

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES** **(English Version)**

**Second Session**  
**(Eleventh Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. IV contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

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Corrigenda to the Sanskrit Catalogue

( English Version )

Kolkata, August 2, 1996/Varanasi 17, 1918 ( Saka )

<u>Col. Line</u>	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
1/14	SHRI BASUDEB ANCHALIA	SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA
51/1	Registered on O.T.C	Companies Registered on O.T.C
81/14 (From below)	SHRI MURAROLI NARAYAN	SHRI MURAROLI NARAYAN
117/14 (From below)	SHRI KALLA NALLA BHASKAR	SHRI KALLA NALLA BHASKAR
121/1	SHRI	SHRI
121/1	SHRI KALLA NALLA BHASKAR	SHRI KALLA NALLA BHASKAR
121/1	SHRI	SHRI
141/14 (From below)	SHRI VAI PRAYASH AGARWAL	SHRI VAI PRAYASH AGARWAL
201/14 (From below)	SHRI	SHRI
271/14 (From below)	KASHMIRI	Kashmiri
281/1	SHRI	SHRI
311/14 (From below)	SHRI	SHRI

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**LOK SABHA**

Friday, August 2, 1996/Sravana 11, 1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

**OBITUARY REFERENCE**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of one of our former colleagues Shri Karan Singh Yadav.

Shri Karan Singh Yadav was a Member of Fifth Lok Sabha representing Badaun Parliamentary constituency of Uttar Pradesh during 1971-77.

Earlier, he had been a Member of Uttar Pradesh Vidhan Sabha during 1952-57.

An agriculturist and advocate by profession, Shri Yadav was well-known political and social worker. He served as a trustee of Shiv Narain Dass Nehru Memorial Degree College, Badaun, member of Zila Parishad, Badaun and manager of B.R.S. Kutir College, Barbala.

Shri Karan Singh Yadav passed away on 27th July, 1996 at Badaun at the age of 71 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleague and I am sure that the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved family.

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

11.02 hrs.

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

11.03 hrs.

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[Translation]

**Prices of Coal**

+

\*321. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decontrolled the prices of various grades of coal during the last few months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extra amount likely to be received by coal producing companies as a result of the said price rise;

(c) whether the Government also propose to decontrol the production of coal to open more competition in this sector; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fully decontrol the coal industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT**

(a) and (b). Pricing of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal has been deregulated by the Central Government with effect from 22.3.1996. Pursuant to this, Coal India Limited (CIL) have fixed higher prices of coking coal and A, B & C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 31.3.1996. Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have fixed higher prices for B and C grades of non-coking coal with effect from 19.4.1996.

The additional amounts likely to be earned per year by CIL and SCCL are expected to be around Rs. 984.92 crores and Rs.70.42 crores respectively.

(c) and (d). There is no proposal to decontrol coal production. However, the provisions of the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973 were amended on 9.6.93 to allow coal mining for captive consumption for generation of power, washing of coal obtained from a mine and manufacture of cement. Captive coal mines for production of iron & steel had been allowed before the said amendment.

Under these provisions, 20 companies/State Electricity Boards have been offered captive coal blocks for power generation and iron and steel production so far.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the reply of the hon. Minister, the prices of Coking Coal and A, B, C and D grade non-coking coal were decontrolled with effect from March 22, 1996 and as a result Government have not furnished the figures. Coal India and Singareni Coal Ltd. have claimed to have earned a profit of Rs. 984.92 crores and Rs. 70.42 crores respectively during the current year. I am not satisfied with the contention that profit was earned after decontrol. Sir, it is meaningless to earn profit by increasing the administered prices in place of earning profit through better management and efficiency and increased productivity. This increase in the administered prices results in imbalance in the prices of Coal i.e. the imported Coal becomes cheaper than the indigenous Coal. The Times of India carried a news item in its 27.3.1996 daily.

[English]

"Imported coal in cheaper after price hike by CIL."

[Translation]

The price of the imported coal was Rs.1,520 per tonne and the price of indigenous coal was Rs.1,750 per tonne. We would like to know from the Government whether they have chalked out an action plan to earn profit through better efficiency? If so, the details thereof. As regards increase in administered prices, there has been a persistent demand by the State Government.

MR. SPEAKER : Please put your question instead of repeating it time and again.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : The State Governments have been demanding for years that the royalty calculated on the basis of weight is not fair. I would request the hon. Finance Minister, who is present in the House, to change the policy and calculate royalty base on the price of Coal.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You are not supposed to make speeches, otherwise I will not allow the Minister to answer the question.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : The action plan for increasing the efficiency is contained in the Statement laid on the Table. As regards increase in prices, the last increase was effected in 1994 based on the 1993 index, whereas the increase in 1996 should have been 16.7 per cent based on the C.P. formula but the actual increase was 16 per cent i.e. 0.7 per cent less than the one worked out.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, my question was about the royalty, which has not been answered by the hon. Minister. Sir, we seek your protection, because the States are receiving unfair treatment. The United Front Government is committed to provide social justice to the States in its minimum common programme. This is a long outstanding issue and an assurance was given last time in the House that this issue would be considered favourably. Sir, through you I would like to know from the Government : (a) whether they propose to provide social justice to the States; (b) whether they propose to enforce the advaloram policy? In case they propose to implement the policy of calculating royalty based on price, the date by which a would be implemented?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Sir, calculation of royalty based on weight or price is a policy matter. We had increased the royalty in 1994 and it is revised after every three years. Now this issue would be taken up in October, 1997. A Committee is constituted for the purpose comprising, Secretary and Joint Secretary,

Deptt. of Coal, and the Joint Secretary of the Department of Mines. It has now here decided to include representatives from the coal producing areas or States in the Committee and a policy decision would be taken.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, no assurance has been given as to why advaloram formula cannot be enforced. It is a serious issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to know which issue is not important in the House.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : It is a question of social justice. We seek your protection, Sir...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards Coal India Ltd., Government has written off Rs.2,600 crores in order to cope with the various Government scams. Thereafter a price increase of 20 per cent was effected. The prices of A, B and C grade Coal was increased by 15 per cent. In the case of coking coal, the price increase was as much as 10 per cent, 13 per cent and 20-25 per cent. And on top of it a claim is being made that CIL is making profit. All this has been made possible by waiving a whopping sum of Rs.2,600 crores and effecting a huge increase in the prices. Besides, the entire supply of coal is made to the traders and not the entrepreneurs who are the deserving people and who really contribute towards increasing the national assets. The Coal India is following a policy detrimental to the nation and the society. On the one hand, coal has been decontrolled and on the other hand a massive price hike has been made. Will you please ensure that coal is made available to the genuine users i.e. entrepreneurs or those manufacturing hard coke and will you reconsider the increase in prices? On the one hand you talk of the Minimum Common Programme and social justice and on the other hand the poor are being crushed. Will you look into this aspect?

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as regards increase in the price of coal, it was done with a purpose. B.I.C.P. had recommended that whenever prices of steel are decontrolled, the prices of coal should also be decontrolled because coking coal is primarily used in manufacturing steel. It had also recommended that since A and B grade non-coking coal are used in manufacturing items which are not subject to price control, the prices of these higher grade coal should also be decontrolled and we had decontrolled the prices of coal in accordance with the recommendations of the B.I.C.P.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, Bharat Coking Coal Limited has been referred to BIFR last year as it was declared a sick company. After allowing the subsidiaries of Coal India to increase the prices of both coking and non-coking coal, will this Bharat Coking Coal Limited be able to come out of the debt? This is part (a) of my question.



Now part (b). This is in reply to part (c) of the question that some companies are being offered 20 blocks. The Steel Authority of India has also been offered some blocks for operation, for exploitation of coal. Because there was a proposal that along with the collieries, some washeries which were previously with the Steel Authority of India would also be handed over to SAIL for better production of coal and good quality of coal, as SAIL is not getting coal. Will the Ministry of Coal will consider the proposal to hand over those washeries of Steel Authority of India Limited?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basudeb Acharia, I think, the relevance seems to be remote.

SHRI BASU DEB ARCHARIA : Sir, this is also related. It is part of my question.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not know whether the Minister will answer it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, part (a) of my question, she can reply. I want to know whether by this decision they will be able to come out of debts after allowing the said companies to increase the price of coking and non-coking coal.

Sir, part (b) of my question also, she should be able to reply.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : As regards releasing B.C.C.L. from the control of B.I.F.R., it will be done after price decontrol and restructuring of Coal India Limited.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : I thank you for having provided me this opportunity to ask a question. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to how this time was chosen- 31st March, 1996 and 19th April 1996 - for giving effect to increased prices in respect of A, B, C grades of non-coking and coking coal. The election process had already started by then. The election process having been started already by this time, how is it that the Government chose to give effect to this decision?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : She cannot reply to this question as the Government was yours at that time.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Whatever it is. The Government is a continuous body. It is very important.

Secondly about decontrol, partial deregulation of coal prices, what impact has it got on the sale of coal in the local markets? According to our information, the tender system has been resorted to even in respect of other types of coal and there is a steep resistance to this new system. Tenders are not being floated by local markets in NCL. There is a lot of coal available, but why are you taking recourse to this procedure now? I would like to know whether this new system has been agreed upon by all the subsidiary coal companies.

My third question is...

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot have third, fourth and fifth questions!

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Government of India decontrolled the price on 22.3.1996 and the Coal India issued orders for increasing the prices on 31.3.1996

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I did not get the answer. But I leave it to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now Prof. Rita Verma. Since Achariaji has raised the BCCL point, I thought Prof. Rita Verma should get a chance!

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the first instance, I seek your protection that the hon. Minister should give pointed reply to the pointed questions. Panigarhi ji had asked that after the election process started...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Come on, you ask a question now. Do not probe them, Rita ji.

[Translation]

PROF. RITA VERMA : The hon. Minister had just now observed that with the decontrol in the prices of steel, the decontrol in the prices of coal must follow. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the comparison between the two is not fair as the steel industry has to find a market for its goods whereas the coal industry enjoys a monopoly.

Secondly, will mere increase in the prices release B.C.C.L. from the control of B.I.F.R.? But the prevailing atmosphere of corruption and scams, it may again have to be brought under the control of B.I.F.R. Mere increase in prices will not solve the problem. You will have to take effective measures to anti-corruption. According to figures given in the statements, after effecting an increase in the prices of A and B grade Coal, an additional income of Rs.984.92 crores and Rs.70.42 crores has been earned. Are you aware that this additional income is a big fraud. The B.C.C.L. officials in collusion with the Coal Controller revise the grade every year, or in other words, the D grade Coal is graded a ca class coal next year and the C grade Coal is classified as B grade Coal. This is how an increase in income has shown. Will it be looked into? In case an inquiry is conducted, I will help in the probe by furnishing all the figures available with me. Will you also consider giving a refund to the genuine consumers who have been victims of this fraud?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I think, that is enough will you consider or not?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked about the corruption. In case we find any truth in the allegation, we will conduct a probe.

[English]

**Investment in Large, Medium and Small Scale Industries**

\*322. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made in large, medium and small scale industries during the post liberalisation period from 1991-92 to 1995-96; and

(b) how much of this investment has been made in or proposed for the North Eastern States including Assam?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

State	Industrial Investment Intentions (Numbers)			Proposed Investment		
	LOIs	IEMs	Total	LOIs	IEMs	Total
All India	2369	24971	27340	66537	491410	557947
North Eastern State (Including Assam)	14	66	80	1853	3908	5761

LOIs = Letters of Intent granted for licensable items.

IEMs = Industrial Entrepreneur Memoranda filed for delicensed items.

[English]

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am stunned and flabbergasted to see the figures furnished in reply to my question today. Till this moment, I used to feel that I was an Indian but these figures make me feel that I am a North-East Indian, which is different from being an Indian.

Here in the figures, we find that during the post-liberalisation period, the amount invested in the country, in total, in industries is Rs.5,57,947 crore. Out of that, a paltry Rs.5,761 crore is attributable to the North-East Indian States. This includes about Rs.3,600 crores for the gas cracker project on which the Central Government has been sitting for years, when precious gas is being flared. If that is deducted, then it comes to a very, very insignificant figure.

Then, I have with me figures furnished by the Finance Ministry in answer to my question on the 26th

**STATEMENT**

(a) and (b). The following table shows the Gross Capital Formation in manufacturing (registered and unregistered) during the period 1991-92 to 1994-95 :

	(Rs. in Crores)			
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Manufacturing (R)	19453	22919	25977	35582
Manufacturing (UR)	8260	10313	11044	15467
Total Manufacturing	27713	33232	37021	51049

Sources :- National Account Statistics 1995 and Quick Estimates on National Income, 1994-95.

(R) Registered

(UR) Unregistered

Separate State-wise figures are not available. However the following table shows the investment proposed for All India and the North Eastern States including Assam from 1991-92 (since August, 1991) till 1995-96 :

(Rs. in Crores)

July, 1996. During the post-liberalisation period of three years up to 1995-96, the total capital raised from public issues in 1993-94 was Rs.24,371 crore. Out of that, the total for all the eight States of North-East India amounts to Rs. 5.25 crore only and Rs.5.25 crore out of nearly Rs.25,000 crore comes to 0.0002 per cent. Similarly, in 1995-96, out of more than Rs.20,000 crore raised from public issues, the amount attributable to this region is only Rs.19 crore and that amounts to 0.0009 per cent ... (Interruptions)

MR.SPEAKER : Shri Hazarika, you may kindly put your question.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : This is a very important issue. The new economic policy is going to create two Indias: one, a rich India; the other, a poor India and the poor India will be from Bihar eastwards, including Assam and North-East India. The regional dimension is missing in the new economic policy.

Now, in our obsession with market driven forces to determine economic activities, we are putting the unity and integrity of the country in jeopardy...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : If you want an answer, please do not make a speech here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : My question is this. Does the Government want to make a deviation from this new economic policy and provide funds to public sector undertakings to operate in the North-Eastern States, including Assam, where private investment is not coming because the factors are such that profits cannot be maximised?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I want to erase the impression from the hon. Member's mind. There is no such discrimination between one area and another. For example, the North-Eastern States are getting special treatment from the Government of India. As you may know well, the Government has a list of a special category of States...*(Interruptions)* By way of Central Plan Assistance, they receive ninety per cent as grants as against thirty per cent given to the other category of States.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think he is going into that. The limited question is, since the North-Eastern States could not attract investments due to lack of transport and other infrastructural facilities, under liberalisation scheme whether the Government will try to compensate it by investing more in public sector.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Sir, I will come to that. He made a distinction between pre-reform and post-reform period. I am told that during post-reform period, we have left them at the mercy of the private sector. This is not right in the sense that even during the licensing period, there were backward areas.

According to one particular committee report, during the licensing period, nearly eighty per cent of the gross output of the factories, value added and invested capital, were concentrated in ten States only. The hon. Minister of Finance has come out with a lot of fiscal incentives for the development of infrastructure and we have appointed a working group also. We do our best to bring in more industries to the North-Eastern States. It is deriving the attention of the Government.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, the people of Assam cannot be blamed for thinking that successive Governments of the Centre are perpetuating the legacy of colonial, exploitative and enclave economy left over by the Britishers because hardly anything is being done there. Gas is being flared to take out crude oil and the profits accruing from selling tea are invested outside the State of Assam. All these have got to be rectified in our new economic policy and unless we take certain special measures for the North-East, then it will remain the poor cousin of the rest of the country.

As you know, the insurgency is generated mostly by unemployment and poverty. Therefore, if we have to

combat this menace, immediate measures have got to be taken. My objection is that certain incentives that are referred to by the hon. Minister, are extended to the rest of the country also. If the incentives that are given to Assam are also extended to Maharashtra, no industry will ever come to Assam. I would like to ask whether for accelerating the growth of the economy of the State of Assam in general and for rapid industrialisation in particular. There should also be a separate economic zone for North-Eastern States.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister has already answered that question.

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : My question is whether a separate economic zone would be created to provide special incentives to the North-Eastern States different from other States.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member wants to know whether a separate economic zone will be created.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The special economic zone is a suggestion for action. I would like to tell the hon. Member that there is already a North-East Development Finance Corporation which was created last year. Recently, the hon. Minister of Finance has announced that income would be exempt from Income Tax. It has a share capital of Rs. 100 crore at present. It has started functioning recently. It has made the maiden advance recently and it is doing its best to develop industries there. The hon. Member hails from that area and he knows better. There was a Committee appointed by the Finance Ministry under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bartakur.

The situation is not as bad as it is made out to be. For example, in the educational institutions, both general and technical, the literacy rate is very good. Mizoram alone has achieved 100 per cent literacy. Regarding infrastructure also, the situation is not bad. You cannot think in terms of conventional large scale industry...*(Interruptions)*

That Committee has come out with a certain kind of proposal. In the final analysis, it is said, "The industries having a comparative cost advantage have reached sustainable growth". The Government can give certain props for development. But that cannot be continued for ever. Therefore, they have suggested that there should be more development in the primary sector.

As you know well, the Green Revolution has not started in the North-Eastern areas. For example, in Assam, if paddy land can be made to produce multiple crops, it will enhance agricultural production to 400 to 600 per cent. This is one of the areas yet to be explored.

For example, there is scope for development of sericulture, development of weaving as an industry, horticulture, livestock, forestry etc. Other life-saving sectors can be taken up.

The water areas of the village can be put under scientific fishery. The States may develop major *Bhil* areas.

This Group observed that industry could stand on props of concession only for a short while but can not be sustained in the long run. They have given a long list. This kind of things should be looked into.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Part (b) of the question related to investment in North Eastern States. I am sorry to point out that in comparison to the rest of the country, the investment made in the North Eastern States presents a dismal picture. As against 2369 licenses for the entire country, only 14 licenses have been in the North Eastern States. The hon. Minister, instead of enlightening us about the industrial status of the N.E. states, is diverting our attention by presenting a rosy picture about the rate of literacy in these states. Mr. Speaker, Sir, you also belong to one of the N.E. States and I also had the privilege of being the first lady and we know the plight of these states. Sir, you had rightly observed that because of lack of infrastructure viz. power, railways, roads, the industrialists are not setting up industries there. But we have identified certain areas where food processing industries can be set up because of abundance of pineapple. I would request the industry Minister to approve us whether Government propose to set up a food processing venture in the joint sector? I am laying stress on joint venture because it would involve the private sector also.

[English]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : The North-Eastern region is full of resources - both mineral and agro-based. But the thing is how to develop it. For example, Assam coal is of superior quality. Then, there are China clay, quartz and limestone. All these things are there. But now the Central Government can intervene only with regard to licensed industries in which we can play a role. Otherwise, now we have thrown open the economy.

What is wrong with the North-Eastern region is lack of infrastructure. The emphasis is on infrastructure. That alone can remove the backwardness. The hon. Finance Minister, in his Budget speech, has announced an infrastructure company with a capital of about Rs.5,000 crore. He also announced certain income-tax benefits - some fiscal benefits. These are there. We should also try our best to bring more industries to the North-Eastern areas.

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK : Sir, for the last five years, I have been drawing the attention of the House to share my concern that Orissa has been the most backward State. And Phulbani constituency has

been the worst as it has no industry. That is a chronic problem.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister - after the liberalisation policy has come - whether the Government is thinking of giving priority to those areas which are mostly tribal and backward.

Has the Government got any Action Plan to identify those areas for giving such a priority for getting foreign investment and for improving those areas?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : Even though the question concerns the North-Eastern areas, I can very well tell that in the present liberalised atmosphere, only the investor-friendly environment by the Government can attract industries. Recently, we have also cleared several projects for Orissa.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Sir, earlier there was a Cabinet Sub-Committee to look after the overall development of the North-Eastern region. There are perennial problems and industrial backwardness there. There are a lot of other problems like insurgency, etc. Appreciating these problems, earlier, a Cabinet sub-Committee was formed to look after the overall development of the North-Eastern region. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has disbanded that Cabinet Sub-Committee or whether they are forming a Sub-Committee to look after that region because the problems of the North-East are peculiar in comparison to other parts of the country? May I know the status of that Cabinet Sub-Committee from the hon. Minister?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN : I am sorry to say that I am not aware of any Cabinet Sub-Committee but in this liberalised atmosphere, what we can do is this. There are certain industries which are under the licensed system. In that area, we can play a role and we can make certain investments in the North-Eastern sector. Otherwise, in non-licensed industry, it is up to the private sector and naturally, the private sector will look forward to increase its profit. So, market-friendly states can come forward and attract the private sector. In the meanwhile, we are doing our best, as I have said before, to cater to the development of the North-Eastern region.

SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR : Inter-Ministerial coordination is very much required and in that background, that Sub-Committee was formed.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Ghatowar, that Committee does not come under the purview of the Ministry of Industry. It is with the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Minister of Home Affairs is the Chairman and there are other Ministers also. There is a Committee of Central Ministers for economic development of the North-East where the Home Minister is the Chairman. The question is whether this Committee has been revived or not. I do not think that the Minister is expected to know about this as it is with the Ministry of Home Affairs.

### Committee on Capital Market

\*323. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high power Committee has been set up to prepare a report on the infrastructure agenda for capital markets;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee; and

(c) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report?

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

### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). In October, 1994 the Ministry of Finance constituted an Expert Group on the Commercialisation of Infrastructure Projects under the Chairmanship of Dr. Rakesh Mohan, the then Economic Advisor to the Government of India, Ministry of Industry. Other Members of the Group included the following :

1. Shri K.K. Bhatnagar, Chairman, Housing and Urban Development Corporation.
2. Shri Shitin Desai, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, DSP Financial Consultants.
3. Shri Gajendra Haldea, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.
4. Shri Pratip Kar, Executive Director, Securities and Exchange Board of India.
5. Shri S.K.N. Nair, Consultant (Former Member, Central Electricity Authority and former Member, Telecom Commission).
6. Shri Yogendra Narain, Chairman, National Highways Authority of India.
7. Shri Ravi Parthasarathy, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Limited.
8. Shri R.H. Patil, Managing Director, National Stock Exchange of India.
9. Shri. S.D. Saxena, Financial Adviser, Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited.
10. Dr. Pronab Sen, Economic Adviser, Planning Commission.
11. Shri Pradeep Shah, Managing Director, Indocean Fund Management.
12. Shri Sidharath Shriram, Managing Director, Shriram Industrial Enterprises Limited.
13. Smt. Anita Soni, Deputy Director General, Department of Telecommunications.

14. Shri R. Venkatesan, Chief Officer, Reserve Bank of India.

15. Dr. Arvind Virmani, Adviser, Department of Economic Affairs.

16. Smt. Lalita D. Gupta, Deputy Managing Director, Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (Member Secretary).

The terms of Reference of the Expert Group include, inter alia, to review the existing legal framework governing infrastructure sector and to recommend suitable modifications to facilitate private sector participation, to recommend appropriate institutional arrangements to facilitate raising resources for infrastructure projects; to examine and make recommendations to facilitate Public-Private sector partnership in financing infrastructure projects; and to make recommendations on how private international capital flows can best be harnessed for infrastructure development.

(c) The Expert Group has submitted its report to the Finance Minister on 22nd June, 1996.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the reply it has been stated that the Expert Group had submitted its report to the Finance Minister on June 22, 1996. I would like to know the contents of the recommendations made by the Expert Group and how many of them have been incorporated in the Budget. It has generally been observed that after the presentation of the Budget, the fall in the share market has upset the entire economy. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether a copy of the recommendations would be laid on the Table of the House? In the statement it has been mentioned that there is fluctuation over which they have no control. If the Finance Minister expresses his helplessness, how can he reform the economy and what will be the fate of the country?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the Report of the Committee was presented to me on the 22nd June, 1996 and the Report is being processed.

As far as the major recommendations of the Group are concerned, these deal with fiscal concessions, fiscal issues relating to infrastructure projects, insurance provident fund and pension fund, forex, markets, external commercial borrowings, debt market reforms, regulatory reforms and institutional innovations for developing the debt market. These recommendations are under consideration and decisions will be announced as and when they are taken.

As far as capital market is concerned, I do not think this Report has any bearing on the capital market nor do I think what I have presented in the Budget has a bearing on the capital market. If it is any consolation to

the hon. Member, all I can say is, in six out of the last ten years, the stock market declined after the Budget was presented, particularly, in 1993, 1994 and 1995 but that is completely unrelated to this question.

[Translation]

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : The thrust of the Terms of Reference of the Committee was

[English]

to facilitate raising resources for infrastructure projects and to recommend suitable modifications to facilitate private sector participation.

[Translation]

I would like to know what are the recommendations to maximise private sector participation?

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : This is a voluminous report running into over thousand pages. By next weeks I shall place copies of this report in the library of Parliament. This report must generate a very wide debate because there are very important recommendations in this report.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum) : Would you place this report on the Table of the House?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Well, I can do that; I can also lay it in Parliament early next week. I can lay it on the Table of the House when Parliament resumes next. But I would lay it in Parliament Library next week. It is a voluminous Report. We want to print it properly and place it. It is under printing now.

Sir, the Terms of Reference are : To review the existing legal framework governing infrastructure sector and to recommend suitable modifications to facilitate private sector participation; to recommend appropriate institutional arrangement to facilitate raising resources for infrastructure projects; to examine and make recommendations to facilitate public-private sector partnership in financing infrastructure projects; and to make recommendations on how private international capital flows could best be harnessed for infrastructure development.

Even if we accept all these recommendations and implement them, a substantial part of the investment in infrastructure would still come from the public sector. I lay great emphasis on public investment in infrastructure. I would encourage private sector participation and I would also encourage public sector-private sector partnership in infrastructure.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Sir, my supplementary relates to the answer and not to the question. It is because the question relates to capital market and the answer given is on infrastructure.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The question is not on capital market.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Yes, it is. In fact, the question is titled as 'capital market.'

The Common Minimum Programme of the United Front Government says that the minimum investment needed for infrastructure is to the tune of 200 billion dollars. This is almost equivalent to rupees seven lakh crore. In this year's Budget there has been a provision for targeting only rupees ten billion dollars of FDI into various sectors including the infrastructure sector. The authorised capital of the new finance companies is Rs.5,000 crore but the capital outlay is Rs.100 crore. So, probably we would require a lot of time to really reach this figure as anticipated - 200 billion dollars - and which is needed for investment in the infrastructure sector.

So, my question to the hon. Minister would be, first, whether this infrastructure related investment is going to be targeted for the under-developed areas like the Konkan, and particularly would be used for providing drinking water and for construction of roads in these under-developed areas. Secondly, I would like to know whether the Government would provide counter-guarantees to foreign investors or not. We have always seen that a lot of investment is coming but there is a difficulty in getting the counter-guarantees. Does the Report recommend for providing counter-guarantees? If the State Governments are coming forward to give guarantees, then would the Central Government provide the counter-guarantees? If so, on what terms and whether the under-developed areas would be privileged to receive such investments?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, my good friend has asked a number of questions. Let me begin with IDFC.

IDFC will have a total capital of Rs.5,000 crore.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : That is the authorised capital.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : What I have provided this year is not Rs.100 crore but Rs.1,000 crore in the Budget - Rs.500 crore in the Budget and Rs.500 crore would be the share of the RBI. I think you are wrong by a factor of 10.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : The provision made in the Budget is for Rs.100 crore in the Budget.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : No. Rs.500 crore for the IDFC and Rs.500 crore would be the share of RBI. Rs. 100 crore is for NABARD.

Sir, I would like my learned friend to go out and tell people that we have provided for a sum of Rs.1000 crore and not a sum of Rs.100 crore.

Sir, secondly, as far as estimate is concerned, it is true that the CMP did estimate that our requirement would be about 200 billion dollars over the next five years.

This report places the requirement between 115 billion dollars to 130 billion dollars. But then, when the expert group relegated the matter to sectoral experts, they sectorally made recommendations which indicate the total requirement to be about 175 billion dollars to 180 billion dollars. So, whether we are talking about 130 billion dollars as the report says, or 200 billion dollars as the CMP says, the requirement for infrastructure is massive. Unless we find the funds, public funds, private funds, and semi-public funds, we will not be able to make India's infrastructure anywhere near world-class.

What is the definition of infrastructure? As far as the Government is concerned, today, I mean until the Budget, we had included roads, highways, bridges, new airports' ports and rail systems as infrastructure. In the current budget I have added four other areas - irrigation, water supply, sanitation and sewerage systems. Today we have ten areas which qualify for infrastructure. We have taken a number of steps; the hon. Member referred to some. I have extended the five year tax holiday under Section 88(i) (a) to all infrastructure investments; I have given an additional exemption of Rs.10,000 under Section 88; I have made infrastructure funds pass through funds without any tax liability; we have set up the IDFC; and we have levied a special customs duty of two per cent to raise funds which will be matched with what we will invest in infrastructure.

Now, these funds will necessarily have to go into the areas where infrastructure is poor and that will take care of the backward areas, the backward States of this country. As my learned friend Shri Maran said a little while ago, in order to receive these funds, in order to absorb these funds in infrastructure, you must have proper investment and market-friendly climate in these States. Unless State Governments also gear themselves up - like Maharashtra has done, like Gujarat has done - to receive these investments, you will not get the benefit of the any kind of funds. But I will do my best through the IDFC to channelise a bulk of the investment into the backward States. If I may take the permission of my learned friend to answer the North-Eastern Members, we will see that a substantial portion goes to the North-East also.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : What about the counter guarantees?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : It is not our intention to give any counter guarantees to any new projects.

### Foreign Debt

+  
\*324. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :  
SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount India owes to global and domestic creditors during each of the last three years;

(b) the amount paid to global and domestic creditors in the form of interest and principal during the above period, year-wise; and

(c) the amount of loan and interest payable to domestic creditors during the above period; and

(d) the present position in respect of global and domestic loans?

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

### STATEMENT

(a) to (d). External debt and debt service of the country during the last three years are as under :-

#### External Debt Outstanding (End of period)

(US \$ million)

March 94	March 95	September 95*
92,695	9,042	93,843

\* Latest available

#### External Debt Service

(US \$ million)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96@
Principal	4,475	6,825	8,166
Interest	3,818	4,130	4,476

@ Provisional

Internal debt and either liabilities of the Government of India are as under :-

#### Cumulative Internal Debt and other liabilities of Central Govt.

(Rs. Crores)

March 94	March 95	March 96@
4,30,323	4,87,382	5,52,744

@ Revised Estimates.

#### Debt Service on account of internal Debt and other liabilities of Central Government

(Rs. Crores)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Principal	58,482	57,562	63,963
Repayments* Interest	33,017	40,023	47,101

\* Excluding discharge of 91 days Treasury Bills. Reserve Funds and Deposits not bearing interest and suspense transactions.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, borrowing as a concept cannot be rejected, if it is needed, if the quantum is manageable, and if it is utilised properly. It seems that the Government in the last several years has failed on all these fronts, and we are almost

at the doorsteps of a debt trap. The real worry is the use of debt. If we use it properly, it can be a boon; if we do not use it properly, it can be a curse.

In this regard, I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister as to what is the quantum and percentage of unutilised external debt in the last three years, what are the commitment charges paid by us on it, and what steps the Government proposes to take to increase the utilisation of external debt?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question was answered only three-four days ago at great length. This question which is now put to me does not relate to unutilised debts. Unutilised aid, which is concessional aid, is a completely separate question and I had answer it in great detail.

But, talking from my memory again, the commitment charges in the last three years have been a shade under Rs.60 crore per year. We do not pay interest charges until we actually draw the amount. We have to pay only a commitment charge.

Again talking from memory, the unutilised external aid, the concessional aid - what is called concessional aid is really borrowing - is about Rs.50,000 crore. Sir, this question deals with the internal and external debt to the country and the amount actually drawn.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No, naturally it will involve. How are you using it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I am not hesitating to answer. That is a separate question for which I have to get some tables. I do not have those tables with me I would send them to you. I answered it either in this House or in the Rajya Sabha two days ago ... *(Interruptions)* Only two days ago I answered all this. I am not... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the second important query is about the external debt and the debt service ratio.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : That is a relevant question.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Subject to correction, at the present stage, our debt service ratio is to the tune of 25 per cent to 26 per cent. Now, what we see today is that in order to manage this debt service ratio we must increase the exports and our invisible receipts should also increase. Now the last two successive economic surveys show concern about the increase in exports and invisible receipts also. In this situation how the hon. Minister of Finance would like to decrease the debt service ratio? What steps would he like to take in this respect?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, the debt service ratio has indeed declined from 1994-95 to 1995-96, although marginally. The debt service ratio is defined as debt service payment as a percentage of current receipts. In 1994-95, the debt service ratio was 26.63 per cent; in

1995-96, it was 25.64 per cent, a decline of one per cent largely because exports grew by about 21 per cent last year. In the last three years, exports have grown by about 20 per cent in dollar terms.

But, there is also another ratio which is also relevant, that too, the debt to GDP ratio, where there has been a sharp decline. In 1991-92, that too the GDP ratio was 41 per cent; next year, it came down to 39.80 per cent; the year after, it was 36.26 per cent; In 1994-95, 32.97 per cent; and in 1995-96 29.13 per cent. So, the debt to GDP ratio is declining very sharply and has declined by varying percentage points. I do not think we are anywhere near a debt trap. Although, I would be the first to say, as we have said in the External Debt Survey Report, that it is a matter of concern and I share the hon. Member's concern that we must ensure that the current receipts continue to be high, exports grow at a very fast rate and our GDP growth is also maintained at over seven per cent. If the GDP growth is over seven per cent and exports continued to grow at over 20 percent and if all of us together make sensible economic policies to receive... *(Interruptions)* If all of us together make sensible economic policies to receive invisible receipts, to receive tourists to the country, I do not think there is any problem about managing it... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Just half a minute, Sir.

Mr. Finance Minister, at any time has the Government made any study between the external debt and the exports? Has the rise in external debt co-related to the rise in exports and what is the impact on it?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Actually, if you look at the figures in the answer, in March, 1995, the external debt was 99 billion dollars; in September, 1995, it declined to 93.8 billion dollars. But I would straightaway say, of decline of about 5.2 billion dollars - 66 percent - two-thirds is accounted by the appreciation of the dollar and one-third is by repayment. While I will not take credit for the entire decline of 5.2 - I am entitled to take credit, the Government is entitled to take credit - it has repaid a debt of 1.7 billion dollars. So, we are confident that our growth in exports and our growth in GDP will give us enough revenues to repay the debt. This debt will not come down to zero in a short time. We are confident that the debt is completely manageable. You know as well as I do, the proportion of short term debt in this total debt is less than five per cent ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know when will country be free from the debt scourge? Have the Government chalked out any plan to rid the country of the curse of debt?

*[English]*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I do not think it is a good idea to be completely debt free. It is not good



economics. What is a debt? Debt means we are using the savings of another country. If the savings of another country can be used in our country that is good. What is important is what the hon. Member Shri Mahajan mentioned and that is, are we in a position to service that debt without detriment to our macro-economic stability?

**SHRI S. BANGARAPPA :** Sir, keeping in view the position prevailing in Mexico and keeping in view the strength of production and export in our country, are you in a position to say that our country's financial situation is well enough or to say that we have not yet reached an alarming stage as far as raising of these loans - domestic or global - is concerned? People are meetings those demands to clear off the debts.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** Sir, I am not an expert on Mexico but I have read some papers on the Mexican crisis which led to a collapse. The real reason was that Mexico had a very high Proportions of short-term debt and their management of the currency was very poor. But anyway, I am not drawing any comfort from that fact. All I am saying is that our export growth is high. Our GDP is growing between six per cent and seven per cent a year. If we continue to pursue the policies which will attract foreign investment. The NRI deposits as well as earnings through tourism, it will be good. As long as foreign inflows in the country are good, there is no danger of a debt trap. The External Debt Report says: "It is a matter of concern." But I will not use any harsher or stronger word like "alarming". We must be very careful and prudent in managing the debt. But we are confident that we can manage our debt.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :** Firstly, I am intrigued by the figure. In terms of his Budget statement, our debt servicing in the current year would be Rs. 60,000 crore. Last year, it was Rs. 52,000. But as I add up, the figures do not exist. For instance, at the end of September, 1995 the interest payment for external debt was 4476 million dollars and the internal interest payment was Rs. 47,000 crore. These two together would come to Rs. 60,000 crore. While his statement says, at the end of the current year, it is Rs. 52,000 crore.

**MR. SPEAKER :** I you want an answer, put your question quickly.

**SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE :** It is very easy to manage the debt service ratio. It is because we have a growth rate of seven per cent and inflation rate of 10 percent. So, you take into account this 17 percent as an addition.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM :** I am very grateful for the second part. It is very supportive. But the first question is indeed very perceptive. The external debt service of 4.4 billion dollars is the debt servicing not only on Government account but also on private, and commercial account. That debt servicing includes commercial borrowings. The figures add up to the last rupee. The

domestic debt servicing is Rs. 47,101 crore. The external debt servicing on Government account is Rs. 4899 crore. The total comes to Rs. 52,000 crore. This 4.4 billion dollars includes, not only Government debt servicing but it also includes debts contracted by private or commercial companies, the exports etc. Those figures are not addable.

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

### Market for Textile Industry

\*325. **SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian textiles and garment industry is losing its market abroad because of not enforcing quality control and delay in delivery schedules; and

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

**THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):**  
(a) There are no reports of our textiles and garment industry as a whole losing their market abroad because of not enforcing quality control and delays in adhering to delivery schedules. However, it may be true for some individual exporters.

(b) Does not arise.

### Delay in Export Proceeds by MMTC

\*326. **SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Economic Times dated June 27, 1996 under captioned "MMTC blacklisted for export proceeds delay";

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in realisation of the export proceeds; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLABULLI RAMAIAH) :** (a) to (c). The news item has come to Government's attention. It may be clarified that MMTC had not been "blacklisted" for delay in realisation of export proceeds. The Reserve Bank of India had issued certain directions on the subject of MMTC in January, 1996. These directions were withdrawn as soon as MMTC represented the matter with RBI in February, 1996. It may be pointed out that as against total exports by MMTC of Rs. 1,320 crores in 1995-96, the outstandings as on 31st December '95 were only Rs. 50.11 crores, i.e. less than 5%. The reasons for delay in the realisation of export proceeds include non-payment for wheat exports by a

country due to financial stringency, non-payment due to bankruptcy of overseas buyers, and commercial disputes, etc. MMTC have taken legal steps wherever feasible to realise the export proceeds.

[Translation]

### Closure of Textile Mills

\*327. SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :  
SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers working in the textile mills of Gujarat;

(b) whether a large number of workers of textile mills in Gujarat have been rendered jobless due to closure;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons for closure;

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to revive those mills; and

(e) the assistance provided by the Government for modernisation and renovation of sick/closed textile mills of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) The number of workers working in textile mills of Gujarat is 1.78 lakhs approx.

(b) and (c). As on 31.3.96, no Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mill was closed under I.D. Act in Gujarat. 23 mills were closed under liquidation and 32 mills were closed mainly due to financial difficulties. Number of workers affected was 93741.

(d) and (e). Government has set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) to enquire into the working of sick industrial companies and to prepare and sanction, as appropriate, schemes for their revival.

Government had disbursed an amount of Rs. 180.00 crs. as on 31.12.93 as modernisation assistance in respect of 47 cases in Gujarat under Textile Modernisation Fund Scheme.

[English]

### NTC Mills in M.P.

\*328. SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of mills operated by National Textile Corporation;

(b) the details of the scheme, if any for their rationalisation and smooth operation;

(c) the main points being considered by the Government under rationalisation policy; and

(d) the steps taken by the Union Government to provides sufficient funds for their smooth operation and implementation of rationalisation scheme particularly in the units of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) There are 120 nationalised mills under the National Textile Corporation Ltd. (Holding Company) and its nine subsidiary corporations.

(b) to (d). On account of obsolete machinery due to lack of modernisation and acute shortage of working capital, the NTC has been incurring losses leading to its net worth erosion. As a result, 8 out of 9 subsidiary corporations of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. Government has approved a revised Turn Around Plan in 1995 for NTC mills involving modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable units, rationalisation of surplus workforce etc. This plan is generally in line with the modernisation plan prepared by the Textile Research Associations. The funds for modernisation will be raised from sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. The revised Turn Around Plan covers the seven mills under NTC (MP) Ltd. Out of the 7 mills under NTC (MP), 2 unviable mills will be merged into one viable unit and the remaining six units are proposed to be modernised at an outlay of Rs. 203.69 crores. The modernisation plan has been placed before the BIFR for their approval before implementation. Meanwhile to avoid any hardship to the workers, Government has been meeting the shortfall faced by NTC mills in payment of wages and salaries.

[Translation]

### Fire in Coal Mines

\*329. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether fire in the various coal mines of the country particularly in Dhanbad has endangered the lives of lakhs of people;

(b) if so, the details of lose of life and property due to fire in coal mines; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to control and extinguish fire to save the coal reserves and lives and property of lakhs of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. However, shallow coal mine fires particularly in Jharia Coalfield in Dhanbad District are likely to affect persons living around these fires necessitating their shifting from the fire areas.

(b) While no loss of life has been reported, damage to some property has occurred due to these shallow coal mine fires. The loss of coal in these fires is unavoidable on account of the coal being the main

carbonaceous fuel. An estimate of coal reserves lost due to these unapproachable fires is very difficult. However, in respect of Jharia Coalfield fires which have the majority of such fires, a study made a few years ago could very roughly estimate that coal reserves to the extent of about 37 million tonnes have been damaged in these fires.

(c) The main problems arising of these shallow fires exist in Jharia Coalfield of Dhanbad District in Bihar where twenty two fire projects to deal with such fires at an estimated cost of Rupees 114.57 crores are under various stages of implementation. With the objective of finding a long-term solution to the problem of Jharia Coalfield fires, a diagnostic study under the Jharia Mine Fire Control Technical Assistance Project, assisted by World Bank, has been completed in June, 1996. Action on preparation of final report has been initiated by the consultant engaged for the purpose.

[English]

#### Credit Card Facility

\*330. SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the nationalised banks that have provided credit care facilities to their customers;

(b) whether these banks have gone under losses on account of defaults on the part of the credit card holders;

(c) if so, the accumulated amount of defaults on this account as on date, bank-wise; and

(d) the remedial measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The following nationalised banks have issued credit cards on their own or in collaboration with other banks :

1. Bank of Baroda
2. Indian Overseas Bank
3. Andhra Pradesh
4. Allahabad Bank
5. Canara Bank
6. Corporation Bank
7. Vijaya Bank
8. Punjab & Sind Bank
9. Central Bank of India
10. Bank of India
11. Bank of Maharashtra
12. United Bank of India
13. Union Bank of India

14. Syndicate Bank
15. Oriental Bank of Commerce
16. Dena Bank

(b) and (c). As per the information available with Reserve Bank of India the following nationalised banks have reported write off of losses on account of defaults on credit cards during the last 3 years :

(Rs. in lakhs)

S.No.	Name of the Bank	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.	Syndicate Bank	0.41	Nil	Nil
2.	Union Bank of India	Nil	Nil	0.01
3.	Bank of India	Nil	3.12	Nil
4.	Vijaya Bank	Nil	0.02	12.94
5.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	Nil	Nil	0.36
6.	Bank of Baroda	Nil	0.23	4.45
7.	Andhra Pradesh	1.06	3.82	9.71
8.	Canara Bank	1.75	10.69	16.86

(d) The banks have taken a series of steps such as hotlisting the credit cards of the defaulters, denying renewal of cards, following up by personal visits, issue of legal notices and filing suits against defaulters, etc. for recovery of the overdues. Banks are issuing credit cards only on selective basis, after satisfying themselves about the credentials of the potential cardholder.

#### Currency Printing Press, Mysore

\*331. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Currency Printing Press at Mysore has started functioning;

(b) if so, when;

(c) the total amount spent for the establishment of the above Press;

(d) the number of employees working in the above Press;

(e) whether the Government propose to give preference in employment to those persons who have given their lands and the local people; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Since June 1, 1996.

(c) Rs. 228 crores (approx.) at the end of May, 1996.

(d) 234 at the end of June, 1996.

(e) and (f). In the matter of recruitment of staff, Government of India guidelines are being followed.

### Seizure of Gold at Indira Gandhi International Airport

\*332. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large quantity of gold biscuits concealed in the dry ice compartment of food-trolley were seized from a Frankfurt-Delhi Lufthansa flight at Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi on July 8, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount of gold seized at Indira Gandhi International Airport during each of the last three years and the value thereof;

(d) the details of the persons arrested in this regard; and

(e) the present status of the prosecutions launched against them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The Customs authorities at the Indira Gandhi International Airport, Delhi seized 184 gold biscuits weighing 21.45 Kgs. valued at Rs. 1.09 crores found concealed in the dry ice compartment of two food trollies of Lufthansa airlines flight LH 760 which arrived on 9.7.1996 from Frankfurt. Investigations have revealed that seized gold was attempted to be smuggled by two passengers in collusion with four staff members of a flight catering unit. All the accused persons have been arrested.

The details of seizure of gold and the number of persons arrested at the Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last three years are as follows :

Year	Quantity (In Kgs)	Value (Rs. in Lakhs)	No. of Persons Arrested
1993-94	64.459	287.45	33
1994-95	54.619	255.11	25
1995-96	105.830	512.60	27
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	30.000	158.88	4

The details of persons prosecuted in connection with smuggling of gold through the Indira Gandhi

International Airport and status of prosecution are as follows :

Year	No. of Persons Prosecuted	Status of Prosecution		
		Evidence Stage	Decided	Absconding
1993-94	34	28	5	1
1994-95	19	15	3	1
1995-96	27	27	-	-
1996-97 (upto 30.6.96)	3	3	-	-

[Translation]

### Foreign Investment by NRIs

\*333. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA :

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the value of foreign investment made by the non-resident Indians during each of the last three years; and

(b) the details of the investments made in the backward areas out of the above investment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The investment proposals from the Non-Resident Indians approved during the last three years are as under :

(Rs. in Crores)		
1993	1994	1995
3249.92	5123.41	6416.06

(b) Details of investments made by the NRIs in backward areas are not centrally maintained.

[English]

### Deposits Attracting Scheme of Banks

\*334. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Bank of India or any other public sector bank propose to evolve a scheme to compete with the non-banking financial companies in the matter of attracting deposits;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the functioning of non-banking financial companies are affecting adversely the functioning of nationalised banks; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof and the corrective measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The size as well as the diversity of functions of SBI and other public sector banks make them non-comparable with NBFCs and hence NBFCs do not pose a very major challenge to SBI/other public sector banks. Depositors who patronise banks do so for many reasons including security of deposits, package of services offered like remittances and collection of cheques and other investments, safe custody facilities etc, which are not offered by the NBFCs.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Reward Money

\*335. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to increase the reward amount for the persons helping in the arrest of smuggling of narcotics; and

(b) if so the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Incentives for Promotion of Exports

\*336. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have worked out a package of incentives for promotion of exports during the last three years, if so, results achieved thereunder, year-wise and industry-wise;

(b) the new strategy of Government to give further impetus to boosting of exports and the details thereof alongwith the projections for the current year and next two years;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce suitable changes in the legal framework of the country to bring it on international standard to facilitate promotion of international trade;

(d) if so, the details of changes proposed;

(e) whether the Government have received complaints regarding serious misuse of incentives provided for exports;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the action taken against the fraudulent parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (g). Efforts to promote Exports is a continuous process which is reviewed from time to time based on, *inter alia*, inter-action with trade and industry. The incentive schemes for export promotion include duty free/ concessional duty import of inputs required for export production, duty drawback facility, refund of terminal excise duty, tax concessions on export profits, concessional export credit and Exchange Earners Foreign Currency (EEFC) account scheme. Results achieved are reflected in the sustained annual growth of exports between 18% to 21% in dollar terms over the last three years, resulting in exports during 1995-96 of US \$ 31.83 Billion compared to exports of US \$ 18.4 Billion in 1992-93.

2. Sectors which have recorded significant export growth include engineering goods, electronics, computer software, chemicals and related products, gem and jewellery, textiles etc. Data on yearwise and industry-wise results is contained in the publications of Director General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics on Trade Statistics which are available in the Parliament Library.
3. Exports are being accorded national priority so as to sustain an annual growth rate of 20% during the 9th plan period. The new initiatives taken in this regard include the setting up of the India Brand Promotion Equity Fund and operationalisation of the Crucial Investment Balancing Scheme. The long term Export Policy for the 9th Five Year Plan will also be formulated to achieve the projected growth in exports. Efforts are also being made to involve State Governments in export promotion.
4. Government is continuously monitoring developments in international trade with a view to meeting the international standards including on matters related to the legal framework.
5. Some complaints have been received alleging general misuse of the Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme relating to non-existence of applicant firms, over invoicing and misdeclaration. Action has been initiated under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, 1992 to deal with such cases. Investigations however, have so far not revealed any large scale violation of the incentive schemes under the policy. The schemes are also constantly monitored with a view to identifying anomalies during its implemented and for making amendments wherever necessary.

[Translation]

### Export of Floricultural Products

\*337. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is great potentiality of exporting floricultural products from the National Capital Territory of Delhi;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of floriculture; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Exports of floricultural products during the last three years i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

(Value Rs. in Lakhs)

	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
(i) Cut Flowers Fresh	99.64	299.81	1013.83
(ii) Other Cut Flowers and Flower Buds.	1092.12	1957.80	3411.38

(Source : DGCI & S. Calcutta)

State-wise data of exports is not maintained. No study has been conducted by this Ministry to assess the potential of exports of floricultural products exclusively from the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to boost the export of floricultural products, inter-alia, include :

1. Providing Financial assistance for development of infrastructure such as refrigerated/insulated vans and setting up of pre-cooling/cold storage units;
2. Establishing five walk-in-type cold storages at airports (including Delhi) for export consignments awaiting clearance;
3. Setting up of a dedicated facility for handling export cargos of perishable products including cut flowers and tissue culture plants at international airport at Delhi;
4. Streamlining and simplification of plant quarantine procedures for expeditious clearance of cargo;
5. Concessional customs duty on specified goods required for Green Houses;
6. Making available the benefits of duty free imports under the 100% Export Oriented Units/Export Processing Zones Schemes to units engaged in floriculture and permitting sale of 50% of their production in the Domestic Tariff Area;

7. Implementation of a UNDP-assisted Project on Floriculture for enhancing production and exports of cut flowers. Some of the activities to be undertaken in this project include of crop manuals, undertaking market surveys in international fairs/exhibitions.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

### Economic Cooperation with Thailand

\*338. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish economic cooperation with Thailand;

(b) if so, the areas in which Indo-Thailand economic cooperation is proposed to be established;

(c) whether any agreement has been signed between the two countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. India and Thailand are co-operating extensively in trade, investment, industrial and other economic areas.

(c) and (d) A Bilateral Trade Agreement, an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and an Air Services Agreement are amongst the bilateral agreements that have been signed officially between the two sides.

### Export of Tobacco

\*339. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of tobacco exported during 1995-96;

(b) the amount of foreign exchange earned as a result thereof country-wise;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase its export during 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The total quantity and value of Tobacco exported during 1995-96 is as under :

Tobacco	Qty. (tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
Unmanufactured	61517	297.31
Manufactured	9913	68.50
Total	71430	365.81

Country-wise details are available in the monthly bulletin/Annual numbers of the 'Foreign Trade Statistics of India' published by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI & S), Calcutta copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

(c) to (e). Keeping in view the export performance during 1995-96 and the prospects of exports during 1996-97, Government has fixed the targets for exports as mentioned below :

Tobacco	Qty. (tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
Unmanufactured	65000.00	325.00
Manufactured	11000.00	77.00
Total	76000.00	402.00

### Foreign Collaboration in Indian Projects

\*340. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the foreign countries who have offered to set up their projects in private sector/public sector in India, country-wise and project-wise; and

(b) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). The details of projects approved, both country-wise and sector-wise involving foreign direct investment during the post policy period i.e. from 01.08.91 to 31.05.96 are given in the enclosed Statement-I and Statement-II attached respectively.

### STATEMENT-I

*Countrywise Approvals for Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Technology Agreement during the Post Policy period from August 1991 to May 1996*

(Rs. in Crore)

S. No.	Name of country	Total Approvals			Amount of Foreign Invest.
		Total	Tech.	Fin.	
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Afganistan	1	0	1	0.10
2.	Australia	169	75	94	2057.40
3.	Armenia	1	0	1	0.10
4.	Austria	139	95	44	96.23
5.	Bahamas	4	0	4	9.35
6.	Bahrain	7	0	7	7.52
7.	Argentina	2	1	1	18.38
8.	Belgium	68	28	40	434.45

1	2	3	4	5	6
9.	Belorussia	1	0	1	0.05
10.	Bermuda	8	1	7	176.07
11.	Brazil	11	8	3	0.12
12.	British Virginia	13	7	6	16.22
13.	Bulgaria	3	2	1	1.91
14.	Canada	118	58	60	1558.18
15.	Cayman Island	2	0	2	6.50
16.	Channel Island	5	1	4	3.25
17.	China	47	30	17	669.96
18.	Croatia	1	1	0	0.00
19.	Czech Republic	24	18	6	7.77
20.	Cyprus	5	2	3	0.47
21.	Denmark	92	39	53	256.96
22.	Estonia	2	0	2	7.31
23.	Finland	60	35	25	82.03
24.	Chile	1	1	0	0.00
25.	France	293	156	137	1299.64
26.	Greece	2	0	2	0.60
27.	Germany	1060	591	469	2981.89
28.	Hawai Islands	2	2	0	0.00
29.	Hongkong	105	22	83	990.91
30.	Hungary	14	6	8	2.43
31.	Indonesia	8	2	6	315.58
32.	Ireland	36	10	26	208.88
33.	Isle of Man	2	1	1	0.73
34.	Israel	95	47	48	4159.78
35.	Italy	413	242	171	1112.79
36.	Liechtenstein	1	1	0	0.00
37.	Japan	573	391	182	2926.66
38.	Kazakhstan	1	0	1	1.50
39.	Korea (North)	1	0	1	0.17
40.	Lebanon	2	2	0	0.00
41.	Korea (South)	227	86	141	2636.46
42.	Kuwait	8	0	8	444.73
43.	Latvia	3	1	2	0.26
44.	Luxembourg	9	0	9	57.50
45.	Malaysia	48	9	39	1507.38
46.	Mauritius	116	7	109	3359.34
47.	Mexico	9	2	7	252.42
48.	Maldives	1	0	1	0.60
49.	NRI	549	5	544	3575.21
50.	Nepal	2	0	2	3.02
51.	Netherlands	439	197	242	1926.11
52.	New Zealand	20	13	7	50.69
53.	Nigeria	2	0	2	1.54
54.	Norway	30	14	16	9.15
55.	Oman	9	1	8	566.23
56.	Panama	3	1	2	2.55
57.	Papua New Guinea	1	0	1	1.92
58.	Phillipines	34	18	16	351.08
59.	Poland	12	9	3	4.95
60.	Portugal	12	7	5	188.92

1	2	3	4	5	6	1	2	3	4	5	6
61. Qatar		1	0	1	4.53	79. U.K.		933	502	431	4532.25
62. Romania		1	1	0	0.00	80. U.S.A.		1731	836	895	17312.36
63. Russia		80	22	58	141.06	81. Ukraine		11	4	7	1.58
64. Saudi Arabia		12	1	11	618.29	82. Venezuela		1	1	0	0.00
65. Singapore		235	60	175	1471.24	83. Uruguay		1	0	1	0.00
66. Scotland		2	1	1	0.05	84. Euro Issues		28	0	28	6931.44
67. South Africa		8	6	2	16.02	85. West Indies		3	0	3	1.95
68. Slovakia		4	3	1	0.05	86. Yugoslavia		3	1	2	2.45
69. Spain		43	26	17	36.84	87. Unindicated Country		27	8	19	20.98
70. Sri Lanka		12	0	12	7.72	88. Malta		1	1	0	0.00
71. Sweden		114	72	42	1065.90	89. Gibraltar		1	0	1	98.21
72. Slovenia		2	2	0	0.00	90. Maldiva		1	1	0	0.00
73. Switzerland		347	170	177	1513.20	91. Sudan		1	0	1	0.03
74. Taiwan		87	46	41	48.91	92. Jordon		1	0	1	0.01
75. Tatarstan		1	0	1	0.05	93. Vietnam		1	0	1	0.03
76. Thailand		63	20	43	2390.41	94. San Salvador		1	1	0	0.00
77. Turkey		1	1	0	0.00						
78. U.A.E.		29	3	26	490.73	Total		8713	4034	4679	71058.23

## STATEMENT - II

*Sector-wise Break-up of Foreign Collobration Cases approved During the Post Policy Period from 1.08.91 to 31.05.96*

(Rs. in Crores)

S.No.	Name of Industry	Total	Total Tech.	Fin.	FDI amount approved	% with total FDI approved
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	METALLURGICAL INDUSTRIES					
	Ferrous	217	136	81	3841.10	5.41
	Non-Ferrous	58	28	30	768.73	1.08
	Special Alloys	40	27	13	25.52	0.04
	Misc. (other Items)-Metallurgy	22	16	6	46.66	0.07
	Total	337	207	130	4682.01	6.59
2.	FUELS					
	Power	24	1	23	6469.52	9.10
	Oil Refinery	106	49	57	6917.10	9.73
	Others (Fuels)	70	26	44	922.86	1.30
	Total	200	76	124	14309.48	20.14
3.	Boilers and Steam Generating Plants	53	31	22	96.74	0.14
4.	Prime Movers Other than Electrical	33	20	13	17.77	0.03
5.	ELECTRICALS EQUIPMENT					
	Electrical Equipment	922	577	345	1514.45	2.13



1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Computer Software Industry	341	43	298	1200.45	1.69
	Electronics	227	86	141	1327.74	1.87
	Others (S/W)	21	12	9	6.81	0.01
	Total	1511	718	793	4049.45	5.70
6.	TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
	Telecommunications	151	74	77	1320.14	1.86
	Radio Paging	34	1	33	431.76	0.61
	Cellular Mobile	77	1	76	17169.60	24.16
	Telephone Service					
	Total	262	76	186	18921.49	26.63
7.	TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY					
	Automobile Industry	331	221	110	1733.77	2.44
	Air/Sea Transport	51	6	45	1250.84	1.76
	Passenger Cars	11	0	11	1715.02	2.41
	Others (Transport)	33	18	15	210.21	0.30
	Total	426	245	181	4909.84	6.91
8.	Industrial Machinery	838	569	269	1510.41	2.13
9.	Machine Tools	101	54	47	119.99	0.17
10.	Agricultural Machinery	27	20	7	217.77	0.31
11.	Earth-Moving Machinery	36	25	11	12.97	0.02
12.	Miscellaneous Mechanical & Engineering	298	136	162	370.15	0.52
13.	Commercial, Office & Household Equipment	52	25	27	447.24	0.63
14.	Medical and Surgical Appliances	39	15	24	170.89	0.24
15.	Industrial Instruments	112	65	47	74.39	0.10
16.	Scientific Instruments	34	12	22	46.74	0.07
17.	Mathematical, Surveying and Drawing	1	0	1	0.12	0.00
18.	Fertilizers	37	33	4	9.17	0.01
19.	Chemicals (other than Fertilizers)	935	548	387	4712.24	6.63
20.	Photographic Raw Film and Paper	9	4	5	24.88	0.04
21.	Dye-Staffs	11	2	9	30.24	0.04
22.	Drugs and Pharmaceuticals	178	99	79	476.35	0.67
23.	Textiles (Including Dyed, Printed)	317	78	239	1624.96	2.29
24.	Paper and Pulp Including Paper Product	95	51	44	664.17	0.93
25.	Sugar	3	1	2	53.50	0.08
26.	Fermentation Industries	44	13	31	788.44	1.11
27.	FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES					
	Food Products	415	94	321	2482.48	3.49

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Marine products	83	18	65	82.89	0.12
	Miscellaneous (Food prod.)	2	0	2	8.00	0.01
	Total	500	112	388	2573.37	3.62
28.	Vegetable Oils & Vanaspati	26	3	23	43.79	0.06
29.	Soaps, Cosmetics and Toilet Preparations	25	7	18	105.38	0.15
30.	Rubber Goods	113	65	48	162.43	0.23
31.	Leather, Leather Goods and Pickers	116	25	91	158.87	0.22
32.	Glass	43	23	20	381.83	0.54
33.	Ceramics	137	46	91	399.18	0.56
34.	Cement & Gypsum Products	46	22	24	433.75	0.61
35.	Timber Products	5	1	4	6.37	0.01
36.	Defence Industries	3	3	0	0.00	0.00
37.	CONSULTANCY SERVICES					
	Design & Eng. Services	131	35	96	144.26	0.20
	Management Services	41	6	35	46.73	0.07
	Marketing	24	6	18	22.36	0.03
	Construction	6	2	4	4.86	0.01
	Others (Consultancy Service)	10	0	10	8.61	0.01
	Total	212	49	163	226.82	0.32
38.	SERVICE SECTOR					
	Financial	118	1	117	1765.87	2.49
	Non-Financial Services	172	8	164	2035.35	2.86
	Banking Services	9	0	9	114.09	0.16
	Other Services	14	2	12	786.48	1.11
	Total	313	11	302	4701.67	6.62
39.	HOTEL & TOURISM					
	Hotel & Restaurants	141	53	88	1941.25	2.73
	Tourism	23	6	17	3.54	0.00
	Total	164	59	105	1944.79	2.74
40.	Trading Co.	181	0	181	141.05	0.20
41.	MISCELLANEOUS INDUSTRIES					
	Horticulture	59	28	31	39.20	0.06
	Agriculture	70	38	32	65.62	0.09
	Floriculture	150	58	92	109.49	0.15
	Others (Misc Industries)	561	361	200	1223.21	1.72
	Total	840	485	355	1437.52	2.02
	Grand Total	8713	4034	4679	71058.23	

### Amendment of Patent Law

2581. SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI NAVINCHANDRA MEHTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to meet all the guidelines as suggested by World Trade Organisation while amending the Patent Laws;

(b) if so, the likely impacts thereof on the pharmaceutical industry and the agriculture; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interests of home industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). As a signatory to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement, India is obliged to fulfil its obligations. The WTO Agreement, inter-alia contains an agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) in respect of provisions concerning Intellectual Property Rights. Apart from the obligations which arose from January 1, 1995, India has time till January 1, 2000 to implement its obligations under the TRIPs Agreement and till January 1, 2005 to introduce product patents in the areas of technology not protected so far.

### Production Centre

2582. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government received any representation to revive the production centres at Ettumanoor Kottayam district Kerala;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the production centres are idle and employees don't have any specific work; and

(c) whether the Government propose to revive the production centres?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Employees of the Centre are not idle. Employees of this Production Centre are allotted various duties as per the workload of production and training at the Centre. Presently, there is no demand for the activities for which the Institute was set up due to which the activities of the Production Centre, Ettumanoor are at low level. The employees are utilised for training purposes.

(c) There are various reports prepared by Officials of the Department which were not found practically acceptable. Presently, the Government has asked the Director of Industries, Kerala to study and suggest measures for improving the Centre. This report shall be examined and considered for acceptance and implementation if found satisfactory and keeping in line with the Government Policies.

### Shortage of Jute

2583. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether due to shortage of raw jute and technological obsolescence Jute industry particularly in West Bengal is facing acute crisis;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Government to meet this situation?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Particularly on account of short crop and consequent mismatch between supply and demand, jute mills have been facing difficulties during 1995-96.

(b) and (c). The following steps have been taken for increasing production, productivity and quality of raw jute :

More area coverage under high yielding varieties; accelerating production and availability of quality seeds; Emphasis on timely supply of critical inputs; propagation of improved crop production technology through demonstration programmes; encouraging row cropping through supply of multi row drills; creating additional retting facilities; organising training of farmers, etc.

### World Bank Assistance for Development Projects

2584. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have sought assistance from the World Bank for implementation of various development schemes;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up such schemes in Assam; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Apart from the on-going Assam Rural Infrastructure and Agriculture Support Project with World Bank assistance which was signed on 6.6.95, there is no new scheme proposed to World Bank for assistance.

(c) Does not arise.

### Agro Based Industries

2585. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the States which have granted exemption from Land Ceiling Act to Agro based Industries;

(b) whether such exemption is proposed to be introduced in other States also; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Since Land Ceiling is primarily a State subject, State-wise information on application of land ceiling and exemptions thereof are not centrally maintained.

#### Production of Cloth in NTC Mills

2586. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of production of cloth and the number of workers employed in each of the mills in the country operating under National Textile Corporation during each of the last three years;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the production of cloth in these mills;

(c) if so, the details thereof, millwise; and

(d) the steps taken to improve the production and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) to (c). On account of obsolete machinery, and acute shortage of working capital there has been a decline in the production of cloth in the NTC mills. The enclosed Statement I and II indicate the millwise production of cloth and the number of workers in each of the NTC mills during the last three years.

(d) Due to total net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR. Government have approved a Revised Turn Around Plan for modernisation of NTC mills. This plan is generally in line with the modernisation plan prepared by Textile Research Associations. The plan envisages modernisation of 79 mills at a cost of Rs. 2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable units etc..The funds for modernisation will be met out of the sale proceeds of the surplus lands and assets of NTC mills. This plan has been placed before the BIFR for their approval before implementation. Pending approval of this strategy, Government has been meeting the shortfall faced by the NTC in payment of salaries, wages and bonus.

