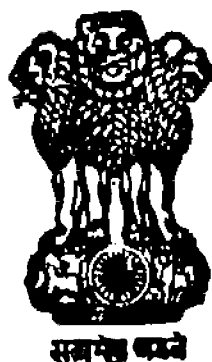


LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Friday, March 29, 1985/
Chaitra 8, 1907 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *In the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Seizure of Goods At Delhi Airport

*243. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) The total value of smuggled

goods seized at Delhi Airport during the last two years (to-date), year-wise; and

(b) the number of persons apprehended in this connection, and the number out of them who are employees of the Indian Airlines/Air India or other Government Departments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statment

(a) and (b) : The total value of smuggled goods seized and the number of persons arrested in connection with smuggling activities at Delhi airport and the number out of them who are employees of Indian Airlines/Air India or other Government Departments, during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 (upto 25.3.85) are furnished below :—

(*Value : Rs. in lakhs*)

Year	Value of goods seized	Total number of persods arrested.	Number of employees of Air-India/Indian Airlines or other Government departments.
1983	131	129	1
1984	464	196	1
1985 (upto 25.3.85)	90*	36	Nil

*In addition, 3 Kgs. of heroin was seized.

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :
 Sir, plenty of smuggled goods are available in the market. May I know from the Hon. Minister which are the articles mostly smuggled into India, and from which countries are they smuggled? What action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to check such smuggling? May I know, if any special squad has been deployed or is proposed to be deployed for this purpose?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
 Mostly, the goods are smuggled into India from Middle-East countries, Arab countries, Singapore and Hong Kong. In regard to the measures being taken to prevent smuggling, we have strengthened the preventive machinery. In addition, punitive measures are also being taken. We have strengthened the X-ray scanning system. We will further strengthen the intelligence and preventive machinery as also augment manpower and equipment required for the purpose. We have also increased checks and vigilance. We have liberalised the package of awards; as incentives for the informants.

We have also introduced three funds for the welfare of the families of the officers who are killed or injured in these operations. Their families will be fully protected. A special fund has also been created for the acquisition of anti-smuggling equipment.

I would also add that smuggling cannot be prevented totally by preventive and punitive measures alone. We have to take some economic measures also. We have taken certain economic measures. We have liberalised Industrial Policy, and the Import Policy some more incentives have been given. We have reduced the custom duty rates in respect of certain electronic goods. We have also to see that this craze for foreign goods is also reduced. This can be done, if we are able to produce equality goods similar to the ones that are being smuggled. To that end, we are taking action,

SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI :
 According to the answer of the Hon. Minister, one employee was involved in the year 1983 and one employee in the year 1984. I would like to know from the Minister to which Ministry they belong and what action has been taken against them or is proposed to be taken.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
 Sir, in the year 1984, one employee from Indian Airlines, one Mr. Prakas Ram was involved and he has been prosecuted. From the Airport Authority of India three employees were apprehended while taking out three bottles of scotch whisky and 74 dollars. The names of those employees are Kesar Singh, Satyanarayan and Raghubir Chand. From Air India three employees by name Sudarshan Kumar, Sundar Singh and Prem Kumar were involved. Rs. 1,22,020 worth of goods were involved. One person was prosecuted and the second was detained under the COFEPOSA. Regarding the third person, i.e. Prem Kumar, detention order has been issued, but he is absconding.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS : I would like to know from the Minister when the smuggled goods are seized, as to what the method of disposal of these smuggled goods is. Cooperatives were taken as agencies for the purpose of disposing of these smuggled goods. Nowadays these goods which are confiscated by the Customs at various air ports and also ports are not being given to the Cooperatives as it was done earlier. Also, other agencies are coming into the picture. As a measure of helping the consumer cooperatives, these items were given to them for disposal. The prices are also not tallying and these things are not being sold out properly. Will the Minister encourage the Cooperatives for selling these articles and get some money subsidised for the purpose of their general business? Also, will it be done in all the cities? I understand that now there are only certain cities for this purpose. I would like to know from the Minister whether all the cities will now come under the scheme for disposal of

these articles, because a large stock is piled up in the customs godowns. Will the Minister consider this suggestion ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The Hon. Member was pleased to give valuable suggestions. These are noted and we will consider them.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Do the staff of the Airlines also indulge in smuggling activities and if so, what appropriate steps have been taken to curb such activities of theirs and whether are the steps taken are stringent enough to check them from indulging in smuggling ?

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : When they were involved, we have taken action and what action we have, I have already placed before the House.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : May I know Sir, what type of goods are smuggled mostly and from which countries ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Gold, watches, synthetic fabrics, etc. are the articles that are smuggled mostly. As regards the countries from which these goods are smuggled, I have already answered.

SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA : Mostly from which countries are they smuggled ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already informed that it comes mostly from the Gulf countries.

Nationalisation of Coal Industry

*244. **SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the data on which the coal in-

dustury was first nationalised;

(b) the date when the last coal company was nationalised;

(c) whether some of the mines have been abandoned and operations stopped there on the groups of organisational and operational difficulties;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the above coal mines are now being given to private sector for operating; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHI) : (a) and (b). The coal mines were nationalised in two stages. First, under the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972, the coking coal mines which were known to exist, were nationalised with effect from 1.5.1972. Then, under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, all other mines known to exist were nationalised with effect from 1.5.1973.

(c) and (d) : The operation of Shankerpur pit of Eastern Coalfields Ltd. had to be stopped for operational difficulties on account of occurrence of an underground fire. The operations of Semra, Gidhania, Rauta and Mael collieries in Central Coalfields Ltd. were discontinued due to uneconomic working of these mines.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, they are bold enough to reply 'No, Sir'. So many news items have been appearing in the

press. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the item which appeared in the *Economic Times* of 4th January, 1984 :

[English]

“The State administration of Bihar has become significant in this context under a scheme of Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation. A State Government under a king would be enlisting the services of private parties in running some of the abandoned mines and which mines Coal India had stopped operating on grounds of operational difficulties.”

[Translation]

You are saying that illegal mining has been going on openly in Bengal, Bihar, Assam and in other States. Are Government aware of such activities and has any action been taken in that regard, and if so, when was the action taken and what was the result ?

[English]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : As far as Bihar is concerned, in February 1985, the State of Bihar intimated their intention to work four coal mines, viz. Jageshwar, Khas Jageshwar (in the districts of Hazaribagh and Giridih), Pure Murlidih and selected Pipratand (in the district of Dhanbad) by Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation as a holding company, through a subsidiary, with Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation holding 51% of the share capital, and private enterprise the balance 49% as, according to them, the Supreme Court had permitted them to work these four coal mines, and that no reference to the Government of India was necessary in the light of the orders of the Supreme Court for their working through Government company.

The State Government of Bihar have been informed by the Central Government that no prospecting licence on

mining lease for coal mining can be granted, except with the prior approval of the Central Government under Section 5 (2) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. They have also been told to advise the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation not to start coal mining operation without complying with the provisions of the law.

There is no question of any private party doing coal mining, after the nationalization, either directly or in a *benami* way through a State agency, by being a subsidiary because this will defeat the very purpose of nationalization. We have conveyed this. This is also, according to us, the legal position; and, therefore, we have communicated our decision to the Bihar State Government. (Interruption) As I have said, if a private party does this, it will be a case of illegal mining. It has not come to our notice that in any State, any individuals are doing mining. If it is brought to our notice, we will take action, and we will intimate it. Ultimately, we can only persuade the State Government because it is the State Governments, under law, which have to prevent any illegal mining.

As far as the State Corporation is concerned, if it is like in Bengal or Assam where we have allowed it, i.e. if the State itself wants to run a mine which we cannot run, or do not find it feasible to run in such cases, we are all out to help, but only for State Corporation direct.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You have replied to my question correctly, but would you clarify when you intimated the Bihar Government about it, on what date had you written to them and is illegal mining still continuing or has it stopped ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : They have been intimated recently, i.e., during the year 1984, but we have no information

whether the Bihar Government are encouraging illegal mining there.

[English]

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : A lot of money has been invested in the coal industry. What are the steps being taken to rationalise coal industry; if so, is there going to be a White Paper on that? This coal industry production has stagmented over the number of years. There is no worth while increase in production. Will some attention be given in that direction?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is not true that the production in coal industry is stagnating. In fact, it is growing. We have now reached a target of nearly 147 million tonnes. Coal is not being shifted. We are having 27 million tonnes of coal lying at the pit-heads because of the transporatation difficulty that we are trying to sort out. As far as production is concerned, there is no dearth; and we have a plan to produce enough coal in the country. We are rationalising both technically and technologically and also managerially. Therefore, I think, as far as coal mining is concerned, we can say that we are trying to do our best in the country. As far as White Paper is concerned, after all, coal is black. What is the need of a White Paper?

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether, as he said just now, before granting lease to any private party.....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Hon. Lady Member is already on her legs. Please sit down.

SHRI ANAND GAJAPATHI RAJU : He should not take it so lightly.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have not taken it lightly at all.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : I would like to know whether the Mining Department of the Bihar Government do not have even this much of technical knowledge. Secondly, you have not given prior permission and in spite of this a settlement has been reached. In view of this, do the Central Government intend to cancel it?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : No settlement has been reached as yet.

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : But you have said that your prior permission should have been obtained and that the coal mining has been started without your permission. Does it not show how irresponsible the manner of the functioning of the Bihar Government is?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Here the question is not of technical know'edge but of misunderstanding. There has been delay in interpreting the verdict of the Supreme Court, and according to that as also according to the law, the State Government can start coal mining at a place where we give permission, but the State Government should get the work done through its corporation and not through any private party, or the joint sector or through any other method. We have brought this to the notice of the State Government. (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. K K. TEWARY : They have already done it. There is a settlement between them and the parivate party.

[Translation]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have already said that the State Government cannot entrust this work to any private party and, so far as we know, they have not started this work through any private party. However, we have written to the Chief Minister.

(Interruption)

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA : If this thing has take place, will it be got cancelled ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If any illegality is found, the work will be stopped.

