose, that is not the question. The question is one of participation and not one of victory or defeat. So, this is a question which impinges very profoundly on the unity of India and I would not like to go ahead with this election unless I have exhausted all avenues of plugging this. In 1965 or 1967 we plugged one part of this electoral process by saying that any one who becomes a candidate would have to subscribe to an oath. If he does not, then he does not become a candidate. But if he does become a candidate and later on reneges on the oath which he has taken—particularly in a situation where passions are running high, the temptation of a separate country, the temptation of a separate State within the country, how strong it is we have seen in some of the areas, if that operates—that also has to be plugged. Once in this there was a report. They passed a resolution for Khalistan. Nothing happens in point of fact. I do not think that they are going to get

Khalistan or I do not think that we are going to allow Khalistan (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) One member of your party spoke of Khalistan yesterday.

SHRI P V NARASIMHA RAO I request you to listen to me. I shall ask the Hon. Member regarding what he has said. Please listen to me and if whatever I am going to say, is proper it would be better if you accept it.

[*English*]

If this is so, what happens internationally? What is being said in other countries about what is happening in Punjab? Is it only treated as a law and order situation as is in any other State or any other country in the world? Which other country does not have a law and order situation such as in Punjab if it comes to only judging it as a law and order situation? I would submit that it is not so. There are forces at work which are not to see if this country could be dismembered. By sitting there—they just sit and do not have to do anything—they create conditions here whereby the people of this country, some people who are misled, can themselves create conditions for dismemberment. Now this is a danger which all of us know of. Whatever happens in a particular election, how many candidates win or lose, what has been happening in Punjab is that candidates have not lost their deposits but most of them have lost their lives. So this is the kind of election where the stake is loss of life, not loss of security deposit. So this is the problem which we have to face. I am trying to explore some answer.

to this problem. I have had already discussions with leaders of some parties. I am calling the leaders of the others in the next one or two days

I would like to say that the basic problem, according to me, is secession and the threat of secession becoming an election issue and the consequences thereafter I would like to prevent it at all costs. Whether we can prevent it or not we have to see and we have to put our heads together. I feel, there is a way out. To the extent I have held consultations I have been told that there is a way out. I will come up with a note or some such suggestion to all leaders of the parties. If all of us agree, then we will have to do that first. After that I would not stand on any formality or any prestige, any gain or loss of my party when choosing the date of election. I can give you this guarantee. I am not really on that at all

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karoibagh): Hon. Prime Minister should say as to why the elections are not being held in Delhi. Under what circumstances the elections are not being held for the last 8 years. Even though the law and order is not bad in Delhi elections to Metropolitan Council and Corporation are not being held.

[English]

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : There is such a thing as relevance. I have to stick to it; I would like to. When the question of Delhi comes, I will not bring Punjab in. I can assure you on that.

[Translation]

SHRI KALKA DAS : Why are the elections not being held in Delhi? We met the Prime Minister also in this connection (Interruptions)

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : When the question of Delhi is raised, I assure you, I will not raise the case of Punjab and Haryana while replying to that (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA. Please announce the Delhi elections today. Delhiites will appreciate it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I sincerely want to oblige you but there is a procedure for it

SHRI KALKA DAS : Please make the announcement today itself. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Coming to Kashmir again, I am holding consultations. What has happened in Kashmir, again I would not go into details. But we know what happened. In effect there is a big chasm between the people of Kashmir on the one hand and the Central Government or the administration on the other. There is no one who can distinguish a terrorist from a non-terrorist there. And unless you have the local people with the administration and we give them the guarantee that they will not be killed by tomorrow morning, no one is going to volunteer information. The people of Kashmir are patriotic. There is no question of their having anything with terrorists or anti-national elements. These activities are being fuelled from the other side. We have

been pleading with Pakistan, we have been telling Pakistan not to allow this to happen. All the governments have done that. Vishwanathji has done that Chandra Shekharji has done that, I have done that earlier and I am doing now. But the determination on the other side has not come down too much from time to time. So, I would see that we have to live with that problem and there is no use of asking the same questions and giving the same answers. The question is the same, the answer is the same. I have been seeing this for ten years. Again, it is a question of coming together and finding a solution. What do we do to bridge this, to bridge this big chasm? The President has said about peoples' Committees that could be a method of supplying this missing link. But that is only the first step. We will have to think of many more steps and I would like to say that no one has a ready-made solution. Even before we could think of anything else on positive lines, this hijacking, this kidnapping has come. Now, you can imagine how the people are exercised over it, how the Parliament is exercised over it. We know it. Even information is so fluctuating—what we get by way of information now is not the same as we get one hour back. We get something in the morning, something at 10 O'Clock. And in this changing information, changing situation, I am sorry it is not even possible, it has not been possible even to take the House into confidence. Chavanji has been struggling to do this. Both of us have been trying to find at least one stage where we could come and tell Parliament this has happened so far and this is going to happen or what we are

trying. Even that specific information we are not able to give you. Not that we do not want to, I would very much like to. In similar situations, I have come every three hours, four hours when the Operation Black Thunder was going on. The House may recall that in this House and the other House I came every three to four hours to announce something because something definite was happening there. So, I would like to submit that if we have not been able to give you anything, any specific hard information, it is because of this conflicting situation there and not because of the intention on the part of the Government not to reveal anything. We would not like to be secretive. There is nothing that we get out of being secretive. In fact, we get every support by sharing information with Hon Members.

Sir, we come to the other commitment about places of religious worship about which we have given a clear undertaking that barring the Ram Janmabhoomi issue, in regard to the other we will bring a law. We do not want this religious bickering, this pollution of a harmonious atmosphere between communities in this country which on the whole has been there with exceptions now and then, to become the rule. The Congress Party does not want this. I am glad to say that no one wants this. The other parties also, as far as I know, have said that this should be put an end to. We are going to do that. This is something absolutely basic not only to law and order. I am not talking of law and order. When you talk of social justice, I attach equal importance to

social harmony. If we do not have social harmony, all the programmes of social justice will remain where they are, not one step can be taken further. Social harmony is absolutely important in this country. We know that when there has been disharmony all programmes have come to a grinding halt. Therefore, we must aim at social harmony and we cannot allow religious bickering, religious bitterness to foul the atmosphere to such an extent that nothing else is possible. So, that legislation we are determined to bring and I hope that I will get the enthusiastic support of all sections of the House because it is not just the Congress Party's manifesto or our own approach. It is I think the common approach.

About the protection to minorities, the Congress manifesto as well as other manifestoes more or less are on the same wavelength. We want protection to be given. We are only groping how it is to be given. I mean this to put it in a nutshell, for years and years we wanted to give protection; but we just did not know how it would work. We tried something, it worked and to some extent it did not work. Then we thought of something else; we thought of special courts, we thought of a rapid action force. All these things we have enumerated in the manifesto. We have done it by way of making some kind of foolproof package which will work, which we intend should work and that is the idea, that is the spirit. It is not that there is any great innovation unthought of by others. It is not so. We thought hard about it. For days and days we sat in the Committee of Manifesto and

we thought what else could we do, what else, what more, what further; this is the spirit. We came across so many ideas like giving suitable employment to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives, statutory provision for speedy, adequate compensation to riot victims, special courts, administrative innovations like holding the Collector and the SP responsible etc. etc. These are all piecemeals; small things. Each one of them does not amount to much may not; but all of them together is a package which does amount to something and does create the conditions of safety and security in the minds of the minorities. Because creating it in the minds is much more important first and then you can create it on the ground because once the morale of the minorities is where it should be, then the stage is set for the real harmony to ensue. Then the Minority Commission being given statutory status; all these things we have said and we are going to do each one of these and that is what I would like to say.

Before I come to the Mandal Commission, I would like to say something about foreign policy. Some speeches have been made. One thing I would like to make clear; clarify here is that on foreign policy—Advanji will forgive me when I say—there does not appear to be any meeting ground between us and the Bharatiya Janata Party. Why should it be so? Atalji has adorned this seat of the Foreign Minister for as long as his party would allow him to—not his fault that he did not remain longer. Did he follow a separate policy? I don't think so.

We were in the opposition in 1977—79. He wanted something like genuine nonalignment—he just wanted to label it genuine. It is more or less the same. I don't think he made it more genuine by his presence. He was genuine perhaps; but nothing beyond that.

Today when I compare the manifestoes of the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress I am a little frightened. When the Bharatiya Janata Party says that nonalignment has become irrelevant I feel frightened because that was the common plank.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : We have not said that.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I remember to have read it

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : What we have said is that the situation has changed.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Yes, it has.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : And the foreign policy should take note of the changing international situation—nothing wrong about it.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Atalji, shall I read it? I seem to have read it. I remember you have said it. Your party has said that nonalignment has become irrelevant, that is the word you have used.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Nonalignment has become irrelevant to the extent that there is no cold war, that the world is no longer divided between two sides

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : This is what I am saying. If we understand nonalignment properly, nonalignment is not a negative concept at all. It is not a negative concept, it is a positive concept. If there are two sides of the same coin, one side is nonalignment and the other side is independence.

It is synonymous with independence. So long as you want an independent country, it will have to be non-aligned.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : We want you to stick to the other side that our policy be independent. . . .

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : Absolutely

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : and every issue should be tackled on that basis

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is what is non-alignment. That is the essence of non-alignment. If what has been written in their manifesto is based on an erroneous appreciation of the essence of non-alignment, I have no problem at all, let them correct it, and non-alignment as our policy will come back as a unanimous policy, as a consensus because what you have written there is breaking the consensus. That is why I am frightened. I do not want that the consensus that has come down to us for 40 years or 45 years, may be thousands of years—the *Madhva Marg* which we have been talking about in our scriptures—should be broken. That is the precursor of non-alignment. Therefore, let there be no break. I would beg of you, Atalji

please have a look at it. That is what I have read in your manifesto which was given to me as a copy of your manifesto unless it is wrong or unless you have got two copies, like the two *khatas*.

We will have to sit and sort this out. It is possible that we may have to spell this out. You say India is going to be a separate centre of power. We are thinking of dismantling all centres of power and you are talking of India becoming a separate centre of power. This is really not in keeping with the present world and present-day thinking about the world. You have a second look at it, I am not finding fault, I am only pointing out that your manifesto has come to a stage where you admitted the inherent consensus on foreign policy is being fractured. We should not allow that please.