#### STATEMENT - I

##### Production of Cloth in Lakh Meters

S.No.	Mill-Name	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajudhia	3.12	4.22	5.89
2.	Dayalbagh	.00	.00	.00
3.	Suraj	.00	.00	.00

1	2	3	4	5
4.	Kharar	.00	.00	.00
5.	Mahalaxmi	6.78	.43	.00
6.	Edward	14.94	2.73	2.07
7.	Shree Bijay	.00	.00	.00
8.	Udaipur	.00	.00	.00
9.	Panipat	.00	.00	.00
NTC (M.P.)				
10.	Bengal Nagpur	103.92	20.46	18.07
11.	Burhanpur	55.48	22.59	20.31
12.	New Bhopal	4.08	1.61	2.21
13.	Hira	.00	.00	.00
14.	Swadeshi	.27	.00	.89
15.	Indore Malwa	.00	.00	4.27
16.	Kalyanmal	1.52	.00	3.78
NTC (U.P.)				
17.	Muir	.00	.00	.00
18.	New Victoria	.00	.00	.00
19.	Bijli	.00	.00	.00
20.	Lord Krishna	.00	.00	.00
21.	Vikram	.00	.00	.00
22.	Naini	.00	.00	.00
23.	Maunath Bhajan	.00	.00	.00
24.	Raebareli	.00	.00	.00
25.	Swadeshi Kanpur	.00	.00	.00
NTC (S.M.)				
26.	Aurangabad	.00	.00	.00
27.	Digvijay	57.61	15.60	13.10
28.	Chalisingaon	69.16	47.75	43.84
29.	Jupiter	.00	.00	.00
30.	Apollo	39.62	29.52	28.30
31.	Bharat	37.35	.76	.08
32.	Barshi	.00	.00	.00
33.	Newhind	1.47	.00	.00
34.	Dhule	51.05	22.61	14.88
35.	Nanded	44.67	14.45	23.11
36.	Mumbai	6.95	.00	.01
NTC (M.N.)				
37.	Model Mills	47.23	15.44	12.96
38.	RSRG	33.52	12.22	3.14
39.	Indu No. 1.	8.69	34.13	18.48
40.	Indu No. 2.	24.18	4.60	.86
41.	Indu No. 3. & 4	101.09	34.36	20.61
42.	Indu No. 5	36.76	10.64	26.27
43.	Indu No. 6.	.00	.00	.00

1	2	3	4	5
44.	RBBA	46.92	45.44	45.55
45.	Savatram	33.24	19.50	14.05
46.	Vidarbh	1.05	.00	.00
	NTC (Guj.)			
47.	Ahmd. Jupiter	.00	.00	.00
48.	Ahmd. New Textile	.00	.00	.00
49.	Himadri	68.20	35.28	13.96
50.	Jehangir	96.38	20.38	.00
51.	Petlad	.00	.00	.00
52.	Mahalaxm	.00	.00	.00
53.	New Mandkhowk	33.02	11.00	.00
54.	Viramgam NIC (Apkkg)	.00	.00	.00
55.	Rajkot	.00	.00	.00
56.	Rajnagar 1 & 2	.00	.00	.00
57.	Azamjahi	.85	.00	.00
58.	Netha	.00	.00	.00
59.	Natraj	.00	.00	.00
60.	Anantpur	.00	.00	.00
61.	Tripathi	.00	.00	.00
62.	Adoni	.00	.00	.00
63.	Mysore	.00	.00	.00
64.	Minerva	76.23	64.05	66.02
65.	MSK	10.86	5.00	5.68
66.	Sri Yellamma	.00	.00	.00
67.	Can Can	.00	.00	.00
68.	Algappa	.00	.00	.00
69.	Parvathi	59.09	58.01	56.85
70.	Kerala Laxmi	.00	.00	.00
71.	Vijaya Mohini	.00	.00	.00
72.	Can Mahe	.00	.00	.00
	NTC (TNP)			
73.	Om Parasakthi	.00	.00	.00
74.	Combodia	.00	.00	.00
75.	Krishnaveni	.00	.00	.00
76.	Sri Rangvilas	.00	.00	.00
77.	Coimb. Murgan	46.14	70.71	66.84
78.	Somasundaram	31.43	32.76	32.74
79.	Kaleshwara 'A'	29.83	22.45	6.31
80.	Pankaja	.00	.00	.00
81.	Kaleshwara 'B'	.00	.00	.00
82.	Pioneer	.00	.00	.00
83.	Coimb. Spg. Wvg.	18.78	16.97	7.53
84.	Balramverma	.00	.00	.00
85.	Sri Sardar	33.27	32.29	32.08
86.	Sri Bharathi	33.42	35.08	19.22
87.	Swad. Pondicher	12.50	12.29	2.20

1	2	3	4	5
	NTC (WBABO)			
88.	Bengal Tex.	2.49	.00	.00
89.	Manindera	.00	.00	.00
90.	Central Cotton	20.32	.00	.00
91.	Bengal F. No. 1.	.00	.00	.00
92.	Bengal Luxmi	.69	.00	.00
93.	Sri Mahalaxmi	4.65	.18	.02
94.	Rampooria	19.30	.00	.03
95.	Laxmi Narayana	.00	.00	.00
96.	Arti	.00	.00	.00
97.	Bangasari	6.80	.00	.00
98.	Bengal F. No. 2.	.00	.00	.00
99.	Joyti Wvg Fact.	0.69	.00	.00
100.	Kannoria	.00	.00	.00
101.	Sodepur	.00	.00	.00
102.	Associated Ind.	.00	.00	.00
103.	Bihar Cooperative	.00	.00	.00
104.	Gaya Cotton	.00	.00	.00
105.	Orissa	.00	.00	.00
	T.O.M. (Kanpur)			
106.	Laxmirattan	.00	.00	.00
107.	Atherton	.00	.00	.00
	T.O.M. (Bombay)			
108.	Elphinstone	45.21	.00	.00
109.	Finlay	81.87	52.98	29.13
110.	Gold Mohar	73.03	49.57	24.20
111.	Jam Mfg.	1.57	.00	.00
112.	Madhusudan	.00	.00	.00
113.	New City	78.52	44.92	30.15
114.	Podar Mills	54.91	24.97	12.17
115.	Podar Process	.00	.00	.00
116.	Tata Mills	65.02	.00	.00
117.	Sitaram	.00	43.26	36.78
118.	Kohinoor Mills	.00	.00	.00
	Total	1835.77	991.24	765.14

## STATEMENT - II

## Workers on Roll in NTC Mills

S. No.	Name of the Mill	As on 31.03.94	As on 31.03.95	As on 31.03.96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Ajudhia Textile Mills	894	792	732
2.	Edward Mills	659	563	470

1	2	3	4	5
3. Mahalakshmi Mills		775	671	598
4. Shree Bijay Cotton Mills		553	543	534
5. Udaipur Cotton Mills		659	610	580
6. Dayal Bagh Spg. Wvg. Mills		577	560	547
7. Suraj Textile Mills		627	616	613
8. Kharar Textile Mills		873	845	811
9. Panipat Woollen Mills		744	744	728
10. Indore Malwa Mills		2458	2447	2355
11. Kalyanmal Mills		1919	1906	1881
12. Swadeshi Textile Mills		832	832	814
13. Hira Mills		1496	1389	1348
14. Burhanpur Tapti Mills		1311	1309	1301
15. Bengal Nagpur Cotton Mills		1914	1898	1744
16. New Bhopal Textile Mills		962	961	954
17. Atherton West Mills		1415	1320	1295
18. Bijli Cotton Mills		423	413	393
19. Lakshmi Rattan Mills		1767	1641	1594
20. Lord Krishna Textile Mills		1272	1192	1163
21. Muir Mills		1698	1600	1591
22. New Victoria Mills		1723	1632	1612
23. Raebareli Textile Mills		574	551	535
24. Sri Vikram Cotton Mills		650	587	581
25. Swadeshi Cotton Mills, Mau		743	733	708
26. Swadeshi Mills, Kanpur		1780	1763	1735
27. Swadeshi Mills, Naini		1930	1996	1923
28. Apollo Textile Mills		1121	1088	1066
29. Aurangabad Textile Mills		328	313	301
30. Barshi Textile Mills		481	447	434
31. Bharat Textile Mills		1323	1227	1107
32. Chalisgaon Textile Mills		1309	1146	1122
33. Dhule Textile Mills		1735	1524	1376
34. Digvijay Textile Mills		1528	1474	1432
35. Jupiter Textile Mills		1067	1016	989
36. Mumbai Textile Mills		1116	1085	1046
37. Nanded Textile Mills		1122	972	950
38. New Hind Textile Mills		1174	1153	1125
39. Elphinston Mills		1193	1039	928
40. Finlay Mills		2121	1842	1741
41. Gold Mohar		1526	1370	1335
42. Madhusudan Mills		880	817	757
43. New City Mills		1714	1646	1600
44. Podar Processers		720	693	671
45. Indu Mill, No. 1		2168	2133	2091
46. Indu Mill, No. 2		1145	1115	1089
47. Indu Mill, No. 3		1894	1853	1790
48. Indu Mill, No. 4		0	0	0
49. Indu Mill No. 5		863	852	828
50. Indu Mill Dyeworks		557	549	543
51. Model Mill		2049	1905	1835
52. RSRG Mills		909	860	835
53. RBBA Mill		1184	1143	1135
54. Savatram Mill		677	647	626

1	2	3	4	5
55. Vidharba Mill		933	933	897
56. Kohinoor				
57. Kohinoor		1115	1034	1111
58. Kohinoor				
59. Tata Mills		1745	1690	1628
60. Jam Mfg. Mills		967	910	902
61. Podar Mills		1562	1470	1401
62. Sitaram Mills		626	563	539
63. Himadri Textile Mills		1161	972	856
64. Ahmedabad Jupiter Mills		1068	1041	1019
65. Ahmedabad New Textile Mills		1276	1253	1243
66. Jehangir Textile Mills		1872	1655	1518
67. Mahalaxmi Textile Mills		900	875	856
68. New Manakchowk Textile Mill		969	917	898
69. Petlad Textile Mills		394	383	382
70. Rajkot Textile Mills		371	360	360
71. Rajnagar		1573	1541	1526
72. Rajnagar		0	0	0
73. Viramgam Textiles Mills		884	864	855
74. Azamjahi Mills		800	735	708
75. Ananthpur Cotton Mills		575	550	530
76. Adoni Cotton Mills		423	417	411
77. Natraj Spinning Mills		365	324	290
78. Netha Spinning Mills		422	419	414
79. Tirupathi Cotton Mills		487	465	444
80. C.S.W. Mills Cannanore		500	500	478
81. Kerala Luxmi Mills		728	704	675
82. Allagapa Textile Mills		961	946	918
83. Vijayamohini Mills		520	500	476
84. Parvathi Mills		1152	1128	1093
85. Mysore Sp				
86. Minvera		2427	2351	2307
87. Vallama Cotton Mills		651	615	596
88. M.S.K. Mills,		1172	1062	998
89. C.S.W. Mills, Mahe		621	609	582
90. Om Parasakthi		418	402	454
91. Cambodia		602	593	620
92. Krishnaveni Textiles		363	340	323
93. Sri Rangavilas Mills		760	749	730
94. Pankaj Mills		482	472	505
95. Pioneer Spinners		361	358	351
96. Balramverma Textiles		390	370	344
97. Kaleswarar B		576	575	558
98. Kaleswarar A		897	797	586
99. Coimbatore Spg. & Wvg Mills		1486	1453	1353
100. Swadeshi Cotton Mills		964	923	821
101. Coimbatore Murugan Mills		793	782	751
102. Somasundaram Mills		764	732	707
103. Sri Bharathi Mills		1104	1079	1009

1	2	3	4	5
104.	Sri Sarada Mills	845	833	814
105.	Bengal Luxmi Cotton Mills	492	456	382
106.	Central Cotton Mills	860	838	748
107.	Rampooria Cotton Mills	957	753	605
108.	Shree Mahaluxmi Cotton Mills	671	666	498
109.	Bangasari Cotton Mills	338	322	310
110.	Gaya Cotton & Jute Mills	553	520	496
111.	Manindra & B.T. Mills	533	486	465
112.	Bengal Fine No.1	718	654	574
113.	Luxminarayan Cotton Mills	663	602	553
114.	Arati Cotton Mills	443	405	372
115.	Saidpur Cotton Mills	256	248	238
116.	Bengal Fine No. II	289	282	275
117.	Bihar Co-Operatives	396	389	246
118.	Associated Ind.(A)	531	519	498
119.	Orissa Cotton Mills	747	734	655
120.	Jyoti Weaving Factory	266	249	218

### Sick and Weak Tea Gardens in Assam

2587. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there are a large number of sick and weak tea gardens in Southern Assam out of which some have already been abandoned and the rest are also not in a position of survival;

(b) if so, the specific measures taken by the 'Tea Board' to revitalise the aforesaid gardens;

(c) whether any welfare measures have been taken up by the Government to save the lives of tea labourers of such sick and weak tea gardens; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). A survey of the Tea Board sometime back, revealed that there were 47 weak tea gardens and 5 closed tea gardens in Assam. The incidence of sickness/weakness of these gardens has decreased since then owing to improved economic conditions and continued stability in the State. The problems faced by sick and weak tea gardens are quite complex arising out of diverse causes such as managerial/financial mismanagement, protracted litigation. These have been discussed with the commercial banks under aegis of Tea Board to facilitate funding and related measures.

Tea Board has several schemes for welfare of plantation workers in tea estates. These welfare schemes inter-alia include providing grant to the wards of the tea

garden workers for pursuing studies above the primary level and also providing financial assistance to educational institutions, hospitals etc. for construction of health centres, extension of education and vocational training and specialised treatment facilities for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families.

### Tyre Unit at A.P.

2588. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a tyre manufacturing Unit at Mangalagiri in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether land has been acquired for this purpose and if so the amount spent thereon; and

(d) by when the aforesaid project is going to be commissioned and the funds allocated for the project?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). There is no proposal with Government of India to set up a tyre manufacturing unit at Mangalagiri in Guntur District of Andhra Pradesh in the Central Public Sector, at present.

### Special Duty Concession on Indian Basmati Rice by European Union

2589. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India had asked United Kingdom and France for support against Pakistan over retaining the special duty concession given to Indian basmati rice exported to the European Union (EU);

(b) whether the European Union has since taken any decision on retaining the special duty concessions on Indian Basmati, scarp it altogether, or extend it to Pakistan as well; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The European Commission introduced a new regulation for import of rice with effect from 01.07.1995. Under this regulation, inter-alia, a Reference Price System was adopted which provides for import tariff concession of 250 ECU per tonne for Pakistani origin husked basmati rice. India has made its position known to EU, Government of U.K. and Government of France on the regulations covering import of rice into EU.

(b) No decision in this regard has been taken by EU.

(c) Does not arise.

### Registered on OTC

2590. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Over the Counter Exchanges of India (OTC) has requested the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to exempt the companies registered with it from the conditions of three years profit before sale through OTC; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Securities and Exchange Board of India, (SEBI) has received such a request from the Over the Counter Exchange of India. SEBI would take a decision in the matter after taking into account all relevant factors.

### Tax Evasion by Private/Public Sector companies

2591. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue has conducted any internal survey to find out tax evasion by big Private and Public Sector Companies by various accounting methods;

(b) if so, the details of the finding; and

(c) the action, if any, being taken to plug the loopholes in the Income Tax Act, 1961 so that these companies are also brought into the Tax Net?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

### New Coal Mines

2592. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the names of new coal mines where the Central Coalfields Limited proposes mining at Balumath under Palamau district of Bihar;

(b) the quantum of coal reserve likely to be found in each of these mines; and

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government for preventing illegal mining of coal in the Balumath area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). Presently, one mine i.e. Titariakhar OC is being worked near Balumath. Geological Reserve of Titariakhar mine is 40 million tonnes.

(c) Central Coalfields Ltd. have initiated the following steps for checking/preventing illegal mining :-

(i) Continuous plugging of rat holes in abandoned mines;

(ii) Dozing off the approach areas of such rat holes;

(iii) Carrying out surprise checks in the abandoned areas and also in illegal depots with the help of local police;

(iv) Apprehending people carrying coal from such depots;

(v) Maintaining constant liaison with District Authorities.

CCL has also constituted a Task force to suggest way and means to thwart attempts of illegal mining in CCL's leasehold area.

### Coal Mines Depository

2893. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether coal mines depository was explored in Bagrakota areas of West Bengal many years back;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken steps to utilise this depository; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (d). As per information furnished by Geological Survey of India (GSI), the deposit of coal in Bagrakot area, Darjeeling District of West Bengal was surveyed by them through surface geological mapping in 1964-66 and 1976-78. The deposit is apparently of uneconomical nature as the seams are impersistent and the area is highly disturbed geologically. As such, no exploratory drilling was carried out and no attempt was made in estimating the resource potentiality.

### Foreign Aid for Development Project of A.P.

2594. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total foreign assistance provided by the Union Government for the development of different projects in Andhra Pradesh during the last two years; and

(b) the present status of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Foreign assistance received by Government of India is passed on to the States in the form of Additional Central



Assistance (ACA). The ACA for externally aided projects released to Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1994-95 and 1995-96 was Rs.570.38 crores and Rs.444.10 crores, respectively.

(b) The projects are at various stages of implementation. Normally, the project cycle for implementation is 5-7 years, therefore, while some projects at initial stage of implementation (e.g., A.P. First Referral Health System Project) there are other projects which are at the stage of completion (e.g., Environment Protection Training and Research Institute, Hyderabad).

### Retirement Age of PSU's Employees

2595. SHRI THAKRE RAJABHAU :

SHRI UTTAM SINGH PAWAR :

Will the INDUSTRY MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the basis of the interim report of Fifth Pay Commission, the Government considered to raise the retirement age of employees of Central Public Sector Undertakings from 58 to 60 years; and

(b) the decision taken by the Government thereon and the effective date thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The employees of the Public Sector Enterprises are not within the Terms of Reference of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

### Public Sector Undertaking in Operation in A.P.

2596. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Public Sector Undertakings which have been operating in Andhra Pradesh as on date, alongwith their names and locations;

(b) how many of such undertakings have been identified to be sick and referred to by Bureau of Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(c) how the Government propose to revamp/rejuvenate these sick units and run them profitably?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) According to Public Enterprises survey 1994-95 there were 12 Central Public Sector Enterprises having their registered Office located in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Their name, alongwith the location of the registered Office are given below :-

Name of the P.S.E.	Location of the Regd. Office
1	2
1. Bharat Dynamics Ltd.	Hyderabad
2. Bharat Heavy Plate & Vessels Ltd.	Visakhapatnam

1	2
3. CMC Ltd.	Hyderabad
4. Electronic Corpn. of India Ltd.	Hyderabad
5. Hindustan fluorocarbons Ltd.	Hyderabad
6. HMT Bearings Ltd.	Hyderabad
7. Mishra Dhatu Nigam Ltd.	Hyderabad
8. National Mineral Development Corpn. Ltd.	Hyderabad
9. Praga Tools Ltd.	Secunderabad
10. Rashriya Ispat Nigam Ltd.	Visakhapatnam
11. Southern Pesticides Corpn. Ltd.	Hyderabad
12. Sponge Iron India Ltd.	Hyderabad

(b) and (c). Two of them namely, Hindustan Fluorocarbons Ltd. and Southern Pesticides Corpn. Ltd. are sick and have been referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction. BIFR has appointed Operating Agency of formulation of revival/rehabilitation package. The viable revival/rehabilitation proposal prepared by the Operating Agency is yet to be received.

### Rebate on Coir Products

2597. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to announce rebate for coir products during 1996-97 as was done during previous year;

(b) if so, when the rebate is likely to be announced; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). With a view to encourage consumption of coir yarn and coir products in the country, the Government have issued an order on 26th June, 1996 for the continuation of the Rebate Scheme on sale of Coir Yarn and Coir Products (excluding rubberised coir products) in the Coir Sector during the year 1996-97.

(c) Does not arise.

### Achievement of P.M.R.Y.

2598. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS\* : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the achievements made under Prime Minister Rozgar Yojana for educated Unemployed Youths under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana till date in each State particularly in Nuapara and Kalahandi districts of Orissa; and

(b) the amount spent by the Union Government on the implementation of the scheme in each state so far?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Statement showing the state-wise achievements made under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for educated unemployed youths for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is enclosed as Statement-I.

The achievements made under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana in Nuapara and Kalahandi Districts of Orissa for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given in the Statement-II attached.

(b) Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana each entrepreneur is provided subsidy @ 15% of project cost subject to a maximum ceiling of Rs.7,500/-. The funds

for subsidy are authorised to Reserve Bank of India. These funds are released to the implementing banks by the Reserve Bank of India for passing on to the beneficiaries. Hence, the state-wise details for release of subsidy are not available. The funds authorised to Reserve Bank of India for release of subsidy for PMRY beneficiaries is Rs.222.73 crores till now.

Central Government also releases funds for operational purposes like training, project profiles, evaluation, contingencies, etc. directly to the State/UTs. State/UT-wise amount released is shown in the enclosed Statement-III.

### STATEMENT

*Statement showing State-wise Achievement Under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96.*

S.No.	State/UT	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Target (Nos.)	Applications Sanctioned by Banks (Nos.)	Target (Nos.)	Applications Sanctioned by Banks (Nos.)	Target (Nos.)	Applications Sanctioned by Banks (Nos.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3335	3418	25000	19851	31900	32556
2.	Assam	805	818	6600	6404	9900	9852
3.	Bihar	3070	2051	22150	11705	22150	15751
4.	Delhi	1390	622	4540	1763	4545	3799
5.	Goa	200	78	520	285	550	499
6.	Gujarat	1870	527	8500	5707	8500	10190
7.	Haryana	725	792	4100	4600	7200	9353
8.	Himachal Pradesh	305	201	2100	2306	2100	2578
9.	J & K	205	101	2000	1995	3100	2435
10.	Karnataka	2050	1919	15000	13759	17700	16887
11.	Kerala	2755	1595	15000	11123	15000	14135
12.	Madhya Pradesh	2710	2992	20000	21840	27050	31566
13.	Maharashtra	4630	4850	20500	26551	35900	40392
14.	Manipur	200	214	2000	2040	4000	1242
15.	Mizoram	200	32	250	226	250	240
16.	Orissa	865	842	6570	5551	8250	8229
17.	Punjab	965	1061	4900	5357	15000	15531
18.	Rajasthan	1410	1257	8300	7666	10400	10272
19.	Tamil Nadu	3560	2794	17400	14519	21800	19304
20.	Tripura	200	146	1000	796	1300	1225
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4420	3995	27400	23060	35813	37324
22.	West Bengal	4170	980	22900	9441	22900	8416
23.	Andaman & Nicobar	200	39	250	54	100	101
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	200	124	250	183	300	287
25.	Chandigarh	200	81	150	165	150	171
26.	D & N Haveli	200	122	250	112	150	156

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
27.	Daman & Diu	200	13	250	79	100	116
28.	Nagaland	200	103	250	216	300	267
29.	Lakshadweep	200	Nil	75	19	50	26
30.	Meghalaya	200	139	300	314	550	566
31.	Pondocherry	200	162	460	476	500	513
32.	Sikkim	200	Nil	250	75	200	169
Total		32068*		198238*		294148*	

\* As reported by Staes/UTs.

### STATEMENT-II

Statement showing Year-wise Achievements in Nuapara and Kalahandi districts of Orissa

S.No.	District	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
		Target (No.)	Applications sanctioned by banks	Target (No.)	Applications sanctioned by banks	Target (No.)	Applications sanctioned by banks
1.	Nuapara	30	27	155	113	65	66
2.	Kalahandi	60	56	350	291	235	233

### STATEMENT-III

Statement showing Statewise amount released by the Union Government for the implementation of Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana

Amount (Rs. In lakhs)

S.No.	State/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42.49	180.71	303.99
2.	Assam	9.64	51.37	98.48
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	3.96	2.68
4.	Bihar	30.32	147.39	110.48
5.	Delhi	15.42	20.25	33.63
6.	Goa	1.00	5.52	3.89
7.	Gujarat	19.02	58.32	69.71
8.	Haryana	8.98	48.90	66.43
9.	Himachal Pradesh	2.00	25.35	22.76
10.	J & K	2.50	19.78	28.73
11.	Karnataka	20.38	150.91	161.91
12.	Kerala	30.31	155.00	101.22
13.	Madhya Pradesh	25.00	184.85	267.38
14.	Maharashtra	43.20	265.92	193.76
15.	Manipur	2.65	6.18	45.16
16.	Meghalaya	1.00	6.54	4.49
17.	Mizoram	1.30	2.89	1.65

1	2	3	4	5
18.	Nagaland	1.00	2.98	0.21
19.	Orissa	10.49	68.76	71.46
20.	Punjab	11.24	62.40	130.15
21.	Rajasthan	15.57	92.06	92.63
22.	Tamil Nadu	39.37	145.32	159.65
23.	Tripura	1.00	7.34	11.73
24.	Uttar Pradesh	38.15	210.65	403.72
25.	West Bengal	39.00	117.21	80.03
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	1.00	4.10	1.08
27.	Chandigarh	1.10	4.31	1.89
28.	Daman & Diu	1.00	3.11	0.84
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1.00	3.98	1.29
30.	Lakshadweep	1.00	1.89	0.34
31.	Pondicherry	1.00	8.59	4.54
32.	Sikkim	1.00	2.87	0.76
Total		419.03	2029.41	2475.57

### Import of Raw Cashew Nuts

2599. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of raw cashew nuts imported and finished cashew products exported during 1995-96 and the foreign exchange incurred thereon and earned therefrom respectively;

(b) whether the Government have made any plan to re-introduce the import of raw cashew-nuts under the import canalisation scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Data showing import of raw cashewnuts and export of finished cashew products during 1995-96 is as under :-

Qty : Tonnes:  
Value : Rs. in lakhs

#### Import

	Qty.	Value
Raw Cashew	2,18,019	74,918.09

#### Export

Finished Cashew Products	82,385	1,23,106.60
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(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta)

(b) and (c). At present, there is no proposal to reintroduce the import of raw cashewnuts under canalising scheme. However, review of export and import policy is an on-going process and changes in it are made as and when considered necessary.

[Translation]

#### Coal India Limited

2600. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent by Coal India Limited per annum on Education;

(b) the policy of C.I.L. for incurring expenditure on Education;

(c) whether any misappropriation of funds allocated for education has come to the notice of the Government;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) As per information received from C.I.L. Rs.8.27 crores and Rs.9.35 crores for the year 1993-94 and 1994-95 respectively have been spent by C.I.L. and its subsidiaries on education.

(b) The policy of Coal India Limited for incurring expenditure on education is to the extent of financial grant-in-aid to the educational institutions located in coalfield areas.

(c) Coal India has no specific information regarding any misappropriation of funds allocated as grant-in-aid to educational institutions.

(d) and (e). Does not arise.

[English]

#### Amendment in Indian Patent Act, 1970

2601. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether applications have been received from Multi-national Companies for product, patents in pharmaceuticals, food and agro-chemicals in anticipation of Favioable change in the Indian Patent Act, 1970 in accordance with World Trade Organisations guidelines;

(b) if so, the number of applications pending and the dates of their pendency; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Patent Offices have received 893 patent applications in the field of drug or medicine from indian as well as foreign companies/institutions upto July 15, 1996. The applications for patents will be taken up for examination after January 01, 2005, as per the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement which came into force on 1st January, 1995.

#### Merger of MTC with MMTC

2602. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mica Trading Corporation has been merged with Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited in terms of the revival package approved by Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MITCO) started incurring losses from 1987-88, and was referred to BIFR which declared it sick on 23.4.93. On 8.4.96 BIFR passed an order for the merger of MITCO with MMTC. Details of the revival package include reduction in manpower, upgradation of technology, cost reduction, etc. Accordingly, in terms of the revival package approved by BIFR, MITCO has been merged with MMTC with effect from 2.5.96.

#### Misuse of Pass Book Scheme by Exporters

2603. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the cases of misuse of Pass Book scheme by exporters detected during the last three years and the modus operandi adopted therein;

(b), the action taken in each of the cases; and

(c) the remedial action proposed to be taken to stop such activities in future?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The Pass Book Scheme, introduced vide para 54 of the Export and Import Policy, was notified vide Customs Notification No.104/95-Customs dated the 30th May, 1995, as amended. No instance of misuse of Pass Book Scheme has been reported by the Custom Houses so far.

[Translation]

### Smuggling of Chemicals

2604. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials have busted international gang involved in smuggling of chemicals which is used in the production of heroin;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(d) if so, the findings of the enquiry; and

(e) the action taken against the persons found guilty therein?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Customs Authorities at Indira Gandhi International Airport seized 874 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride, a precursor chemical required for manufacture of heroin, on 27.05.96 while attempted to be smuggled out of the country. In the follow up investigation and raids 1241 Kgs. of Acetic Anhydride was recovered and seized. Investigations conducted in this regard did not reveal involvement of any international syndicate. Seven persons found involved in the case have been arrested.

### Ganesh Sugar Mills

2605. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Ganesh Sugar Mills in U.P. is lying closed for the last two years;

(b) whether the Government propose to handover the mill to private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government to revive this mill?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The crushing activities of the Ganesh Sugar Mills have been stopped since 1994-95 season.

(b) to (d). The Swadeshi Mining & Manufacturing Company Ltd., which controls Ganesh Sugar Mills has

been referred to the BIFR which has declared it to be a sick industrial company. As part of the revival/rehabilitation package, the BIFR invited offers from the public for lease/sale/amalgamation of Ganesh Sugar Mills but no offers have been received. The BIFR has subsequently passed order for winding up of Swadeshi Mining & Mfg. Co. Ltd. There is no proposal with the Government for restarting or reviving the mills.

[English]

### Import of Coal

2606. PROF AJIT KUMAR MEHTA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to import 7 million tonnes of coking coal during 1996-97 to meet the demand of the power plants in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated cost involved in foreign exchange;

(c) the extent to which the imports are likely to bridge the gap between demand and supply of coking coal; and

(d) the extent to which the power supply position in the country is likely to be improved by import of coking coal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). As per information received from Ministry of Power, during the year 1996-97, there is a gap of 25 million tonnes of coal between the demand (215 million tonnes) and the agreed supply (190 million tonnes) of non-coking coal in the power sector. To bridge the gap, coastal States such as Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat have been advised to import coal for use at their stations. So far only Tamil Nadu has imported coal and presently on import order of 2.5 million tonnes of coal is under execution.

(d) Depending on the quantum of Actual import of coal the generation of electricity would get augmented.

### Machinery Purchased by BHEL

2607. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has conducted an investigation into alleged foreign exchange violation in the purchase of second-hand machinery costing around Rs.20 crores by Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. Haridwar;

(b) if so, the details thereof and particular of the officials involved therein; and

(c) the present status of the investigation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) The CBI has registered a case

relating to the purchase of a second-hand machinery by BHEL, Haridwar. The matter is still under investigation by CBI.

### Liabilities of Financial Institutions

2608. SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of total overdue liabilities of the All India Financial Institutions and the Nationalised Banks as on date;

(b) the break-up of the overdue liability, sector-wise such as large, medium and small industries and Agriculture separately;

(c) the details of large and medium industries in respect of which the overdues are above Rs. ten lakhs; and

(d) the measures proposal to be taken to recover the overdues from the defaulting borrowers?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per provisional data provided by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the Total outstanding overdue of loans (Non Performing Advances) of the 19 nationalised banks and four leading all India financial institutions (namely Industrial Development Bank of India, Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd., Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India) as at the end of 31.03.1996, is given below:

	(Rs. Crores)
Nationalised Banks	27322.26
Financial Institutions (excluding loans guaranteed by the Government/ Export Credit & Guarantee Corporation)	10558.00

(b) and (c). RBI has reported that its data reporting system does not generate information in the manner asked for. However, as per information provided by RBI, overdues as a percentage of outstanding advances of public sector banks as on September 1994 (latest available) were as under :

Large and medium industries	15.75 %
Small Scale Industries including industrial estates	24.46 %
Agriculture	24.95 %

Information in respect of financial institutions mentioned above is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available and permissible under Rules.

(d) Banks/financial institutions take action to recover their dues as per their laid down rules/procedures. With a view to facilitate expeditious adjudication and recovery

of debts due to banks and financial institutions Government have enacted the Recovery of Debts due to banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 to facilitate quicker recoveries of loan arrears. RBI has also issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks and financial institutions on 23rd April, 1994 with regard to disclosure of information regarding defaulting borrowers of banks and financial institutions. These guidelines, inter alia, provide for submission by banks and financial institutions to RBI the details of borrowal accounts which have been classified as Doubtful, Loss and Suit filed with outstanding (both funded and non-funded) aggregating to Rs. 1 crore and above, and circulation by RBI to banks and financial institutions of this information which they may make use of while considering on merits the requests for new additional credit limits by existing and new constituents.

Government and RBI have been impressing upon the banks the need to strengthen their Credit Appraisal Machinery and exercise close supervision and control over advances. Banks have also been advised to set up Recovery Cells at their Head Offices. Branch-wise target are fixed by the banks for recovery of Non Performing Advances (NPAs) and the performance of the branch in recovery is to be monitored at Head Office level on Monthly basis by the Chief Executives. The Board of Directors is also kept informed about the progress in recovery at quarterly intervals. In the targets of recovery, reduction o NPAs are fixed by RBI for individual nationalised banks after due deliberations/ with banks' top management. These are monitored by RBI through periodic meetings with too management of banks.

### Residential Facilities to Transferred Judges of High Court

2609. SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of judges who were transferred from one State to another State after the enforcement of the transfer policy of the judges;

(b) whether all of them have been provided with all basic facilities including residential accommodations at their new place of posting;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) The particulars of the Chief Justices and Judges/Additional Judges, who have been transferred from one High Court to another are given in the enclosed statement.

(b) to (d). Section 22 A(1) of the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954 provides that every

Judge shall be entitled without payment of rent to the use of an official residence. It is, therefore, obligation for the State Governments to provide rent-free accommodation and other facilities to the Judges,

including transferred Judges of their respective High Courts. The Central Government has been reiterating this statutory requirement to the State Governments from time to time.

### STATEMENT

*Particulars of Chief Justices who have been transferred from one High Court to another*

(As On 1.8.1996)

S.No.	Name of the Judge	Transferred	
		from	to
	S/Shri Justice		
1.	Debapriya Mohapatra	Orissa	Allahabad
2.	Prabha Shanker Mishra	Patna	Andhra Pradesh
3.	Manharlal Bhikhalal Shah	Gujarat	Bombay
4.	Visheshwar Nath Khare	Allahabad	Calcutta
5.	Mamidanna Jagannadha Rao	Andhra Pradesh	Delhi
6.	Viney Krishna Khanna	Allahabad	Gauhati
7.	Gurudas Datta Kamat	Bombay	Gujarat
8.	M. Srinivasan	Madras	Himachal Pradesh
9.	Muniyallappa Ramakrishna	Karnataka	Jammu & Kashmir
10.	Ram Prakash Sethi	Jammu & Kashmir	Karnataka
11.	Udai Pratap Singh	Patna	Kerala
12.	Ashok Kumar Mathur	Rajsthan	Madhya Pradesh
13.	Kudarikoti Annadanayya Swamy	Karnataka	Madras
14.	S.N. Phukan	Gauthati	Orissa
15.	Devindra Pratap Wadhwa	Delhi	Patna
16.	K. Sreedharan	Kerala	Punjab & Haryana
17.	Amratlal Parmanandas Ravani	Gujarat	Rajasthan
18.	Krishana Murari Garwal	Madhya Pradesh	Sikkim

S.No.	Name of the Judge	Transferred	
		from	to
1	2	3	4
	S/Shri Justice		
1.	R. Daval	Sikkim	Allahabad.
2.	N.C. Kochhar	Delhi	Rajasthan
3.	B.M. Lal	Madhya Pradesh	Allahabad
4.	B.P. Saraf	Gauhati	Bombay
5.	R.C. Lahoti	Madhya Pradesh	Delhi
6.	Arun Madan	Delhi	Rajasthan
7.	Anshuman Singh	Allahabad	Rajasthan
8.	M.L. Koul	Jammu & Kashmir	Punjab & Haryana
9.	M.P. Singh	Allahabad	Rajasthan
10.	D.P.S. Chauhan	Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh

1	2	3	4
11.	A.S. Tripathi	Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh
12.	J.N. Dubey	Allahabad	Patna
13.	S.R. Misra	Allahabad	Calcutta
14.	V.V. Kamat	Bombay	Kerala
15.	M.F. Saldanha	Bombay	Karnataka
16.	P.K. Mukherjee	Calcutta	Allahabad
17.	S.Chatterjee	Calcutta	Orissa
18.	Satpal	Delhi	Punjab & Haryana
19.	V.H. Bhairavia	Gujarat	Bombay
20.	R.D.Vyas	Gujarat	Madhya Pradesh
21.	Devinder Gupta	Himachal Pradesh	Delhi
22.	N.Y. Hanumanthappa	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
23.	S.V. Patil	Karnataka	Madras
24.	C.Shivappa	Karnataka	Madras
25.	P.I. Krishnamoorthy	Kerala	Karnataka
26.	L.Manoharan	Kerala	Bombay
27.	V.S. Kokje	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan
28.	P.P. Naolekar	Madhya Pradesh	Rajasthan
29.	V.D. Gyani	Madhya Pradesh	Gauhati
30.	B.K. Roy	Patna	Allahabad
31.	N.P. Singh	Patna	Madhya Pradesh
32.	G.C. Bharuka	Patna	Karnataka
33.	S.B.Sinha	Patna	Calcutta
34.	Rajesh Balia	Rajasthan	Gujarat
35.	G.S. Singhvi	Rajasthan	Punjab & Haryana
36.	M.R. Calla	Rajasthan	Gujarat
37.	H.N. Tihari	Allahabad	Karnataka
38.	K.S. Makthavatsalam	Madras	Karnataka
39.	J.E. Prasad	Andhra Pradesh	Karnataka
40.	L. Rath	Orissa	Andhra Pradesh
41.	V.P. Mohankumar	Kerala	Karnataka
42.	A.K. Ganguly	Calcutta	Patna
43.	M.K. Sharma	Gauhati	Delhi
44.	P.K. Deb	Gauhati	Patna
45.	A.K. Patnaik	Orissa	Gauhati
46.	K. Rajaratnam	Madras	Karnataka
47.	T.N.C. Rangarajan	Madras	Andhra Pradesh
48.	D.K. Trivedi	Gujarat	Bombay
49.	V.G. Palshikar	Bombay	Rajasthan
50.	H.L. Gokhale	Bombay	Gujarat
51.	C.J. Govind	Bombay	Madhya Pradesh
52.	R.M. Bapat	Bombay	Andhra Pradesh
53.	R.R. Yadav	Allahabad	Rajasthan
54.	Vishnu Sahai	Allahabad	Bombay
55.	A.N. Trivedi	Allahabad	Patna
56.	O.N. Asthana	Allahabad	Patna



1	2	3	4
57.	P.K. Sarin	Allahabad	Patna
58.	Tej Shankar	Allahabad	Madhya Pradesh
59.	S.K. Keshote	Rasjasthan	Gujarat
60.	N.N.Mathur	Rasjasthan	Gujarat
61.	R.M. Lodha	Rasjasthan	Bombay
62.	O.P. Jain	Rasjasthan	Allahabad
63.	P.K. Palli	Punjab & Haryana	Himachal Pradesh
64.	T.S. Doabia	Punjab & Haryana	Madhya Pradesh
65.	T.S. Thakur	Jammu & Kashmir	Karnataka
66.	T.J. Chouta	Karnataka	Madras
67.	B.S. Raikote	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
68.	S.R. Naik	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
69.	B.K. Somasekhara	Karnataka	Andhra Pradesh
70.	R.J. Babu	Karnataka	Madras
71.	R.G. Vidyanatha	Karnataka	Bombay
72.	B.N. Singh NEELAM	Patna	Gauhati
73.	P.C. Naik	Madhya Pradesh	Orissa
74.	Aloke Chakrabarti	Calcutta	Allahabad
75.	C.A. Rahim	Calcutta	Allahabad
76.	R.N. Ray	Calcutta	Allahabad
77.	S.K. Phaujdar	Calcutta	Allahabad
78.	Basudev Panigrahi	Orissa	Calcutta
79.	Vidya Nand	Patna	Calcutta
80.	Sidheshwar Narayan	Patna	Calcutta
81.	Daljit Singh Dhaliwal	Punjab & Haryana	Patna
82.	Surinder Sarup	Punjab & Haryana	Himachal Pradesh
83.	Jodinder Singh Sidhu	Punjab & Haryana	Allahabad
84.	Amar Bir Singh Gill	Punjab & Haryana	Allahabad
85.	Tej Pall Garg	Punjab & Haryana	Allahabad
86.	Ishwar Prakash Vasishth	Punjab & Haryana	Allahabad
87.	Bijoy Narayan Patnaik	Orissa	Kerala
88.	Sethunatha Sarma Subramani	Kerala	Madras
89.	Cyriac Joseph	Kerala	Delhi
90.	T.K. Chandra Shekhara Das	Kerala	Bombay
91.	Krishana Saran Shrivastav	Madhya Pradesh	Andhra Pradesh
92.	Dr. Maithili Sharan	Madhya Pradesh	Allahabad
93.	Devendra Kumar Jain	Madhya Pradesh	Calcutta
94.	Smt. Sarojnei Saksena	Madhya Pradesh	Punjab & Haryana
95.	M.S.A. Siddiqui	Madhya Pradesh	Delhi
96.	Surya Kumar Tiwari	Madhya Pradesh	Calcutta
97.	Kamal Kumar Srivastava	Allahabad	Punjab & Haryana
98.	Ashok Kumar Srivastava	Allahabad	Delhi
99.	Shreekant Chhaganlal Malte	Bombay	Punjab & Haryana
100.	Suman Dattaram Pandit	Bombay	Gujarat
101.	Avinash Somakant Bhate	Bombay	Andhra Pradesh
102.	N.G. Nandi	Gujarat	Delhi

1	2	3	4
103.	Sharad Sakharam Sudhalkar	Gujarat	Punjab & Haryana
104.	K.Ramamoorthy	Madras	Delhi
105.	A.S. Venkatachalamoorthy	Madras	Bombay
106.	Nelavoy Dhinakar	Madras	Kerala
107.	Palanisamy Shanmugam	Madras	Kerala
108.	K. Sampathkumaran	Madras	Punjab & Haryana
109.	Y. Venkatachalam	Andhra Pradesh	Madras
110.	T.H.B. Chalapathi	Andhra Pradesh	Punjab & Haryana
111.	C.K. Prasad	Patna	Madhya Pradesh
112.	Syed Rafat Alam	Patna	Allahabad
113.	Ram Kishore Singh	Patna	Allahabad
114.	Swatanter Kumar	Delhi	Punjab & Haryana
115.	Prem Kumar Jain	Delhi	Punjab & Haryana
116.	Ram Prakash Gupta	Delhi	Madhya Pradesh
117.	Vinod Sagar Agarwal	Delhi	Punjab & Haryana
118.	Pabitra Kumar Ghosh	Calcutta	Gauhati
119.	Sambhu Charan Datta	Calcutta	Orissa
120.	Sohan Lal Saraf	Calcutta	Gauhati
121.	Dilip Kumar Seth	Calcutta	Allahabad
122.	Pradipta Ray	Calcutta	Orissa
123.	Gyan Sudha Mishra (Smt.)	Patna	Rajasthan
124.	*K.P. Dandapani	Kerala	Gujarat
125.	Anup Deb	Sikkim	Orissa
126.	D.H. Nasir	Gujarat	Andhra Pradesh
127.	R.K. Mahajan	Himachal Pradesh	Allahabad
128.	Malay Sengupta	Calcutta	Sikkim
129.	Ravi Kumar Nehru	Punjab & Haryana	Jammu & Kashmir
130.	B.J. Shethna	Gujarat	Rajasthan
131.	K.G. Shah	Gujarat	Bombay
132.	M.G. Mukherji	Calcutta	Rajasthan
133.	Bhawani Singh	Himachal Pradesh	Jammu & Kashmir
134.	Nand Kumar Agarwal	Rajasthan	Punjab & Haryana
135.	Surinder Sing Nijjar	Punjab & Haryana	Bombay
136.	Vinod Kumar Gupta	Jammu & Kashmir	Calcutta
137.	Jagdish Chandec Verma	Punjab & Haryana	Rajasthan

\* (Has not yet joined, sought extension)

### Pending Bills of Karnataka State

2610. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many bills of the State of Karnataka lying pending with the Union Government for Administrative approval;

(b) if so, he details of such bills; and

(c) the present status of the Bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). Only on Bill viz., The Karnataka State Commission for Determination of Additional Price of Sugarcane Bill, 1994 is pending with the Union Government or administrative approval. The Government of Karnataka had been requested to provide some clarifications on the points raised by the Ministry of Food and the Department of Expenditure which are still awaited despite reminder.

### Production of Coal

2611. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the production of coal in the coal fields of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the royalty on coal paid to the Government of Assam during the above period;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up any coal-based industry in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) The production of coal in the coalfields of Assam during each of last three years is as follows :-

(Million tonnes)		
1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1.20	1.19	0.82

(b) The royalty on Coal paid to the Govt. of Assam during the last three years is as under :-

(Rs. crores)		
1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
0.44	0.42	21.59

(c) and (d). In the Ministry of Coal, there is no proposal for setting up any coal-based industry in the state of Assam.

### Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies

2612. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handloom weavers cooperative societies functioning in the country as on January 1, 1996 State-wise; and

(b) the credit facilities provided by the Government to these societies during 1995-96, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). A statement is attached.

#### STATEMENT

S.No.	Name of the State	*No. of Handloom weavers Coop. Societies (Provisional)	**Credit sanctioned (Rs. in crore)
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	871	87.75
2.	Assam	2785	-

1	2	3	4
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	-	-
4.	Bihar	1492	-
5.	Gujarat	1314	-
6.	Haryana	454	0.75
7.	Himachal Pradesh	188	-
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	327	-
9.	Karnataka	534	3.11
10.	Kerala	610	50.92
11.	Maharashtra	828	11.81
12.	Maharashtra	828	11.72
13.	Meghalaya	28	-
14.	Manipur	1057	-
15.	Mizoram	172	-
16.	Nagaland	200	-
17.	Punjab	755	-
18.	Orissa	838	60.29
19.	Rajasthan	636	-
20.	Tamil Nadu	1521	364.13
21.	Uttar Pradesh	4817	16.00
22.	West Bengal	1901	89.09
23.	Delhi	500	-
24.	Pondicherry	14	5.75
25.	Goa	3	-
26.	Tirpura	61	-
Total		22744	701.32

\* As per the information furnished by the State Govts.

\*\* As per the information furnished by the NABARD.

[Translation]

### Electronic Industry in U.P.

2613. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any scheme pertaining to setting up of electronic industry under public sector in Northern region of U.P. is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Development of Honey Industry

2614. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether honey is used as a medicate by a large number of the people in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government for the development of honey industry in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Honey is used in ayurvedic preparations by firms like Zandu, Charak, Dabur and Baidyanath. The honey is also used in pharmaceutical companies using it for their syrup, tonic, cough syrup, B-complex syrup.

(c) the steps taken for the promotion of beekeeping industry under KVIC includes the development of beekeeping industry on modern scientific lines, exploring and trying to cover the plantation area also. The KVIC has also introduced high honey yielding varieties of honey bees viz. *apis mellifera* in most of the parts of the country in order to increase the output of honey. KVIC provides infrastructure support, package of services such as training, supply of improved tools, equipments, standard bee boxes on subsidised rates, adequate technical support and appropriate financial assistance. The KVIC has formulated national programme on beekeeping development for a period of three years. The programme will be implemented through directly aided institutions. Ninety nine projects have been identified to be implemented in 96 districts of 21 States and will be implemented with total cost of Rs. 110 crores generating employment to 50,000 artisans. It is envisaged that 1500 metric tonnes of apiary honey and 10 tonnes bees wax and 350 metric tonnes dorsata honey valued at Rs.120.00 crores per annum will be produced which will contributed to pollination all over 90,000 hectares of vegetables, fruits, oil crops.

#### **Dearness Allowance/Interim Relief**

2615. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of dearness allowance and interim relief due for payment for the Central Government employees as on the end of June, 1996;

(b) the steps taken to release the D.A. instalment and the Interim Relief to the Central Government employees;

(c) the delay which the payment is proposed to be made; and

(d) the steps taken in the above matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). As at the end of June, 1996, no additional instalment of Dearness Allowance is due to the Central Government employees. As regards Interim Relief, the Fifth Central Pay Commission has been requested to consider whether another instalment of interim Relief may be granted to the Central Government employees. Their Report is awaited.

[Translation]

#### **Revival of NTC Mills**

2616. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether BIFR have issued notices to many textile mills of National Textile Corporation in Uttar Pradesh for their closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the State Government for the revival and modernisations, and

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

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The NTC (UP) Ltd. with 9 mills under its control in the state of Uttar Pradesh has been referred to the BIFR which has declared it to be a sick industrial company. The BIFR had issued a notice calling for objections from the concerned parties for winding up the company.

(c) No specific proposal has been received from the Govt. of U.P. for revival and modernisation of the mills under NTC (UP) Ltd.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

#### **Steps to Improve Liquidity of Industry**

2617. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to improve the liquidity position of the industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government and the RBI are fully aware of the need to ensure flow of adequate funds to industry and have already initiated several measures in this direction in the past four months. Among the steps taken to improve the liquidity position of the industry are the following :

(i) The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) on net domestic demand and time liabilities has been reduced from 14% to 12% in phases and the Non-Resident (External) Rupee Deposits have also been fully exempted from CRR.

(ii) The Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) on the outstanding Non-Resident (External) Rupee

(NRER) accounts has been reduced to 25% from 30%

- (iii) The guidelines covering Euro-issues and External Commercial Borrowing (ECB) have been liberalised.
- (iv) Money Market Mutual funds have been thrown open to the corporates and others.
- (v) The interest rates on term deposits over one year has been de-regulated to help banks attract more deposits and minimum maturity period reduced to 30 days.
- (c) Does not arise.

#### Cases under NDPS Act

2618. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

- (a) the number of cases registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act since its enactment;
- (b) the details of such cases, State-wise;
- (c) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the addicts;

(d) whether some cases of misusing of the NDPS Act has come to the notice of the Government; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). As per the information available, a Statement showing State-wise number of cases registered under NDPS Act from 1990 to 1995 is annexed. Available information for 1986 to 1989 is also given in the Statement attached. The State-wise break up is not available.

(c) Through the help of voluntary organisations, there are a number of drug awareness counselling and assistance centres and de-addiction-cum-rehabilitation centres to provide counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services to drug addicts all over the country.

(d) and (e). Some complaints have been received which, on enquiry, could not be proved. However, whenever misuse of powers by enforcement officials is proved, punitive action is taken. Human rights have also been included as a subject in the training curricula of enforcement agencies.

#### STATEMENT

*Statewise no. of cases registered under NDPS Act, 1985.*

State/U.T.		1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1.	Andhra Pradesh	42	23	8	215	383	531
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	4	4	13	12	17	12
3.	Assam	32	183	96	198	116	73
4.	Bihar	32	354	373	124	189	54
5.	Goa	33	13	20	35	35	20
6.	Gujarat	24	23	19	209	279	251
7.	Haryana	144	107	132	151	136	94
8.	Himachal Pradesh	65	6	63	71	88	52
9.	J & K	13	19	41	36	41	55
10.	Karnataka	3	2	62	213	130	2
11.	Kerala	71	60	161	20	144	178
12.	Madhya Pradesh	49	42	96	741	1052	125
13.	Maharashtra	319	759	860	1388	659	414
14.	Manipur	45	121	372	323	894	149
15.	Meghalaya	18	2	34	39	87	76
16.	Mizoram	29	90	162	120	99	250
17.	Nagaland	52	84	94	114	75	49
18.	Orissa	4	1	15	91	206	5
19.	Punjab	45	90	103	319	300	377

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
20.	Rajasthan	93	134	113	197	403	171
21.	Sikkim	-	-	-	-	-	-
22.	Tamil Nadu	967	1438	3080	2468	2700	2368
23.	Tripura	5	1	1	15	30	38
24.	Uttar Pradesh	566	1053	6071	5646	5662	6359
25.	West Bengal	250	62	91	172	242	241
26.	Delhi	383	554	620	588	644	828
27.	Daman & Diu	-	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Pondicherry	-	69	6	4	1	5
29.	A&N Islands	-	4	3	1	3	3
30.	Lakshadweep	-	-	-	-	-	-
31.	D.N. Haveli	-	-	-	-	-	-
32.	Chandigarh	-	-	41	8	12	19
Total		3903	5298	12751	13518	14657	12799

Number of cases registered under NDPS Act, 1885

1986	1987	1988	1989
3228	1786	2080	7322

[Translation]

#### Export of Handicraft Items to USA

2619. SHRI SAHEBRAM SUKRAM BAGUL :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have signed any agreement with an American Company for the export of handicraft products to America;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to formulate any scheme for export to Indian handicraft products to other countries also; and

(d) if so, he details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) and (b). No agreement has been signed by the Government with an American Company for export of handicrafts product to America.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Government have the following schemes for export of Indian handicrafts to various countries including the U.S.A. :-

(i) Promotion of lesser-known crafts like embroidered goods including zari and zardoze, lace and lace goods, imitation Jewellery as well environment-friendly crafts like paper products and Jute handicrafts;

(ii) Exploration of non-traditional markets namely South America, South Africa, Japan, Israel,

Turkey and newly industrialised countries of South East Asia;

(iii) Upgradation of Quality standard to make India's export oriented crafts competitive in the international market.

(iv) Availability of raw material at internationally competitive price;

(v) Duty draw-back for certain crafts to neutralise duties; and

(vi) Export promotional measures viz buyer-seller's meets, participation in international fairs and organisation of Trade Fairs in India.

#### Bonus to Central Government Employees

2620. DR. BALIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether bonus is paid to the employees of Central Government drawing a pay upto Rs. 3500/- per month;

(b) whether any requests have been made by various employees associations to raise the limit;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard, and

(d) the time by which the bonus limit is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Bonus is admissible to the Central Government

employees who are drawing emoluments upto Rs. 3500/- per month, except in respect of Railways employees in whose case bonus is admissible to those drawing emoluments upto Rs.4500/-.

(b) to (d). Requests have been received from some Employees' Associations to raise the eligibility ceiling. The Fifth Central Pay Commission is looking into all service conditions of the Central Government employees, including issues relating to bonus

### No Industry District

2621. SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the districts in Uttar Pradesh declared 'no industry districts';

(b) the steps being taken for their industrialisation;

(c) whether the Government are formulating any concrete scheme for industrialisation of eastern Uttar Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Currently, there is no Scheme under which the Union Government declares 'No industry Districts'. The responsibility of industrial development of any area/district primarily rests with the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government in this regard.

[English]

### Central Advisory Board for Salt

2622. SHRI SHANTILAL PARSOTAMDAS PATEL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government reconstitute the Central Advisory Board for salt every year; and

(b) if so, the norms laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. The Central Advisory Board and Salt has a term of three years.

(b) The Central Advisory Board for Salt is chaired by the Industry Minister and the Salt Commissioner is the Member Secretary. Members of the Board are nominated from following categories.

- Representatives of Central and State Governments (both salt producing states and non-salt producing states);
- Representatives of salt/iodised salt and refined salt manufacturers;
- Representatives of salt manufacturing co-operative societies;

- Representatives of alkali manufacturers; and
- Persons having knowledge and experience in public affairs.

### Dues of NTC Mill Workers

2623. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that dues of payments viz. gratuity, leave with pay etc. have not been paid to workers of NTC & BIC Mills for the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to make immediate payment of the dues of those workers?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). There have been some outstanding dues on account of gratuity, leave with pay etc. in respect of NTC due to shortage of working capital. A revised Turn Around Strategy has been approved for revival of NTC Mills. Since 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC have been referred to and declared sick by the BIFR, a revised Turn Around Plan has been placed before the BIFR for their approval. Once the plan is approved by the BIFR and funds become available, NTC is expected to clear the outstandings in respect of gratuity, leave with pay etc.

In respect of BIC, there are no outstandings as on date in respect of gratuity and leave with pay.

### Production of Cement

2624. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target for the production of cement by 1996-97;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Development Council for Cement Industry has given certain suggestions for improvement in the performance of this industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government has fixed a production target of 76 million tonnes of cement for 1996-97.

(c) and (d). The Development Council has suggested various measures for improving the performance of the industry, such as adequate allocation of coal/lignite, improvement of quality of coal, import of coal, increase in the supply of rail wagons for movement of cement/coal improved power supply, enhanced supply of granulated slag, fly ash, gypsum and other inputs, incentives and additional facilities for export of cement/clinker etc.

### Bank Branches in Tamil Nadu

2625. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of branches of Nationalised Banks in Tamil Nadu, Bank-wise and location-wise;

(b) the amount deposited in these banks during the last three years, bank-wise;

(c) the amount sanctioned and disbursed to farmers in the State during the above period, bank-wise;

(d) whether the Nationalised Banks have achieved the target fixed in regard to sanctioning of loans to farmers;

(e) if not, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps taken in this regard; and

(f) the amount realised from the farmers during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Bank-wise number of branches of public sector banks functioning in Tamil Nadu as at the end of March 1996 and the amount of deposits in these banks as at

the end of March 1994, March 1995 and March 1996 as furnished by Indian Overseas Bank (IOB), the Convenor Bank of State Level Bankers' Committee of Tamil Nadu are given in the enclosed statement-I.

(c) to (e). Bank-wise amounts allotted and target achieved for lending to farm sector by public sector banks in Tamil Nadu (as available) during the last three years from 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given in the enclosed Statement-II. IOB has reported that on an aggregate basis, banks have achieved the target for lending to farm sector during the three years.

(f) Recovery of agriculture advances of Nationalised Banks in Tamil Nadu during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 (latest available) as furnished by Reserve Bank of India is given below :-

(Amount in Rs. Crore)

Year ended	Demand	Recovery
June 1992	1046.47	710.99
June 1993	1257.12	870.34
June 1994	1313.23	930.35

### STATEMENT-I

#### Bank-wise Branches and Deposit of Public Sector Banks in Tamil Nadu

(Rs. in crores)

Name of Bank	No. of Branches as March, 96					Deposits as on		
	Rural	Semi-	Urban	Metro	Total	31.3.94	31.3.95	31.3.96
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1. State Bank of India	229	177	79	75	560	4011	4625	5372
2. State Bank of Bikaner	-	-	2	3	5	18	11	30
3. State Bank of Hyderabad	1	1	-	5	7	40	52	46
4. State Bank of Indore	-	-	-	2	2	11	16	21
5. State Bank of Mysore	4	5	9	8	26	183	197	223
6. State Bank of Patiala	-	-	-	3	3	38	56	53
7. State Bank of Saurashtra	-	-	2	2	4	6	12	15
8. State Bank of Travancore	9	28	16	10	63	179	285	359
9. Allahabad Bank	2	2	8	10	22	98	117	90
10. Andhra Bank	3	-	11	16	30	231	300	334
11. Bank of Baroda	31	15	19	26	91	804	957	905
12. Bank of India	56	12	17	20	105	480	583	591
13. Bank of Maharashtra	-	-	6	5	11	48	64	73
14. Canara Bank	203	122	60	50	435	2430	2996	3282
15. Central Bank of India	54	42	33	26	155	593	753	848
16. Corporation Bank	28	10	18	8	64	239	354	336
17. Dena Bank	1	-	9	12	22	68	86	93
18. Indian Bank	346	199	93	78	716	3061	3315	3910



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
19. Indian Overseas Bank	365	142	67	59	633	2395	2865	3103
20. Oriental Bank of Commerce	.1	2	2	3	8	54	53	74
21. Punjab National Bank	14	16	21	22	73	366	381	448
22. Punjab & Sind Bank	-	-	3	4	7	24	43	35
23. Syndicate Bank	18	29	23	22	92	392	477	525
24. UCO Bank	19	9	18	18	64	219	301	341
25. Union Bank of India	51	27	17	15	110	314	638	744
26. United Bank of India	-	2	4	5	11	31	39	91
27. Vijaya Bank	5	7	17	17	46	157	250	246
Total	1440	847	554	524	3365	16490	19826	22188

## STATEMENT-II

## Farm Sector - Credit Allocation and Achievements in Tamil Nadu

(Rs. in Crores)

Banks	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
State Bank of India	185.61	191.69	210.90	214.55	245.38	256.06
State Bank of Trivancore	5.85	3.52	5.99	9.63	7.32	9.54
State Bank of Mysore	0.49	0.38	0.61	0.36	1.43	1.02
Allahabad Bank	0.54	0.79	0.54	0.90	0.82	1.00
Andhra Bank	0.84	0.36	1.03	1.11	1.19	1.24
Bank of Baroda	30.46	26.65	31.78	29.38	35.02	34.29
Bank of India	23.44	23.37	25.73	29.96	30.11	33.23
Bank of Maharashtra	0.05	0.05	0.03	1.08	0.56	1.00
Canara Bank	198.83	265.82	234.38	267.29	285.58	296.75
Central Bank of India	23.57	18.18	25.41	24.70	31.71	31.86
Corporation Bank	4.90	3.74	5.29	6.38	6.43	6.78
Dena Bank	0.39	0.46	0.90	0.32	0.72	0.62
Indian Bank	255.49	267.47	263.14	302.19	285.14	313.78
Indian Overseas Bank	187.71	195.46	240.71	233.73	311.08	308.12
Punjab National Bank	16.58	15.01	18.53	15.35	18.23	16.30
Punjab & Sind Bank	-	0.02	0.01	0.60	0.55	0.72
Syndicate Bank	10.76	6.50	11.49	8.68	18.04	13.24
Union Bank of India	22.57	27.13	27.30	29.28	30.11	28.28
UCO Bank	00.03	0.02	14.19	13.13	16.99	16.74
United Bank of India	14.71	9.65	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08
Vijaya Bank	0.83	0.66	1.09	2.15	1.60	2.01
Total	983.65	1056.93	1119.11	1190.84	1327.99	1372.66

## Investments by UTI and IDBI

2626. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total investment made by the UTI and IDBI

in the various private sector companies during the last three years separately;

(b) the financial hold of both the above mentioned financial institutions in this group during the same period, institution-wise;

(c) whether many irregularities have been committed by the said industrial groups in financial transactions on a large scale;

(d) if so, whether the Government have conducted any investigation in this regard; and

(e) if so, what are its outcome?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Loan Applications Under PMRY

2627. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of applications received by the Government under Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) during 1995-96, the number out of them accepted and the average amount of loan sanctioned, per application, State-wise;

(b) the number of the applicants who have not been provided with the amount of loan sanctioned and the steps being taken to make the payment of the amount sanctioned to them, State-wise; and

(c) the total number of applicants likely to be benefited under this scheme during 1996-97 State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). State/Union Territory-wise position on the number of applications received, sanctioned and those remaining undisbursed alongwith the average of amount of loan sanctioned per borrower by the implementing banks and the number of beneficiaries to be covered during the year 1996-97 under the Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) for the educated unemployed youth, as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are set out in the enclosed Statement.

RBI has reported that during the year 1995-96, out of 2,75,513 sanctioned cases, 1,62,998 cases have been disbursed loans which constituted 59% of the cases sanctioned. Under the scheme, loans can be disbursed only after applicant receives necessary training and completes pre-disbursement formalities. RBI has issued instructions for time-bound disbursement of amount of loan sanctioned by banks under PMRY.

### STATEMENT

(Amount Rupees in lakhs)

State/Union Territory	Year 1995-96			Average amount of loan sanctioned per borrower	Beneficiaries to be covered for year 1996-97
	Number of Applications				
	Received	Sanctioned	Those remaining undisbursed		
1	2	3	4	5	6
Andhra Pradesh	44483	29052	12438	0.54	31900
Arunachal Pradesh	298	252	197	0.74	300
Assam	10598	7189	3623	0.78	9900
Bihar	37915	16884	8081	0.74	22150
Goa	739	518	165	0.75	550
Gujarat	17771	10345	2130	0.43	8500
Haryana	16763	8879	2184	0.53	7200
Himachal Pradesh	4505	2567	487	0.50	2100
Jammu & Kashmir	2511	1434	804	0.60	3100
Karnataka	26378	15059	6473	0.55	17700
Kerala	28117	12160	2713	0.51	15800
Madhya Pradesh	60063	30358	15074	0.66	27050
Maharashtra	65555	39001	10000	0.40	35900
Manipur	1639	939	777	0.82	2000
Meghalaya	611	508	392	0.76	550

1	2	3	4	5	6
Mizoram	350	225	222	0.93	250
Nagaland	315	291	102	0.77	300
Orissa	20324	7590	5207	0.75	8250
Punjab	27730	15233	6488	0.59	8600
Sikkim	236	161	33	0.46	200
Rajasthan	20442	9921	5279	0.53	10400
Tamil Nadu	33889	17714	8351	0.54	21800
Tripura	1404	774	558	0.65	1300
Uttar Pradesh	75557	33867	11104	0.50	35813
West Bengal	22201	9276	5784	0.01	22000
National Capital Territory of Delhi	15788	4286	2475	0.53	4550
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	146	96	24	0.61	100
Chandigarh	310	174	54	0.81	150
Daman & Diu	81	44	15	0.63	100
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	276	188	20	0.68	150
Pondicherry	742	372	189	0.43	500
Lakshdweep	-	-	-	-	50
Not Specified	250	158	72	0.42	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>537927</b>	<b>275513</b>	<b>112515</b>	<b>0.58</b>	<b>298413</b>

[English]

#### Office of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation

2628. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to set up an office of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation in Orissa during 1996-97; and

(b) if so, the location identified for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Central Government are considering to open a new Regional Office of Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation at Sambalpur either during this year or in 1997-98.

#### Joint Venture with Russia

2629. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are working on fresh guidelines for approval of joint ventures between Indian and Russian companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been a marked absence of a long term investment by the Indian companies in Russia or vice-versa in terms of setting up joint ventures; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the remedial steps suggested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). No, Sir, Govt.'s existing policies and regulations on both outward investment and incoming foreign investment are applicable to all countries, including Russia.

(c) and (d). No, Sir, 28 Indo-Russian joint ventures had already been registered in Russia until Nov. 1995 and a further 14 Indian wholly owned subsidiaries to be set up in Russia have since been approved by the Govt. Between July, 1994 and May, 1996, there has been direct Russian investment in 10 Indian companies.

Government have concluded an Agreement on Mutual protection of investments with the Govt. of Russia, which is expected to further encourage investment flows between the two countries.

#### Cash Credit Facilities By Banks

2630. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases in the public and private sector banks where the cash credit facilities reported to have been misused by its beneficiaries during the last three years;

(b) the steps taken to check such incidents;

(c) whether the private sector banks in metropolitan cities are not extending the cash credit facilities to the poor people/traders and priority sectors; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Under the Credit Monitoring Arrangement, banks are required to report to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) sanction of working capital credit limits of Rs. 10 crore and above from the aggregate banking system. Such sanctions are scrutinised in the RBI on a sample basis. It may not, therefore, be correct to quantify the number of cases of misuse on the basis of this data.

However, RBI have reported that based on random scrutiny of such data, it was revealed that some borrowers in the recent past had diverted working capital fund for other purposes including for investment in finance companies, associate concerns, subsidiaries and inter-corporate deposits. In order to prevent such diversion of funds, RBI have issued suitable instructions to the commercial banks.

(c) and (d). Banks, including private sector banks, are expected to provide need-based working capital finance to the borrowers under various Government sponsored schemes. The performance of old private sector banks in lending to priority sector as a last Friday of March 1995 and September, 1995 respectively (latest available) as reported by RBI, is given below :-

(Rupees in crores)

	March 1995	September 1995
(i) Total priority sector advances	4064	4202
(ii) Total agriculture advances	816	885
(iii) Advances to weaker sections	339	348

#### Custom Reward Scheme

2631. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some cases of irregularities in claiming rewards under customs reward scheme have come to the notice of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to review or have reviewed the performance under the scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) to (e). Government had appointed a Working Group to review various reward schemes in the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance including the reward scheme of Customs & Central Excise Department. The Group has submitted its report to the Government which is under consideration.

[Translation]

#### Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme

2632. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed under the 'Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme' during 1996-97 and the amount likely to be spent to achieve the target;

(b) whether the 'Export Intensive Area Scheme' started by the Government in 1994, also intended to encourage the foreign trade;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the results obtained by this scheme; and

(d) if so, the targets fixed during 1994-95 and in 1995-96 under the scheme and achievements made during the above period and the difference between the schemes introduced in 1994 and the new schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Government had considered the formulation of a scheme of infrastructure support to Export Intensive Areas in 1994. In the interim, an amount of Rs. 10 crores was released to the Govt. of Tamil Nadu as equity contribution of the Govt. of India in the New Tirupur Area Development Corporation Limited set up for the comprehensive infrastructure development programme at Tirupur.

The objectives sought to be achieved through infrastructure support to Export Intensive Areas have now been incorporated under the Crucial Balancing Investment Scheme.

[English]

#### Direct Over-Draft facility from RBI

2633. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any proposal from Delhi Government to allow it to borrow/take over-draft directly from the Reserve Bank of India; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Government of India has not received a request from the Government of NCT of Delhi in this regard. Moreover, the cash balances of the Government of NCT of Delhi form part of the general cash balance of Government of India. Till such time as the cash balance of NCT of Delhi is separated, the Government of NCT of Delhi does not require to borrow/take overdraft directly from the RBI.