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : In spite of what the Hon. Minister has said, that no Corse of illegal mining are within his knowledge, I have to remind him, I think the records will show that on more than one occasion I think in the previous Lok Sabha also it was admitted on the floor of the House that in the Hazaribagh and Giridih areas of Bihar where there is a great deal of coal deposit lying very near the surface—may not be of very high quality coal, but it is lying very near the surface—a sort of open cast mines are there, which have not been worked out by the public sector. And in these places private companies are employing contracted labour and removing large quantities of this coal in their own lorries and transport. It was stated here that steps will be taken to stop that. I would like to know the position regarding that.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I think it is the same area, the Hon. Member has made a mention. We are apprehensive, I must say this.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : You spoke about Dhanbad, I think.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It is the same area, Hazaribagh, Giridih and Jogeswar Khas, that is that area in the North. We are apprehensive that some private people who have been indulging in this probably now via this subterfuge, join a joint sector group with the Bihar State Mineral Development Corporation, with having 49 percent shares, etc. want to go in for this mining which according to us, will be totally illegal. We have

informed the Bihar Government, I have written to the Chief Minister to look into this, and I am confident that we will be able to persuade the Bihar Government not to allow illegal mining.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO : After the nationalisation the cost of production of coal has gone up hundredfold, with the result that the price of coal is going up, and as a result of that the steel prices are also going up. What steps would the Government take to see that the prices of coal, the cost of production comes down so that the saleable price will be at a reasonable level ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : The cost of production of coal, like any other mineral, also depends on other inputs. Now, if inputs like power, oil, diesel, labour, wages, etc., all keep on going up, then you cannot expect only coal to come down and that as a result there will be increase in steel, in everything, all round. I am not saying 'No'. I agree with the hon. Member that if we have a better production, better movement, it is likely to have an impact on prices, but that is a big 'if'.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : We found in the Budget Speech of the Hon. Finance Minister that the installed capacity of coal is 210 million metric tonnes per year; and just now the Hon. Minister stated that we are going to produce 140 million tonnes and this is an increase according to him. But what prevents us from attaining the installed capacity, in production ? And then if that is done, which is possible that with the present manpower, would not the price of coal come down ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I do not think that the price of coal necessarily will come down with increased production. As I have just now mentioned, we have at our pitheads 27 million tonnes of coal lying, some of which is getting burnt, prices being what it is. Because the main consumers ultimately are again the big public sector units like the power plants, the steel plants and others.

Therefore, it is not that the price will have an impact merely by production.—overall—unless the whole movement, availability of coal is improved. I think it will not directly have an impact on that. I can increase coal production, but if I increase coal production what will I do with it ?

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER : Shri Mohanlal Patel. Absent.

Shri Ajoy Biswas

Writing Off Loans Taken From Bank By Small And Marginal Farmers

*246. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have any proposal to write off the loans taken by the small and marginal farmers from the different nationalised banks which are overdue for many years ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Within the framework of RBI guidelines the nationalised banks raise deposits and lend a portion thereof to borrowers. The rate of interest for advances, which differ from category to category, is also decided by the Reserve Bank of India. The advances to small and marginal farmers are given at a comparatively lower rate of interest.

It is not possible for the public sector bank to write off loans on a large scale which are given out of the funds raised

from the depositors.* If this were to happen, it will be difficult to raise deposits and provide further credit to farmers and others.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : The Government in their reply have stated that it is not possible for the public sector banks to write off loans taken by the small and marginal farmers. But the Government have written off arrears of income tax amounting Rs. 30 crores. 77 percent of the total number of operational holdings are held by the marginal and small farmers. Because of their low holdings, sometimes they are not able to pay loan instalments. Thus interest goes on accumulating on that loan. In such cases, the banks do not allow further loan to these farmers. So, there should be a distinction between wilful defaulters and non-wilful defaulters. Will the Government consider that the small and marginal farmers are relieved from the payment of interest and the amount may be shared in equal proportion by the Government of India, the State Government, RBI, IDBI and the concerned bank as was done in 1979 for the drought affected areas in UP ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The money that is deposited in the banks, belongs to the people of this country. The loan is given to the small, marginal and other farmers for productive purposes. So far as small and marginal farmers are concerned, we have been giving subsidy to them. There is an Integrated Rural Development Programme for that. For marginal farmers the subsidy element is to the tune of 33.1/3 percent, for small farmers it is 25 percent and the tribal farmers it is 50 percent. The money with the bank has to rotate. Unless small and marginal farmers pay back that amount, it cannot be rotated and given to other persons including weaker sections of society. If due to specific reasons like calamity, flood, drought, etc. it is not within the capacity of these farmers to pay back the loan, in such cases we are re-scheduling and re-phasing it. In some cases where it is beyond the capacity of small and

marginal farmers, then there is the Deposit Insurance and Credit Corporation. When it is found that the loan is not recoverable, the concerned banks approach this Corporation and there will be insurance to the tune of 70 to 75 per cent of the loan. But there is no proposal before the Government to write off the loan or the interest as suggested by the Hon. Member.

SHRI AJOY BISWAS : If their loan is not re-phased, definitely they have to switch over to the money-lenders and the big land owners. It is a serious problem in rural areas. A recent study has revealed that the number of agricultural accounts pertaining to small and marginal farmers with the public sector banks, is only 10 per cent. That shows that the money of the nationalised banks is going to the big farmers and landlords, and only a fringe of the problem has been touched by the nationalised banks. The big farmers and the money-lenders have a close tie with the banks. They discourage small and marginal farmers to derive benefits from the banks in order to maintain their control over them. So, my specific question is whether the Government will liberalise the scheme for granting loans and other facilities to the small and marginal farmers so that they can be benefited more from the nationalised banks.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : For IRDP, even in the Budget there is a provision. Apart from that there is a scheme known as differential Rate of Interest Scheme, under which we are giving loans at the rate of 4 per cent. Sir, as you are aware, and the House is also aware, we have to pay interest at the rate of 11 per cent if the amount is deposited with us for more than five years. The other expenditure that is incurred on furniture, fixtures, salaries, etc., comes to two to three per cent. That means, for every Rs. 100 we have to incur an expenditure of about Rs. 13 to Rs. 14, including interest. Under IRDP, we are giving loans at the rate of 10 per cent and under DRI scheme we are giving at the rate of 4 per cent, to weaker sections and the small

and marginal farmers. This is within the knowledge of the Hon. Member. So many times it has been stated in the House that we have to provide some amount for statutory liquidity ratio and for cash reserve ratio also some amount should be provided for developmental activities. Whatever amount is left after that, 40 per cent of that has to go to priority sector. Therefore, the amount that is left for giving loans to other sectors, is not substantial. So far as the weaker sections are concerned, the 'weaker section' has been redefined and now 10 per cent of the total advances after making provision for the statutory liquidity ratio and the cash reserve ratio, or 25 per cent of the 40 per cent amount that is given to the priority sector, will go to the weaker sections. So, as on today, we are not in a position to liberalise the schemes.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : You have just now informed that loans are granted to the small and the marginal farmers at subsidised rates of interest, but when the question of recovery of the loan arises then against an amount of Rs. 3,000 given as loan in a year, Rs. 15,000 are recovered 5 or 6 years. Besides, the expenses incurred on issuing the notices and on motor vehicles used for effecting recovery are charged from the borrower. In this way, the small amount snowballs into a big amount, and for recovering it, the lands etc. of the small and the marginal farmers are auctioned. On the one hand, the policy of the Government is to lift the people above the poverty line and on the other hand, they are ruining them by auctioning their lands in that manner. So, instead of recovering five times the amount of the loan, is it not possible for you to follow the provisions of the Civil Procedure Code wherein it has been provided that nobody can realise more than two times the amount of the loan? Similarly, will you consider this point that in the case of the small and the marginal farmers and other farmers who are unable to repay the loan in time due to some calamity, so much recovery may not be made?

[*English*]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : There are guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India for advancing loans to the weaker section. If there is anybody who violates those guidelines, it should be brought to our notice and we will definitely take action against him.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Already we have taken ten minutes on this question.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why not allow us ? For what purpose we have come here ?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are so many other subjects on which you can ask questions. I have to cover so many questions.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Why don't you give us an opportunity ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am very sorry. I am more liberal to all.

SHRI SOBHANANDREESWARA RAO : You have not given an opportunity to us; it is not justified.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will allow you on some other question.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : You allow others to make a speech.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That is why I am restricting all.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. All of you sit down. I am asking all of you to sit down. First you sit down. Then I will allow you. I would request all the members to co-operate with me.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please sit down. I am asking you all to sit down.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All are important questions. There are so many important questions.

(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Sir, my colleague has fully answered the question in detail. He has explained that out of the 40 percent, which is allotted to the priority sector, one-fourth of that, i.e. 25 percent is reserved for the marginal and weaker sections. That is the priority we are giving. He has further explained that concessions are given for drought etc. Now the point raised by the Hon. Member, which is a valid point, is why it should go up to 4 times or 5 times. Now this portion of the loan has to take care of drought, flood, some concession in interest etc. So, when there is a default in payment, some other poor men, who are waiting for the same money will be deprived of it. If we do not recover the repayment, these people will be starved of loans, because it will come to a grinding halt. If he wants to save payment 4 or 5 times, the option is there with him to repay it in time.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I will give opportunity on some other question.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I cannot answer when go many members ask question at the same time. If a question is put by one member, I can answer it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)***

SHRI VISWANATH PRATAP SINGH : If a question is put in a proper manner, I can answer it.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : In view of the fact that you have not agreed to write off the dues from small and marginal farmers, which are overdue since a long time, is it not a fact that some of nationalised banks are writing off loans that were given to the industrialists under 'bad' debts? Is it not a fact? Then why there is discrimination? Is it not unconstitutional? Therefore, will the Government reconsider the stand taken towards the small and marginal farmers and write off the loan dues lying for very very long time?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, unfortunately the Hon. Members did not understand my answer properly. As I have already stated there is Deposit Insurance and Guarantee Corporation. When it is beyond the capacity of the person to pay and when it is found that it is not a willful default, 75 percent of it is taken care of by that insurance corporation.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Where is insurance? It is only on paper.

SHRI JANARDHANA PCOJARY : This body has written off bad dues earlier and it is writing off every year. But it is not for the Government to write off the dues I have made it very

clear. It is written off by that institution. If it finds that the dues cannot be recovered from the weaker sections, 75 percent of that loan will be absolved by the Deposit Insurance and Guarantee Corporation.

Another point is whenever it is found that these cannot be recovered at all for special reasons and that he is not in a position to pay at all and that it is not at all a willful default, in such cases there is a provision to write off. So, when banks find that it is not at all recoverable for special and convincing reasons, in such cases these are written off.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Then why don't you write off in the case of farmers?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : We write off for rural sectors also. He has explained that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, next question. Shri Shivendra Bahadur Singh.

SHRI BRJAMOHAN MOHANTY : Sir, since we are disciplined people, we should not be deprived of the opportunity to ask questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If it is so important a topic, you can give a motion and then we can discuss it. Why should the time of Question Hour be taken for this small topic. There are other Members waiting for the turn of their questions.

Growth rate of central coalfields limited during seventh plane

*248. **SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH** : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Coalfields

Ltd. is expected to achieve a record growth rate of 14 percent in the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(b) if so, the details thereof, and

(c) the incentives being given to the officers of Coal India Limited therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

As per the report of the Working Group on Coal and Lignite set up by the Planning Commission, in Central Coalfields Ltd., the production of coal is envisaged to grow from 38.5 mt. in 1984-85 (terminal year of Sixth Plan) to 70.2 mt. in 1989-90 (terminal year of Seventh Plan) The linear growth rate projected during the period 1985 to 1990 comes to over 16%.