Sir, I would like to say something about a World Bank Report that was received here and was not shown to my predecessor Prime Minister. It is something which needs some clarification. Some time back, some days back, Chandra Shekharji wrote to me saying that there was a Report of the World Bank and it was not shown to the Prime Minister, that is, himself, nor was it shown to the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Mr. Dharia, if I remember right. I immediately wrote back to him to say that 'I am collecting the information and will come back to you.' I have to say that when I made enquiries, I was told that such reports come daily, lots of reports come, and they are not necessarily shown to the Prime Minister. This is the kind of feed back I got. I would like to tell

him very respectfully, and tell the House that, I do not subscribe to this view. If there is a Report from the World Bank or any such prestigious body, it should come to the Prime Minister of the country. If it has not come in this case or in any other such cases in the past, whoever are the victim Prime Ministers, I would like to say that I don't want to be a continuation of those victims. I would like to see it. Certainly, I have given instructions that any report of this nature must be circulated to the Prime Minister not with the absolute certainty that he will read it, but as a matter of principle, a report which is available to any one in the Department of Finance should be available and they should find it important enough to circulate it to the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister also. In this case I don't know whether he saw it, according to Chandra Shekharji the answer was in the negative here also. So, this is serious and I would like to take corrective steps.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia) : This is not the only serious matter. You have quoted one portion of my letter, not the other portion of the letter. Soon after I left the office, the Government that has come to office has acted on the basis of that report within seven days. That is more shocking and more surprising. It is not such an innocuous report. According to you, the report was not shown to the earlier Ministry due to custom. All I can say is, most of the decisions that have been taken by your Government as the corrective measures of the economy, are based on the suggestions made in that report. I wrote in the letter that this is a very serious

thing and that should be looked into. I am not bothered about the report. I am not such a knowledgeable person whether I will be able to read it or not. But I have read many reports. I know many things about it, but I am not free to say about it. I mentioned the other thing in the letter which you have not quoted in this House, namely that you are acting on the basis of that report.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO : I was coming to that point. It is good that Chandra Shekharji raised it. Even if he had not raised it, I was coming to that point inevitably because I could not do it in piecemeal, I could not do it in a lopsided manner. I am convinced about what I am going to say just as I am convinced about what I have already said.

MR. SPEAKER : I hope that the House agrees to give more time to this Motion and take up the Private Members' Business after this Motion is disposed of.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS :
Yes.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :
Sir, I will finish very quickly. I am very sorry to overstep on the rights of the Private Members. If I had known, I would have made it a little shorter.

Sir, about the second point which he has raised, I have no hesitation in saying that I have myself come across reports six months before this report came which contained more or less the same things. They were prepared by our Secretaries here. There is no

mystery about these things. Vishwanathji knows about it, Sinhaaji knows about it, Manmohanji knows about it and everybody who is anybody in economics knows what in effect are to be the measures which are brought into force in a situation such as we are in today. So, there has been a report, a voluminous report which has been presented to me by the Finance Minister which contains exactly or more or less exactly what the World Bank report is supposed to contain. So, all over the world, people are thinking on the same lines. Therefore, I do not attach any alarming feeling to the World Bank report. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
Let the report prepared by the Finance Ministry and also the World Bank report be placed on the Table of the House.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : It is an accident of history that your view agreed with that of the World Bank.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO :
It is not an accident of history, what is not accidental is that the same ideas have been propounded here in the Ministry and everywhere, economists of a particular line of thinking have propounded the same ideas.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA :
This is your line of thinking.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR :
Sir, let the Prime Minister produce one report from the Finance Ministry which coincides with the opinion given by the World Bank. Let me know what it is.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO :
I have seen it myself and I am satisfied about it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Then, why did you not dare to put it in your Election Manifesto ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, if it has gone to everybody in the world, then why did not the Prime Minister announce it ?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : What is there to announce ? We have been announcing it. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR : Why cannot the Prime Minister lay the report of the World Bank and also of the Ministry which was produced to him six months before on the Table of the House ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : When I say I am satisfied I am talking with a certain amount of responsibility. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would now come to the most important aspect of the Mandal report.

Sir, the Mandal Commission report has come in for mention and I would like to say briefly that the Congress manifesto is very clear, very comprehensive on what the Congress Government is going to do for the backward classes.

“Undertaking special measures in favour of the socially and educationally backward classes including reservation in jobs was first made over 40 years ago and it has been successfully implemented by Cong-

ress Governments in several States. This commitment will be a basic plank of the Party policy at this juncture. In implementing these special measures, preference will be given to poorer sections among the backward classes. While ensuring that if candidates are not available from the poorer sections, the benefits will go to other members within the backward classes.

The Congress will come forward with necessary legislation to establish a Backward Class Development Corporation.

Committed to ensure benefits of reservation are provided to other economically backward sections of our people who are not covered by the existing scheme.”

Now, this is the scheme which the Congress in its manifesto has placed before the people. When I compare it with the manifestoes of other Parties, I find that the CPI(M) manifesto wants the benefits of reservations to reach really deserving sections amongst backward classes. This is their wording I do not find any material difference between what I said and what the CPI(M) said. This means that the CPI(M) wants the benefits to go to the poorer amongst the backward classes. That is what they mean by “more deserving” and so on. It also speaks about Karpoori Thakur formula. It also fully recognises that the poorer sections amongst the upper castes also require relief. I do not see any material difference between that part of the Congress manifesto which deals with this subject and the manifesto of the CPI(M).

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada) : In several Congress-rule States, reservation for backward classes was on the basis of caste, not on economic criterion.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I will come to what the Hon. Member's Party has said later on. But I am on the CPI(M) at the moment.

We have gone one step beyond. We have not spoken about the Karpoori Thakur formula because it has run into some legal difficulty. The Supreme Court or some authoritative judgement says that this kind of "more backward" "most backward" etc., is not constitutional. However, we leave that aside because we have not put it in our manifesto, thinking that it may run into difficulties. What we have said is, the economic factor in the same block of backward classes. The poorer takes it first. But if there is none among the poorer sections, it does not jump from the backward and go to the forward. It remains in the backward. And, in any case, it has to be within that block itself. That is what we have said.

We have also said on economic criteria also, some reservation needs to be given. The Janata Dal has also said this because first they announced the decision. Within a few days, if I remember right—Vishwanathji will correct me if I am wrong—they also came up with five to ten percent reservation to the economically weaker sections. Although the Chandrasekhar Government did not take any different stand in the Supreme Court where the case is being heard, he has said it in

so many words. This is what he has said.

"Drafting of the Party's manifesto is a joint exercise. Government are not opposed to the Mandal Commission report. However, for implementing the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, considerable ground work needs to be done."

—Implying that it has not been done when he wrote it.

"While we should recognise that caste considerations cannot be ignored in determining backwardness, economic backwardness should also be kept in view. Any policy in a matter like this, should aim at a synthesis of these two factors."

This is the position, BJP wants it only on economic considerations.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA.
No.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : You are also wanting the same as we want.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar) : I may mention at this particular time that even in the 1989 manifesto, the BJP had very clearly enunciated that while broadly we do not go against the Mandal Commission, we would like the economic factor to be introduced in it. In 1989, as far as I recall, neither your manifesto nor the CPI(M) manifesto said anything of the kind that you have incorporated in 1991.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : It is very heartening to know that BJP is the pioneer. You are the pioneer in this respect.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh) : This seems to be the first case of consensus.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That is what I am coming to ultimately. That is what I am really coming to. Even after some lives have been lost, even after elections have been fought, lost and won, partially on the basis of this, can we not make it again at least now a matter for consensus? Much has happened which ought not to have happened, should not have happened and should not have been allowed to happen.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT (Ponnani) : What about reservation for minorities?

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : That also we have said. That also we have said in our manifesto. Those minority sections which are backward will get the same reservation as the backward classes themselves. That is what we have said. That anybody I think would say when it comes to talking across the table.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur) : Perhaps one thing has been lost sight of, that the Mandal Commission report has the economic criterion as a composite unit. There is weightage of economic criterion in it. It has a social criterion, educational criterion and economic criterion. In the economic criterion, it has been taken those sections of society whose income is and whose wealth assets are below 25 per cent State average, those sections of society who live in kutchra houses 25 per cent above the State average and those sections of society who mainly live on

manual labour. This is the economic criterion already incorporated in the Mandal Commission report and the weightage is there.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : If that had been so, I would respectfully ask Vishwanathji, why he did not include it in the first order? Why he had to, after ten or 15 days say "We will give 5 to 10 per cent to the economically backward class people also"? Let us not go into that. I am not really asking you to go into that. Let us forget it. Let us start on a clean slate. Whatever has been written in it, if it is bad, let us leave it. If it is good, to the extent all of us agree, let us keep it and then go ahead. This is what I would like to say on the Mandal Commission. There are so many other recommendations. There are 21 to 22 recommendations in the Mandal Commission. It is unfortunate that we have zeroed in on the most controversial report and the non-controversial recommendations have been just left to the winds. Let us all agree on those non-controversial recommendations. You will find that the face of the backward classes will change in this country if we really implement it.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Reservation is the most important thing. You cannot do anything without reservation. Reservation is the most cardinal thing in life. This is the problem. For 40 years they did not do it, because they do not want to give reservation.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : We have seen how reservations have worked. I am not mentioning all the

other recommendations as a substitute to reservation. Please do not think like that. We started with reservation. Everybody wants reservation. The patient wants milk, the doctor recommends milk. What else you want? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV. Do you stick to your manifesto? Your lawyer, when sent to Supreme Court, said: "We stand by what we have said in the President's Address." You avoided reservation in your President's Address. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : No, I am not. I am not avoiding anything. I am reiterating my manifesto here. I want to talk to you on the basis of the manifesto. There is absolutely no going back on it. Let the whole world know about it. *(Interruptions)*

I am sorry to have taken 15 minutes more. It was not my intention.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Arjun Singh was present in the House during the last two days when the matter was being debated. Since the Government did not clarify its stand on the issue, that's why the Supreme Court extended the date. Yesterday it was mentioned that next day was the last date and this was why the date had been extended upto 6th August. I want to state that the Government has talked of only 5 to 10 per cent reservation. On 27th August last year, Shri V.P. Singh had stated quite clearly that out of 50 per cent reservation, 27 per cent is for backward classes as recommended by the Mandal Commission, and 22.5 per

cent is for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. So the total comes to 49.5 per cent .. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

I am not criticising. I am only making suggestions.

[Translation]

On 27th August it was made clear that first the Mandal Commission report should be implemented and thereafter 5 to 10 per cent reservation may also be made for the poor people of upper castes. The intention of the Government no doubt is clear, but as soon as the question of economic criterion is put before the court, it will run into difficulties because economic criterion does not fall in the jurisdiction of the court *(Interruptions)*

Is the Government interested in implementing Mandal Commission Report or not? If any amendment is taken to Supreme Court, it will run into rough weather on the plea of fresh examination and the implementation as a result might get delayed indefinitely. Even if the Government is sincere, the executive order may be issued later on by the Government in power. But in Andhra Pradesh this is not the case. I want an assurance from the Hon. Prime Minister that the Government will not do anything which might provide a plank to the Supreme Court to deliver a judgement against Mandal Commission.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : When the reference of Andhra Pradesh has been made, I want to state that 30 years back when Telangana Regional Committee was functioning .. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Just one minute, please.