[Translation]

### Transfer of Property

2634. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received information about irregularities being committed due to facility of transfer of property in any part of the country available at four metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, whether amendment in the Central Act is being proposed; and

(c) if so, the time by which it is proposed to be done?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). No specific information in this regard has been received by the Government. However, a proposal for deletion of section 30(2) of the Registration Act, 1908 is under consideration. Views/comments of the State Governments/Union Territories administration have been invited on the proposal. A final decision on the proposal would be taken after receipt of such views. As such, it is not possible to indicate at this stage the time by which the said decision would be taken.

[English]

### Smuggling of Drugs

2635. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a huge quantity of heroin and other narcotics have been seized by airport authorities and other enforcement authorities in different parts of the country during the last six months;

(b) if so, the detail of the seizure;

(c) whether these seizures indicate an up-trend in the incidence of smuggling of narcotics, as compared to that in the corresponding period (April-June) in 1995 and 1994; and

(d) the steps taken to curb and prevent smuggling of narcotics and psychotropic drugs?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. As per information available large quantity of various drugs have been seized in different parts of the country during January to June, 1996. Their details are as given below :

January to June, 1996 (Provisional)

	Quantity in KG	No. of Cases
Heroin	672	751
Opium	1064	191
Ganja	19349	1386
Hashish	4579	534
Methaqualone	5	2

(c) Drug trafficking is a clandestine activity and, therefore, on the basis of seizure figures it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing or decreasing during any given period. The quantity of narcotic drugs seized during April to June of 1994 and 1995 are given as under :-

Quantity in KG

	(April - June)	
	1994	1995
Heroin	163	362
Opium	381	558
Ganja	59151	20524
Hashish	1171	799
Methaqualone	3469	7179

(d) The enforcement agencies have been instructed to maintain the utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the provisions contained in NDPS Act.

### Agricultural Lending

2636. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of agricultural lending by banks has considerably declined in the recent past;

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

(c) the corrective measures taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). All Scheduled Commercial Banks (except foreign banks) are required to grant at least 18% of net

bank credit to agriculture. The performance of public sector banks in lending to agriculture for the last three years is given below :

(Rs. in Crores)

Year ended	Net Bank Credit	Agricultural Advances	18% of NBC	Shortfall
March 1994	149913.62	21204.26 (15.05%)	25364.45	4124.19 (2.95%)
1995	169037.54	23512.93 (13.91%)	30426.75	6913.82 (4.09%)
1996	184390.76	26351.25 (14.29%)	33190.33	6839.08 (3.71%)

It may be seen from above that the agricultural advances have been rising. However, the share of such advances as percentage of net bank credit was showing a declining trend upto March 1995. This trend has been arrested and the percentage in respect of public sector banks has gone up as of March 1996 as compared to March 1995.

(c) Reserve Bank of India has advised all scheduled commercial banks to make every effort to achieve the stipulated target and sub-targets for lending to priority sector at the earliest. Banks were also advised that failure on their part to achieve the stipulated target and the sub-target/s could invite banks specific policy measures which could include raising of reserve requirements of withdrawal of refinance facilities and/or such other measures as deemed necessary. Banks which have not reached the agricultural lending sub-target of 18 per cent of net bank credit are required to make contributions to the Rural Infrastructural Development Fund (RIDF) equivalent to the shortfall subject to a maximum of 1.5% of Net Bank Credit in achieving the aforesaid sub-target. The following additional steps have been taken to ensure enhanced flow of credit to agricultural sector :

- Simplified application forms have been made available which are also in Regional languages;
- Prescription of scales of finance for crop loans as worked out by the technical committees constituted in each district for various crops and their uniform adoption by banks;
- Disposal of loan applications upto Rs.25,000 within a fortnight and those over Rs.25,000 within 8 to 9 weeks;
- Delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to rural branch managers so that majority of loan application from weaker sections are sanctioned at branch level itself;
- Liberal guidelines in regard to requirement of collateral security by way of mortgage of

land/charge on land or third party guarantee;

- No margin is required for agricultural loans up to Rs.10,000/- for short term, medium/long term;
- The public sector banks have introduced the Agricultural Credit Card for farmers with good track record which enables farmers to secure production credit instantly and dispense with procedural formalities;
- To ensure timely and adequate credit for sustaining agricultural production, banks have been asked to extend a flexible line of credit in the form of cash credit facility which would meet their composite credit requirements;
- Bank have been asked to finance high-tech activities like aquaculture, floriculture, tissue-culture, bio-technology, etc; and
- Bank have been asked to draw up special credit plans with a view to achieving a distinct and marked improvement in the flow of credit to agriculture.

#### Income Tax Exemption to Resident of Ladakh

2637. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the permanent residents of Ladakh were granted exemption of Income Tax since 1962 in view of Chinese aggression and closure of traditional trade with Tibet and Sikkim;

(b) whether representations had been made by people representing all walks of life of Ladakhis to successive Finance Ministers since 1988-89 for further exemption of Income Tax with effect from 1988-89 due to continuing poor economic conditions of the Ladakhis;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to examine the issue of granting exemption of Income Tax to the permanent residents of Ladakh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. Income tax exemption was provided to the residents of Ladakh through the Finance (No.2) Act, 1965 with retrospective effect from 1st April, 1962, in view of the position that the residents of Ladakh had suffered hardship and their trade had been adversely affected as a result of Chinese aggression.

(b) The Government have received some representations for exemption to the people of Ladakh from income tax from the assessment year 1989-90 and subsequent years.

(c) and (d). The Government for the following reasons, is not considering revival of exemption from income tax to the residents of Ladakh :-

- (i) Time to time increase in the exemption limit to the present limit of Rs.40,000/- combined with other tax benefits such as standard deduction, deduction under section 80L, tax rebate under section 88, etc. take care of residents with poor economic conditions.
- (ii) Income-tax exemption which was intended to benefit the poor sections of the people of Ladakh was benefiting the affluent and was being misused by unscrupulous businessmen for laundering their black money through the residents of Ladakh.
- (iii) Income Tax is levied on the basis of the paying capacity of the taxpayer and the place of residence, normally, cannot be a ground for total exemption from income tax.

#### Retirement Age of High Court Judges

2638. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether there is any proposal to raise the retirement age of High Court Judges; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATURE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

#### Central Board of Revenue

2639. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a Central Board of Revenue by merging the Central Board of Direct Taxes and the Central Board of Excise and Customs;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the proposal is likely to be implemented; and

(d) if not, the other steps taken for improvement in the efficiency of revenue mobilisation and client services?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, such proposal is under consideration at present.

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

(d) Various steps have been taken at the policy level for effecting improvement in the efficiency of revenue mobilisation and client services. With this end in view the tax structure has been rationalised and procedures have been simplified. Emphasis has been given to reduce the scope of discretion and minimise litigation. Constant endeavour is also made to create a climate of mutual trust between the Government and tax payers. At the same time, the efficiency of the existing preventive mechanism to deal with tax evasion is being constantly reviewed and strengthened.

#### Income Tax Exemption to Sports Authority of Karnataka

2640. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of Karnataka has requested for 100% Income Tax exemption for contributions to be made towards 4th National Games;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have since rejected the above proposal;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) whether the Government propose to reconsider its decision?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government has not yet taken any decision on the fresh request of Government of Karnataka on behalf of the Sports Authority of Karnataka.

[Translation]

#### Textile Industry in Madhya Pradesh

2641. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister for TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The rank of Madhya Pradesh in the field of textile industry in the country;

(b) the present number of units engaged in the production of handloom, powerloom, synthetic yarn, readymade garments and hosiery in the State;

(c) the amount spent by the Government during each of the last three years on the development of textile industry in the State; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to promote the export of cloth produced by the said units?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The share of State of Madhya Pradesh in the field of textile industry in the country, in terms of installed spindleage/installed loomage, registered numbers of powerloom and numbers of handloom is approximately 3.2%.

(b) As per available data the number of units engaged in the production of handloom and powerloom cloth in the State of Madhya Pradesh are 47,000 and 34,593 respectively. In addition there is one unit manufacturing synthetic yarn, and 50 units producing cotton and man-made textiles including synthetic spun yarn. The data on the number of units producing ready made garments and hosiery is not maintained. However, the number of units registered with AEPC as exporters of garment and knitwear from the State of Madhya Pradesh is 72.

(c) No earmarking of funds is made for development of textile sector for each State separately by the Central Government. The plans for development of textile industry are finalised and implemented keeping in view the overall interests of the industry.

(d) Steps for promotion of exports is not taken separately for each State. However, various steps have been taken by the Government to promote export of cloth such as reduction in import duty on various capital goods and raw materials, fiscal restructuring, simplification of quota system, research and development activities, setting up of laboratory facilities, etc.

[English]

### Bank Credit to Corporates

2642. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bank credit to corporates has declines in recent months despite improvement in banks' liquidity position;

(b) if so, the extent of monthly decrease during the past six months and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently imposed stricter rules/guidelines in disbursing loans;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of the steps being taken to improve the loan disbursement position?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

### Foreign Investment

2643. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have opened the capital market for foreign investors;

(b) if so, the expected volume of inflow of foreign capital in the secondary market of the country;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be repatriated from profits out of these investments;

(d) whether any guidelines have been issued by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the steps being taken for productive use of foreign capital proposed to be acquired through this method?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). Government, through a press Release dated 14th September 1992, publicised guidelines permitting Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) including institutions such as Pension Funds, Mutual Funds, Investment Trusts etc., to invest in Indian capital Market. As per the information filed with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), by the Custodians to the FIIs, as on 12.7.1996 cumulative net investments by FIIs stood at US \$ 6397.4 million. As per the governing guidelines, FIIs can repatriate capital, capital gains, dividends, income received by way of interest on their investments (post tax) from their Rupee Account to Foreign Currency maintained at a designated branch of a Bank in India. The amount of profits which would be repatriable is contingent upon various factors including performance of domestic stock markets, investment decisions of the FIIs etc., hence extent of repatriability of profits is not amenable to reliable estimation.

(f) Foreign exchange inflows consequent to FII investments play a facilitating role in management of the country's Balance of Payment situation. Secondary market operations by FIIs increases the depth and credibility of domestic capital markets, enhancing the scope for capital mobilisation by Indian companies.

### Excise Duty on Cigarettes

2644. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a resolution seeking withdrawal of tax concession on mini-cigarettes passed by Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly is pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, the action the Union Government have taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) whether bidi production has gone down by 25 percent in the last two years resulting in less production and lakhs of workers losing their employment;

(d) whether the Government have any proposal to ban the production and sale of cigarettes having less than 60mm size; and

(e) if not, the steps the Government propose to consider for withdrawing the excise tax concession granted to mini-cigarettes?



THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh had passed a resolution on 8 December, 1995 recommending to the Government of India to withdraw the excise concession given to mini-cigarettes to protect the livelihood of bidi workers.

Excise duty on bidis continues to be chargeable at the rate of Rs. 5 per thousand since 1993-94 and figures of Excise duty realised from bidis since 1993-94 do not show any fall in revenue. Thus, taking revenue collection as a proxy of production of bidis, it would be seen that there has been no short fall in production of bidis in the last two years.

At present, there is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to ban production and sale of cigarettes of length not exceeding 60 mm. However, in the Budget for 1996-97 and with effect from 23.7.1996, excise duty on non-filter cigarettes of length not exceeding 60mm, known as mini-cigarettes, has been increased from Rs.60 to Rs.75 per thousand cigarettes.

#### Voting Right to Indians Living Abroad

2645. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :  
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

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

(a) the approximate number of Indians living in foreign countries who do not have the Voting Rights because they are not ordinarily resident of India;

(b) whether there was any demand for amending the Representation of People Act, 1950 to provide them the Voting Right; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) According to records available with Ministry of External Affairs, about 14 million people of Indian origin are living abroad. A person who is not ordinarily resident in any place in India is not entitled to be registered as voter unless he belongs to certain categories of persons who are deemed to be ordinarily resident of a place by virtue of the provisions of section 20 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Owing to practical and administrative difficulties, it has not yet been possible to grant voting rights to Indians living abroad.

[Translation]

#### Signing of MOU

2646. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Chief Minister of Bihar has signed 29 Memorandum of Understanding with Non-Resident Indians residing abroad for setting up industries in Bihar but these MoU have not been implemented so far; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The information regarding MOUs signed by the Government of Bihar with NRIs are not available with the Central Government.

[English]

#### Meeting of Export Promotion Council

2647. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Export Promotion Council meeting was held on July 17, 1996;

(b) if so, the details of issues discussed in the meeting and the number of delegates participated therein;

(c) the growth rate in exports likely to be increased in coming months; and

(d) the contribution of India in the World Trade in 1995-96 and as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The meeting reviewed the export performance by the various Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards and also discussed the need for increasing export performance. Representatives from most of the Export Promotion Councils/Commodity Boards besides senior officials from different Government Departments/Ministries participated.

(c) Export promotion is a continuous exercise. It is expected that the momentum of increase in exports would be sustained in the coming months.

(d) Increased exports would improve India's share in world trade and its rank as exporter. According to latest available WTO statistics, India's share and ranking as exporter and importer in world merchandise trade

during 1994 and 1995 were as follows :

	%Share		Rank	
	1994	1995	1994	1995
Exporter	0.6	0.6	32	31
Importer	0.6	0.7	29	28

### Import of Dry Fruits

2648. SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the total quantity of dry-fruits imported and the foreign exchange incurred thereon during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : The total quantity and value of dry fruits imported during the last three years, i.e. 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (April, 1995 - Jan., 1995) is as under :-

Year	Qty. (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. lakhs)
1993-94	70722	9274
1994-95	100036	13330
1995-96 (April-Jan., 1995-96)	66102	9550

(Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta).

### Computerization of Banks

2649. SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the progress made in different branches of Nationalised Banks in the matter of computerization, bank-wise;

(b) the extent of improvement brought about in the services being rendered to customers by those banks after computerization;

(c) whether the computerization has rendered any staff surplus in the nationalized banks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the manner in which the surplus staff has been employed?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Details of the branches of nationalised banks which have been fully computerised as on 31.3.1996, as reported by Reserve Bank of India are given

below :-

S.No.	Name of the Bank	No. of branches fully computerised
1.	Allahabad Bank	22
2.	Andhra Bank	29
3.	Bank of Baroda	60
4.	Bank of India	124
5.	Bank of Maharashtra	40
6.	Canara Bank	121
7.	Central Bank of India	21
8.	Corporation Bank	107
9.	Dena Bank	18
10.	Indian Bank	81
11.	Indian Overseas Bank	27
12.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	18
13.	Punjab National Bank	127
14.	Punjab & Sind Bank	12
15.	Syndicate Bank	47
16.	UCO Bank	12
17.	Union Bank of India	48
18.	United Bank of India	6
19.	Vijaya Bank	38
	Total	958

(b) There has been a general improvement in the services being rendered to customers by these banks after computerisation.

(c) and (d). Computerisation envisages redeployment of staff that may be rendered surplus in a branch as a result of computerisation, in a manner consistent with the requirement of the concerned bank.

### Drug Trafficking

2650. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons charged and arrested for drug-trafficking in Goa during 1995;

(b) the number of persons convicted after trial in the Court; and

(c) the number of foreign nationals convicted out of them?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) As per information available, 24 persons have been arrested for drug trafficking in Goa during 1995.

(b) 4 persons were convicted after trial in the Court during 1995.

(c) Out of four persons convicted, 2 were foreign nationals.

### Appointment of Cost Auditor in Companies

2651. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to appoint Cost Auditors in the manufacturing companies whose turnover is more than Rs.25 lakh per year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It has not been considered necessary to burden the smaller companies with maintenance of elaborate prescribed cost audit records and the audit thereof. This would entail not only additional cost to such companies but they will also have to keep such details, which may not be of much practical utility for them. However, there is no bar for such companies to have their own costing system based on their requirements and needs.

### India Brand Equity Promotion Fund

2652. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have constituted the India Brand Equity Promotion Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof with the names of the members of the Fund; and

(c) the basic idea behind setting up of the Fund?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BALLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). A trust for India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) has been registered in July, 1996 with the objective of developing a brand building export promotion strategy in order to accelerate the export growth of the country. The Commerce Secretary is the non-executive Chairman of the Trust and the nomination of other members of the Trust is under process.

### National Savings Scheme

2653. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to revise the interest rates of deposits under the National Savings Scheme at par with the interest rates of banks;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Income Tax Department charges income tax on the maturity value of deposits made by institutions like cooperative banks, societies, etc. under Indira Vikas Patras;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government propose to exempt deposits of such institutions in Indira/Kisan Vikas Patras from Income tax; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir. No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(b) The Small Savings Schemes in Post Offices and deposits Schemes in banks are not strictly comparable. Each saving instrument is designed to cater to the requirements of different categories of savers. As such savers have a choice of instruments.

(c) Income on Indira Vikas Patras is chargeable to Tax. Certain income of cooperative societies is deductible from the Gross Taxable Income under section 80 (P) of the Income Tax Act 1961 subject to fulfilment of condition laid down in the said section.

(d) and (e) No such proposal is under consideration.

### Export of Mango

2654. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has processed the matter of export of mangoes to U.S.A. with the concerned Department of U.S. Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the response of U.S. Government and the stage at which the matter stands at present; and

(d) the time by which the export of Indian mangoes to U.S.A. is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Bank Branches in Assam

2655. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of branches of nationalised banks operating in Assam during each of the last three years, location-wise and bank-wise;

(b) the number of branches which were proposed to be opened and how many of them have become operational during the above period; and

(c) the time by which the remaining branches of the banks are likely to be made operational?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have issued 12 authorisations during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 to nationalised banks for opening branches in Assam. Of these, eight branches have since been opened. While authorising opening of branches RBI have advised banks to obtain necessary licences after completion of infrastructural facilities and banks are expected to open the branch within the validity period of the licence which is one year from the date of issue of licence.

#### Trade with Pakistan

2656. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK :  
SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :  
DR. M.P. JAISWAL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are considering to allow trade with Pakistan at Wagha border;

(b) if so, whether security agencies have expressed their concern in this behalf; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Requests received from Indian trade and industry for opening up of Wagah border for overland trade with Pakistan are being looked into, in consultation with all concerned Government agencies.

#### Export of Marine Products

2657. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of marine products exported during each of the last three years;

(b) the details of the top five States contributing to the country's marine exports; and

(c) the details of countries which are the main importers of India's marine products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The quantity and value of marine products exported during

each of the last three years has been as follows :-

Year	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1995-96	296277	3501.11
1994-95	307337	3573.27
1993-94	243960	2503.62

(Source : MPEDA)

(b) The following are the top five states alongwith the contribution of each in terms of quantity exported and value realised from the exports of marine products :-

	Quantity (MT)	Value (Rs. Crores)
1. Kerala	78896	856.90
2. Tamil Nadu	31330	719.19
3. Andhra Pradesh	20017	600.88
4. Maharashtra	55357	484.36
5. Gujarat	82558	395.28

(Source : MPEDA)

(c) Following are the countries/markets which are the main importers of marine products from India alongwith the quantity and value of imports during the period 1993-94 to 1995-96 :-

Q : Quantity in MT

V : Value in Rs. Crores

Country/Market	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Japan	Q: 44985 V: 1185.67	53500 1643.82	51789 1576.69
European Union	Q: 71850 V: 648.21	71224 726.30	87211 911.87
USA	Q: 26152 V: 306.17	32102 490.23	26008 366.26
South East Asia	Q: 87099 V: 288.40	135567 602.32	112482 501.03

(Source: MPEDA)

#### NEDB

2658. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the North Eastern Development Bank has commenced functioning;

(b) if so, the role and objectives of the Bank;

(c) the manner in which its role would be different from the roles of IDBI, SIDBI, ICICI etc;

(d) the quantum of funds made available to the Bank by way of paid up capital and loans so far; and

(e) the achievement and activities undertaken by the Bank till date?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir. The organisation is named as North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited (NEDFI).

(b) The role and objective of NEDFI is to carry on the business of providing credit and other facilities for promotion, expansion and modernisation of industrial enterprises and infrastructure projects in the North Eastern Region of the country.

(c) The operations of NEDFI are focused exclusively on the North Eastern Region and cover the entire spectrum of industry i.e. small, medium and large scale industries.

(d) The authorised capital of NEDFI is Rs.500 crores. Its paid up capital at present is Rs.90 crores.

(e) NEDFI has reported that during March - July, 1996 it has conducted eight seminars/workshops for entrepreneurs in all the seven States of the North Eastern Region. A list of 62 items identified by the consultants as feasible in the North Eastern Region prepared pre-investment studies on most of the identified items and offered them to eligible entrepreneurs to help them take investment decisions. As a result of the promotional efforts of NEDFI, it has received about 30 enquiries involving investment of about Rs.70 crores. NEDFI has sanctioned direct assistance of Rs.12 crores oil sector, and catalysed an investment of Rs.30 crores. NEDFI also helped in marketing an initial public issue offer of equity capital of around Rs.200 crores for a local company.

### **Drinking Water in Coalmines**

2659. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Eastern Coalfields Limited have made arrangements for the supply of potable water in its coalmines and quarters of the workers;

(b) if so, names of the coalmines and workers quarters to whom this facility is likely to be extended; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ECL have made arrangement for supply of potable water to 43049 Standard Quarters. The rest are being supplied potable water through Community Taps/ Hand Pumps/Tubewells/Dugwells etc. The present percentage of satisfaction is 91.03%.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

### **Japanese Investment in Joint Ventures**

2660. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the industries in the country wherein investment has been made by Japan during each of the last three years;

(b) whether Japan has also set up some joint ventures during the above period;

(c) if so, the details of such joint ventures set up in India during the above period;

(d) the amount of capital invested by Japan in these joint ventures separately;

(e) whether Japan proposes to make investments in some more joint ventures in India during the current financial year also; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Proposals of foreign direct investment approved during each of the last three years with Japanese firms are as under :

Year	FDI Proposals approved	Amount of FDI
1993	26	257.43
1994	45	400.90
1995	40	1414.26

The details of such proposals viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centre as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

(e) and (f). The approvals to joint venture proposals are accorded on receipt of application from the entrepreneurs. Each proposals is considered on its merits and as per prescribed guidelines in this regard.

[English]

### **Banking Support for Tea Gardens of West Bengal**

2661. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Tea Gardens of West Bengal are suffering for lack of Banking support in so far as their expansion and modernisation plan is concerned; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that they have received a representation from Tea Association of India stating, inter-alia, that banks have lost interest in financing schemes for development of tea plantation on account of stoppage of refinance from National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development (NABARD) with effect from January, 1996.

NABARD, has, reported that considering the representations received from various quarters, it has decided to allocate Rs. 2.5 crores for sanction of new tea schemes in West Bengal, during 1996-1997. Further, the refinance requirements of small tea growers financed by State Cooperative Bank, State Co-operative Agriculture and Rural Development Bank and Regional Rural Banks of West Bengal will be met by NABARD in full.

### Excise Duty on Railway Wagons

2662. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any request has been received from the Railway Ministry to waive the Central excise duty for private investors opting for the "own your wagon scheme";

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

(c) whether the Railways, the main buyers of the wagons, do not pay central excise; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No request has been received from the Railway Ministry, in the recent past, to waive the Central excise duty for private investors opting for the "own your wagon scheme".

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

(c) and (d). Indian Railways do not pay Central excise duty on wagons-bought, owned and intended to be used by them. The exemption has been given taking into account the public interest sub-served by the Railways.

[Translation]

### Special Fund for Tribal Women

2663. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations in meeting with the Minister of Finance had requested to set up a special fund for Tribal Women and NGOs engaged in development and plantation works; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The relevant suggestions/deliberations made in the pre-budget meeting are carefully considered for the budgetary exercise.

[English]

### Home Page to Indian Custom

2664. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a home page for Indian Customs has been created in the Internal System;

(b) if so, whether as a result of above facility, a person residing abroad can tip off custom officials here about smuggling activities in India; and

(c) if so, the action taken/proposed to counter the above activities?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. A home page has been created on the Internet giving, inter-alia, information regarding rules for giving rewards to persons who provide specific information about smuggling and duty evasion.

There already exist adequate legal and administrative arrangements to counter smuggling activities in India and they include provisions in law for confiscation of goods, imposition of fines and penalties and for prosecution of the concerned persons.

### Foreign Investment

2665. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the developed nations and the World Bank/IMF have been insisting on further liberalisation of duties and lowering of interest rates for ensuring free flow of foreign investment in India and globalisation of economy;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to resist such pressures for preventing extinction of domestic industries; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that sudden cessation of activities or work by foreign companies in the infrastructure sector does not bring the country's development to a grinding halt?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Though developed countries and the world Bank/IMF do make suggestions about the macro-economic approach that India needs to pursue, there is no question of any external pressure determining the

Government's policies. However, in order to foster growth, competitiveness and transparency in the economy, Government has taken various measures to reduce and rationalise duties and liberalise interest rates.

(c) Both domestic and foreign companies engaged in infrastructure have long-term objectives and enjoy various fiscal concessions which make it unlikely that they will dis-continue their activities suddenly.

#### Utilisation of Revenue Collected from Tea Gardens in Darjeeling

2666. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of revenue collected as duties from the tea gardens of Darjeeling by the Union Government during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the Government have undertaken development/welfare works for these tea gardens;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) As per the estimates available with the Tea Board, revenue collected by the Central Government from tea gardens in Darjeeling as cess on production of tea during past 3 years has been as follows :

Year	(Rs. in lakh)
1993	10
1994	8.6
1995	8.3

(b) to (d). For 10 years beginning from 1985-86 to 1995-96, a special scheme called Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme was operated in Darjeeling District to encourage replanting, rejuvenation and infilling activities for boosting production. Under this scheme, Rs. 246.27 lakh have already been disbursed to the planters. Tea Board also implements labour welfare schemes in the district which inter-alia include providing grant to the wards of the tea garden workers for pursuing studies above the primary level and also providing financial assistance to educational institutions, hospitals etc. for construction of health centres, extension of educational and vocational training and specialised treatment facilities for the benefit of the tea garden workers and their families.

#### Growth Centres in A.P.

2667. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Growth Centres set up in Andhra Pradesh, so far;

(b) the location-wise details thereof; and

(c) the details of centres being set up in Andhra Pradesh during 1996-97 and proposed for 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Four Growth Centres have been allotted to the State of Andhra Pradesh. The location-wise details thereof are given below :

Name of Growth Centre & District	Status
(i) Hindupur (Anantpur)	Approved
(ii) Vizianagaram-Bobbili (Vizianagaram)	Approved
(iii) Ongole (Prakasam)	Approved
(iv) Khammam (Khammam)	Approved

#### Accumulation of stock of Coir Yarn and Coir Products

2668. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the accumulation of stock of coir yarn and coir products with the Government of Kerala due to fall in demand of these items both in domestic and foreign markets; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken by the Union Government to help clearance of accumulation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). With a view to encourage consumption of coir yarn and coir products in the country, the Government have issued an order on 26th June, 1996 for the continuation of the Rebate Scheme on sale of Coir Yarn and Coir Products (excluding rubberised coir products) in the Coir Sector during the year 1996-97.

#### Banking Support to Victims of Natural Calamities

2669. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India had issued any guidelines to the commercial banks in regard to financial assistance to persons affected by natural calamities/riots etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amounts disbursed so far in Orissa particularly in Nuapara and Kalahandi districts of the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(d) the number of persons benefited therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it had issued standing guidelines to banks in August,

1984 to be followed by them for providing relief in areas affected by natural calamities/riots etc. The above guidelines have been issued to enable banks to take uniform and concerted action expeditiously, particularly to provide the financial assistance to agriculturists, small scale industrials units, artisans, small business and trading establishments affected by natural calamities. These guidelines inter alia, envisage:

- (i) Conversion short-term production loans into medium term loans.
- (ii) Rescheduling/postponement of existing term loan instalments.
- (iii) Provision of additional need-based crop loans/working capital.
- (iv) Relaxation in security and margin norms.

The guidelines also envisage provision of consumptions loans upto Rs. 1000/-. The interest rates are to be charged by the banks as per the directives on Interest Rates issued by RBI. However, those borrowers who meet the eligibility criteria under the Scheme of Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) are to be provided credit in accordance with the DRI Scheme.

RBI have further reported that in respect of current dues in default, the guidelines envisage that no penal interest will be charged. The bank should also suitably defer the compounding of interest charged.

(c) and (d). The number of persons assisted and the amount disbursed so far in Orissa particularly in Kalahandi and Nuapara Districts of the State during 1993-94 and 1994-95 as furnished by UCO Bank, the convenor bank for the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for the State of Orissa are set out as under :

(Amount Rs. in Lakhs)

State/ District	1993-94		1994-95	
	Persons assisted	Amount disbursed	Persons assisted	Amount disbursed
Orissa	11.518	413.99	8.652	375.11
Kalahandi	7.911	297.52	6.400	293.57
Nuapara	3.607	116.47	2.252	81.54

### Notification of Bills

2670. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of Bills passed by both the Houses of Parliament and awaiting their notification and implementation from the dates to be notified by the Government;

(b) the reasons for which these Acts have not so far been notified and made effective; and

(c) the time by which these Acts are likely to be enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). In reply to the Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5954, necessary information in relation to Central Acts upto 1993 was furnished to Rajya Sabha on 26.5.1995 and 5.2.1996 for laying on the Table of that House.

Since up-to-date information including that of 1994, 1995 and 1996 is not readily available, the same is being collected from various Ministries and Departments and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

### Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme

2671. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :  
SHRI RAM NAIK :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme is in operation in the State of Maharashtra for the last 23 years under the provisions of Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971;

(b) whether the farmers have benefited from this scheme and their exploitation at the hands of traders/agents has been eliminated;

(c) whether the Union Government fixed the term of the scheme;

(d) if so, the present position in regard thereto;

(e) whether the Government of Maharashtra has requested the Union Government to extend the scheme on long term basis in the interest of farmers; and

(f) if so, the reaction of Govt. thereto?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (d). The Maharashtra Raw Cotton Monopoly Procurement Scheme has been in operation in the state of Maharashtra since 1972-73 cotton season under the Maharashtra Raw Cotton (Procurement, Processing and Marketing) Act, 1971. At the request of the Govt. of Maharashtra, in 1995 the Government agreed to extend the Scheme for a period of one year upto 30.6.96.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. The request of Government of Maharashtra is under consideration of the Govt. of India at present.

[Translation]

### Coal Projects

2672. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up new coal projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the locations identified for those projects?



THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). During the year 1995-96 the Government have sanctioned two new coal projects and one expansion project the details of which are given below :

S. No. project	Name of Company	Capacity (mtpa)	Capital cost (Rs. in crores)
1.	Gautham Khani OCP	2.00	415.93
2.	Ravindra Khani New Tech. UG	1.22	242.94
3.	K.D. Hesalong OCP (Expn.)	4.50	214.93

Further some of the important new/expansion coal projects under various stages of consideration/appraisal are :

Dipka OCP (Expn.)	SCCL
Urdhan OCP	WCL
Nigahi OCP (Expn.)	NCL
Bina Mine-II, OCP	NCL
Ramagundam Shaft Block-I	SCCL
Jharkhand OCP	CCL

#### Investment in Unproductive Items

2673. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :  
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a sum of Rs. 2,200 crores is involved in the unproductive items because of the sickness of industrial units;

(b) whether the Government propose to invest this amount again in the productive sector; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the amount reinvested in the productive sector which was lying in the unproductive sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Data on sick industrial units assisted by banks in the country is compiled by the Reserve Bank of India. According to the latest RBI data available, the number of sick industrial units in the small scale and non-small sectors as at the end of March, 1994 and March, 1995 is as under :

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Period	SSI Units		Non-SSI Units	
	No. of units	Amount Outstanding	No. of units	Amount Outstanding
March '94	256452	3680.37	1909	8151.52
March '95	268815	3547.16	1915	8739.61

The Government has taken a number of steps for revival of sick industrial units. Some of the important steps are given at enclosed Statement. As a result of continuous stream of measures initiated by the Government 10,371 SSI units and 442 Non-SSI units have been put under nursing programme for revival as at the end of March, 1995.

#### Steps taken by Government for revival of sick industrial units

The Government has enacted a comprehensive legislation namely 'The Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985'. A quasi-judicial body designated as 'The Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction' (BIFR), has been set up under the Act to deal with the problems of the sick industrial companies in an effective manner, which has become operational with effect from the 15th May, 1987.

- The Reserve Bank of India has issued guidelines to banks for strengthening the monitoring systems and for arresting industrial sickness at the incipient stage so that corrective measures are taken in time.
- Commercial banks have also been directed by the Reserve Bank of India to formulate rehabilitation packages for the revival of potentially viable units.
- The Reserve Bank of India has also issued guidelines to the banks indicating parameters within which banks could grant reliefs and concessions for rehabilitation of sick but potentially viable units without reference to RBI both in the large and small scale sector.
- Revival of sick industrial units is also facilitated by amalgamation/merger of sick units with healthy units. Tax benefits are given under Section 72(A) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 to the healthy company for revival of the amalgamating sick unit.
- Government has set up the National Renewal Fund which would inter-alia, provide for payment of compensation to workers affected by industrial restructuring.
- On the advice of the Government of India, the Reserve Bank of India has set up State Level Inter-Institutional Committees (SLIICs) in all States under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Industries, Department of the concerned State Government for working out a rehabilitation package for revival of sick but viable small scale units.
- Financial assistance in the form of long term equity type assistance upto Rs. 2,50,000/- to units with a project cost not exceeding Rs. 10 lakhs at a nominal service charge of one per cent annum is also available to potentially

viable but sick small scale industrial units from the National Equity Fund set up in August, 1987.

9. The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been established to function as an Apex Bank for tiny and small scale industries.

#### Production/Consumption of Cement

2674. SHRI KACHARU BHAU RAUT :  
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the consumption and production of cement in Maharashtra during each of the last two years; and

(b) the steps being taken to bridge the gap between the demand and supply to cement in the State?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The production of cement by large plants in Maharashtra during the last two years was 42.78 lakh tonnes and 47.81 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 and 1995-96. The production of mini cement plants and Statewise consumption figures are not maintained centrally. However, based on the Inter-state cement movement data maintained by Cement Manufacturers Association, the consumption of Maharashtra was estimated at 77.65 lakh tonnes and 87.36 lakh tonnes in 1994-95 and 1995-96 respectively.

(b) Cement plants are normally set up in locations where sufficient limestone reserves are available. In Maharashtra such reserves are found only in a few places. Since the cement industry has been delicensed, the entrepreneurs are free to set up cement plants in viable and permissible locations. Government provides all assistance such as granting mining lease, allotment of coal and rail wagons on priority basis etc. Government is also providing rail wagons on priority basis for movement of cement from surplus to deficit areas.

[English]

#### Production of Watches by HMT

2675. SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the H.M.T. propose to introduce another series of watches called "Sangam" for the middle range buyers;

(b) if so, the price for the proposed watch;

(c) whether the production has been started and if so, the estimated production of these watches per year; and

(d) if not, by when the production of these watches are likely to be started and the same will be available in the market?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) HMT has plans to launch "Sangam" brand of watches during the year 1996-97.

(b) to (d). The production of components for these watches has commenced. The price and the estimated production of these watches will be decided by the company based on market conditions.

#### Non-Achievement of Target by Heavy Industry

2676. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI NITISH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether 49 units of Heavy Industry were functioning in the country as on March, 1996;

(b) whether production targets fixed for them for the year 1995-96 was not achieved by 31 units;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(d) the percentage of production capacity utilised by the heavy industrial units in each of the last three years in the heavy industry sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. However, there was no production in 1995-96 in two units namely Mandya National Paper Mills and Nagaland Pulp & Paper Mills Ltd.

(b) 27 units could not achieve the targets during the year 1995-96. Details are enclosed as Statement.

(c) The units could not achieve production targets due to various reasons such as non availability of raw material, shortage of power, shortage of working capital, shortage of orders, obsolete plant and machinery etc.

(d) The information is available in the Public Enterprises Survey for 1994-95 (Vol.I) published by Department of Public Enterprises, which has already been laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

S.No.	PSU	Production 1995-96	
		Target	Actual
1	2	3	4
1.	AY & CO	327.66	260.25
2.	Hooghly PTG	1.79	2.68
3.	BHEL	3811.49	4715.00
4.	BSCL	167.06	190.56
5.	BBVL	7.01	6.25
6.	RBL	5.79	1.25

(Rs. crores)

1	2	3	4
7.	Jessop	118.37	104.17
8.	Braithwaite	110.11	101.43
9.	BWEL	50.94	75.06
10.	BP MEL	0.76	0.69
11.	WIL	0.76	0.55
12.	Lagan Jute	6.57	6.60
13.	BBJ	27.07	23.82
14.	BHPV	223.75	273.20
15.	BPCL	54.40	71.60
16.	R & C	49.20	59.80
17.	TSL	33.45	48.90
18.	TSP	35.75	33.10
19.	B & R	188.15	233.80
20.	CCIL	1.57	1.00
21.	HCL	545.75	310.88
22.	HEC	319.93	232.79
23.	HMT	794.38	749.52
24.	PLT	33.47	35.57
25.	HMT (B)	38.42	40.70
26.	HMT (I)	60.00	43.25
27.	ILK	108.81	100.04
28.	REIL	12.23	11.84
29.	MAMC	58.25	39.85
30.	NBCIL	0.53	0.47
31.	NIL	7.63	4.87
32.	SIL	56.59	80.92
33.	BOGL	5.30	3.29
34.	CCI	416.87	435.32
35.	DCSL	36.03	7.35
36.	HPCL	310.04*	377.87
37.	MNPM	.	.
38.	NPPC	.	.
39.	HNL	245.98	269.93
40.	HPF	82.11	30.94
41.	HSL	4.69	7.16
42.	SSL	4.78	6.70
43.	NEPA	153.68	152.64
44.	RIC	13.50	11.17
45.	TAFCO	2.41	0.76
46.	TCIL	120.12	93.36
47.	BLC	7.69	6.28
48.	EPI	118.00	121.06
49.	NIDCL	6.50	7.95
		8785.34	9392.09

\* No production.

### Quality of New Notes

2677. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the quality of new Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 notes brought out by RBI is of inferior quality;

(b) whether the circulation of fake Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 Currency notes have increased since the introduction of new notes by RBI;

(c) if so, the facts and details thereof; and

(d) remedial steps the Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The quality of new Rs. 10 and Rs. 100 notes brought out by the Reserve Bank of India is infact superior as they contain additional overt and covert security features.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

### Violation of Fera

2678. DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of persons and firms on whom a fine of Rs. 2 lakh and above has been imposed for Violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act during 1996 so far;

(b) the amount of fine out of the above, recovered in each of the cases; and

(c) the action being taken to receive the entire amount?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Fine of Rs. 2 lakh and above has not been imposed on any person/firm for violation of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973 during 1996.

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

### Central Assistance for SSI

2679. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Assam has made any request to the Union Government to increase the Central assistance during the current financial year for the development of small scale industries in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

### Welfare Schemes for Backward Areas

2680. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some commercial banks have introduced a welfare scheme for tribals, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in the backward areas of Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total number of tribals and other weaker section benefited therefrom so far in the State?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Bank of Maharashtra, the Convenor Bank for State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) for Maharashtra, has reported that the commercial banks in the State have not formulated any specific welfare schemes for tribals, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) in the backward areas of the State. However, banks in Maharashtra have been participating in the various poverty alleviation programmes which inter alia covers SCs and STs in the backward areas of the State.

Bank of Maharashtra has further reported that bank's performance under such programmes/schemes in providing assistance to SCs and STs in Maharashtra, as furnished by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:

Scheme	Loan sanctioned to SCs/STs during 1995-96 (Provisional)	
	1	2
		Number
Integrated Rural Development Programme		*83,284

1	2
Prime Minister's Rojgar Yojna	3800
Scheme for Urban Micro Enterprises	2209
Scheme for Liberation and Rehabilitation of Scavengers	3103

\* Number of families assisted during 1994-95.

### Export of 'Pan'

2681. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 'Pan' which is produced\* in Bihar, is very famous and have great potential for export to Pakistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are taking any steps to promote the export of 'Pan' to Pakistan;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). State-wise export figures are not maintained. However, the details of country-wise total quantity and value of 'pan' exported during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (upto January, 1996) which includes exports to Pakistan are given in the Annexure.

(c) to (e). While no specific steps to boost the export of 'pan' to Pakistan have been taken, the incentives announced for the agricultural sector and the changes made in the Exim Policy, 1992-97 ensuring easier availability of credit on cheaper terms etc. would apply to boost the export of 'pan'.

### STATEMENT

Country-wise total quantity and value of 'pan' exported during 1993-94, 1994-95, and 1995-96 (upto January, 1996)

Q: in KG.

V: in Rs.

	1993-94		1994-95		1995-96 (upto January, 1996)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Baharain IS	15	450				
Canada	22583	578261	34330	1031068	37017	1260237
Denmark	77	2190				
Egypt A RP	600	13800				

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
France	1437	14701	687	13532	860	25383
German F Rep	4863	106820	12764	273839	7349	257643
Hong Kong			200	4079		
Ivory Coast	1200	21603				
Japan	124	2910				
Kenya	13614	766273	12861	746545	9608	664845
Korea RP	200	15949				
Kuwait	20	280				
Maldives			6000	411156		
Nepal			9000	158426	460	5400
Pakistan	2059163	32928712	1953580	23511050	3117903	26586668
Portugal	1330	55880	424	21868	77	1482
Qatar						
Saudi Arab	24270	814224	22835	402635	1653	87416
South Africa						
Sri Lanka	38787	2545832	94887	6749714	69800	
Sweden	60	600	23	847		
Switzerland	1776	25623	2851	65697	2427	55642
Tanzania Rep	828	32794	1735	67081	647	52670
Uganda			125	2540		
J Arab Emsts	9922	163946	2382	114567	1750	85768
J K	91125	1942255	102400	2456277	68321	1138579
J S A			9984	275578	1895	81891
Yemen Republic	3645	105763				
G. Total	2275752	40142623	2267052	36306627	2319,983	34404.261

Source : DGCI & S. Calcutta.

### Revival of Sick Mills of JCI

2682. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have prepared a revival plan for the sick Jute Mills of Jute Corporation of India;

(b) if so, the number of Jute Mills of JCI which have been declared sick; and

(c) the details of the revival plan prepared by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

a) there are no jute mills of Jute Corporation of India Ltd.

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

### Expert Committee Report of SEBI

2683. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received the

report of the experts Committee of the Securities and Exchange Board of India about the Mutual Fund;

(b) if so, the broad details of the recommendations made for accounting, valuation of investments pricing of units of Mutual Fund; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee's recommendations regarding accounting relate to policies for disclosures in annual accounts and marking to market of investments. On valuation of investments, the recommendations cover valuation of traded instruments, non-traded instruments, warrants, convertibles etc. On pricing of units, the recommendations include pricing of open-ended schemes, repurchase prices etc.

(c) The recommendations have been accepted by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). SEBI has initiated action for amending the SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1993 based on the recommendations.

### Functioning of Multinational Corporation

2684. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of multi-National Corporation or Trans-National Corporation functioning in India either directly or through collaboration;

(b) the details of the products produced by them and the capital investment of each company;

(c) the value of their total output and its percentage in total Gross Domestic Product (GDP); and

(d) the details of their average net annual profits?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). During the period from 1.8.91 to 31.05.96, 4679 proposals have been approved envisaging foreign direct investment of Rs. 71036.68 crores. The details of such proposals viz. name of the Indian company, name and country of foreign collaborator, equity investment involved, item of manufacture/activity are published by the Indian Investment Centres as a supplement to the Monthly Newsletter and copies of these are regularly supplied to the Parliament Library.

(c) and (d). The information is not Centrally maintained.

### Khadi and Village Industries Commission

2685. DR. SAHIB RAO SUKRAM BAGUL :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the amount of foreign exchange earned through exports by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : KVIC does not export KVI product directly. It is functioning as a catalyst for developing export through its institutions by arranging buyers/sellers meets, participation in foreign exhibitions etc.

### U.S. Aid for India

2686. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US House of Representatives has recently voted U.S. foreign aid for India for the year 1997, while rejecting an amendment for drastic curtailment;

(b) if so, how much US aid has been sought by Government for 1997 and how much is proposed to be extended under the aforesaid motion; and

(c) the manner in which such aid is expected?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The US Administration had requested the approval of US Congress for extending Development Assistance of US \$ 56.97 million and Food Assistance under PL 480 Title II programme of US \$ 96.075 million to India for US Fiscal Year 1997. When the House of Representatives considered the foreign assistance appropriations bill (Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriation Bill 1997), the amendment to this Bill seeking curtailment of assistance was defeated in the House on 5th June, 1996. Government of India has not sought any specific amount of financial assistance from Government of USA for the US Fiscal Year 1997. At present, Government of USA are extending only grant assistance to India.

### Production of Rubber

2687. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is set to become self-sufficient in natural rubber production; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). Rubber Board has been adopting various strategies to augment domestic production with a view to achieving self-sufficiency in production of Natural Rubber. Given the recent steep rise in domestic demand, it is not possible to predict regarding absolute self-sufficiency. However, the production of NR during the 8th Plan has recorded an appreciable increase from 3,66,745 tonnes to 5,06,910 tonnes per annum. Currently, 96% of the domestic demand for NR is met by local production.

### Export of Handloom Garments

2688. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the handloom garments and hosiery goods made in Orissa are in demand in the international market; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to increase the production and to boost export of these items?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). There is some demand for handloom garments and hosiery goods from Orissa in the international market. In order to increase the production and export of such items from the country, including from Orissa Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions; enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangement for duty free

import of raw materials for export production; ensuring increased availability of export credit etc.

### High Court Benches of Kerala

2689. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the State Capitals in the country where there is no High Court Headquarters or High Court Benches;

(b) the details of the places of various States of the country where High Court Benches have been provided since January, 1990;

(c) the reasons for non constitution of the High Court Bench at all State Capitals;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up a High Court Bench of Kerala at the State Capital; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) Itanagar, Gandhinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar are the State Capitals in the country where at present there is no High Court or its Bench.

(b) Permanent High Court Benches have been established at Kohima (Nagaland), Aizawl (Mizoram), Imphal (Manipur), Agartala (Tripura) and Shillong (Meghalaya) since January, 1990.

(c) to (e). The Government of India have decided that a Bench of Gauhati High Court may be ordered to sit at Itanagar after necessary infrastructural facilities have been provided by the Government of Arunachal Pradesh. No complete proposal has been received from the concerned State Governments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts, for establishing High Court Benches at Gandhinagar, Thiruvananthapuram, Bhopal and Bhubaneswar. As such, it is not possible for the Central Government to take any action in the matter.

[Translation]

### Export of Handloom and Handicraft Items

2690. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI :  
SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA :  
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of handloom and handicraft items during each of the last three years and the extent to which it was achieved;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom during the said period;

(c) the target fixed for the year 1996-97 and the foreign exchange likely to be earned therefrom;

(d) whether the Government propose to export of such items, State-wise; and

(e) if so, the action taken in this regard so far and the names of the States that contribute highest to the export of handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). The targets fixed for the exports of cotton handloom textiles and handicrafts items during the last three years and the achievements against them have been as follows :

Year	In US Million Dollars			
	Cotton handloom textiles		Handicrafts	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
1993-94	410.56	413.66	946.83	1071.30
1994-95	475.00	479.19	1234.00	1321.71
1995-96	500.00	448.54	1542.00	1497.87

(c) The targets fixed for the exports of cotton handloom textiles and handicrafts items during 1996-97 are as follows :

Cotton Handloom Textiles	US \$ 470 Million
Handicrafts	US \$ 1600 Million

It is expected that the targets would be achieved by the end of the financial year.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal currently to export such items State-wise export figures maintained.

[English]

### Setting up of Industries by NRIs

2691. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of proposals received by the Government from the non-resident Indians (NRIs) for setting up various industries in India during each of the last two years;

(b) the number of proposals out of them approved by the Government, sector-wise;

(c) the quantum of foreign exchange involved thereon;

(d) the number of the industries in which the production has started;

(e) whether the Government propose to set up such industries in Orissa during current financial year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (f). The number of proposals involving NRI investment approved by Government during the last 2 years is as under :

Year	No.	Amount
1994	167	Rs. 489.34 Crores
1995	139	Rs. 709.59 Crores

The investment proposal are in sectors like hotel, hospitals, textile, tourism related industries, electronics and service sectors.

The areawise details of investment proposed is not centrally maintained. The details regarding projectwise commencement of production is not centrally available.

#### Defaulting in Export Obligation

2692. SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether many leading Export Houses and Trading Houses are defaulting in export obligation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to check such defaults on exports and to simplify the export documentation process for speedy clearance of export commodity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. As per available information, of the total number of 3036 Export Houses/Trading Houses, only 32 are found to be defaulting in completing within time, the Export obligation imposed against various licences such as duty exemption licences, EPCG licences, Industrial Licences/Foreign Collaboration approvals etc. Out of these 32 defaulters, none have defaulted against the EPCG Scheme. Only 7 have defaulted against Industrial Licences/Foreign Collaboration approvals and 25 have defaulted against duty exemption licences.

(c) Regular monitoring of individual Schemes is done to ensure prompt fulfilment of export obligation. In certain difficult cases extension of time is also allowed to enable the licence holders to fulfil their export obligation. Action is also taken against defaulters under Foreign Trade, Development & Regulation Act, 1992. Simplification of export documentation is a continuous process and is done in consultation with various Apex Trade Bodies.

#### Collaboration with Australia in Coal Mining

2693. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to have Joint Venture with Australia for technical co-operation in underground coal mining; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Trade with Israel

2694. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total volume of trade between India and Israel transacted at present;

(b) whether Israel has already emerged as a major trading partner with India standing next to United States;

(c) the details of areas in which India and Israel are improving the trade;

(d) whether the Government propose to set up Indo-Israeli Chambers of Commerce at Hyderabad; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The total trade between India and Israel during 1995-96 was Rs. 1506.52 crores.

(b) No, Sir. Israel's share in India's global trade during 1995-96 was about 0.7% only.

(c) Our major exports to Israel are gems & jewellery, cotton and manmade textiles, cashew, coffee, organic/inorganic/basic chemicals, engineering goods, etc. Our main imports from Israel are fertilizers, pearls, precious and semi-precious stones, organic/inorganic chemicals, machinery, project goods, petroleum products, etc.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal at present with the Ministry of Commerce to set up an Indo-Israel Chamber of Commerce at Hyderabad.

#### Stock Investment Scheme

2695. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any investigation into the operation of the stock invest scheme has since been carried out;

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

(c) whether the irregularities in the operation of the stock-investment scheme is still continuing;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether there is any proposal to hold the management of the public and private sector banks responsible for any lapse rather than the employees; and

(f) if not, the justification thereof?



THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that scrutiny of the operation of the stockinvest (SI) schemes by it and the Economic Intelligence Bureau have revealed that the scheme has facilitated corporate bodies, brokers, institutions, etc. to make high value applications for primary issues through SIs and get allotment under the proportionate allotment system. Operational irregularities, such as, issue of SIs without adequate deposit cover, issue of pre-dated SIs, issue of SIs in bulk for third parties etc. in violation of RBI's guidelines of issue of SIs, were also observed. It was, therefore, decided that the facility of SI should be permitted only to individuals and mutual funds and that too against the lien on term deposits, credit, balances available in savings bank/current accounts of the investors. However, as serious irregularities still persisted in the operation of SI Scheme, it has been decided that a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per individual per capital issue should be prescribed for issues of SIs by banks.

(e) Show-cause notice have been issued by RBI to some banks asking them to explain why a penalty of Rs. 5 lakhs and prohibition of issue of stock invests by the banks in future should not be imposed.

(f) Does not arise.

#### High Court Bench in Saurashtra

2696. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA :

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

(a) whether there is a great demand for setting up of High Court Benches in Bhavnagar district and other districts in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to constitute any committee or commission to consider this demand afresh;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which such Benches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). Representations have been received from Bar Associations etc. from time to time for establishment of Benches of Gujarat High Court at Rajkot, Surat, Baroda, Kutch and Bhavnagar.

(c) to (e). The Government of Gujarat constituted in 1983 one-man Commission of Shri D.G. Palekar, retired Judge of the Supreme Court to study the demands and

to advise the State Government. In its report dated 23.8.85, the Commission recommended that a circuit bench of the Gujarat High Court could be established on the initiative of the Chief Justice subject to Governor's approval under Section 28(3) of the Bombay Reorganisation Act, 1960. The Commission also recommended that there were no historical, geographical or even sentimental reasons for establishing permanent Benches anywhere in the State. The Government accepted the recommendations and sent a copy of the report to the High Court. As such, there is no proposal to constitute any Committee or Commission to consider the demand afresh.

(f) Does not arise.

#### Disinvestment by Public Sector Banks

2697. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the extent of disinvestment made by the public sector banks during the last two years, bank-wise;

(b) whether some more public sector banks propose to disinvest their equity; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government have not disinvested any of its shares in public sector banks during the last two years.

(b) The proposal of one public sector bank to go in for a public issue contains a component proposing disinvestment of a part of Government's capital.

(c) RBI has initiated action to examine the proposal,

#### Setting up of Sericulture Centres in NE Region

2698. SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a sum of Rs. 12.60 crores has been sanctioned for development and setting up of Sericulture Training Centres in North-Eastern States, but no work has been undertaken till date;

(b) whether the Central Silk Board has taken up any survey of such schemes/programmes; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to implement the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The programme formulated by the Central Silk Board (CSB) at a total cost of Rs. 12.95 crores for the development of sericulture in North-Eastern Region is being implemented in collaboration with the States of the Region. Under this programme, 5 Project Offices, one Research Extension Centre for Mulberry, two Silkworm Seed Production Centres for Muga and one

for eri have already been established. Besides raising of mulberry plantation in 777 acres, augmentation of food plant for muga and eri have been 407 hectares and 96 hectares respectively. Under this programme Cooperative societies have been supplied with reeling machines for product development and diversification in muga sector. Assistance have also been provided to agencies for marketing of eri cocoons. In addition programmes have been undertaken for training of farmers, reelers and trainers.

Besed on the discussions held with the NE States, additional schemes have been formulated by the CSB to provide support for forward and backward linkages.

### Pension to High Court Judges

2699. SHRI BALAI CHANDRA RAY : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the grant of pension to High Court Judges recruited from the Bar is discriminated against Judges recruited from higher judicial services;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal to remove the discrepancy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

[Translation]

### Heavy Industry in U.P.

2700. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Heavy Industries set up in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether no heavy industry has been set up in the hilly region of the State so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken up by the Government to set up industries there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) As on 31.3.1995, there were 17 Central Public Sector Undertakings having their registered Office in the State of U.P., which includes some PSUs under heavy industry namely, Bharat Pumps & Compressors Ltd., Bharat Yantra Nigam Ltd., Oil & Natural Gas Corpn. Ltd., Scooters India Ltd. and Triveni Structurals Ltd. Besides, some PSUs located in other States under heavy industry are also having production unit in Uttar Pradesh.

(b) No, Sir. One each production unit of HMT. Ltd. and BHEL and registered Office of ONGC Ltd. are located in the hilly region of U.P.

(c) and (d). Does not arise.

[English]

### Bank Credit to Industries

2701. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the share of small scale industries in the total bank credit has come down since 1991;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that advances to small scale industrial (SSI) sector have almost continuously kept pace with the increase in net bank credit since 1991 as will be observed from the data given below:

As on the last Friday of	Net bank Credit (Rs. Crores)	Total SSI Advances (Rs. Crores)	% of SSI advances to net bank credit
(Provisional)			
March 1991	105632.15	16782.99	15.88
March 1992	112160.42	17398.42	15.51
March 1993	132781.63	19388.09	14.60
March 1994	140713.82	21581.12	15.34
March 1995	169037.54	25842.80	15.39
March 1996	184390.76	29482.08	15.99

(c) RBI has reported that bases on the recommendations of the Nayak Committee it has simplified the procedure for providing credit to SSI units. All commercial banks have been instructed by RBI to sanction working capital limits of less than Rs. one crore to SSI units on the basis of 20% of their projected annual turnover. Banks have also been instructed to give preference to village industries, tiny industries and other small scale units in that order, while meeting the credit requirements of the SSI sector.

### Letters from Members of Parliament

2702. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of letters received from Members of Parliament in the office of the Finance Minister during the month of September and October, 1995 about

accumulation of assets disproportionate to the known sources of income of the Government servants;

(b) the details of such letters and the action taken on each of them; and

(c) the details of the cases registered if any?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

### Export of Handicrafts Item

2703. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a workshop was organised at Calcutta during the last month to put handicraft export on a fast trajectory course i.e. the process of identifying new markets and new products for extreme focus;

(b) if so, the achievements of this Workshop and

(c) the measures taken to achieve the target of export or handicraft items worth Rs.3,500 crore fixed for the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A workshop with the title "Success through handicraft exports" was organised by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts at Calcutta on 7th July, 1996. The purpose of this workshop was to get acquainted the new women entrepreneurs participated in the said workshop.

(c) In order to achieve the target of Rs.3500 crores fixed for export of handicrafts (excluding hand-knotted carpets), the measures taken include: sponsoring of sales-cum-study teams abroad, participation in international fairs and exhibitions, organisation of buyer-seller meets, overseas publicity and publication of catalogues, conducting of seminars and workshops, organisation of the recently instituted international Handicrafts and Gifts Fair and the international Carpet Expo and technology upgradation for achieving higher standard of quality of Indian handicrafts.

### Bench of Guwahati High Court

2704. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to set up a bench of Guwahati High Court at Dibrugarh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam, in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Guwahati High Court, for establishing a High Court Bench at Dibrugarh.

### Industrially Backward Districts

2705. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of districts in Kerala declared industrially Backward;

(a) the privileges/benefits being given to entrepreneurs in these districts;

(c) whether hilly districts which are Industrially backward are to be given any special benefit; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At present, there is no backward district declared in Kerala State.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

### Production of Cloth

2706. SHRI HARADAHAN ROY : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) The per capita annual demand/consumption/production of cloth in the country during each of the last three years;

(b) whether the cloth is being produced as per the requirement of the country.

(c) if not, the reasons thereof;

(d) whether any steps have been taken to increase the production of cloth; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the target fixed for 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA) : (a) The data on per capita annual demand/consumption of cloth in the country is not maintained. The per capita production and availability of cloth in the country during each of the last three years is as follows:

(in Sq. Mtrs.)

Year	per capita Production	Per capita availability
1993-94	31.4	26.22
1994-95	21.6	25.67
1995-96 (Provisional)	33.2	27.37

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The Government have taken various steps from time to time to increase the availability of cloth in the country such as liberalisation of licensing provision, fiscal restructuring, special attention to the production of handloom cloth, permitting import of textile machinery under OGL and reduction of customs duty on such imports, research and development, etc. It is estimated that during 1996-97 the production of cloth in the country would be around 29,500 million sq. mtrs as per the Working Group Report on the Textile Industry for the 8th Five Year plan period (1992-97).

#### Jute Mills

2707. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Jute mills and Textile mills in West Bengal as on March 31, 1996; and

(b) the total number of cases pending before BIFR both from Textiles and jute units of West Bengal as on March 31, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) As on 31.3.96, total number of jute mills in West Bengal was 59. Besides, 42 Cotton/Man made fibre textile mills in the State were registered with the Office of Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

(b) As reported by the BIFR, from West Bengal 11 cases in jute sector and 2 cases in textile sector were pending with BIFR as on 31.3.96

#### Seizure of Water Turtles

2708. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Customs officials at Malda in West Bengal seized some 1,500 fresh-water turtles allegedly being smuggled to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the "invisible hands" behind the turtles smuggling have been identified; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them as also to enquire their end use?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, customs authorities at Mohedipur Land Customs Station in the State of West Bengal seized 1500 fresh water turtles while attempted to be smuggled from India to Bangladesh.

(c) and (d). Two persons found involved have been arrested and prosecution against them has been launched. Further investigations in the matter are in progress. Investigations conducted so far have not revealed involvement of any person other than the two arrested persons. It is learnt that these turtles are used for display in domestic aquariums.

[Translation]

#### Industrial Growth

2709. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government has fixed the target of achieving 7-8 per cent growth in Gross Domestic Production and 12 per cent in Industrial growth;

(b) if so, the measures taken to expand and strengthen the basic infrastructure required for the same;

(c) whether the Government have formulated any action plan in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) The common minimum programme envisages GDP growth of 7% per year. Industrial Growth is also proposed to be maintained at 12% per year.

(b) to (d). Development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors is also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources. Union Budget 1996-97 has proposed establishment of an Infrastructure Development Finance Company with an authorised share capital of Rs.5000 crores to act as a direct lender, as a refinancing institution and as a provider of financial guarantees. To step up investment in infrastructure, a levy of 2% as special custom duty on all imports except those that carry a nil rate of duty or are imported at nil rate of custom duty for export production has also been proposed. Tax concessions have also been extended to infrastructure sector.

#### Textile Mills in M.P.

2710. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of textiles mills in Madhya Pradesh and the number of mills closed down out of them;

(b) the total number of workers rendered jobless due to closure of these mills;

(c) the steps the Union Government propose to take to solve unemployment problem, caused by the closure of these textile mills;

(d) whether the Government propose to sell some of the lands belonging to the closed textile mills to help in re-open the mills; and

(e) if so, the textile mills which have been allowed to sell their lands?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) As on 31.3.96, there were 50 Cotton/Man-made fibre Textile Mills in Madhya Pradesh. Out of these, 9 Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills were closed in M.P.

(b) The number of workers affected due to closure of 9 mills was 21091.

(c) Government has established Textile Workers' Rehabilitation Funds Scheme (TWRFS) to provide interim relief to the workers of permanently/partially closed mills.

(d) and (e). The matter comes under the purview of the State Government. In so far as the NTC Mills in M.P. are concerned, the NTC (MP) Ltd. stands referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR). Government have prepared a rehabilitation package which envisages, inter-alia, raising of funds by sale of surplus lands and assets of NTC Mills. The BIFR is yet to take a final decision in the matter.

[English]

#### Rejuvenation of Tea Industry in Darjeeling

2711. SHRI R.B. RAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representations from the tea planters in Darjeeling for financial help for the rejuvenation of tea industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). Darjeeling Planters Association had submitted a memorandum to the Tea Board Seeking financial support for various developmental activities to be undertaken by them. Representatives of the Association have since discussed these issues with the Chairman, Tea Board and they have been advised to submit comprehensive proposals in the matter.

#### Excise Duty Exemption on Coir Machinery

2712. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the state Government of Kerala for exemption coir processing machines from excise duty;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have taken any decision on the matter;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). A request for exempting specified Coir processing

machinery from excise duty, as a support for the modernisation efforts of the Coir industry is under consideration of the Government.

#### Automotive Plant in A.P.

2713. SHRI B. DHARMA BIKSHAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has submitted any project to Union Government to set up Automotive Plant in the State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far in the regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

#### Capital Investment in Heavy Industries

2714. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major portion of the capital invested in the heavy industries of the country is in the form of foreign debt;

(b) if so, the total investment made in the heavy industries till March, 1996 and the capital amount received in the form of debt from domestic and foreign sources, respectively;

(c) whether several industries among the existing heavy industries have already become sick;

(d) if so, the number thereof; and

(e) the total investment made in these sick industrial units till March, 1996?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Heavy industries are set up both in the public and private sectors. Information regarding investment made in heavy industries is not maintained centrally. However, data on industrial investment intentions recorded from 1991-92 (since liberalisation in August, 1991) till 1995-96 (April-March) pertaining to non-small scale units in the organised sector is given below:-

	Proposed Investment
Letter of Intents (LOIs)	Rs. 66.537 crores
Industrial Entrepreneurs' Memoranda (IEMs)	Rs. 4,91.410 crores
Total	Rs.5,57,947 crores

(c) to (e). According to the latest data available with Reserve Bank of India, there are 1915 sick industrial units in the non small scale sector as on 31st March, 1995 and an amount of Rs.8,739.61 crores was outstanding against them.

[English]

### Fake Account Holders

2715. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of fake/bogus account holders in the public sector banks detected during the last three years, bank-wise;

(b) whether some of the account holders in the public sector banks deposit large sums of money in cash; and

(c) if so, the reaction of bank authorities thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that currently there are no restrictions on the quantum of deposits made by account holders in cash. However, RBI have advised all commercial banks in May, 1995 for introducing a system for closely monitoring cash deposits and withdrawal of Rs.10 lakhs and above and to verify on an ongoing basis if there are any transactions of suspicious/dubious nature. In April, 1996 RBI have further advised these banks to furnish them a feed back on the actual implementation of above referred instructions.

### Foreign Investment Received

2716. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether proposals worth Rs.61,248 crore of foreign investments were received in the country whereas investments worth Rs.13,235 crore were actually received i.e. only 22% of the proposed investments received during the last five years;

(b) if so, the reasons for low percentage of investments received in the country; and

(c) the measures the Government propose to take to further streamline the system in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Aggregate figures of foreign direct investment approved and the actual inflow of foreign direct investment during the last five years i.e. from 1991 to 1995 are Rs.59,593.89 crores and Rs.12,165.33 crores respectively.

(b) Actual inflow of foreign direct investment depends on the gestation period which varies from project to project.

(c) Actual inflow of foreign direct investment is monitored by Reserve Bank of India. Government constantly reviews the policy framework to streamline the system of inflow of foreign investment in consultation with the Reserve Bank of India.

### Incentives for Domestic Savings

2717. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to provide strong fiscal/monetary incentives to improve the domestic savings;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital market and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on aggregate savings. Besides, the Central Government's Budget for 1996-97 presented to the Parliament a few days ago contains various measures/policy changes which are likely to have a positive impact on saving.

[Translation]

### Coal Projects

2718. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA :  
SHRI NAVAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of major ongoing projects in the coal sector in the country as on March 31, 1996;

(b) whether many such projects are behind schedule;

(c) if so, the number of such projects as on March 31, 1996; and

(d) the percentage in cost escalation due to delay in completion of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). As on 31.3.96, there were 24 major projects, each costing Rs.100 crores and above under implementation in Coal India Ltd. (CIL) and Singareni Collieries Co. Ltd., (SCCL). Out of these, 9 projects were delayed in implementation.

(d) The cost escalation in these delayed projects comes to about 16.18%.

[English]

#### Unofficial Trade With Pakistan

2719. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :  
SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in *Statesman* dated June 14, 1996 under captioned "Concern over unofficial trade with Pakistan";

(b) whether the unofficial trade between India and Pakistan is several times higher than the official trade; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to check the unofficial trade between both the countries and to boost official trade with that country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to make any reliable assessment of the volume of unofficial trade.

(c) Trade between India and Pakistan is hampered by Pakistan Government's restrictive policy on imports from India. Pakistan allows imports from India against a unilateral list of 573 items, many of which do not have a real export potential. While India has granted Most Favoured National (MFN) status to Pakistan, Pakistan is yet to accord a similar status to India in contravention of its GATT/WTO obligations. Expansion of Trade with Pakistan will depend mainly on Pakistan granting MFN status to India.