(c) No specific incentive scheme for the executives working in the Central Coalfields Ltd. has been framed so far. However, the overall growth potential of the coal company will result in more avenues for accelerated promotions and career growth to both executives and non-executives.

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether they have included the Singrauli Coalmines in the CCL or not.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Singrauli Coalfields in Madhya Pradesh are included .

SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : I would like to know whether incentives are given to the public sector officers specially in the Coal India Ltd. to encourage them to boost up the growth and once you encourage them, I am sure the public also will be satisfied and corruption can be eradicated.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : In the service conditions themselves there are

incentives for officers in the form, as I said, of promotion and other facilities. I do not understand what type of incentives my friend has in mind. If he has the ideas that they should have incentives as we have for the ordinary workers, it is a different matter, we will consider all these things.

[*Translation*]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD : In 1983, some people were engaged in illegal mining in the Chapapur Colliery in the Eastern Coalfields. At that time, an accident occurred there and dozens of labourers were killed. After that it has not been made known as to what punishment was given and what kind of treatment was meted out to those officers who were engaged in illegal mining ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : This questions to a specific mine, for which I require notice. If you write to me, I shall be able to collect the information.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I would like to know whether in view of 14 percent growth rate in production, Government propose to allocate some funds in the Seventh Plan for Bhopalpalli Coal Mines of Andhra Pradesh and if so, the amount thereof ?

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE : If you give me notice by giving a specific question about the coalmines in Andhra Pradesh, I can give a reply. There are so many coalfields. I cannot go by every mine and say how much is produced.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it has been the policy of the Government of India not to grant extension to those persons who are due to retire. But the Chairman of Coal India, Shri Gujral, has been granted extension in service, who had already retired. Does the Hon. Minister propose to grant him further, extension also ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Granting of extension is based on the merits of an officer.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : But it is the policy of the Government not to grant extension in service.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : We shall act according to the policy of the Government.

[English]

Setting up of Nijaynagar Steel Plant at Hospet in Karnataka.

*249. **SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had laid the foundation stone of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant at Hospet in Karnataka some nine years back;

(b) If so, the total amount spent so far on the about plant;

(c) the amount required to commission the plant;

(d) whether Government propose to provide more funds in the coming years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) : Yes, Sir, in October, 1971.

(b) Total amount spent so far is about Rs. 8.5 crores.

(c) In accordance with the Detailed Project Report, based on direct reduction technology, submitted by MECON in October, 1984, the capital cost of the first phase of the Plant (including captive power generation) has been estimated at Rs. 422 crores,

(d) and (e) Investment decision on this Project has not so far been taken by the Government.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, it is a very disappointing reply. The foundation stone of this steel plant was laid in 1971 by no less a person than Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister. You have spent already about Rs. 8.5 crores. The people of Karnataka are very much agitated over this. It is a question of life and death for them. The Steel Plant is a must for the economic prosperity of the State. I want a categorical reply from the Government whether they would like to take up this plant. The Honourable Steel Minister should give a definite reply as to whether he is going to take up the execution of this Steel Plant.

SHRI NATWAR SINGH : My distinguished senior colleague, Shri Vasant Sathe replies to a question the other day and he said that our Department has requested the Planning Commission to provide Rs. 400 crores. (Interruptions)

SHRI NARAYN CHOUBEY : But the foundation-stone was laid back.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let him reply.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : If you do me the courtesy of listening to me. You might have your answer.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PARTAP SINGH) : That is precisely the problem.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I am trying to answer your question. The answer is that after the allocations are made in the Seventh Plan, we will go ahead.

If you want to know about the details as to what work has been done so far, we can give this to you. But unless the allocation is made in the Seventh Plan, it is impossible for us to give any definite answer. (Interruptions)

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, his answer is not clear as probably I

did not follow. Has any fund been provided in the Seventh Plan? Have they recommended for a provision in the Seventh Plan? Let it be very clear. Has the Ministry of Steel recommended to the Planning Commission for a provision of certain fund in the Seventh Plan?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : We have recommended to the Planning Commission.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is the long-felt desire of the people of Karnata, since 14 years, to have this plant. But I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Janata Government at the Centre during 1977-79 had kept this plant in the cold storage on the pretext that the collaborator preferred shore-based plant. If so, what is the reaction of the Government? I want a firm answer from the present Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do you want to know regarding the Hospet plant? Does the Minister want to make any comment?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I have my own views on the Janata Government. But I would rather keep them myself for the moment.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Sir, I seek your protection. I put a relevant question.

(Interruptions.)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other hon. Members may keep silence. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want to know specifically?

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : The Janata Government was out of power

in 1979. Why do you refer to Janata Government time and again?

[English]

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : Mr. Narayan Choubey, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to know what actually he wants. I want to listen to him. Allow me to listen to him. Why are all of you shouting like this?

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : During the period 1977-79, the Janata Government at the Centre and a particular Minister had kept this proposal in the cold storage on the pretext that the collaborator preferred a shore-based plant. It was at the cost of the people of Karnataka.

(Interruptions)

What is the reaction of the Government?

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : Does the Minister want to say anything on this? Was the proposal kept in cold storage?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : How can I express an opinion on this question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : During that period, whether the project had been kept in silence?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The project did not make any progress at all.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want to get some information for you. Why are you troubling? Mr. Minister, are you having some information? *(Interruptions.)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Order

please. Please sit down.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I will give you the information. The report was given by the steel Authority of India. It was commissioned in 1975 and submitted by MECON in 1977. Various technical committees were set up by SAIL on DPR and certain changes in the parameters and product-mix were asked for. The SAIL Board approved the DPR in August, 1981. So, from 1977 to 1980, there was no progress at all.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : That is all. Please sit down.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the foundation-stone of the plant was laid in 1971. It is now 14 years passed. The Janata Government was in power for two years. So, what did the Congress Government do in the 12 remaining years ?

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want to say ? What question do you want to put ?

SHRI S. JAIPAL RADDY : I am putting the question. *(Interruptions.)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You sit down.

SARI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I seek your protection.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is 14 years since 1971 when the foundation stone was laid. The Janata Government was there only for just $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. What did the Congress (I) Government do for the remaining $11\frac{1}{2}$ years for achieving any progress in regard to the Vijayanagar Steel Plant at Hospet ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Much of

what the Congress Government did in all these years was undone in 2 years by the Janata Government.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Whatever we have achieved in 150 years of freedom struggle was destroyed by them in 2 years of Emergency.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : It takes time to build; it does not take much time to destroy...*(Interruptions)* It is no use crying over the spilt milk. You forget about these 14 years...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : You want me to remember only 2 years.

SHRI VASANT SATHE : I have included those 2 years also in these 14 years so that you forget that also.

If you want to know what is happening to the Vijayanagar Steel Plant. I will tell you what is happening. As far as the Vijayanagar Steel Plant is concerned, originally, it was thought that it would be based on the then available technology which is based on coking coal. Now, the coking coal is not available in that region. The coking coal is in short supply in the country. It was then found that any technology based on the coking coal would not work, would not be economical and would not be feasible. That is why the MECON were asked to come in to find out whether any onther technology—the plant had to be taken up; it was a promise and we wanted to do it—could be used. It has been found that there is a technology called D.R. Direct Reduction technology, by which sponge iron with electricity you can convert into steel. We have also worked this technology. We can have sponge iron and produce steel.

Now, the only question is that we must have an assured supply of power. Our experience, unfortunately, with Karnataka has been that even for the plants like Kudremukh...

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Since when ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : You forget about when. Are you interested in the result or are you interested in finding fault ? I am telling you the position. Even today the Karnataka Government is not able to assure power. They have not given power even when we have paid Rs. 70 crores for the Kudremukh project. No power is available in Karnataka even for their own steel plants, like, Viswesaraya steel plant. No power is available there. My hon. friend should know that unless power is assured, this steel plant cannot work.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Is he aware about power which has been denied to the people of Karnataka ?

SHRI VASANT SATHE : Therefore, it is no requesting the Planning Commission and the Finance Minister to give Rs. 400 crores if you cannot assure power. You assure power and I assure you the plant.

SHRI K.H. RANGANATH : Is it not a fact that when Mr. George Fernandes was the Industry Minister, he suggested that a shore-based project was better and, thereby they shelved the construction of the Vijayanagar Steel Plant ?

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTYSPEAKER : The Question Hour is over. There is no time. Please sit down. You give your question in writing. I am going to the Short Notice Question of Prof. K.K. Tewary.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The time

is over. You given your question in writing to the Hon. Minister who will answer your question. Please sit down. You cannot question my authority.

The question hour is over. Now We shall take up the short Notice Question. Prof. K. K. Tewary.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

[English]

Reported Release of a technical report by the union Carbide Corporation, USA on the Gas Leakage at Bhopal

1. PROF. K. K. TEWARY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported release of a Technical Report by the Union Carbide Corporation, USA on the causes of Toxic gas leakage from their plant at Bhopal and reported statements of the Chairman and other officials of that Corporation disclaiming any responsibility or liability on the part of the Union Carbide Corporation, USA in regard to the disaster and their attempt to attribute all responsibility entirely on the Indian Managers and Operators of the said plant;

(b) If so, the reactions of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER FOR CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reported conclusions in the so-called technical report of the Union Carbide Corporation, USA are apparently based on insufficient evidence and therefore, are speculative. Further, the statements reported to have been made

in the press by the officials of the Union Carbide Corporation, USA regarding responsibilities for the unfortunate leakage, while releasing the so called technical report, are unwarranted and unjustified. The publication of the technical report based on inadequate data and statements based on it by officials of the Corporation, therefore, appear to be motivated.

There is adequate evidence to establish, in a convincing manner, the culpability of the Union Carbide Corporation of USA for the Bhopal Gas Disaster. Government, however, cannot but refrain from raising a public debate at this stage, when the matter is sub-judice, but shall present all the facts in this regard at an appropriate forum.

PROF. K.K. TEWARY (Buxar) : Sir, the report of the Union Carbide is a strange document and this seems to be an attempt to wriggle out of the whole responsibility. This disaster at Bhopal is unparalleled in the history of the industrialised world. Thousands of people died and thousands were rendered helpless. Some of them became crippled. In the light of this horrendous tragedy, Government took many steps like rehabilitation of victims and then there was flurry of activity. Many American advocates suddenly descended on Bhopal and we heard that cases are being prepared for paying suitable compensation to the victims of this gas disaster and tragedy. After all this, now we hear from the Union Carbide that the culprit multi-national company are not involved in any case and an attempt is being made deliberately to throw the blame at the doors of the Indian managers and some Indian functionary is there. This is a very serious attempt on the part of the Union Carbide. It is an attempt to completely absolve themselves of all responsibility of paying compensation to the victims here and their role in this disaster.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Minister to take up the matter with

utmost seriousness and to tell the House and the country what precise measures are going to be taken by the Government not only to stop repetition of such disaster but also to ensure that the victims are paid compensation. Those who are dead are dead. But this disaster is going to have a long-term impact. People who are maimed have to be rehabilitated.