SHRI FRANK ANTHONY (Nominated Anglo-Indian) : Just I want to take two minutes. On the Mandal Commission, I have spoken in this House I have made my views clear when I spoke I got the support of Mrs Indira Gandhi when I refused to allow my community to be classified as a backward class. She congratulated me because she said that she wanted the word 'backward' to be taken out of our social vocabulary. The Mandal Commission Report was full of weaknesses. It was, first, intended to benefit only the Hindus and it made no room for people on economic criteria. According to the Mandal Commission, it was only the top rungs of the castes that got all the plums. The intermediate castes also got a fair amount of plums But the real backward classes get absolutely nothing at all. The Supreme Court has ruled that the reservation should not be increased beyond 50 per cent. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO : I am sorry, I have taken a very long time I do not want to over-stress (Interruptions) What? I will tell you outside. (Interruptions) There have been many instances where towering personalities of this country have refused to be treated as backward classes Shri Kumaramangalam's Grand-father Dr. Subbarayan Said, "I am not allowing my community to be treated as a backward class." Of course, with the generation, the *neeyat* also changed. And now he is backward class. These are the instances. So, ultimately, a time

will come when what we really aim at is to end the backwardness where none is prepared to be called backward in relation to any other class. That is what we should aim at instead of really getting into the non-issues which are of no importance. That is the goal and we will have to find that goal in our life-time. I hope, it will be possible and with the cooperation of all of us, doing the same job, aiming at the same objective, it will be possible.

Thank you very much. Thank you, Members. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question has not been replied to by the Hon. Prime Minister. (Interruptions)

SHRI PIYUS TIRKEY (Alipurduar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has not uttered a single word about the Scheduled Castes .. (Interruptions) ..

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : A number of amendments have been moved by Members to the Motion of Thanks. If the House agrees, I shall put all the amendments moved together to the vote of the House.

The Amendments were put and negative

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put the main Motion to the vote of the House. The question is :

"That an Address be presented to the President in the following terms :—

"That the Members of Lok Sabha assembled in this Session are

deeply grateful to the President for the Address which he has been pleased to deliver to both Houses of Parliament assembled together on the 11th July, 1991."

The Motion was adopted

MR. SPEAKER Now we shall take up Private Members Business

(Interruptions)

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur). What about Matters under Rule 377? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, I am on a point of order. The point is that before further discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address was taken up, you were kind enough to observe that matters under Rule 377 would come after that business is over. Naturally this is pending now.

MR. SPEAKER That is not a point of order. I rule it out. I said that if there was time we would take it up. Now, it will be taken up tomorrow. The Private Members' Bills are to be introduced.

15.57 hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Articles 74 and 163)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): I beg to move for

leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

MR. SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES I introduce the Bill

15.57½ hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill
(Amendment of Article 26)

[English]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

MR. SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES I introduce the Bill

15.58 hrs.

Special Protection Group (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Long Title etc.)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAI (Chandigarh) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Special Protection Group Act 1988

*Published in Gazette of India, Extra-ordinary Part II, Section 2 dated 19.7.1991

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Special Protection Group Act, 1988".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I introduce the Bill.

15.58½ hrs.

Delimitation (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Section 9)

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Delimitation Act, 1972.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Delimitation Act, 1972".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL : I introduce the Bill.

15.59 hrs.

High Court at Allahabad (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Bareilly) Bill*.

[English]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Bareilly.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a Permanent Bench of the High Court at Allahabad at Bareilly".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : I introduce the Bill.

15.59½ hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of the Preamble, Etc.)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I introduce the Bill.

16.00 hrs.

Infant Foods and Feeding Bottles (Regulation of Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill*

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) : I beg to move for leave to

introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant foods and feeding bottles with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto

MR SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of production, supply and distribution of infant foods and feeding bottle with a view to the protection and promotion of breast-feeding and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAM NAIK I introduce the Bill.

16.0½ hrs.

Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised* Occupants Amendment (Amendment of Section 2)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971

MR. SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971"

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAM NAIK I introduce the Bill

16.01 hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill

(Amendment of Article 81 Etc.)

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

MR SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted

SHRI RAM NAIK I introduce the Bill

16.1½ hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill

(Omission of Article 370)

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India

MR SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA I introduce the Bill

16.14 hrs.

Prevention of Social Disabilities Bill

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent the imposition of social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community, to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith

MR SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce Bill to prevent the imposition of social disabilities by a member or members of a community on a member or members of his or their own community, to provide for penalties for such an act or acts and for matters connected therewith"

The motion was adopted

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I introduce the Bill

16.24 hrs.

High Court of Gujarat (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Surat) Bill*

[English]

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA (Surat) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench

of the High Court of Gujarat at Surat.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is : "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Gujarat at Surat".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KASHIRAM RANA : I introduce the Bill

16.23 hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Insertion of New Article 26-A)

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) . I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR SPEAKER The question is "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India"

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Introduce the Bill

16.03 hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Substitution of New Schedule for Fifth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : I beg to move for

*Published in Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 19-7-1991

leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I introduce the Bill.

16.03½ hrs.

Constitution (Amendment) Bill*

(Amendment of Article 327, etc.)

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I introduce the Bill.

16.03½ hrs.

Employment Guarantee Bill*

[English]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for employment or for means and resources for self employment to all adult citizens of the country.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for employment or for means and resources for self employment to all adult citizens of the country".

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : I introduce the Bill.

16.04 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE-STEPS FOR MAINTAINING STATUS QUO OF RELIGIOUS SHRINES AND PLACES OF WORSHIP

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now we will take up further discussion on the Resolution moved by Shri Zainal Abedin on the 12th July, 1991.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, last time I gave a notice of amendment. You had asked me discuss the matter with you in your chamber. You called me and said that-that included other steps also. After that I gave another notice of amendment .. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing the amendments which have been rejected to be raised on the floor of the House. Because if it continues, then every amendment, every decision taken will be discussed on the floor of the House. Last time also we should not have allowed the discussion on this in the House. I am not allowing it.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you decide for ever that such matters will not be allowed in future also . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Not in the House. Otherwise you will be discussing only amendments in the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit that this resolution is going to have far-reaching effects . . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing. I am not allowing to speak. Please do not force like this and I am not allowing. If I allow this, it becomes a practice. Every rejection will be discussed on the floor of the House and that is why if an amendment is admitted or if an amendment is not admitted and if the Member has any objection, he can meet me in the Chamber. I would certainly be very patiently hearing what he has to say. According to my like and judgement, I will give a decision. But, I am not going to allow the discussions on these points, on the floor of the House. Otherwise, thousands and thousands of notices are given and if we try to decide the notices on the floor of the House, we would only be deciding notices and have nothing else. So, please Shri Khurana cooperate and do not raise it now.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views with your permission. I would like to request Shri Khurana that the Hon. Speaker has given a clear ruling on this matter. You want that all of us should stick to this ruling firmly in future also. I can understand his feeling, but as the Hon. Speaker has said that the decisions that are not taken under the rules of the House and if we start discussing those decisions, that would become a never-ending process. Therefore, I would appeal to the Hon. Members that in case of rejection of their amendments, they should personally meet the Speaker and obtain a convincing response but they should not raise such matters in the House.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (South Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it appears to me that communal riots will start in the entire country, if this resolution is passed. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI ARJUN SINGH : Nothing like this is going to happen.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Does he want that the Mata Sundari College, which was a mosque earlier, should be removed. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am not allowing this, Khuranaji. On the point of admission of the amendments, I am not allowing any discussion. If you are

going to make any say on that point, it will not form part of the record. But, in your speech if you have any point to make, you are welcome to do it. You take a chance, make a speech on the resolution and I will not object to it. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : I want to say that, if I was told earlier that my first amendment has been rejected, I would have given notice for the second amendment. I can give notice for a second amendment, only when my first amendment is rejected. . . * (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This is not going on record.

[*Translation*]

It is in your interest. It will not be correct, if all started raising questions like this.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to have an assurance from you that you will not allow such an amendment, if notice for the same is given by any other Member.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : You do not need any assurance from the Chair. It is the ruling from the Chair which is binding. You do not get the assurance it is the ruling which is binding. I do not have to assure you. I am like any other Member. So, assurance is not necessary. If what I say here is going as a ruling, then it is binding on me.

you and everybody. So, Khuranaji, please take your seat. Thank you.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Lodhaji, I am not allowing anything on this point, because if it continuous like this, I will have nothing else, but to discuss the admissions only.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : This is discrimination.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER . You cannot get such assurances and things like that Khuranaji No omnibus assurance will be given I will act according to the rule; I will act according to the law and I will act according to the decision. Now, Shri Shreesh Chandra Dikshit will continue his speech

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER . Mr. Shreesh Chandra Dikshit, you have already spoken for 45 minutes Now please be brief.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT (Varanasi) : The subject is important. I have to say many things

MR. SPEAKER : You may make your point. Take your time.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : The subject has many ramifications. However, I will try to be very brief. . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) Mr Speaker, Sir, before he starts his speech, please give a ruling on the points raised by me. You may give any ruling you like. I have submitted it in writing to you that this matter cannot be taken up in the House as it is *sub judice*. The previous Speaker gave a ruling which is already on record, as this matter is *sub judice* in 11 cases.

(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR SPEAKER I am not allowing this. If this continues like this well there will be many Members to speak about that. I am sorry this cannot form part of the record also.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER You come to my Chamber. I will discuss for one hour for two hours.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER What Mr Lodha is saying will not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)

MR SPEAKER Come to my Chamber, Mr Lodha. With respect I am saying I will discuss with you. Either you convince me or I will convince you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT Sir, this resolution has two parts. The first part is that this House

urges upon the Government to take steps to peacefully settle the dispute regarding the shrine at Avodhya.

16.11 hrs.

[SHRI P M SAYEED in the Chair]

Mr Chairman, Sir, there is no doubt that this is a very grave dispute. There may be 3 ways to settle this dispute. The first is that it is settled by a court of law. The second is negotiated settlement and the third is that, that an agreement is reached in the spirit of give and take.

Sir, may be the House is not aware of a fact and I would like to tell them that this dispute is pending in the courts of law for more than 100 years. The first case in this regard was filed by Mahant Raghavar Ram in the court of Sub-judge, Faizabad, in 1885 and the then British Judge Col FEA Chatterjee had said in his judgement—

[English]

It is most unfortunate that a Masjid should have been built on land especially held sacred by Hindus, and that after 356 years, it is too late to remedy that grievance."

[Translation]

Another thing, which I want to submit and which I have said earlier also, is that the Babri Masjid Action Committee filed a case in this regard on 18th of December, 1961.

[English]

In that it was alleged that on the night between December, 22/23, 1949

the Hindus had surreptitiously placed the idols in the building which they claimed to be their mosque.