#### IDBI Assistance to Assam

2720. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for grant of financial assistance received by the Industrial Development Bank of India from the entrepreneurs of Assam during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of applications sanctioned and rejected during the above period; and

(c) the details of financial assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The number of applications received, sanctioned and rejected by the Industrial Development

Bank of India (IDBI) from entrepreneurs of Assam during the last three years is as under :

Year	Applications Received	Applications Sanctioned	Applications Rejected
1993-94	14	10	3
1994-95	15	10	-
1995-96	21	17	-

IDBI has reported that incomplete applications and those in which the promoters did not furnish the requisite details were treated as closed. These applications would however be reopened by IDBI as and when promoters furnish the requisite information.

(c) The details of assistance disbursed by IDBI to industries in Assam during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 are as under :

Year	Amount Disbursed (Rs. Crores)
1993-94	14.70
1994-95	22.53
1995-96	43.80

#### Task Force to Evolve Standardised Documents for Tendering

2721. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance and the World Bank had get up a task force to evolve standardised documents for tendering;

(b) if so, whether the task force has since submitted its report; and

(c) if so, the details of the recommendations made therein and the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Following the revised procurement guidelines of the World Bank that came into effect from January 1995, the Task Force, as reconstituted in 1995 by this Ministry, is examining the Bank's standard bidding documents with a view to their appropriate indigenisation for use in the World Bank aided projects.

#### Bank Branches in Kerala

2722. SHRI A. SAMPATH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of branches of scheduled banks operating in the country during 1995-96 and 1994-95, separately;

(b) the total number of branches of nationalised banks in the country during the same period;

(c) the number of branches of scheduled banks and the nationalised banks in Kerala during the said period;

(d) the total amount of deposits made during the said period in these banks all over India and in Kerala, separately; and

(e) the deposit-credit ratio of these banks in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). The total number of branches of Scheduled Commercial Banks and Nationalised banks operating in the country and in Kerala as on 31st March 1995 and March 1996 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is given below:-

<i>Scheduled Commercial Banks</i>	<i>March 1995</i>	<i>March 1996</i>
All India	62,067	64,458
Kerala	3,009	3,151
<i>Nationalised Banks</i>		
All India	30,633	32,175
Kerala	970	1,022

(d) and (e). RBI has further reported that aggregate deposit and Credit : Deposit Ratio of all Scheduled Commercial Banks and Nationalised Banks, both All India and In Kerala as on the last Friday of March 1995 and March 1996 are given below:

(Amount in Rs. Lakhs)

<i>All Scheduled Commercial Banks</i>	<i>March 1995</i>	<i>March 1996</i>
All India : Deposits	375863.97	426073.37
: C:D Ratio	59.2	61.9
Kerala : Deposits	17040.77	19792.83
: C:D Ratio	44.9	45.4
<i>Nationalised Banks</i>		
All India : Deposits	214051.09	237512.64
: C:D Ratio	52.3	54.2
Kerala : Deposits	6468.53	7132.05
: C:D Ratio	36.8	40.0

#### Abolition of Sales Tax

2723. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGRAWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any representation in June, 1996 from All India Trade Confederation and also from some Members of Parliament under caption "Abolition of Sales Tax and imposition of additional excise duty in its place as has

been done in case of textiles, tobacco, paper and sugar earlier by the Central Government";

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

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) A representation dated 19.6.96 was received from the Federation of All India Traders' Associations on the said subject.

(b) and (c). No proposal to charge additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax on all commodities is under consideration of the Government. Any such proposal has to be mooted by the States.

#### BHEL Office in Kerala

2724. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up an office of the BHEL in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Monetary Autonomy/Economic Freedom to States

2725. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any demand for granting monetary autonomy/economic freedom to the States; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The Centre-State financial relationship is governed by the Constitution of India. The States have a separate Consolidated Fund, contingency fund and a Public Account of their own. Subject to various provisions of the constitution, States are financially autonomous and are accountable to their respective State legislatures.

However, the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission on Centre-State Relations relating to the legislative, administrative and financial matters, etc. are being considered by the Sub-Committee appointed by the Inter-State Council. The Sub-committee has so far considered 190 out of 247 recommendations. The remaining recommendations are yet to be finalised by the Sub-Committee. After consideration by the Sub-Committee, these recommendations will be placed before the Inter-State council. The view of the Inter-State Council, thereafter will be submitted to the Government for its consideration and decision.



### Irregularities by Officers of British India Corporation

2726. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints from Kanpur (U.P.) regarding various irregularities committed by the top officials and others of British India Corporation Ltd., Kanpur, U.P., and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter so far?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). No specific complaint has been indicated. Complaints are received from time to time regarding irregularities committed by officials of BIC, Kanpur, since its nationalisation in 1981. These are examined by the Government and necessary action is taken whenever found necessary.

### Casting of Minerals

2727. SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up an Economic Division for production, demand and supply of coal for casting of the mineral; and

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

### Trade and Economic Relations with Morocco

2728. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Morocco have signed an agreement to promote trade and economic relations between the two countries for export promotion;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent trade and economic relations will be improved during the current year between both the countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) A Trade Agreement between India and Morocco was signed in New Delhi on 17th November, 1981 to strengthen bilateral commercial relations.

(b) The salient features of the Trade Agreement are given in the attached statement.

(c) Bilateral trade between India and Morocco increased from Rs.904.68 crores during 1994-95 to Rs.1089.34 crores during 1995-96. This upward trend is expected to grow further during 1996-97.

### STATEMENT

The salient features of the Trade Agreement between India and Morocco signed on 17th November, 1981 are as follows :-

- (i) Both sides have agreed to accord to the commerce of each other treatment no less favourable than that accorded to the commerce of any third country.
- (ii) Both sides shall give maximum possible facilities and take all appropriate measures, subject to their respective regulations, to promote trade between the two countries.
- (iii) The payment for the transactions under the Agreement shall be made in freely convertible currencies acceptable to both sides.
- (iv) Both sides shall extend all facilities to each other for holding fairs and exhibitions.
- (v) Both sides shall encourage the visits of businessmen from one country to the other for promoting trade.
- (vi) The Agreement was initially for a period of three years and thereafter it is extendable automatically for further periods of one year each, unless a notice of termination in writing is given by either side to the other three months before the expiry of any of the aforesaid periods of its validity.

### Lok Adalats in Gujarat

2729. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the adalats and family courts held in Gujarat during each of the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the cases settled therein; and

(c) the future plan of Lok Adalats and family courts in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). On the basis of the information provided by the Gujarat State Legal Aid and Advice Board, the requisite information is as under :

Year	Number of Lok Adalats held	Number of Cases settled
1993	91	13,461
1994	87	15,926
1995	131	13,235
1996	66	7,093
(upto 30th July)		

In Gujarat, family court is not functioning.

(c) Lok Adalats which were heretofore voluntary efforts for resolution of disputes through persuasive and conciliatory methods have been accorded statutory base with the enforcement of the legal service Authorities Act, 1987 with effect from 9th November, 1995.

### Personal Law

2730. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have set up various Commissions to examine the feasibility of extending personal laws to Goa;

(b) if so, the number of committees/commissions appointed for the same;

(c) the recommendations made by the aforesaid Committees/Commissions so far in this regard; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken to expedite the implementation of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (d). The information is not readily available. The same will be collected from the concerned Ministries/Departments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

### Uniform Civil Code

2731. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT BACHDA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to make uniform civil code for all the citizens of India in regard to marriage, heir etc.; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[English]

### Coal Linkage

2732. SHRI R.L. P. VERMA : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the total coal linkage in Metric Ton for coal briquetting units of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the quantum of coal delivered or supplied during last three years to these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Coal India Limited provides linkage to non-core sector consumers including briquetting units situated in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Such Linkage indicate the source of supply, mode of transport and quality of coal to be supplied to each consumer. Actual supplies are however made based on the annual sponsorships issued by the sponsoring authority, and subject to availability of coal in accordance with the guidelines issued from time to time.

(b) The quantum of coal released by the coal companies during the last three years to briquetting units of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar has been as follows:

Year	Quantum of coal released (In lakh tonnes)
1993	5.39
1994	4.16
1995	9.49

### Decline in Export of Spices

2733. PROF. P.J. KURIEN :

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's position in the world spices export market has declined considerably;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total export earnings from each of the spices during each of the last two years; and

(c) the steps taken to increase the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) No, Sir. India's share in the world import of spices in quantity terms has increased from 27.41% in 1990-91 to 41.93% in 1995-96.

(b) the details of quantity and value of the spices exported during the last two years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) Some of the steps taken for increasing the export of spices, *inter alia*, include :-

(i) Promotion of export of value added spices in the form of curry powder, spice oil and oleoresins, branded consumer packed spices, dehydrated green pepper etc.

(ii) Strengthening the market base in the existing markets and identifying new markets;

- (iii) Providing assistance for promotion of specific brands by individual exporters in overseas markets;
- (iv) Popularising logo as a mark of Indianness and quality of spices in consumer packs;
- (v) Sponsoring sales-cum-study delegation, participation in selected international food fairs and organising buyer-seller meets;
- (vi) Implementation of UNDP assisted project for upgrading the quality of spices promoting export of value added spices from India and generating income and employment opportunities in spice growing areas.
- (vii) Providing financial assistance for setting up laboratory and accreditation of ISO 9000; setting up facilities for monitoring pesticide residues; and offering grant-in-aid for technology transfer and process upgradation to spices exporters for investment in Capital goods and adopting new technology;
- (viii) Assisting Research and Development efforts for product development through Research Institutions/Agencies.
- (ix) Providing project feasibility report for establishment of curry powder/ground spices manufacturing units.

### STATEMENT

*Item-wise export of spices from India  
(Qty. in M.T. value in Rs. lakhs)*

Item	1994-95		1995-96 (P)	
	Qty	Value	Qty	Value
1	2	3	4	5
Pepper	37,264	23664.19	26,346	19647.09
Cardamom (Small)	257	762.61	500	1239.55
Cardamom (Large)	1,293	812.74	1,784	1234.95
Chillies	20,096	5711.63	56,073	19414.78
Ginger	12,022	1673.03	18,191	3828.73
Turmeric	28,286	4517.96	27,376	4607.07
Coriander	10,702	1793.84	11,308	2200.36
Cumin	5,618	2449.65	3,895	1733.85
Celery	2,601	777.28	2,678	624.67
Fennel	2,029	581.56	2,602	755.59
Fenugreek	7,956	1224.97	15,135	1874.07
Other Seeds (1)	2,338	486.86	2,309	502.18
Garlic	633	122.87	3,776	490.03
Other Spices (2)	16,523	2954.61	23,136	3980.42
Curry Powder	4,135	1443.27	4,131	1698.25

	1	2	3	4	5
Mint Oil		1.583	4356.78	1,242	4058.05
Spice Oils and Oleoresins		1.672	8676.68	1,715	10699.45
Grand Total		155.008	62010.53	202,197	78589.09
Value in Million US \$			197.86		235.86

(P) Provisional

(1) Include Ajwainseed, Dill Seeds, Poppy Seed, Aniseeds etc.

(2) Include Tamarind, Asafoetida, Cinnamon, Cassia, Tejpat, Kokam, Saffron etc.

Source : DGCI & S., Calcutta/Shipping Bills/Exporters Returns

### Foreign Investment Promotion Council

2734. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have taken a decision to set up an institution called 'Foreign Investment Promotion Council';

(b) if so, the composition thereof; and

(c) the terms and conditions under which the proposed Council is likely to function and the financial implications and the aims and objectives proposed to be achieved by this Council?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Government have decided to constitute a special Council which would be called the foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC). The Council would comprise of distinguished and well known experts who will catalyse, manage and coordinate investment promotion and marketing efforts. There will be a full time Chairman of the Council who will act as an Adviser to the Industry Minister. The Council will be assisted by a few professionals and officials with knowledge of business and the corporate world. The Council would function on professional lines and in close association with the apex Commerce & Industry Associations. Both the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) and Foreign Investment Promotion Council (FIPC) would interact with each other.

### Quarters for the Workers of CIL

2735. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) total number of quarters constructed for the workers of coal mines in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited under National Coal Wage Agreement IV and V;

(b) the amount spent on the same; and

(c) the total amount of money spent on the repairing of the existing quarters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b). During National Coal Wage Agreement IV and V, 72973 quarters were constructed for the workers of the coal mines in different subsidiaries of Coal India Limited at a cost of Rs.671.19 crores.

(c) Total amount spent on repair and maintenance of existing quarters during the same period was Rs.280.23 crores.

#### Production of Jute

2736. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of production of raw jute as well as jute goods during the year 1995-96;

(b) the pricing formula of B. Twill bags and the DGS&D's purchase policy in this regard; and

(c) the total earning through export of jute goods during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):

(a) Production during 1995-96:-

Raw Jute : 78 lakh bales of 180 kgs.  
Jute goods : 1433 thousand M.T.

(b) Pricing formula of B.Twill bages is based on Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) study, subject to certain modifications, if required.

(c) total earning from export of jute goods during 1995-96 was Rs.625.00 crores (Aprox.)

[Translation]

#### Growth Rate in Small Scale Industries

2737. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJARA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether annual growth rate in small scale industries has been increasing continuously during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the average growth rate during the said plan period;

(c) whether there has also been considerable increase in the number of sick units in small scale industries;

(d) if so, the number of sick units in the small scale industries in the country in the year 1991-92 and 1995-96;

(e) whether the number of sick units in the year 1995-96 had gone upto 25 percent of the total number of small scale industrial units; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

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

(b) The year-wise growth rates of production in the small scale sector during the first four years of Eighth Five Year Plan were as follows :

Year	Growth rate of production (%)
1992-93	5.6
1993-94	7.1
1994-95	10.1
1995-96*	10.3

\* Estimate based on index for the period April-December, 1995.

(c) and (d). As per the latest data received from Reserve Bank of India, number of sick SSI units at the end of March, 1992 and March, 1995 aggregated 245575 and 268815 respectively. These figures are inclusive of units of cottage and village industries.

(e) and (f). The data for the year 1995-96 is not available. However, as per the report of Nayak Committee appointed by the Reserve Bank of India to examine the adequacy of institutional credit and allied issues in small scale industries sector stems mainly from its various internal weaknesses such as limited financial resources and lack of organisation financial and management skills and expertise. The external causes of sickness are many, the more important of which are (i) difficulties in the availability of raw materials and other inputs including power, (ii) marketing difficulties, (iii) delayed and inadequate credit, (iv) high rates of taxes, (v) labour problems, (vi) faulty appraisal of projects, and (vii) management which is inefficient/lacking in honesty/plagued by dissensions among partners etc.

[English]

#### Goiporia Committee on Customer Service in Banks

2738. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

KUMARI UMA BHARATI :

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the recommendations of the Goiporia Committee which have been implemented and also those which are yet to be implemented together with the reasons for delay in each case and the time by which these are likely to be implemented fully;

(b) the deposits mobilization target fixed for the financial year 1995-96 and the extent upto which the same has been achieved by the banks; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to improve the customer service in banks and to mobilise more deposits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Goiporia Committee on Customer Service in Banks had made 97 recommendations covering the following important areas :

- (i) Improving customer service by enlarging facilities.
- (ii) Opening of specialised branches.
- (iii) Compensating customers for delays in certain transactions.
- (iv) Making employees more responsive and customer friendly.
- (v) Technical upgradation and review of systems and procedures.

These recommendations have been examined by Reserve Bank of India (RBI)/Government. RBI have advised banks to implement 86 recommendations out of 97. In respect of two recommendations relating to submission of loan applications of sponsoring agencies to banks and creation of equitable mortgage at all district headquarters, RBI/Government have suitably advised State Governments. One of the recommendation requires Government to consult RBI, NABARD and Indian Banks' Association with regard to new loan schemes to be

launched. This has been noted by Government. Thus, in all 89 recommendations are treated as implemented. As regards the remaining eight recommendations, the status is indicated in the enclosed statement.

(b) According to RBI in April 1995 the working estimate for deposit growth of scheduled commercial banks for 1995-96 was set at Rs.65,000 crores. Taking the data of March 17,1995 as the base (since 1994-95 March 18,1994 to March 31, 1995 had 27 reporting fortnights and during 1995-96 there were 26 reporting fortnights) the increase in aggregate deposits during 1995-96 (between March 17,1995 and March 29,1996 was Rs. 67,122 crores.

(c) With the implementation of the recommendation of the Goiporia Committee, the customer service in banks has shown improvement. RBI have also introduced a Banking Ombudsman Scheme, 1995 for redressal of grievances of customers against deficiency in banking services. In addition RBI have decided to convene a meeting of bankers on an annual basis to discuss the deficiencies observed in customer services in order to improve services. During this meeting RBI Governor impresses upon the Chief Executives of banks to implement the recommendations of the Goiporia Committee in letter and spirit so as to further improve the customer service. Whenever any specific complaint is brought to the notice of Government/RBI/Banks, the same is 'taken' up with the concerned bank for redressing the grievance.

### STATEMENT

#### *Details of Recommendations not Accepted/Deferred*

S.No.	Recommendation No.	Nature of Recommendation	Remarks
1	2	3	4
1.	3.9	Formation of exclusive Currency Corporation of India & entrusting to it the role of macro level cash management.	Not accepted. Based on the Nayak Committee Report, it is proposed to establish "Currency Transit Centres" which will ease the problems of cash retention by bank branches.
2.	3.12	The banks should avoid multiple stitching of note packets so as to avoid reducing the life of notes.	Pending the introduction and Wide-spread use of new technology which will take some time, banks have been advised to avoid multiple stitching of note packets.
3.	3.16	Enhancement of savings Bank interest rate.	Interest rates on deposits are decided taking various factors into account. It has not been found feasible to increase the rate of interest on savings bank deposits.

1	2	3	4
4.	3.23	Change in interest rates on deposits should be made applicable to the existing deposits also.	RBI is not in favour of this Recommendation being implemented for the time being.
5.	3.27	Term Deposits with banks may be given the tax benefit similar to the one given to those of National Savings Scheme, Equity Linked Scheme, Schemes of mutual funds, etc.	Since the incentives to other savings have been withdrawn, no further action is considered necessary.
6.	3.78	Abolition of Customer Service Centres.	Banks have been advised that unless all recommendations contained in the Goiporia Committee's Report to Strengthen the internal system are implemented the centres should be allowed to continue.
7.	3.79	Introduction of restricted holidays in banks	Since there was no unanimity of opinion among the various State Governments and some of the State Governments were reluctant to reduce the holidays, the recommendation was dropped from being implemented.
8.	3.90	Banks should arrange for pay telephones for the use of the customers in their large branches during the business hours.	It is observed that many banks are reluctant to implement this recommendation due to security risk involved. Even the Rajya Sabha Committee on Government Assurances under the Chairmanship of Dr. Bapu Kaldate was not in favour of the recommendation being implemented due to security risk involved.

[Translation]

### Dumping of Items

2739. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Dainik Jagaran' dated July 7, 1996 under caption 'Videshi Vastuyon Ke Liye Dumping Ki Upyukt Jagah Ban Rahi Hai Bharat';

(b) if so, the details of items dumped by the foreign companies in the country, item-wise;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action in this regard to save the domestic industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government investigates into allegations of dumping levelled by Indian producers. Anti dumping duties are levied in accordance with the prescribed rules where appropriate.

Details of anti dumping duties levied are shown in statement-I. Details of anti dumping investigations in progress are given in statement-II.

### STATEMENT-I

Cases wherein anti dumping duty is in force

Product	Country	Duty Imposed	Duty Levied on
1	2	3	4
1. PVC Resin	Argentina	Nil Duty	18.1.94
	Brazil	Rs. 2036/MT	18.1.94
	Maxico	Rs. 1619/MT	18.1.94
	South Korea	Rs. 1253/MT	18.1.94
	U.S.A.	Rs. 504/MT	18.1.94

1	2	3	4
2. Bisphenol-A	Japan	Rs.7477/MT	11.3.94
3. Potassium Permanganate	China	Rs.5992/MT	5.9.95
4. Isobutyl Benzene	China	Rs.10634/MT	31.8.95
5. 3,4,5 Trimethoxy Benzaldehyde (TMBA)	China	Rs.237/kg.	20.10.95
6. Theophylline	China	Rs.108/Kg.	30.10.95
Caffiene	China	Rs.101/kg.	30.10.95
7. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber	Japan	Rs.19306/MT	14.11.95
8. Bisphenol-A	Brazil	Rs.10263/MT	26.12.95
	Russia	Rs.12559/MT	26.12.95
9. Dead Burnt Magnesite (DBM)	China	Between Rs. 1333/MT to Rs.1925/MT	8.7.96

### STATEMENT-II

#### Cases under investigation

Product	Country	Remarks
1. Dead Burnt Magnesite	China	Provisional Duty imposed on 8.7.96
2. Low Carbon Ferro Chrome (LCFC)	CIS (Russia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine)	Provisional Duty recommended to Ministry of Finance
3. Sodium Ferrocyanide	China	
4. Bisphenol-A	U.S.A.	
5. Acrylonitrile Butadiene Rubber (NBR)	Germany, Korea, RP	
6. 8-Hydroxyquinoline	China	

[English]

#### Supply of Janata Cloth

2740. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the supply of Janata Cloth to Assam during the last three years was inadequate as compared to the demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the demand made by Assam during the above period and the supply made thereof; and

(c) the concrete steps taken by the Government to supply adequate quantity of Janata Cloth to the needy people in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) to (c). The Central Government allocated yearwise targets for production of Janata Cloth to each state. Any State is free to demand additional quantity according to demand. The position of Janata Cloth production targets allocated and Janata cloth delivered by various agencies of Assam as intimated by the Govt. of Assam during the last three years is as under :

Year	In Million Sq. Mtrs.	
	Target	Actual Delivery
1993-94	31.00	29.34
1994-95	27.00	25.90
1995-96	21.00	21.33

#### Government Securities

2741. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to implement the next round of reforms to develop the market for Government securities;

(b) the broad features of the agenda being set for gilt market reforms; and

(c) how far it will make yields attractive and bring in new players and reduce the multiple price tendering, which is in vogue at present?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Government and Reserve Bank of India aim at developing a deep and vibrant Government Securities market through various reform measures. These reform measures are of ongoing nature and are being properly sequenced.

(b) The broad features of this reform agenda, inter alia, include market related borrowing through auctions, introduction of innovations in instruments to cater to diversified needs of the market, activating both primary and secondary markets through institutional development and establishing an efficient transfer, payment and settlement system.

(c) The reforms agenda when fully carried out is likely to bring into the market new players particularly from non-traditional groups, bring flexibility in the yields making them responsive to market conditions and expectations and improve the market absorption of Government Securities.

[Translation]

### Foreign Aided Projects

2742. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign aided projects being implemented in the National Capital Territory of Delhi at present alongwith their locations;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government and the Government of Delhi for these projects separately;

(c) the project-wise time schedule for completion of these projects;

(d) whether the Government of Delhi have submitted any other proposal to the Union Government requesting for seeking more financial aid from the international agencies for some other developmental projects in the State;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c). Information is given in the annexed statement.

(d) to (f). There are four proposals for developmental projects which have been received from the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi. These are the Mass Rapid Transportation System; Upgradation of Roads, Improvement in Water Supply and Sewage Disposal System and improvement in the Referral Health Services in Delhi. These proposals have been posed to the OECF (Japan), World Bank, France and World Bank, respectively for external assistance.

### STATEMENT

*Details of ongoing externally aided Projects in the National Capital Territory of Delhi*

S.No.	Project	Donor Agency	Amount released by GOI & Govt. of Delhi a*	Terminal date of Completion
1.	Construction of Nizamuddin Bridge	Japan	Yen 66.8 million	31.3.98
2.	Kalawati Saran Children Hospital	Japan	Yen Nil	31.3.97
3.	Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking	Netherlands	NLG 3.782 million	31.12.96

a\* The Government of Delhi is not required to make any contribution for these projects.

Apart from these location -specific projects, there are several externally-aided national level programmes and multi-state schemes which are being implemented all over the country including several locations in National Capital Territory of Delhi.

### Obstructions in Economic Development

2743. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have assured the representatives of Trade and Industry for removal of all the obstructions of economic development, streamlining the process for granting approval to the projects and strengthening of the infrastructure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has been formulated in this regard; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (d). Under the liberalised Industrial Policy, 1991 Government has taken several measures to remove the restrictions placed on the industries with a view to enable the domestic industries achieve economic growth and development, and attain international competitiveness. The procedural reforms have been carried out to curtail the delays in the grant of licences. Majority of industries have been delicensed except a short-list of 15 industries.

The Government has announced in the annual Budget 1996-97, a provision of Rs.5000 crores for an Infrastructure Development with a view to strengthen the infrastructure. Review of policy and procedures is an on-going exercise and is constantly carried out to simplify and streamline procedures.

[English]

### Projects Financed by European Community

2744. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the European community propose to finance some major projects of India;

(b) if so, details of such projects; and

(c) the amount likely to be invested in each of these projects?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Economic cooperation with European Union is an on-going process. Some of the development cooperation projects which are likely to be financed by European Union are :

1. Community Forestry in Haryana - EC grant ECU 23.30 million.



2. Ravine Stabilisation Project in UP - EC grant ECU 7.90 million.
3. Tank Rehabilitation Project in Pondicherry EC grant ECU 6.65 million.

### Production And Export of Tea

2745. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA :  
SHRI VIJAY GOEL :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been a considerable decline in the production of tea which is likely to affect tea exports;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government have taken any action to increase the production of tea so that the exports of tea can be promoted; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The production of tea during January to May, 1996, is estimated to be 18.80 million Kg. more than corresponding period of 1995.

(c) and (d). In order to increase production, Tea Board has been operating various developmental schemes. The Board has also prepared a perspective plan to increase production of tea which includes short term measures such as optimisation of inputs and improved agricultural practices, medium term measures such as improvement of irrigation and drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling and also long term measures like replanting and extension planting by bringing new areas under tea.

### Profit/Losses By NTC Units

2746. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :  
SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) the losses/profits incurred by the each unit of NTC during the year 1995-96, state-wise;
- (b) the allocation proposed to be made for revival of sick NTC mills during the above period;
- (c) whether the Government propose to provide funds for the modernisation of profit earning units of the NTC particularly to Cannanore in Kerala and Mahe in the Union Territory of Pondicherry; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA):  
(a) A statement is attached indicating provisional

loss suffered by the mills under NTC statewise in 1995-96.

(b) to (d). On account of net worth erosion, 8 out of 9 subsidiaries of NTC excluding NTC (TN&P) Ltd. have been referred to and declared sick by BIFR.

Government has approved a revised Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills involving, inter-alia modernisation of 79 mills at an outlay of Rs.2005.72 crores, restructuring of 36 unviable mills into 18 viable units, etc. The funds for modernisation will be met out of the sale proceeds of surplus land and assets of NTC mills. For Cannanore Mills, Cannanore, it is proposed to invest a sum of Rs.10.52 crores for modernisation, as part of the revised Turn Around Strategy. In regard to Cannanore Mills, Mahe, the modernisation was implemented during the 7th plan period at an investment of Rs.3.85 crores. The strategy has been placed before the BIFR for their final approval before implementation. Pending approval of this strategy, Government has been meeting the shortfall faced by NTC in payment of wages, salaries and bonus funds required for VRS are also provided from NRF.

### STATEMENT

Statement showing the Mill-wise State-wise Net profit/Loss 1995-96

		(Rs. in crores)
Sr.	Mill-Name	1995-96 Provn.
1	2	3
	<b>Delhi</b>	
1.	Ajudhia Mills	-4.28
	<b>Punjab</b>	
2.	Dayalbagh Mills	-2.97
3.	Suraj Textile	-2.49
4.	Kharar Textile	-2.58
5.	Panipat Mills	-2.25
	<b>Rajasthan</b>	
6.	Sri Bijay Mills	-1.48
7.	Udaipur Mills	-2.56
8.	Mahalaxmi Mills	-2.03
9.	Edward Mills	-2.68
	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	
10.	Hira Mills	-5.23
11.	Swadeshi Mills	-4.77
12.	New Bhopal Mill	-5.26
13.	Burhanpur Mills	-4.70
14.	Bengal Nagur	-8.92

1	2	3	1	2	3
15.	Indore Malwa	-8.16	58.	New City	-4.80
16.	Kalyanmal Mills	-7.53	59.	Podar Mills	-4.78
	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>		60.	Podar Processor	-3.91
17.	Sri Vikram Mill	-1.61	61.	Shri Sitaram	-2.83
18.	Bijli Mills	-1.35	62.	Tata Mills	-6.85
19.	Swadeshi Mill	-2.15		<b>Gujarat</b>	
20.	Raebareli Mills	-1.66	63.	Rajkot Mills	-2.06
21.	Swadeshi Mills	-6.16	64.	Mahalaxmi Mills	-5.34
22.	Muir Mills	-8.33	65.	Petlad Mills	-2.31
23.	New Victoria	-8.24	66.	Ahmedabad New	-6.77
24.	L. Krishna Mills	-4.51	67.	Ahmbd Jupiter	-6.72
25.	Swadeshi Mills	-9.60	68.	Jahangir Mills	-9.53
26.	Laxmirattan	-7.86	69.	Rajnagar 1&2	-6.67
27.	Atherton Mills	-4.73	& 70.		
	<b>Maharashtra</b>		71.	Viramgam Tex	-4.40
28.	Barshi Mills	-0.33	72.	Newmaneck Chowk	-5.51
29.	Apollo Mills	-4.72	73.	Himdari Mills	-5.42
30.	Bharat Textiles	-4.95		<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	
31.	Digvijay Mills	-9.63	74.	Netha	-1.82
32.	Jupiter Mills	-7.69	75.	Natraj Mills	-3.24
33.	New Hind Mills	-9.01	76.	Anantpur Mills	-2.11
34.	Mumbai Mills	-7.53	77.	Tirupathi Mills	-2.66
35.	Aurangabad	-1.04	78.	Adoni Mills	-2.08
36.	Chalisgaon Text.	-0.80	79.	Azamjahi Mills	-2.55
37.	Dhule Text.	-3.81		<b>Karnataka</b>	
38.	Nanded Text.	-2.45	80.	Sree Yallama	-3.10
39.	Indu No.1	-11.02	81.	Mysore Mills	-3.58
40.	Indu No.2	-6.06	82.	Minerva Mills	-5.41
41.	Indu No. 3 & 4	-9.96	83.	M.S.K. Mills	-4.07
& 42.				<b>Kerala</b>	
43.	Indu No. 5	-4.61	84.	Cannanore, Can.	-1.16
44.	Indu Dyes Works	-4.85	85.	Kerala Luxmi	-2.45
45.	Model Mills	-8.63	86.	Vijay Mohini	-1.51
46.	R.S.R.G. Mills	-2.76	87.	Algappa Mills	-2.19
47.	R.B.B.A. Mills	-2.51	88.	Parvati Mills	-3.28
48.	Savatram Mills	-1.89		<b>Pondicherry</b>	
49.	Vidarbha Mills	-3.03	89.	Cannanore Mahe	-1.81
50.	Elphistone	-5.72	90.	Sri Bharti Mill	-5.95
51.	Finlay Mills	-5.74	91.	Swadeshi Cotton	-7.04
52.	Gold Mohur	-3.98		<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	
53.	Jam Manf. Mills	-4.58	92.	Omparsakthi	-0.24
54.	Kohinoor 1,2,3	-6.35	93.	Cambodia Mills	-0.88
to 56.			94.	Krishnaveni Mills	-1.77
57.	Sri Madhusudan	-3.53			

1	2	3
95.	Sri Rangavilas	-2.73
96.	Pankaja	-0.42
97.	Pioneer Mills	-1.08
98.	Balaramaverma	-1.43
99.	Kaleswarar B	-1.69
100.	Coimb. Murgan	-2.73
101.	Somasundram Mill	-1.64
102.	Kaleswarar A	-5.24
103.	Coimb. S & W	-6.36
104.	Sri Sarda Mills	-2.76
<b>Assam</b>		
105.	Associated	-2.23
<b>Bihar</b>		
106.	Bihar Coop.	-1.66
107.	Gaya Cotton	-2.81
<b>Orissa</b>		
108.	Orissa Cotton	-2.32
<b>West Bengal</b>		
109.	Bengal Textile	-3.00
110.	Luxmi Narayan	-3.26
111.	Arati Cotton	-1.67
112.	Bengal Fine-II	-1.49
113.	Sodepur	-1.33
114.	Central Cotton	-4.35
115.	Bangal Fine-I	-3.05
116.	Bengal Luxmi	-3.05
117.	Shree Mahalaxmi	-3.81
118.	Rampooria	-4.26
119.	Bangasri	-1.94
120.	Jyoti Wvg. Fac.	-1.42

### Irregularities in New India Insurance Co. Ltd.

2747. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received from various quarters including Members of Parliament against gross irregularities in Delhi Regional Office-I of New India Insurance Co. Ltd. (NIA) in the last two years;

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

(c) whether some frauds in advances in Regional Office-II of the company have come to notice;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). Some complaints of general nature about alleged administrative lapses, bias and the style of functioning of Delhi Regional Office-I were received by the management of New India Assurance Company Limited from one of the Members of Parliament and an Employees' Union, among others. These allegations are being looked into by the Audit and the Vigilance Departments of the Company and action if called for, will be taken under Conduct, Discipline and Appeal Rules of the Company.

(c) to (e). It was reported that one case of misuse of Leave Travel Subsidy advance amounting to Rs. 561/- 0by one Senior Assistant was detected. After enquiry, a penalty of censure and debarring the concerned Senior Assistant for availing L.T.S. facility for next 2 block years, was imposed in February, 1995.

### Interest Rates on Deposits of N.R.Is.

2748. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Public Sector Banks are paying a higher and differential rate of interest of deposits made by the Non-Resident Indians (N.R.Is);

(b) if so, the details thereof and the rate of interest allowed on NRI deposits and domestic deposit separately as applicable on April 1, 1996; and

(c) the reasons for allowing higher differential interest on NRI deposits?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The rate of interest prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as applicable on April 1, 1996 on NRI deposits and domestic deposits with commercial banks including public sector banks are as given below:

### Rate of interest on domestic and NRE deposits

Deposits	Category of Account	Per cent per annum
1. Domestic Deposits	(i) Current	Nil
	(ii) Savings	4.5
	(iii) Term Deposits :	
	(a) 46 days and upto 2 years	Not exceeding 12.0
	(b) Over 2 years	Banks are free to decide the rate
2. NRE Deposits	(i) Current	Nil
	(ii) Savings	4.5
	(iii) Term Deposits :	
	6 months to 3 years and over	Not exceeding 12.0

## 3. Foreign Currency Non-Resident Accounts (Banks) Scheme (FCNR) (B)

*Interest on deposits accepted under FCNR (Banks) Scheme*

Maturity Period	Rate of Interest (per cent per annum)			
	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollars	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen
1	2	3	4	5
(a) For deposits for 6 months and above but less than 1 year	5.25	4.50	4.00	0.75
(b) For deposits for 1 year and above but less than 2 years	7.00	6.00	5.00	1.25
(c) For deposits for 2 years and above but less than 3 years	7.75	6.50	5.75	1.50
(d) For deposits for 3 years only	8.00	6.50	6.00	2.00

## 4. Non Resident (Non Repatriable) NRNR Rupee Deposit Scheme

The banks are free to determine the rate of interest on the above deposits, as set by their internal guidelines.

While the rates of interest on FCNR (B) deposits continue to be prescribed by RBI in the context of deregulation of interest rates and with a view to bringing about an alignment of the maturity structure of Non Resident (External) NRE term deposits with that on domestic term deposits effective April 4, 1996 interest rates on NRE term deposits of over 2 years have been freed and the existing structure of interest rates on such deposits is as under :

	(per cent per annum)
Duration	Rates (effective 4.4.1996)
<i>Term Deposits</i>	
6 months and upto 2 years	Not exceeding 12.0
over 2 years	Banks are free to decide the rate.

Further as part of a gradual move towards providing greater flexibility in determining the deposit rates, effective July 2, 1996, commercial banks are free to determine their own interest rates on domestic term

deposits of over 1 year, and with the developments in the money markets and the progressive move from cash credit system to loan system, there is a need for providing some outlet for management of short term surplus funds. In view of this the minimum period of domestic term deposits have been reduced from 46 days to 30 days. Accordingly, effective July 2, 1996, the interest rate on domestic term deposits of 30 days and upto 1 year is prescribed at 'not exceeding 11.0 per cent per annum', and for deposits of above 1 year banks are free to determine their own interest rate.

However, while determining the interest rates on term deposits under NRE and domestic deposits above 2 years and above 1 year respectively, banks have to obtain the prior approval of their respective Boards. They also have to exercise utmost caution in offering interest rates on various maturities of term deposits and they should ensure that they do not get locked into excessively long deposit maturities. In this connection banks should undertake a careful review to ensure against overall asset-liability mismatch. Further at any point of time, individual banks have to adopt uniform rates at all their branches and for all customers.

The rates of interest on FCNR (B) deposits have since been revised with effect from 1st July, 1996 as under :

*Interest on deposits accepted under FCNR (Banks) Scheme*

Maturity Period	Rate of Interest (per cent per annum)			
	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutsche Mark	Japanese Yen
1	2	3	4	5
(a) For deposits for 6 months and above but less than 1 year	4.75	4.50	3.00	0.75

	1	2	3	4	5
(b) For deposits for 1 year and above but less than 2 years		6.50	6.25	4.00	1.25
(c) For deposits for 2 years and above But less than 3 years		7.25	6.75	4.75	1.50
(d) For deposits for 3 years only		7.50	7.00	5.00	2.00

(c) In the context of the volatility in the money and foreign exchange market, a number of measures were taken by RBI since October, 1995 to augment the resources of the banking system and to improve the flows in the foreign exchange market. As part of this policy, several measures were taken to enhance the attractiveness of the deposit Schemes for Non-Resident Indian (NRIs) both to the depositors and to banks, including higher rate of interest on Non-Resident External (NRE) deposits.

#### Signing of MOUs

2749. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Memorandum of Understandings signed in Maharashtra, Karnataka and West Bengal with foreign equity participation as on March 31, 1995, separately;

(b) the net investment made by NRIs and foreign companies in this regard; and

(c) the details of projects in which the investment has been made particularly in the field of power, heavy industry and petroleum sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The information & details regarding MOUs signed by the State Governments & follow up action thereon are not available with the Central Government.

[Translation]

#### Upgradation of Technology for Small Scale Sector

2750. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether small scale sector requires the upgradation of technology presently being used by them and other assistance required so that in the field of export small scale sector can compete with domestic and foreign market; and

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

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

(b) To facilitate upgradation and modernisation of technology, Government of India has set up Process and Product Development Centres (PPDCs), Tool Rooms, Testing Centres, etc. at places of clusters. These Institutes cater to the needs of the Industry concerning design, development and testing. A Technology Development and Modernisation Fund with a corpus of Rs.200 crores has been set up in the SIDBI for financing the export oriented projects for modernisation and technology upgradation in the SSI Sector. This scheme has become operational with effect from 21.4.1995. To facilitate modernisation & transfer of technology, Govt. has also created Trust Fund operated through registered societies with the involvement of Non-Govt. Organisations (NGOs)/Associations.

To encourage the units in small scale sector to develop total quality management (TQM) to improve the quality of their products, Govt. of India as well as SIDBI are reimbursing the part cost of acquisition of ISI-9000 series certification.

#### Coal Distribution

2751. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal under their consideration pertaining to the coal distribution to the retail sellers of coal from Rajhara Coal Mines of C.C.L.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise, in view of reply given to (a) above.

[English]

#### Rehabilitation Industries Corporation

2752. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Rehabilitation Industries

Corporation, which was floated for the economic rehabilitation of the displaced people from the erstwhile East Pakistan is itself in desperate need of rehabilitation:

(b) the reasons for which the Union Government dithering on its 32 crore revival scheme; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken to save the Rehabilitation Industries Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). Rehabilitation Industries Corporation (RIC) has been a chronically sick company. Its accumulated loss as on 31.3.1996 is Rs. 328.19 crore (provisional).

In the recent years studies have been carried out by consultants engaged by RIC, and a Revival Committee which has been set up has also submitted a revival plan. Besides, the management of RIC has prepared an action plan. The recommendations contained in the above mentioned revival reports are at variance with each other in respect of other related aspects. Hence, a detailed examination is being undertaken to explore the possibility of the economic revival of RIC.

#### Public Sector Industrial Units in Kerala

2753. SHRI N.K. PERMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up public sector industrial units in Kerala;

(b) the number of public sector industrial units owned by the Union Government which are running in profit;

(c) whether any industrial unit of the Union Government in Kerala has been declared as sick; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At present there is no proposal to set up any new Central Public Sector unit in the State of Kerala.

(b) During the year 1994-95, all the five Central Public Sector Undertakings located in Kerala made profits.

(c) and (d). No Central Public Sector Undertaking having registered office in the State of Kerala is sick.

#### Nagaon Paper Mill Assam

2754. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of Nagaon Paper Mill (HPC) Assam has been decreased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the production thereof during each of the last three years;

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the production of the said mill;

(e) whether the paper mill is sought to be handed over to private sector; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The production is on the increase at Nagaon Paper Mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation.

(c)	Year	Production
	93-94	67,482MT
	94-95	72,165MT
	95-96	80,855MT

(d) Action has been taken by Hindustan Paper Corporation to improve efficiency in the areas of pulp mill, recovery section and paper machine.

(e) and (f). No, Sir.

#### Pending applications for industrial approval

2755. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have received many applications from Andhra Pradesh for setting up of industries for approval;

(b) if so, the details thereof as to the nature of industry, locations, management etc.; and

(c) by when the decision on these applications is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. During the period January, 1993 till June, 1996, a total number of 247 Industrial Licence applications for setting up industries in Andhra Pradesh have been received. Out of these, upto 25th July, 1996, 137 have been approved, 23 have been rejected, 57 have been treated as withdrawn/licence not required. The approvals have been granted for setting up of various industries in Medak, Rangareddy, Nalgonda, Hyderabad, Chittoor, Cuddapah, East Godavari districts for the manufacture of various items viz. drugs, chemicals, sugar, textiles, etc.

(c) All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry, their recommendations, in

specific cases and also furnishing of relevant information by the applicants.

### Amendment in Explosive Rule, 1983

2756. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the Explosive Rule 1983 in order to give more power to the State Governments for granting permission in regard to blasting in small mines or stone quarries;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be amended; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) At present there is no proposal.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No requests have been received nor need felt by the Government for such an amendment.

### Cases of corruption and irregularities in CIL

2757. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY :  
SHRI BANWARI LAL PURQHIT :  
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY :  
SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of corruptions and irregularities detected in Coal India Ltd. and in its subsidiaries during the last three years;

(b) the company-wise details thereof; and

(c) the officials found involved in these cases and the punishment awarded to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) to (c). Companywise cases of corruption detected in Coal India Ltd. and its subsidiaries, number of officials involved and action taken against them during the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96 are given below :

Company	No. of cases detected from 93-94 to 95-96	No. of officials involved	No. of Officials awarded punishment			Balance Pending	Officials Dropped/ Exonerated
			Major	Minor	Court		
CIL							
(HQ)	16	23	4	12	-	7	-
CMPDIL	11	13	2	2	1	4	4
ECL	67	124	24	1	-	99	-
NCL	4	7	-	7	-	-	-
BCCL	68	105	27	17	-	61	-
CCL	36	89	1	18	-	70	-
WCL	15	33	-	6	-	25	2
SECL	52	113	9	16	-	70	18
MCL	20	37	-	1	-	36	-
Total	289	544	67	80	1	372	24

### Bureau of Industrial Cost and Prices

2758. LT. GEN. SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to convert the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices into the Tariff Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c). The Government propose to set-up

an independent Tariff Commission and the said proposal is under consideration.

### Hurdles in Industrial Growth

2759. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the main hurdles of industrial growth in the country;

(b) the steps proposed to remove those hurdles;

(c) the reasons for capital formation at a low rate; and

(d) the measures likely to be taken to improve the capital formation to enhance the industrial growth?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The overall industrial growth at 9.4% in 1994-95 and 12.1% in 1995-96 is encouraging. However, development of a strong economic infrastructure in sectors like power, transport and communication is considered critical for sustained industrial growth. The Government is already considering extensive application of market mechanism in these sectors through deregulation of production and distribution. Foreign investment in these sectors is also being encouraged to supplement domestic resources.

(c) and (d). The Gross Domestic Capital Formation has increased from Rs. 173331 crores in 1993-94 to Rs.238410 crores in 1994-95. As percentage of GDP it has accelerated from 21.6% in 1993-94 to 25.2% in 1994-95.

#### Setting up of Industrial Units in M.P.

2750. SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of proposals received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh for setting up of new industrial units in the State during each of the last two years; and

(b) the time by which they are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) Two proposals each for the years 1994 and 1995 have been received under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act from M/s. Madhya Pradesh State Agro Industries Development Corporation Ltd. and M/s. Nepa Ltd., for setting up industries in Guna, East Nimar, Raigarh and Narsinghpur districts of Madhya Pradesh for the manufacture of sugar and Newsprint. As on 30.7.96, out of the above four proposals one Letter of Intent has been granted and one proposal has been rejected.

(b) All steps are taken for speedy disposal of applications. Actual disposal of applications depends on the sectoral policy adopted by the Administrative Ministry, their recommendations in specific cases and also furnishing of relevant information by the applicants.

#### Industrially Backward Districts

2761. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has approached to the Union Government to declare some of its Districts as industrially backward districts under the industrial policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Foreign Investment Proposals

2762. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of foreign direct investment proposals approved by the Union Government from 1991 to 1996. Statewise;

(b) the total outlay involved in these proposals; and

(c) the number of proposals now pending for approval with the Union Government, Statewise?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). From August 1991 to May, 1996 total 4679 numbers of proposals were approved by Union Government with a total foreign direct investment of Rs.71058.23 crores involved in these proposals. The Statewise report for Foreign Direct Investment cases approved during this period is given in the statement attached.

(c) As on 30th June, 1996, 424 numbers of proposals for approval of foreign investment are pending for approval with the Union Government. The list of pending cases, Statewise is not centrally maintained.

#### STATEMENT

*Statewise\*Report for Foreign Direct Investment Cases Approved by All Sections for the Period August 1991 to May 1996*

State	Aug'91 - May'96	
	No.	Inves. (Rs. Crore)
1	2	3
Others	1476	20536.20
Delhi	365	16218.44
Maharashtra	667	10546.72
West Bengal	137	4227.21
Tamil Nadu	421	3698.93
Gujarat	202	2851.29
Karnataka	330	2828.34
Orissa	35	2653.71
Andhra Pradesh	240	1736.67
Uttar Pradesh	173	1687.47
Madhya Pradesh	75	1047.38
Punjab	54	778.83



1	2	3
Haryana	215	661.99
Rajasthan	113	608.39
Himachal Pradesh	19	309.02
Pondicherry	24	201.07
Goa	26	200.84
Kerala	43	109.17
Bihar	20	100.52
Chandigarh	11	72.46
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	13	63.15
Arunachal Pradesh	2	11.06
Daman & Diu	7	5.72
Assam	4	1.50
Andaman & Nicobar	5	0.98
Tripura	1	0.68
Lashadweep	1	0.50
	4679	71058.23

#### Branches of Bank of America in India

2763. DR. T.SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Bank of America has sought permission of RBI to open its new Branches in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Bank of America approached it in April, 1991 with a request to open three branches in India at Bangalore, Pune or Baroda and Hyderabad. RBI has further reported that it has yet to consider the Bank's application.

[Translation]

#### Industries Honoured for Performance

2764. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether some of the industries have been honoured by the President of India for their excellent performance;

(b) if so, the various of the industries who have been honoured during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide more assistance to industries whose production exceed their respective targets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b). The National Productivity Council, an autonomous organisation under this Ministry, has been presenting awards to industries for best performance. The names of some of these industries who have received awards during the last three years are given in the enclosed statement.

(c) and (d). There is no new proposal under consideration at this stage.

#### STATEMENT

##### *National Productivity Awards for 1991-92*

#### I. Automobile Industry Including Tractors

Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd.  
Tractor Business Group  
Pinjore.

#### II. Cement Industry

Gujarat Ambuja Cement Ltd.  
Ambuja Nagar  
Gujarat

#### III. Fertilizer Industry

Gujarat State Fertilizer Co. Ltd.  
Fertilizer Nagar  
Gujarat

#### IV. Heavy Engineering Industries

BEML (Mysore Complex)  
Bangalore

#### V. Light Engineering Industries

Sundaram Abex Ltd.  
Madras

#### VI. Leather & Leather Goods Industry

Farida Classic Shoes Ltd.  
Madras

#### VII. Paper Pulp And Allied Industries

A. *Small Paper Mills*  
Shree Vindhya Paper Mills Ltd.  
Somam Nagar  
Jalgaon

B. *Large Paper Mills*

Tribeni Tissues Ltd.  
Calcutta

#### VIII. Small Scale Industries

Fluit Air (India) Pvt. Ltd.  
Bombay

##### *National Productivity Awards for 1992-93*

#### I. Automobile Industry Including Tractors

Bajaj Auto Ltd.  
Bombay Pune Road  
Akurdi  
Pune-411035

**II. Cement Industry**

New Vikram Cement  
Prop : Grasim Industries Ltd.  
Vikram Nagar P.O : Khor  
Distt. : Mandsaur - 458 470 (M.P.)

**III. Fertilizer Industry**

Southern Petrochemical Industries Corpn. Ltd.  
SPIC Nagar  
Tuticorin - 628 005 (Tamil Nadu)

**IV. Heavy Engineering Industries**

L & T McNEIL Ltd.  
P.B. No. 977, Poonmalle Road  
Manapakkam  
Madras - 500089

**V. Light Engineering Industries**

Autolite (India) Ltd.  
D-469, Road No. 9-A  
Vishwa Karma Industrial Area  
Jaipur - 302 013

**VI. Leather And Leather Goods**

Tata Exports Ltd.  
Leather Complex, Industrial Area  
Agra Bombay Road  
Dewas - 455 001 (M.P.)

**VII. Paper Pulp And Allied Industries****A. Small Paper Mills**

Shree Vindhya Paper Mills Ltd.  
Somani Nagar  
Via Bhusawal  
Distt : Jalagaon - 425203 (Maharashtra)

**B. Large Paper Mills**

Hindustan Newsprint Ltd.  
P.O. Newsprint Nagar  
Distt. : Kottayam - 686616 (Kerala)

**VIII. Small Scale Industries**

Victor Tools Pvt. Ltd.  
A-3, Focal Point, Bye Pass  
GT Road  
Jalandhar - 144004 (Punjab)

**National Productivity Awards for 1993-94****I. Automobile Industry Including Tractors**

Baja Auto Ltd.  
Pune

**II. Cement Industry**

Chittor Cement Works  
Chittorgarh

**III. Fertilizer Industry**

Shriram Fertilizers and Chemicals  
Kota

**IV. Heavy Engineering Industries**

Kirloskar Brothers Ltd.  
Distt. Sangli (Maharashtra)

**V. Leather And Leather Goods**

Farida Shoes Ltd.  
Madras

**VI. Light Engineering Industries**

Kirloskar Copeland Ltd.  
Karad (Maharashtra)

**VII. Small Scale Industries**

Precision Engineering Components  
Bhopal

**Non-Banking Financial Institutions**

2765. SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL :  
SHRI N.S.V. CHITTHAN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of those licenced non-banking institutions which are transacting their business in Delhi and Tamil Nadu as on date;

(b) whether the Government are aware that some of these institutions have cheated many people;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to put a check on them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

**Family Courts**

2766. SHRI SOUMYA RANJAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the family courts set up in the country are functioning properly;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of the Government to review the working of these courts; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) and (b). The Family Courts are set up by the State Government/UT Administration in consultation with their High Courts. As such, these courts are functioning under the administrative control of the

concerned State Government/High Court and it is for the concerned High Courts to review the functioning of the Family Courts.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

### Taking Over of TAFCO

2767. SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that 34 crores rupees order/offer is likely to come to TAFCO Company, which is almost defunct, from a private firm for preparation of quality shoes; and

(b) the stand of BIFR, State Government and Centre in revitalising this sick industry?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir. An enquiry received sometime ago for supply of shoes worth Rs.21 crores did not materialise.

(b) Before giving its final recommendations for winding up of TAFCO, BIFR had considered the various options and the views of all the concerned parties regarding the possibilities of its revival. The recommendations of BIFR are now pending before the Allahabad High Court.

### Sonepur Bazari Project

2768. SHRI HARADHAN ROY : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No.217 on March 11, 1992 and state :

(a) whether the land losers in Sonepur and Bazari Villages have since been rehabilitated;

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

(c) whether the remaining six villages are likely to be rehabilitated by 1996-97;

(d) if so, the details of the steps taken in this respect; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) Only a part of Sonepur Village has been rehabilitated.

(b) Ruidaspara—part of Sonepur village consisting of 68 families has been rehabilitated. Other parts of Sonepur and Bazari village could not be shifted due to reluctance of villagers to shift elsewhere.

(c) (d) and (e). Out of six villages, Panjabidanga village will be rehabilitated by 1997-98. The rehabilitation site for Panjabidanga in Ningah Mouza is being developed. The remaining five villages will be

taken up later as they do not come within the mining area required by the Project in the next five years.

12.00 hrs.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, today being the last day before we go for the recess, I will allow Zero Hour up to one o'clock. Therefore, you do not have to make noise. I have the full list with me. I will call one by one. But Zero Hour has to stop at one o'clock. It will be good if we do not...

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN (Mumbai - North East) : Sir, we do not make noise...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If we skip Lunch break and continue our discussion, then we will be able to finish all the business. I will keep one hour for Zero Hour. There will be no Lunch break.

Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

12.01 hrs.

### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

#### Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, on behalf of Shri C.M. Ibrahim, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library, see no. LT.248/96]

#### Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour for 1996-97

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Labour for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library see no. LT.249/96]

#### Papers under sub-section (1) of the Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 etc.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the

Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Udhagamandalam, for the year 1994-95.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Photo Films Manufacturing Company Limited, Udhagamandalam, for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.250/96]
- (3) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Industry for the year 1996-97
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.251/96]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Cochin, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon, under sub-section (4) of section 17 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953.
- (ii) Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding Review by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Coir Board, Cochin, for the year 1994-95.
- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.252/96]
- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Rubber Manufactures Research Association, Thane for the year 1994-95, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Rubber Manufactures Research Association, Thane, for the year 1994-95 for the year 1994-95.
- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.253/96]

**Notifications under Section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

- (1) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and

English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 19 of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970:-

- (i) The United Bank of India Officer Employees' Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations, 1994 published in Notification No. 1/95 in Gazette of India dated the 22nd July, 1995, together with a corrigendum thereto dated the 20th April, 1996.
- (ii) The Indian Bank Officer Employees' Acceptance of Jobs in Private Sector Concerns after Retirement (Amendment) Regulations 1995 published in Notification No.SRC/223/50 in Gazette of India dated the 23rd September, 1995, together with a corrigendum thereto dated the 20th April, 1996.
- (2) Two Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.254/96]
- (3) A copy of the Notification No.SBD No.5/1996 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 1996 approving the amendments to the Regulation 72 of the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur/Hyderabad/Indore/Mysore/Patiala/Saurashtra/Travencore (Officers) Service Regulations, 1979 under sub-section (4) of section 63 of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Bank) Act, 1959.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.
- [Placed in Library see no. LT.255/96]
- (5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-
- (i) The Customs and Central Excise Duties Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No.G.S.R. 139(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1996, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 247 published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No.110/95-Cus., dated the 5th June, 1995.
- (iii) G.S.R.248(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th June, 1996 together

with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 111/95-Cus., dated the 5th June, 1995.

- (iv) G.S.R. 249 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th June, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 104/95-Cus. dated the 30th May, 1995.
  - (v) G.S.R. 271(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 8th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose anti-umping duty on Dead Burnt Magnesite exported from the People's Republic of China into India by exporters mentioned in the notification.
  - (vi) G.S.R. 275(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 10th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum notifying rates of drawback shall apply in respect of exports made before 2nd May, 1995, subject to certain conditions.
  - (vii) G.S.R. 276(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 81/95-Cus., dated the 31st March, 1995.
  - (viii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 71 dated the 8th April, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the validity of adhoc exemption order No. 82 from the 31st March, 1996 to the 30th September, 1996.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-256/96]
- (6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961 :—
- (i) The Income-tax (First Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 357(E) in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 1996.
  - (ii) The Income-tax (Second Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 459(E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th June, 1996.
  - (iii) The Income-tax (Third Amendment) Rules, 1996 published in Notification No. S.O. 470 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1996.  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-257/96]
- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of

section 38 of the central Excise and Salt Act, 1994 :—

- (i) The Central Excise (Second Amendment) Rules 1996 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 138 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ii) G.S.R. 262(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 1st July, 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/95-CE., dated the 4th January, 1995.
- (iii) The Adhoc Exemption Order No. 47/12/96-CX dated the 26th July 1996 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to paper to be used for calendars and telephone/address books etc. from the whole of the duties of excises leviable thereon upto the 31st March, 1997.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-258/96]

- (8) A copy each of the following Annual Report and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the ended on the 31st March, 1995, together with Auditor's Report thereon :

- (i) Rayalaseema Grammena Bank, Cuddapah (A.P.).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-259/96]

- (ii) Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Monghyr (Bihar)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-260/96]

- (iii) Kamraz Rural Bank, Sopore (J and K).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-261/96]

- (iv) Ka Bank Nongkydong Ri Khasi Jaintia, Shillong.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-262/96]

- (v) Marwar Gramin Bank, Pali (Rajasthan).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-263/96]

- (vi) Shekhawati Gramin Bank, Sikar (Rajasthan).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-264/96]

- (vii) Gaur Gramin Bank, Malda (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-265/96]

- (viii) Nadia Gramin Bank, Krishnagar, Distt. Nadia (West Bengal)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-266/96]

(ix) Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Berhampore, Distt. Murshidabad. (W.B.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-267/96]

(x) Mizoram Rural Bank, Mizoram.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-268/96]

(xi) Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-269/96]

(xii) Pinakini Grameena Bank, Nellore (A.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-270/96]

(xiii) Cochar Gramin Bank, Silchar Distt. Cachar (Assam)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-271/96]

(xiv) Samyut Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Azamgarh (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-272/96]

(xv) Jamnagar Rajkot Gramin Bank, Jamnagar (Gujarat)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-273/96]

(xvi) Junagadh Amreli Gramin Bank, Junagadh (Gujarat).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-274/96]

(xvii) Jamuna Gramin Bank, Agra City (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-275/96]

(xviii) Balasore Gramya Bank, Balasore (Orissa)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-276/96]

(xix) Chhatrasal Gramin Bank, Orai (Distt. Jalaun) (U.P.)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-277/96]

(xx) Bardhaman Gramin Bank, Burdwan (West Bengal).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-278/96]

(xxi) Jammu Rural Bank, Jammu (J and K).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-279/96]

(xxii) Vaishali Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur (Bihar)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-280/96]

(xxiii) Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Madhubani (Bihar)

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-281/96]

(xxiv) Pandyan Grama Bank, Sattur (Tamil Nadu).

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-282/96]

(9) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 14 of 1995)

(Commercial)-The New India Assurance Company Limited, under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-283/96]

#### **Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Agriculture for 1996-97.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Chaturanan Mishra, I beg to lay a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-284/96]

#### **Demands for Grants of the Department of Tourism for 1996-97.**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Tourism for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-285/96]

#### **Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 22 of 1995) (Commercial) Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Birendra Prasad Baishya, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (No. 22 of 1995) (Commercial)-Ferro Scrap Nigam Limited under article 151 (1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-286/96]

#### **Papers Under Section 619A of the Companies Act, - 1956 etc.**

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956 :-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited, Calcutta for the year 1993-94.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Jute Manufactures Corporation Limited Calcutta, for the year 1993-94, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-287/96]

**Annual Report and Annual Accounts alongwith the Review on the working of Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for 1994-95.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : On behalf of Shri Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.
  - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95, together with Audit Report thereon.
  - (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Shellac Export Promotion Council, Calcutta, for the year 1994-95.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-288/96]

**Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for 1996-97.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ramakant D. Khalap, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-289/96]

**Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for 1996-97.**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the detailed demands for grant's (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-290/96]

**Demands for Grants of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for 1996-97**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Reghubans Prasad Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-291/96]

**Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for 1996-97.**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARY) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for the year 1996-97.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-292/96]

12.02 hrs.

**MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 1st August, 1996, agreed without any amendment to the Coal Mines Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 24th July, 1996."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 1st August, 1996."

12.03 hrs.

WORKING JOURNALISTS AND OTHER  
NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES (CONDITIONS OF  
SERVICE) AND MISCELLANEOUS  
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 1996

- As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I lay on the Table the Working Journalists and other Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 1st August 1996.

12.03½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEES—A REVIEW

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the 'Standing Committees (1995-96)-A review

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Presentation of Petition.

Shri Bachi Singh Rawat — Not present.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have said that I will call one by one.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk - Delhi) : Sir, I am on a point of order...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order now. We have not taken up any business.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, I would like to quote Rule 380...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Agarwal, we have no business at the moment.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, I have written a letter to you about this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There is no point of order during Zero Hour. We have not taken up any business.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, let me finish...(Interruptions) I quote Rule 380 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business :

"If the Speaker is of the opinion that words used in debate which are defamatory or indecent or unparliamentary or indignified, he may, in his discretion, order that such words be expunged from the proceedings of the House."...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How does it relate to Zero Hour?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, please listen to me...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not at all. It does not relate to Zero Hour.

Your point of order has to be relating to the business before the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, I have written a letter about this...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : A point of order can be raised only on matters relating to the business of the House.

Now we do not have the business of the House. Now it is Zero Hour.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL : Sir, I have written a letter to you about this.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not do like that. Shri V.M. Sudheeran, please.

[Translation] \*

SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT (Nagpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the fate of the Privilege Motion about which I had given the notice on the 25th. You had sought clarification thereon and I hope by now the reply must have been received. It is an important issue and I want your ruling thereon.

MR. SPEAKER : The reply must have been received by now.

[English]

I will go into it. In fact, I remember replies have come but I do not know exactly whether this reply has come or not. I will certainly look into it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : In case you want to speak, you must await your turn. I will not call the Members, who shout.

[English]

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the Government to a very



important issue. Much difficulty is being experienced by the marine fishermen due to the decision of the Central Government to discontinue the centrally sponsored Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme. As per the scheme, the fishermen are enrolled. Each beneficiary fisherman has to remit Rs. 45 as monthly subscription for eight months beginning from July to February. Thus, altogether an amount of Rs. 360 as beneficiary contribution is collected under this scheme. As equal amount is contributed by the Central Government. The total amount of Rs. 1080 is disbursed to the beneficiary fisherman in four installments during the months of March to June. This scheme is widely appreciated and it is really a support to the fishermen to a certain extent to overcome their most difficult times.

Sir, unfortunately, the Central Government has decided to stop the implementation of the Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme putting the condition of the fishermen from bad to worse. I would, therefore, request the Government to take immediate action to continue the Savings-Cum-Relief Scheme in the coming years with enhanced central contribution.

MR. SPEAKER : Please be brief. I have got 60 names here. So it means, one should take not more than half a minute. Please remember that.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Quilon) : Sir, on the same issue, I have given a Short Notice Question to you...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We are on Zero Hour and not on Short Notice business. You are associating yourself with us.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : My point is that I have raised this matter under Short Notice Question and an answer has been obtained that the matter will be re-considered by the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : It is not Short Notice. This is Zero Hour. I know you are concerned about the same matter. You have expressed that.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I have also to raise this matter. This is not a fair practice.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, I would like to raise an important issue before the House for the kind attention of the Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You do not have to raise your hands. All the names are there.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, today, almost all the mills of Hindustan Paper Corporation have been closed down because of the new newsprint policy of the Government. Sir, HNL is one of the best institutions, public undertakings which has got the productivity awards for the last three years, but it has been closed down. This Undertaking is in my constituency, i.e. Kottayam in Kerala.

12.07 hrs.

*(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

There is another paper mill at Mandia and it has been closed down. The paper mill at Nepa in Madhya Pradesh has been closed down. The mill at Naugeya has been closed down. One of the best mills in India, the Tamil Nadu Newsprint, a Public Undertaking, has been closed down. This is a very serious issue. Today, the newsprint production in our country has come to a halt and the Government is not taking any measures to rectify this. Earlier, there was a policy that if a subscriber had to take two tonnes of indigenous newsprint, then he would be permitted to import one tonne of newsprint from outside. The newsprint policy has been liberalised. It is put under the OGL. Anybody can import foreign newsprint from any other countries. With the result, the indigenous or Public Undertakings are completely closed down.

Sir, thousands of workers are in a helpless condition and the Government is not at all taking care of them. We have met the Minister of Finance and we have met the Minister of Industry. They are not taking any action on this matter.

We have invested public money worth crores and crores of rupees in public undertakings but the condition of the workers is very bad. These companies are being run unprofitably. I can cite an example. The Hindustan Newsprint Limited which is in my constituency, Kottayam, was running on a profit but now that mill has been closed down. This is a very serious issue. The Government, specially the Finance Minister, should look into this. Otherwise, all the units of the HNL will be completely closed down. I request the hon. Finance Minister and the Industries Minister to look into this issue and take necessary steps in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. I have already called Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : Sir, the continuing agitation...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha) : Sir, this is a very important matter. The Finance Minister is here. Let him answer.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, this is a very serious issue. Thousands of workers are in misery.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have already had your say. Now please sit down. I have called Shri Rupchand Pal.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am sorry, I cannot allow anybody else. Let Shri Rupchand Pal speak.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, there is a continuing neglect of the Programme Staff, ranging from the Transmission Executives to the Deputy Director-General of *Aakashvani* and *Doordarshan*. They have been demanding parity in their pay scales but their case is not being attended to by this Government. We have been raising this issue repeatedly. The agitation is continuing and thousands and thousands of employees are being compelled to take agitational path. In the last few days, so many *dharnas*, protest meetings and all these things have been continuing, affecting our national electronic media. I have spoken to the hon. Information and Broadcasting Minister and he has assured me that he will look into the case. Thousands and thousands of these employees are very much agitated because the Fifth Finance Commission has already stated that they will not look into any past anomaly. So, their interest is going to be permanently jeopardised as a result of the Pay Commission's Report which is expected to be submitted in the month of September. I have already talked to the hon. Minister to take all necessary steps immediately so that the interest of thousands and thousands of employees belonging to the Programme Staff are protected.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you. This issue has already been raised once.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, I can only convey the feelings of the Members to the concerned Minister.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ (South Delhi) : The concerned Minister is sitting here. The Minister of Information and Broadcasting will of course convey it but the Finance Minister has declined to look into any anomaly. The feelings of the entire House are being conveyed. The Finance Minister is present in the House; he should at last give an assurance that he would concede the demands of the Programme Staff ...*(Interruptions)* His smile is not enough; he must give a positive reply. He can at least assure that he would look into the demands which would be conveyed to him by Minister of Information and Broadcasting.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : What was your contribution during 13 days?

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : All the good work done by us has been undone by your Government ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Fatmi, before you speak, may I say that along with you there is another name on the same subject: Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan will speak after you.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): The Olympics being held in Atlanta are in their last stages but unfortunately India has failed to secure even a single medal. I want to draw the attention of the Government to the announcement that India would play host to the Asian Games by 2006. Whether it is the Asian Games on the Olympics, our level of performance has not been enough to win a medal.