We are told that the doctors have suggested that even the unborn children will carry the effects of this disastrous incident. So, it is a very serious crime and a crime which has to be pursued to its logical conclusion so that the culprits may be brought to book...

AN HON. MEMBER : What about remedy ?

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : What remedies will you suggest if those who are to explain are trying to run away from this....(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please address the Chair.

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : There seems to be a concerted attempt on the part of this Corporation to wash itself of all the responsibilities that normally should be its share for this disaster. Therefore, the light of this, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, when this Report came, when this Technical Report, as they say, came, when it was announced by the functionaries of the Corporation, our Embassy in the U.S.A. took some action about this Report.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : According to my information, this Report was produced by the Union Carbide Corporation of the United States of America, and the Chairman of this Corporation released this Report in America on 20th March, 1985. The Hon. Member wanted to know as to what was the Indian Embassy. We have received a report from the Indian Embassy. The Indian Embassy, accord-

ing to that report, has issued the following statement to the press :

“The Government of India have been proceeding with great circumspection in dealing with the question of the responsibility and liability of the Union Carbide Corporation in respect of the disaster in its Bhopal Plant. We would have hoped for at least as much care on the part of the Union Carbide and can only deplore the fact that the Company has not only published a so-called report which, by its own admission, has been prepared without knowledge of the full facts relating to the tragedy but has seen fit to include assertions or implications which are unjustified and unacceptable. Further comments on the Technical Report are being issued by the experts concerned in India.”

PROF. K. K. TEWARY : My second supplementary is about the role of this multi-national *vis-a-vis* this plant since they are now trying to shift the responsibility to the local managers. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the design of the Plant and the technical services were provided by the Union Carbide of U.S.A. for this Plant. This also should be made clear as to what precise relationship exists between the Indian Plant at Bhopal of Union Carbide and the head office of the Union Carbide in the U.S.A. and the multi-national as such.

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The Hon. Member will appreciate that at this stage it will not be in public interest to reveal details of the evidence available with the Government in this regard. However, it is known that the Union Carbide Corporation, U.S.A., has 50.9 per cent equity in the Union Carbide India Limited and, therefore, has overriding controlling interest. Further, the design and technical services for the Bhopal Plant were provided by the Union Carbide, U.S.A.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is

it a fact that there is a growing feeling among the people who are affected by this tragedy at Bhopal that there is an effort on the part of the Government to settle this problem with the Union Carbide Corporation outside the court and if that fear is there, is it not a fact that if any effort is made to settle the problem outside the court, the difficulties are that if we judge by the conditions in U.S.A., if a similar episode were to take place in U.S.A. then the case is very clear that the minimum damage that the American Jury would award in the court would range from 50,000 to 100,000 dollars for each injury and more than that for each death. And since the Union Carbide's assets are such that they are not likely to bear such a big responsibility, any effort to settle the problem of compensation outside the court will be to the detriment of these who have suffered at Bhopal and, therefore, will you give an assurance to this House that this will not be settled outside the Court ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Only the other day this was discussed threadbare in this House and while considering the Bill, I had made it clear that the Bill gives powers to the Government of India and according to the provisions of the Bill there are three options open to the Government of India. One option is to file the cases in American courts, the second option is to file the cases in Indian courts and the third is to have a compromise outside the court. These are the options open to the Government of India. I have made it very clear that while accepting any of these options, the only guiding factor is the best interests of the victims. Supposing there is an offer—we have not yet received any concrete offer from the company—and if that offer is in the best interests of the victims, certainly we will consider and if that offer is not in the best interests of the victims, then we will not consider and there is no question of bringing any pressure on the Government.

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA : Will

the hon. Minister State whether according to the findings of an Indian investigation at least three days before the gas leakage, the plant technicians were aware that something was wrong with tank No. 610 and that the top brass management in U.S.A. also was aware of this and yet no action was taken to find out what was wrong with tank No. 610 ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The report referred to by hon. Member Shri Tiwari who has tabled this question is not the report we have produced. That is the report produced by the Union Carbide Corporation of U.S.A. So the hon. Member Mr. Tewari wanted the reaction of the Government with regard to that report and the statements made in that connection by the office-bearers of the Union Carbide. So there is no question of our report and making comments on it. This is the report produced by them. They have commented on that report and it has appeared widely in the media of the U.S.A. So the hon. Member wanted to know the reaction of the government and I have already given my reaction.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : What has happened to the criminal case registered against the top man of the Union Carbide ? He obtained anticipatory bail. First he was refused bail and subsequently he obtained bail. Has the investigation been completed and is the Government thinking of filing a charge-sheet against him ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : The case has been launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government and the case has been registered and the investigation has been entrusted to CBI and CBI is investigating into this matter and investigation is going on.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Of the three options which the Government has formulated, the first is that the case should be filed in the American courts. Secondly, it may be filed in the Indian courts. I would like to know, this is not a question of individual liability. It is a

question of corporate culpability. In case it is found in the investigations that Union Carbide Ltd., U.S.A. is a guilty party I presume your cases will have to be filed in the American courts but that does not automatically rule out the share of culpability on the part of Union Carbide India Ltd. which is a subsidiary company. So, these two options are not mutually exclusive. What is the government's view in this regard ? It may be necessary to file cases both in the U.S.A. courts and Indian courts. There are two corporate bodies involved. I know Americans are trying to pass on the buck to somebody else but that does not automatically create the Directors of Union Carbide India Ltd. I hope the government will take adequate precaution and care to see that in the matter of corporate liability none of the possible culprits are allowed to escape on technical grounds.

Sir, it is for the first time we came to know that this Union Carbide India Ltd. were permitted to have over 50 per cent—59 per cent—foreign equity holding. I would like to know how it came about and on what grounds it was permitted ?

SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL : Sir, the other day while discussing it I made it clear and I want to make it clear to the hon. Member also that Government of India wants to proceed against Union Carbide Corporation of U.S.A. It is because it may be a subsidiary company but this company has got more than 50 per cent share holding. Therefore, they cannot escape this responsibility and we are working out all these alternatives particularly the first two alternatives whether we should file the cases in American courts or Indian courts. The other day I informed the House that so far as the filing of cases in American courts is concerned, the point is that there is a limited time available and we have to take a very early decision. We have appointed the law firm and the attorneys are already here and they are going to visit the

plant. If we want to file the cases then within a week or two we have to take the decision. Government is fully prepared and making all preparations to take all necessary steps to safeguard the interests of the victims.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION

[English]

Import of Cement

*245. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of cement imported during the year 1984 and the amount involved;

(b) at what rate the import was made

and from which country;

(c) the quantity of cement likely to be imported during the year 1985; and

(d) the steps being taken to produce more cement in the country and reduce import of cement in future to save foreign exchange ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) A quantity of 4.59 lakhs MTs of cement valued at Rs.23. 85 crores was imported on C. & F. basis during 1984, by S.T.C.

(b) The names of countries and the rates at which import was made are as under :

Name of country	Type of cement	Rate per M. T.
Poland	Ordinary Grey Portland cement	US S. 30 per M.T. F.O.B.
G.D.R.	—do—	Rs. 310. 40 per M.T. F.O.B.
Romania	—do—	Rs. 315 per M.T.F.O.B.
South Korea	Sulphate Resistance Cement	US \$. 48 per M.T. F.O.B.
Yugoslavia	White Cement	US \$.120. 50 per MT C&F

(c) No final decision has been taken on the total quantum of import of cement during 1985.

(d) In order to produce more cement installation of additional capacity has been approved. It is also being ensured that there is greater capacity utilization of existing units .

Banking Services in West Bengal

*247 : SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the banking service in West Bengal particularly of the Leand Banks are reported to be very poor ;

(b) if so, the details of complainants

received-and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the functioning of the Banks there ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The performance of banks in the State of West Bengal has been showing improvement over time. The deposits of Scheduled Commercial Banks in the State have increased from Rs. 3579 crores in December, 1979 to Rs. 6, 792 crores in March 1984. Advances have gone up from Rs.2, 302 crores to Rs. 3,889 crores during the same period. The average population per branch office for the State has improved from 23,000 as on 31-3-1982 to 19,000 on 31-12-1984. Priority sector advances by public sector banks in the State

increased from Rs. 409.39 crores at the end of December 1979 to Rs. 766.4 crores at the end of December, 1983. Disbursals under integrated Rural Development Programme in the State increased from Rs. 2.57 crores in 1980-81 to Rs. 30.42 crores in 1983-84. Constant efforts are being made to further improve banking services in the State for the benefit of the local population.

Stock Exchange Reforms

*250. SHRI B. V. DESAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had agreed to seek the views of the G.S. Patel Committee on Stock Exchange reforms on the proposals made periodically for setting up of mutual funds in the private sector in the interest of mobilising larger funds from the capital market.

(b) if so, the extent to which the reforms on stock exchange have been made;

(c) whether the views of Patel Committee were received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise, in view of answer to (a) above.

Steps to Reduce Production of Low Quality Steel at Rourkela Steel Plant.

251. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state.

(a) whether the tonnage of discarded (low quality) steel has been increased in the manufacturing process of Rourkela Steel Plant in 1984-85 as compared to

1983-84;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore ; and

(c) the steps Government the public sector undertaking are contemplating to reduce the production of low quality (rejected) steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken at Rourkela Steel Plant for improving the quality of steel are installation of desulphurisation facility, process control computer for LD Converters and secondary steel making. These steps have already yielded results.

In the proposal for technological upgradation of Rourkela Steel Plant, emphasis will be laid on improvement of input raw materials.

Sinter production capacity will also be expanded. Latest technology would be incorporated in LD steel making process by installing top and bottom blowing facilities in the LD Converters. It is expected that these steps will further reduce the arisings of low quality steel.

Guidelines Issued By Nabard to Commercial and Co-operative Land Development Banks

*252. SHRI K. RAMA MURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of guidelines issued by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to all the commercial banks as well as the State Co-operative Land Development Banks indicating that it would be very selective in refinancing the loans extended for the purchase of tractors with HP exceeding 35; and

(b) the reasons for taking such a step ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Guidelines were issued by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development to commercial and State Land Development Banks in September, 1984 to examine carefully the necessity and viability of the schemes for financing the purchase of tractors with horse power exceeding 35. The main reason for issuing such guidelines was that high horse power tractors are generally not related to actual farming operations of beneficiaries and are usually required for heavy duty operations like land shaping. However, on representations from various quarters, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has since issued another circular in February, 1985 advising banks to finance tractors upto 50 horse power on the basis of viability of individual schemes.