Actually much before that incident, a suit had been filed by Mr. Gopal Singh Visharad on 16-9-1950. I will draw your attention that the court had passed the following order—interm injunction :

“The parties are hereby restrained by means of temporary injunction to refrain from removing the idols in question from the site in dispute and from interfering with the *pūja*, etc., as at present carried on

The order, dated 16-9-50, stands notified accordingly.”

In an appeal, this interim injunction was confirmed and the appellate court made the following observation :

“It further appears from the copies of a number of affidavits of certain Muslim residents of Ayodhya that at least from 1936 onwards, the Muslims have neither used the site as a mosque, nor ever prayed there, and that the Hindus have been performing their *pūja*, etc., on the disputed site.”

“The undisputed fact remains that on the date of this suit, the idols of Shri Bhagwan Ram Chandra and other did exist at the site and that worship was being performed by the Hindus including the plaintiff though under some restrictions put by the executive authority.”

(Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, he is referring to some document.

Is he ready to place it on the Table of the House?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I am quoting from the copies of court judgements.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, he should prove them authentic by placing it on the Table of the House. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : These are judgements of court of law and I must have the permission to quote them. If need be, I can file the certified copies of the judgements here . . . *(Interruptions)*. . . I am referring to the case of 1951.

SHRI ANIL BASU : How can we know that these judgements are genuine ones unless and until, they are authenticated and placed on the Table? . . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : When he quotes any judgement, that would be sufficient. It can be verified. The judgements are not necessarily to be laid on the Table of the House. When he is quoting, he will be quoting properly. And if it is wrong, of course, I will see to it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I quote a reference from Civil Judge Order, Faizabad dated 3-3-51, Suit No. 2 of 1950 of Shri Gopal Singh Visharad as appellant versus Zahur Ahmed and others. This is the reference of the case.

An allegation is often made against the VHP that we have not abided by the orders of the court. You will be

surprised Sir and I beg to draw your attention that inspite of this clear order by the court of law, which was later confirmed by the honourable High Court adjudication at Allahabad also, the rights of the Hindus for unfettered worship was interfered with. We made every possible effort to get the lock open. When we did not succeed Sir, it was decided that we would go for a peaceful *satyagraha* on that issue. But in the meanwhile, the District Judge, Faizabad, Shri K M. Pandey vide his order dated 1st February, 1986 ordered the lock to be opened. I quote the relevant portion

"The respondents are directed to open the locks of the gates, O&P forthwith. They shall not impose any restriction or hurdle in the *darshan* and *poorja* of the applicant and other members of the community in general. However, the respondents are free to take independent decisions to control any law and order problem according to the case of the situation."

The third thing which I would like to bring to the notice of this House is that when we decided to do *Shilanyas*, a writ petition was filed in the Hon. Supreme Court. I quote the relevant portion of the order of the Supreme Court. It says :

"The whole question appears to us in substance that whether the religious procession carrying the consecrated *shilas* are allowed to be carried on for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of Ram Janma Bhumi Mandir near Babri Masjid

area will cause a communal disharmony of a serious nature and as such taking of procession by the Members of Vishwa Hindu Parishad in this connection should be prohibited and more particularly the prohibitory order should be made prohibiting the laying of the foundation stone on 9-11-89.

This goal, keeping in view the fundamental rights embodied in part 3 of the Constitution which gives right to Members of every religious community the freedom to profess his own religion so long such propaganda, the religious faith does not violate or contravene the existing laws of the land. Considering this in mind and also considering the fact that maintenance of the law and order is primary duty and responsibility of the State Government . . . etc . etc."

The last sentence says :

"We, therefore, dispose of the writ petition."

This is the final order. Writ petition seeking the banning of *Shilanyas* and *Shilayatras* was not allowed.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Shri Dikshit has just quoted from a Supreme Court judgement which I recall perhaps correctly. Will Shri Dikshit please read out the part where there was a reference to the performance of the *Shilanyas*.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : With the permission of the Chair I can read out the whole judgement.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
You just tell the operative part

**SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA
DIKSHIT :** The operative part is,
"We, therefore, dispose of this writ
petition."

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN .
I think there you said, it permitted
Shilanyas. I am asking you where did
the judgement say that it permits the
Shilanyas. *Shilanyas* is different from
Shilayatra. I am making that point

As far as I recall Mr. Chairman,
the writ petition was about the *Shila-
yatra*. I don't think that a reference
exists there to the performance of
Shilanyas on the disputed spot and I
can say with authority that the Sup-
reme Court has not pronounced any
verdict on the legality or illegality on
the performing of *Shilanyas* on the
disputed spot.

**SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA
DIKSHIT :** Sir, the judgement is very
clear.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What the Hon
Member was objecting to was that it
appears that the Hon. Member instead
of saying the 'foundation stone' has
said '*Shilanyas*'.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
Shilanyas is the Hindi word for founda-
tion stone. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, what I am trying
to say is that, an impression is being
created that the *Shilanyas* was perform-
ed with the approval and permission of
the Supreme Court. That is not so.
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :
The Supreme Court refused to prohibit
from *Shilanyas* and *Shilapathar*.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN
But the High Court of Lucknow pro-
nounced that (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN . When you
quote a judgement, it should be quoted
as it is, whether it is in Hindi or in
any other language

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN
SAIT (Ponnani) :** What about the
injunction of the Allahabad High
Court? Why don't you cite that?
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA
He is keeping it for you (*Interrup-
tions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN I have already
mentioned here that whenever he
quotes anything, any judgement, it
should be a judgement and not the
translated version of it

(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Raj-
garh) :** May I ask a question? I just
wanted to ask the Hon. Member,
whether he was a signatory to an
agreement between the State Govern-
ment of Uttar Pradesh and the Vishwa
Hindu Parishad, that they should be
allowed to lay the foundation stone
and they would not start the construc-
tion till the Court decides in their
favour.

Is it a fact? Was he a signatory?
(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We are discussing this issue here in a peaceful manner. The Hon. Member will reply to the question asked by the other Hon. Member just to make him yield. Please do not interrupt.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I have said that there are three ways to solve this problem.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : I haven't got my reply whether he was a signatory to the agreement ?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I am giving the reply. Please listen to me. There are three ways to solve it. One is through the court, the other is through negotiated settlement and the third one is compromise through give and take. His question refers to the second point. I will refer to it, when I will come on the second part.

SHRI IBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : He has evaded the question

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I am not evading. I am expressing my point. Much emphasis is being laid on the point of *status quo* that the court has given an order to maintain the *status quo*. This refers to the order issued by the Special Bench of the Allahabad High Court on 7-11-89 comprising the judges Shri K.C. Agrawal, Shri U.C. Shrivastava and Shri S.H.A. Razzak. Shri Buta Singh, who is not here at present, visited Lucknow just after one day i.e. on 8th of November, along with all the officers of the Home

Ministry including the Home Secretary, Director of Intelligence Bureau and other officials. The then Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Narayan Dutt Tewari, Home Minister Shrimati Sushila Rohatgi, the I.G.P., the Chief Secretary and the Home Secretary were also present at Lucknow. From our side, there was Mahant Avaidyanath Maharaj Gorakhpur Peethadhis.

[English]

There were 40 members in all including the Advocate-General, Bhatnagar.

We were only two persons and after three-four hours of negotiations, we came to this conclusion that

[Translation]

[English]

The place where we were going to lay the foundation stone was an undisputed site. It was with the permission of the Government of India. When you are giving permission to lay the foundation stone, you cannot say that you will not permit us to construct the building. When you are permitting us to lay the foundation stone, you cannot say that you will not allow us to construct the building over there.

[Translation]

We had presented to the Government the blueprint and the scheme of construction of the Shri Ram Janambhoomi Temple of Ayodhya. We had also informed them about the manner in which we proposed to go about with the construction work and also about the 'Shilanyas' plan. When you permit us to perform 'Shilanyas' it obviously

means that the Government has no objection, whatsoever to the construction of the temple.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : It was a public document since it was published in the Press

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : You first produce that paper.

[Translation]

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : My point was that the document, which was prepared after much negotiations and to which you were a signatory, clearly mentions that although 'Shilanyas' would be permitted, the work of construction of the temple won't commence unless and until the Court gives its verdict

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I am prepared to answer this question, if you produce that document before the House.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : I have it in my possession and I am prepared to produce it before you

[English]

Are you denying that ?

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I shall answer you, when you produce the document before me
(Interruptions)

SHRI DAV DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, please don't allow them to interrupt him.

SHRI KALKA DAS (Karolbagh) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, they are disturbing him First let him speak and let the other person speak, when his turn comes

MR CHAIRMAN : Listen Please take your seat

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU : When a question was put to him he said that he would answer it so far he has not answered it He must answer the question on the floor of this House.

MR CHAIRMAN : Honourable Members, if you seek any clarification, if at all the person who is speaking if he is not yielding, you should not disturb him Whenever you get an opportunity you can speak

SHRI ANIL BASU : You yourself asked him whether he was ready to answer He replied that he would give the answer when the question of negotiations comes Now, he is not giving the answer That is the question You intervened between them To the question, whether Mr Dikshit would answer, he replied and he agreed to do that Mr. Dikshit agreed to it. When you asked him whether he would reply to the question, Mr. Dikshit said that when the question of negotiations comes he would reply.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : A man of such a stature, a retired DG of his State and a person who has had a very long record of public service, he should clarify.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : What has it got to do with my speech here ?

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : it is a public document He has to say yes or no.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : It may be a public document. Let that document come; I will answer.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He says that he is not aware of that Are you aware of it ?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : Let it come, I will answer

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH · I am just asking whether he is aware of the document.

MR CHAIRMAN : He says. that he is not aware of it

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : Let it come, I will see

MR CHAIRMAN : He says that he is not aware of it. Mr Dikshit, now you please continue

(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH · Let it go on record that he is not aware of the document

MR. CHAIRMAN · You can produce it whenever you speak

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I want to say that there are three ways to solve it. I was only talking about the judicial process. Now, about this judicial process we made every possible effort so that this

suit is decided expeditiously. When this special Bench was formed, we pointed out certain basic flaws in the suit filed by the Sunni Central Board of Wakf and these were not frivolous objections. These objections were raised. These objections had the support of such legal luminaries as the retired Chief Justice Shri Guman Mal Lodha, retired Chief Justice Mr M.N. Shukla, retired Chief Justice Mr Devki Nandan Agarwal, retired Chief Justice Mr Gopinath and several other retired Justices of the High Court. So much so that even a retired Senior Advocate and former Attorney-General of India, Mr Lal Narain Sinha, he had come out, I quote a portion of his opinion He says :

“The decision of the Privy Council and the Supreme Court establish that a suit as framed on behalf of the Muslims, namely, Suit No. 12 of 1961, is governed by six years’ period of limitation and not 12 years, the relevant article being 120 of the Limitation Act of 1908.”