I would like to submit to the Government to ensure that the team, which is sent to compete in any international sports event, has the competence to compete in that level of contest. Even small countries have bagged medals in this marimolli sports event. All our hopes are now pinned on leander Paes for which Government cannot claim any credit as it is an individual effort. I would, therefore, venture to suggest that before entering into competition in any international sports event, Government should select some disciplines and concentrate on them. Today, we are spending crores on sports, but no tangible results are being achieved. I would suggest to the Government to hold a high level meeting with a view to constituting a competent committees. The Committee should select some disciplines and concentrate their efforts on those disciplines only. If need be, we may ship the next olympics and participate in the Olympics to be held after the next olympics. But we must come home with some medals. Otherwise

"Bade beaabruo hoken tere kooche se hum nikle"

It is regrettable that India is a vast country but has failed to win even a single medal whereas smaller countries have shown better performance and better medal tally.

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to raise a specific issue in the context of the Olympics being held in Atlanta. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the total neglect of Indian disciplines like wrestling. We could have won a medal in the wrestling events but the party politics indulged in respect Pappu Yadav and Kaka Pawar belied any such hope. I would like to bring to the notice of the House that Pappu Yadav was selected for training in Russia and while he was receiving training in Russia, it was decided to send Kaka Pawar. Pappu Yadav was recalled later on. There was a wrestling bout between the two and Pappu Yadav came out victorious.

Besides, we do not have proper coaching facilities in our country. We do have two coaches for free style wrestling, but we do not have any coach for Greco-Roman style of wrestling. Also no coach accompanied our contingent which participated in the wrestling events in Atlanta. The wrestlers who were supposed to contest in the 48 kg category, were forced to contest in the 52 kg.

category. Therefore, all our hopes to bag the gold medal in this event were dashed to the ground. The officers in the sports Federation...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : I am touching an important point. Our officials in the sports Federation fail to take the right decisions. I urge the Government to disclose their sports policy and it should be discussed in the Lok Sabha. We may not have succeeded in these events but the Youth Congress showed its powers in other fields in the Bhopal ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NAND KUMAR SAI (Raigarh) : The prices of drugs and medicines have risen so high during the last 2-3 years that they have been beyond the reach of the poor. The price of Glucose water bottle with 5 per cent next rose content is Rs. 8 but the price marked on the bottle is Rs. 29.90. In the rural and adivasi areas, it is being sold for Rs. 100/- why a price of Rs.29.90 has been marked on a bottle costing Rs.8? Government should make a statement on these malpractices by drug companies.

*[English]*

SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI (Belgaum) : Sir, I want to raise one important matter regarding the situation arising out of the strike of advocates of Hubli Dharwar and other parts of the northern Karnataka. The strike is in protest against the non-establishment of the High Court Bench at Hubli Dharwar. Due to the strike the situation is tense which may lead to a law and order problem. The Government of Karnataka has requested for the establishment of a High Court Bench at Hubli. The Karnataka Assembly has also passed a unanimous resolution for establishing a High Court Bench at Hubli. I draw the attention of the hon. Law Minister and request him to take action immediately in this regard. I also request him to visit Karnataka immediately to solve this problem.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, reportedly there is a move by an influential quarter having relations with the ruling party for the shifting of the headquarters of Coal India Limited from Calcutta. This matter has also been reported in a section of the Press. I have come across a write up saying that a resolution to this effect has also been passed in one of the State Assemblies. Sir, it is causing concern and it is also creating uncertainty in the concerned quarters. Therefore, it should be clarified by the hon. Minister. If there is any such move the subsidiary company should also be consulted before taking a decision in this regard. There should not be any haste in this matter ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : Sir, I join him on this matter. I feel that this should not happen without the knowledge of Parliament...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE (Mandola) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 30 persons belonging to Bega tribe of adivasi tribes residing in District Mandola have died due to the break out of a serious infectious disease there. In spite of our constant endeavour to bring it to the notice of the Government, no action has been taken by them. Through you, Sir, I would urge the hon. Minister to ensure that either the State Government or the Central Government undertake measures to eradicate this menace. This Bega tribe resides in adivasi areas and the steps have been taken in this direction. I would request the hon. Minister to make a statement thereon and order necessary measures...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I may bring it to your notice that the names have been selected by the hon. Speaker.

*[English]*

The names have been selected by the hon. Speaker. I will try to accommodate others also. First, I will call the names of those hon. Members who have already been selected by the hon. Speaker ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : We are not treated properly. We will not accept this...*(Interruptions)* We are not going to accept this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let Shri Tiwari speak first. I will allow you all.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : We are also elected by the people but all our requests have been rejected ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you keep on shouting, you will not be called to speak.

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI (Dumariaganj) : Sir, I would refer to the statement laid on the Table yesterday about Shrimati Subhawati Devi by the hon. Minister of Home Affairs. The incident occurred on the 27th February. A party worker was rushing to the district administration to inform them about an impending assault on Shrimati Subhawati Devi by some anti social elements but the worker was way laid and murdered in broad daylight.

According to the statement laid by the hon. Minister both the DIG and IG have confirmed in their respective statements that charges made by Shrimati Subhawati Devi are correct. A committee of the House should be appointed to verify the statements made by DIG and IG Gorakhpur and Shrimati Subhawati Devi and if need is felt the DIG and IG should be asked to appear before the committee.

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY (Sultanpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the

House as well as the Government to the killing of innocent Children in the Eastern region of U.P. comprising Sultanpur, Jaunpur and Pratapgarh etc. To-date 30 children have been killed.

News items are daily appearing in the Press about these killings of children which are attributed to wolves and hyenas. The U.P. Government has not taken any action to curb this menace. I along with vedantiji had given notice of a question on June 12 on the subject, besides writing to the P.M. But no action has been taken till date. The Forest Department claims that it is a wolf but even after killing the wolves, children are still being slaughtered. The Government should investigate whether some foreign power has a hand in these murders or some wild animal is stalking and killing these children. Secondly, these killings are going on for the past four months but none of the senior police officers - S.P., D.M. or Commissioner - toured the affected area at night. It is surprising that nobody dare moves in the Eastern region at night in a Maruti Car and if at all somebody ventures out, he is murdered. I will not ask the Home Minister to tour that area because he will go there with escort and nobody would tell him anything. 30 innocent persons have been killed so far. Children in the age group 3-7 years are being killed. The library, of which we had heard a lot, failed to provide us information which was sought 25 days ago. The relatives of the people killed in riots are given a compensation of Rs. 1 lakh each but not even Rs. 5 have been given to the parents of the children who have fallen prey to this menace. I demand that Rs. 1 lakh be paid to the next of kin of all the 60 victims of this menace. Besides, a parliamentary Committee should visit the affected area so that people may relate that tale of woe fearlessly to the committed and restore their faith in the administration. All those found guilty of this carnage should be punished.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How many more demands you want to make?

SHRI DEVENDRA BAHADUR ROY : The CID must be asked to investigate the cases of all these innocent persons who are languishing in jails on charges of murder and tool. These are my four demands.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Daura) : Sir, I do concede that Government need not reply to all the point raised here but some of the points are important and Government must come out with a reply. In case there is no response from the Government, all our endeavour are in vain.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, action would be taken thereon.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : A few days back, the Agriculture Minister had announced in the House that Rs.500 per acre and, Rs.50,000 to the next of kin of those killed in floods in Bihar. As the announcement has been made by a union Minister, he must also clarify, whether it is a policy decision or an adhoc arrangement?

To-day, I want to ask two questions First, our Prime Minister claims to be a well wisher of the farmers. Since independence, it has been the practice to include a person with rural back ground as the Member of the Planning Commission. But in the recently constituted Planning Commission there is not a single person with rural back ground. All the retired officers have been inducted into the Planning Commission. There is not a single Member with rural background. The chairman of the North East Council was always invited to the meetings of the Planning Commission to expouse the cause of the hill areas. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan always decried the prevailing system which had remind the country. But what is the position now? The Planning Commission comprises only retired officers with no Member of rural back ground. We also used to associate people from weaker section of society to convey their views before the Planning Commission.

I read in the Hindu to-day that the American Ambassador is presently touring Kashmir. He met the Hurriat leaders and had bend with Shabir Shah. To-day he will meet the military officers and other administrative officers to discuss the law and order situation. It is quite strange for the American ambassador to hold meetings with the administrative officers. It is for the Government to find out the veracity of the newsitem. If the American ambassador...(Interruptions)

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS (Sitapur) : You read 'Hindu' while we read 'The Times of India' and 'The Hindustan Times' where no such newsitem has been published.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I want the Government to clarify the position...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : May be the news item is wrong. But if the American Ambassador visits Kashmir and discusses the Law and Order situation with military officers and the administrative officers, it is not a healthy practice. I only want the Government to clarify the position.

SHRI MUKHTAR ANIS : I want to make a submission about the points raised by Shri Pilot.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Chaman Lal Gupta wants to speak. You may please sit down.

SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA (Udhampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the American Ambassador has been meeting the terrorist leaders, holding regular meetings with the political leaders and on top of it he is summoning all the officials of the Government for talks. This exercise is going on for the past one week. Tomorrow, he will visit Udhampur and then Jammu. In this way this unofficial visit has virtually become an official visit. What are his intentions? Four American officials are staying in the guest house in Srinagar for the past one and half month. We would like to know the American intentions vis-a-vis the Kashmir problem?

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balua) (Bihar) : In to-day's 'Nav Bharat Times' an anonymous letter has been published on behalf of Pakistan in which it has criticised the proposed elections in J&K. Both Pakistan and U.S.A. have adopted threatening postures. The issue needs to be addressed in all seriousness and how long will we tolerate threats from Pakistan and America.

SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA (Jammu) : Ever since terrorism struck roots in Kashmir in 1989, every month Kashmir receives visitors in the form of ambassadors either from the American embassy or the European countries. Sometimes, Parliamentarians also pay visits to Kashmir. What pains us is that these visitors from abroad interact with pro-Pakistani elements, entertain them lavishly and invite them against India. We would urge the Government to verify the antecedents of these visitors and grant permission only to those who are friendly with India. We must bar the entry of unfriendly elements in Kashmir who provide funds to anti-Indian groups in Kashmir. I particularly object to their interaction with officers of the J & K administration. There should be a complete ban on the movement of pro-Pakistani elements in Kashmir and entry into Kashmir should not be unrestricted.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter is extremely serious... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I am not allowing you. Please sit down.

Yes, Mr. Dasmunsi, please continue.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the matter is extremely serious. I would like to remind the Government that only two months before, the Foreign Minister of Pakistan in Islamabad had stated that the bilateral talk between India and Pakistan could resume and they preferred on the issue of Kashmir. They thought for the intervention, that is, United States should be involved to initiate dialogue which the Government of India immediately rejected. In this given context, visit of the United States Ambassador to Kashmir and to meet the different political parties and that too, of the army official is reported in *The Hindu*. It is no alarming signal.

I want a categorical reaction of the Government today. It is not a light matter. It is a matter concerning the security of India and the very fate of Kashmir for the future. This House should not be taken very casually in this matter. I thought of, the Government should *suo motu* make a Statement. And, since the matter has been taken up today, the Government must react to it. And, since the Home Minister is present, he must react to it. We cannot allow the American Ambassador to treat India as their colony. It is India and India has a right on Kashmir in all matters and it is not property of the colonial powers or their corridors. That message should

be conveyed to the United States Embassy today by the Foreign Minister. Our Army personnel should also be conveyed the message. They should not treat them in that order even if they feel so in the other part of the world. That is the message of the House today.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The news items published in the newspapers and the observations made by the hon. Member point to a serious situation in Kashmir. Will Shri Gupta like to comment?

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You know, what is happening... (Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the Home Minister is present here... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He cannot keep quiet... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. He is about to give the reply.

(Interruption)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, one by one.

DR. MALLIKARJUN (Mahbubnagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in the light of the reported statement in a section of the Press that US is firm on its nuclear programme and it is going to compel India to see somehow or the other to sign the CTBT, and the presence of the Ambassador there and associating himself with the security force in really very agonising for our country.

In the light of these things, it is essential for the Government to make a Statement so that the Ambassador can be restrained. He cannot meet with security forces. He can meet the Governor, he can discuss anything he likes with the Governor but not with the Security forces... (interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let him come out with a Statement... (Interruptions)... If the Government thinks that they can present the full information, in the afternoon they can come up with the Statement with full facts... (Interruptions)... But let them come with something. If we have raised it and they do not react, it is also not correct... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Sir, it is a very serious matter... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you speaking so angrily.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government will respond to the hon. Members' feeling on this issue after collecting the information ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, today is the last day of the House. They should react today.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : We will try today, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Right.

*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY ANNAJI MUDE (Wardha) : Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to an important issue. Shri Subhash Chandra Bose had played a leading role in the freedom struggle of the country. Indians had enrolled themselves in large numbers in the Indian National Army raised by Shri Bose. But those freedom fighters and their widows have been denied pension. Their leader Lal Khan Mian sacrificed his life for their cause. I would urge the Government to grant pension and other facilities to the personnel of the Azad Hind Fauj and their widows by granting them the status of freedom fighters.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE (Ramtek) : Sir, oranges are cultivated in abundance in Remtek and Vidarbha but non-availability of wagons poses serious problem to the growers. My request is that the Railway wagons should be made available at the harvest time : freight is charged at concessional rate for movement of bananas on Khandesh Bhusaval route. As oranges are also transported through the Railways. I would request the government to grant the same concession to orange growers in Vidarbha as is being granted to banana growers in Khandesh Bhusaval...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Ferozabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on 22nd July, I had raised an issue relating to the District Magistrate, Ferozabad about the incidents dated 27th June and 2nd July. The Home Minister is present in the House to-day and the House would be adjourned for a 22 days break. After the unpleasant happening with me, the District Magistrate threatens me that raising the issue in the House would not help because nothing has happened so far. The issue raised by me should be referred to the Privileges Committee and that officer should be transferred...*(Interruptions)* is the Home Minister prepared to reply?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Home Minister reply. I am not preventing him.

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : Sir, how will we get justice? We are entitled to a reply from the Home Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, around two down villages in Bihar ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : The hon'ble Home Minister must reply to it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait for a minute.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : The issue raised by the hon. Member has already been raised in the House. The question relates to the privilege and honour of the hon. Member. When the issue was raised in the House, we had hoped that the Government would call for a report from the UP Government and then take the House into confidence. But no action has been taken so far. If no explanation is called from the district Magistrate even after the issue has been raised in the House, it sends wrong signals. The District Magistrate now threatens the hon. Members and passes snide remarks that he has not come to any harm despite raising the issue in the House.

If the hon. Members are ill treated in this manner, then it does not remain a party issue or an issue relating to the opposition or the treasury benches. It is now a question of the honour of the entire house and the privileges of the hon. Member. In case the hon. Member belongs to a dalit community, the issue takes all the more serious turn. I want that the Home Minister should assure the House that he would call for a detailed report about the incident and in particular about the conduct of that official.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait a minute I want to say something. It is not a question of a particular Member. If no action is taken in the matter, it would send wrong signals and then all of us may be meted out the same treatment. Now you may proceed.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA) : The Hon. Member from Ferozabad had raised this issue and he had met me separately also. But it is not true that we remained inactive and that no report was called for. I myself contacted the new governor of UP on telephone. I informed him that the issue has been raised in the House and the hon. Members is very much agitated and some action should be taken in the matter. I apprised him about the alleged ill treatment of the hon. Member from Ferozabad at the hands of District collector of Ferozabad and the threats given by him etc. The governor assured that he had taken note of the matter and he would take strict action and if he felt necessary, he would dismiss the district collector. I also advised him to take prompt action. So far I have not received any report from the governor but I hope within a day or two I may receive the report. Perhaps he is visiting Delhi to-day on some official business and I would seize the opportunities to talk to him about the action taken...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA : What are you doing, you must take some action...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : I want to draw the attention of the central Government to the two dozen districts of Bihar which are affected by devastating floods resulting in destruction of standing crops on lakhs or acres of land and damage to property with crore of rupees. The homes of the flood affected districts in Bihar are : Sitamarhi, Shivhar, Darbhanga, Madhubani, Samastipur, Supear, Kirhengang, Saharsa, Purnea, Kathar, Khagaria, Agaria, Madhepura and Danapur area of Patna. About four dozen persons have lost their lives in these floods. Last year the Bihar Government have asked for a grant of Rs.1102 crores to carry out relief operations but the Centre sanctioned only Rs.21 crores last year and even that amount has not been made available to the Bihar Government. This year also the Government made an assessment of the damage and destruction caused by the floods and asked the centre to sanction Rs.51 crores to carry out relief operations. But not a single paise has been made available to the State Government. In the absence of any help from the centre for relief work, last year as well as this year the situation has deteriorated considerably; all the culverts and bridges are damaged and it is not possible to reach the people to give them succour and help.

The Agriculture Minister has made on the spot inspection but no action has been taken so far. The state Government had written to the centre that floods are a recurring feature in Bihar, and the relief grant should always be made available in advance. But no action is being taken.

I would request the Central Government to release the last year's grant immediately and maximum possible funds should be sanctioned to Bihar this year also so that Bihar Government may carry out relief measures in the flood affected districts of Bihar. Besides, the compensation announced by the Centre to the next of kin of those killed in floods should also be provided immediately in order to provide relief and succour to the poor...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can speak only on the subject; otherwise Shri Nawal Kishore Rai will speak now.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : I want to raise in the House the serious issue of floods in Bihar. I had raised this issue sometime back also and in response thereto, the Agriculture Minister had made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in Bihar and had announced an ex gratia payment of Rs.500 per acre to the farmers of the flood affected areas. The time is rolling by with no help in sight from the Centre on the contrary, the centre is asking the Bihar Government to oversee the relief measures properly.

Last year also Bihar suffered from devastating floods. A memorandum was submitted on behalf of the Bihar Government to the Committee on National calamity fund. Some officials of the union government had visited a Bihar and made an assessment of the

damage caused by the floods the amount of Rs. 21 crores sanctioned last year for carrying out road repairs and to provide relief to the people is still pending with the Finance Ministry. The Finance Minister is present in the House and I would request him though you Sir, to release the amount of Rs.2 crores sanctioned last year. If our request is conceded, it would help as to provide relief to the people who suffered loss last year. The compensation of Rs.500 per acre announced this year should also be paid immediately to provide relief and succour to the people...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen. We can sit for 10 minutes more beyond 1 P.M. But you must be brief so that maximum number of persons can be covered. If 10 Members speak on the same subject, others are deprived of adequate time to speak.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : I demand a compensation of Rs. 2 lakhs to the dependents of the dead...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The submissions of only those members will go on record who have been permitted by me to speak.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You utilise your time. I am prepared to extend the sitting by 10-15 minutes.

[English]

Nothing else will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw Government's attention to a very serious issue. Yesterday, the Prime Minister had made a statement about Delhi in which he revealed that 17 gangs are operating in Delhi indulging in murders, kidnappings and rape. The Union Home Ministry is responsible for maintenance of law and order in Delhi. In view of the fact that the Prime Minister has revealed that 17 gangs are operating in Delhi, I would like to know since when these gangs are operating, the details of the crimes committed by them and what action has been taken by the Home Ministry against them? I would also like to know whether some powers are backing them?

\* Not recorded

Secondly, the Prime Minister has made the situation were compounded. Already the police in under the union Home Ministry and now there would be a task force under the Prime Minister and how will the coordination between the Prime Minister and Home Ministry be effected? My submission is that in the first instance Government should decide who would oversee the law and order in Delhi - P.M. or the Home Minister? My submission is that the entire record of the activities of these gangs should be laid on the Table.

SHRI RAMSHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention to the red tapism in the Railways I want to cite the example of red tapism practiced by chief Personnel officer, Calcutta. The Railway Recruitment Board had selected 72 clerks in Eastern Railway in 1992 vide Employment Notice No. RRB/Patna/12/90-91. Out of these 72 clerks, 55 belonged to the non-reserved category and 17 to the reserved category and no appointment has been made against this list till date. But the Chief Personnel officer of Calcutta selected and appointed 100 clerks on his own.

As per the rules, only the candidates selected by the Board can be appointed. When the matter was referred to the Railways Board, the Personnel Advisor of the Railway Board, Shri Vishwanath, recorded his comment - why this irregularity has been committed? The result was that only 7 candidates were appointed and 65 candidates are still awaiting appointment. All the Candidates belong to poor families and their fate is hanging in balance since 1992.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Railway Minister had said sometime back that red tapism would be done away with in the Railways. In view of the observation of the Railway Minister, I would request him to appoint these 65 candidates without any further delay...*(Interruptions\*)*

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mamataji, I am sorry. This will not go on record. Now you may say whatever you like to say.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, every issue is important. Now, I want to raise an important issue. Bangladesh is celebrating its 25th Independence Day Ceremony. In their Liberation Movement, the people of Bangladesh had got moral support and inspiration from the people of India. To further strengthen the Indo-Bangladesh relationship and as a good gesture, I would request the Government to prepare a Plan of Action so that Indo-Bangladesh relationship can build up. For your information, in Calcutta, the Eastern Command has built up a Memento to pay homage to the Bangladesh Army and India Army. This year, India should take initiatives so that they will pay homage to the Bangladesh army and the Indian

army. This can also be done through cultural, sports programmes and educational exchange and thus, we can exchange our cooperation with our neighbouring countries.

*[Translation]*

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House and the Government to a very serious issue. But it is also true that all the efforts to draw the attention of the Government are futile.

There is a medical college by the name Mata Gujari in Kishanganj, Bihar. About 240 students of the college are appearing in the examinations. Some local goondas asked the students to pay them protection money of Rs.5 lakhs otherwise they will be prevented from taking the examinations. The students resisted their demands. They were beaten up and thrown out of the college. They also kidnapped Shri Kartar Singh, Trustee, Shri Rastogi, and an administration, Shri Dileep Singh and threatened to close down the college.

Sir, this college was affiliated with Madhepura university in 1994 and the Indian medical council had also given it's approval thereto. The Bihar Government recognised the college after the Supreme Court ordered it. The foundation stone of the college was laid by Giani Zail Singh.

Sir, the college is named after a lady whose supreme sacrifice is unprecedented in the history of India. The husband, sons and grandsons of mata Gujari laid down their lives for the sake of the country. Barring Haryana and Punjab, this is the only medical college belonging to the sikh community in the country. Now we are being threatened that this college would be closed down. The students of the college would be closed down. The students of the college ore being prevented from appearing in the examination. The details of the incident have appeared in the Press also but no action has been taken on behalf of the Government on top of it a case has been registered against Sardar Kartar Singh. All our pleas go unheeded whether they relate to 984 unclaimed dead bodies or any other issue. We want the scope of C.B.I. inquiry should be widened and a Supreme Court judge should be appointed to probe the case of these unclaimed dead bodies. We must have a feeling that we are also the free citizens of this country.

I would like to bring it to your notice that students belonging to all the communities study in that college including 180 students from J&K...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : We had requested the Home Minister to make a statement. on the subject but it is more than one week and no statement has been made by him.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issue should not be put off in this manner.



[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : At present only Mr. Paswan is present and if he can do something, some immediate action should be taken. We would like to be assured that we have a place in this country ...*(Interruptions)*. The hon. Deputy Speaker is not prepared to permit us to speak even for a minute ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : Sir, 93 percent of the martyrs who went to gallows during the freedom struggle, belonged to the Sikh community ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, I would be calling the next name. Please conclude.

[Translation]

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA : There were people whose lands were confiscated and out of them 90 per cent belonged to the Sikh Community and 95 per cent people...*(Interruptions)* the report regarding these figures is available here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after the Supreme Court's decision, ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to give chance to a member from each party. I cannot call of them simultaneously.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : In our country, we have 100 per cent jute packaging industries. Compulsory jute packaging order was diluted last year. The Supreme Court up held the original order in order to support the jute packaging industry. Through you, Sir, I appeal to the textile ministry to issue orders for 100 per cent enforcement of the jute Packaging order.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to see all sections in the House...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will definitely give you the chance. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, last time when Shri Banatwala raised the issue of the demolition of a house, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has assured that no house or jhuggi would be

demolished so long as their government is in power. In Chandigarh, there are two categories of house owners. The first category comprises the people who have built houses on private land or in other words they are the owners of the land. In their case objection has been made about the periphery control action. The other Category comprises jhuggi dwellers who numbers about 1 1/2 lakhs and they hail from all parts of India i.e. U.P., Bihar etc. The administration proposes to demolish these jhuggis also. I had written a letter to the Prime Minister also. In view of the assurance given by Shri Paswan, I would like to appeal to him in particular. The High court has also directed the Chandigarh administration to allot alternative accommodation before undertaking demolition of the jhuggis. But demolitions are taking place there without allotting alternative accommodation.

Secondly, the residents are being denied water and power facilities. Paswanji, in the most beautiful city of the world, out of 8 lakh population, two lakh people house been deprived of the water and power facilities. Some action should be taken in this regard so that the poor people are not made homeless...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (Kangra) : Sir, they had been given a chance earlier. Now, I have been given a chance to speak...*(Interruptions)*. There is a very serious situation...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE (Tarantaran) : 240 students are being prevented from appearing in the examination...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You have made your point. I cannot compel them to reply to each point raised during the Zero Hour.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : There is going to be revolt in that area.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am allowing you and still you are getting angry.

[Translation]

Please have patience and let other Members resume their seats

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MAJOR SINGH UBOKE : Students from different states study there.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All these points have been raised by him. You have not made any new point.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN : Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Welfare to a very serious situation which is slowly developing in the tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh. In the Reorganisation Act, 1996, old Himachal Pradesh people Gaddies and Gujjars were given the status of tribals, while the people who went from Punjab were denied of this status. Since then they had been struggling to get the same status. The State Government has taken up the matter again and again and ultimately the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, without any party consideration, unanimously passed a Resolution that these people should be given the same status.

Similarly, the Jonsar and Bawar tribes of trans-Giri areas - Shillai, Chopal and Dadra Quar — want that the same facilities as that of the tribes of the Uttar Pradesh may be given to them. The Constitution has provided that they are unequal people. They cannot face the competition with the well developed people — the people who developed forest economy, animals and literacy. They cannot compete with the Gaddies and Gujjars. On 31st March, 1994 the Vidhan Sabha passed a Unanimous Resolution. Mr. Ramoowalia, the Minister of Welfare, in reply to the Chief Minister's letter, promptly assured that this grievance will be redressed. Nothing has happened so far.

Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and, especially of the Minister of Welfare who was quick to react to the Chief Minister's communication, to the situation development there, otherwise it will be too late and a situation like the North-Eastern State will develop there. There will be a big law and order problem in Himachal Pradesh and the Centre will not be able to control it.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : I support Shri Mahajan on the issue raised by him regarding declaration of certain communities as tribals. The Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha has also passed a Resolution to this effect. The Gujjars of Punjab, who migrated to Himachal Pradesh, are akin to the Gujjars of H.P. Trans Giri, Shillai and Chopal fall in my constituency. And Dadra Kuear adjoining U.P. border has not been declared adivasi area, whereas the adjoining hill area which falls in U.P. has been declared as adivasi area... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your demand?

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I want that the aforesaid area should be declared tribal area.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have received a large number of petitions and representations from various states and various

committees where they either wanted inclusion or exclusion from certain categories. Regarding the specific point raised by Shri sat Mahajan, I would like to tell the House through you that the hon. Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh met me twice and he wrote a letter to me.

About the problem of Gaddis and Gujjars, in half the Himachal, they enjoy tribal status and in the other areas of the same state they do not enjoy that status. The matter is under my consideration. I will let the House know very soon about it.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to relate the tale of woe in the House of the poor and hapless scheduled caste people of Madhya Pradesh. A large number of scheduled caste people have made forests as their habitat and they have been in possession of the land holdings for the past 50 years. They used to cultivate their land for a living. Although they have been in possession of their land holdings for as many as 50 years yet the lease hold rights have not been transferred in their names. This year, the officials of the forest department destroyed their crops, burnt down their huts and beat them mercilessly. This is not an isolated incident but a common in feature Madhya Pradesh. On top of it their women folk were molested about which I alone lodged 13 F.I.R.s in Vidisha and Raisen districts but no action has been taken to-date.

They are being treated very callously. Through you Sir, I request the Central Government to intervene in the matter and direct the state Government to give basehold rights to all these scheduled Caste people who had been in possession of their land holdings prior to 1980 and also so long as the forest land consolidation work is not taken up, the scheduled caste people should not be disposed of their land holdings and all those forest department officials should be prosecuted who committed atrocities against them... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one hon'ble Member can speak at a time.

[English]

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as we had fought for social justice earlier, I had to fight for this chance to raise a genuine and important issue. This issue may seem to be concerned with the people of one State, but since the prestige of this House lies in this issue, I would like to draw your kind attention to it.

It would be right for me to mention that the first Amendment of the Constitution was made for reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes owing to the efforts of our late social reformer Thanthai Periyar, and our mentor Anna. Having realised the long felt need of the weaker sections, that is, the suppressed, oppressed and the depressed people, the Tamil Nadu

Government has provided for 69 per cent reservation in Government jobs and educational institutions. In Mandal case, the Supreme Court, has held that all reservation put together cannot exceed 50 per cent. The Tamil Nadu Government, in order to protect the interests of the weaker sections had enacted a law and the same had been incorporated in the Ninth Schedule of our Constitution. The basic intention of doing so was that it would not be, and it cannot be challenged in any court of law. For example, the land ceiling laws of various States are not challenged because they are in the Ninth Schedule.

But the Supreme Court stayed the operation of the reservation law of Tamil Nadu in spite of the fact that it is in the Ninth Schedule, without assigning any reason. The act of Supreme Court amounts to usurping the powers of Parliament. I could not understand as to how whims and fancies of the individuals can override the powers of Parliament. It is strange how the Supreme Court assumes the powers of Parliament. The sanctity of the Constitution is questioned. I would like to know from the Chair, Sir, what steps or measures are you going to take to preserve the powers of Parliament and the sanctity of the Constitution...*(Interruptions)* In the best interests of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, weaker sections, backward classes and the most backward classes, the Government has to kindly look into it as well as to preserve the rights of this Parliament and the sanctity of the Constitution.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, national convention of the National Fisheries Forum Action Committee representing 70 lakh fishermen was held in Mumbai yesterday. Earlier, the Murari Committee, of which all of us were members, had unanimously recommended in its report that the licences of all the deep sea fishing trawlers should be cancelled within six months. Now it is more than six months. Yesterday, it was announced in the fishermen's Forum, Shri Thomas Kocheri would undertake indefinite fast on the 7th August and there would be *gherao* of all the sea ports in India on 10th August by the fishermen. It would give rise to serious problem affecting not only the fishermen but the people consuming fish also.

As per the recommendation of the House, the Government should invite the National fisheries Forum for discussion and cancel the licences granted to foreign trawlers. Government must take initiative to hold discussion with the Forum otherwise the the seven coastal states would be engulfed in serious crises.

*[English]*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : All of us have agreed to this and all together move for this. This should be taken up very seriously immediately.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAIK : All the trade unions viz CITU, BMS, INTHC, HMS have supported this call and you would be able to gauge the seriousness of the situation when all the parts are elsed on 10th August.

*[English]*

All Central unions are supporting this action. It is a serious issue and the Government should take cognisance of this issue.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Mursidabad) : There is a great hue and cry about infiltrators, but no attention is being paid to that part of our motherland which is being encroached upon by Bangladesh. There has been consistent land erosion in District Murshidabad by the river Padma Ganga near Bangla Desh border. About 100 villages of our territory are now in Bangladesh due to erosion. We have lost control over that land and the people of Bangla Desh have settled there. This is Indian Territory which is now part of Bangla Desh and the people are with voting that land and utilising the yield for their benefit. We have been raising this issue for the past 16 years but it appears there is no Government to take up this issue.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This issue requires immediate attention, if it is true.

*[Transiation]*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Bangla Desh is a small and poor country -even then it has built a pucca dam point side of the border. We have been urging the Government for the past 16 years to pay urgent attention to the matter as the people there are becoming landless. When Shri P.C. Shukla was the Minister, he had assured to take some action. Now I want the present Government to stir itself and come to grip with the problem. Let Shri Ram Vilas Paswan reply and inform the House about the action being taken to prevent the loss of Indian territory due to erosion? ultimately it would become a problem of of International border and Government must apprise about the steps being taken...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, this is a very serious matter and we extend our full support to him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SEPAKER : Let me say a word on this issue.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SEPAKER : This is a very serious matter. Let the matter be looked into.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this is a serious matter and Government will look into it...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let Mr. Pradhan have his say. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please be seated. The Minister has given you the assurance.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHRIKANTA JENA : Sir, if necessary, a team will be sent on the spot to see what is exactly happening and after getting the report, I assure you, the Government will look into this. *..(Interruptions)*

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad) : Sir, what is this? He is saying they would send a team. There are already so many reports. They should immediately take action...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now it's over please. Let him have his say.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : NOIDA is a very large industrial complex in my constituency. The devastating rain on the 31st caused damaged to Kucha and pucca houses of more than 500 workers and jhuggi dwellers. Three days back the administration of NOIDA has promised that they would not be displaced till an alternative accommodation was found for them. But day before yesterday, when a torrential rain was lashing that area, he bulldozed the entire place and evicted all the residents from there. This arbitrary hurt many people who are now admitted in the hospitals. When I enquired from him about his action, he replied that it was an old commercial plot, whereas the fact is that the residents of the area have ration cards and their homes are included in the voters list. They have been residing in that place for the past 15 years. I demand from the Government to resettle them at a proper place and provide them all the facilities. The people have lost all their belongings including utensils. I want that the displaced persons should be duly compensated and the guilty officers should be prosecuted. The affairs of the NOIDA authority are in a mess and scandals involving thousands of rupees have been committed.

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to place the case of Fishermen. The fishermen settled on coastal areas are subjected to innumerable atrocities. The land given on lease by Government in grabbed or cornered by the big capitalists and then they sub let it to fishermen on instalments. I

would request the Government, through you sir, to grant lease deeds in the names of these fishermen.

Secondly, an hon. member had just now said that on the 7th fisherman would go on the 7th fishermen would go on strike. As the daughter of a fisherman I know that this is only means of livelihood of fishermen and if they are deprived of this livelihood they will be reduced to starvation level. I, therefore, request the Government to cancel the permits granted to foreign trawlers and secondly the lease deeds should be transferred in their names.

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Matters under Rule 377 Shri Bachhi Singh Rawat 'Bachda'

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nearby 1 hour and 45 minutes have been taken up, Now please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already allowed two hours time and I cannot grant any more time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please allow him to speak. Why do you not listen to him?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi) : Sir, I want to raise a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : How can you raise a point of order when no subject is under discussion. Under what raise you want to raise it?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not allowing you.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already allowed two hours time in place of one hour.

SHRI S.P. JAISWAL (Varanasi) : It is the senior Members who monopolise the entire time but...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I permitted a junior Member Phoolan Devi to speak.

*(Interruptions)*

13.40 hrs.

### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need to increase the grant being given for development of Hill areas in U.P. under the special Central Assistance Scheme.**

[Translation]

SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' (Almora) : Sir, keeping in view the difficult terrain of the hill areas, the Central Government had started special central economic Assistance for the development works of these areas under various plans after the Fifth Five Year Plan in order to ensure balanced and speedy development of these areas. At the outset a decision was taken to bring the special central Assistance for the hill areas of U.P. to bring the special Central Assistance for the hill areas of U.P. known as 'Uttaranchal' at par with the special central Assistance for Himachal Pradesh because of similarity in their terrain and geographical position as well equality in population. But with the passage of time, the assistance for Himachal Pradesh increased to Rs.300 crores and the assistance for the Uttaranchal area of U.P. remained a paltry Rs.205 crores. As per the 1990 census figures, the population of Uttaranchal is 69 lakhs whereas the population of Himachal Pradesh is 51 lakhs.

The special Central Assistance granted to Uttaranchal for the development of hill areas is relatively for less in spite of equal area are more population. I would, therefore, request the Government to sanction a sum of Rs. 350 crores for Uttaranchal in the form of Special Central Assistance for the development of hill areas.

- (ii) **Need for early commissioning of Barmer and Jaisalmer T.V. Towers**

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (Barmer) : A high power TV tower has been constructed at his top of village Chohtan (Barmer) about three years back at an approximate cost of Rs. 30 crore. At this TV tower, all the sophisticated equipment have also arrived. This TV tower is meant to give coverage to backward and border desert district, Barmer.

Similarly, another high power TV tower has been constructed at adjoining district Jaisalmer. The work has been completed at an approximate cost of Rs.25 crore.

Both these TV towers were completed on a war footing in sensitive districts. In spite of agitation by local people and numerous representations to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for early commissioning of these TV towers, nothing has been done so far.

It is believed that the staff has not yet been sanctioned by the Ministry of Finance. Due to non-availability of Staff and non-interaction between the Ministries, two high-power TV tower in backward area have not been commissioned. The expenditure to the tune of Rs.55 crore is being wasted and equipment are allowed to rust just for want of staff.

I request the Minister of Information and Broadcasting to intervene in the matter at the earliest.

13.44 hrs.

(Shri Chitta Basu *in the Chair*)

- (iii) **Need to waive agricultural loan taken up to 1989 by farmers in Bihar**

[Translation]

PROF. AJIT KUMAR MEHTA (Samastipur) : Sir, in 1989 a policy was formulated to waive loans below Rs.10,000 in order to provide relief to the farmers reeling under debt. Most of the farmers had benefited from this policy during Janata Dal regime but the farmers of some of the Blocks in Bihar could not benefit from this scheme. The financial institutions realised all the loans with interest thereon and even threatened confiscation of their immovable property. The farmers were forced to borrow from the market even at higher rate of interest in order to escape confiscation.

I would, therefore, request the Government to announce waiving of loans upto Rs.10,000 upto 1989 in the general interest of the farmers.

- (iv) **Need to provide telephone facilities in all the blocks of Banda district, U.P.**

SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD (Fatehpur) : Sir, S.T.D. facility has not been provided in Karga, Tindwari, Bhatons, Chilla, Jaspura, Paisani of the Development Block, Vadokhen Khurd under Tindwari Vidhan Sabha constituency which is causing hardship to thousands of people. It is the policy of the Government to link each village panchayat with telephone facility, but it is not available in all the villages of the alone mentioned development blocks. I, therefore, request the Central Government to provide telephone facility in every Village and S.T.D. facility in Jaspura, Chilla, Tindwari, Bhatons at the earliest.

- (v) **Need to ensure payment to sugarcane growers and employment to the local people in village Mathura in Orissa.**

[English]

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going to raise a serious problem of the sugar cane growers of my constituency, that is, Kalahandi.

The Western Sugar Private Limited in village Mathura, in the district of Kalahandi, Orissa is not observing the norms of the Sugar Cane Policy. It has not paid the payments to the farmers. Only 25 to 35 per cent of loan was given and no advances were made available to the farmers. Due to lack of sufficient money, the entire sugar cane cultivation got affected badly. The transportation facilities for the sugar cane were not provided to the farmers in time. As a result, the farmers of the district are forced to bear the heavy losses. The people from outside the area were given employment by the Western Sugar Private Limited at Mathura in Kalahandi District but the local unemployed youths were totally neglected. The rehabilitation rules are also not followed properly. The affected workers and the local unemployed are agitating severely. Therefore, I would request the Government of India to intervene in the matter and ensure right payment to the farmers and employment to the local people of Kalahandi.

**(vi) Need to provide better communication facilities in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT (Jodhpur) : District Jodhpur is a prominent industrial, trading and tourist centre on the western border of Rajasthan. It is essential to improve the telecommunications and postal services in this important city. For this purpose an already sanctioned 25,000 line telephone exchange be set up at the earliest so that the Telephone waiting list in the city is eliminated. The cables should be laid in the entire city to meet in requirements of the telephone exchanges. The telephones should be shifted on request within a week and the fault should be repaired within 24 hours.

The residents of the rural areas are not getting the full benefit of the telecommunication services. In most of the villages, radio telephones P.C.O.S. and P.C.O.S operated by cable telephones are out of order. The telephone traffic is on the increase in tehsil headquarters, tehsils and villages but the present number of lines are insufficient to cope with the traffic, and on top of it they are most of the time out of order. In order to improve the services in the rural areas, it is essential to increase the number of line, and the strength of the staff.

I would, therefore, request the Centre to take necessary steps.

**(vii) Need to constitute a Regional Development Board in the Diyara area, Bihar**

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, about 20 lakh hectare land in Bihar and U.P. falls in the Diyara area, which creates social, economic and law and order problems there. The people residing in the Diyara area have to face the drought and the floods.

In the Lakhisarai district of Bihar, about 1 lakh population residing in the Diyara area remains cut off from the other parts of the country for four months due to rains and floods. There are neither roads nor bridges in the Diyara area and as such it lacks means of communications.

I, therefore, urge the Government to set up a diyara area development board to undertake development of the diyara area.

13.51 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION (THIRD) ORDINANCE**

AND

**ARBITRATION AND CONCILIATION BILL**

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we shall go to item Nos. 20 and 21. The Minister has already replied. Now Shri Guman Mal Lodha is to reply and I hope that he will be very brief today.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : What happened to yesterday's clarification?

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yesterday he spoke a lot and, therefore, we had to keep late at night.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Let him clarify that position, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : I shall clarify the position, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, The Minister will clarify the position and then I think Lodhaji will withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANT JENA) : Sir, my only request is that 2.30 P.M. we have fixed for discussion on CTBT. That is why I would request the House that this Bill should be passed immediately because we have spent a lot of time on this. Today morning also, the Law Minister met all the leaders. Therefore, we should pass it without any delay.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, yesterday we had quite a marathon arguments on the provisions of clause 13, sub-clause (5) and clause 34 of the Arbitration and Conciliation Bill. The whole controversy

was with regard to clause 13(5) which speaks about challenging the arbitrator on certain grounds, and clause 34 which speaks about the recourse to challenging an arbitral award which has been finally passed. I have said it that these two provisions are independent provisions.

Clause 13(5) says that if we challenge an arbitrator at any stage, the arbitration proceedings will proceed if that challenge is not successful, at the end of it, the arbitral award can be challenged under clause 13(5). This was made very clear. Under Clause 34, it is very clearly stated. An objection was taken to the word 'only' where it is stated that recourse of a court against arbitral award may be made only by an application for meeting aside such award in accordance with sub-section (2). The word 'only' very clearly refers that the method by which you can take a recourse is by the procedure mentioned in clause 34 and not by any other method. That means one cannot file any suit in any court to challenge this, one cannot file any writ petition to challenge it, and one cannot take any other procedure which may be allowed under any other procedural law. It can be done only by an application as provided under clause 34. These two sections are very complete in their own respect. A clear reading of these two clauses makes it very clear that there is absolutely no ambiguity whatsoever. One clause does not superimpose upon the other and, in no way, the rights of a party to a dispute before the arbitrator is effected on account of these two clauses. This was my point which I put forward and I stuck to it also. But learned Justice Lodhaji and hon. Shri Fernandes could not agree with this position and they even demanded that the Attorney General be requested to come to the House and give a statement.

Today morning I had a discussion with the Attorney General and I am glad to say that he also agrees with the viewpoint that I put forward yesterday, and I have conveyed it to the hon. Members in today's meeting. In addition, I have said that presuming that I go wrong, presuming that even the Attorney General goes wrong - because finally these are opinions - and if at all in any proceedings later on it is found that an amendment to the Act is required, then prevents us, and I undertake here that such an amendment would be brought before the House. If the House is in Session, we will come with an Amendment Bill and if the House is not in Session, we will come with an Ordinance.

It is necessary to pass this Bill at this stage because Rajya Sabha has already considered this and passed it. If we do not pass it today it goes back to the Rajya Sabha. Today is the last day of this part of the Session. There is an Ordinance which will lapse after some time. There are hundreds and thousands of matters pending all over India. The fate of all the petitions will hang in balance if this is not passed.

Therefore, I appeal to both Justice Lodha and Shri George Fernandes and others to kindly cooperate with

the Government in passing this Bill today so that it becomes a law very soon and the problem is solved. Sir, I must thank the hon. Members for the erudite manner in which the arguments are carried forward yesterday during the debate. I thank particularly Justice Lodha for the wisdom which he expressed yesterday while speaking on this. At the end of the debate I am personally very happy and I feel very much that I am convinced by the opinion of my learned colleagues in this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Lodha, I hope you will reciprocate.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I would Sir, I would reciprocate with all the warmth and respect which the hon. Minister of Law commands because he has given an undertaking on the floor of the House that if two interpretations are possible then for a harmonious construction he will bring an amendment. I talked to him in the morning. Normally judges would certainly like to interpret it so as to give the right to challenge under Section 34. But it is once a while and it all depends. Then they would come out with a legislation. So, normally, he may satisfy that point so far as that is concerned. We need not go into it. I am happy that the Attorney General has been consulted. He should be consulted sometimes whenever there is an anomaly or such a situation arises.

That being so, that matter stands dissolved and we need not pursue it any further. We reciprocate it. We accept the undertaking given by the hon. Minister.

I have moved a resolution. That resolution was that while basically for the purposes of deprecating the tendency of Ordinance-making power is being misused off and on and so casually and without any seriousness and it has become just like a routine matter. Eleven ordinances have come in these last few days. I feel that the time has come when the hon. Minister of Law and the Government - particularly when the Minister of Law and Shri Chidambaram, who has been a very senior lawyer and eminent jurist is here - should know as to what the scope of the Ordinance-making power is. We can understand the politicians normally doing it. 'But every time this Ordinance comes' the first Ordinance, the second Ordinance and the third Ordinance and then we are told that : 'Now, look here; the Rajya Sabha is going out of session and we are in a haste and you pass it'.

Well, here it is not that the people who come here representing 15 or 20 lakh people in every constituency to put a rubber seal just like deaf and dumb spectators. They apply their mind. They suggest to you something. You may accept that or you may reject that. But objectively they must do something to apply their mind. Primarily this Parliament is a legislative body. Unfortunately, I am constrained to say that, even though we are a legislative body, hardly twenty per cent of the time is utilised in legislation actually. All other things are being given importance. For actual legislation,

nobody is allowed even to read it. For such a reading of the sections and understanding them and knowing about the implications of it, that exercise requires time. Therefore, I would submit that the Ordinance-making power should not be misused.

I would also submit that when this debate was going on some sort of — I cannot use the word aspersions — reflections were made on the judiciary. It was said : 'Look here, the judiciary is having so many areas and people go to them and they do not decide the cases'. We have to understand the density of litigation. That is to be considered and we cannot cope with the number of judges. The infrastructure of the courts and the various staff which is required in comparison to the litigation which has increased, is less.

One should not forget that before Articles 226 and 32 were taken in the Constitution there was no such litigation as writ petitions.

14.00 hrs.

There used to be only civil cases, revenue cases or criminal cases. Now the dimensions are very large and the horizons are so high that all types of litigations are coming to the courts. For example, if a person does not get a locker in the bank, he goes to the High Court and files a writ petition that he must get a locker. He also pleads that why should they insist for fixed deposits. Now, every matter is being taken there. Therefore, we should not criticize the judiciary. After all, ours is a poor country and we cannot afford that type of infrastructure. So, how can we compete with them? Just in the Zero Hour people were talking that we have not obtained even one gold medal. There is zero achievement in athletics. I would like to tell my friends that judiciary also requires a lot of patronage, assistance, financial autonomy and help from the Government if they have to cope with the flood of litigations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There will be occasions to discuss all these things.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : What is the subject matter of the speech.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Sir, I think the hon. Member was absent as he is not aware what was being discussed in the debate. This was talked about in this debate itself and that is why, I have made a mention. Therefore, I would submit that so far as this Bill regarding national disputes is concerned, it is the old wine in a new bottle. There is nothing new because it follows the same process, namely, reference to the court, the court taking objections. Then first is the appeal going to the civil courts and then the SLP going to the Supreme Court. so, all these procedures are there. It has not be

cut short. The time consumed would be the same. But nonetheless the conciliation proceedings are good and I must congratulate the Laws Minister that he has introduced the conciliation proceedings. It is a new thing. It is novelty and such novelty is required. Just like when I was the Chief Justice, we introduced Lok Adalats. These Lok Adalats are nothing but conciliation proceedings. I would request the hon. Law Minister to kindly introduce these proceedings - which are another sort of Lok Adalats - by a statutory amendment in the lower courts also so that by these conciliation proceedings we could solve the disputes. These disputes could be resolved by the respectful persons of the locality sitting together and these technicalities of taking evidence, court's examination, pleadings, etc. all are done away with. so, if the Lok Adalats are introduced it would be a very good thing.

I very much appreciate the spirit of conciliation. With these words in view of all that has been said, I beg the permission of the House to withdraw my resolution.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House that the amendment moved by Justice Guman Mal Lodha be withdrawn?

*The resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, I have a small explanation to make. Sir, yesterday in the course of the debate I was asked about the number of countries which have adopted this law. Initially I gave the information which I had to correct later on. But today I have to once again make amends to the statement which I made because we have obtained certain information from the United Nations itself. It says that the number of countries who have adopted it is not 40 as the number was given yesterday. There are less number of countries.

The legislation based on UNCITRAL has been enacted in Australia, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Canada and by the Federal Parliament and by the Legislatures of all Provinces and Territories - Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Hungary, India - they have mentioned India because the Ordinance was already issued - Kenya, Malta, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Scotland, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Ukraine and within the United States of America - California, Connecticut, Oregon, Texas.

In addition, I also have a statement which was provided to the Committee in which it has been stated that the countries which have adopted the legislation based on UNICTRAL Model Law are Australia, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bulgaria, Canada (by the Federal Parliament and by the Legislatures of all provincial Territories), Cyprus, Egypt, Finland, Hong Kong, Hungary, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Russian Federation, Scotland, Singapore and the United States of America, California, Connecticut, Oregon and Texas. It was also stated that the number of countries actively considering such a legislation included Chile, Germany, Kenya, Malta, New Zealand and Zimbabwe.



The second question was regarding the countries which have adopted this Model Law for their domestic conciliation and arbitration. I have a presentation on the draft Swedish Arbitration Act and they have stated here, at page seven, that this Act shall apply equally to domestic and international arbitrations. Similarly, I have this Netherlands Act and at page one itself it states that the Dutch Legislature did not consider it necessary to provide for a separate law dealing with international arbitration, and it was felt that the well-conceived regulations for domestic arbitration would be equally appropriate for international arbitration. So, they have adopted one single place of legislation both for domestic as well as for international arbitration.

These are the explanations that I would like to give, so far as that provision is concerned and, to that extent, I beg to be corrected in so far as the statement which I gave yesterday is concerned.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill to consolidate and amend the law relating to domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and enforcement of foreign arbitral awards as also to define the law relating to conciliation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

### Clause 2 to 33

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 33 stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 33 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Banatwalla, would you like to move your amendment to clause 34?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, in deference to the wishes of the hon. Minister, I do not propose to move the amendment.

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, I am grateful to Shri Banatwalla.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That clauses 34 to 86 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 34 to 86 were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the First Schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The First Schedule was added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That second schedule and the Third schedule stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*The Second Scheduled and the Third Schedule were added to the Bill.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting formula, the Preamble and the Title stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP : Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted*

14.10 hrs.

## STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL OF EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) THIRD ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

## EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will take up Item No. 22 and 23.

The House will take up the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996, as passed by the Rajya Sabha.

I have to inform the House that the President has, in pursuance of Clause 3 of Article 117 of the Constitution of India, recommended to Lok Sabha the consideration of the Bill and passed by the Rajya Sabha.

Prof. Prem Singh Chandumajra - not present.

Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I rise to oppose the tendency of the Government to promulgate ordinances and not the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill. Prior to this session 11 ordinances were promulgated, some of which are either paneling in Lok Sabha or the Rajya Sabha. My submission is

that ordinances should be promulgated only in exceptional circumstances. The President of India should not be bothered so frequently. It appears you are able to convince the President of India about the urgency of the legislative measure and in this manner you misuse the powers vested in Rashtrapati ji. This is the reason that I oppose the tendency of frequent promulgation of Ordinances.

The hon. Minister was once a part of the Opposition but has now crossed the floor and joined the treasury benches. I would appeal to him not to sully his name because ultimately he will have to come back to the opposition. As I had enunciated earlier, J.D. Government means July to December Government and in the new year, he will have to come to opposition benches and oppose the tendency to promulgate ordinances. But once we occupy the treasury benches, we would occupy them permanently and we write let you come there. Therefore, make hay while the sun shines i.e. as long as you are in the treasury benches.

We have observed that during the Zero House you criticise the Government. If out of 13 sons of the Government, 2-4 sons defected, the Government would definitely fall, resulting in elections. After the election, you will not be able to come to power. The best course for you is to keep silent. On the one hand you criticise and oppose the Government and on the other hand you want to enjoy the fruits of power also. Now you stand exposed before the public about your paradoxical tendencies.

Basically, I oppose the tendency of the Government to promulgate ordinances and the least I expect from my erstwhile comrades in the opposition is that they should refrain from this tendency and should come with the Bill directly. I hope the Government would at best concede this demand.

As regards the Bill, Government has introduced a good pension scheme which is otherwise a new scheme and is being introduced for the first time. But the credit for introducing this scheme goes to the former labour minister of the Congress Government. He has once said that he would introduce this scheme only if all the trade unions approve it unanimously. He had actually thrown a challenge to the trade unions. And this very Bill has now been introduced in the form of an ordinance. But the credit for bringing this piece of legislation has been grabbed by you.

The new pension scheme mooted for non Government employees has become a subject matter of controversy not only between the Government and the trade unions on the one hand but has also spoiled off controversy between the trade unions. The new pension scheme envisages division of the provident fund into two parts and one part of the provident fund would be credited in a different account which would ultimately be paid to the employee as pension. My suggestion is that a trust should be formed to handle the amount deposited in the form of pension. The workers representatives should also be included in the trust.

This scheme can succeed only if my suggestion is followed.

I do not know how for the promulgation of the Ordinances has benefited the employees. But a suggestion has come from several quarters that the schemes should be voluntary and this is the demand of the workers also. I hope the hon. Minister would clarify the point in his reply.

INTUC is a Congress supported trade union and it has supported this scheme with reluctance. They are apprehensive that this scheme may land them in trouble.

The Bill envisages three types of Pensions. The first part deals with superannuation pension. This scheme will benefit the employees who have rendered 20 years service and retire the age of 58. The second scheme is known as retirement pension which will benefit those employees who have completed 20 years service but have sought early retirement or resigned before the age of 58. The third scheme is known as short pension which will be applicable to employees who have rendered 10-20 years service but are not receiving any pension.

This Bill was actually referred to the standing committee of Parliament. But the Congress party brought this Bill even before the standing committee submitted its report the order to win the votes of unorganised labour in the ensuing elections by showing them the carrot of pension. But this hasty step of the Government boomeranged and they failed to win the votes. But there is a barking fear in the hearts of the employees that they may not get back the amount deposited by them by way of pension. They are apprehensive that they may lose their hard earned money. Government must keep in mind all these factors before taking a final decision.

Sir, the present Government is an extension of the Congress Party and are burdened with its legacy. There can be no two opinions that in principle the pension scheme for unorganised Labour is a commendable step irrespective of Intra Trade union differences on the subject or difference of opinion between the Government and the Trade unions. The Government should pay honest attention to the welfare of factory workers and the unorganised labour.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the hon. Minister gives a solemn understanding that they will not bring ordinances, I will withdraw my amending Resolution. Besides, I can consider withdrawal of my Resolution of the Government promises to work in the interest of workers.

I move :

"That this House disapproves of the Employees' Provident Funds Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No.24 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 20 June, 1996"

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees'

Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, as passed by Raja Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I am making a brief reply to my hon. colleague Shri Bhargava who raised about proclamation of Ordinances. He is well aware that the Ordinances are promulgated by the hon. President on the advice of the Council of Ministers on the issue of urgent public importance at the time when Parliament is not in Session and the issues being urgent cannot wait. It is sparingly used.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Under which Rule?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, It is under Rule 110.

It is a fact that when Parliament was not in Session, the President has given his consent for the ordinance. But there are some difference between the trade unions themselves. And, the trade unions are not in consensus about this Bill.

Sir, my point of order is very clear that the Government can withdraw this Bill under Rule 110. The Government should not do it hurriedly because there may be some options. Sir, it should not be compulsory.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are certain conditions but the condition you are mentioning is not valid.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : If the Chair thinks, under rule 110, there is a provision.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No such condition is there.

Anyway, Mr. Minister you carry on.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, as the hon. Members of the House will be aware, the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 provides for institution of compulsory Provident Fund and Deposit-Linked Insurance Fund for the benefit of employees in factories and other establishments. These schemes constitute the main source of income, security for workers in old age and to their families and dependents in the event of their untimely death. Our Provident Fund Scheme is one of the largest schemes in the world in terms of coverage and other establishments employing 20 or more persons. As on 31st March, 1996, the total number of establishments covered was about 2.64 lakh while the number of subscribers was 19.5 million.

14.24 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

Sir, the Family Pension Scheme was introduced in 1971 but it has been found wanting as it did not provide :-

- (i) pension to a member on superannuation or on retirement;
- (ii) pension to the family on death after superannuation or retirement;

- (iii) pension on permanent total disablement; and
- (iv) children/orphan pension. It did not provide pension to children or orphan.

Sir, in the field of Social Security, the main endeavour of the Government has been to expand the coverage, to improve the benefits and to provide prompt services in the subscribers.

In furtherance of these objectives, in August, 1990 the Central Board of Trustees had set up a Tripartite Committee to draft a suitable Pension Scheme for the EPF subscribers covered under the EPF and MP Act. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1990. The Central Board of Trustees approved the Scheme and recommended it to the Central Government for acceptance. The Central Government examined the proposal keeping in view the needs and aspirations of the working class and decided to amend the EPF and MP Act for the purpose of empowering the Central Government to frame an Employees' Pension Scheme. Necessary Amendment Bill in this regard was introduced in the Raja Sabha on 29.3.1993. The Bill had been pending in that House for over three years. Meanwhile a large number of workers subscribing to the EPF were retiring without the benefits of pension. A number of representations from various quarters were received for expediting implementation of the pension scheme. Keeping in view the aspirations of the working class and long time-lag in the matter, the President was pleased to promulgate an Ordinance on 17.10.1995 so as to give effect to the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1993 with certain official amendments.

Under the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act amended by the ordinance, the Government has framed and notified the Employees' Pension Scheme for implementation with effect from 16.11.1995. The scheme inter-alia provides as under :-

Monthly pension payable :-

- (a) to the member on superannuation/retirement
- (b) to the member on permanent total disablement and
- (c) to the family (including children) upon :-
  - (i) death of the member in service;
  - (ii) death of the member after superannuation /retirement;
  - (iii) death of the member after permanent total disablement.

Under the Employees' Pension Scheme, neither the employees nor the employers are required to make any additional contribution to the Pension Fund. The Pension Fund has been constituted with the corpus of the Family Pension Fund and diversion of the Employers' share of PF contribution limited to 8.33 per cent of the subscriber's wage from 16.11.1995. The employees' share and the balance of the employers' share would

continue constituting the corpus of the Provident Fund. The employees can draw advance from this fund as at present. Thus, there will be no change in the present scheme of withdrawal from the Provident Fund in the case of bonafide requirements of the employees.

The minimum contributory service to become eligible for pension is ten years. The Pension Scheme is compulsory for all the members of the existing Family Pension Scheme. The employees who are not members of the Family Pension Scheme have an option to join the new Pension Scheme. The Family Pension Scheme, 1971 along with its assets has been merged with the new Pension Scheme, but the beneficiaries of the Family Pension Scheme will continue to get their benefits from the new Pension Fund.

The amount of pension payable to the employees in different contingencies will vary from case to case depending upon the pensionable salary and pensionable service of the member. With 33 years contributory service the normal superannuation pension will be 50 per cent of the pensionable salary.

The new Pension Scheme was initially conceived as a self-supporting scheme. However, on the demand of trade unions the Government has also agreed to contribute to the scheme at the rate of 1.16 per cent of the wage.

The EDLI Scheme, 1976 will continue as at present. However, it is proposed to discontinue the contribution of the Central Government which is about Rs.30 crore towards the EDLI Scheme as the EDLI Fund has got adequate surplus fund and is viable.

The Central Government may grant exemption to any establishment or class of establishments whose employees are in receipt of the benefits under any pension scheme which is similar or superior to the Pension Scheme framed under the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952.

The provisions of the Bill and the Scheme have been examined and approved by the Standing Committee of Parliament on Labour and Welfare, subject to certain recommendations, most of which have already been accepted and incorporated in the Scheme.

Detailed discussions have been held with the representatives of the Central trade union organisations, both before and after the introduction of the Scheme and most of the suggestions made by them have already been accepted.

MR. SPEAKER : How many more minutes would you take? At 2.30 p.m. we were to take up the next item of business.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I will take one or two more minutes.

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Some of the important suggestions incorporated on the basis of discussions with the Central trade Union organisations include the following; facility of commutation of pension; uniformity

in entitlement of pension to children irrespective of gender; provision of annual evaluation of the Pension Fund and revision of pensionary benefits as against the initial provision of three years; and guaranteed payment of pension even in the event of default on the part of the employer in the matter of making PF contribution...*(Interruptions)*

Of course, some hon. Members have given amendments to the Act. It has, however, not been found feasible to allow individual options in view of the fact this Scheme is compulsory for all the employees who were members of the Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971...*(Interruptions)*

The suggestion regarding individual option to the members has been examined. It has, however, not been found feasible to allow individual option in view of the following.

The Scheme is compulsory for all the employees who were members of the Employees Family Pension Scheme, 1971...*(Interruptions)*

Please listen to me. The benefits which were available to them under the ceased Employees Family Pension Scheme are being carried over to the new Scheme. It is, therefore, necessary to keep them covered under the new Scheme as well. For the Pension Scheme to be sustainable, it is necessary that there is definiteness about the contribution to the Pension Fund. The actuarial calculations will just not be feasible if individual options were given because in that event there would be no definiteness. Collectivity and not individuality is the essence of social security. In keeping with this spirit, a provision has been made in the scheme for grant of exemption to the establishments if they have their own comparable or superior Pension Scheme.

Similarly, the suggestion regarding linkage of pensionary benefits with the Consumer Price Index has not been found feasible because of the following reasons. The Pension Scheme is a contributory scheme and in such contributory schemes any open ended indexation is not possible. Increase in pension from time to time would be possible only if the Fund position so permits. The Scheme, as initially notified, had a provision for the evaluation of the Pension Fund at an interval of three years. On the demand of the Central trade union organisations, the Government have already decided to have the valuation of the Pension Fund and review of all pensionary benefits on an annual basis. The Fund position so permitting, the employees are expected to get some increase in pension every year.

As I already mentioned, the Scheme has already been notified and has been under employment since the 16th November, 1995. With the promulgation of the Ordinance, the Employees' Family Pension Scheme, 1971 has ceased to be operative and the pensionary benefits to about 1.5 lakh families, which were earlier available under the ceased Employees' Family Pension Scheme, are being given from out of the Pension Fund.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, you can keep some of those points for the reply at the end of the debate.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, the individual rights cannot be curbed. There must be some option. I am not saying that the Bill is bad...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : We have not started the debate on the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I think that you can resume at six o'clock after the Private Members' Business is over.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : Sir, today is the last-day of the session. It may be taken up. Time on several Members have opposed it.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Otherwise, the Ordinance will lapse.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly cooperate with me.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You see, it was discussed in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee. Actually, what was agreed upon in that meeting was that as far as possible we should pass it without discussion.

But then Shri Somnath Chatterjee requested that from their side they would like to speak for fifteen minutes on this Bill. That was the understanding

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : But it should not be after six o'clock...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : But this Ordinance would lapse, if we do not pass it today.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Naik, please cooperate in this matter.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : You can promulgate one more Ordinance. What is there? Already, the Ordinance had been issued for four times. There can be one more Ordinance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It has been passed by Rajya Sabha. So, another Ordinance will not be proper.

SHRI RAM NAIK : They should have brought this Bill in advance. Nobody is going to be deprived. You can bring in another Ordinance. How do you expect it to be passed without discussion? We cannot do that. We are not going to surrender our rights of whatever we want to say...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : We had a discussion in Rajya Sabha on this issue. All

the political parties supported this Bill, except CPI (M). CPI (M) had a different stand. That is why they said that they would speak for only fifteen minutes...*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, our point is very clear. The employees are demanding for this option...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : If CPI (M) did not support this Bill, it does not mean that only CPI (M) Members would speak for fifteen minutes and others would not speak on this Bill...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : No, I think, I am mistaken...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I think that there should be a debate. The only problem is that if this Bill is not passed today, then the Ordinance would lapse. It is not good to promulgate another Ordinance, when it is already passed by Rajya Sabha. It will not be correct...

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : But the Government is functioning like this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji, since I was the Minister of Labour, I know about this Bill very well. That is why I am telling you that this had been discussed for nearly 1,000 hours with all the parties concerned for many years. This is the product of a tripartite committee headed by the leader of AITUC. When the Bill was introduced, there were some objections. So, we called the meeting of all the political parties. All political parties had unanimously suggested for amendments for the Government to consider. We accepted it and amended it. So, there had been a lot of discussion on this Bill.

But the House must discuss it. I know that the House must discuss it. But it can be discussed around six o'clock.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai South Central) : An ordinance on the subject was promulgated earlier also about which the Members were critical that it has been brought in haste. It may damage the interest of the workers. All the Members must get time to speak.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : We shall now resume discussion on CTBT under Rule 193. Shri George Fernandes was on his legs.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Ordinances have been promulgated since 17 October, 1995 and on two occasions ordinances have lapsed.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : We will complete it today

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One hour will be enough. I think that 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. will be the ideal time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No other Bill will come up. Only this Bill will be taken up.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, you suggest that the Bill should go to the Select Committee ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I think, for that we have some understanding. He will have to move the motion. It will take one minute as desired by the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANT JENA : Sir, the RPA (Amendment) Bill will be deferred. The Minister of Law has already given notice to defer this. And on the Scheduled Tribe Bill, whatever suggestions that have come the Government would agree to go through the suggestions.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I think, I must clarify. When the hon. Member asked, it has been said that no other Bill will be taken up for discussion and only Pension Bill will be taken up. He is saying that the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill will also be taken up.

MR. SPEAKER : What he is saying is that the sense of the House will prevail. Looking at the number of amendments, it appears that all the Members of the political parties wanted it to be referred to the Select Committee. He will agree to that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That was the Ordinance. When that Ordinance can be referred to the Select Committee, why is there so much insistence about this Bill? We do not understand it.

MR. SPEAKER : We have to be selective.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Just now you informed us that this had been discussed for nearly 1000 hours with all the parties concerned, trade unions etc. Then how is it possible to discuss it within one hour? Each Member can speak for 1 hour on the subject.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Eighteen million workers are going to get the pension. It is not a small thing. Now, Shri George Fernandes will speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : You may take up the discussion on CTBT at six o'clock. And you continue this discussion now.

MR. SPEAKER : No. That has been discussed. Now, we will take up CTBT. It has been listed for 2.30 p.m. in the List of Business.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That is why we should not waste any more time.

14.41 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### INDIA'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO CHOMPREHENSIVE TEST BAN TREATY (CTBT)

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Nalanda) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the discussion on the aforesaid subject had started day before yesterday but I am sorry to point out that the House failed to treat the subject with the required seriousness.