Bank Robberies in Nationalised Banks

*253. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank robberies which took place in the nationalised banks in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and the Union Territory of Delhi during the last one year; and

(b) the number of persons apprehended and the amount recovered so far in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) As per available information, the number of bank robberies dacoities which took place in banks in the States of Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat and Union Territory of Delhi, the number of persons arrested/apprehended and the amount recovered during the period 1-1-84 to 31-12-84 is given below :

Name of the State / Union Territory	No. of bank robberies/ dacoities	No. of persons arrested/apprehended	Amount recovered (Rs. in lakhs)
Punjab	11	5	0.26
Rajasthan	5	5	—
Gujarat	1	Nil	Nil
Delhi	7	5	8.27

[*Translation*]

Intoxicants Seized on Indo-Pak Border

*254. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some intoxicants have been seized during the past two months from the smugglers operating on the Indo-Pak border;

(b) if so, the value thereof and the number of persons arrested, in this connection;

(c) whether Government are taking any concrete steps to check such smuggling; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reports received by the Government indicate that 1872 bottles of intoxicants, i.e. liquor valued at Rs. 77,642. (approximately) was seized on the Indo-Pak borders during January and February, 1985. No person was arrested in this connection.

(a) and (b) The drive against smugglers has been intensified. The preventive and intelligence machinery of the Customs department in the region has been

reinforced in terms of man-power and equipment. In addition, the trend and pattern of smuggling are kept under constant review and appropriate anti-smuggling measure, both short-term and long-term, are taken in close co-ordination with the concerned Central and State Government authorities.

Uniform Pay Scales and Service Conditions in Nationalised Banks

*255. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have been able to fulfil their assurance of introducing uniform pay scale and service conditions in various nationalised banks after fifteen years of their nationalisation; and

(b) if not, the reasons for not introducing uniform pay scales and service conditions for different categories of employees and officers in all the nationalised banks even after such a long time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b). The workmen and officer staff of all the 20 nationalised banks have uniform pay scales, allowances and service conditions.

As between the 20 nationalised banks and the State Bank of India, in view of certain special features obtaining in State Bank of India, there are differences in the matter of pay, allowances and other benefits. The seven Associate Banks of State Bank of India, however, have the same pay scales, allowances and other service conditions as the nationalised banks.

[English]

Closing of Jute Mills due to Shortage of Raw Jute

*256. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : SHRI INDRJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE

AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the jute mill owners of Calcutta are closing down jute mills with the plea of shortage of raw jute and consequently 50,000 workers of 12 jute mills are out of work;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the "shortage" is being artificially created by cornering raw jute stocks by black-money operators in conjunction with unscrupulous jute mill owners;

(c) whether Government are also aware that various trade unions including AITUC and CITU in West Bengal have demanded that the Union Government should issue immediate instructions to the jute mill owners to open the mills and in case of their failure to comply, take over such jute mills; and

(d) if so, reactions of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The reason put forward generally for recent closure of jute mills is industrial dispute. The shortage of raw jute, coupled with its high prices and financial stringency of mills are reported to be contributory factors for such closure. At present 14 jute mills in West Bengal affecting about 50,200 workers are closed (excluding 3 permanently closed mills) out of which 11 mills have closed down from the beginning of 1985, affecting about 42,400 workers.

(b) As a result of four successive short jute crops, there is a shortage of raw jute in the country.

(c) and (d) A statement is attached.

Statement

In a resolution adopted in the meeting of Central Executive Committee of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union held on 16th February, 1985 and also in the Tripartite meeting held under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister, Govern-

ment of West Bengal on 26th February, 1985, trade union representatives, *inter-alia*, demanded that all closed and locked out jute mills should be reopened failing which Government of India should take them over immediately. In this connection, it may be mentioned that closure/Lockout comes under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act and the State Government is the appropriate authority for matters dealing with industrial disputes. It is, therefore, for the State Government of West Bengal to take appropriate action in the matter.

Take-over of an industry is the last resort of reactivating sick units. Government's role is primarily to monitor and coordinate measures aimed at revival of the sick units, coupled with assistance from banking and financial institutions who are primarily responsible to take remedial measures, inclusive of financial and managerial restructuring of the units in order to rejuvenate the industry.

Second Steel Plant In Orissa

*257. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether second steel plant in Orissa is being established during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any foreign collaboration in this regard is under negotiation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) and (b). Government's decision to set up steel plant at Daitari region in Orissa remains unaltered. The likely schedule of setting up of the plant will depend upon the investment decision which has yet to be taken.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Drop in Central Government Deposits

*258 SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a drop in the Central Government Deposits during the last two months, January and February, 1985;

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

(c) the reasons for such heavy transfers of resources from the Central pool to banking system ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH) : (a) to (c). The arrangement with Reserve Bank is that whenever cash balance of Central Government is very high it should be brought down by premature cancellation of Treasury Bills held by Reserve Bank. Through this arrangement the idle surplus cash balance which does not earn any interest is utilised to reduce Government's interest bearing liability to RBI. This does not represent transfer of Centre's resources to banking system. The cancellation of Treasury Bills is covered by Appropriation sanctioned by Parliament.

Setting up of Divisional Offices of L.I.C. in Jammu and Kashmir

*259. PROF SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Life Insurance Corporation of India has set up Divisional Offices in all the big cities in India;

(b) whether he is aware that Divisional Offices of Life Insurance Corporation of India have been set up at the capitals of all the States except Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, whether Divisional Offices will be set up in near future at Srinagar and Jammu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) No, Sir. The LIC has Divisional Offices only in 43 cities.

(b) The LIC has no Divisional Offices in 9 State Capitals.

(c) The question of opening Divisional Offices in Srinagar and Jammu is to be decided by LIC on merits.

Import of Sight-Saving Equipments under Life-Saving Category

*260. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
SHRI R.P. DAS :

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

(a) whether the Council of the Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology has approached Government to make the import of sight-saving equipments duty free;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government to the said proposal; and

(c) if no such concession is proposed to be given, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The request of the Council is under examination.

Export of Diamonds

*261. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether he has any plans to stock rough diamonds to help diamond export efforts;

(b) if so, whether cut diamond export is being stepped up;

(c) whether international monopoly houses are controlling diamond trade ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to

protect Indian diamond exports from these houses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The Hindustan Diamond Company Limited and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited procure rough diamonds for stock and sale to eligible diamond traders for export production and cut and polished diamonds.

(b) Export of cut and polished diamonds is constantly encouraged.

(c) The Diamond Trading Company is reported to control substantial part of mining and marketing of rough diamonds. There is no such trading company for cut and polished diamonds.

(d) There being no trading company controlling substantial part of trade in cut and polished diamonds, exports from India are generally arranged by Indian merchants directly.

Tea at Reasonable prices

* 262. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has taken steps to make tea available at reasonable prices;

(b) whether for this, the proportion of tea to be set apart for auction has been reduced; and

(c) whether packaged tea at prices fixed by Government is being made available throughout the country for use by common man ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (c). The Government have announced the Tea Marketing Plan for 1985 with the objectives of maximising export earnings and at the same time ensuring adequate supply of tea at reasonable prices for the domestic market.

The following measures have been specifically designed to ensure reasonable prices of tea in the domestic market :

- (i) 435 M. Kgs. have been allowed for domestic retention in the marketing plan as against the estimated domestic consumption requirement of about 415 M. Kgs. during 1985.
- (ii) The minimum export price mechanism will ensure that only the higher value teas are exported, and allow retention of cheaper teas for the domestic market.
- (iii) Buying in auctions for exports is being carefully regulated, in order to ensure that prices of purchases of tea for the domestic market are kept in check.
- (iv) The percentage of obligatory auction offerings has been increased from 70 to 75%. This is expected to ensure a more effective linkage between auction prices and consumer prices and also closer monitoring of availability of tea.

Basically control over domestic price of tea is being maintained by monitoring and regulating the supply and demand balance and not by statutory price control. Statutory price control is considered impracticable in view of the large number of grades and varieties of tea produced and seasonal variations in quality.

As a result of these measures, the package tea prices of popular brands have come down and prices in Indian auctions are significantly lesser than auction prices at major auction centres abroad, for the types of tea consumed domestically.

Decline in Export of Tea

1433. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of the countries which are importing tea from India;
- (b) whether there is a decline in the

tea export;

(c) if so, the main reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to recapture the export market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Indian Tea is exported to a large number of countries all over the world. Some of the major importers of tea from India are : USSR, U.K., Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Poland, West Germany, Netherland and Afganistan.

(b) There has not been any decline in exports of tea from India, as is evident from the following figures.

Year	Qty (M. Kgs)	Value (Rs. Crs)
1982	189.9	355.55
1983	208.5	516.82
1984	214.7	744.92

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Generation of black money in sale of Maruti Cars

1434. SHRI MOHAMMAD MAFFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will, the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the press report appeared in the 'Indian Express' on 24th January, 1985 regarding generation of black money in the sale of Maruti Cars and alleged Involvement of a group of senior Maruti executives;

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Government is aware of the press report. The Income-tax authorities are looking into some transfers of Maruti

vehicles by the original allottees morder to ascertain whether any unaccounted funds are involved in such transfers.

Central Advisory Council on Textile Industry

1436. SHRI R. ANNANAMBI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of the Central Advisory Council on Textile Industry have suggested measures for promoting exports of textile fabrics and clothing and removal of the differential approach to powerloom sector *vis-a-vis* organised mills;

(b) whether they have also suggested the adoption for a multi-fiber approach, elimination of compartmentalization in the organised sector and rationalisation of excise duties; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government there to ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). In the meeting of the Central Advisory Council on Textile Industry held on 9th March 1985, members suggested measures for promoting textile exports, structural changes in the textile industry, adoption of a multifibre approach and rationalisation of excise duties etc. The suggestion made in the meeting of the Central Advisory Council would be taken into consideration by the Government while formulating the Textile Policy.

Lack of Cooperation from Commercial Banks in Implementing rural Development programme

1437. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the lack of co-operation from the branches of commercial banks in implementing rural development programmes;

(b) whether the beneficiaries are not

properly guided and extended support by these banks;

(c) whether any guidelines have been issued or proposed to be issued by Government to different commercial banks in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). In the credit support for rural development programmes, the share of commercial banks has shown a substantial increase in the recent past. Government as also Reserve Bank have issued instructions to banks to extend credit on liberal terms and conditions to the priority sector borrowers including weaker sections like small and marginal farmers, landless, labourers, tenant farmers, artisans, village and cottage industries, beneficiaries of Differential Rate of Interest Scheme and Integrated Rural Development Programme and SC/ST borrowers. Accordingly banks have introduced simplified forms in regional languages for small borrowers. The bank staff also assist the borrowers in filling up the application forms especially where on Development Agency like DRDA/DIC is connected with the loan. Margin and security norms have been kept liberal for small advances. The controlling officers conduct a sample check of the cases rejected to ensure that no viable proposal is rejected. The performance of banks in financing IRD Programme has shown appreciable progress, as may be seen from the following table :

(Rs. crores)		
Year	No. of beneficiaries assisted (In lakhs)	Amount of loan disbursed
1980-81	27.27	289.05
1981-82	27.13	467.59
1982-83	34.55	713.98
1983-84	36.85	773.51
Specific complaints brought to the		

notice of the Government or Reserve Bank are taken up with the concerned banks for remedial action.