It is very surprising that the occurrence is said to have taken place on the night between December 22/23, 1949 and the suit for the same was filed on December 18, 1961, that is 11 years, 11 months and 26 days after the alleged ‘incident’. So, the basic flaw in this suit is that it suffered from the fault of limitation. The other fatal error in the claim of the suit by the Muslims is that while it asks for removal and disposition of the deities curiously enough, the deities have not been impleaded as parties at all. Sir, you know that Hindu deities have

juristic personalities. And unless you implead that deity, no judgement passed by a court of law will be applicable on the deity. I would like to mention another basic flaw in this suit. This suit was filed by Sunni Central Board of Wakf. As the Hon. Members are aware, it is a Muthuvalli who is responsible for the upkeep of the Mosque and is the possessor of it. No Muthuvalli has joined in this suit.

[Translation]

No Muthuvalli has been named in it. Had it been a Mosque, then certainly there would have been a Muthuvalli, and if there is no Muthuvalli, it obviously means that it is not a Mosque. Had there been a Muthuvalli, why hasn't he joined in this suit? These are all frivolous objections. Now this case was referred to a Special Bench. It is also said that we could have expeditiously arrived at a decision, without taking recourse to the judicial process, through negotiations and with a spirit of give and take.

[English]

Unfortunately our friends do not allow this procedure to be followed and the Advocate-General of U.P. Government has also objected to it. So, the judgement went against us. Now the suit is proceeding at snail's pace in spite of the fact that this Special Bench of three judges of High Court was constituted no less than about three years ago and the suit has remained pending trial now since 1949. Till this date, it has made no progress. At this stage there is no likelihood of the suit being decided by

a competent court of law. I would like to mention another very relevant portion of the judgement of this honourable Special Bench. It is very relevant. The point that we have been particularly emphasising is this. No court can decide it. No court in this country has got the powers to decide as to which is the birthplace of Lord Ram. . . (Interruptions). This is what the honourable court has observed. Now I would like to quote its judgement. It says :

"It is doubtful that some of the questions involved in the suit are soluble by judicial process."

The Special Bench says that some of the issues involved are not soluble by judicial process.

[Translation]

In this regard, first of all I would like to submit that if we wait for the Court's verdict, it would be a very time consuming process. The only other way out is a negotiated settlement. Ever since this issue came to the fore, we have been holding negotiations. When Shri Buta Singh was the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, we had regular and prolonged discussions with him, after that, when Shri V.P. Singh assumed office as Prime Minister, we positively responded to his invitation. At the meeting, he gave us in writing that a final decision has been taken to commence the construction work on the temple on such and such date. However, he requested that the programme should be postponed a bit on the plea that the new Government

had just assumed office. However, he added that he was hopeful of finding an amicable solution to this issue, certainly within four months. This particular incident took place on February 7, 1990. After four months, we again met the Prime Minister in this connection. Now, it is natural for one to expect an answer that some progress has been made or that a solution is being thrashed out, but to our surprise, we found that nothing has been done in that direction and what's more, we were not even given an assurance that the Government would arrive at a negotiated settlement within such and such time. Then came the Chandra Shekhar Government. Again there was this talk of a negotiated settlement in the air. We had our first meeting with the representative of the Babri Masjid Action Committee (B.M.A.C.) in December, 1990. It was followed by a series of meetings and finally it was decided that both sides would come to a conclusion by February 5, 1991. Subsequently, on January 24, 1991, the experts of the Babri Masjid Action Committee, who came to attend the meeting left this message for us.

[English]

"We need at least six weeks to examine the relevant evidence and visit to Ayodhya."

[Translation]

After saying this, they left. We immediately wrote to the Government of India that it is indeed surprising that while we were called for a meeting and we came for it, the other side, which too was invited left the negotiating table. When those very people,

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with whom we have to hold talks leave the table, then whom do we negotiate with? So, this was the end of the 'negotiated Settlement' round. There is also a talk of 'give and take.' So far as I know, there is not a single temple in the entire country in which 'Kirtan' and 'Ramayan Path' go on around the clock, 24 hours a day, uninterruptedly since 1949. In the past 42 years, Hindus have not stopped this 'Kirtans' and 'Bhajans' (Devotional songs) in that temple, for even a minute.

[English]

It is laid down in various judgments that our Muslim friends had ceased to visit place since 1936.

[Translation]

Perhaps, there were one or two instances during 1940 or 41, when some Muslims, one or two of them went there to offer Namanaz. This is not a question of a temple or a mosque. There can be hundreds of temples and thousands of mosques.

[English]

It is a question of the participation in *Ram Shila*. It is the question of the birth place of Ram. That is precisely what the Hindus feel.

[Translation]

If he does not consider it to be the birth place of Lord Rama. . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY : For how long was it locked ?

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DUKSHIT : I have already told you

about it and if you wish to know about it, you see me separately and I shall tell you about it. My submission is that in a temple which is thronged day and night by lakhs of Hindus. you will not be able to come across a single Hindu devotee of Lord Rama, who would say that he had visited Ayodhya, but had not paid his obeisance to Ram Janmabhoomi. The Hindus have a firm faith on this place and if this faith is said to be non-existent, we will produce historical evidence in support of it before you and you will find that from 1528 till date during the struggle for independence innumerable number of conflicts have taken place over this place. Sir, can you ever think that

[English]

in the precincts of the mosque. A temple has been constructed. It exists ...

[Translation]

It has not been constructed by me, it has not been constructed by Vishwa Hindu Parishad either. It was neither constructed after independence and nor was it constructed during the British period in pre-independence era. Who ruled this country prior to the Britishers? The Nawabs and Mughals ruled the country before Britishers. You can well imagine if a temple is constructed within the premises of a mosque even during that period.

[English]

This conflict has been going on since 1528.

[Translation]

When you talk of reconciliation, you should see that on one hand Hindus

have a firm faith on their religious place and on the birth place of Rama.

[English]

It is a matter of faith. The matter of faith need not always stand as scrutiny of intellectual and scientific examination. I can quote many instances.

[Translation]

Which are not definitely in a good taste, as such I do not want to make a mention of them. There are many things on which one has faith, but they cannot be accepted as correct intellectually and scientifically.

(Interruptions)

They believe that it is the birth place of Ram and on account of it they worship this place. Under no circumstance, can a person have two birth places. There is no question of two birth places of Lord Rama. (Interruptions) It is wrong I can claim that they only try to create confusion. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-SAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know as to how long you are going to allow him to speak? (Interruptions)

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: This subject is such an important subject. Many speakers names are there. I think we will continue and if we are not in a position to conclude today, we will postpone for the next session.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Many Members have already sent the names . .

(Interruptions)

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Upto what time are you sitting today ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Upto 6 O Clock. Now, I am asking the Hon. Member to conclude because he has almost taken 45 minutes.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSAIN : On the last occasion, the mover was not even permitted to conclude his speech. That is why the Member cannot get unlimited time.

SHRI SUDARSHAN RAY CHAUDHARY (Serampore) : The Member should conclude. He cannot get unlimited time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Members should at least patience to listen to me and see whatever evidence I want to place before the House.

(Interruptions)

They should know as to what are the facts.

[English]

Unless you know the facts, how are you going to act ?

[Translation]

So far I have presented merely three aspects before you. I have yet to quote historical evidence. Just now I will quote archaeological, geographical and biographical evidence before you.

(Interruptions)

[English]

We are dealing with a subject. When I am talking on this . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

So far I have taken up just two subjects. Merely legal and negotiated settlement . . (Interruptions)

Now I want to place before you the viewpoint expressed by historians on this subject. I have yet to quote archaeological evidence before you. (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please be seated for a minute. Please listen. This is a Private Member's Resolution.

[English]

Whenever the Private Members Resolutions and Bills come up, we do not normally restrict to the time and that is the point.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I want . . (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Achariaji, you are a senior Member. I am on my legs. You please take your seat. How can I give any ruling ? I have asked the Hon'ble Member to conclude. He has already taken 45 minutes. I think the Member will yield to my request.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to bring a fact to your

notice. Last time when a discussion was initiated on this issue, you were occupying the Chair, and at that time a ruling was given and the House had unanimously accepted that a Member would be allowed to speak for as long as he wished and no time limit shall be fixed.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-SAIN : I am agreeable to it, but the mover was not given time .. (*Interruptions*) ..

[*English*]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order. We know that in the case of Private Members Resolutions or Private Members Bills no time limit is generally imposed. The time is also extended. Two hours time is fixed for this Resolution and there was a consensus. As the issue is a very sensitive one, we should not stick to two hours limit. Time may be extended. But that does not mean that it should be extended without any limit. It is not correct that one Member will speak for unlimited time. When the Mover of the Resolution was speaking, he was not allowed to speak for more than half-an-hour (*Interruptions*) You spoke for half an-hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please, let him say whatever he wants to say.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The last portion of the speech of the Mover was expunged and it was not recorded. The convention of the House is that the Mover of the Resolution gets more time than the other speakers.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes.

SHRI BASU DEV ACHARIA : But in this case, the Mover of the Resolution did not get more time. But the other speakers are getting unlimited time. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : At the initial stage we have fixed two hours. It was felt that the discussion would be over in two hours.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How much time has been fixed for this Resolution? You should decide. Because today we will stay upto seven O'Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN . Achariaji, you yourself have suggested that it is a very highly sensitive issue. Many Hon'ble Members wanted to participate in this Resolution.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If one Member wants to speak for two hours, will you allow?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not like that.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Then I will speak for two hours. I can speak for two hours on this Resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That way I have requested the Hon Member to conclude. I say every Member must get 10 to 15 minutes. Accordingly we will proceed. When the mover of the Resolution spoke, I was not here at that time. If he was not given half-an-hour, that was not my mistake. Any way, I am asking Mr. Dikshit to conclude so that others will get chance and we will sit up to six O'Clock and

the subject will be transferred to the next Resolution day.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Please give time to all

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, Hon. Member, Mr. Dikshit, is a very knowledgeable person, I don't argue on that. But while speaking, the convention of the House is not to cast any aspersions against the persons who are not present in the House. So far as my belief goes, I believe that God cannot take birth here, but he said Bhagwan has taken birth in that place. (*Interruptions*). Now I want to have a Ruling on this. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM (East Delhi) : You have no faith and it is a matter of faith . . . (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I have not uttered even a single word against anybody. It has got a historical perspective. (*Interruptions*). There are social and moral implications in this. Unless I put before the House all the implications, it will not be understood properly. I must bring before the House all the facts (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : Now I am concluding. (*Interruptions*). I can give a lot of evidence . . . (*Interruptions*). I can adduce other evidence provided you give me time. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Sir, I am on a point of order. (*Interruptions*). Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Member is a learned person. During his speech he has mentioned something which is now pending before a court of law. Of course, we are also mentioning about it. But he should not have gone into the merits of the case while that is a matter of propriety which should be decided by the Chair

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr Chairman, Sir, if the matter is *subjudice*, it cannot be taken up for discussion and when you have admitted a resolution, the discussion has to take place

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E AHAMED : Sir, the Sunni Wakfs Board is not a *muttawalli*. But there is a judgment by which Sunni Wakfs Board has already been registered under the U.P. Wakfs Act and it has the jurisdiction to file a case. So, such an issue cannot be and should not be quoted in this House (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Dixit, there are eight Members from your party who want to speak on this Resolution. You have already taken 45 to 50 minutes. So, please wind up quickly.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : Sir, I will definitely conclude my speech expeditiously provided I am not interrupted. It is my

maiden speech. So, I want your protection. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Member is an enlightened personality. I want a simple clarification about a historical fact about the demolition of the Ram Janma Bhoomi Temple. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN . He was just now mentioning that he was going to start from the historical facts. The means, none of you will get a chance to speak today. So, I am asking him to kindly conclude his speech.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. We want a serious debate and we cannot waste time. Mr. Acharia has said very correctly that we have limited time at our disposal. It can be two hours, it can be four hours, it can be six hours, may be it can be eight hours. It cannot be more than that. (*Interruptions*) Time is pressing upon us and there is some sense of urgency about it. We cannot just go on debating it for the next one year. However, I am prepared to debate it until the end of this House if the VHP promises and assures the country that it would not take any unilateral decision in between. We are prepared to debate it for the next five years. We must put a reasonable limit to the debate. Let us set a definite limit, let us allocate time to those people who are for and to those people who are against their stand. Let the BJP take half the time and all other parties will take another

half of the time. But the BJP cannot take all the time.