Yesterday, the hon. Minister, while initiating the discussion had cited the names of the people whom he met in Jakarta and one of them was Warren Christopher, Secretary State Secretary, U.S.A. Our Minister for External Affairs did not reveal the contents of his discussions with Warren Christopher. But whatever be the contents of the discussion, one thing is clear from the Press reports published to day that our Minister of External Affairs could not impress on U.S.A.'s Secretary State the view point of India.

Yesterday, Warren Christopher made some observations before the Senate, Congress or the Joint Committee which cannot be tolerated in this country.

[English]

"India is the only country which was creating problems by insisting on a time-table for total nuclear disarmament."

[Translation]

In other words if we demand complete ban on atomic tests and complete disarmament, we are being dubbed as a country creating problems. In their outburst more threatening postures are evident:

[English]

"The United States was equally determined not to allow a single nation..."

[Translation]

i.e. India (as no other country is referred here)

[English]

"...to prevent us from reaching a Test Ban Treaty and open it for signature by all nations in September."

[Translation]

It is a threat to India. I do not want to repeat

everything said by him but one of his observations deserves to be quoted here.

[English]

"India's demand for setting a time-table for elimination of nuclear annual war not practicable as the US was not in a position to accept it."

[Translation]

As I had said at the outset day before yesterday, if America is not prepared to adhere to any time-table, CTBT is a meaning less exercise. America concedes that India wants total nuclear disarmament but also reiterates that it would not let India take any initiative in the matter, as it would hamper America from indulging in unrestrained activities. India must take initiative in not signing the CTBT Treaty. It had been stipulated in the Disarmament Conference that if even a single nation refuses to sign the CTBT Treaty, then it will not be voided. America now realises that India can also put its foot down. As per the draft CTBT Treaty, five nations including America can possess nuclear weapons and CTBT is being used to perpetuate this position.

The other objective is to single out three nations, as 175 nations have expressed their indifference to it. For several nations it is not possible to discuss it or take any concrete steps because of their resource and population constraints. Last year, in a conference NPT was signed unanimously and as such that 175 nations have no further role to play. Now, only three nations, i.e. Israel, Pakistan and India are left. As regards Israel, it has a formidable nuclear arsenal comprising about 100 bombs : But even if it is deprived of its arsenal, it can fall back on America's support because their alliance dates back to 1945. As regards Pakistan, it is receiving every type of assistance from China both openly and clandestinely. China is trying to strengthen Pakistan in the field of nuclear weapons.

Our concern is that the entire power is getting concentrated in the hands of America. He is trying to single out India as a target on international fora and in the Conference. For decades we have been saying within and without the Parliament that among the country of nations, there is a country which is inimical to India and does not want it to be a strong nation. America does not want India to encourage as strong nation by using its potential and resources. Warren Christopher has reiterated time and again that we are proving to be an impediment in the signing of the CTBT Treaty. But we must know America's policy in this regard. President Clinton in a statement on August 11, 1995 said :

[English]

To negotiate a true zero yield comprehensive test ban, the United States will insist on test ban that prohibits any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

[Translation]

He further said :

[English]

That he is establishing concrete, specific safeguards that define conditions under which the United States will enter into a comprehensive test ban

[Translation]

In other words, they have dissociated themselves from the discussion being held by 75 nations and his country has its time-table, programme and policy, their policy is :

[English]

- (1) Strengthening American commitment in areas of intelligence.
- (2) Strengthening the existing infrastructure of monitoring and verification.

[Translation]

It can be controversial

[English]

- (3) Instituting the stock-piles stewardship programme already announced.
- (4) Maintenance of nuclear laboratories.

[Translation]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, 5 and 6 should be examined minutely

[English]

- (5) Retention of capacities to resume testing in response to supreme national interest of the United States.

[Translation]

and

[English]

- (6) and to specify circumstances under which the US would exercise their right to resume testing in response to supreme national interest.

[Translation]

And which comprehensive Test Ban was discussed by Warren Christopher with our Foreign Minister and which be justified before Senate Congressional Committee yesterday and which test he wants to ban when he himself says :

[English]

Retention of capacities to resume testing in response to supreme national interest of the United States and to specify circumstances

under which the US would exercise their right to resume testing in response to supreme national interest.

[Translation]

We must bring it to the notice of the world at large and particularly America that we also have supreme national interests. This country, this Parliament is the guardian of the supreme national interests of the country. It cannot dictate its terms to us in any international conference. On our northern border, China is stock piled nearly 300 atom bombs. It is my firm belief that China never speaks the truth. Do not say that we should not such words against China which is our neighbour. We remember very well the role played by China as a friend. China has 300 nuclear war heads with a delivery system of 13,000 k.m. range capacity. It can pose threat to America and other industrial nations with its nuclear capacity. It can strike at will any part of India. This nuclear arseval is located in Tibet and at this juncture I would not like to highlight the blunder committed by India. It pains me to see that this very House has consisted by refused to discuss the issue of Tibet for the past 20 years. But, to-day China has occupied Tibet. I can produce document's belonging to the Congress Party pertaining to the freedom struggle in which Congress had conceded that Tibet is sovereign and independent country. Now instead of Tibet, we have China on our northern border. We cannot underestimate the threat from our northern border. How can we forget that 1 1/4 lakh square kilometer of our land is under Chinese occupation. Even now China has cast its covetous eye on the Indian territory and has stated its claim to that land. We must not over look the fact that it will not hesitate to occupy that land if it got the opportunity. On our northern border, Burma is under military rule and poses a great threat to our security. Will it not be discussed in the House.

I had given several notices for discussion on the issue of Burma, but it is always consigned to the waste paper basket. Earlier the strength of Burmese army was 1,70,000 troops which has now increased to 5,00,000 which has not only been trained but equipped also with most sophisticated weapons by the Chinese. China is building its naval here in Coco islands which is 40 km. north of Andaman and Nicobar islands. 40 k.m. is a small distance and China is virtually on our borders. China is building infrastructures on the western sea ports of Burma such as roads, air strips in order to meet its requirements. There is no doubt that China is trying to mend its fences with India but it does not mean that China is not assisting Pakistan. It is helping Pakistan in developing atomic weapons and the U.S.A. is turning a Nelson's eye to it. I do concede that the Chinese are stubborn and used to have their way. We must recognise this threat and take it seriously. In 1974 when we conducted the atomic test in Pokharan, I was in Tihar Jail. At that time I had written a booklet under the title

[English]

"India's Bomb and Indira's India."

[Translation]

Today we find ourselves in a paradoxical situation and on the cross roads. All along we have been propagating ban on use of atom bomb but now we are surrendered by hostile nations who posses atomic weapons.

15.00 hrs.

Efforts are also being made to block our economic advancement and the U.S.A. is in the forefront of this exercise with its enormous resources. During the past five years whenever India framed a new economic policy and it was discussed in the House, America created a lot of problems for us. Now we find ourselves on the cross roads. On the one hand China with its nuclear arsenal in posing threat to our security on the other hand America is trying to bully us into submission. We are being forced to sign CTBT. It wants to be arbiter of our fate. I feel it is true. Now to take some hard decisions about our national security.

Sir, I would conclude with 3-4 more points. We must impress on the nations participating in the disarmament conference that in case we want to have a CTBT Treaty, it should be treaty without any provisos and should aim at eliminating the nuclear stock pile made by all the countries and there should be no exception or a privileged nation such as America or five members of the security council. All the nations should be treated at par. Secondly, we must bring it to the notice of America that India is not prepared to accord any special status to it. Now we must take note of the threats which we face. In our country, national security is never the topic of discussion. The entire country was agitated when arms were dropped in Purulea surreptitiously. But when we face danger from North-East-West, nobody is bothered. Sometimes discussions are held within the parties but it is never discussed as an issue of national security in public fora. We do desire that the Indian public should know about the dangers they are likely to face due to the machinations of China and America. Fourthly, in our quest of advancement we must be aware of the dangers in the field of security, economic development and in the international sphere which we may byallus. Mr. Warren has threatened us that we will be isolated. The people of India should also be warned to prepare themselves to meet any eventuality posed by this threat.

As I had said earlier, I am at cross roads. As a way out of this predicament, I will just quote two memorable quotes from Mahatma Gandhi. When Pakistani invaders attached Kashmir, Mahatma Gandhi exhorted the then Government to send the army. He never said that meet this attack through non-violent means. The army was sent, it saved a part of the territory, although it was in a position to recover the entire Territory. But I do not want to go into details about that failure. The second quote is :

[English]

"I shall risk violence a thousand times rather than risk the emasculation of a whole race."



[Translation]

To-day, if the need arises to take some hard decisions, we should not hesitate to do so, lest some accusing fingers be pointed at this nation of Mahatma Gandhi. We must bear in mind the security and the supreme national interest of the country, while deciding our course of action.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat.

Prof. Rawat, please be brief because the hon. Minister has to reply at 3.20 p.m.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please, Madam.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Look here.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Karol Bagh-Delhi) : This is something very important.

MR. SPEAKER : No, nothing can be more important than what we are discussing now.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, please, this is a very serious debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, later on.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Later on, you can. But not during this debate.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : All I have been...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Come on. We are discussing an issue which involves the supreme national interest.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Bhakta, nothing can be more important than the national interest.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing on that.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, Interruptions in this debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can raise but not during this debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After this debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I do not want any interruptions in this debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : After this debate.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the issue of CTBT, America has not only threatened us but has also virtually thrown a challenge. Yesterday, Mr. Christopher Warren deposing before the foreign affairs Committee, accused India of being a stimulating block in the signing of CTBT Treaty and reiterated America's resolve to see the Treaty through. When India stressed that complete disarmament should be achieved according to a scheduled timetable, the secretary of state, U.S.A. Mr. Christopher Warren said that they have their compulsions and the demand of India is impracticable. I would like to quote a few lines :

"Baadhayan Kab baandh saki hain aagey  
barkhey watore ka

mushkilein kab rok saki hain mar kar jeene  
walon ko

bahadur kab kisi ka ehsaan saath lete hain  
dilwar mard ka loha sab maan lete hain,  
jo kamzor hota hai, kaan uske sab pakarh  
lete hain."

In the present international scenario, America wants to corner India by isolating it on the issue of CTBT with the help of other atomic powers and by winning over countries like Pakistan and Israel. This issue of CTBT has now become for India an issue of national pride and is linked with our security and honour. Now India must consider this issue seriously when we are surrounded on all sides by hostile elements. America has equipped Pakistan with atomic weapons which have the capacity to hit all our prominent cities. China has stock piled nuclear weapons in Tibet and carried out a test 1-2 days before the signing of the CTBT Treaty in Geneva. Had China been serious, it would have refrained from carrying out the test. Now India should also build its nuclear capability. We did conduct an atomic test in Pokharan but that was way back in 1974. Now the new circumstances do not portend well. Pakistan is encouraging Terrorism in our country and many innocent lives have been lost in the Pak sponsored Terrorism. Pakistan Thrust on us 3 wars and China had also invaded our Territory. Now we cannot trust China

even if it extends its hand of friendship. It is a good sign that all the political parties rose above political differences to support the Government in its decision not to sign the CTBT Treaty. The BJP had all along been stressing that we have to take this decision keeping in view the sovereignty, integrity and unity as well as the supreme interest of the country.

Sir, through you I would advise the Government to equip itself with weapons before signing the treaty. "Sinhannev, Vya aghannev, gajannev, cha Aja putram bali dyad, devopi durbal ghatak."

This couplet in Sanskrit means that gods also hit the weak. When gods were offered lion, elephant as sacrifice, they declined to accept it but when they were offered goat, they readily accepted the sacrifice.

Sir, we must take steps to emerge as a strong nation. We have developed atomic energy and now we must make an atom bomb to show the world and particularly America that we are not a weak nation and cannot be isolated so lightly.

Sir, in the first instance I would like to know whether Mr. Clinton has written a letter to our Prime Minister and does CTBT issue finds a members in the letter. Secondly, Warren Christopher, secretary of State, U.S.A. in a statement made after his meeting with our Minister for External Affairs in Jakarta, described the External Affairs Minister of India as intelligent and honest. I fear his intentions may be to loguite our representatives ...*(Interruptions)* He has described him as intelligent and honest to which I have no objection but my fear is that the interests of the nation may not be compromised to earn those epithets. We want a firm assurance to this effect in the House to day.

Sir, I would like to give two or three suggestions in this regard. The first suggestion is that we should not close our nuclear option. Secondly, we should not sign the CTBT Treaty in our supreme national interest. The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty should be Transparent and free from all loopholes. Some of the loopholes would be used by some nations to conduct laboratory tests and strengthen their arsenal. It is true that CTBT is the first decisive step towards nuclear disarmament. We want that the nuclear process should destroy their nuclear arsenal before sermonising other nations ...*(Interruptions)* We have to carry our struggle to the diplomate front also. We must apprise the Heads of the States and Foreign Minister of other nations about the rationale behind our stand test it be miscontrued as an attempt on our part to emerge as a centre of power. At the same time we must ensure that there is no let up in our drive to develop the missiles such as Agni, Akaash etc. It is necessary to equip our army with these weapons in order to keep up its morale. Besides, American pressure or any other type of pressure must be strongly resisted.

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayan) : Sir, I requested you to give me a chance. It is very unfortunate that we do not get a chance...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I know it is unfortunate, but what can I do? The Minister has to reply.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : That is true, but this a very serious issue. There are only few Members who wish to speak...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Then you have to sit upto seven o'clock today.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : No, either you conclude now as the Private Members' Business is to take place, because last time also we did not take it up, or you do away with Private Members' Business again or you sit upto Seven o'clock.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The whole nation is of one view on this issue.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Sir, on every occasion we are the victims of time constraint. How can it be?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, kindly advise me, what should I do?

*(Interruptions)*

LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI (Deoria) : Sir, the hon. Minister may reply now.

MR. SPEAKER : But other Members also want to express their views. You know, the smaller parties could not participate here. You guide me, I will go by what you say.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Sir, we appeal to you to give us a chance. Please give me a chance for two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, it should be extended by one hour.

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we suspend the Private Members's Business?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, seeing the seriousness of the issue, it is better to suspend the Private Members' Business...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shall we start Private Members' Business at 4.30 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to you also.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, what will happen to other Members?

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is very much in the list here.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Sir, my name is always there but what is the use of my name in the list if I do not get a chance to speak.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to congratulate the hon. Minister of External Affairs, Shri Indra Kumar Gujral, who has set up a healthy precedent in consulting all the parties and making this country as one in this case.

15.18 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed *in the Chair*)

Sir, India always stood for global disarmament. India is the champion of world peace. We not only preach non-violence but we have put it into practice. We are opposed to any type of nuclear warfare which is detrimental to the whole humanity and the whole human race. Our commitment to peace and total disarmament cannot be questioned by anyone. It cannot be altered by any Force on this earth.

But at the same time, as my learned friends were mentioning here, we cannot agree to the Draft on CTBT. This is only a second instalment of NPT and this has not at all achieved any serious comprehensive test ban. This is only a partial one and this is only to help or only to assist the promoters of CTBT such as, the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia, China and France.

Even Russia and China had initially got certain doubts in their minds, but now they have also changed their position. Now they are blaming India as the spoiler of this Treaty. We cannot accept this position because India, in all the international fora have been consistently demanding dismantling or eliminating of nuclear weapons.

Sir, in all the world fora, India raised its voice for world peace. So the contention of China is not at all acceptable. India is not a spoiler of this Treaty. India wants a global disarmament provided that Treaty should be a comprehensive one.

India never accepted NPT, That everybody knows. That NPT could not move this whole world to disarmament.

India wants that nuclear weapons should be banned within a timeframe.

That time frame should be fixed; that calendar should be fixed. I do not know why they are not agreeing to this. The CTBT covers only on the explosion part. This is not an answer to all these issues. The research, design and test of nuclear weapons should be banned. That is the most important matter. Even they are doing the test in the sea or some other places in the land but

the United States of America and other powerful nations in the world are equipped with sophisticated weapons so that they can do this test in their laboratories. Even they can do it with a stimulation of computer the test in the air or in the sea will not help.

The developed countries wanted to strengthen their nuclear arsenals. That is their entire effort. Even now there are examples that the United States of America is carrying out test in the laboratory. Unfortunately, the CTBT draft which is prepared is only covering the explosion part. The promoters of the CTBT have got enough infrastructure so that they will be able to test according to their convenience. This is definitely a track which is being played on the developing countries, especially, the threshold countries like India, Pakistan, Israel and other under-developed countries. The present Treaty will not shut down (1) any weapons laboratory, (2) reduce the personnel in those installations, and (3) no skilled scientist will sit idle. Then what is the meaning of a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty? The research, design and test will continue according to the convenience of the major nuclear powers in the world. The whole world cannot go according to their directions. The whole world cannot succumb to their pressure. The USA has already conducted 1000 tests so far.

It is very interesting that the so called China which is going to sign the CTBT, is requesting India and other threshold countries to sign this CTBT draft. On 29th July, China successfully conducted a nuclear test. I will read the first paragraph of the statement, dated 29th July 1996 of the Government of Peoples' Republic of China. It states, "The Government of the Peoples' Republic of China hereby solemnly declare that it will start and moratorium on nuclear weapons test in effective from 30th July, 1996." I do not want to go into the details. They have successfully conducted a test on 29th July, 1996. What is the use of this Test Ban Treaty? This is not comprehensive. China, which is going to sign in this Treaty, has conducted a test successfully on 29th July.

By 2000 AD, the USA would have 50 per cent of the total world arms market. It is serious like that America will control 50 per cent of the total arms market in the world when we are reaching 20th century. We are on the threshold of the 21st century. Where will the developing countries and those who are suffering from poverty and other social evils go?

Sir, I want to mention one or two very important issues. In the beginning of 1996, there were some 21,000 operations of nuclear weapons in the world.

Nearly ninety-five per cent of the world's nuclear weapons are in the possession of the United States and Russia. These nuclear weapon States - the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom - are saying that they are not going to reduce their nuclear arsenals. Actually speaking, they want to

strengthen their nuclear arsenals through new technologies that they are developing and the new inventions that they are conducting. I have enough examples to substantiate this but I will not do that because of shortage of time.

The security of the Indian sub-continent is the most important issue. But India's security problem is completely ignored. India is a neighbour of three nuclear weapon States - Russia, China and Pakistan. China and Russia have arrived at an understanding for exchange of defence equipment and technology. Nuclear missile transfers of China and Pakistan are well-known to everybody. In this august House itself, in the previous Lok Sabha, that is, in the Tenth Lok Sabha, I myself raised the point with regard to the former Premier of Pakistan, Nawaz Sharief's statement on the Nuclear bomb. He had rightly pointed out that Pakistan possesses a nuclear bomb. Nobody has refuted this charge. They have a secret understanding with China and Russia also. So, the security of the India sub-continent is in peril. Therefore, we have to be very cautious about this.

The U.S. Administration is the solitary superpower and the main promoter of CTBT. They wanted to put all types of pressures on India. As rightly pointed out by Shri George Fernandes yesterday, there was a statement from the United States of America which is totally condemnable. We cannot accept their position.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P.M. SAYEED) : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : They are saying that this is a political treaty, so they want to get through the Treaty on political basis. That means, they want to threaten India. They also want to threaten other threshold States. They want to see that this Treaty is through. My request to the hon. Minister is that India cannot accept this position. We have to oppose and defeat it. India should oppose, defeat and veto this Treaty. CTBT cannot be enforced in the national interest of the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now please conclude.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I shall quote one sentence and conclude. The Green Peace is one of the very reputed NGOs in America. They say that if the five nuclear weapon States, China, France, U.K., Russia and U.S.A., want India to support the Treaty, they should make a commitment not to develop, produce or deploy nuclear weapons to seek greater nuclear disarmament. It is an NGO in America which is saying this. My request to the hon. Minister is that he should kindly take the opinion of the entire House, cutting across the party lines. The people of India are with the Government. They solemnly affirm their faith in the Government on this issue. I think we have to give a befitting reply to the U.S. Administration and protect the interests of our country.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Hon. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing very serious and sensitive international affairs in this august House. As an Indian, we are proud of it that since independence India took the leadership of the peace movement in the world, our country has played a key role for the peace of the world and for de-colonisation of the world. Under the leadership of our beloved Prime Minister, late Panditji, the entire world, particularly, the Afro-Asian countries were united for the peace of the world. The socialist countries, under the leadership of the former Soviet Russia, stood behind our peace movement and strongly supported the foreign policy of India. They also stood behind us strongly on so many crucial moments of our country in the past.

All the countries of the world have appreciated the peace movement of India and the foreign policy of India.

15.30 hrs.

(Prof. Rita Verma *in the Chair*)

Sir, the foreign policy of India has been appreciated by all peace-loving countries of the world. So, as one of the leaders of the peace movement and decolonisation movement, India 50 years back took the lead in calling for a ban on nuclear testing and total elimination of nuclear weapons.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) : Sir, how long the discussion will take place.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The duration of the discussion has been extended by one hour upto 16.30 hrs.

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, India made an utmost effort to convince the whole world for the need for CTBT, for the peace of the world. But now, at present, it is a paramount question, very much a fundamental question and a basic question whether India will subscribe to C.T.B.T. in its present form. Certainly, India cannot subscribe to C.T.B.T. in its present form. India should remain opposed to a global nuclear test ban treaty unless there is a substantive change of the latest draft of the document.

I support and appreciate the stand which was taken by our prudent Minister of External Affairs in the A.R.F. Security Group meeting. It is reported that there is no change in the draft. In that case, India should not sign the document until the five declared nuclear powers decide to totally eliminate the nuclear weapons.

India should not, rather must not, change its stand regarding signing the C.T.B.T. We want C.T.B.T. But that should be a real, truly comprehensive C.T.B.T. The proposition is that in the draft of the C.T.B.T., it should be incorporated and ensured that from now on all the nuclear tests must be banned, even the powers

possessing the nuclear weapons would have to abide by them and big powers must destroy their existing stockpiles.

The C.T.B.T. may resolve that those who do not possess any nuclear weapons would have to undertake by giving a pledge that they would never go in for any nuclear weapon test. This means that the existing disparity between powers possessing nuclear weapons and those who are not possessing nuclear weapons should end. It is for the Government of a self-respecting country like ours to desist from signing the C.T.B.T. the question is why should we choose to be isolated. It is an age-old rule that those who possess the nuclear weapons are entitled to use it and nobody else. In fact we cannot endorse it and we cannot accept the text in its present form. We have every right to safeguard our national security and national interest. Unless and until the big powers, particularly America, destroy the nuclear stockpiles and totally eliminate the nuclear weapons they have no right to give us advice to sign the C.T.B.T. Until and unless they have given up their aggressive attitude to the poor countries they have no right to give their advice. We are not obliging the big powers. We have every right to make nuclear weapons for safeguarding our country and for the national security of our country and it is a question of our sovereign right.

In fact, we have every right to safeguard our national interest. We must not sign any Treaty which will affect our national interest and sovereign right.

So, I support the stand of the Government of India and through you, Madam, urge the Government of India and the Minister of External Affairs to realise the feelings of the House that irrespective of the political differences we are speaking in one voice for the interest of our country, for the security and safeguarding the sovereignty of our country. I think our prudent Minister of External Affairs will realise and appreciate the feelings of the House and will not surrender to the pressure of the American imperialism and other big powers.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barsat) : Madam, Chairperson, I rise to endorse the stand taken by the Government of India in relation to the CTBT. The stated objectives of these negotiations in Geneva are (i) to be a step towards nuclear disarmament (ii) to halt the qualitative nuclear arms race by preventing the development of new weapons and the refinement of the existing weapons; and (iii) to prevent both horizontal and vertical proliferation of nuclear weapons. These are the declared objectives of the Geneva Conference on Disarmament. But so far as we know - and we are convinced of it - the motive force is not these objectives. But the motive force is the global strategy of United States of America. They want to make use of these Conference in order to give effect to their own strategy of establishing hegemony over the world in military field, in economic domain and in other fields of human

activities. Madam, all these stated objectives are pious platitudes and high floor rhetorics. They are not at all interested in achieving the disarmament objective which we want to arrive at. Madam, US administration regards it as a strategic plot and this is evident from certain statement made by Mr. Warren Christopher recently. Earlier they said that one of our highest national strategic priorities is the Geneva Conference. So that is their main objective. Recently, as has already been said yesterday, it was a very categorically stated that so far as India's demand of linkage of CTBT with disarmament is concerned, Mr. Christopher quite forthrightly said that these are quite separate issues and that the United States is not prepared to agree to such disarmament at this time. Therefore, they are not interested. They are not committed to disarmament and this is very much clear from the statement made earlier by the United States' representative, Mr. Warren Christopher yesterday.

Madam, let us see what the Chief Negotiator of America in Geneva declared on April 24. This is a very significant statement. I quote :

"The United States will not sign a document that has the effect of imposing or attempting to impose legally binding commitment to do nuclear weapon stockpile reductions."

I think it is very clear that they will not accept anything which binds legally the United States of America for the nuclear stockpile reduction.

I want to state clearly and very briefly about India's position in this case. India wants that the CTBT must be a comprehensive one to ban all forms of testing. It must be a part and parcel of the disarmament package and anchored in a reasonable time frame. These three elements are very clear. These three elements are very important and are of significance. The first element is comprehensiveness. The present CTBT is not adequately comprehensive. Therefore, we oppose it; we should oppose it. The second element is the linkage with disarmament. They are not going to accept this linkage of CTBT with disarmament. But we are very much committed to the disarmament concept. Disarmament not only refers to the nuclear, but to all kinds of other disarmament. The third element is the time frame.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : These three elements are very important. They are of great significance and pivotal importance. So, we have to either give up these objectives, our stances, our commitment for disarmament and adhere to this Declaration or we have to meet the consequences for the conviction for which we are ready to fight.

Madam, in this case, it is not only a question of national prestige, but it also is very much a question of national security. No country having a modicum of sovereignty can agree to a position where national security is compromised. Therefore, it is not only a

question of prestige of this Government or that Government, but it also involves the supreme interests of the nation, which demands that India should firm on this nationally accepted ideology.

I know, what might be the consequences. The United States of America would try to mount pressure. In this case, I want to remind or I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of External Affairs, the former hon. Prime Minister and the former hon. Minister of External Affairs the example of Cuba. The United States of America put all the pressures - economic blockade, military intervention, intelligence intervention, sabotage and counter revolution - and, yet, the people of Cuba and the Government of Cuba withstood those pressures.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. There are some more hon. Members who want to speak on this.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : If India is ideologically convinced, if we are convinced that it is our goal, then we shall have to be prepared to meet the consequence. I know, our countrymen are prepared to meet all the consequences provided the leadership is given by the Government and leadership is given by the political parties of this country.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government not to flag away, not to depart from the positive position, the firm position, that the Government had already taken and should continue to fight against the imperialist pressure so that the prestige, national security and sovereignty of the country is protected and preserved.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA (Shimoga) : Mr. Chairman, I stand here to extend full support to the stand taken by our Government on whether to sign the CTBT or not in the present form.

Madam, the entire question hinges upon one point: What issue should be on our national agenda? The question is whether our national security should be there on our national agenda or being concerned to sign a Treaty, should we sign a CTBT in this form. That is all the question that is before all of us today. We can never be coerced to sign a Treaty like this. This is going to have a lot of impact as far as our national security is concerned as also on either side. The point is this. Instead of delivering a long speech on the subject, what I feel is that we should all stand united. Of course, we heard very illuminating speeches particularly of Shri George Fernandes and also our senior hon. Member who initiated the debate on CTBT. I must thank them along with the other hon. Members of this august House who have thrown a lot of light on the subject. What I feel is that irrespective of the political parties we belong to, we will have to show, in future, that we are united even to face any eventuality in case we do not sign the CTBT in the present form. The same text has now been put forward before all of us to sign. If we reject this, what will happen?

Now, the point is this. We are committed to total disarmament. It is our national policy. We have made clear not only here but also at the international level and at so many meetings the stand taken by us ever since the time of our great leader the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The question now arises is whether we can be coerced to sign this. If we sign this Treaty in the present form, then, we are not only going to fail to tackle our national security but we are also going to leave a lot of impact on the future of our country itself. The stand taken by our hon. Minister in Jakarta, when he went there to attend the ASEAN Meet, is certainly a welcome one. The point is that when the Conference on Disarmament was going on at Geneva, the same day morning an underground test was conducted by China. What does this show? This is the main question. More over, so many tests were conducted by others. Nearly 500 tests have been conducted by America; 300 or 400 tests were conducted by Russia; about 40 and odd were conducted each by China and Britain. Like-wise, several tests have been conducted by the other countries also. We have conducted a test about 22 years ago. After that, we have not at all conducted any kind of such a test.

Pakistan has been receiving all the support from a nuclear-weapon power in the Asia region, that is, from China. They have not only supplied the nuclear technology but they are also capable of supplying the spare parts to Pakistan and the M11 nuclear missile. They have supplied all these things. If this is the case and nobody is there to check all these kinds of tests that are going on all around us, what will happen to our security position?

Shri George Fernandes said something about the other countries that are around us. One Island is there about 40 km. from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. That Islands is under the control of China. Myanmar is there which is having all the latest arms supplied by China.

Pakistan is there well armed and China is there on the other side. If this were to be the position, we should not be subdued in this form, to sign the CTBT in this forum.

I now want to draw your attention to one more thing. Mr. Minister, you have gone through a statement made by the Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of Senate of America Mr. Benjamin - I have forgotten his full name who had made the statement some ten or twelve days back. That had appeared in the Press. He say: "The only ray of hope for peace in the Asian region is India. And all around India, things are not that much good. India should not subdue itself to sign the CTBT in this form." That is what he has said. Of course, we need not draw any conclusion from that statement made by such persons. But we will also have to keep that fact in our mind. When Mr. Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State is trying to put

sword on all of us, we should not give up our stand at any cost.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Madam, I am concluding.

Another thing is, when we discuss the disarmament question, what exactly is the position of the chemical disarmament? Many of our friends who have already spoken, have mentioned that the tests that are going on in the laboratories for supply of these things, they are going on by the side of the big powers. And when they have got that much of pile up of nuclear arsenal at their command, we should not keep quiet. Therefore, we have to always keep our options open to meet any eventuality, keeping in view the national security interest. It is the best national agenda before all of us.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE (Berhampore) (WB) : Thank you Madam. We welcome the extension of time for this discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please be brief.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I will conclude within three minutes.

Let me appreciate the hon. Speaker's role in this regard. He has been enough to extend the time for discussion on such an important matter which relates to both the Defence Policy and the Foreign Policy of India.

I appreciate the *suo motu* statement given by the hon. Minister for External Affairs on this occasion. We are aware of the features and consequences of CTBT and its bindings on India. It will be disastrous on the part of India and on the part of developing countries to sign the CTBT. It is highly discriminatory. We demanded nuclear disarmament; we demanded complete ban on the production of nuclear weapons, not at the cost of our national security. It is my suggestion that India must not submit to the threats of nuclear weapons State. India must not surrender its national sovereignty and security to the diktats of Euro-American imperialism for having their sophisticated nuclear weapons in their possession. This is the imperialistic device to put pressure on India to put its signature on CTBT. We must oppose it; we must refuse it. What did we see in the past in the post Second World War scenario? We saw that Russia appeared as a very powerful State on the theatre of world politics. With the emergence of Russia as parallel to America in respect of nuclear weapons in their possession, the whole world turned into a bipolar world. This bipolar division of world power is the root cause of cold war tensions, arms race and arms competition. The US Administration at that time allowed the production of sufficient arms and nuclear weapons in their possession. India at that time did not associate itself with any wing of the bipolar world nor did it join in the arms race or arms competition. We declared our policy of non-alignment; we declared our commitment to nuclear disarmament which is only for the security of the children all over the world.

Today, I urge upon the Government and the Minister for Foreign Affairs to uphold the same tradition of our foreign policy.

Again, what we did we see in the late eighties or in the beginning of nineties? We saw the fall of the Soviet Union. With the fall and disintegration of Soviet State into different smaller States, bipolar world turned into a unipolar world. Today, the Clinton Administration is trying to achieve the supremacy of this unipolar world with the nuclear weapons in their possession.

We must oppose this. They are trying to find out a permanent market for sale of their arms in the developing country of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Today I suggest and I propose that we must oppose this tendency of the pseudo American imperialist forces. We must not allow our garden to be used by them for the sale of arms. These imperialist forces design to impose upon ourselves a nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. It is India which opposed it, refused it and rejected it because it was discriminatory.

Today the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is nothing but the second instalment of that Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. We must oppose it. It is discriminatory. We must oppose it, we must refuse it and we must reject it. This is my suggestion.

Madam, I will finish within a minute.

It is my suggestion that the Government of India should take the initiative to form a united opinion in the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, and raise the voice that 'not the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty' but the 'Comprehensive Arms Sale Ban Treaty' should be imposed. If we control the sale of arms then the Treaty will be exposed to the people of the world.

Madam, I have the statistics in my hand but I cannot show it here due to time constraint. Today five or six joint stock companies in USA have produced sufficient arms and nuclear weapons in their hands.

MR. CHAIRMAN (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Shri Pramotes Mukherjee, you said, you would finish within three minutes but it is already more than five minutes.

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Madam, I am just concluding. Only one minute, please.

This is their industry and this is their business. This is what I want to say that the making of bomb is not the solution of bomb culture. To play with the bomb is not the solution of the bomb culture. So, I want to say that we must prepare ourselves, we must be concerned with our national security. But the national security primarily depends upon the economic security. If the economic security of the people is given to the countrymen, then the national security is automatically obtained. And the, half of the battle is won over.

So, I would urge upon the hon. External Affairs Minister and the Government of India to pay their attention both to the national security and to the

economic security. We must not encourage business of bomb, the industry of bomb, the culture of bomb. But at the same time, we would urge upon the Government to raise its voice that we should avoid the bomb culture, we should restrict it and we should fight it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI PRAMOTES MUKHERJEE : Just I will conclude.

I have said so many words. I have heard many more valuable words from my hon. friends. But the words cannot judge the merits of the situation, the merits of the policy. Only the deeds can judge the merits of the situation, merits of the policy.

I would urge upon the hon. External Affairs Minister to act accordingly and to raise the voice and to echo the unified voice of this House to send a message to the people of India and to the people of the world that we are not coward, that we can fight against the imperialist forces. So, we must not sign this CTBT.

With these words, I conclude.

**16.00 hrs.**

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Madam, I will be very brief. I will not make a speech. I will just make a few observations.

This year is the election year for Mr. Bill Clinton in the United States. CTBT is one of the items on his election agenda. In his Congressional speech this year in January he has stated that :

"The START - II Treaty with Russia will cut our nuclear stockpiles by another 25 per cent. I urge the Senate to ratify it - now. We must and the race to create new nuclear weapons by signing a truly comprehensive nuclear test ban treaty - this year."

This is precisely his election agenda in the United States. I know their seriousness to get the countries to sign it. I thank the hon. Minister of External Affairs for making his contribution at the Jakarta Meet to gear up the External Affairs Ministry for the Geneva Meet. But at the same time, with all my regards to the External Affairs Ministry officials, I would humbly submit that for the first time I express my displeasure at the manner in which the desk of the Foreign Ministry has performed to keep their documentation ready as to what we mean by our approach in the entire document and to identify its faults and lacunae. For that reason I do not hold Shri Gujral responsible at this movement. I do share that when our Government was in office it did not take the approach in the way it should have been taken.

The address that was delivered by Shri Rajiv Gandhi in 1988 to the Third Special at the United Nations had contained an approach with four categorical pointed decisions which had seen the very threats that are coming now. If we had consistently and persistently

pursued those measures throughout the globe without any interruption, today in so far as the campaigning part is concerned, the whole nation would have known the intention of all of us. We need not have gone to everyone to explain that we are not opposing it, we are simply seeking clarifications and that is why we are not signing it. I think the office of the Ministry of External Affairs did not play that part of the role as desired.

I would only take two minutes to read out one important piece. That is a part of the Report published by the Congressional Committee for Unconventional Warfare of the US House of Representatives headed by Mr. Turef Bodansky wherein it is said :

"Pakistan stuck with President Zia's doctrine of relying on nuclear weapons as the last resort key to Pakistan's survival against India and the USSR. ...Nuclear weapons became a key to Islamabad's assertive strategy of escalation of the struggle in Kashmir under a nuclear umbrella restraining Indian retaliation.

Madam, with this in mind, our nuclear option must be open. We must not sign it. What we are not considering is a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. What is our objection to signing it, we have not been able to build a campaign in that direction. Whatever has been done. It seems that all the parties cutting across the partyline are agreeing with the Government not to sign the Treaty.

We urge upon the Government two things. Please do not carry the reflection of our not signing the Treaty while dealing bilaterally with other nations. While talking about bilateral issues like economic cooperation or other major issues which are pending with Russia, Pakistan, China and United States, please do not bring a reflection of CTBT. Then we would be further destroyed. Efforts will be now mounted to put India in that corner. Please do not do it. I appeal that nobody should do it in India.

The second point is about the campaign that we would like to mount. As it happened during the NPT times when we brought an alternative draft right in 1985 itself before the NPT finally came in 1991, which carried a momentum all over the world, why did we fail this time to carry that kind of a campaign? That is my question to the External Affairs Minister. That is why I personally took the responsibility that even our Government did not do well at the time when it was called for in the line of Rajiv Gandhi's speech to the Third Special Session of the United Nations.

With these words, I support the stand taken by the the Government. I hope that if all parties are united - whatever may be the conspiracy - and if the nuclear option is open, the country's internal security and national security would be safeguarded.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI (Autonomous-District) (Assam) : Thank you, Madam, I will try to be brief. I will



try to be brief. I will not repeat all those points made by the other hon. Members. I cannot help but express my concern about the way everybody, that is the Government and Parliament have handled this issue. It is one of those issues where a consensus could have been achieved. But then I do not know why the Government did not come before Parliament. They did not even feel it necessary to take a mandate from Parliament either before going to Jakarta or before going to Geneva. A national mandate, a mandate from Parliament would have given an added strength to India in the negotiations. I do not know why our learned Minister has deprived himself of this advantage.

Secondly, even in Parliament, we have taken this issue very casually. Only two or three minutes are allowed for each Member to speak. Even the discussion has not been continuous. It was disrupted yesterday and today also it has been taken up and continued during the time of Private Members' Business. I want to express my concern on this issue because this is a very important issue concerning the security and defences of our country. So, in future we should devote more time for such issues. Rather, we should go in for an amendment to our laws so that this type of an international treaty which becomes irreversible could be entered into only after two-thirds of the Membership of Parliament gives its consent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your time is over.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : I do not want to go into the merits of CTBT, but I just want to point out one aspect. Somehow, somewhere during our dealings with the international community, India has emitted a signal of weakness. It might be the way we dealt with the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff or some other international issue. Somehow, a signal has gone that India can be coerced, India can be forced and that with a little pressure or with carrot and stick tactics, India can be made amenable to the wishes of America. That signal has somehow - consciously or unconsciously - gone to the international community.

So, I want to conclude my speech by saying that it is high time India stood with its head held high and took a very deliberate and determined step. A very strong signal should go out. Mr. Warren Christopher has threatened that there is an international lobby against India and that India will be isolated in the event of our not signing it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

DR. JAYANTA RONGPI : We do not care if economic sanctions are imposed on us. With our rejuvenated national strength, we can withstand all these pressure tactics. A chance has come to India at this juncture. We can lead the entire world to nuclear disarmament in a time-bound manner and ultimately lead to global peace.

With this, I support the Government's stand of not signing the Treaty but at the same time I expect that the

Government should take an aggressive diplomatic policy so that our stand on nuclear disarmament - which is linked to the CTBT - should go to the international community.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Madam, I also rise here to support the stand taken by the hon. Minister of External Affairs and the Government. It looks that the stand is not just a Governmental stand but a national stand, supported by almost all sections of public opinion now prevailing in the country.

We are sure that we are now going to stand by the stand which we have already taken. The question that now remains is, 'What do we do next?' I do not want delve upon the issues which have really gone into taking this stand because they have been deliberated at length by many other hon. Members.

So, what do we do now?

We have read in the newspapers about the new stand that has been adopted by Pakistan. So far they were saying that they would not sign the statement unless it is signed by India. Now, today they have said that they are not going to sign it even if India signs the agreement. So, it puts a different perception and a different security threat. Now, we have a different type of security perception. So, that is one point that we have to take into consideration.

The second point is, the United States have stated that if we do not sign this, it is a political settlement. So, we have to face the consequences. They have said it in so many words. Now, how are we going to face those consequences is something which we would like to hear from the Minister of External Affairs and from the Government. It is very important.

Madam, another point I would like to make is that we have always been saying that we want total disarmament. But such piecemeal measure which do not mean anything will not subscribe to this correctly. Does the stand of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, gets reflected in the national policy? We are spending so little on Defence. We have taken a stand which means that we are open to undertaking more nuclear tests and creating more nuclear weapons. But are we really doing that by spending more money on Defence?

The Budget for this year, in fact, says that we are going to spend a little less on Defence because the salary bill which has increased compared to the last year will also not take care of the increase in the Defence Budget this year. So, this is the stand taken by us. It is not enough to take such a stand in the international convention that makes us proud and happy that we are really tough vis-a-vis the United States. But it also be reflected in our entire national policy and not in the foreign policy alone. We should have a comprehensive policy. It should have been reflected in everything that we do. It should not be just for the sake of rhetoric that we should say that we here are opposing

the United States' stand and that we are not going to buckle down under pressure. Of course, we should do that but it should be reflected in other policies also.

Otherwise, the strong words will not really yield any results. Madam, there are countries which are not conducting tests. But there are evidences that these countries possess the nuclear capabilities. So, it is not just the Nuclear Ban Treaty which is going to help anybody. But we need a sort of an arrangement which brings total disarmament.

In fact, we are surprised now by the new stand taken by the United States. Previously, they were talking about disarmament between two super powers. Now, they have climbed down to say that there should be a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. When the hon. Minister replies, he should tell us what is the next step that the Government is going to take.

With these words, I would like to conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : Madam, through you, I thank the entire House for the remarkable support and encouragement that I have received. In my personal life, I am a very humble man. But the voice that I represent today is not my voice. It is the united voice of this country aptly articulated by various sections of the House.

When I look to friends sitting in front of me or on my side or at the back, I think, this is one of the great occasions when India's one voice is being minced and that is India's spirit. India has one more strength also and that is the ethos of India. We do not use harsh words and we do not use strong words. We say with utmost politeness what we have to say. That has been the general policy so far as the Indian diplomacy is concerned. It is followed not only by me but my predecessors also who were in Office before me. All of us have followed one line and that is, where the national interests are concerned, we have to firmly stand and stand together. I must, therefore, thank all the leaders of various parties and all the Members from all sides of the House who have expressed their views so eloquently and so firmly. This gives Government and our case a strength.

I am also going to take a few minutes to talk to you. The Treaty talks have been going on in Geneva for more than two and a half years. In this context, it is interesting for me to recall that in this two and a half years, Governments have changed. I think all of us who have come in office, at one time or the other - sometimes for a slightly longer period and sometimes it was not so long - have continued the same policy. That is really the strength of India. I think all of us follow the same policy. Instructions to our Ambassador in Geneva from all people who have occupied the office that I am now occupying was similar. And that again, I repeat, is our strength. There is an irony in the whole situation as it

is and the irony is that some nuclear powers - five of them have the heaps of arsenals in their stores that they do not feel satisfied with this. I remember in early 80's, when we were discussing the issue of nuclear weapons, it was estimated that the weapons available to the world, as a whole, in the hands of these few five were such that they could kill the entire world nine times. I do not know why they want to kill the world thirteen or fourteen times. And that is what continues. At the moment, the Treaty they are talking, I had said, at one time, is a charade. It does not really want to achieve what it pertains. They really are trying to make their weapons more sophisticated. That is where I wish to draw particular attention to my friend Lt.-Gen. Prakash Mani Tripathi's remarks in this regard. I support him. I think, he very eloquently expressed this.

The difficulty, at the moment, is that all the talks that are going on in Geneva do not really fulfil the mandate that was given to them by the United Nations. In my statement, I had said that the negotiators had the unambiguous mandate to conclude a CTBT which would contribute effectively to the prevention of proliferation in all its aspects to the process of nuclear disarmament and, therefore, enhancement of international peace and security.

This is the mandate. Is it being sustained? Is it being abided by? We have, therefore, repeated actively and constructively in these negotiations. I have put forward a number of proposals consistent with that mandate. We have stated clearly that the CTBT must be truly comprehensive and not leave any loopholes that would permit the nuclear weapon states to continue to refining and developing that nuclear arsenals at their test sites or in laboratories. I want to emphasise the word 'laboratories' even more.

We have understood the importance of placing the CTBT in universal disarmament framework as a part of step by step process aimed at achieving complete elimination of all nuclear weapons within a time-bound framework.

Now, I notice that it is being absolutely, clearly and openly said that this is impractical. And if it is impractical, then what is the Conference about? Those who are saying it are the ones who are also trying to say that they are the high priests of the Treaty. At the same time, they say that it is not possible to eliminate them. It is a matter of regret that the CTBT, as it has emerged, does not do justice to the mandate. Without being anchored in nuclear disarmament framework, it will not contribute to the process of nuclear disarmament.

I had also said earlier while talking here that our nuclear policy is also very clear. Some of my friends have asked me : "What is our nuclear policy?" Our nuclear policy for all those years has been expressed in the CTBT negotiations. It is intimately linked with the national security concerns. We have never accepted the notion that it can be considered legitimate for some

countries to rely on nuclear weapons for the security while denying that right to others. This has been a consistent policy also reflected in our rejection of the NPT that was done some years ago.

It has also been discussed. I think, I will come to those points later. We have also been asked and the attention of the House has been drawn that knowledge of technology is also being tried to be contained. After all, in today's world whether we talk of space, whether we talk of nuclear sciences, one likes to have more knowledge. India is one of those countries whose scientific manpower has proved that they can really do wonders if they have access to knowledge and technology. But they used to make it a monopoly to some which, I have said, is not acceptable to us.

The difficulty, at the moment, I must say, and I must draw your attention to is about the option. A question has been asked about our option. I must repeat, as I said, that we are keen that we preserve our option.

We continue to maintain our options. Why? It is because we are able to take all necessary measures to cope with any threat - I repeat, to cope with any threat - that may be posed to the security of the nation. We cannot allow this option to be restricted in any manner. If other countries remain unwilling to accept the obligation of eliminating their nuclear arsenals, we are deeply conscious of the fact that other countries continue their weapons programme, whether openly or in a clandestine manner. This is a situation that we are faced with and that is why, the option is being preserved.

I will come slightly later to the reply to the question which was asked as to when and how will the option be used. At the moment, I want only to say that some questions have been asked but before I come to that, I want to address myself to one major point and that is about Mr. Christopher's statement to which many of my friends have drawn my attention. May I, with your permission, submit that we have seen the reports regarding the observations made by US Secretary of State, Mr. Warren Christopher during Congressional hearings, on the CTBT negotiations, including on India's position.

As hon. Members are aware, India has followed a reasonable and positive approach in the CTBT negotiations. The CTBT was an Indian initiative and we are still supporter of a CTBT that is truly comprehensive and firmly placed within the framework of a nuclear disarmament process. It is incorrect to say, as some have tried to imply, that we have been holding back progress in the negotiations. On the contrary, we have flagged our concerns but to our disappointment, these have not been adequately addressed to in the CD. The reports from Geneva indicate that some compromises are being considered to accommodate concerns of other delegations, particularly China. This shows that the Ramaker Text is open to modifications. We continue to persist that our concerns, as also those of other

countries, are addressed in order to arrive at a genuine consensus. For this, we remain engaged in the consultation processes underway in Geneva.

In my statement on 31st July, I informed the hon. Members that India cannot sign this Treaty in its present form. Further, we cannot permit any formulation in the draft Treaty text that will impose an obligation on India. If there are attempts to push forward such a text, we will have to oppose such efforts. This remains our firm position.

We have seen press reports that some delegations are exploring ways of bypassing the CD and bring the Treaty text to the UN General Assembly in New York. These are procedural devices. While we will make our position to the Treaty known in all fora, I hope that hon. Members will agree that it may not be desirable nor may be helpful for me to state in detail the line that we will follow as the situation develops. It is understood by many countries that the approach being adopted in the draft Treaty text is unprecedented in treaty negotiating practice. Yet, they are reluctant to bring in changes because of the rigid positions adopted by a small number of countries.

I had, in my statement, referred to my useful meetings with a number of Foreign Ministers in Jakarta. As the House knows, I had also met the Secretary of State, Mr. Christopher. I must say that it was a very pleasant and friendly meeting. While discussing a broad range of issues, we also discussed the CTBT, on which we agreed to disagree. The Secretary of State and myself took a broader view of the Indo-US relations which are positive and serve the interests of both our countries. In this positive spirit, both of us agreed that differences on a single issue should not have an impact on what is otherwise a fruitful and a mutually advantageous bilateral relationship. This was also discussed in my talks with the various Foreign Ministers with whom we had differences on issues of CTBT but all of them emphasised that the broad framework of bilateral relationship must be continued and be sustained.

Though some friends have asked this question, yet now, I would be referring to the two to three questions that my friend Lieutenant General Tripathy had asked. Shri Tripathy had asked about our nuclear option and what would be the right time to exercise it. I have indicated that we are fully conscious of the evolving security situation. Hon. Members are aware that after demonstrating our capabilities we have followed a policy of restraint. The 'right time' is a complex issue. It would require a detailed discussion of our national security environment and the national security doctrine and policy. All I would like to say at this stage is that the Government is fully committed to sustain the nuclear option.

We had also asked me a question about whether we are shuffling our stand on CTBT or not. If I have to repeat, I would also like to again state my position as

I did on the 15th of July when I had stated that India cannot accept the draft Treaty text in its present form. What I had stated two days back is with the relevance to the language relating to the entry-into-force, is a matter of immediate concern for us and I had informed the House that we would not allow such a language to go through in the Conference of Disarmament. It is because it attempts to impose an obligation on India despite our clearly stated position.

In my bilateral discussion in Jakarta, I have clearly conveyed that we would be obliged to block the consensus in the CD. This has also been conveyed in Geneva by our Ambassador on 29th of July, 1996.

Another question which again Lt. General Tripathy asked was, what would happen to our blocking efforts in the UN General Assembly? As I have stated already that at present negotiations are going on and we are hoping of making efforts to make others feel the sense of what we are saying. This would be unprecedented if our efforts are made to bypass the CD. It is permissible under the rules. Maybe, it is. But I would not like to spell out further, as I have said just now, as to how we would respond if a situation like that arises.

My attention was drawn to the statement made by my very revered friend, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee in Calcutta. I do not have to say about the amount of respect I hold for him in my mind in all these years. I have seen the statement about nuclear apartheid and I share his views. Therefore, the Government's policy on CTBT reflects what Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has said.

Dr. Mallikarjun may not be here, he had also raised some points. He is a very experienced person. He has been in charge of Defence affairs in this country for a long time. I would not go into all the questions raised but one of the points he made was that whether we should have a joint Resolution of the Parliament or not. This question also hold expression in the other House as well. I would not say the last word on this. I would like to watch the situation as it develops. Maybe, a stage might come when we would have to express our feelings unitedly and in unity when we want to pass a Resolution. But I would, for the time being, like to watch.

Hon. Member, Shri Rupchand Pal had also asked me whether we were taking any diplomatic offensive in this situation or not. I have said that I have written to all the Foreign Ministers of the world about our stand and we are in touch with most of them even now. I have said in the last statement that I met a large number of Foreign Ministers during my stay in Jakarta.

I do not know if Shri Swell is present in the House or not, he had asked me about our International Monitoring System. I would like to inform the Members that on June 26, we had conveyed to the Conference on Disarmament that India would not be in a position to be associated with the International Monitoring System. We gave notice of withdrawing our stations

that were supposed to be the part of IMS. This was noted. There was no Indian station now listed in the IMS list. I must clarify that IMS would only come into being after the CTBT was signed. Earlier experimental networks were explored in which India had also participated.

We have our own seismic stations, under the Departments of Atomic Energy and Science and Technology. These stations enable us to monitor developments such as the recently conducted Chinese nuclear test.

I would also like to add that observations were made regarding continuous vertical proliferation of the nuclear weapon states. I think, I have already expressed my opinion on this.

Some of the Members have asked as to whether there is any new text of CTBT. I would say, it is the same old text, therefore the question of revising our opinion about it does not arise.

My friend, Shri Jaswant Singh, for whom I have great regard for his knowledge, eloquence and his in-depth understanding of the situation, has raised a number of points relating to the procedure on the Conference on Disarmament and the UN General Assembly. As I have mentioned, the manner in which this Treaty is being negotiated, is unprecedented. While we can block consensus in the CD, the UN General Assembly may like to take up the issue *denovo*. I would not like to go into more detail. As I said, it is better that I do not go into more detail at this stage till we are confronted with this situation.

Mr. Prithviraj Chavan has asked about the peaceful nuclear explosion in the CTBT. He has asked about the Chinese position. China raised a point that peaceful test may be permitted and that I think has created some misunderstanding. China had sought this option only for five major powers and, not for others. That is why we could not support China. If peaceful nuclear test is to be allowed, it should be for all. China wanted it only for five major powers, and that is why we could not go with that.

With this, I think I have covered almost all the points. Before I sit down, may I say that the strength of India is basically in its unity. Unitedly we have said something, which is having its effect. This united voice is not only strong, it is firm and decisive. On your behalf, and that is my strength if any, I have said that we shall not dilute our strength. Kindly do not get taken in if one day you find in the newspapers that we are diluting or weakening our strength. We have clearly defined our parameters. We know for what we have stood for. We have completely understood as to what are our national interest and what are our Security concerns. On behalf of myself and on behalf of the Government, I promise you - I have the courage to say on behalf of all of you - that we shall stand together and shall safeguard our interests.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Madam, Chairman, I would like to raise a very important issue. Fifteen MLAs have been arrested when they were sitting on a 'dharna' for a very good cause. As we know, in Delhi ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN (PROF. RITA VERMA) : It has nothing to do with the CTBT. Please raise it later on.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : A woman has been molested...*(Interruptions)* This case has been going on for a long time. A Minister of the Government of Delhi is implicated in this case. The MLAs were sitting on a 'dharna'...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to behave. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : It is against the honour of a woman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record. Nothing, that she says, will go on record. This is not the way to behave.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : I am on a point of order. Under which Rule, she is raising this issue?

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Nothing is going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to behave in the House.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way to behave. Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down Such behaviour will not be tolerated.

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Private Member's Legislative Business has started.

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dau Dayalji, please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

\* Not recorded.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we will take up Private Members Business Chitta Basuji, please move your Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

16.38 hrs.

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL@

**(Amendment of article 269, etc.)**

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is really reprehensible. Please take your seats. I cannot allow this sort of a thing.

*(Interruptions)\**

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : What kind of institution you want this House to be converted into? Nobody will be presented to speak.

16.39 hrs.

*At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee came and stood on the floor near the Table.*

*(Interruptions)\**

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mamataji, please take you seat. This is not the way to behave in the House.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Please take your seat. This is not the way to behave...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Chairman, this issue relates to woman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No permission at present.

*(Interruptions)*

\* Not recorded.

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[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

[English]

This cannot be tolerated.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : This cannot be allowed in the House.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can shout anything. Nothing is going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is your hour, don't you want to speak?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the proper time to raise the issue. You did not raise it at the appropriate time. You are wasting time. Last time also P.M.B. could not be taken up and don't you want it to be taken up to-day also? Are you not interested?

16.43 hrs.

At this stage, Kumari Mamata Banerjee went back to her seat.

(Interruptions)

16.44 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : How many Zero Hours the House can afford everybody?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing else will be raised now. Only the Private Members' Business will be raised now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : You permitted this lady Member after this business.

MR. SPEAKER : I did not permit.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : After that business, you will permit her to... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Enough is enough. This is Private Member's time. We have already wasted so many hours.

(Interruptions)

16.45 hrs.

### COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL @

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

16.45½ hrs.

### LOKPAL BILL @

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of misconduct against public men and public servants and for matters connected therewith.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the appointment of a Lokpal to inquire into allegations of misconduct against public men and public servants and for matters connected therewith."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

\* Not recorded.

16.46 hrs.

## CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL @

## (Amendment of Preamble, etc.)

SHRI CHITTA BASU : 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 CHITTA BASU : I introduce the Bill.

16.47 hrs.

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call upon Dr. Subbarami Reddy to move the Motion for consideration of his Bill, we have to fix the time for this Bill. Shall we fix the time as two hours? I think two hours would be good enough for this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Visakhapatnam) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Education lits the light of knowlege in a human being and removes the ignorance. That is why providing education to the citizens is that first priority of every country in the world. Article 41 of our Constitution contains a directive to the Government as to the provision of education and Article 45 stipulates free and compulsory education for children upto the age of fourteen years. But both articles which form part of the Directive Principles of State Policy have remained a dead letter so far although Article 45 of the Constitution had envisaged a period of ten years for introducing universal education system upto the age of fourteen years throughout the country. Similarly a number of State Legislatures have also enacted laws on the subject but these laws too have not been implemented despite their importance.

16.48 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed *in the Chair*)

The present scenario in the country in this regard is that, largely children from economically weaker sections of the society and rural areas remain deprived of the education because either their parents are not in a position to provide the necessary educational materials such as books, note books, uniforms, shoes, writing material, etc. to their children because the prices of these materials are out of their reach or many of the parents are to some extent dependent upon the physical labour of their children or on the income arising therefrom, even though it may be very meagre. Unless the Union and State Governments come forward to help the economically weak parents in providing educational materials free of cost to their children, the goal of universal education will remain a distant dream for the country.

At the same time, if universal education is to be made a reality the number of senior secondary and other schools in the country have to be multiplied manifold. This can be done with the active cooperation between the Central Government, the State Governments and Private bodies.

Hence, it has been proposed that appropriate Government should establish sufficient number of higher secondary level schools and provide necessary educational materials free of cost to children of poor parents to make universal education a reality in the country.

Sir, I would like to emphasise the importance of introducing this Bill.

I would like to emphasise the importance of introducing these two Bills. Firstly, we must remember our country's great ancient cultural heritage. Perhaps we all know that, and even if you see the history thousands of years back, we had the civilisation first and other countries have learnt from us. Not only that, we even keep listening that the great Vedas have given us science and technology. These countries, all over the world, have now built up science and technology by borrowing and learning from our country. But today, unfortunately, in our country, in our country there are hardly a few people who are educated and majority are not educated. I feel very sad about this.

If we really want to enjoy the democratic fruits in this country, if we want to attain the democratic values in this country, if we want to see the democratic rights in this country then education is very important.

[Translation]

When knowledge springs from science and education, the man is blessed with the good things of life.

[English]

That is the philosophy of our Bhagwat Gita. But today, unfortunately, everybody, perhaps after independence of so many years, gives least importance to education.

A stage has come now when unitedly the entire nation must realise that we must implement the provision as per Article 45 and 45(i) of the Constitution, which stipulates free and compulsory education upto 14 years.

One more thing we must remember. There is a saying in Telugu and Sanskrit :

"Bindro amarjeevulu vaari amulya jeevitalanu tyagmuchesi, vaari vechchani raktanni leharatmata poad pudmaaluku parani Kaavindhi airrkota leurujupai triverua patakanni aigarvesi, arvaikotla bharaiyulukn swatautsam prasadvchina mahviya deshah"

[English]

What I mean to say is that so many great patriots have sacrificed their lives and performed *abhisheka* to the lotus feet of *Bharat Mata* with their hot blood and got independence by hoisting the flag at Red Fort. This is such a great nation and today, we find that poverty, illiteracy and desperation and also *nirasha* and *nispruha* all over the country. What we have to see is, what are the reasons for this?

16.53 hrs.

(Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair)

On the one side we expect the Government to give free and compulsory education but on the other side we must see inspiration and stimulation in the minds and hearts of the people spontaneously. But we do not find that because of poverty and ignorance.

[Translation]

They are not getting education because of ignorance and poverty.

[Translation]

Therefore, for the removal of *agyan* and poverty, Government should play an active role.

Not only that there are people who can afford to educate people in the villages but they also do not bother. It is negligence and ignorance on their part. Therefore, what we are finding now on the one side is that there is no education and on the other side, most unfortunately, the child is made as a labour.

[Translation]

The right of Child labour makes me sad and his mental development is blocked.

[English]

A stage has come when we feel shy to see the plight of the child who is working as a labour in this modern society. I really feel sad for them.

Therefore, to eradicate poverty, to eradicate child labour system in our country, education is very important in this country. We have to bear this in mind.

[Translation]

It is easy to sermonise but difficult to implement.

[English]

For everything we need funds and money, we know that. So I will read this para as to how we can make it successful:

"During our Indian freedom struggle, education was the main concern for our great leaders. They insisted that ten per cent of the total outlay be provided for education."

Actually education was the major concern, as I told you. The Congress national Planning Committee suggested way back in 1938 that education be given minimum ten per cent of the total outlay.

In 1944, the Gandhi Plan outlay be reserved exclusively for education. What actually happened? With almost each successive five Year Plan, the budgetary allocation for education is kept sinking. The total outlay for education in the First Five Year Plan was 7.22 percent.

[Translation]

In the second Five Year Plan, the percentage was 6.2 and it dwindled to 5.2 and 3.3 in the Fourth and the Fifth Five Year Plan respectively. In the Seventh Plan it was 3.9 percent.

[English]

In the Seventh Five Year Plan, it was 3.9 percent and remember that these are in the sense of theoretical figures and the amounts allotted are not the amounts actually spent. In the Seventh Five Year Plan for instance, education has got 3.9 per cent of total outlay but the amount actually spent was 3.6 per cent. So, that means, the Government is not taking it seriously to provide sufficient funds which were envisaged by the great leaders through whom we got independence for the nation.

Then, where do we stand today? What is the position with regard to the educational system in our country? You see, 60 per cent of the illiterates of the world lived in nine countries. If you take the entire world, 60 per cent of the illiterate people are only living in nine countries like, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Egypt, Mexico, etc. By 2000 AD, India will have the largest number of illiterates. Of every 10 million illiterates in the world, five millions are Indians. That means, for the 50 per cent of illiterates in the entire world population, we have the credit of getting 50 per cent of our own population.



[Translation]

There is a sense of shame and sadness when we wonder when will that day dawn?

[English]

Will you dream of it? As many as 91 out of 100 women among India's 60 to 70 million tribals cannot read and write. In Medak District of Andhra Pradesh, from where the country's Prime Minister was elected in those days, there not even two out of every hundred tribal women are literates.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota) : Congress is to blame for this decline, as it has been in power for 45 years.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him speak, please.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : My dear friend, here let us talk with human touch. Let us talk with human inspirational spirit. Let us for a minute forget we come from different Parties and from different parts of the country. We are united for a common cause. Let it be the determination, dedication and concentration of these great Members. Please take my point.

[Translation]

A good samaritan should not discriminate on the basis of language or personal to whims but should treat all as equals.

[English]

Therefore, I am not saying that the Congress is great, or the Communist is great or the BJP is great. Let us talk today of the *Sampradaya* of this great nation, the biggest democratic country in the world. Today our people do not know the value of the votes. The people are unfortunately innocent people. They do not know whom to vote.

[Translation]

Please have patience.

[English]

Once a man is educated, he will know the value of the vote in this democratic country which is the most important thing. Therefore, let us forget for a minute all politics. So the census of 1991 reveals that after 47 years of Independence, only 52 percent of Indians are literate and so far as things are concerned, 39 percent only enjoy the benefit of literacy. There are nine States whose literacy rates are below the national level. For example, the four States such as Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh are not only going to the country's account but also share 39 or 40 per cent of the entire population. Let us add to this, Orissa

and Andhra Pradesh, whose literacy rate is 48 and 45 respectively. We are now talking about 51 per cent of the population living in six of the largest States in India in the state of ignorance, illiteracy and, therefore, there is poverty. In six States of the country which are the largest States, there is absolutely no literacy. We all must fight to see that States like Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh etc. must get necessary attention. The very fact is that in all these States, the female literacy rate is less than 35 per cent. In Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Rajasthan, the literacy rate is 28,39,26,23 and 20 per cent respectively.

17.00 hrs.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : How much is Rajasthan?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Rajasthan is only 26 per cent.

Now, Sir, I will tell you what the reason for this unfortunate situation in our country in the field of education is. The total Plan outlay of the Seventh Plan was of the order of Rs. 1,80,000 crores, out of which, the outlay on education was only Rs. 6,000 crore, of which Rs. 3,994 crore was to be met from the State sector. What is the education base that we have now developed? The vast majority of students study in primary schools, a large number of which are without building, without minimum teaching aids and without furniture. Even today, the country is dotted with single-teacher schools. There are schools where only one single teacher is there.

Superimposed on this is the system of middle schools, into which not more than half the students who pass out class V, again seek entry. In 1991, the drop-out rate of boys in middle schools was 42 per cent. Drop-out means, children join the school but again discontinue and go away. They will not study up to VIII standard. So, day by day, the students' drop-out rate is increasing in our country. However, we act up to literate anyone who has actually entered the primary schools system but the fact is that such a child, especially if he is a drop-out, is both illiterate and ignorant. The middle schools themselves are only a little better equipped than the primary schools which feed them. A child who emerges from class VIII, especially in rural areas, may have gained some literacy but not shed his ignorance.

We must also remember that vocational education system is totally a failure. So many crores of rupees are being spent but we are really not in a position to get the real results of this. Whatever the achievements of this vocational education system, the CAG's findings tell a very sorry tale. The initial target was to divert ten per cent of the 10+2 students to vocational stream by 1992. The attainment was just 2.21 per cent. So, the time frame for such students was revised to 1995. It was met but the utilisation of capacity was poor in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi. Of the 5,80,000 students enrolled in twelve States in 1994, only 1,19,000 were successful.

On the utilisation of available resources, out of Rs. 487 crore released by the HRD Ministry, only Rs. 289 crore, or 59 per cent, were utilised by the States and the Union Territories. As much as Rs. 190 crore remained unused with the Ministry at the end of 1995.

If universal education is to be made a reality, the number of Senior Secondary and other schools in the country has to be multiplied manifold. This can be done with the active cooperation between the Central Government, the State Governments and the private bodies. Unless the Union Government and the State Governments come forward to help the economically weak parents in providing educational material free of cost to their children, the goal of universal education will remain a distant dream for the country. I shall suggest that in order to check the drop-outs, the following measures may be taken:

- (i) To provide incentives, such as, free text books, free uniforms, scholarships, mid-day meals - of course, it is already there.
- (ii) Community mobilisation to acquire literacy, appointment of female teachers, provision of day-care centres to take care of young siblings, hostel facilities - which are very important - expansion of facilities in schools covered under 'Operation Blackboard'.
- (iii) To cover new work centres for incentives and to continue with education of school teachers by establishing district institutes of education and training.

Hence, it is proper that the Government should establish sufficient number of Higher Secondary level schools and provide necessary educational material free of cost to the children of poor parents to enable them to provide education to their children.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Reddy, how much more time would you require?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, I will take another nine-and-a-half minutes.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will be replying to the debate. You should be prepared for that.

[English]

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : If you want to make people's memory full of achievements to be spectacular, magnificent and unparallel in the world map, you must give topmost priority for education in this country. I definitely believe that every Party will stand to it and agree to it.

[Translation]

"Lokotrana Sanghatana Nirupamana Na Sannivasa Nadwitiya".