Opening of Branches of Banks in States

1438. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of banks branches opened during 1982, 1983 and 1984 year-wise bank wise and State-wise details thereof;

(b) the number of bank branches to be opened during 1985, State-wise and bank-wise details thereof; and

(c) the criteria of opening of the bank branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Latest available Statewise/ Union Territorywise information relating

to the number of branches opened by commercial banks during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 (up to September) and the number of authorisations/licences pending with them as on 30-9-84 for opening branches are set out in the Statement attached.

(c) Under the current branches licensing policy, the State Governments were advised to identify rural unbanked centres for opening bank branches. The applications received from banks for opening offices at semi-urban centres and rural centres other than those identified by the State Governments are considered by Reserve Bank on merits taking into account the population of the centre; number of offices functioning at the centre or in close proximity there at, business potential available at the centre etc. The centres are generally allowed to the Regional Rural Banks in their command areas and to commercial banks having adequate representation in the area.

Statement

State wise position of offices opened during the years 1982, 1983 and 1984 (upto September)

Name of the State/ Union Territory	No. of offices opened during		No. of Authorisations/ licences pending with Banks (as on 30-9-84)	
	1982	1983	1984(up to Sept.)	
1	2	3	4	5
Andhra Pradesh	183	270	157	218
Assam	82	61	44	190
Bihar	320	139	172	635
Gujarat	191	192	77	276
Haryana	61	81	32	35
Himachal Pradesh	29	55	19	41
Jammu & Kashmir	30	48	28	57
Karnataka	159	282	191	195
Kerala	71	87	35	115
Madhya Pradesh	313	349	204	480
Maharashtra	195	292	154	534
Manipur	4	5	3	33

1	2	3	4	5
Meghalaya	10	14	12	22
Nagaland	5	4	2	11
Orissa	131	102	134	207
Punjab	69	100	32	78
Rajasthan	101	203	157	427
Tamil Nadu	127	251	122	151
Tripura	2	1	—	27
Uttar Pradesh	572	585	328	1134
West Bengal	169	105	88	909
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	1	—	2
Arunachal Pradesh	6	4	5	21
Chandigarh	7	7	1	3
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—
Delhi	28	39	28	62
Goa, Daman & Diu	3	8	—	3
Lakshadweep	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	3	—	6	24
Pondicherry	2	2	2	2
Sikkim	1	10	2	—
Total	2784	3297	2035	5992

Opening of Night Bank Branches

1439. SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of night bank branches working in the country as on 31 December 1984 in different States, State-wise and bank-wise details thereof;

(b) whether there is any proposal for

opening more such bank branches in the country;

(c) if so, the names of those places indicating the names of the banks;

(d) the time by which these branches are likely to be opened; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a). Information as available with
Reserve Bank of India is given
below :

Name of State	State Bank of India	Union Bank of India
1	2	3
Maharashtra	Sahar Airport, Bombay (Exchange Bureau) Sahar Airport, Bombay (Foreign Travel Tax Counter) Taj International, Bombay (Exchange Counter) Hotel Centaur, Bombay (Exchange Counter)	Princess Street, Mohammed Ali Road, Bhulleshwar, Bhat Bazar, Mandvi, Pune City
Tamil Nadu	Madras Airport, Madras	Triplicannu, Sowcarpet Erode Tiruchirappalli
West Bengal	Airport, Calcutta (Exchange Bureau)	Ballygunj, Calcutta, Syam Bazar, Calcutta Ezra Street, Calcutta
Kerala		Palayam Road, Kozhikode Chalai Bazar, Trivandrum
Karnataka		Bangalore City. Belgaum (Main)
Andhra Pradesh		Hyderabad (Main) Secunderabad. Guntur
Gujarat		Delhi-Chakla Ahmedabad Dhanlaxmi Market, Ahmedabad Rajkot, (Main)
Madhya Pradesh		Indore-Siyaganj, Raipur
U.T. of Delhi	Palam Airport, New Delhi	

(b) to (c). No such proposals are of now.
pending with Reserve Bank of India as

Gold Price

1440. SHRI MOHANLAL PATEL
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the present gold price in India and in the international market;

(b) whether there has been a sharp rise in the gold price in India recently, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of gold exported every year in the shape of ornaments and whether it has any effect on the gold price in the country; and

(d) whether Government are considering to put some restriction on the export of gold ornaments in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJAY) : (a) on 20th March, 1985 the price of standard gold per 10 grams in the Bombay market was Rs. 2125 as against Rs. 1329 per 10 grams in the London market.

(b) to (d). Yes, there has been a sharp rise in the price of gold in India recently. Sizeable fluctuations in the gold price occur mainly because domestic supplies are small and speculative factors play an important role. The export of gold ornaments does not entail any net outflow of gold from the country since the gold used in these ornaments is imported from abroad under official schemes, such as that operated by the Handicrafts and Handloom Export Corporation. The exports of gems and jewellery are important earners of foreign exchange. There is no proposal at present under consideration by the Government to restrict the export of gold ornaments.

Manopoly Procurement of Raw Jute

1441. SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be Pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to start monopoly procurement of raw jute so that the fibre could be distributed among the mills according to their needs;

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

(c) the steps so far taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if no, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) & (c). Do not arise.

(d) Monopoly procurement of raw jute will imply a lot of operational, administrative and infrastructural commitments on the part of the State Government in the form of creation and development of regulated markets on operative organisations of jute growers etc. In the absence of any decision regarding such commitments by the State Governments, it is difficult to launch any scheme for monopoly procurement of raw jute.

However, the Jute Corporation of India is there to protect the interests of jute growers. The Corporation is responsible for undertaking price support operation of raw jute and undertakes to procure the entire quantity of raw jute offered to it at minimum statutory price fixed by the Government. The Government has also accepted the liability to subsidise the losses incurred by the Corporation on price support operations of raw jute in the interests of jute growers.

With a view to bring about equitable distribution of raw jute among mills, the Government has regulated stock holdings of raw jute by mills under the Jute (Control and Licensing) Order, 1961.

New Marketing Policy

1442. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of

COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently announced their new marketing policy for 1985 to ensure maximisation of export earnings and adequate availability in the domestic market so that the consumer gets this essential commodity at a reasonable price; and

(b) If so, the details thereof as well as the targets for tea including value added varieties fixed by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

Statement

The salient features of the Tea Marketing Plan for 1985 are as under :

(i) The production target for 1985 has been fixed at 655 million kgs. while the export target for the year is 220 million kgs. inclusive of value added teas. This will leave a balance of 435 million kgs. which will be sufficient to meet the domestic requirement estimated at about 415 million kgs. In order to avoid bunching of exports and to ensure that exports are evenly phased so as to keep the demand and supply in balance at all times, quarterly export targets have been indicated. The exports in the first and second quarters, when availability of the first production is low, are planned at 40 million kgs. each. Higher export at 80 million kgs. are planned for the third quarter when the bulk of Indian production comes into the market and the exports for the fourth quarter will be 60 million kgs.

(ii) The production and export targets are to be reviewed jointly by the Tea Board and the Consultative Committees of plantation Association

every quarter. A major review will take place around the middle of the year when the bulk of production enters the market and more accurate estimates of production become possible.

(iii) In order to ensure steady domestic prices, it has been felt necessary to regulate the buying of tea for export in Indian public auctions. This will be done by Chairman, Tea Board who will announce quarterly ceilings for such purchases separately for CTC teas and orthodox teas for the public tea auction centres—namely Calcutta, Gauhati, Siliguri and Amritsar in North India; Cochin, Coimbatore and Coonoor in South India. All buying for exports in such auctions will be regulated and will have to be registered with Tea Board by the buyers as well as by the auction committees. Export shipment licences will only be available on the basis of such registration.

(iv) In order to monitor more closely the availability of tea coming into the market and also to ensure steady auction prices as well as to ensure close linkage between domestic prices and auction prices, it has been decided to increase the percentage of obligatory sales through Indian auction by all tea manufacturing units from 70 per cent to 75 per cent.

(v) This regime will ensure that exports are higher when not only availability of tea is high, but when quality teas enter the market. This stipulation of exports being subject to minimum export price for bulk teas and packet tea will also continue to operate for the same reason. This will ensure that higher value teas get priority in terms of utilisation of export quota.

(vi) It is considered view of Government that Indian auction are the best means for disposal of bulk teas where buying take place under competitive conditions in well regulated open auctions. Therefore, out of total exports of the order of 220 million kgs. exports on the basis of auction buying area expected to account for 75 million kgs.

That is roughly 80 per cent of export are expected to take place in this manner.

(vii) Direct exports, outside the auction system will be allowed to the extent of 45 million kgs. including a small quota for exports by consignment to auctions abroad. Direct exports will also be carefully regulated on the basis of quarterly ceilings and are mainly meant to cater for smaller quantities of higher value teas. The MEP for direct exports will be based on an assessment of the best international prices and will be higher than that for exports based solely on auction buying. While there will be no MEP for exports of tea consigned to auctions abroad, since the sale takes place outside India, such consignments will be closely regulated, not only on the basis of part performance in terms of quantities, but also on the basis of position of stocks and price trends in auction centres abroad and the price performance of producer exporters in this manner.

(viii) While the overall target of 220 million kgs. is inclusive of exports of Darjeeling tea, Green Tea, packet tea, instant tea and tea packets, exports of such tea will not be restricted. Although the target for value added teas had been fixed at 20 million kgs. Larger exports of such teas and Darjeeling tea will be encouraged and promotional activities will be constantly reviewed to give a necessary fillip to such exports.

(ix) Total exports of tea from North India for the period January to June 1985 will be of 56 million kgs. inclusive of the quota of 20.42 million kgs. release for January and February, 1985. For these six months the quota for Orthodox exports will be 32 million kgs. and for CTC 24 million kgs. The ceiling for exports buying from Indian auctions will be 29 million kgs. for orthodox tea and 12 million kgs. inclusive of a small quantity meant for consignment to auction abroad. Direct of orthodox tea will be limited to 3 million kgs.

(x) As regards South India, total

exports allowed during the first six months will be 24 million kgs. inclusive or 9 million kgs. released during January and February 1985. The six month quota for orthodox tea will be 22 million kgs. and for CTC tea 2 million kgs. Direct export quota of 2 million kgs. will be limited to orthodox tea. The quotas for the first six months have been carefully worked out based on an analysis of the pattern of exports in the past years alongwith the need to ensure that exports are related to the availability of quality tea.

(xi) The total exports of orthodox tea to be allowed for the whole year will not exceed 150 million kgs. leaving about 35 million kgs. required for the domestic market. Orthodox tea exports from North India will be of the order of 102 million kgs. and from South India 48 million kgs. Similarly the exports of CTC tea will be restricted to 70 million kgs. leaving about 400 kgs. for the domestic market.