There is one more point. We are concerned here with this Resolution. Which does not suggest what the final settlement or the final decision should be. The only proposition that there should be a negotiated settlement. That is all. Therefore, for presenting the entire bunch of evidence which may go into volumes and volumes, there are other forums and I invite Mr. Dikshit to plead the case in the right forum. I want Mr. Dikshit to clarify as to whether the VHP supports the idea of a negotiated settlement or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Members, as Mr. Shahabuddin just now mentioned, in Private Members' Business, normally everybody gets a chance and there is no apportioning of time between the Opposition and the ruling party. Every Member is a Member in the Private Members' business. Therefore, every one of us should think on that line.

I am requesting Shri Dikshit also to conclude.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not here to curtail the rights of the Members. How can I? I am no one to curtail the rights of the Members. Therefore, I am only pleading him to kindly conclude his speech so that other Members can also take part in the debate.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : Mr. Shahabuddin has just now said that the problem before us is

whether we want a negotiated settlement or not. That is the main point. But here many points have been placed wrongly. So, we have to refute all those things. So, we should get time. Those things should be set right. Therefore, we should be given time to refute all the allegations made here.

MR. CHAIRMAN . You will get a chance. Every Member who wants to speak will get a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI (Saidpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important resolution and according to rules every member should express his opinion freely on it. We wish that this resolution should be taken seriously without any disturbance I request you to allow every Member to express his views on this resolution and it requires adequate time. In this context I would like to say that entire country is worried about this controversial issue and even a Government had to collapse earlier. I also request you to give adequate opportunity to the Members of each party and each side to express their views whether it is BJP or Janata Dal or National Front or Congress and all of us should take this issue with sobriety. This is not simply a Private Member's resolution, rather it expresses the feelings of the people of India.

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also, like Shastri ji, want to say that this is not just a Private Member's resolution but the fate of the whole country depends upon it and hence this should be taken very seriously.

I would like to recall for the benefit of my all friends that during the discussion on the Shahbano case here in the House a number of 'Ayats' from the Quran were cited and it took whole day and besides that, 2-3 private meetings were also held. This issue is even more important than that. There is no need to be excited as the fate of the country depends upon the decision taken here. Hence for this purpose adequate and maximum time should be given. Thus, I support the submission of Shri Shastri. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Private Member's resolution is a very important one. The conflict on this issue has been growing continuously since the previous Government. The discussion is going on this. The mover of this resolution in the Lok Sabha has already made his submission on that day and today also he is continuing his speech. Only Vishwa Hindu Parishad has no right to speak. (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I as well as other Hon. Members also want to speak. First of all time should be allotted for discussion on this issue and thereafter, their quota of time be fixed. It appears that they are pleading for Vishwa Hindu Parishad and preventing us to speak. (Interruptions)

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HASSAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have no objection for giving unlimited time to any Member on the Private Member's Resolution. Time must be given on such an important issue. But what I want to say is that one of our members was not allowed to move his resolution a few days back and the Chair

gave its ruling that "nothing will go on record". Would you give him an opportunity to move his Resolution again?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I am asking Mr. Shreesh Chandra Dikshit to wind up. Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: You have been just told that this is an important issue. One should think over it carefully. One should listen to each side very attentively and know the facts. If you interrupt again and again, it will be very difficult to carry on the business of the House. . . (Interruptions) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall conclude my submission if you give me 15 minutes more.

MR CHAIRMAN: Five minutes more are being given to you.

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT: I had urged that this important issue may be resolved in three ways, first through a negotiated settlement, second through accepting the verdict of the court and the third through a compromise in a spirit of give and take. I have already said about the court. We have always been complying with the directives of the court, yet it is said that we do not comply with the orders of the court. I can say emphatically that the special bench has made its own observation.

[English]

There are many issues in this which are not soluble by this process.

[Translation]

How long will you wait for the court's verdict keeping in view the pace with which this issue is progressing there.

Special Bench was constituted three years ago You can see the progress of the case during these three years Even the recording of evidences has not yet begun. How much time will it take and for how much time one can wait? In this case there were two plaintiffs on behalf of Hindus One of them passed away after waiting for forty years These two are Shri Gopal Singh Visharad and Shri Ram Chandra Paramhans. Justice Lal Narayan Sinha and the Chief Justice Guman Mal . (Interruptions) Please keep silence Objections of such legal liminaries were brushed aside. What is the result? When will the matter be decided, will it be in the twenty-first century or not even in that? I am a resident of Varanasi The Dosphipura grave-yard east of Varanasi lingered on for 138 years.

[English]

The judgement of the Supreme Court passed in 1983 has not been implemented

[Translation]

This was a case of dispute over a grave-yard between Shiyas Vs Sunnis.

[English]

I am only mentioning that I am not going into the merit of that I am only mentioning that there is a precedent that a suit can linger on for 138 years.

Thereafter, also, even the judgement as pronounced by the High Court of Judicature in this country, cannot be implemented.

[Translation]

The solution of the case through court verdict and negotiated settlement is being discussed. This process of negotiation was discussed with Shri V P Singh. And at the instance of Shri Chandra Shekhar we went to the negotiation table also but in vain. With whom to negotiate? Out of thousands or lakhs of Masjids that is the only Masjid about which judicial pronouncement and evidences exist. No Muslim has gone there to offer Namaz since 1936. On the other hand the Hindus have not stopped their Bhajans and Kirtans even for a minute since 1949. The Hindus have immense faith in that place and now they are not able to offer their prayers in that place only due to the obstinate attitude of the other side. Hindus have been offering their prayers for the last 42 years and on the other hand Muslims have not entered that place during the last 36 years. In these circumstances policy of give and take have no meaning for them. That is important for us. I would like to say one thing more that between 30th October, 1990 and 2nd November, 1990. (Interruptions)

[English]

Between 30th October, 1990 and 2nd November, 1990 there was bloodshed in the streets of Ayodhya. This is as much a watershed in the history as that of the Jalianwala Bagh massacre in the pre-Independence period.

[Translation]

Our Kar-Sevaks were killed there. . . (Interruptions) It is useless to talk with them about "give and take". Prayers are being offered there continuously. The Kirtan does not stop there even for a minute. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENITHALA (Kottayam) : He is repeating the same thing which he has already said. This is a mere repetition.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have taken five minutes. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI SHREEESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : I have spoken on the first part only and the second part of the resolution it has been said. (Interruptions) . . . I have not come yet to the second part of the resolution which is very important one. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN . May I request the Hon Member to conclude. It is too much. I have been requesting you for this. You have taken nearly fifty minutes. Kindly cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have taken extraordinary time.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I am giving him two minutes.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SHREESH CHANDRA DIKSHIT : In the second part of the resolution it has been said :

“ . . and to enact suitable legislation for preserving and maintaining the *status quo* of all religious shrines and places of worship as they existed on 15th August, 1947.” We oppose this resolution as we are of the view that there would be serious consequences of it because there are so many temples which were converted into Masjids. If this issue is raised, then this would no longer remain limited to the Ayodhya temple only but it would extend to all temples of India
(Interruptions)

Such a legislation is not in the country's interest, hence, we vehemently oppose it and it should go in record that there would be serious consequences if such a resolution is brought. Before taking any step you should first consider about its implications.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri K V Thomas to speak

(Interruptions)

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH : The Hon. Member has not answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I request the next speaker that he will also be getting his chance to speak, when he speaks, he can repudiate whatever he wants to repudiate.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH : I will lay it on the Table of the House.
(Interruptions)

PROF. K V THOMAS (Ernakulam) : We had witnessed lengthy, hot and very aggressive discussions on this subject in the Eighth and Ninth Lok Sabha. In this Session also, more or less, the House has started with a discussion on this subject.

As a person who hails from the Southern most part of this country, Kerala, I feel pained to see how religious matters take such a monstrous shape that the soil of this nation is soaked with blood. In my State Kerala, there is only a single wall for the mosque and the temple.

In Trivandrum which is the capital of my State, you can see within the same compound a very beautiful Christian Church, a beautiful Mosque and a beautiful Ganapathi Temple. We are very religious people. When we visit the place of our worship, we used to visit other places of worship also. For example Sabarimalai Temple which is one of the famous Hindu pilgrimage in this country. It is an example of the communal harmony existing in our State. Before we go to Sabarimalai temple to worship Lord Aiyappa, we first go to a Christian Church at a place called Aruthingal Nalapi and after going to this Catholic Church, we go to a Mosque which is called Vavar. Then only we go to worship Lord Aiyappa. I feel there is only one God. We are born in different families, we are born in different communities and we worship the Lord in different ways. But unfortunately, in this great country which

has given birth to very famous Saints, we are fighting in the name of religion. Sir, enough blood has been spilled in this country. The father of the Nation has been bulletted down. Even now we are not Indians first and last ! We are still Hindus; we are still Muslims and we are still Christians. Is it not the time that we forget all these divisions and think that we are Indians. Even though I was born in a Christian family, I admit Sir that I am a Hindu because it is the same Hindus in Kerala who have been converted into the Christianity. I admit the great overwhelming power of the Hindu community and Hindu religion. It had embraced different types of religions, faiths that have come to it. In the case of Christianity, before Christianity spread to Europe, it came to India and it is the Hindu Kings in India who helped the Christian Churches to be built, the mosques to be built. One cannot forget it. I have born in a small tiny fishermen village where majority of the people are christians and the rest are Hindus. Some years back, one of our Muslim brothers came and settled there. Now their number is more than hundred. We helped them to construct a mosque. This will be our sentiment. Here, in the name of Ram Janmabhoomi and Babri Masjid, we are fighting amongst ourselves. I am very sure if Lord Rama again as an Avtar, even he will tell the people of this country to stop this fighting. Even he will tell the people of this country that instead of fighting on this issue, you go and try to construct thousands of shelters for thousands of homeless people in this country.