[English]

Our hon. Prime Minister is here. I know that he is a very firm leader and he will do it and I will definitely have the full confidence that our nation will become a glorious nation and therefore, I introduce this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I thought by these words you are concluding.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Sir, another five minutes only.

I am very happy to say that our Government has emphasised in their Common Minimum Programme that six per cent of the nation's G.D.P. will be earmarked for education and this will be achieved by 2000 AD and fifty per cent of the funds will be for primary education and specific funds will be earmarked for imparting technical and vocational training in order to turn out more employment and self-employment and the goal of National Literacy Mission to cover 10 crore adults will be achieved by 1998-99.

There is a very good and extraordinary objective here. Therefore, this objective should be implemented and their achievements will be memorable in this democratic country and in the future for centuries together.

In conclusion, I may say that blaming the State Governments will not do. Let us have a philosophy. Let us have the constructive criticism. Let us always love, live and make our achievements memorable. Let us not politicise everything. Let us not think that: 'I am great and that man is not great'. Let us not believe in: 'My Party is great and other Party is less great.' For a common cause, for a noble cause, for a glorious cause and for a human cause all must be united and must stand unitedly like a rock and see that glorious heritage is built up in the future world map.

Therefore, I say that compulsory education is very important. In education, of course, we have moved forward. We said that there should be a threat for parents that they would be punished if they prevent their children from going to school. Of course, this is a democratic country. Nobody will agree to prevention by force. It will revolt.

[Translation]

Sir, this is a democratic country. We have to accomplish it with tact and persuasion.

We must create a new sense of thought that : 'You will have a great future; do not think of only small amounts like five rupees or ten rupees which you get as wages by sending your child to do labour work; you must send them to school'. So, the Government must take action. The voluntary organisations must come forward and people who are having a good mind in society must come forward to help these innocent parents to train them mentally and tell them not to do the mistake of preventing the child from going to school.

Therefore, while concluding I say that you have given permission to introduce this Bill in the Lok Sabha and that shows that we are happy that it is a good cause. The hon. Members and colleagues who are going to speak will definitely support and help in this good cause. That is my hope.

Hon' Prime Minister is a kind hearted man and he believes in helping others.

It is a coincidence that he happened to be here during discussion on such an important Bill. Therefore, it is fortunate that the Prime Minister of the country is here. I hope that he will definitely tell that it is a good idea and their objective in the Common Minimum Programme. If he announces from his golden voice it will be a great pleasure and we all will be very happy.

Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I hope that all will support this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That the Bill to provide for free and compulsory education upto higher secondary level to all children throughout the country and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

After your compliment to the hon. Prime Minister, I would request the hon. Prime Minister to make his statement.

17.10 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

### **Debt Relief, Central Plan Assistance, Facilities at Migrant Camps, Infrastructure Development in Relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir**

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to make the following statement in connection with some of the relief measures that we have taken about Jammu and Kashmir.

*Debt relief to small businesses affected by militancy:*  
Hon. Members would kindly recall that on 23rd of July, 1996 I made a Statement in the House relating to certain long term infrastructural projects in the sectors of communication and power in the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Hon. Members would agree with me that tourism, horticulture and handicrafts form the backbone of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir State. Other activities like small scale trade and industry, transport and hotels subserve the tourism sector. This sector was the worst affected because of militancy during the last 6-7 years. Tourist arrivals in the Valley declined from a peak figure of seven lakhs in 1986-87 to almost a trickle

during the last few years. This has affected the livelihood of thousands of families deriving sustenance from tourism and related activities. The affected units and individuals who had taken commercial loans from banks have not been able to repay the loans since there was no cash flow and have fallen into debt trap. The State Government have identified that about 31,000 borrowers from the sectors of small scale trade and industry, transport, hotel and houseboat businesses took loans to the extent of Rs. 181.87 crore. During the last six years, there has been hardly any repayment and the interest on these loans itself amounts for another Rs. 212.79 crore. Hon. Members would agree with me that while militancy hindered tourism, loss of tourism led to a great degree of unemployment, and growing of militancy, setting up a vicious circle. Now that the democratic process is being re-established and all efforts being made to restore normalcy, it is necessary to provide some relief to those hapless victims, especially the smaller borrowers. The Government, therefore, proposes to write-off the outstanding loan and interest of all borrowers whose original borrowing is less than or up to Rs. 50,000/-. This would enable these small borrowers to get fresh loans from the banking sector to restart their businesses. As regards the borrowers above Rs. 50,000/-, an Inter-Ministerial Committee is being constituted to look into the questions of a moratorium and rescheduling of their loans, reduction in interest rates, and any other reliefs that could be given.

*Special Central Plan Assistance to J and K State for 1996-97 :* In view of the precarious resource position of the Jammu and Kashmir State, resulting from militancy, the Central Government has been helping the Jammu and Kashmir State by providing special Central assistance not only to meet a reasonable Annual Plan set up but also to bridge gaps on the non-plan side. As a result of this effort, the State Government's tottering budget has been stabilised during the last three years. Last year, namely, 1995-96, the Parliament passed a balanced budget for the State with built-in Central assistance to meet the non-Plan gap so that the Approved plan outlay of Rs. 1050 crore could be preserved. In view of the fact that the State for the first utilised almost entire plan outlay last year, the outlay for the current year has been fixed again at Rs. 1050 crore. However, even with Central assistance at the level of last year, the State budget during the current year has a deficit of Rs. 352 crore on current account, resulting from additional commitments of the State Government on different accounts.

Unless this resource gap is bridged by a special Central assistance of an equal amount, the State will have no option but to reduce its plan size to Rs. 698.00 crore. Any reduction in Plan outlay at this crucial juncture when the State is on the path to total normalcy, needs to be avoided. Therefore, the Centre has decided to provide a special Central plan assistance of Rs. 352

crore to balance the State budget during the current year so that the entire plan outlay of Rs. 1050 crore can be utilised for development schemes without having to divert any part of it to meet the non-Plan gap.

3. *Improvement of facilities at migrant camps in Jammu* : Hon. Members are aware that 27,000 families of migrants from the Valley are living in Jammu either on their own arrangements or in camps. The facilities provided at 13 camps in Jammu need to be improved. These relate to provision of sanitation facilities like latrines and bathrooms, construction of more one-room tenements, buildings for schools being run in the camps, improvement of drainage facilities in the camps, etc.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Why was a copy of the Statement not made available to us? This is not the system which was being followed earlier. Is it a new system which they are following?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Government would be providing an additional sum of Rs. 6.6 crore to provide the aforementioned additional facilities in the camps to be completed during the current year.

4. *Infrastructure development for tourism in Leh District* : While Kashmir Valley is a traditional tourist destination, new tourist areas have come up in the Districts of Jammu, Udhampur, Leh and Kargil. Leh, in particular, has become an important tourist centre and the State Government already has a plan for refurbishment of the monuments in the District. To give a further fillip to tourism in the area, I propose to allocate an amount of Rs. 2.40 crore for setting up of a Convention/Conference Centre at Leh.

5. *Development of Airport at Kargil* : Hon. Members are aware that Kargil remains cut off from the rest of the State for seven months in a year as a result of the closure of the Srinagar-Kargil Highway in Winter due to heavy snow at Zojila. Government have, therefore, given high priority to the development of an Airport at Kargil at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 crore. The work has already been assigned to the Border Roads Organisation, which would be completing the work of development of the airstrip in two year's time so that Kargil is ready to take regular commercial services. In the meanwhile, Government proposes to have a weekly helicopter service to Kargil in the Winter months instead of the present arrangement of a fortnightly service. Necessary subsidy would be borne by the Government.

6. *Upgradation of Status for Jammu City* : There has been a long-standing demand that Jammu City should be given B-2 status. The threshold population for grant of B-2 status is four lakhs. However, hon. Members are aware that population census could not be held in the State in 1991. The Registrar General of India, however, has estimated the population of Jammu City to be 4.30 lakhs. Therefore, we have decided to upgrade the status of Jammu City to a B-2 City.

7. I hope these measures would go a long way in reviving economic activity in the State. As mentioned by me earlier, travel and tourism trade is of vital importance to the State. Government of India would, in consultation with the State Government, take all necessary measures to provide the requisite infrastructural facilities as well as assistance to individuals and units involved in this trade to ensure that Kashmir gets back its status as a tourists' paradise at the earliest.

8. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the Government's commitment to give maximum autonomy to the State. Once an elected Government is in place, we would hold consultations with them to arrive at a consensus. While doing this, we would also ensure that the aspirations of all regions in the State, namely, Ladakh, Kashmir Valley and Jammu are taken into account.

9. I appeal to all the political parties to help in the restoration of democracy in the State, in the restoration of normalcy and in the economic rejuvenation of the State.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN (Chandigarh) : Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has announced certain concessions for the Kashmiri migrants now...*(Interruptions)* There are some migrants who are also in Delhi and other parts of the country. Will they also be getting the benefit of the concessions that he has announced just now? That is the first point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We have to congratulate the Prime Minister for this...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : I have got your permission first. In the morning, an issue was raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : If you allow him, we should also be allowed to speak. You should allow one from this side and one from that side...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please speak one by one.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Normally no question or supplementaries are allowed on the Statement but you may ask a question each.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : In this manner, no one will be able to put the question.

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I am not putting any questions as such...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SATYA PAL JAIN : Mr. Prime Minister, I am seeking two clarifications...*(Interruptions)* The first clarification is whether the concessions that you have announced to the migrants who are in Jammu will be applicable to others in the other parts of the country. There are certain migrants. Most of the migrants are either in Delhi or in other parts of the country. This is the first thing. The other thing that I want to know is whether all these concessions which you have announced to the migrants in Jammu, will the others be getting the benefit or not?

In the morning also an issue was raised. In the whole statement, there is no mention about it. You have not told us any steps that you are going to take to check militancy. In the morning an issue was raised that the American Ambassador has gone there and he is holding meetings with the Kashmiri militants. He is holding meetings with the people in other parts also. People are being murdered. They are being kidnapped. Kindly clarify what steps you are going to take to check the militancy. Otherwise, you will not be able to hold the elections there.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, let me congratulate the hon. Prime Minister first. There was something that was missing in his last statement which he made on 23rd July. All the political parties were very much simmering with doubts and they were not very confident. Mr. Prime Minister, I must congratulate you when you have said in your last portion of the statement that you will consult all the political parties, discuss with them and you have also reiterated the Government's commitment about whatever autonomy is required and further said that you would hold consultations with them once an elected Government is in place. It is a very good announcement. That is what our Government was pursuing in the last two to three years.

I have only one suggestion to make. It is not a question that I am asking. In Jammu and Kashmir, there is a feeling that those young people in Jammu and Kashmir are not given opportunities to work outside the State in higher posts like in the educational field. This is the feeling they have. So, if the hon. Prime Minister can consider this, it would help them. The educational institutions are not functioning in Jammu and Kashmir. During the time when our Government was there, we had sent them all over the country like Karnataka. Ten to 20 boys were sent. I am thankful to the hon. Prime Minister that when he was the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka, he helped 15 to 20 boys in getting admission to an Engineering College and Dental College. So, these feelings can be conveyed to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. May I request the hon. Prime Minister to consider sending some people, some special team for higher post and employment in Jammu and Kashmir?

The second point is that conditions in Jammu and Kashmir are not very normal. When we go in for recruitment, we face some difficulties. I must accept the differences between me and my senior colleague and because of that we could not pursue it. I had suggested that two centimetre relaxation in the height of the candidates for recruitment to the paramilitary forces could be considered. Of course, it will not help much because the situation is not good. If the hon. Prime Minister could be kind enough, it would be helpful. The Director-General can give the relaxation. But unfortunately he put it to the Minister and we carried on the struggle between both of us. Ultimately, I could not get through. If the hon. Prime Minister could agree to the suggestion to give concession to the candidates in respect of height of two centimetres, at least many boys can get into the paramilitary forces.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Please expunge it from the record.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Let it go on record. I am only seeking clarifications. The last point is about the detainees. The detainees are there. There are people who are detainees for the last five to ten years. May I request the hon. Prime Minister to constitute a small Committee in the Home Ministry and review all the cases before the election process starts? Sometimes people do get entangled with the law in the process and they are suffering because of this. If the Government can decide it, it will be helpful. Out of the 2500 cases, there are 700 which cannot really escape the angle of law. The others could be considered for a review. I think that will send a very good message to Jammu and Kashmir brethren. I think he will reply to all the points.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He will reply to all of your questions.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I wish to congratulate the Prime Minister for his statement. This shows a very positive step taken by this Government to bring Kashmir into the national mainstream and some of their long-standing demands have been met. I accept the sincerity with which the Prime Minister has assured that there will be full discussion with the newly elected Government there for grant of necessary autonomy. I am sure, that this Government will continue to try to rectify the mistakes committed by Shri Rajesh Pilot and his seniors. Shri Rajesh Pilot is learning in the hindsight now, from his mistakes.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : I am playing the role of an opposition.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I am sure that there will be cooperation now from Shri Rajesh Pilot and his friends.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Always.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How many will be there with him, I do not know. But this is an occasion

for me to wish him best of everything. But we shall have to put it on record our deep appreciation for the steps that have been taken by the Government. And I am sure, we shall have a new Jammu and Kashmir Government.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, It is a good development that the hon. Prime Minister of India has announced some schemes for Jammu and Kashmir. I welcome the proposal. But I would like to seek some clarifications from the statement that he made. What will happen to those who are outside Jammu and taking shelter elsewhere all over the country?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It has already been asked.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : What is their fate? The facilities have been provided to the people shifted from Kashmir to Jammu. They are providing them houses with bath room, lavatory and other facilities. Does it mean that they will be asked to remain there permanently? Is there any scheme to shift them back to their original places? This is also a very important issue.

Thirdly, this morning in this house, there was a query about the US people in these places. They are intervening in the affairs of the Jammu and Kashmir, having dialogues with the military personnel etc. Is it fair on the part of a foreign country to have direct contact with them? I would like to know whether the Prime Minister or the External Affairs Minister have given permission to these US officials to have direct contact with these people. In view of this, what is the state of condition prevailing in Jammu and Kashmir?

Lastly, what is the action we are going to take against these extremists? Everyday they are killing persons. The lives of the people staying there have become very miserable. All of us who are staying in this country are worried about the death toll which is taking place there. In view of this, what is the remedy this Government of India is going to take to curb these terrorist activities?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : One thing is clear that this cannot be turned into a debate.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the announcement made by the Prime Minister about Jammu and Kashmir should be welcomed by all. The concern expressed by the Prime Minister is natural. I request the hon. Prime Minister to pay his attention for a few minutes. You have made an important announcement here about J and K. Earlier also, you had announced an economic package in the Rajya Sabha also in which you promised an allocation of Rs. 2,500 crores for laying a new railway line in J and K.

To-day, you announced both a political as well as an economic package. I would like to elicit some information about the economic package. The economic package is intended to eliminate terrorism in the State of J and K, and we welcome it. The terrorism in the State not only destroyed the tourism industry but also uprooted and displaced lakhs of people of Kashmiri origin whose only fault was that. They were in minority.

[English]

The Hindus are in minority in the valley of Jammu and Kashmir...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let him complete.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : If I am speaking anything wrong you can stand and interrupt me...(Interruptions) But why do you interrogate?

[Translation]

You please listen. Why do you stand in between?

[English]

You are treading on a very thin ice...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

The sensitivity exhibited by them shows how serious the issue is. If these people do not belong to Kashmir, is it not the duty of the Government to resettle them there and announce some economic package for them also. The Prime Minister must pay attention to these people who have become refugees in their own country. The PM must do something concrete for them and before dwelling on tourism, I would express my agreement with Sarpotdarji. In the name of autonomy, some political package is being announced for the Kashmir Valley.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Why are you so excited...(Interruptions)

I am concluding, Sir. But this is very unfortunate on the part of a very senior Minister who does not want to listen on a very sensitive issue concerning the national integration...(Interruptions)...You are trying to integrate the Jammu and Kashmir...(Interruptions)...What is wrong in that?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): We have to go to the other House also.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : All right. So, what?

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : It has not happened this way, before.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : It has not happened but it is being allowed now.

You from these Benches were trying to ask the questions on the statements made by the Ministers  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : What are you talking?  
...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I welcome your decision to discuss the autonomy issue with the newly elected MLAs of J and K before taking the final decision thereon. But there should be an open discussion and that also with an open wind. I am not talking of propriety because this Government has given a go by to it  
....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Satya Deo Singh, please conclude.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Yes Sir.

[Translation]

Sir, my submission is that you must take note of all the points raised here and the entire state of J and K must get the benefit of your goodwill.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Prime Minister.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the suggestions of the hon. Members will be taken note of.

Shri Rajesh Pilot, who is the former Internal Security Minister and who was the incharge of Kashmir Affairs for some time, has given certain suggestions and the Government is prepared to consider all those suggestions.

One more thing about the recent killings by the militants. It is a little bit on the higher side. After the Parliamentary Elections in Jammu and Kashmir are over, again the militants have been encouraged by our neighbours, and who are those neighbours, there is no need for me to express in this august House - the whole world knows it.

Sir, I would like to assure this august House that the Government will take all necessary stern action to put down these militants and see that the Assembly Elections are going to be held with free and fairness  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. Do not interrupt.

Mr. Prime Minister, there was a reference regarding the American Ambassador.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I will just mention this because I have to go to the other House also.

This thing happened today morning when I was not here. It is not the question of a mere Statement. The previous Government had taken a decision to provide more transparency so far as the Affairs of the Kashmir is concerned. I have tried to get the information from the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir after this matter was discussed in the House and merely, 112 foreign diplomats have been allowed to go the Kashmir out of which there were 67 foreign parliamentarians, previously in their regime...(Interruptions) And, this has been permitted including the ambassadors, parliamentary delegations and Senate Members of various countries. The very object is that the Government of India does not want to keep anything secret. They want more transparency and that is why the decision was taken by the previous Government. I do not find fault with the decision of the previous Government.

One of the issues raised today in this House is that the Ambassador has gone to Srinagar and has met so many people. It was with the prior permission of the Home Minister and the External Affairs Ministry that he has gone there. It was informed to the Governor and on the basis of that he is meeting those people. Apart from that there is nothing to suppress the information in this House. He has taken the permission of the Home Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs to go there. It was informed to the Governor. He is also going to meet the Governor and the Chief Secretary tomorrow along with other officials. In the presence of the Chief Secretary he has a programme to meet even one or two Army Officers.

The other thing is, he is meeting some leaders of political parties, including Dr. Farooq Abdullah. Today he has met some of the other political party leaders and he is going to meet them tomorrow also. This was informed earlier. So, there is nothing new in this.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : I thoroughly disagree. How can the Home Minister allow the US Ambassador to meet Army Officers? How can the Home Minister decide about it?

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The Home Minister was very much present in the House this morning. But he did not disclose this fact to the House.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : I will tell you that I have to go to the other House. Otherwise I would have read out the entire statement about whom the 112 foreign dignitaries, including Ambassadors, have met in the last four years, datewise and with whose permission. All these things have been given by the Home Ministry. It is with me. All these things are with me  
...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let this not become a debate.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is not the point. We totally agree with the hon. Prime Minister.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : On this issue we have already given a notice that we would make a detailed statement. The hon. Members may appreciate that the Prime Minister has to go to the other House. The detailed statement is ready and we can read out the statement and on the basis of that you can make submissions.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : There is nothing new.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We can come back to the discussion on the Private Members' Bills. Shri Dwaraka Nath Das to speak.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : It is a very serious matter, Sir. Foreigners are coming and meeting our officials.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Government is making a statement. Afterwards if there is anything, let us see.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : We should be given a copy of the statement.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : If you permit me I can make the statement now; or else after the Private Members' Business is over.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is ready with the statement.

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA : It is a very important matter because foreigners are coming and meeting our political leaders inside our country. It is a breach of trust. If I go to America and meet one of the leaders of their political party, will they allow me to do so?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I am not able to listen to anyone. If so many people speak, I will not be able to follow anyone.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : It is the right of every Member in this august House to participate in the discussions on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions. Already a Bill has been introduced and the discussion on that is underway. That should be resumed. So, please take up the discussion on Private Member's Business.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why I have already called out the name of Shri Dwaraka Nath Das. Let him speak, please. The statement will be made after the Private Member's Business is over.

17.40 hrs.

## COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL

[English]

SHRI DWARAKA NATH DAS (Karimganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, at the very outset, I should give

credit to Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy for introducing such a good Bill.

'Compulsory education' is a term hardly relevant - or, should I say applicable? - to India. Of course, the Bill is for compulsory up to the higher secondary level. This Bill, so far as my idea goes, is at a very advanced stage. We should look back at the level of primary education in the country. At the primary level, a large number of children are being admitted in the schools and after two or three years, they leave the school for ever. That is the position. A country with a population of 94 crores should have adequate educational facilities. But the Government's efforts seem to be not much till today.

Of course, it is not relevant but still I have to say that adult education or what is called, 'total literacy programme' is simply an eye wash. It does educate none but it is simply a waste of money. I have seen in my district that this 'total literacy programme' is a failure and wastage of money on the part of the Government.

For the same course of study, there are several kinds of schools. For example, there are the Central Schools, common public schools, missionary schools, Government sponsored Navodaya Vidyalayas and so on and so forth. There is also a gradation of such schools. The upper class and the upper-middle class people are bent upon getting wards admitted in the high grade schools. I do not understand why these upper class and upper-middle class people are bent upon getting their wards admitted in these high grade schools. It seems as if the Government wants to create several classes of people - high, low and middle - through the so-called educational system amongst its citizens.

Compulsory education, particularly in this class-ridden society of India, is a fantasy. Till today, forty per cent of the people are living below the poverty line. Without enhancing or raising the standard of living of the peasantry and the unorganised labour class, how can you expect to have compulsory education in the country? It is impossible. So, first of all, we should look into and raise the standard of living of the peasantry and the labour class including unorganised labour.

Only then can we talk about compulsory education. Now, so far as the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people are concerned, I think, till today they are the oppressed people. I think the literacy rate among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe men is about fifteen per cent and as regards women are concerned, it is below ten per cent. So, how can you think of giving compulsory and free education to children? It is impossible.

So, my suggestion is that we should raise the standard of life of SC/ST people. There should be some



economic package. Unless and until it is done, it is only a fantasy to think about giving compulsory and free education to children.

My next suggestion is that the Government should try to eliminate the differences among several kinds of schools in the same course because it will create differences in the society. The Government must try to exhaust all its efforts to improve the rural schools and rural public schools. They should not encourage setting up of Navodhaya Vidhyalaya or Central Schools because it will create differences in the society. In the ensuing Ninth Five Year Plan, the Government should exhaust all its efforts to improve rural schools. I think it is being done.

The Bill envisages education as the higher level. But my suggestion is the first children should be encouraged to get proper education at the primary level and then they can think of higher studies.

With these words, I conclude my speech. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ventilate my ideas.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support this Bill which is moved by Dr. Subbarama Raddy, my learned colleague. This Bill is for providing compulsory education for all in our country.

Sir, we are on the threshold of the twenty-first century. When we are marching towards the twenty-first century, the demand for education is increasing manifold. In the past the goal of education was very limited. It was for imparting knowledge, skills and values. But at the present stage of development of mankind, education goes beyond these limited aims. It has to be geared to meet the imperatives of the growth, elimination of economic imbalance and other allied aspects, such as technological upgradation, demands for globalisation and international competitiveness.

17.50 hrs.

### STATEMENT BY MINISTER

#### Minimum support Prices for Kharif Crops and Raw Jute For 1996-97 Season-Laid

[Translation]

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I lay on the Table of the House a statement regarding minimum support price policy for kharif crops and raw Jute for 1996-97 season.

The Government has fixed the Minimum Support Price of Paddy (Common) of Fair Average Quality at Rs.380 per quintal for the 1996-97 season. This marks

an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of Rs.360 fixed for 1995-96 season. The prices for Fine and Superfine varieties of paddy have been fixed as Rs.395 and Rs.415 per quintal respectively. This also marks an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price of previous season for both the varieties.

The Minimum Support Price of Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra and Ragi) of Fair Average quality has been fixed at Rs.310 per quintal which marks an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season. For Maize also the increase is Rs.10 and the Minimum Support Price fixed is Rs.320 per quintal.

The Minimum Support Price of Kharif Pulses viz. Arhar (Tur), Moong and Urad of Fair Average Quality has been raised by Rs.40 per quintal over the previous year's price and fixed at Rs.840 per quintal for 1996-97 season.

The Minimum Support Price of Groundnut-in-shell of Fair Average Quality has been fixed at Rs.920 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for last crop.

The Minimum Support Price of Soyabean yellow has been fixed at Rs.700 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 over the price fixed for 1995-96 season. Similarly the Minimum Support Price for Soyabean Black has been fixed at Rs.620 per quintal showing an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the last season.

At Rs.960 per quintal the minimum support price of Sunflower Seed shows an increase of Rs.10 per quintal over the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of Sesamum has been fixed at Rs.870 per quintal marking an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the previous season. Similarly at Rs.720 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of Nigerseed shows an increase of Rs.20 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Minimum Support Price of F-414/H-777 Cotton has been fixed at Rs.1180 which marks an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the previous year. Similarly at Rs.1380 per quintal the Minimum Support Price of H-4 Cotton also shows an increase of Rs.30 per quintal over the price fixed for the previous season.

The Government has also decided to fix the Minimum Support Price of Raw Jute for 1996-97 season at Rs.510 per quintal for TD-5 grade of Raw Jute in Assam as against Rs.490 per quintal fixed for the 1995-96 season. The corresponding prices for other grades of raw jute will be fixed in the light of normal market price differentials.

It is expected that these Minimum Support Prices will enthruse the farmers to invest more and achieve further increases in production and productivity of these crops.

## ANNEXURE

## Minimum Support Prices of Kharif Crops

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	Variety	1995-96	1996-97		Increase in MSP in 1996-97 over 1995-96	
			Recommended by CACP	Fixed by Govt.	As per CACP recommendation	As per Govt. decision
Paddy	Common	360	370	380	10(2.8)	20(5.6)
	Fine	375	390	395	15(4.0)	20(5.3)
	Superfine	395	410	415	15(3.8)	20(5.1)
Jowar	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Bajra	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Maize	-	310	320	320	10(3.2)	10(3.2)
Ragi	-	300	310	310	10(3.3)	10(3.3)
Tur (Arhar)	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Moong	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Urad	-	800	840	840	40(5.0)	40(5.0)
Groundnut-in-shell	-	900	920	920	20(2.2)	20(2.2)
Soyabean	Yellow	680	700	700	20(2.9)	20(2.9)
Soyabean	Black	600	620	620	20(3.3)	20(3.3)
Sunflower Seed	-	950	960	960	10(1.1)	10(1.1)
Cotton	F-414/H-77	1150	1180	1180	30(2.6)	30(2.6)
	H-4	1350	1380	1380	30(2.2)	30(2.2)
Sesamum	-	850	870	870	20(2.4)	20(2.4)
Nigerseed	-	700	720	720	20(2.9)	20(2.9)
Jute	TD-5	490	510	510	20(4.1)	20(4.1)
	In Assam					

Figures in bracket indicate percentage rise.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : What the hon. Minister has offered by way of support price?...*(Interruptions)*

- MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Already, The Private Member's Bill has taken considerable time and in order to avoid further wastage of time, he has laid the copy which will be circulated to you immediately.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : We should at least know the contents.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You will know about it after reading it, otherwise you will be wasting the time.

17.53 hrs.

### COMPULSORY EDUCATION BILL-Contd.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The system prevailing in our country was adopted from the British Rule. Now, the thinking all over the world about education is in a wider perspective. Education plays an important role in building a more just, free and generous and, above all, a more peaceful and prosperous world. We have to prepare the citizens for the next century. The access to knowledge by all should not be at the mercy of others or influenced by events. We have to provide opportunities for all to get the best education. We must have a say in the future of the society. So,

education should be given to all. If opportunities are given to all, then only can we give justice to the mankind. There is definitely a gulf between the developing and the developed countries. The main problems faced by the developing countries are poverty, unemployment and illiteracy.

The developing countries are not in a position to solve these social evils. There is no infrastructure in these countries. Time has come to stop this exploitation. I would like to quote from one of the speeches of Mr. Bill Clinton. He delivered a speech on 23rd January, 1996 in which he mentioned:

"Our second challenge is to provide Americans with the educational opportunities which will all need for this new century. In our schools, every classroom in America must be connected to the national super highway, with computers and good software, and well-trained teachers. We are working with the telecommunications industry, educators and parents to connect 20 per cent of California's classrooms by this spring and every classroom and every library in the entire United States by the year 2000. I ask Congress to support this education technology initiative so that we can make sure this national partnership succeeds."

This is the way in which developing countries give emphasis to Edn. I would like to put a very important question before this august House : Are we able to give half of such support to the education system prevailing in our country? Of course, in a developing country, we have our own problems. But we should give more emphasis to human resource development. The National Policy on Education was adopted by our Government in 1986. We have raised our allocation for education to 6 per cent. It is surprising to note that 120 countries have given only 56 per cent. But these will not get 12 per cent of aid.

Sir, Jomtien Conference in 1990 was a landmark in the history of education. In this Conference, it was mentioned that 900 million people, in 116 countries, were illiterate and 100 million people were out of schools. Allocation to education is coming down drastically. This is the affair that we are seeing in 116 countries which attended the Jomtien Conference in 1990.

There must be a concerted effort to increase the allocation to human resources development. We are neglecting the field of education. Even in our country, we cannot provide basic facilities in the schools run in villages. For eradication of illiteracy, of course, the Government of India had done a lot. We have the literacy programme functioning very smoothly and efficiently. Compared to Bangladesh and Pakistan, we are able to achieve a lot in this regard but we have to give more emphasis to this. We have to involve more non-

governmental organisations for eradication of illiteracy and there should be a war against illiteracy. As my friend, Dr. Subbarami Reddy was mentioning, percentage of literacy in Rajasthan is 23 per cent and in almost all major States, it is 30 per cent. The point is there should be a sincere concerted effort, wage a war against illiteracy but more allocations should be made, from the international funding agencies, by the Central Government and State Government for eradication of illiteracy.

Hence due emphasis should be given for education of girls. Otherwise, our country cannot prosper and we cannot achieve our goals.

Regarding Elementary education also, we have undertaken a lot of programmes. I came to know that Operation Blackboard is going to be stopped because we have achieved everything. In UP, Bihar and some Southern States, we are able to see that schools are only in books; there are no schools at all in reality. Schools are run under trees and there is proper attendance. Nobody is looking after them. There are no basic and infrastructural facilities provided to the children. Now the Government is contemplating or thinking to stop the Operation Blackboard, a programme which was very helpful for our children in our country. Serious thought should be given by the parliamentarians, State Government and the Central Government. The Central Government should get more funds from international funding agencies and other agencies and it must be given to the programme for eradication of illiteracy.

In 1993, UNESCO had set up an independent International Commission on Education for 21st century chaired by Mr. Jacques Delors. The main Pillars that have been identified by that Commission of UNESCO are learning to know, learning to do, learning to be and learning to live together. Our world is progressing like anything and we are living in a different world. In order to cope up with the present world scenario, our children should be prepared for the next century but, unfortunately, being a developing country, we have placed before the next century. This is the 21st century. It was our wishful thinking; it was a noble idea but in reality, India cannot achieve that goal. That is our hard reality.

**18.00 hrs.**

The Central intervention in the national education to universalise elementary education continues to focus on blending quality with equality. Could we achieve this? What is the hard reality?

Sir, I am concluding. I would not take much time of the House. Today, we have to give a serious thought to the education system which is prevailing in our country. On the one hand the people who are living in the villages are not getting education whereas on the other there is a section in the society who have got enough

money and they send their children to English medium and other schools. So, we have to think about the poor people who are living in hazardous situations and very difficult conditions. As a very nation, as an independent country we have not been able to provide the bare necessities of life for developing the children who are living in the villages. We have to give compulsory education. The programmes and projects that we have launched in the these years are there. There is no dearth of programmes. The point is that we are not implementing these programmes properly. The money that has been earmarked for these programmes are not being properly utilised and our people is not getting proper direction and assistance for achieving the goal.

Sir, I would not like to take much time of the House. Today, the necessity is that more emphasis should be given on education and that more orientation should be there. We should think about vocational education. I would not like to go into all these details about which my hon. friends here have already mentioned. There should be a new approach. Our country is marching towards the Twenty-first century and our people should be prepared to meet the challenges of the next century. In order to do this we have to give more and more opportunities and facilities to our people especially our rural masses to cope up with the situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Ram Krishna Kusmaria

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Sir, the Pension Bill should be taken up now.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I have received a communication from the hon. Speaker that the time for the Private Members Business has been extended upto 7P.M. Perhaps he had already made an announcement to this effect.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : The announcement was to the effect that the Pension Bill will be taken up at 6 P.M...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will abide by the decision of the House.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : After discussion with the hon. Speaker it was decided in the House that the Pension Bill will be taken up at 6 P.M. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the Private Members' Business was deferred by one hour.

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Pension Bill has to be passed, then the House will have to sit late.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, why are we wasting the time. For one hour we will discuss the P.M. Business and thereafter the question of quorum will be raised.

*[English]*

Sir, unnecessarily these things are being dragged, dragged and dragged. Now, it is already six O'clock.

*[Translation]*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Let each member speak for 5 minutes and if they speak for half to one hour it is bound to take time...*(Interruptions)*

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : The time of the House is being wasted...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, has this House no obligation towards the workers?

*[English]*

Sir, it involves the interests of lakhs of workers in this country.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : The Government wants to escape whenever...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Just after he finishes his speech, we would take a decision.

*[Translation]*

Let us find a mid way. Let the first Member Speak and in the meanwhile the hon. Speaker would convey his decision.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : If a question of quorum is raised?

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Shri Kusmaria Please.

*[Translation]*

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA (Damoh) : Sir, it is a very important issue...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Both the Ministers are discussing it with him and we can await the decision.

DR. RAMKRISHAN KUSMARIA : There is a couplet in Sanskrit :

"Vidya dadati vinayam, vinayat yati patnataam,

patratam dhanemepuote, dhaneh, dharmah later sukham.

About education it is said that it is the most invaluable wealth.

The figures given here say that primary education has covered 94 per cent of the population of India but these very statistics are the cause of our backwardness. In remote rural areas and I am say about an adirasi area, Kalda in my constituency, the percentage of literacy is as low as 5 per cent. The people there do not know what electricity is. More than 50 per cent woman are illiterate.

It has also been mentioned here that educational institutions should not be beyond a radius of 2 km. so that the poor people may be able to send their children to schools. But there are areas where schools may be as far away as 10, 20 even 50 kilometres. The fact is that in spite of all the publicity for the spread of education, the efforts made in this direction are woefully short of requirement. On top of it there is deeprooted corruption in all the schemes meant for spread of education.

Crores of rupees are being spent on the Rajiv Shiksha Misson in order to spread education among the masses. But there is appalling corruption in the purchase of stationery, black-boards, chalks etc in as much as a dholak costing Rs.100 was purchased for Rs.500/- with this level of corruption how can you expect education to spread to the rural areas.

The rural areas are afflicted with object poverty which is root cause for illiteracy in the rural areas. Children of tender age have to toil to che out a living several families from the adivasi area have settled in Delhi how can you expect their Children to study. We will have to solve the problem of unemployment and work for alleviation of poverty if we seriously want the literacy rate to go up. We cannot delink the two issues. Nobody will send his child to school with an empty stomach.

A Bill was introduced sometimes back to ban child labour. But we will have to face the stark reality that these families which have left their hearth and home in search of employment have no inkling of education.

You will have to chalk out a special action plan for women education. In most of the villages, the schools are quite far away from the village and as such parents are reluctant to send their daughters in such schools. We can make some headway in this field only if we make concerted efforts to reach the formal and informal education in every village.

To-day, most of the schools do not have adequate number of teachers so much so that many a school are being run with 1-2 teachers. Several schools are closed down. My submission is special attention should be paid to meet the basic requirements of the schools. At present all the schemes being chalked out are intended to serve only 20-25 per cent higher segments of society and the poor are totally neglected. If we are really interested in spreading education and to improve the

society through education and knowledge, we will have to do it at village level and uplift the poor.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : I support the Bill introduced by Shri Reddy with the objective of introducing compulsory education upto higher secondary level has been enforced in several states but not in all the States. In Kerala, the literacy rate is 100 percent, in Tamil Nadu the Literacy rate is quite high even more than northern states. But in eastern states like U.P., M.P. Bihar and Rajasthan, the literacy rate has not reached the desired level. There are several reasons for this low rate.

The first reason is the emertence of two categories in our education system - haves and have nots. The affluent section of society can afford to send their children to good public schools. he can give donation to gain admission in a good institution. But a student belonging to a poor family or in rural areas is deprived of good education. My first submission is that there should be uniform system of education. At present students who have appeared in C.B.S.E. examination are given a weightage of 10 marks for admission to higher education institutions. This creates an imbalance in our system. My submission in that there should uniform standard in the entire country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in our schools there are either no roofs or if a roof is there it is without seating arrangement. With due apology to my friends, I would like to submit that in the gram panchayats, the teachers are engaged in party work rather than Teaching. This system needs to be changed.

Sir, to-day I remember Rajivji. He had started several literacy mission such as operation Black Board. But now that operation Black Board is nowhere visible. Some experts have pointed out that that all the funds earmarked by the Centre for literacy work never reached the villages. They were misappropriated by the middlemen.

Sir, there are no funds for school buildings. Many a School are functioning in the open. The Members of Parliament also find it difficult to extend financial help to such schools for construction of building out of the funds allotted to them for this development of their constituency. Under Planning Commission directive, we can extend help for the building only if the land is transferred in the name of the Government. How can you expect an institution to transfer land worth Rs. 10 crores in the name of the Government just to secure help of Rs.2 lakhs.

[English]

The Ministry of Education should take up this matter with the Planning Commission. From M.P.s fund we can to least help school building fund.

[Translation]

Sir, the syllabus for primary school children is so voluminous that their school bags are becoming heavier and heavier. I would request the hon. Minister should arrange a meeting of the State Governments, the Union Government and the educational institution to find ways and means to reduce the weight of the schools bag. I warn you that if no steps are taken to streamline the syllabus, it would increase the death rate. All the parents want their children to become doctors or engineers but the existing syllabus stunts their growth. Sir, I would only like to speak on points. There is need to introduce uniform education in the country and for this purpose the union Government and the State Governments should put their heads together to streamline the syllabi for the school children. In this new system of education there should not be any scope for having two categories i.e. haves and have nots.

Secondly, special attention should be paid to its education of the minorities. Not only Muslims but other religious groups are in minority in various states. If in a particular state Sikhs are in minority, in another state Christians may be in minority. The Christians are running excellent education institutions. It is true that the fees in these schools are on the high side but the students are looked after very well. If you want to uplift the Muslim minority, you will have to pay special attention to its education.

There is no Urdu academy in the states in the predominant Muslim population. Urdu should be made a second regional language in the state with predominant Urdu speaking people...(Interruptions)

[English]

Yes, they have laid the foundation stone but there is no academy

[Translation]

My mother tongue is Bengali in which I can speak fluently, an Urdu speaking person can express himself fluently in Urdu, a sikh in Punjabi, a Maratha in Marathi etc. etc. Anybody who wants to speak in Sanskrit can speak in Sanskrit. I would stress once again that special attention should be paid to the education of the minorities and Urdu be made the second regional language.

Scholarships are granted O.B.C.s. and SC and ST students on behalf of the Government but they are not disbursed properly because of tax Government machinery. I would urge you to ensure that only the deserving should get the scholarship. Like Right to work, right to education is also a fundamental right ... (Interruptions)

Our present system of education is not employment oriented. At present the employment percentage among

the minorities and the women is barely 1 and 2 per cent respectively. The Government should also rope in private institutions. Already our country is getting fragmented on the basis of caste, religion and varna. And if it disintegrates further because of our education system, how can we maintain the integrity and unity of the country? A uniform system of education would definitely be in the interest of all.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Compulsory Education Bill, ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Wait a minute. It is a discussion on a Private Member's Bill. The names are called on the basis of party affiliation. It is for the information of the hon. Members.

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : I express my gratitude to Shri Reddy for bringing such an important Bill. Although the Bill has not been introduced on behalf of Government, but still I feel it will be accorded due importance and I will get an opportunity to express my views. The issue is not being discussed here for the first time. Several Commission have been constituted within the House and many a Vidhan Sabha have discussed the education policy and the ill effects of the present system of education.

A national policy on education was framed in 1986 in the country. This system was intended to function for ten years and an assessment was to be made after ten years to find out the qualitative improvement made in education and how far it has succeeded in achieving its objectives. But on May 7, 1990 itself the Government decided to review the National Education policy and the terms of reference of the committee were

[English]

I quote :

"Despite Efforts on social and economical development since attainment of independence, a Majority of people continue to remain deprived of education. It is also a matter of great concern that our people comprises of 50 per cent of the world's

[English]

This is no complaint to us. It further states,

"...and a large section of the children have to go without acceptable level of primary education."

Then Government further stresses:

"The Government accorde highest priority to education both as a human right and as a means for bringing about a transformation towards a more humble and enlightening society."

[Translation]

The terms of reference are laudable but how is it that the National Education Policy which was framed in 1986 needed review in 1990?

To-day, there is a change in the perspective of education. Now one cannot call oneself educated with the bookish knowledge. There has been a persistent demand by the political parties within and without the House to treat the right to work as a fundamental right. But the moot point is that even if we include the right to work in the constitution as a fundamental right, how can we justify it till we create the employment opportunities in adequate number and meet the demand for jobs.

To be educated in one thing but an employment oriented education is another thing. Macaulay's education produced educated class fit for white collar or non productive job. It changed the entire scenario in India.

After Independence, India's economy suffered a set back resulting in disparity and tension in the society. The result is that the country is not viewed as one nation. Just now Kumari Memata Banerjee had exhorted that at least our system of education should not divide the nation. The system of education should be oriented to inculcate a spirit of unity, integrity, social harmony in the people and must usher in the country a dynamic economy and prosperity.

[English]

In the Bill education means, 'education up to 12th standard'.

[Translation]

I do not agree with it. Compulsory education is not a new idea. In the constitution also it was stipulated in Article 45:

[English]

Directive Principle of State policy for Universalization of Elementary Education. I emphasize the word 'Universalization'. What does it say? I quote "The State shall endeavour to provide within a period of 10 years" since then many decades have passed—"from the commencement of the constitution for free and compulsory education to all children until they complete the age of 14 years".

[Translation]

A human rights declaration about the education policy was also made and we had adopted it at the international level in the human rights declaration.

[English]

The right to education is almost a fundamental and unalienable part of one's life. But what is the position

to-day? An hon. Member Kusmaria ji has asked when the education begins. In my view mother is the first teacher of the child and if the mother is not educated, the education of the child at the first stage itself remains incomplete. And the scenario regarding women's education in the country is not very fluttering.

Mahatma Gandhi had propounded 'Nai Taleem' or the new education system before independence. The thrust of this Nai Taleem declared in 1937 by Mahatma Gandhi was to nurture a system of education which strengthened belief in truth and non violence.

In 1990, the three main points of the new education system were : universalisation, vocalisation and decentralisation. To-day we are groping in the dark to devise a system of education in a country whose standard of education was the best in the world in the hoary past or the ancient times. We need not borrow from the systems of education prevailing in other countries we must delve deep into our own heritage and find a solution.

To-day, our emphasis is on compulsory education upto the age of the ie upto 8th standard. Mahatma Gandhi had asked us what should be objective of our education and how it affects our lives? If education has a bearing on our life, what impact we make on the society as a unit thereof? When we talk of impact on society we restrict it to villages, lanes and bye lanes of mohallas. Mahatma Gandhi had opposed the elite education which we espouse here in the House. Mahatma Gandhi had expressed concern in London on the state of education in India.

The primary education in U.P. and in Bihar also is in a shambles. There are some schools without teachers or if teachers are there, the number of students is negligible. The reason is that we are not very serious about primary education. The vocational education is not successful in our country because we do not have the economic base in the country to absorb the trainees turned out by the vocational institutions. Adult education in another field on which crores of rupees are being spent but the primary education is being neglected. Mahatma Gandhi had made our observation in Chetham House, London on 30th October 1921 which I would like to quote below. His observation reflected the sadness in his heart :

[English]

"I defy anybody to fulfil a programme of compulsory primary education of these masses inside a century." we are coming close to the century.

[Translation]

When he stated this, 70 years of the century, we are remaining. He said it in England. He further said that:

[English]

"This very poor country of mine is ill-able to sustain such an expensive method."

[Translation]

What was that method, he said about those people who are running schools here after coming from England:

[English]

"Our State would revive the old village schoolmaster and dot every village with such a school for both boys and girls."

[Translation]

He was a visionary who could envisage that by the turn of the century, India would provide in Article 45 of the constitution free education for all the children upto the age of 14. He was aware that India would not be able fulfil its commitment because of the circumstances now prevailing. Luckily, we became independent and we should have taken stock of the entire situation. But can the present Government give a categorical assurance that it would provide free compulsory education upto class VIII. This Bill should have been brought by the Government. It has been provided in clause 5 of the Bill that it will be the responsibility of the parents to ensure that their children admitted in the schools the provision of the Bill is

[English]

"Any parent who, for any reason whatsoever.

[Translation]

The Wording 'Any reasons whatsoever' is highly offending. With few exceptions, every parent would like to educate his children and dreams of a bright future for them. Howsoever poor or depressed he may be, he wants his children to advance in life and earn a name in the country. You want them to send their children to schools. But have you ever cared to take a look around to see that children in the age group of 0-8 years earn Rs. 2 to 4 per day by working as domestic servants in hotels and out of 7-8 crore school going children, half of them are forced to drop out of schools. They work as chowkidars, errand boys or help their parents in their vocation and that becomes their destiny. We can provide for punishment to the parents only after we have made adequate arrangement for providing education to the children and square meal to the parents through our economic policies and planning. If we fail in our commitment to ameliorate the lot of the poor, these children will continue to work as domestic help and education would be a distant dream.

On the one hand we have slums sans basic civic amenities and on the other hand we have five star hotels. The disparity between the two sections of society is so appalling and wide that the person sitting in a car

looks down upon a small child begging as if he is a criminal. The result is the brutal murders committed by these have nots

It is not lack of education facilities of employment opportunities that is giving rise to terrorism in the country, it is corruption, moral degradation that is the breeding ground for terrorism. The new generation finds itself at sea without leaders like Lok Manya Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi, Madan Mohan Malviya who may show them the way or direction. The present system of education has divided the country into two parts - India and Bharat. In India your children and our children are getting education and Bharat is the other part of the country living in the rural areas or jhuggies Jhonpris in the cities. This division of the country into India and Bharat is not our destiny. It is an outcome of our misdeeds. If a child is born in a poor family, it does not mean he lacks intelligence. On the contrary he lacks the opportunities to develop his faculties and it is your responsibility of provide these opportunities. While discussing the Bill we must take into account all these aspects.

18.43 hrs.

(Mr. Speaker in the Chair)

In 1977 we were all behind the bars a long with Shri Jai Prakash Narain. Thereafter, the Janta Party took the reins of office at the centre and remained in power for two and half year but failed to make any significant impact in this field. But Shri Jai Prakash Narian made in observation in 1928 about education, which I quote here :

[English]

"It also converts then (the children) into a parasitic class which perpetuates and even intensifies the poverty of the masses. The system has failed to promote individual growth. It also became more of a hindrance than a help to bring about an egalitarian Transformation of the society."

[Translation]

The system of education propounded by Macaulay had envisaged class to masses or in other words create a class and their subordinates would be the masses. All the buildings constructed by them i.e. Parliament House, South Block, North Block or other decisions taken by them had the sole objective of ruling this nation for thousands of years. The buildings constructed to-day need repairs after ten years and start falling apart after 20-25 years. Their system of education was intended to create two classes-one the ruling class and second the subservient or subordinate class. You did not treat this subject with the seriousness it deserved. Your Lighthearted approach to education for 40 years wrecked it. The present system of education has given rise to casteceism and terrorism and the country is facing near disintegration.



I belong to Uttar Pradesh and the Standard of education is abysmally low. My sole demand is that the Government should at least implement the Directive Principle of state under which children upto the age of 14 are to be provided free compulsory education. As per the statistics published by the Human Resource Ministry, out of 5 crore children, 25 per cent children never attend any school. Referring to child labour shortly before, Shri Reddy had said that anybody employing children below the age of 14 will be punished. Shri Reddy further added that to achieve this objective both persuasion and threat would be used. But Government is blissfully oblivious of the fact that they would be punishing the people who do not have the means of livelihood and depend on the earnings of these small children. Further, the statistics reveal that the percentage of students from standard I to standard V is 93 and it drops down to 48 from standard VI to Standard VIII. Does it not denote an alarming dropout rate?

What we have to contemplate is not the real wealth of the nation is going waste.

The population of our country is increasing by leaps and bounds and is likely to touch 100 crores. May be in the coming years India may beat China and occupy the top position as far as population is concerned. We will have to mould our system of education to meet the challenge posed by this staggering population. I would like to quote from the great poet of Bengal Rabindra Nath:

[English]

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where the knowledge is free..."

[Translation]

Pershaps our comrades from Bengal would agree with it.

SHRIMATI GETTA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : "Chitta jatha bhaje shutri. uchcha jatha sheer"

SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH : Thanks, I could not understand but you have supported me, therefore. I give thanks to you. One should try to understand what one does not know...(Interruptions) How can I make you understand the situation of Bihar...

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADVA (Patna) : The situation of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is the same. We are brothers.

SHRI STAYA DEO SINGH (Balrampur) : Rabindra Nath Tagore had imagined a world :

[English]

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high, where the knowledge is free..."

[Translation]

Our brothers from West Bengal are not prepared to listen to the line written by the National poet.

Knowledge is free and is without an element of compulsion. He had further added.

[English]

"Where the knowledge is free, where the world is not divided into narrow domestic walls..."

Sir, This country is being divided every day and every hour into narrow domestic walls. We have to eliminate and bring down these artificial wall which are being created by misutilisation of funds and public exchequer. The growth of the country is being put to question. If we do not check this, we shall fail everybody. Our fore-fathers have given us the Constitution.

They have given us this authority to speak. It was correctly said that the youth might not be one hundred per cent in the population of the country, but they would be one hundred per cent in the future of the country.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that this is a very important Bill. He should apply his mind to it. I think, he must have applied his mind. Let the Government come out with a comprehensive Bill and see to it that everybody is given compulsory free education upto VIII class.

[Translation]

It is my conviction that it will be the most valuable service towards the nation. God has blessed you with an opportunity to run the Government. Along with your administrative duties you must fulfil your duties towards nation i.e. elimination of poverty and tension which can be possible only through the spread of education. With these words I express my gratitude to hon. Speaker for providing me with an opportunity to express my views.

MR. SPEAKER : We will now take up the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion on the previous Bill will resume after this. We will take up further discussion on the Employee's Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996. Justice Lodha may speak now.

(Interruptions)

18.51 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Detention of 14 Indian Girls at Yemen Airport - Laid

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, before that, I seek your

permission to lay on the Table of the House a Statement regarding the detention of 14 Indian girls at the Yemen Airport. This issue was raised by Prof. Kurien in the House on 22.07.1996.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I lay the Statement on the Table of the House.

Sir, the moment is came to the notice of my Ministry that 12 Nurses and 2 Laboratory Technicians, all females, were stranded in Sana'a as their actual sponsor/ employer in Yemen could not be located, my Ministry established immediate contact with the Indian Embassy, Sana'a on phone and through fax to ensure that these girls are provided boarding, lodging and other facilities. Our Embassy sent an intimation saying that the 14 girls who were recruited by M/s. Shepra Tours and Travels, had reached Sana'a in two batches on 3rd and 4th July, 1996. It was intimated that since the Yemeni sponsors could not be traced in spite of the assistance sought through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defence of Yemen, the Embassy had accommodated them in the Embassy premises and was providing them food and other facilities. It was reported that all of them were in good health and none of them was suffering from any illness. It was further intimated that some together local employers had approached our Embassy in Sana'a for recruiting these girls in local hospitals/clinics. Our embassy sought clearance from my Ministry of these girls could be allowed to take up employment. My Ministry immediately accorded the clearance subject to the condition that the salary and other facilities offered by the local employers were reasonable and the agreement was acceptable to these girls.

Sir, I am happy to inform this House that according to the information received from our Embassy, six staff nurses and two laboratory technicians have already got employment in two private hospitals in Yemen. One nurse has returned to India on 31.07.1996 as she was not interested in working in Yemen. The remaining five nurses had also got some offered but the salary offered was not found reasonable by the Embassy. Efforts for finding employment for them are on and we hope to find suitable employment for them soon. In the meantime we have suspended the registration certificate of M/s. Shepra Tours and Travels who had recruited these girls for employment in Yemen.

[Translation]

SHRI G.L. KANAUIA (Kheri) : Please read it out.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : He has already laid it on the Table of the House.

18.52 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION  
RE: DISAPPROVAL OF THE EMPLOYEES'  
PROVIDENT FUNDS AND MISCELLANEOUS  
PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) THIRD  
ORDINANCE, 1996

AND

EMPLOYEES' PROVIDENT FUNDS AND  
MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT)  
BILL - Contd.

[English]

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali) : Sir, it is a very happy coincidence that this Bill was sought to be piloted by your honour as early as in 1993 and it bears your signature. But it is surprising, if not shocking, why, from 1993 till 1996, in an age where we can go to the Moon, it took three years even to take a start. It is something which the Minister would have to explain. But it appears to me that there was lack of political will or there was opposition from the labour and the matters could not be sorted out or whatever it might be.

This legislation is an enabling piece of legislation. The real heart and soul of this legislation is the Pension Scheme. How Pension Scheme is framed, what are its provisions, in what manner the employees' are benefited or not benefited, these are the matters on which depends the fate of 1.60 crores employees' who are in the organised sector. Therefore, I would like the hon. Minister to mention, when the Ordinance were issued, as to why this Pension Fund Scheme was not debated in this House because there is a provision is this, under clause 5 (7), which says :

"A Pension Scheme, framed under sub-section (1), shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the scheme or both Houses agree that the scheme should not be made, the scheme shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be no effect..."

So, Sir, the legislative sanction to the Scheme is to be taken from this House. Three Ordinances have been passed...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI (Howrah) : Ordinances have been issued and not passed.

JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : I would like to be corrected. They have been issued by the hon. President. After issuance of three Ordinances by the hon. President, why the Scheme has been placed for 30 days on the Table of the House.

Why has the opportunity not been given to us to debate on it? We could have accepted it, modified it an amendment it or rejected it wholesale. This is a very serious matter because the hon. Minister has not said anything about it earlier. We would like him clarify it when he replies. It has not been done in both the Houses. It is a serious constitutional lapse, a lacuna which itself shows that the hon. Minister was either not having the conviction that the House would pass it or it went by default. However, it is for him to explain.

So far as this Act is concerned, it is an enabling Act for the purpose of granting pension in addition to Provident Fund but only by a division from the amount which is already there in the Provident Fund. It is not a new addition. No sort of benefit is to be given from additional funds by the employer or by anybody else, from the very funds, which are available to the employees in the Provident Fund, which they are liable to take on retirement, from that some part of it is to be taken out and given to the employees at the time of retirement. That is all.

Basically, one very important matter which requires serious consideration of the hon. Minister, on which the labour unions and the labours are agitated, is the question of option because there are lakhs of employees who feel that it is not beneficial to them. In the name of giving benefit to the labourers, in the name of making social welfare legislation, in the name of creating an environment where it would be advantageous to the employees after retirement, they are doing this. If a big number of employees feels that it would not be advantageous to them, it would be harmful, it would not be economical to them and it would be against their interest, then, why should you thrust this scheme on them?

For that purpose, one of the objections which I would take is that if this Bill is passed and if this scheme is introduced, it must be made optional, optional not only for the establishment, optional not only for a factory or industry or a unit but optional for each employee and each one of the employees should be allowed to exercise his option. That is a matter on which the hon. Minister should gave a serious thinking and serious thought because if it is not made optional, then, it amounts to compulsion. It would be thrust upon the unwilling employees who feel that it would be harmful to them.

There are a large number of people in this country who feel like this. It is true that a large number of people are in favour of getting pension. It is difficult to say which number is more and which number is less but nonetheless the pension scheme as such is basically

and fundamentally not against the interests of the labourers. Therefore, I welcome the Pension Scheme Act for the employees but with this modification which I suggested. It must be made optional.

Another thing which I want to suggest is this. The other day we were across the fact the 18 per cent interest was allowed statutorily in the case of Conciliation and Arbitration Act which we passed yesterday. Here, we find that they provide 18 per cent interest. This has been provided by the very Act for Parliament, by this very Parliament through a legislation. But in this case, the poor employees is not provided with even twelve per cent interest which is given even in the public Provident Fund Scheme. Twelve per cent interest is given statutorily by so many banks. But here the poor employees are denied that amount. Therefore, this matter will have to be considered by the hon. Minister. They must make a provision that in the pension the employees must get interest. Out of the funds which are earmarked, which is 8.33 per cent or something like that, from the pool, they must ensure that the amount will carry a minimum interest of 12 per cent.

19.00 hrs.

Twelve per cent rate of interest must be made the minimum and not maximum. The maximum rate depends on the banks rate etc. If that is agreed to, then there will be some benefit to the employees. If that is not done, it would mean that the employees would be deprived of the interest from the amount which is lying as credit in their provident fund account. Thus the deprivation of the interest to the employees from out of the provident fund pool and then giving pension, would not be beneficial to the employees. Therefore, I would submit that this should also be considered by the hon. Minister before giving a reply.

Then, before commending for the passage of the legislation, I would like to make a few suggestions. These modifications are important for the purpose of giving benefit to the employees in general, leaving aside, of course, very strong organised unions. I have been told that some political parties, like the CPI (M) and others, are supporting it but their unions are opposing it. I do not know they are going to share this piece of legislation, I do not know how they are going to share this piece of legislation, with the Government which is their own child.

Now I give a few suggestions. The monthly pension payment shall not be less than 1.25 per cent on the total accumulation standing to the credit of the subscriber at the item of his exit. Return on capital shall be hundred times of additional quantum of pension or hundred per cent of accumulation, whichever is higher. The right of option should be given as it was give in the case of Family Pension Scheme of 1971. This is also very strange. Their was a right of option available in the pension scheme, which you are going to replace by this

scheme. Now we are going to take it away on a very flimsy ground saying that if you keep this, then it would be a non-starter of non-enforceable. Why is it so? If it is beneficial, why should the labourers not opt for it? Why would the worker not like to take the benefit of it? When it was optional under the Family Pension Scheme, this should be made optional in this scheme also. Pension shall be linked to the consumer price index in line with the Government employees, bank employees and naturalised, to some extent, with the rise in prices or escalation in the cost of living. Then I also suggest that payment of pension shall be based on the number of years of pensionable service and/or eligible service and not on the age factor. The Family Pension service which is called a reckonable service, shall be treated as pensionable service. It must be included in this. There should be payment of full pension for 25 years of pensionable service by dividing the factors into 70:50 ratio. Then, widow pension, children pension, orphan pension, physically or mentally handicapped pension shall not be less than the subscribers' pension, the age limited shall be deleted. Now the weightage shall be given for five years and not for two years. These are some of the suggestions which I make. There are many things. But I would not like to bother you because my friend would do it in a detailed manner. I would only submit that with these modifications, the Bill may be passed.

But it must be made clear that the pension scheme should be formulated by having interaction and finding out its benefit, with the representatives of the all-india recognised trade union. It must be enforced.

Before concluding, I want to put a word of caution. We have got an experience in this regard. In the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee pertaining to Shri Harshad Mehta's share scandal, we have found that crores and crores of rupees were diverted by banks as also by the public companies like the Unit Trust of India, the Life Insurance Corporation of India and various such organisations which are known as the public sector undertakings. These public sector undertakings have diverted or actually squandered crores or rupees of those poor people who had put their whole life's savings. Now what is the guarantee that this amount would remain safe? After deducting from the provident fund, keeping it for pension and if it is swindled then, it would be really adding insult to injury.

Therefore, a trust must be created in such a manner and in such a way that at least the money is kept safe, with an interest of 12 per cent and then it is given.

With these words, I support this legislation.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deograh) : Mr. Speaker : Sir, I rise to support the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

This has already been given effect to from 16th of November 1995 and this is a landmark Bill in the history of the trade union movement of our country.

This scheme has not been prepared overnight. It has not been formulated overnight.

19.06 hrs.

(Shri P.M. Sayeed in the Chair)

And, this is the outcome of a prolonged movement of the working force, the working class of our country, industrial workers, and organized workers. They had gone for agitations on different occasions and so, negotiations were conducted, discussions were held with trade union centres. Somewhat, a consensus was reached, only with the exception of CITU. But there was a consensus arrived at. Of course, while arriving at the consensus different trade union centres had expressed their reservations. But in totality, it was not acceptable to the trade unions. This is very clear.

INTUC is there. AITUC is there. We know AITUC is politically linked with the CPI or affiliated to the CPI. Similarly, BMS is the trade union affiliated to BJP... (Interruptions)... Like this, by and large, some sort of understanding was reached, maybe with some exceptions. Also those who have agreed, they had their reservations.

The Bill has come after it was adopted in Rajya Sabha. Earlier this Bill was circulated in the name of Shri P.A. Sangma, the then Labour Minister who is now the hon. Speaker. I also appreciate the hard labour he had put in in bringing these arrangements to this stage, in the formulation of the new scheme, which was long overdue. Thereafter, his successor Shri G. Venkatswamy also applied his mind and prepared all these things. This is already been given effect to.

About 11 lakh workers have already joined this scheme of funds. Earlier hitherto, we had this Family Pension Scheme... (Interruptions)... Thereafter it is now Employees General Pension Scheme. Thereby the scope is also broadened and widened.

Other members of the family also are now likely to get benefits from this scheme. I have been given to understand that more than ten lakh people have joined this scheme. Some people say they are less than one lakh. About the exact figure there may be some dispute; I cannot speak about it with authenticity. But a large number of workers have already joined this scheme.

The trade unions which opposed this scheme went for an agitation. They gave a call for strike. But they were outnumbered by those who want its immediate implementation... (Interruptions) You may say whatever you like, but I am speaking the fact. In certain areas where they are having their hold they have got limited success. But by and large that was a failure. On the other hand a large number of trade unions and workers demand its immediate implementation. They are looking

forward to the proceedings of this House with anxiety. They want that this should be passed during this very session. Otherwise again for the fourth time the ordinance will have to be promulgated.

In this background I would like to say that we are also absolutely not happy. We are not quite happy with all the provisions that this Bill contains. There is scope for improvement. But whenever any new scheme is introduced, an element of uncertainty, an element of apprehension remains. So, I would request the Minister in charge to look into this. Of course, there is a good provision in response to the popular demand. They have provided for the mandatory annual review of the working of this system. So, from the experience the Government should come forward with necessary amendments without hesitation.

I understand that there are two objections from the other side that a certain category of employees - this one argument - will, according to the present provisions, not be financially gainer. Secondly, they say that the option provisions should be there. If any individual member wants to join the scheme, he should be at liberty to do so. If he wants to opt out, he should have the liberty to do so. These are the two grounds on which the hon. Members belonging to the CPI(M) and other friends are opposing this Bill. But, in the Provident Fund scheme also there is no option provided. Our Provident Fund scheme is the largest such scheme in the whole world with a very very wide coverage both in terms of number and also in terms of benefits provided. That scheme also does not have any provision for option which they are now demanding. I also discussed with several trade unions about this option. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister. According to our understanding for a factory, an organisation or an establishment as a whole his benefit of opting out - either to join or to remain outside - is there. But this is not applicable to individual members. If every individual member is given this opportunity according to different sources I understand that this scheme may not be viable and sustainable at all. This is to be seen.

Again, I would like to place here one point from our experience.

When the Family Pension Scheme was first introduced in 1971, many individual members opted out of it. But they did join that scheme later on after seeing the benefits that accrued to fellow workmen. They have all now joined the Family Pension Scheme. Without fear of contradiction, I can tell the House that such thing is also happening.

Now, I come to the provision for option and the objection, fear or apprehension expressed by some hon. Members that if this Scheme is implemented in its present form, certain categories of workers would not be financially benefited. There is some force behind this. There is also some corrective action that can be taken. Right now, there will be no problem so for it

relate of senior workmen. For them, it is not a problem. For those who are joining the industry now and also the Scheme now, there could be a problem because it would take thirty long years for them to retire. But meanwhile, many changes would take place. By changes, I mean progressive changes. In a system like ours, changes cannot be retrograde. There is some corrective action needed which can be a satisfactory answer to this problem. The ceiling provided is up to a higher limit of Rs.5,000, whatever might be the amount an employee get as salary. This actually creates the problem. If this is removed, I think that there would be no objective so far as the financial benefit is concerned. My submission is that this higher ceiling should go.

The Government has always to be liberal. The Government has to adopt magnanimity in its approach. The Government should be magnanimous. The Government is not here to do business. The money that would be deposited under this Scheme would be huge. What is the rate of interest that the workers would be getting? It is eight per cent, whereas in any other scheme - even in the Provident Fund Scheme - it is about twelve per cent or thirteen per cent. Is A higher rate of interest should be available to the workers.

Further, there is some difference sought to be made between the Government employees and these types of workers. Whatever might be the difference, the Government should adopt a liberal attitude. Some more benefits should also be given to these hard working people. The Government should see to it that more benefits are given to the workers and they should have some liberal approach while making calculations.

This Scheme is a very good beginning. There are bound to be the loopholes and there are loopholes which need to be plugged. Let us start this process and after some time let its working be reviewed, and the loopholes plugged. Some corrective measures should be taken to plug all loopholes.

This Bill has been overdue and today I strongly support this Bill with the request to the Government to come out with a clarification about the provision of option, etc. In due course, the corrective measures should be taken.

As I have already said, I would once again request that the Government should ensure that some more benefits are given to the workers by adopting a liberal approach.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY (Krishnagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this Bill seeks to make provisions enabling the Government of India to introduce a Pension Scheme in place of the existing contributory system of Provident Fund.

But it has become a *fait accompli* now. The earlier Government did not wait for the approval of Parliament. They have already introduced and implemented the Pension Scheme from 16.11.1995 by promulgation of an Ordinance. So, it is quite evident that it is the legacy

of the past which has fallen upon the United Front Government. This is the foster child of the United Front Government. I would have been happy if they could give some new thought over the scheme.

Before I proceed any further, I would like to express my strong reservations about many different provisions of this Bill. Firstly, this Bill is not an improvement over the existing benefit to the workers. Rather it will be detrimental to the interests of the entire working class in many respects. The fund required for the scheme has been sought to be created by diverting the employers' contribution in the workers' provident fund to the tune of 8.33 per cent. It means the pension scheme will be operative by way of impounding nearly half of the provident fund generation of the workers. There is no need for any actuarial exercise. Anybody with some amount of knowledge in arithmetic will find that the entire total accumulation of principal amount in the shape of employers' contribution and the interest thereon at the rate of twelve per cent will not be returned to the workers.

The loss is enormous. Sir, what to speak of any gain, the loss is enormous. a lot of workers' money which is taken out of the corpus of contributory provident fund, has been spent for propaganda through media that this is an outstanding steps and totally beneficial to the workers of this country. But the workers know what is outstanding and what is not.