(xii) The exports from July to December, 1985 from North India are likely to be of the order of 111 million kgs. while the exports from South India during this period are likely to be of the order of 29 million kgs.

(xiii) The export targets under different categories for the whole year are indicative and are likely to be varied depending on the production situation and on domestic and international prices. Even for the period March to June, Chairman, Tea Board is empowered to make marginal adjustments in order to ensure smooth flow of exports.

Decline in Exports of Gems And Jewellery

1443. SHRI PIYUSTIRAKY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether exports of gems and jewellery during the first nine months of current financial year (April-December, 1984) have totalled Rs. 951 crores against Rs. 962 crores in the same

period of the previous year;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in exports of gems and jewellery;

(c) the steps taken by Government to improve the exports; and

(d) Government's stand on more man-power utilization foreign expertise and equipment, productivity increase and rationalisation of procedures as the areas where remedial action is necessary, training of artisans, techno-marketing consultancy arrangements etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the reasons for the marginal decline in this sector include hike in the interest rates in major markets abroad, reluctance on the part of Indian exporters to sell on long term credits because of reported bankruptcies, rising strength of the dollar and restricted availability of rough colour gem stones, etc.

(c) Steps taken by Government to improve these exports include facility to import essential equipment and tools under OGL, reduction in import duty on a number of essential tools and equipment and broad-basing of export production of gold jewellery for exports.

(d) Emphasis is constantly laid on increase in productivity and value realisation in the gem and jewellery sector by means of training of artisans and upgradation of technology and skills for which proposals are considered on merits for utilisation on equipment as well as personnel from abroad.

Opposition to IJMA'S demand for production cut due to raw Jute Shortage

1444. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND

SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any resolution adopted by the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union at their Central Executive Committee meeting opposing the Indian Jute Manufacturers Association's (IJMA) demand for a production cut on the plea of raw jute shortage;

(b) if so, the salient features of the said resolution; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the steps taken or proposed to taken in the market by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). A Resolution was adopted in the Central Executive Committee meeting of Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor Union held on 16-2-1985 and the following main demands were put forward by them :

(i) Mills must work all the days and there should not be any stoppage or closure of mills;

(ii) Raw jute be declared as an Essential Commodity and hoarded stocks be seized;

(iii) Reopen all closed/locked out mills failing which Government must take over all closed mills immediately;

(iv) There should be monopoly procurement of raw jute by Government of India from growers;

(c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

In so far as stoppage of work in jute mills and closure/lock-out of jute mills is

concerned, it may be mentioned that the matter comes under the purview of the Industrial Disputes Act and the State Government is the appropriate authority for matters dealing with industrial disputes. It is, therefore, for the State Government to take appropriate action in the matter.

With regard to take-over of closed/locked out mills, it may be clarified that take-over of an industry is the last method of reactivating sick units. Government's role is primarily to monitor and coordinate measure aimed at revival of the sick units, coupled with assistance from banking and financial institutions who are primarily responsible to take remedial measures inclusive of financial and managerial restructuring of the units in order to rejuvenate the industry.

Raw jute has already been declared as essential commodity under the Essential Commodity Act, 1955. In the Tripartite meeting held under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister, Govt. of West Bengal on 26-2-1985, trade union representatives stressed the need for undertaking drive to unearth excess stocks lying with affluent mills and traders. It was clarified in the said meeting by the Jute Commissioner that if the State Government, on the basis of enquiry reports from its authorised field officials, brings the fact to the notice of the Jute Commissioner, appropriate action could be taken under the Jute (Control and Licensing, Order, 1961.

In so far as monopoly procurement of raw jute is concerned, it may be mentioned that monopoly procurement of raw jute will imply a lot of operational, administrative and infrastructural commitments on the part of the State Governments in the form of creation and development of regulated markets, co-operative organisations of jute growers etc. In the absence of any decision regarding such commitments by the State Governments, it is difficult to launch any scheme for monopoly procurement of raw jute.

Opening of Branch of Commercial Bank in Sripalli-Hill View-New Upper Chelidanga of Asansol

1445. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a branch of any commercial bank in Sripalli-Hill View-New Upper Chelidanga of Asansol which is more populated area:

(b) if so, when and details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons thereof; and

(d) The criteria for opening of the bank branch ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India has reported that no proposal for opening a branch of a commercial bank at Sripalli-Hill View-New Upper Chelidanga of Asansol is currently pending with it. The Centre was also not identified by the Government of West Bengal for branch opening during the current branch licensing policy period, April 1982 to March 1985.

(d) Under the above policy, the State Governments were advised to identify rural unbanked centres for opening bank branches. The applications received from banks for opening offices at Semi-urban centres and rural centres other than those identified by the State Governments are considered by Reserve Bank on merits taking into account the population of the centre, number of offices functioning at the centre or in also proximity thereat, business potential available at the centre etc. The Centres are generally allowed to Regional Rural Banks in their command areas and to commercial banks having adequate representation in the area.

Export of Mica to U.S.S.R.

1446. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have proposal to export Mica to the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, the quantum of Mica proposed to be exported to the Soviet Union; and

(c) whether Government propose to export mica directly or through any of their agency ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) in January 1985, a contract for 3242 MT of mica valued at Rs. 1124 lakhs has been signed by the Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd., with USSR for supplies upto September, 1985. Further contract is also likely to be concluded towards 3rd/4th quarter of 1985.

(c) Export of processed mica is canalised through Mica Trading Corporation of India Ltd.,

Reward to Informers of Tax Evasion etc. by Companies

1447. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for giving cash reward to any informer who gives information about foreign exchange violation, evasion of customs duty etc. by private companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the criteria adopted for determining cash reward; and

(d) whether the identity of the informer is kept strictly secret ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Under the existing scheme, informers are eligible for a cash reward upto 10% of the value of Indian currency and foreign currency confiscated and the penalty realised. In customs cases, it has been decided, on review and as part of the intensification of the anti-smuggling drive, to raise the reward eligibility of informers from 10% to 20% of the value of contraband good seized.

I considering the cash reward, factors such as, accuracy, utility, difficulty in obtaining information from other sources, his antecedents, the risk to which he is exposed, etc. are taken into account.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Companies Violating Foreign Exchange Regulations

1448. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the particulars of companies with import licences, found indulging in violation of foreign exchange regulations and evasion of customs duty during 1984-85;

(b) the amount involved in each case; and

(c) the action taken against each of these companies ?

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

Memorandum from A.P. Country Tobacco Cheroot Manufacturers Association

1449. SHRI B. B. RAMAIAH : Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received a detailed memorandum recently from the Andhra Pradesh Country Tobacco Cheroot Manufacturers Association highlighting need for relief on the cheroot cottage Industry which is in poor condition;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). A memorandum of Andhra Pradesh Country Tobacco Cheroot Manufacturers Federation has been received, which seeks either complete exemption from excise duty on branded cheroots, or enhancement of the exemption limit based on value, available to such cheroots. This has been considered by the Government, and it has not been found possible to accede to the request.

Decline in Export Market for Jute Goods

1450. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(b) whether the market for jute goods has become stagnant with domestic and export enquiries and prices of nearly all categories drifting downwards; and

(b) if so, the reasons for such decline and the steps taken and/or contemplated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b). The jute goods market has recently become stagnant in both domestic and export sectors. Price of nearly all categories of jute goods, particularly sacking, are drifting downwards due to the following factors :

1. Consumers resistance, both in

domestic and overseas markets, to abnormally high prices of jute goods, which was caused by steep increase in raw jute prices and in the cost of production.

2. Increased use of synthetic substitutes in some foreign countries because of high prices of jute items.
3. A larger jute crop is expected next season, which may reduce prices of jute goods. Consumers have, therefore, confined their purchases to the barest minimum for the time being.
4. Present period is also the domestic off-season for the jute industry. The purchase of sugar bags is practically over. Government agencies have also built up comfortable stocks of R. Twill bags for packing rabi crop of foodgrains.

In order to boost exports of jute goods, the Government have taken several steps which include :

- (i) providing higher CCS to jute carpet backing cloth and yarn on the basis of matching performance by industry;
- (ii) formulation of STC jute industry consortium on 50 : 50 loss-sharing basis for exports of carpet backing cloth to North America;
- (iii) Arranging participation in international trade fairs and sponsoring market oriented trade delegations from time to time;
- (iv) Encouraging development of exportable products through R and D efforts; and
- (v) Constituting a new JMDC and a jute Fund out of proceeds of Jute Cess to give boost to R and C efforts and export promotion.

The Government have been taking several steps, from time to time, to improve the viability of the jute industry which include :

- (i) Purchase of jute goods by Government (DGS & D) from jute industry on cost plus basis;
- (ii) Introduction of compulsory use of 100% new jute bags by cement industry;
- (iii) Persuading other user departments to use more jute bags, instead of synthetic substitutes ;
- (iv) Free import of raw jute from Nepal through JCI;
- (v) Setting up of a Standing Committee under the auspices of RBI to study viability of jute mills and to suggest a package of financial measures for rehabilitation of potentially viable units.

Computation of Income tax in cases where Landlords Receive Portion of Rent in Kind

1451. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3712 on the 17th August, 1984 regarding computation of Income tax in cases where landlords receive portion of rent in kind and state :

(a) whether the Air-India's reply has since been received and if so, the action being taken to levy Income-tax on the Air-India's landlords for the concealed benefit enjoyed by them of free air-passage to foreign countries of their choice provided by Air-India; and

(b) the number of cases in which these landlords have concealed this monetary impact in their returns of income submitted to respective Income tax Offices if at all they did it and the penal action proposed to be taken against these unscrupulous landlords ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Central Board of Direct

Taxes have since received from Air-India the names of landlords with whom such rent agreements have been entered, This information has been passed on to the concerned Commissioners of Income-tax for appropriate action under the Income-tax Act, 1961. Results of the inquiries will be known only after the investigations are completed.

Improvements in Mining Techniques and Modernising Equipment at Talcher Coalfields

1452. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state the steps being taken or proposed to be taken to improve the mining techniques and modernise the equipment at Talcher Coalfields with a view to raise the coal output quantitatively and qualitatively ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : During the Seventh Five Year Plan the coal production from Talcher Coalfields is expected to increase from the present level of 3.40 million tonnes in 1984-85 to 8.9 mt. in 1989-90. In order to achieve this quantum of increase in production, a number of steps are being taken. Some of these steps being taken are as follows :—

- (i) A new opencast coal project with annual output capacity of 3.50 million tonnes at Bhartpur and a pithead washery have been sanctioned.
- (ii) Expansion of capacity of Jagannath opencast mine from 1.00 mt. to 2.00 mt. per year has been approved.
- (iii) Action is in hand to update revised project report for South Balanda mine for increasing its production to 1 mt. per year during 1986-87 from present level of production of 0.60 mt. during 1984-85.
- (iv) Feasibility studies for opening a highly mechanised underground mine

at Ananta with French assistance are in progress.