Have we not enough problems ? When this House was formed we found that this was a hung Parliament. From 1984 onwards as a Member of this House I have been seeing how issues are taken up in this country. We are the custodians to see that democracy prevails in this country. One democracy is killed, we all are finished. Our fight on Ram Janma Bhoomi; our fight on Babri Masjid everything will come to an end once democracy is finished in this country.

What I have seen during the last seven to eight years in this House is that by the end of 1989 we fought on an issue—I am not politicalising any issue—that was Bofors and the Submarine. In the 1989 elections one of the major issues was the Bofors gun deal and a new government came to power in 1990. When that Government fell, I still remember the day when Shri Advani was asking the then Prime Minister that before he loses the power, place all the relevant documents concerned with the Bofors issue, because we fought the election particularly on this issue. And that Government fell. We have forgotten that issue.

In the last elections BJP fought on Ram Janma Bhoomi issue. Again this Parliament has come. Where are we ? Are we not responsible to see that 83 crores of people of this country have to be safely directed ? What are the problems we face today ?

We expressed anguish on the mortgage of gold. In Kerala we mortgage the Mongalyasutra as a last resort; we will mortgage everything but if

nothing is there, the last resort is Mangalyasutra. In this country, of which we are proud, we have taken the last resort and our gold has been mortgaged. I am not going into the merit of the mortgage of the gold, but I am going into the situation where the country has come to face a deep crisis.

I am not going to make a lengthy speech on this issue. My humble request to all the different sections who are concerned with this issue is let us sit together. Let us find out a solution. If we are not going to find out a solution on this issue, I don't think we will be able to find out solutions on other issues. Have we not got problems in Punjab? Have we not got problems in Kashmir and Tamilnadu? Everyday we have got major issues. There are several crores of youngsters who have to be given employment, thousands and thousands of people are starving, they don't find a meal a day. When these issues are before us, we are fighting on an issue where I am sure even Lord Rama or Prophet Mohammed will not pardon us. We have to find out a solution on this. The solution is, we have to sit together. All religious sentiments should be respected, all religious places should be respected. But, at the same time, we should see that all religions are speaking of the same thing. We are worshipping the same God. When I worship Jesus Christ, I should see that I love my brothers in other religions. If I worship Jesus Christ and hate my neighbours who are Hindus and Muslims, then I am not a true follower of Jesus Christ. So, my humble request to this august House which is the

sanctum sanctorum of democratic process in this country is that we should find a way out. This is the proper time and the time has come now. Lord Rama does not take avatar in the earth at all times. He comes only at a particular time and I think that particular time has come when the entire nation is facing acute crises both internally and externally.

So, we have to find out a suitable settlement by sitting together so that everyone's feeling is respected. I am sure that this discussion will help this august House to find out a suitable solution on this issue. Thank you.

[Translation]

MR CHAIRMAN Shri Surya Narayan Yadav

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN I fail to understand as to why there is so much commotion on calling your name for speaking.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) It is because he does not let other speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) Mr Chairman

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North) Mr Chairman, Sir during the interruptions in the speech of an Hon Member an Hon Member used the word 'thy' ('Tera'). I think this word is not proper as far as manners

are concerned. So, I urge upon you to expunge this word from the record.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a past issue, leave it now.

.. (Interruptions) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : In love even God is called 'thou'.

.. (Interruptions) ..

AN HON. MEMBER : But this not the proper place for it.

.. (Interruptions) ..

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : I have heard with great patience the submissions regarding the Ram-Janam Bhoomi-Babri Masjid issue made by each side .. (Interruptions) .. please try to listen to me first. I have listened to all of them very patiently but they are not ready to listen to me .. (Interruptions) .. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the word 'Ram' leads me to recall the long-conceived 'Ram-Rajya' in the country. They have also made a reference to Ram Rajya. .. (Interruptions) .. Of course, Gandhiji also strived to work for 'Ram Rajya'. Ours is a country where the 'Kharaoon' (wooden sandal) of Ram were held as symbol of his authority and the country was administered under that authority for 14 years. I would like to ask the Vishwa Hindu Parishad activists :—Was it not Lord Rama who relished the berries already tasted by Shabri .. (Interruptions) .. I want to ask them as to why are they defaming the name of Ram .. (Interruptions) .. We shall not speak if they do not let us speak. But then Advani Sahab will also not be able

to deliver his speech here .. (Interruptions) ..

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : We shall not let V.P. Singh speak if they threaten us this way .. (Interruptions) ..

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down.

.. (Interruptions) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please take your seat.

.. (Interruptions) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the Hon. Member to address the Chair.

.. (Interruptions) ..

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not indulge in private conversation among yourselves.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir,

.. (Interruptions) ..

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : We have a befitting reply. A Harijan laid the foundation stone of the Ram-Janam-Bhoomi Mandir.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the leaders of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad have quoted thousand times the name of Lord Ram here since Friday last. I would like to know from them as to whether Lord Ram had not emancipated the poor, the down-trodden and the untouchables.

He had treated even the Christians and Muslims equally. He did not discriminate at all against them .. (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, what is your point of order.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon. Member is distorting the history here. Is he authorised to do so? Why is he trying to distort the history here?

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not a point of order as no one can distort history . (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI PIYUS TIRKEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, when Ram was born, no one was Hindu, all were Adivasis .. (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have great respect for the name of Ram. We accepted him as God. There is not a single house in India today, where Ram, Shankar or Krishna are not worshipped. But when the Vishwa Hindu Parishad made a beginning, Sir, you will be surprised to know that they made a beginning on the day when they kept Harijans, backwards and down-troddens away, they made a beginning on the day when they tried to prevent them from offering worship in temples .. (*Interruptions*) ..

SHRI B. L. SHARMA 'Prem' : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Vishwa Hindu

Parishad never tried to prevent them from offering worship. Rather a Harijan had been asked to perform the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the Ram-Janam-Bhoomi Mandir (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make a noise, please. Please, do not interrupt (*Interruptions*).....

MR. CHAIRMAN : One should not interrupt, everyone will get a chance, let him speak please (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : I am on a point of order. Sir, you are in the chair and you are supreme in this House. And the hon. Member is speaking with your permission under your protection. Your instructions must be followed. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I would request the hon. Members to take their seats.

.... (*Interruptions*).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

[*English*]

I would request the hon. Members to keep some decorum in the House..

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : I agree with you that the discussion in the House should go on without any excitement. I would like to request all, including my own

party members, to listen to the Member patiently, who has been allowed to speak. It is not necessary that you agree with his views. In this House a Member has a right to freedom of speech. If he says anything wrong, one should not interrupt him but should wait for one's turn and reply when one gets a chance. As this rule is applicable to my party members, it is equally applicable to other Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I thank Shri Vajpayee and I agree with him. I request you all to maintain decorum in the House. As Shri Vajpayee has pointed out, every member has a right to speak but one should wait for one's turn and then reply. Hence, I request you all not to interrupt Shri Surya Narayan as he is on his legs. Proceedings of the House are to continue up to 6 O'clock. If the hon Members are willing it can be extended beyond 6 O'clock, otherwise the resolution may be taken up on next Friday.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA: I discussed the matter with the Hon. Speaker in his chamber. He proposed that as soon as the discussion was over, notices under rule 377 could be taken up. So this may also be taken up.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, matters under rule 377 may be taken up after 6 O' clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: After consultations, I will let you know. Shri Surya Narayan may please continue his speech.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman. Sir, I was saying that during the election campaign both Shri Vajpayee and Shri Advani made the Ram Temple a hot issue. So I would like to ask them whether only a few people are Hindus in the country or the Harijans and the backwards also constitute the Hindus? If the latter are also Hindus then please also do care for their sentiments and prestige. These people are being discriminated for thousands of years.

When Shri V. P. Singh raised the banner of equality, whole nation became restive. When the issues of equality of rights to harijan, minorities and down-trodden, and of their participation in administration were raised under the banner of Mandal Commission and social justice, the Rath Yatra was started to subside Mandal issue and to provoke the Hindus in the country. My question is can the Ram Mandir-Masjid controversy kill even one day's hunger of a poor person? Today, in the country tens of lakhs of people are struggling for food and clothing and dying of hunger. Their children are deprived of schooling facilities. Has the VHP endeavoured to make food available to their children and also build schools for their education? I want to submit that all this is nothing, but a fraud. Till the equality and social justice are not brought, the condition of poor will not improve. Whenever an attempt has been made to improve the lot of down-trodden and backwards, the 'Brahminism' in the country has raised a great hue and cry.

Lord Budha favoured bringing in equality and humanism in the country. He said "Buddham Sharnam Gachhami". At that time also his attempt was vehemently resisted. Gradually Buddhism lost its importance in the country and caught imagination of people in China and Tibet. Later on Saint Kabir advocated the issue of equality, social justice and right to live but his fate was also none-the-less different. Mahatama Gandhi, who waged a struggle for independence, also said Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and Christians are one.

18.00 hrs.

We are one and there is unity in diversity. Therefore, we should talk of equality. Sir, issue of temple is being discussed here. I want to tell you that Mahatama Gandhi was shot dead by Nathu Ram Godse, when he was going to offer prayers. This was also an act of "Brahminism". As long as the V.H.P. continues to flourish under the present 'Brahministic' system, Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians will remain at logger heads. I want to warn them that this will not continue for long. The people of the country are today much more informed and conscious. Otherwise the people of this country will once again have to regroup themselves to get rid of the hypocrites as they had done earlier. "Jai Shri Ram, Jai Shri Ram, Tolo Kam, Napo Kam" such slogans are not going to work in the country. The focal point of my argument is that one who boasts of his piety and religious devotion, is the dishonest person of the highest order in the country.

Ram Mandir-Masjid controversy comes in handy to divide people, to ensure victory of candidates at the hustings although it may block the progress of the country and result in loss of human lives. Hindus and Muslims do not bear enmity towards each other in the country, but if we try to imitate the behaviour of Muslims of Pakistan against the Hindus living there, then it cannot be allowed in this country. I want

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is 6 O' clock
.....

(Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN : No, when the House has already decided they cannot be restricted to just two minutes. This restriction cannot be enforced.

[English]

This discussion will spill over to next Friday.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Before you adjourn the House, I have a point of order, a very serious point of order. Kindly allow me to speak.