It has also been propagated that the working class of this country had been agitating since long for this. But what is the reality? Yes, the working class was demanding and struggling for pension as a third benefit. But in this scheme, not to speak of any additional benefit being extended, the existing benefit is being curtailed on the contrary. The money which was earned by the working class through prologned struggle is being slashed down now through this scheme. The provident fund is the property of the workers and the Government is snatching nearly half of his property unilaterally and by force rather. There is no option.

There is no option. This is unjust, improper and unethical, if not illegal. I do not know whether it is legal or not. But It is true that the workers, who will die or are declared physically disabled, will definitely be benefited in the early period of their service. But this is not a dying benefit scheme. It is essentially a retirement benefit scheme. The family pension scheme was there. Why did it collapse? What was the usual the inflow and outflow of the family pension scheme? How have Rs. 9,000 crore accumulated in that Fund? The ratio of inflow and outflow was 10:1. But the outflow was ten times lower than the inflow. Does it mean that the families of the workers who died did not get the family pension?

While introducing the Bill, the hon. Minister was telling that many things were wanting in the family pension scheme. Hence, it is one of the reasons for

bringing forward this scheme. But why do you not revise that family pension scheme simultaneously? You could do that. But they have not done it.

The Government wants the people to believe that workers of the unorganised sector will be benefited most by the scheme. Is it not a myth? Is it a fact that the workers, whom we call unorganised in the traditional form, are not covered by the Employees Provident Fund Scheme? So, how will they come under the purview of this pension scheme? They cannot do so.

So far as the workers in the tiny sector - casual and contract labour, etc., are concerned, what would happen in their case? They will not be benefited. Why is it so? The annual rate of growth in their case will be between five and six per cent. The actuary of this scheme, who deposed before the Select Committee in Rajya Sabha agreed that the scheme is based on the assumption that the rate of annual wage growth would not be less than 10 per cent. That is the national average wage growth. But will *bidi* workers, contract, construction workers or those who are working on a casual basis or are getting consolidated pay, by benefited? No, they will not be benefited. That is the assumption of the actuary of this scheme, who deposed before the Select Committee formed in the Rajya Sabha last week.

It is very unfortunate that a calculated and sustained campaign has been launched against the organised working class of this country, particularly against those wage earners whose salary exceeds Rs.5,000 per month.

Sir, will they be treated as the creamy layer? Will they be treated as the affluent section within the working class? Even semi-skilled workers in a factory, an Upper Division Clerk in a Government Department today, in the background of inflation, used to get more than Rs.5000 per month. But if your salary is more than Rs.5000, then, the portion above Rs.5000 will not be calculated for pension. So, it is really unfortunate. Can you deny that the organised working class is the backbone of the working class of our country? You cannot deny this. They are the backbone of the working class of this country. But what is happening? Is it their fault, is it their crime that through their struggle they have achieved some wage improvement? Is it their crime? And will they have to be penalised for that? What is the infrastructure of the employees provident fund? Is it capable of running the whole thing?

Sir, another point is when a Government employee retires, if he is eligible for pension, he will get his pension immediately. But according to this scheme, if an employee retires at the age of 40, thanks to the present industrial policy of the Government due to the golden handshake or some other things, than he will have to wait for 18 more years to get his pension. He will get his pension at the age of 58 at the age of superannuation. He will have to wait for 18 long years, if he retires at the age of 40, to get pension at the age

of 58. This is in the scheme. Mr. Finance Minister, that is within the scheme.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Why should he retire at 40? (It is not based on real life.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Thousands and thousands of workers are retiring at the age of 40. You may say so, but the reality is otherwise. What will happen to the bidi workers, to the so-called unorganised sector, the construction workers? They will be lost in the crowd. Their service period is not more than 20-25 years and they will have to wait upto 58 years of age for getting pension. Is it atrocious? You think that this is a beneficial scheme. It has already been stated in paragraph 26 of the scheme that pension fund would be invested to the public accounts of the Government of India, the rate of interest being only 8.5 per cent. How can it match the benefit of provident fund where 12 per cent rate of interest is available? What will you do with this money? Government will spend that money for other purposes. It is workers' hard-earned money and that will be diverted for other purposes.

Sir, is it permissible?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, I would take just two to three minutes more.

Another aspect which I would like to point out is that, besides all this, a portion would be deducted towards administrative charges, which may be three per cent. So, it would not remain even at 8.5 per cent. It would further come down.

Sir, I am very much pained at the fact that most the Central Trade Union Organisations are accepting this scheme. Some hon. members have also mentioned that this is an outstanding Bill. If that is so, if it is so fine, so good then simultaneously, why are the Members expressing apprehensions and asking for giving individual options to the workers? Why are they apprehensive? There is no need for them to be apprehensive about it. If it is so good, so fine and so beneficial to the interest of the workers, the workers would automatically opt for this scheme. You cannot rob the money of workers in this way. You cannot snatch away half of their money in the provident fund without giving any option, without taking any consent from them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, I would like to urge upon all the Members of this House, cutting across all party lines, and I would also appeal to your goodself to please ponder over these things once again. Do not play with the working class of this country but for whose untiring labour and sacrifice, the growth and development of this country could not have been possible. Do not play with them.

So, I would like to request you and would also like to appeal to you to kindly ponder over the whole thing once again. I would like to pinpoint this aspect that a provision for individual option in the Scheme should be made.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now. You have already taken 15 minutes.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, it would be counter-productive for everybody - the Government as well as the trade unions.

with these words, I conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to oppose the Employees Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (amendment) Bill. It has been applauded as a brilliant piece of legislation which was long awaited. In 1990, a tripartite conference was held to prepare the draft of the Bill. Only after a answers was judged on the draft of the Bill that the then Government took three years to bring this Bill. This important piece of legislation which was intended to offer justice to the workers remained pending in the Rajya Sabha for 3 years! the emerging scenario is that what is being preferred here is not practiced. If the Bill was so good how is it that it remained pending for 3 years? The main reason for the delay was that the workers were not supporting it. But I will dwell on extent of opposition later on. If a proof is needed about the about the non seriousness of the Government, it can be ganged from the fact that four consecutive ordinances had to the promulgated on the subject...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You know the reason. There was a change of Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That was only in 1996. What happened in the previous years?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : You objected to it in every session what to do?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Even now I will object to it.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Ram Naikji, please address the chair.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is the hon. Minister who is addressing me directly and providing me...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister will cover the ground in his reply. You please address the chair.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The moot point is the that very promulgation of ordinances is a freedom the constitution. There has been delay in bringing the Bill and all *alibis* such as elections etc. are lame excuses.

This Bill has been opposed very strongly by all the workers of the organised sector in every part of the country. At all India level, of course, only CITV has opposed it but other organisations have expressed their reservation about it. The hon. Minister made a casual remark that the strike was a failure. Who claims that the strike was a failure? It was successful in Mumbai. It succeeded wherever the workers were conscious of their rights.

Sir, we received the people's mandate during the elections on the basis of our manifesto and one of the important issues was opposition to this hastily drafted Bill. The Congress lost all the six Lok Sabha seats in my city because we opposed this Bill lock, stock and barrel. It is, therefore, not true to say that the Bill has the approval of all the sections of society. Every hon. Member of the House has opposed this Bill in his speeches...*(Interruptions)* The objection of the Bill is not in the interest of the workers. Instead of protecting their interests, what is sought to be done is to rob them of their contribution to the provident fund made over several years. Normally, a worker earning a salary of Rs.5000 or Rs.5,500,

[English]

gets about Rs. 8 lakhs to Rs.10 lakhs at the time of his retirement.

[Translation]

Now he will not get this amount. It is a big blow to the interest of the workers and because of that I oppose it. Another important point is that if the Bill is so good, why is it being made compulsory and not optional? If you made the scheme compulsory, it would cause widespread resentment among the workers which you will find difficult to control. For you the right course is to make it voluntary and enlighten the workers about its benefits otherwise it will be construed

[English]

That there is some ulterior motive.

[Translation]

You must tell me what they have done towards the provident fund. In any social welfare scheme, you cannot curtail the rights of the poor or the workers. Any public welfare scheme is bound to be a beneficial scheme but your scheme is not a beneficial scheme which forces me to oppose it.

It is necessary to link pension with the price index and to effect increase in pension in proportion to increase in the price index. My second point is about the rate of interest. If an employee takes house building advance, he is made to pay an interest of 15 percent but he gets an interest of 12.5 percent on his deposits in the Government which tantamounts to injustice. You

must pay interest to the workers on their deposits equivalent to the lending rates of the banks.

It has been pointed out here that the workers do not know how to invest a large amount of Rs. 12 lakhs which may be paid to them after retirement. How is it that the same consideration is not shown when a worker seeks voluntary retirement and receives Rs. 5 to 6 lakhs? It shows practice of double standard. It is an erroneous notion that the workers or the wage earners do not know how to invest the money. On the contrary, unlike our banks, it is the workers who know how to put their hard earned savings in safe investment.

Another aspect to which I want to raise objection is the imposition of ceiling of Rs.5000 to Rs.6000. It is quite unrealistic because it is not possible for a couple with two children to make both ends meet in their small amount in the big cities. Therefore, this imposition of a ceiling of Rs.5-6 thousand is a mockery with the workers who have put in 20-25 years service.

I can understand the predicament of my CPM friends who once opposed it very strongly. But now they are part of the Government and have to support willy nilly what they once called atrocious. But we have to look after the interest of the workers.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukund Puram) : That is a very important point...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : He said that it is an atrocious scheme...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

How can they support a scheme which was once termed as atrocious by them. In view thereof, I would again urge you to review the entire scheme. This ordinance has been brought as a *fait accompli*. A committee of the Parliament should be constituted to review the entire scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is not true that we are supporting the Bill; we are supporting it to the extent of fulfilling our constitutional obligation. But the workers would get justice only if a joint parliamentary committee of the House is constituted.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to first thank the former Minister of Labour, who is now the hon. Speaker of the House for his laborious work, the patience to hear from Kashmir to Kanyakumari all sections of the working class leaders, before he comes out with this comprehensive legislation. Just for this amendment only, which still needs today, a very careful scrutiny.

But, I am indeed very sorry and hurt when my dear colleagues from the other side of the United Front having



said that a foster child has been imposed on them and that we are carrying the legacies of the past. We are not here to compel the United Front Government to carry the legacy. They are at liberty to change their views, to prune their views. Our leader from this very seat made it clear on the first day of entering into this alliance that it is unconditional and they are at their liberty. We never told them. You are very much within the umbrella. You know what is happening - whether the child is a foster or illegitimate or legitimate, whatever it is. So, on the one hand you are there, you know better. In spite of that if you go on saying like this, I do not know. But the reality is this. Whatever you do within the periphery of the Indian constitution to run the Government, legacies are there, some are good, some are bad. If something is bad, let us collectively share; if something is good, let us collectively celebrate. That is what is the reality or the order of the day. Otherwise, you will only be giving a change to them. I know that BMS and CITU will never be together, ideologically and politically. Now the careful scrutiny that is required today in the Bill is that there are many areas where I think sufficient time was not devoted by eminent leaders who had been - in spite of their best efforts - the Minister of Labour, to the Committee, to the Seminar, to the Workshop, in regard to the basic interests of the working class. I fully share the views expressed by many of the hon. Members, specially in regard to the concept of pension. The very concept of pension whether it is accepted by the workers in terms of their future protection are not be understood.

I represent a very import industrial constituency and this matter was very seriously debated during the elections also. To whichever industrial belt I went, I must honestly tell you, whether it is right or wrong, majority of the industrial workers did not like that (a) Rs.5,000 ceiling should be there and that (b) Twelve per cent interest which they can get in any bank, even that should not be there and why should their contributions be kept in that manner and that too uncared-for. They are not still very clear...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Sixteen per cent  
...(Interruptions)

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : No. They have not mentioned that. What are you talking?

SHRI P.C. CHACKO : In banks, you are getting more.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : In banks also we can get more. But here, the workers' question was that the question you faced in the elections. That I am telling in the House.

We are not getting the interest which we are able to get in the banks. What is the answer of the government to this point in this Bill? You have to take the working class together. I think that is one of the common minimum programmes of the Government. You should take the working class, the peasants and the poorer sections of the people into confidence. This is

what the Prime Minister has always been insisting upon. That is why I am appealing to the Labour Minister to consider this aspect and make some improvement in this Bill.

Now, I will come to defaults. It is not a political accusation. Everybody knows how the Provident Fund Departments are managed. Lakhs of workers all over the country are on the roads because they were not able to get their Provident Fund shares. I do not have to list them. I am sorry to say this here. I am sure I am not wrong because I have read this in the newspapers also. I hope in the Next Session I will be able to get the questions answered by the Minister. I think, West Bengal is topping the list of the Provident Fund defaulters. It is very unfortunate. Not only this, the defaulters are moving freely in the streets day in and day out without being prosecuted. I do not know who are protecting them. The workers have committed suicide. Demonstrations have taken place. *Bandhs* after *bandhs* in the city have taken place and still no prosecution has taken place. They are still at large.

What is the law of land today? What has happened to the different provisions of the Employees Provident Fund? There are flagrant violations of all the provisions and in spite of that, Even the Provident Fund Commissioners are silent. They do not acknowledge the complaints received from the workers. They do not even acknowledge the complaints submitted by the trade union leaders. This how the mechanism is operating. Now, you are talking about pension. You are separating another part of the amount of the working class where there will get the pension after certain age. You are talking of giving pension after 58 years. I think Shri Ajoy Mukherjee is right. Now, V.R.S. is being introduced. You are forcing the workers to go at an earlier age. Many other such methods are being adopted these days. I know what is the aim of this Bill. I do not mind if it is meant only for the organised sector managed by the Government. The entire advantage will be exploited by the big corporate sectors and other managerial sectors. They will use it to the best advantage.

Sir, I personally feel that individual options, of course, are a big cry. Now, in this Bill, there is a provision. The Labour Minister, perhaps, had agreed also that he might consider the organisational options also. What is meant by organisational options? What is an organisation? An organisation means the management and trade union. Is it the recognised trade union or the registered trade union of that organisation? If you recognise five trade unions and out of those five, if three agrees and two do not agree, then what will be the position? If the other five registered trade unions which are not recognised say that they do not agree and create a law and order problem, how will you carry out your concept of organisational options? It is not clarified in this Bill at all at any point of time. I am sure, finally, it will be decided by the local SHO or the police station where the law and order problem is there. So, you will go to the police station and the *thanedar* will come and decide

your case. This is actually happening in the field. We know this because we are handling the trade union matters. So, these matters are not clarified. The individual options are still welcome by labourers for one simple reason. They are still afraid of the Provident Fund affairs. Secondly they are feared about the interest. Thirdly, they are feared about this Rs. 5000 limit. Unless you remove these fears from the minds of the workers and unless you improve upon them, you will not be able to take the working class into confidence. I am not saying that this whole piece of legislation is bad. I do not say that it is a draconian piece of legislation. I am saying that still there is a hope. But the doubts that have been revised by the working class are not just to impute motives against any individual. When the working class speak, they speak the truth. I am not questioning whether the Central trade union leaders have misled the Minister and the Government. My only submission to you is that, please take their views into account and still if you feel that you can improve upon this piece of legislation, please take time, think and strengthen the functioning of the Provident Fund Commissioners, Office.

20.00 hrs.

What is the *modus-operandi* of the trust that you have formed for the pension scheme? That also you have to clarify there, because I have every doubt about their functioning as to how they will manage. You have said something about the annual review also. I would like to know whether the comments on those reviews will be communicated to the central trade unions annually or not.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Almost from all trade unions there are representations.

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Now, I will submit that though it is not within the scope of the legislation, since I have got an opportunity to speak, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. When this Bill was to be discussed today, I got a call from Durgapur that there was a big hue and cry in Durgapur. In this entire industrial area there is no Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's office for quite a long time. They practically rang me up to bring it to notice of the hon. Minister. Durgapur, though being a steel city and having other allied industries also, does not have the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner's Office. They are having a long standing grievance. Though they did not welcome your legislation, that is a different issue, they also urged me to convey this matter to the hon. Minister.

I hope the hon. Minister can improve upon certain things on the basis of the discussion and without entering into any confrontation, we can certainly stand by the entire piece of legislation. We have no intention to confront at this stage. But I would request the hon. Minister to take care of the mood of the House and not to think that since it has been passed in this language,

let it be passed through. Otherwise it will not be really my problem.

As my hon. colleague has spoken about legacy, we know how to defend our legacy, good or bad. But the hon. Minister will be in more trouble because his colour is, at the moment, little shiny like brass and silver.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Is it good or bad?

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Shri Chidambaram better knows it because he articulated this in the previous Government and I was not there at that time.

I still think it is a good food with good vegetables and good things but it requires a little bit of salad and other curries to be improved upon. Unless it is improved upon it will not be properly digested by the workers.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE (Mumbai - South Central): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the present Government has adopted the policies of the Congress Government, which is wrong.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Rawale, Please speak on the Bill...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : There was a provision for family pension in the present Bill earlier, but now it is sought to scrap this scheme. Lakhs of people in Mumbai have organised demonstrations against this deviation. The earlier Bill was to be forced on Oct. 16, 1995 but it lapsed in June 25 and March 27. Lakhs of workers would suffer on account of this Bill and may be some people would benefit from etc. Lakhs of workers are agitating against this measure and even the trade unions are not backing it.

As per the provisions of the Act, the workers would make a contribution of 1.7 per cent which would be treated as the personal income of the workers. At the time of retirement, the workers are wise enough to manage their funds. The workers are not only competent workers but competent in managing their affairs also. The draw from their savings for meeting expenditure on account of marriages or house building.

It is an attempt by the Government to usurp Rs. 9,000 crores belonging to the workers. The previous government is linked with several scams, viz. urea scam, sugar scam, gold scam etc. The present ruling party is also following in the footsteps of the congress party ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Mohan Rawale, you have to address the Chair and not them. You do not have to address there. You have to address here.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Shri Sharad Pawar had opposed the Bill. We will also like to observe whether

Ms. Mamta Banerjee supports Shri Sharad Pawar or Shri Narsimha Rao.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : Our party follows democratic norms.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : We will know about it during the passage of the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The previous government usurped the funds belonging to the workers. Where has the amount of Rs. 9 crores vanished? Who is in possession of Rs.5,000 crores involved in the various scams? Will these amounts be ever recovered?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please speak on the Bill.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : At present I am speaking on the Rs.9,000 crore scam from which several Thousand crores may accrue to the government. Shri Ram Naik had termed it as robbery by the government against the workers. Mr. Mukherjee had observed that the workers seek retirement at the age of 40. But the fact is that you force them to seek retirement.

There are several textile mills in my constituency, you have constituted B.I.F.R. N.T.C. a government run groups of mills which has become sick. Because of the wrong policies of the Congress, workers are facing retirement in large numbers. The present rulers should not ignore the policies of the crop while rulers.

It is already difficult to effect withdrawal from the provident fund. If you want industrial peace, you must make this scheme optional. After several futile attempts, this Bill was ultimately introduced in 1993, which was opposed by us. I want to know what was wrong with the earlier which was jettisoned? In the previous scheme, the workers had to contribute 1.70 percent with matching contribution by the Government and the employer. Now the Government is depriving the workers of this money.

In spite of my opposition to the Bill, I would like to give a suggestion. After retirement, the workers should be paid gratuity or pension under a separate head and contribution towards pension should be made as hitherto. The next of kin of a worker, who has put in 40 years service, should be entitled to the benefits of the pension scheme.

It has been suggested by Shri Ram and other hon. Members that pension should be linked with the consumer price index in view of the constant increase in the prices. At present the rate of interest on the provident fund is 12 per cent which is proposed to be reduced to 8 1/2 per cent. A worker earning a monthly salary of Rs.1000/- receives Rs.63,000 after retirement whereas the same amount deposited in a bank for 20 years would fetch Rs.7,30,381. In view thereof the government should make the scheme optional. It is not made optional, we would oppose the scheme.

[English]

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South) : Sir, the time of the House was extended up to eight o'clock. It is more than eight o'clock now.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am sorry. I was not here. Is it the pleasure of the House to sit up to nine o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended up to nine o'clock.

SHRI. N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (Quilon) : Respected Chairman, Sir, the merits and demerits of the Bill have already been discussed and almost all the points have been covered. I am on my legs only to mark my Party's protest against this Bill.

I am fully endorsing the views already expressed by hon. Com. Mukhopadhyay.

According to me also, there is nothing new in this Bill. No additional benefit is given to the working class. The only matter to be considered is the diversion from the contributory Provident Fund to the new Pension Scheme. 8.33 per cent of the contribution of the employer has been diverted to the new Pension Scheme. Actually the contribution of the employer is deferred payment of the worker. The contribution by the Employer to the Provident Fund being the deferred payment of the workers, that is being diverted to the Pension Scheme saying and proclaiming that this is a new Bill and this is a new and additional benefit which is being given to the workers. So, my submission is that there is no new or additional benefit except there is a diversion of the Provident Fund to the Pension Scheme. Also, there is also the lower rate of interest which is 8.5 per cent. The interest is less. According to me and according to my Party it is not correct. The main demand of our party is that the pension should be a third retirement benefit other than the Provident Fund and the Gratuity. This should be the third retirement benefit. This shall not be a diversion from the Provident Fund.

On the basis of this, I would like to highlight the anomalies which have already been discussed. The first anomaly which I would like to highlight is by citing example. Suppose a worker have joined service and is earning Rs. 1,000 per month as salary. This is only on example. If we take the arithmetical calculation that itself will convince the fact that the Bill is totally detrimental to the interests of the working class.

As I said, let us take the basic salary as Rs. 1,000. After ten years, according to the calculation taking into consideration the 10 per cent as the increase of rate of growth as per increment per year, that will come to Rs.2,593 and after 15 years that will come to Rs.4,177 and after 20 years that will come to Rs.6,727. What will be the P.F. accumulation - which is diverted to the pension fund - after 10 years? After 10 years it will be

Rs.25,606 merely taking the arithmetical calculation and after 15 years it will be Rs. 64,816 and after 20 years the P.F. accumulation will come to Rs. 1,45,935. My submission is that the monthly pension available in the new Pension scheme to a workers, occurring to the basis of this salary, will come to Rs.370 after 10 years and Rs.895 after 15 years and Rs.1,571 after 20 years. This is the pension which will be available as per the new Pension Scheme. My submission is that if the present P.F. scheme is in existence and the worker is being allowed to opt for the C.P.F. scheme, then at the time of retirement after 20 years he will be getting Rs.1,45,935 as a lump sum amount. Supposing he deposits this money in a nationalised bank or Unit Trust of India he will be getting 12 to 13 per cent of interest and by way of interest he is getting Rs.277 per month after 10 years and Rs.702 after 15 years and Rs.1,500 - which is greater than that of the pension which would come - after 20 years. On the basis of the arithmetical calculation itself this is purely detrimental to the interests of the working class. Hence we are opposing this Bill.

The second anomaly that has already been discussed here is that it is not related to the price hike index and not related to the rupee devaluation on the basis of the inflation. That should also be taken into account.

The third anomaly is about the ceiling limit which has already been discussed and which is Rs.5,000. It should be on the basis of the salary. The pension should be on the basis of the salary which is drawn at the time of retirement.

These are the three anomalies which I would like to submit. I would like to submit before this House that an option should be given. The only compromising formula before this House which can be arrived at is to give an option to the workers. If the workers feel that this is detrimental to them why should they be compelled to accept it? If they are feeling that the present Contributory Provident Fund is better than that of the Pension Scheme, let them be allowed to accept it.

So, here I would like to read a paragraph of the Select Committee report. It reads:

"This Committee is of the view that it would not be feasible to permit individual workers to opt out of the scheme as in that case the affluent sections among the workers may opt out and the scheme would be a non-starter.

Sir, who is the affluent section here? There was a strike by CITU and UITUC last year and it got a very good response. That is why, my submission is that the compromising formula which the House could arrive at is by leaving the option to the worker.

Sir, with these words, I endorse the views expressed by other hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Satya Pal Jain - not present.

Kumari Mamata Banerjee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. I do not want to speak in detail because every point is covered by the hon. Members who have spoken earlier. I am not going to repeat those points.

Sir, I do appreciate that the Government has some problem as this Ordinance has been issued thrice because the Government has to see the agony of the working class also. There is a saying in our country:

[Translation]

The rich accumulate wealth and the law protects it, the worker leads a life of misery.

[English]

Sir, I cannot say that everything is bad. Of course, there are some good points also such as the matter regarding social security and the matter relating to disabled persons. They are good points. But I have a strong objection to one point. I do not know why the Government have not discussed that point carefully. I am surprised to see that the two communist parties, namely, the communist Party of India and the Communist Party of India (Marxist) are also divided on this point. If I am not mistaken all the unions have supported it with some reservation. So, it is not consensus. That is why my strong objection is this...

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I have received a letter from all the trade unions, namely AINTUC, HMS, DMS and AITUC. Can I read them?

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : No, Sir. I know that, thank you very much... (Interruptions) Sir, I said that there are some unions who are prepared for that. But they have some reservation also. Is it clear now? Do you want any more clarification?... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : If the Minister wants to clarify some points, he can do so while replying.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Sir, sometimes we have to set aside the party lines. There are certain areas and some common issues which cannot attract only the party but they can touch the heart of the people. I have reservations about only two points. Firstly, no individual can give his rights to the other. It is our individual right, it is our democratic right and it is our constitutional right. So, why should one give up his Fundamental Right to the other? secondly, if you are going to curb the Fundamental Rights of the citizens, then you first amend the Constitution.

Otherwise, what will happen to the right to work, right to education, right to live, right to property and right to vote? You cannot curb the individual rights. It is contradicting the provisions of the Constitution and it is in total violation of the Constitution.

Sir, my background is not concerned with the trade unions. I do not know anything about the trade unions.

I am just a novice and I do not know anything about the trade unions. The Government has brought this Bill, but what I feel is that the Government should have brought in a comprehensive Bill because they have many opportunities. This Bill pending for some time now. But why are you blaming the previous Government when the new Government is bringing this Bill? I request the Government to consider either of the two following options. One is, you have to give the option to every individual. Can you say that all the five brothers in a family, for example, have to stay together? The elder brother can stay in separate place and the middle brother can stay in a separate place. You cannot say that everybody has to stay together or everybody has to put their rights together. You cannot curb the individual rights.

There are so many jute mills in my State, in Maharashtra and in Gujarat. What will be the fate of the construction workers or those workers working in the NTC mills or some other jute mills? Do you know anything about the management of the bidi workers in the unorganised sector? The workers are not getting their provident fund. You can see the defaulters' list relating to the provident fund. My State is number one in this and there is no doubt about it, but you see the names of others in the list. The management in the private sector is not giving the provident fund to the workers. They are not giving the gratuity to the workers. You will be surprised to know that after retirement, many teachers are dying or starving for want of food because they are not getting their pension. That is the reason why, I am saying that there must be an individual option so that the concerned organisation or the unit cannot misuse this power. Sometimes, I have seen that a businessman purchases a unit and after one year — this is the trend in my State — he would sell that unit. They would purchase one unit and sell it after one year. In that case, what will be the fate of the workers? I may tell you that these units, or whatever you may call them, mislead the people or cheat the people and, as a result, the workers are deprived of their rights. That is why, I have a strong reservation against this. I do appreciate the Government, but the important thing is they have to appreciate the problems of the workers also. There is a consensus on this, but across the party lines, everybody is saying that you have to give the individual option and you have to give the interest also. Why will they lose their bank interest? Where is this fund of Rs. 9,000 crore? Everybody wants to know about the future of this programme. That is why, it would be better if the Government brings in a comprehensive Bill with the necessary amendments. I do propose that the Government should bring in a comprehensive Bill and that is also my request to you. If you do not do it, then I am sorry to say, in protest that we are ready to walk out... (*Interruptions*) The individual's right should be protected.

20.29 hrs.

*Kumari Mamata Banerjee and some other hon. Members then left the House.*

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : The Bill under consideration is The Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill. There is nothing in the Bill which can be supported in toto. The existing pension scheme is providing beneficial for workers in most of the sectors.

The aforesaid Bill had been a subject of discussion in this House and the upper House for the past 3 years but has not been passed so far. It has been opposed tooth and nail by all the trade unions. The hon. Minister just now referred to the letters received by him from the various trade unions. But those letters were not an out right support of the Bills they *inter alia* contained some suggestion also and the Bill *seems* those suggestion would not be in the interest of the workers. This Government will have to bear the brunt of the misdeeds of the Congress Government.

Under the existing scheme, the workers receive a consolidated sum as pension which they invest in housing or small scale industries or in fixed deposits and with the interest on their deposits they are able to make both ends meet. In the pension scheme proposed in the Bill, the eligibility for pension has been linked with the age of 58 years. The short coming in the existing provision is that if a workers wants to seek premature retirement or becomes disabled or handicapped the age of 40-42 years, he will have to wait till the age of 58 in order to become eligible for pension. In such an eventuality the family of the worker would suffer privations. I would suggest that an amendment should be made in the Bill to reduce the eligibility limit to 10-15 years service... (*Interruptions*) it is my maiden speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : If it is your maiden speech, I am sorry to interrupt you.

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT : In the Bill under consideration, the average emoluments of the last three years would be computed to calculate the pension. It would be detrimental to the interest of the workers. In some of the institutions the average of last three months is computed to calculate the pension. The workers are already groaning under the impact of income tax. Today in India big industrialists evade income tax with impunity but the workers come in no way escape the dragnet of income tax. Besides, the interest on his deposit with the Government is as low as 8 per cent. It

would, therefore, be in the features of things to link the pension with the price index.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this facility must be made available to the workers who want to seek premature retirement. Besides, the proposed pension is Rs.1400, whereas worker can earn Rs. 2,000 as interest on a term deposit of Rs.1,50,000. The Proposed minimum pension is Rs.500 and the proposed ceiling is Rs. 5,000. My suggestion is that the minimum pension should be Rs.1000 and the ceiling on the pension should be removed. If these suggestions are accepted, they would ameliorate the lot of the workers to a considerable extent.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to raise several points but because of paucity of time I am not raising them. I would request the Government to consider the points raised by me and other hon. Members and work out some scheme for the welfare of the workers because they are being exploited.

Sir, today workers spends Rs.50 only per day on his family, but a industrialist earns a whopping profit of Rs.25 crores per day the gap between the poor and the rich is widening day by day. This gap should be reduced and for this purpose a part of the profit of the will owner should be deposited in the workers' welfare funds.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : Sir, I am very grateful to the hon. Members who have participated and given valuable suggestions. I would like to answer some of the issues raised by the hon. Members.

A lot of Members have an apprehension as to who will administer the fund, especially my dear friend Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava has raised it. I would like to tell him that there is already a Central Board of Trustees for Employees Provident Fund, who will administer the pension fund. The representatives of the Government, employers and employees are the members of the Central Trust. Therefore, that apprehension need not be there in the minds of the Members.

Justice Lodha has raised a point as to why it has not been brought to the House before. I would like to tell him that immediately after the introduction of the scheme with effect from 16th November, 1995, notices for consideration, passing of the amendment Bill were sent in each session of Parliament held after the 16th November, 1995. However, for one or the other reasons, the Bill could not be taken up for consideration. This necessitated the promulgation of Ordinance on three occasions so as to ensure the continuity of the scheme. In the event of the Ordinance not being replaced by the regular law immediately, here will be a total vacuum inasmuch as there will neither be a Family Pension

Scheme nor will there be an Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. Then it would be difficult to make payment of pensionary benefits to about 1.5 lakh families which were getting pension under the ceased employees' Family Pension Scheme. Similarly, it will not be possible to make payment of any pensionary benefit to our 70,000 pensioners, dependents who have started getting pension under the Employees' Pension Scheme of 1995.

The Standing Committee on Labour and Welfare examined the contents of the amendment Bills also the provisions of the scheme. A copy of the Report of the Standing Committee was laid on the Table of this House on 6th March. A Select Committee of Rajya Sabha also examined the provisions of the Amendment Bill as also pension scheme and has cleared the scheme. Rajya Sabha was kind enough to pass the Amendment Bill on 31st March 1996.

Sir, some Members have raised that this scheme has not been formulated in consultation with the trade unions. I would read the letter...

AN HON. MEMBER : Do not read it.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Not all. I will read only the operative part.

"...The objective of formally restating the well-considered decision of the four major national trade union organisations of the country to urge upon you and the Government to ensure that the legislation on the Employees Provident Fund Link Pension Scheme for the workers is adopted in the current Parliament's session."

Sir, I am coming to the operative portion. Overwhelming number of workers want the pension legislation to go through, subject to our rights to continue to press and agitate in favour of the incorporation herein a number of important amendments, that is, indexation, substantial increase in pensionary benefits by enhancing the rate of interest on the deposits, removal of ceilings to benefit the employees in the higher rate of bracket.

Sir, it might be stated that it has become necessary for us to caution the Government against stalling and scuttling the scheme which is being attempted by multinational companies who want to grasp pension funds themselves. The Government will see through these anti-working people game and will in no case, allow the current Ordinance on pension to lapse as that will bring calamities for lakhs of poor workers.

It may be emphasized against that pension legislation in the scheme has already been thoroughly scrutinised by both the Parliamentary Committee attached to the Labour Ministry as well as by the Indian Labour Conference 1995. The INTUC - Shri R.A. Mittal, Secretary - AITUC and BMS, are all signatories.

Coming to the point raised by my colleagues about the individual option. I would like to submit that it is not possible to allow individual option because ...*(Interruptions)* Please listen to me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt, please. Let him reply. After that if you have any clarification I will allow. But do not interrupt now.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Number one, the scheme is compulsory for all the employees who are members of the Family Pension Scheme 1971. The benefits which were available to them under the ceased Employees Family Pension Scheme are being carried over to the new scheme. It is, therefore, necessary to keep them covered under the new scheme as well.

Number two, for the pension scheme to be sustainable, it is necessary that there is definiteness about the contribution to the pension funds. Actually calculations will just not be feasible if individual options are given, because in that even there would be no such definiteness.

Number three, the pension scheme already provides for grant of exemption to the establishments which they have their own comparable or superior pension scheme.

Some Members have raised about third benefit...

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHAYAY : Mr. Minister, if it is possible in banking and insurance sector, why is it not possible here? You please explain this. Both these schemes are there, running side by side, contributory provident fund pension, and there was the scope for option. Why is it not possible there?

If it is possible in the banking sector and insurance sector and there the employees can exercise that option, then why is it not possible here? You please explain.

Some of the Members have raised a point about granting of third benefit. I would like to submit that it would be very difficult to grant pension as a third benefit in view of the fact firstly that the pension and provident funds are mutually exclusive; secondly neither the employees nor the employers will agree for any extra contribution of the purpose, the Government is already contributing at the rate of 1.16 per cent of the wages and it is not possible for the Government to make any additional contribution; and thirdly the grant of pension as a third benefit to the workers through this scheme will have serious repercussions in so far as the Central Government employees are concerned.

Some of the hon. Members have raised a point about linking the pensionary benefits with the Consumer Price Index. Again, I respectfully submit to the House that it is not possible to link the pensionary benefit to the consumer Price Index because firstly the pension scheme is a contributory scheme and in such contributory schemes any open ended indexation is not possible. Increase in pension from time to time would be possible only if the fund position is so permissive.

Secondly the scheme as initially notified had a provision for evaluation of the pension fund at the interval of three years. On the demand of the central trade union organisations the Government have already decided to have the evaluation of the pension fund and review of all the pensionary benefits on annual basis. If the fund position so permits, the employees are expected to get some increase in pension every year.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : I want to seek a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let him complete his reply and then you can seek your clarification.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Hon. Member Shri Panigrahi has raised a point about ceiling. The wage limit at present is Rs.5,000. The Central Board of Trustees has already recommended enhancement of this ceiling limit. This is under active consideration of the Government. A decision will be expected very shortly to be taken by the Government.

Some of the Members have raised some apprehension about the interest part and the investment of employees pension fund money from 16.11.95 is being done according to the pattern approved by the Ministry of Finance. The pattern of investment is, 25 per cent have been invested in Central Government securities; 15 per cent with the State Government securities; under Special deposit Scheme 30 per cent; and Public Sector Bonds 30 per cent. The average return is a minimum of 12 to 15 per cent and not as our hon. Members have said, 8.5 per cent.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I also would like to seek a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can have your clarification after his reply. Let him complete his reply first.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Yes, we are paying 12 per cent to the subscribers. I am planning to go to my distinguished colleague, the Finance Minister, to see whether there is any possibility of increasing the interest part.

Coming to the points raised by Shri Ram Naik, the social security rests on the principle of collective contribution. The benefits flow to those who are needy. The scale of benefits may not correspond to the scale of contribution. The scale of benefits is not comparable with the rate of return in investments kept in banks.

One of my hon. friends has raised the issue of how much would be the pension amount that the beneficiary would get. Under the old Scheme, a maximum monthly family pension on a pay of Rs.5,000 was Rs.1050 per month; and under the new scheme, on a pay of Rs. 5,000 the monthly pension would be up to Rs.1750 plus Rs. 875 per month for two children...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHAYAY : You have not answered my question. If option is applicable to the

employees in the insurance and banking sector, why do you not allow the individual members?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : We are reviewing the Scheme on a yearly basis...*(Interruptions)* I would like to answer that. The banks and insurance companies have guaranteed the benefit if the Fund becomes insolvent. We cannot afford to do that. We have to go by the normal contribution method. We are having a review provision. We will be reviewing it year by year.

SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : It does not make it clear why option should not be given.

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I request the hon. Members to withdraw their amendments and pass the Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The hon. Minister said that the higher ceiling of Rs.5,000 is being reconsidered for removal or for being increased. If it is going to be increased, could you just indicate the amount? What is being proposed to be done?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : If you have any suggestion, we will try to carry that.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He has said that it is being considered. What is the amount that is being considered?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : There are many recommendations. Many hon. Members have made many suggestions. We have to sit down and decide.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : The third benefit being cooled out by the hon. Minister is the right of the workers. They are acting against the interest of the workers. The workers must be offered the third option. The people of India want that option should be given to the workers to opt out of the proposed pension scheme.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Minister, do you want to say anything.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : We will not let the Bill be passed unless the worker is not granted the right of option. This Government is acting against the interest of the workers. They want to misappropriate the money belonging to the workers...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Sit down now.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already said whatever he wanted to say. Please sit down.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : The argument advanced for the third option was that these two are

exclusive items. Precisely, as they are exclusive, third option has been sought. I do not understand how that argument goes in his favour.

My next point is this. What is the objection to providing for an option? I have not understood what really is the objection against indexation either. If today, there is a high rate of interest and therefore he is able to say that the rate of return would be 12.5 per cent or 13 per cent, if it is such an optimistic picture, why does he not stubbornly - three or four months are already over even though he is unable to make a review - say, 'Yes, this can be increased'?

This review provision is very dangerous. That opens the avenue to reduce the quantum of pension also. At some stage they may say that the high interest regime has come down to six per cent or seven per cent and, therefore, the pension cannot be paid at that old level. This is a very dangerous situation.

Therefore, we have reduced our amendment to only one question, *i.e.* give the option. Let the worker decide which one is more beneficial to him...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you want any clarification?

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Yes, I want a clarification as to why the option cannot be given...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I am moving this Bill with total openness and assure this House that there will be continuous evaluation of pension fund and if the fund position so permits, the Government would try to make the pensionary benefits more liberal in the overall interests of the working class...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : What difficulty does the Minister have in giving the option...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, let him reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, he has already replied. He has said that. What else do you want?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied. Have you not heard him? Do you want him to repeat it?

*(Interruptions)*

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already replied to that.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He has only said that periodical review would take place...*(Interruptions)*



MR. CHAIRMAN : He said that liberal and periodical review will be taken. That is all he wants to say.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, do you want to repeat it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : Sir, I can repeat the reasons why I cannot consider it. The first reason is that the Scheme is compulsory for all the employees who are members of Employees' Family Pension Scheme '71. The benefits which were available to them under the ceased Employees Family Pension Scheme are being carried over to the new Scheme...(Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : If there was a mistake earlier, now you have got an opportunity to correct it...(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has already given the reply. Now, I ask the mover of the Statutory Resolution to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : There will be continuous dialogues with the Unions...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, there is a consensus in regard to allowing of option ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, I cannot allow you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister has failed to satisfy any Member. I had suggested at the outset that a trust should be constituted to manage the funds of the workers and representatives from all the trade unions should be included in the Trust. But no provision to that effect has been made in the Bill.

My second charge is that in the Rajya Sabha you had given an assurance that suggestion regarding payment of pension to the workers who have completed 10 years service would be conceded. But in the Lok Sabha no such assurance has been given.

21.00 hrs.

My Third charge is that there are three types of pension schemes. It has been pleaded in general that 1,60,000 workers would benefit by the scheme. You have failed to account for Rs.9,000 crores and on top of it half of the provident fund of the workers would be deposited in Government account. The Government in trying to be good samaritan by appropriating the workers money and spending the same for payment of pension. All the trade unions viz C.I.T.U. etc. have opposed it. Even the trade unions of the parties who constitute the ruling front have opposed it...(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : This is an anti worker Bill ... (Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Now you have been elected as an M.P....(Interruptions) Now I would like to say publicly that all the trade unions have opposed it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time further by half-an-hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBER : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time is extended by half-an-hour.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : The scheme is not optional. It should not be compulsory. It is a good scheme, the workers would opt for it with pleasure and if the scheme does not appeal to them they would opt out of it.

The rate of interest being paid to workers on their deposits in 8 per cent whereas banks, LIC and other institutions pay 12 to 18 per cent interest. The rate of interest should therefore be increased to keep pace with the interest being paid by other institutions. Besides, pension should be linked with the consumer price index, ceiling of Rs.5000 should be abolished. It should also be ensured that the employer deposits his share of the provident fund with the Government on time. I would also request the hon. Minister to consult the representatives of all trade unions before passing the Bill in haste...(Interruptions) You may have your say. I will speak later on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you yielding?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Please allow me to complete my submission but please control him in the first instance...(Interruptions) He is new to the institutions and is not aware of the norms of behaviour. I would repeat that you consult the representatives of all the trade unions, all the political parties and a committee of the House should be constituted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am giving a constructive suggestion. This Bill should not be passed in haste. All the political leaders and the trade union leaders should be committed before passing the Bill which has been brought all the good intention but it has several short comings. It should be referred to a joint parliamentary committee and passed only their report is submitted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Are you withdrawing your Resolution?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am not withdrawing the Resolution...(Interruptions) Shrimati Mamata Banerjee has already walked out and the

communists are shedding their ideology...*(Interruptions)*  
Today, I want to see them in their true colour  
...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That this House disapproves of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996, (No. 24 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 20 June, 1996."

*The motion was negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now I shall put the motion for consideration to the vote of the House.

*(Interruptions)*

**21.06 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Mohan Rawale came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have asked you to go to your seat. Please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can show your protest from your seat itself.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the way. I have given ample opportunities to express your views. Please go to your place.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not compel me to name you. Please go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You go to your place. This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : How can I control if you also start shouting from this side? Mr. Rawale, I am telling you to go to your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

**21.08 hrs.**

*(At this stage, Shri Mohan Rawale went back to his seat.)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Bill has been under consideration for a considerable length of period. What has happened now?

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am opposing the Bill.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs. Please be seated.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you like, you may walk out in protest.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : I am protesting while remaining in the House. This Government came to power as a pro-worker Government. But is acting against the interest of the workers.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is the last day; we have to pass this Bill. Mr. Acharia, why don't you sit down?

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : This Government is following the policies of the Congress party ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am on my legs.

**21.09 hrs.**

*(Mr. Speaker in the Chair.)*

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : There very people had said it...*(Interruptions)* Shri Inderji Gupta had said it... All of them had cast aspersions against the congress.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : What is this going on?

Switch off the television cameras. There would be no television coverage from now on for today.

If you have any objection, if you do not agree, you ask for a Division.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. You cannot stand up now. Otherwise I would be compelled to name you. This is my last warning. You cannot hold the House to ransom.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I will have to name you.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : You may expel me. I hold you in high respect. This is an anti labour Bill and because of that I am opposing it....*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, I name you. This is not the way.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will go through the records and expunge everything. Now, we would take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

#### Clauses 2 to 4

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

*The Motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.*

#### Clause 5

*Substitution of a new section for section 6A and 6B Employees Pension Scheme.*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, we want to move our amendments separately. We want that these amendments should be moved separately.

MR. SPEAKER : Clause 5, amendment no. 1. Shri Ajay Mukhopadhyay, are you moving your amendment?

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2, Line 10,-

*after "Pension Scheme" insert-*

"which shall be optional for all workers who are or will be members of the Employees' Provident Fund" (1)

MR. SPEAKER : Clause 5, amendment no. 2. Shri Badal Choudhury.

Clause 5, amendment no. 3. Shri Basudeb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I beg to move :

Page 2,-

*for lines 21 to 24 substitute-*

"(a) such sums as may be prescribed of the equal contribution of employee and the employers excluding the provident fund contributions, as may be specified in the pension scheme." (3)

MR. SPEAKER : I shall now put all the amendments to the vote of the House.

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : Sir, we want Division on Amendment No. 1.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, Let the lobbies be cleared-  
Now, the lobbies have been cleared.

I will now put amendment No. 1, moved by Shri Ajay Mukhopadhyay, to the vote of the House.

The question is :

Page 2, line 10,-

*after "Pension Scheme" insert-*

"which shall be optional for all workers who are or will be members of the Employees' Provident Fund" (1)

I have to inform the hon. Members that as the Division Numbers have not so far been allotted to Members, it is not possible to hold the Division by the Automatic Vote Recording Machine. Division will now take place under Rule 367AA by distribution of slips.

Let the slips be distributed.

The question is :

Page 2, line 10/-

*after "Pension Scheme" insert-*

"which shall be optional for all workers who are or will be members of the Employees' Provident Fund" (1)

*The Lok Sabha divided :*

21.16 hrs.

Division No. 2.

AYES

Acharia, Shri Basu Deb  
Bala, Dr. Asim  
Barman, Shri Uddhab  
Bauri, Smt. Sandhya  
Baxla, Shri Joachim  
Bhargava, Shri Girdhari Lal  
Bharathan, Shri O  
Chatterjee, Shri Nirmal Kanti  
Das, Shri Dwaraka Nath  
Dome, Dr. Ram Chandra  
Gehlot, Shri Thawar Chand  
Giri, Shri Sudhir  
Govindan, Shri T.  
Hossain, Shri Syed Masudal  
Khalsa, Shri Basant Singh  
Khan, Shri Sunil  
Krishnadas, Shri N.N.  
Lahiri, Shri Samik  
Mohle, Shri Punnu Lal

Mollah, Shri Hannan  
Mukherjee, Shri Pramothas  
Mukherjee, Shri Subrata  
Mukhopadhyay, Shri Ajoy  
Murmu, Shri Rup Chand  
Naik, Shri Ram  
Pal, Shri Rupchand  
Premchandran, Shri N.K.  
Rawale, Shri Mohan  
Ray, Shri Balai Chandra  
Riyan, Shri Baju Ban  
Rongpi, Dr. Jayanta  
Sampath, Shri A.  
Verma, Shri R.L.P.

## NOES

Anantha, Shri Venkatarami Reddy  
Arunachalam, Shri M.  
Baal, Shri T.R.  
Bhagwati Devi, Shrimati  
Bhardwaj, Shri Parasram  
Chacko, Shri P.C.  
Chakraborty, Shri Ajay  
Chary, Dr. S. Venugopala  
Chennithala, Shri Ramesh  
Chidambaram, Shri P.  
Dar, Shri Mohd. Maqbool  
Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan  
Fatmi, Shri Mohammad Ali Ashraaf  
Ganesan, Shri V.  
Ghatowar, Shri Paban Singh  
Handique, Shri Bijoy  
Hazarika, Shri Iswar Prasanna  
Islam, Shri Qamarul  
Jalappa, Shri R.L.  
Jena, Shri Srikant  
Karvendhan, Shri S.K.  
Kandasamy, Shri K.  
Kajalgi, Shri Shivanand H.  
Mahanta, Shri Keshab  
Maharaj, Shri Satpal  
Mehta, Prof. Ajit Kumar  
Mukherjee, Shrimati Geeta  
Narasimhan, Shri C.  
Nishad, Capt. Jai Narayan Prasad  
Palanimanickam, Shri S.S.  
Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav  
Paswan, Shri Ram Vilas

Paswan, Shri Sukhdeo  
Raghavan, Shri V.V.  
Raja, Shri A.  
Ramalingam, Dr. K.P.  
Ramana, Shri L.  
Ramanathan, Shri M.  
Ramsagar, Shri  
Saikia, Shri Muhi Ram  
Saini, Shri Pratap Singh  
Sayeed, Shri P.M.  
Sarma, Dr. Arun Kumar  
Sarma, Dr. Prabin Chandra  
Shanmugam, Shri P.  
Shanmuga Sundaram, Shri V.P.  
Sharma, Dr. Arvind  
Singh, Shrimati Kanti  
Singh, Shri Raghuvansh Prasad  
Singh, Shri Ramashraya Prasad  
Singh, Shri Tilak Raj  
Singh, Shri Virendra Kumar  
Sivaprakasam, Shri D.S.A.  
Swamy, Shri C. Narayana  
Theertharaman, Shri P.  
Tiriya, Kumari Sushila  
Topno, Kumari Frida  
Udayappan, Shri S.P.  
Upendra, Shri P.  
Venkateswarlu, Dr. U.  
Venugopal, Shri D.  
Verma, Shri Beni Prasad  
Verma, Shri Chandradev Prasad  
Yadav, Shri Anil Kumar  
Yadav, Shri Devendra Prasad  
Yadav, Shri Dinesh Chandra

SHRI RAM NAIK : Now, Sir, Shri Mohan Rawle has calmed down. So, the T.V. can go on. Ultimately, the people of the country would like to know the result of it. This is my request to you.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. At your request, cameras can resume now.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER : The result of the division is :

Ayes : 33

Noes : 67

*The motion was negatived*

*Amendment Nos.2 and 3 moved by Shri Badal Choudhary and Shri Basudeb Acharia were put to vote and negatived.*

**Clause 5**

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 5 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 5 was added to the Bill.***Clauses 6 and 7**

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clauses 6 and 7 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.**Clause 8 Substitution of new schedule-III*

MR. SPEAKER : In Clause 8, there are amendments by Shri Ajay Mukhopadhyay and Shri Badal Choudhury. Shri Badal Choudhury is not here. Shri Ajay Mukhopadhyay are you moving?

SHRI AJAY MUKHOPADHYAY : I beg to move :

Page 4, line 3, -

*after "employers" insert "and employees", (4)*

Page 4, line 3-

*omit "to the Provident Fund" (5)*

Page 4, line 14 -

*for "Central Government." substitute -**"Central Board for Provident Fund Trustees"  
(6)*

MR. SPEAKER : I shall put amendment Nos 4, 5 and 6 moved by Shri Ajay Mukhopadhyay to the vote of the House.

*The amendments were put and negatived.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 8 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clauses 8 was added to the Bill***Clause 9**

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clauses 9 was added to the Bill.*

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1 the Enacting Formula, and the Long Title Stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.**Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title  
were added to the Bill.*

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM : I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted**(Interruptions)*

21.34 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee and some  
other hon. Members left the House.*

21.34 hrs.

*[English]*STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL  
OF THE CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES)  
ORDER (AMENDMENT) THIRD ORDINANCE,  
1996

AND

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

MR. SPEAKER : The House will now take up items 24 and 25 together. Shri Lodha not here. Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava. Are you moving?

*[Translation]*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur) : I move:

"That the House disapproved of the  
Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order  
(Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No.30  
of 1996) promulgated by the President on 27  
June, 1996."

I agree with the suggestion made in the House that the Bill be referred to a select committee. I have risen to oppose the frequent promulgation of ordinances. This Bill seeks to add to the list of Scheduled Tribes certain communities.

Sir, I, therefore, move

"that the Bill be referred to Select Committee."

*[English]*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam) : Sir, we have constituted the Standing Committees. The functions and the duty of the Standing Committee are to scrutinise the Bills. So my request to the hon. Chair is to kindly refer this Bill to the Standing Committee.

MR. SPEAKER : There is a difference between a Standing Committee and a Select Committee. This is a Bill which is important in the sense that there have

been lot of demands for inclusion of many communities into this List. Therefore, this Committee may have to go to different parts. There is some restriction on the Standing Committee to hold the meetings. I do not know but it is for the Government to decide.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, ultimately, the Standing Committee would immediately be seized of the Budget scrutiny. Now when the Standing Committee is seized of the Budget scrutiny it will not be possible for it to look into this Bill. It will be desirable and it is better that a separate Select Committee is appointed. That would serve the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : All right.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA (Guwahati) : Sir, why has this Bill been sent to the Select Committee?

MR. SPEAKER : It has not been sent.

DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Sir, why has it been so decided to refer it to the Select Committee? What are the reasons for this? Why is this Bill not passed here?

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA (Lakhimpur) : Sir, the Ordinance was brought when the Congress Party was in power. Several times this Ordinance has been repromulgated. Now, in my constituency, one of the member has become the Member of the Legislative Assembly. I would like to what will be the status of that person.

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : Sir, the Government is quite aware that a lot of opposition is there to this Bill because many people want more communities to be included in the list. There are aspirations also that some comprehensive effort should be made. The point is, as quite rightly raised by my friends from Asom Gana Parishad, what will be the fate of those who are elected MLAs or who have been benefited during this period?

The Government has consulted the Ministry of Law and everything has been discussed. Upto 21st of August, from the promulgation of the Ordinance, anybody who has been benefited, his benefit will be protected. It is limited to the State of Assam and only to one community. This is the position.

In deference to the sentiments expressed by hon. Members or the House with regard to referring this Bill to a Select Committee, I bow to their wishes. Accordingly, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbhongshi in the List of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of following 15 Members :

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan  
Shri Dwaraka Nath Das  
Shri Lalit Oraon

Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste  
Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar  
Shri P.R. Dasmunsi  
Shri Pinaki Misra  
Shri Uddhab Barman  
Shri P. Kodandaramaiah  
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam  
Dr. Jayanta Rongpi  
Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma  
Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma  
Shri M. Selvarasu  
Shri S.K. Karvendhan

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996.

MR. SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Third Ordinance, 1996 (No.30 of 1996) promulgated by the President on 27 June, 1996."

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbhongshi in the List of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of following 15 Members :

Shri Amar Roy Pradhan  
Shri Dwaraka Nath Das  
Shri Lalit Oraon  
Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste  
Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar  
Shri P.R. Dasmunsi  
Shri Pinaki Misra  
Shri Uddhab Barman  
Shri P. Kodandaramaiah  
Shri S.S. Palanimanickam  
Dr. Jayanta Rongpi  
Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma  
Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma  
Shri M. Selvarasu  
Shri S.K. Karvendhan

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 1996."

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Will they also consider the other demands pending with your Ministry like fishermen, etc?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : No.  
MR. SPEAKER : It will automatically come.

SHRI RAM NAIK : It is only limited to the tribes in the State of Assam. That is the only purview under which this will go. It will look no other things.

MR. SPEAKER : Is it only Assam?

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : It is this subject only.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Mukundapuram) : A comprehensive statement - what is called for - is the explanation of the Minister. In lieu of that...(Interruptions) Otherwise, it will not serve the purpose.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Why can you not withdraw the Bill?

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Nobody is against inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi. That is accepted by all the Parties, except one or two. I do not know which are these one or two Parties. Our party has accepted it. We have passed it. The question comes from Himachal Pradesh. Some people's representatives have gone by that. I am coming to them one by one. It came from Kerala. It came from other States also. The demand was that some more communities should be accommodated. Then the Central Government decided to give it immediately to Koch-Rajbongshi. An assurance was given to all these delegations, including the Chief Ministers. Some of whom met me, told me that when this Bill would be brought, a comprehensive Bill would be brought because at that time, the time was very short. Now if you say, it is only confined to Assam, it will not be correct. It has also been told that the number of people, these small tribes in other areas, involved is not much. So you should consult the ST community and then you consider it. You may reject it or accept it. Let the Select Committee consider this and then give its reports.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : From Andhra Pradesh also, there are a number of requests from communities like Rajaka, Vaddera etc. And this matter has been pending in the Ministry for a long time and all these demands may be considered. Either he should withdraw the Bill and bring a comprehensive Bill or let the Select Committee go into all these demands and come out with its reports.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is one more important point.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) : There is a minor community in Lakshadweep also. He should also assure that when the comprehensive Bill is brought, it will be included. Therefore, in the Select Committee, it would be the wisdom of the Select Committee to accept or reject. But it should not be confined only to Assam in which case all these communities will not be there.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : In Assam, Tee Tribes are considered not as SC and ST but in other parts of the country, like in Orissa, they are considered. For example, the Garos community is considered as ST in

Meghalaya and not in Assam. Like that, this disparity is there.

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood it.

SHRI RAM NAIK : That is why a new point emerges because some communities belonging to some other States will have to be considered. Now when we are considering this, then I personally feel that the names of the hon. Members who are suggested on that Committee would need some review. I would only suggest that we would leave it to you to name the Members so that it will be a broad based. This is my suggestion.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. I think the Motion which has been just moved cannot be interpreted that the Select Committee will go strictly only with relation to the State of Assam because the Constitution Amendment Bill is to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi in the List of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam. That is the name of the Bill. Therefore, when Assam is coming, I think the Committee will have the scope to go into the other States also. I think that is understood. And in view of the acceptance by the Government...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Okay. The Members have said that the Speaker will decide.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have made a good suggestion. If the hon. Minister gives an assurance that all the eligible communities in the various states would be included in the list, I will have no hesitation in withdrawing the Resolution.

The Bhargavas are considered dhobi's by some and barbers by others with the implementation of your suggestion, Sir, this issue would be decided once for all.

[English]

DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Sir, I want the hon. Minister to clarify whether the Congress Government, which was in power during the month of January, 1996, had decided to bring this Ordinance in the month of January because there was no consensus in the House. This should be clarified because otherwise it will carry a wrong signal and will create a lot of misunderstanding in the State of Assam, so far as the Koch-Rajbongshi community is concerned...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Mr. Speaker Sir, I seek the leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, Has the hon. Member, Shri Girdhari Lal Bhargava, leave of the House to withdraw his Statutory Resolution?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

The Statutory Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I want a clarification. If all the States have to be covered, then probably the number of members of the Committee will have to be increased.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): Sir, the only point is that for other areas and other communities which are also applying to be included in the list of Scheduled Tribes, if it is required, the matter can be referred to the Standing Committee so that the Standing Committee can look into it. But so far as Koch-Rajbongshi is concerned, this particular Bill can be sent to a Select Committee and the Select Committee, as proposed by the Minister, can look into this. So, as regards other communities, the Government will refer the matter to the Standing Committee of the Ministry of Welfare...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Unless you bring a comprehensive Bill, it cannot be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, if you enlarge the operation of this Bill, then a Joint Select Committee of both the Houses will have to be there. If you want to restrict it to Koch-Rajbongshi with regard to Assam, then this can be sent to the Select Committee of the Lok Sabha. Since the Rajya Sabha is not there, it will be a problem to constitute a Joint Select Committee now.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not think Joint Select Committee is strictly required.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This Select Committee itself, on your direction, can look into other problems also.

MR. SPEAKER : I have already said so.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Then, Sir, what is the problem now?

MR. SPEAKER : There is no problem.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : There is no problem, Sir. This very Bill can be made into a comprehensive Bill and it can be referred to a Select Committee. That is all.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I do not know the Rules. The AGP Members have raised a question. Nobody, in this House, I feel, is against the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi...(Interruptions) Let me finish. Sir, since the sentiments of the Koch-Rajbongshi community are very very high, if the Government feels, they can have another Ordinance on 21st and continue with these benefits, or, as has been said, they must pass an administrative order to this effect. All these benefits which have gone to them, should be honoured. Then there will be no dispute. If that is done, then their point will be covered.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : Sir, as I have already made it clear, the benefits which have been made available through this Ordinance, will not be disturbed or affected.

Again I want to put forth before the hon. House, that the Government is already separately considering various petitions and requests from various communities for inclusion into the S.Ts. or change from S.Cs to S.Ts. or from S.Ts. to S.Cs. or inclusion of both. So, this Select Committee will specifically discuss this issue. The Government is prepared to discuss separately the other requests made by the different communities.

I think this should not be linked. It should be discussed separately. I assure the House that the Government will certainly take into consideration the requests and petitions from different communities separately and after consulting all the Parties we can bring a comprehensive Bill here...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Sir, In Kerala there are communities like Dheeveras, Pulluvas, Kudumbis who, for the last so many years, have been demanding inclusion in the S.Ts. They are demanding for it ...(Interruptions) There will be agitation.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, In Andhra Pradesh there is demand from the Vaddera community...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please wait for a moment. Mr. Minister, if you want the Select Committee to go into the question of only Koch-Rajbongshi, where is the necessity for Select Committee?

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You said in the beginning that you are referring it to a Select Committee because there are other demands from all over.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : We will oppose this ...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT (Shajapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, your ruling is in order under Rule 77. The rule stipulates that the member in charge can move the Motion after the Joint Committee or the Select Committee presents its final report...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I am prepared to withdraw the Resolution provided they concede your suggestion. I would simply go by your instructions ...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : He has already withdrawn his Statutory Resolution...(Interruptions)

SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Sir, it will not be correct. In Assam itself there are so many tribes which are to be included in the list...(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : Sir, this should go to the Select Committee. The Government will bring a comprehensive Bill later...(Interruptions)



THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.CHIDAMBARAM) : Mr. Speaker, Sir as I understand there is really no controversy about including this community. But, if you are including this community from Assam, apparently there are one or two other claims related to this community or the nearby areas from Assam which have to be considered. My humble appeal to all hon. Members is since the question has arisen about one community in Assam and there are some related claims in Assam in that tea garden area, that is why the request is to please send this Bill to the Select Committee which will report very shortly whether this one community or one or two more in that areas should be included.

We are aware that there are a number of claims from Kerala and other States which have to be considered. The Minister has given an assurance that this will be considered and another comprehensive Bill will be brought in which all other claims can be considered and that can be considered by the Standing Committee or the Select Committee or whatever. Please let us understand the sentiments of the people of Assam and let us send this Bill to the Select Committee. We will bring another Bill. Please cooperate with us ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, I made it clear at the beginning that I did not want to bring a controversy here. I met the hon. Prime Minister yesterday...*(Interruptions)* You were there. That was my specific proposal.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA : We are accepting it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : You did not accept that. Now you come to the House and say something. Your leader says something and this confusion arises. This was my specific proposal.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We are accepting it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : For people from Kerala and Andhra Pradesh and other States let there be another Committee.

Let the hon. Prime Minister come to the House and say that this will be done. We said that we shall allow this Bill to be referred to a Select Committee only about Assam. That was not accepted then. Now, if Shri Chidambaram - he has got the authority to say - says and if it is an assurance by the Government and not by Shri Chidambaram, that this particular Bill in spite of the fact that hon. Speaker has said it should be broad based and should be specifically for the Assam and should be considered in relation to tea garden workers who are considered as tribes in Orissa and other places, we have no objection. But there should be an assurance by the Government and not by Shri Chidambaram or Shri Ramoowalia. It is because the Government says something and then back tracks. Let us be very frank

and free. Even our Government had fallen back...*(Interruptions)* You give an assurance that a comprehensive Bill will be brought by a Joint Committee of both the Houses or by sending it to the Standing Committee, as you may think best. We have no objection. We are ready to cooperate with you.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the first issue is about Koch-Rajvanshi the second issue is about the entire Assam and the Third issue is about the entire country. As regards Koch-Rajvanshi, Members from all quarters, including Shri Chidambaram and the welfare Minister have extended their support. It is also true that some more communities of Assam are also proposed to be included. The second suggestion is about a comprehensive Bill to which government have no objection. The moot point is that the reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country is 22.5 per cent whereas their populations as per the 1991 census is 25 per cent. But the Supreme Court has ruled that the total reservation cannot exceed 50 per cent. In Tamil Nadu, the reservation quota is 69 per cent but it is included in the 9th Schedule. There are about 100 communities which can be included in the list of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. When a caste or tribe is to be included in the list of SCs or STs, for the first time in a State it is the prerogative of the President of India to accord sanction. Bill if an amendment is to be made thereafter, Parliament is empowered to do it. There are two methods to determine whether a caste can be included in the list of scheduled castes or not. The first method is that the State Government recommends the case, or the Registrar General of India certifies that the particular caste faced discrimination or account of untouchability. The RGI also decides whether a particular Tribe has the characteristics of a Scheduled Tribe. After the recommendation by the State Government or the RGI, the Parliament takes a final decision thereon. With this criteria about 100-150 communities are eligible to be included in the list which would increase the percentage by 2-3 per cent. In that event, the percentage of SCs or STs may increase to 27-28 per cent, but their quota is stagnant at 22.5 per cent. The problem before the Government is that an increase in the percentage of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes would necessitate amendment of the constitution.

22.00 hrs.

Therefore, there is need to bring a comprehensive Bill. But the Government also wants the question of increase in the quota of reservation in proportion to the increase in population to be taken up along with the comprehensive Bill.

The immediate problem of Koch-Rajbongshi Community in Assam may be referred to a Select Committee.

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, there is one point which has been left out. As far as I know, these things have to be considered and recommended by the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes Commission also. I do not know whether that is the procedure to be followed in this case.

MR. SPEAKER : I think it is very clear. The Government says that a comprehensive Bill would be brought forward. So, this Select Committee will confine itself to the claims of different sections of the people of Assam including Koch and Rajbongshi. Now, I will put this Motion before the House with one condition that the names which have been mentioned in this are subject to changes that may be made by the Speaker.

The question is :

"That the Bill to provide for the inclusion of Koch-Rajbongshi in the List of Scheduled Tribes specified in relation to the State of Assam be referred to a Select Committee consisting of 15 Members, namely :

1. Shri Amar Roy Pradhan
2. Shri Dwaraka Nath Das
3. Shri Lalit Oraon
4. Shri Faggan Singh Kuleste
5. Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar
6. Shri P.R. Dasmunsi
7. Shri Pinaki Mishra
8. Shri Uddhab Barman
9. Shri P. Kodandaramaiah
10. Shri S.S. Palanimanickam
11. Dr. Jayanta Rongpi
12. Dr. Arun Kumar Sarma

13. Dr. Prabin Chandra Sarma
14. Shri M. Selvarasu
15. Shri S.K. Karvendhan

with instructions to report by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session 1996."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : The matter is over.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, once the House approves the names, the hon. Speaker will have no power to change them.

MR. SPEAKER : The House is obliging it, and the House is Supreme.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, it would be better if the hon. Speaker is given the full powers to constitute the Committee. But once the House approves these 15 names...

MR. SPEAKER : The House cannot approve it without the names.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Once it is approved in the House, you cannot change any name.

MR. SPEAKER : The House is supreme.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Sir, you may kindly see the rules. It would be better if you take the full powers.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : While putting the Motion before the House, the hon. Speaker has stated that the names are subject to changes that may be made by him. It is all right.

MR. SPEAKER : Thank you hon. Members for your cooperation. The House stands adjourned to meet again on August 26, 1996 at 11.00 a.m.

**22.02 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 26, 1996/Bhadra 4, 1918 (Saka).*

**PLS 40. IV. 17.96**

**670**

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