The time allotted for Private Members' Business is two-and-a-half hour and we have never curtailed that time. It has also been decided earlier that in case any Friday is not available for Private Members' Business then another day is to be spared for two-and-a-half hours for private members' business.

Today, because of other important discussion, the discussion on Private Members' Business could take place

only at 4.00 P.M. Therefore, 2½ hours must be there to complete this discussion and so we cannot adjourn at 6.00 P.M. The House should proceed till 6.30 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I asked the view of the House and the hon. Members wanted to go at 6.00 P.M.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Private Members' time cannot be curtailed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: When I am on my feet, you please sit down. I agree with the hon. Members that 2½ hours should be allotted. I am prepared to even extend the time if the House wants to sit and we can continue discussion. As far as the question of 377 is concerned, the Speaker has decided that this will be taken up tomorrow after the Zero Hour.

We will then continue the discussion.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): At 3.30 hours when the Prime Minister was replying, the House decided that Prime Minister can continue his speech till the time he wants and at that time nothing was said about extending the time of the House. So, there is no point in saying that the Private Members' Business should continue beyond 6.00 P.M.

There is another very serious matter. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am informed that the time allotted for this discussion is 2½ hours. It will terminate at 6.25 P.M. Therefore, the House will continue its sitting till 6.25 P.M.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I have another point to make. So far as the Private Members Bills and Resolutions are concerned, they are taken up on every alternate Fridays. Last Friday, the House took up a Resolution. Today, the House should have taken up a Bill. I do not know why today, the Bill was not taken up. I do not know under what rule that rule was broken and the Resolution was taken up.

May I know the ruling from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, you do not want that this discussion be spilled over to next Friday.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, if the discussion on the same Resolution continues, then what will happen to the Bills?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The ruling on this will be given by the Speaker tomorrow as to whether, according to rules, this discussion on Private Members Business should spill over to next Friday or not. The ruling will be given by the Hon. Speaker, tomorrow.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: It is a very serious matter. We had raised an issue earlier also regarding *Economic Survey*. The *Economic Survey* has not yet been presented before the House and on 24th, the Budget is being placed. I am told that the Budget discussion may begin on 26th. Without placing the *Economic Survey*, at least two days before the Budget, the discussion on the

Budget cannot start. The promise was that either on Friday or on Saturday, the *Economic Survey* will be laid on the Table of the House.

I want an assurance from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs here, that by tomorrow, the *Economic Survey* will be presented on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : The Finance Minister who is sitting just behind me informed me that they are trying their best and they are expecting that it may be presented by tomorrow. Anyway, I will check up.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE : We want to know how best he will succeed. We want them to succeed so that they will be able to place the *Economic Survey* by tomorrow.

SHRI A. CHARLES : You wait and see till tomorrow !

SHRI E. AHMED : I am on a point of order. We should also be given an opportunity to express our views and speak on this Resolution. You should not dispose it of without giving us an opportunity. Please keep this thing in mind.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is correct that Hindus in Pakistan are humiliated. There are no two opinions about it, but that does not mean that

we should also follow them. Shri Advani left Pakistan and settled down in India to evade harassment at the hands of the people of Pakistan. I agree that such is the psychology of people, but the reasons for it are different. I want to humbly submit that Shri Advani, who is present in the House, is a great political leader. India from Kashmir to Kanya Kumari is culturally diverse. Recently I was on a tour of Nagaland and there I noticed that both cows and pigs are butchered there. Is the VHP aware that now a days in the country ghee is adulterated with tallow (Interruptions). Some industrialists are indulging in such practices. (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want a clarification whether it is the men of VHP who adulterate ghee with beef or pig tallow. The hon. Members cannot cast aspersion on someone who cannot defend himself in the House.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Same people want to disintegrate India. Muslim population in this country is not insignificant. They account for 18 per cent of the population of the country and Hindus are also living here. My submission to them is not to work for the disintegration of the country in the name of Mandir-Masjid issue. I agree that Ram Temple was there. You support construction of temple at the site of 'Garbhagriha', but my point is that was anyone witness to Ram taking birth there. If anyone witnessed the birth of Ram, then temple must be

constructed there. Nobody was a witness and even then 70 acre of land has been acquired by the trust for Ram Mandir. Not only one, but you can build 11 temples there if you so desire. For this, first of all intention should be clear, if not, the temple is difficult to construct. You are desirous of constructing Ram Temple at the site of 'Garbhagriha', but have you been a witness to the birth of Ram there.

Sir, nobody is a witness to the birth of Ram, but even then 70 acres of land has been acquired by the trust and crores of rupees have been collected by V.H.P for constructing the temple. So if you are Ram worshipper then build not one, but thousands of temples. We are prepared to cooperate with you in this task But if V.H.P. or anybody else tries to inflame passions in the name of Ram Mandir-Masjid controversy, then I am also a Yadav, Hindu worshipper of Ram. This will not be tolerated and everyone like me will try to uncover such goings on .. (Interruptions)

Sir, something needs to be done to check such things. The Government claims that *status quo* as on 15-8-1947, in respect of religious places will be maintained (Interruptions). If you are out to disturb the communal fabric then I am not in favour of it. Neither Krishna in Gita nor Ram favoured these things. Ram was an idealist (Interruptions). We are disciples of Ram, but do not worship masquerading Ram and Sita. Evil designs of masqueraders will not be allowed to succeed. Illi-

teracy has gone up in the country. Children of Harijans and Backwards have also received education. Now the people cannot be befooled as was the case earlier. Now traders and Industrialists will not be allowed to prosper in the country. If you also want participation in power I advise you to disseminate your ideology, work for the welfare of the poor and the country, and also for the integrity of the nation by removing differences among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians Let all the communities prosper in the country and if any community or religion does not get opportunity to prosper, it is difficult to run the country.

Sir, with these words I conclude and also thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Member asked a question about a witness to birth of Ram. My counter question to him is, did he see his father taking birth? (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Probably you are quoting from the cassette. (Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, since he asked a question, it must be replied; I have the reply, I did not refer to these things during my speech (Interruptions)

Did you put this question to the mother of Ram (Interruptions).

***SHRI SUDARSHAN RAY-CHAUDHARY (Sreerampore) :** While

supporting the Private Members Resolution, moved on behalf of our party by Shri Zainal Abedin on last Friday, the 12th of July, 1991, it must be mentioned that this is a matter of hope, that this Resolution is important not only in this august House but also it is equally important for every secular minded people in the country. The people, who right from the beginning of our freedom movement, till now, believed in the policy based on secularism, will support this Resolution. Now what is moved in the Resolution—the move is, that the places of worship, whether of the Hindus, Sikhs, Muslims and Christians, existing at the time of our independence i.e. 15th August, 1947 should maintain the *status quo*. There should not be any decision to change this on any account. Well, it is a matter of regret we have to take this decision after 44 years of independence. After independence, we had to fight against many great problems. Still we are struggling against these problems and poverty and illiteracy are the two major problems. We are still fighting against. While struggling against these problems, the experience we have gained is that if we want to solve the problem of poverty and illiteracy, the main important thing to be maintained is the unity of the people. Now, who are the people scared of the unity of the masses, who are they, that do not want to fight anything based on the unity of the people? They are the people, the capitalist, the landlord, Tatas, Birlas, who even after 44 years of independence, want to keep this poverty, illiteracy, the ill health to remain for ever. Since a

long time, these people have been trying through trickery devices, to foil the united fight of the people. Two devices are adopted by these capitalists; one is to break the democratic set-up. We have seen how our Constitution has been insulted our basic rights have been routed at times. We have had this experience. Even today while we are discussing these issues inside Parliament the Preventive Detention Act is still imposed outside Parliament

It is a matter of pride for me that this act does not exist in my State of West Bengal. Again it is a matter of regret also that my State West Bengal is within a system—a system without the power of another dimension of democracy—the decentralization of power. Well, again my state is deprived of this advantage of decentralization of power. And again this device of centralization of power is prevalent so as to curb the struggle, the agitation of the masses. Even these devices are not enough. It is not enough to deprive of the democratic rights. It is not enough to have centralization of power. There has been a new device, a new strategy that has started since some years back. What is that strategy? The strategy is to foil the united strength of the people. And the most dangerous part of the endeavour has been set, to bring about the fight between two communities, may be Hindu—Muslims or Muslims—Sikhs or Sikhs—Christians. Let the animosity between the communities continue, let them never be united. So the utmost endeavour has been

to vitiate the communal atmosphere in the country. The intention of the people treading this evil path has been to foil, to destroy the unity of the masses so that the poor or the middle class can never stand united, with their heads held high.

We have achieved freedom for more than 44 years. After these long years we find this controversy of temple and mosque has suddenly started a new since last 4 or 5 years. The clamour for the construction of the temple in that very place where the mosque exists. The temple cannot be built anywhere else. Whether Ram Chandra had been a historical or mythological character will be disputed by those who want to argue. But it is a matter of regret that the very basis of controversy is unscientific. If you believe in scientific theory then you can not debate on mythology and historicity. The historical fact is that Babri Masjid had been existing in that very place. This view is supported not only by the Muslims, but also by a larger number of people belonging to the so-called majority community. They believe that Babri Masjid had been existing there, is still there. What is the secret aim of their controversial issue? The aim, the purpose has been to raise this issue afresh so that the secular unity of our people is completely destroyed and broken up.

So we, the CPM party feel that religion was not only reason behind the starting of this controversy. There has been a secular reason too. Well, that well devised plan had been to create separatism, to foster division in the minds of the people in the guise

of religion. If you cannot divide the people, you cannot suppress them. They cannot be oppressed, suppressed, or dominated. If the poor, the labourer, the toiling people of UP unite it will be a great disadvantage for the rich, the landlords, the mill owners, the capitalists class.

Those, who are following this strategy may take oath in the name of religion, in the name of Rām or Krishna or any other deity. But their main aim is to destroy the unity of the people. This has been their target and this has been their strategy.

So we find people who are branded as the religious fundamentalists in our country belong to B.J.P. Party. The BJP leaders may not admit this fact but the opinion of the majority of the country has been on this line. We find the rich, the landlords, the Tatas and Birlas have come forward to support BJP because they do not want that the masses should unite. Well if the poor and the workers of the country unite, the landlords, the rich, mill owners may be in disadvantage. But it is a matter of sorrow that the recognised political party of our country also want to raise this slogan of religion. If we lose our secular set-up, if the poison of communalism spreads in the whole country, then who will be the gainer and who will be the loser? If the poor people do not have secular outlook, they can be easily suppressed. This trend we have witnessed. Of course this situation may be advantageous for some of the middle class, because the economic system of our country has been responsible for the hopelessness, dependence, pessimism

mism among the middle class. This problem has not been solved and if it is not solved, the situation will worsen.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : M. Sudarshan Raychaudhary, you may continue next time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.26 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, July, 20, 1991/Asadha 29, 1913 (Saka).