(v) New opencast projects namely Ananta and Kalinga are also being planned for development to meet the increasing requirement of coal by the Power Sector.

(vi) Feasibility of updating the mining methods in Nandira underground and Talcher underground mines is also being examined.

(vii) Drawing up a master Plan of Talcher coalfield have also been taken up to identify major coal mining blocks for exploration and infrastructural requirements.

Exploration of New Gold Mines

1453. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by Government for the exploration of new gold mines in the country;

(b) if so, the number of the new gold mines which have been explored during the Sixth Five Year Plan;

(c) the location of each of these gold mines;

(d) the approximate quantum of gold

deposited in these mines; and

(e) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During the Sixth Five Year Plan period, several areas in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa were covered for gold exploration by GSI, MECL and State Government agencies.

(c) As a result of the exploration surveys carried out, gold mineralisation has been located in Chigargunta and Mallappakonda areas in Chittoor district and Kottapalle block in Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh, and in the extension areas of the Hutti and Gadag Gold Fields in Karnataka.

A gold mining project has been started at Yeppamana, Anantpur district of Andhra Pradesh. The Hutti Gold Mines Limited is developing the Mangalur prospect in Gulbarga district to study its economic viability. Investigations for gold are continuing in various other parts of the country.

(d) and (e) . The reserves of gold ore found in the various deposits are roughly estimated as follows :—

State	District	Location	Quantum of ore Reserves and Grade (in Million Tonnes)
Andhra Pradesh	Chittoor	Mallappakonda	0.77 (2.4 to 4 gm/tonne)
	Chittoor	Chigargunta	4.19 (4 to 5 gm/tonne)
	Anantpur	Yerrappa-Gantalappa	Exploration is in progress
	Anantpur	Yeppamana	3.57 (with 4.69 gm/tonne)
Karnataka	Anantpur	Kothapalle (Ramgiri)	Results not significant.
	Raichur	Huttutti Areas (Wondali Kadoni. etc)	1.92 with 3 gm/tonne.

1	2	3	4
	Dharwar	Gadag areas (Hosur block)	1.23 (with 1 to 5 gm/tonne)
	Shimoga	Honnali	Exploration is in progress
	Gulbarga	Mangalur Schist belt	HGML started development of a new mine.
Kerala	Mallapuram Mallapuram	Maruda Nilambur placer	0.3 (with 4 gm/tonne) 38 Million cubic meters gravel with average grade of 0.1 gm of gold, per cubic meter.

Minor occurrences of gold have been found so far in Bihar, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Haryana, Exploration work in these States is continuing.

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks Abroad

1454. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks opened abroad during 1984, country-wise;

(b) the number of branches of foreign banks opened in India together with their location during the same period; and

(c) the number of branches of foreign banks likely to be opened during the year 1985 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). During the year 1984, one Indian bank opened a branch in Japan.

One Foreign bank opened a branch at Bombay. Another Foreign bank opened a branch at New Delhi by upgrading its Representative Office and by closing its branch at Calcutta.

(c) Licences have been granted by the Reserve Bank of India to two Foreign banks to open a branch each in India. However, it is not certain whether these branches would become operative during 1985.

Disparity in Rate of Interest on Saving Accounts in Banks and Post Offices

1455. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the rate of interest given to customers on saving accounts in the banks is 5 per cent while it is 5 1/2% in Post office;

(b) if so, the reasons of this disparity;

(c) whether due to this disparity in the rate of interest the customers prefer to deposit the amount in Post Office saving accounts than in banks; and

(d) whether it is proposed to remove this disparity and if so, from when ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) For Savings accounts of individuals, Sanchayika accounts, and Provident Fund accounts etc. in Post Office, the rate of interest is 5.5 per cent per annum. However, the rate of interest for institutional accounts is 5 per cent per annum.

(b) to (d). The interest rate on Post Office savings accounts is fixed taking into account the fact that these accounts are essentially meant for individual small savers and the post offices do not provide the entire gamut of facilities and services the commercial banks provide. There is also a ceiling of Rs. 25,000/ on individual accounts.

Buffer Stock of Yarn Under National Handloom Development Corporation

1455. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE and SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to create a buffer stock of Yarn under the aegis of the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC) to stabilise its prices; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The long term yarn purchase and sale policy of the National Handloom Development Corporation envisages buffer stocking of yarn. Though the details of the scheme have not yet been finalized, long term strategy of the Corporation is to provide regulatory mechanism in the market by setting up buffer inventory, keeping in view the trend cycles in yarn prices, for release of yarn in times of scarcity and escalation of prices. This strategy may also

involve back to back tie-up arrangements with the National Textile Corporation, State sector spinning mills by way of advance for cotton to be purchased by such mills or supply of cotton to such mills for providing various counts of yarn indicated by the Corporation. This may also have to be backed up by advances from user agency, if necessary and commitment to lift yarn as per their and delivery schedules.

Minerals Located in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir During the last three years

1457. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any minerals have been located in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir during the surveys conducted for this purpose in the past three years including the current financial year *i.e.* 1984-85;

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

(c) The steps taken by Government to exploit these resources; and

(d) if not, whether any steps are proposed to be taken for this purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). Exploration for minerals is a continuous process and is undertaken by the Geological Survey of India and the State Government agencies according to an approved programme. As a result of such surveys by the Geological Survey of India and the State Governments, the following minerals have been located in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir during the last three years :

Minerals	Location	Remarks
Himachal Pradesh		
1. Copper-lead-zinc (base metals)	Chamri-Anyar in Sirmur district	Exploration is in progress.
2. Limestone	Sirmur, Kulu Simla and Kangra Districts.	
3. Barytes	Simla District	
4. Clays	Kangra District	
5. Gold mineralisation	Sirmur District	
Jammu and Kashmir		
1. Base-metals	Doda District Leh District	Small and sporadic occurrences.
2. Limestone	Rajouri District	8 m.t. have been estimated.
3. Glass-sand	Doda District	A reserve of about 1 m.t. has been estimated so far.
4. Magnesite	Leh District	33 Magnesite bodies totalling about 45,000 tonnes have been estimated.
5. Tungsten	Nubra	Only stream samples have shown Tungsten value in Nubra Shyok valleys.
6. Chromite	Leh District	Small bodies of varying dimensions have been located in Leh District.
Punjab		
1. Halite (rock salt)	Faridkot District	A cumulative thickness of 47 m. of rock salt (Halite) occurs in boreholes at deeper levels.
2. Gold	Ropar District	Traces of gold have been found in the stream sediments of Patiali Rao and Jaintia Rao rivers and their tributaries. Work is still in progress.
3. White silica sand	Garhshankar area of Hoshiarpur District.	

(c) and (d). Exploration work for gold and base metals is still continuing. Exploitation of white silica deposits and Saltpeter is being done by private parties in Punjab.

Exploitation of some of the minerals has already been taken up. In other cases, this can be done only after the economic viability of the deposits is established.

Setting up of Alumina Project in Andhra Pradesh

1458. SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of STEEL MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Soviet experts after a visit to Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh along with the officials of the Bharat Aluminium Company Limited submitted the feasibility report of six lakh tonne alumina project in 1980;

(b) whether the estimated cost of the same at first quarter of 1980 price level is estimated to be Rs. 426 crores and for eight lakh tonne plant is Rs. 498 crores;

(c) whether Government have recently reached an agreement with the U.S.S.R. on the question of provision of a Comprehensive package for financing virtually the entire capital cost and arrangements to buy back the alumina produced; and

(d) if so, the relevant details of such agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (d). Yes Sir. In 1980, the Soviet side prepared a feasibility report for a 6,00,000 to 8,00,000 tonnes per annum alumina plant, at an estimated cost of Rs. 426 crores for 6 lakh tonnes plant and Rs. 498 crores for 8 lakh tonnes plant (at first quarter 1980 price level), based on the bauxite deposits in Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, the Soviet side suggested an export-oriented

bauxite mine of 2.3 million tonnes per annum capacity and alumina plant/mine expansion later. During further discussions, the Soviet side agreed to consider the question of financing a major part of the local costs of the export-oriented bauxite mine, and extending credit for bauxite mine expansion and alumina plant to the extent of Soviet equipment and services, and buying back on long-term basis 3 lakh tonnes of alumina per year.

The matter was discussed with the Soviet side early in March, 1985 when it was proposed that construction of the bauxite mine of 2.3 million tonnes per annum capacity for export of bauxite to U.S.S.R. may be taken up first. Both sides agreed to hold further discussions for evaluating the financial and economic aspects of the bauxite mine.

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Effects of Rise in Steel Prices

1459. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the prevailing high prices of steel have adversely affected the engineering goods exports and added to the inflationary pressure on the economy in general; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to reduce the current high prices of steel ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The exporters of engineering goods are reimbursed the difference between the domestic and international prices of steel under the International Prices Reimbursement Scheme of the Ministry of Commerce.

It is expected that the impact of the recent price increase announced by the JPC will only be about 0.4% on the wholesale price index.

Income-tax relief on bad and doubtful debts of Scheduled Commercial Banks

1460. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under consideration to give income-tax relief on bad and doubtful debts of the scheduled commercial banks;

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

(c) The details of the bad and doubtful debts of the nationalised banks during the last three years, year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) and (b). Banks are allowed deduction, in the computation of their taxable profits, the amount of debt which is established to have become bad during the previous year subject to certain conditions. Further scheduled commercial banks are allowed deduction in respect of provisions made by them for bad and doubtful debts relating to advances by their rural branches subject to a maximum of $11\frac{1}{2}\%$ of such aggregate average advances. It is now proposed to further liberalise this provision so that the limit is raised to 10% of the profit or 2% of the aggregate average advances made by the rural branches of banks whichever is higher.

(c) According to the forms of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account prescribed in the Third Schedule of Banking Regulation Act, 1949, banks are given statutory protection from disclosing the particulars and quantum of bad and doubtful debts for which provision is made to the satisfaction of auditors. The required information therefore cannot be made available.

Inclusion of more consumer items under price control

1461. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of

FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to bring more consumer items under price control during the Seventh Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Seventh Plan is currently under formulation.

(b) Does not arise.

Suggestion to tax Agricultural Sector and Rural Non-Poor

1462. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether several leading economists have suggested to Government of taxing agricultural sector and rural non-poor;

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

(c) whether Government propose to enlist these suggestions in the new economic policy ?

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

(b) and (c). Taxation of agricultural income falls within the fiscal jurisdiction of the States. Action in this regard can be considered only by the States.

Lifting of Excise Duty on Machinery and Custom Duty on Capital Goods

1463. PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indian Merchant Chamber have urged Government to lift

excise duty on machinery and removal of customs duty on capital goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). In their Pre-Budget Memorandum, the Indian Merchants' Chamber has suggested removal of excise duty and reduction of customs duty on capital goods and exemption from customs duty on capital goods covered under project imports, including those for technological upgradation and modernisation of existing units.

(c) Having regard to the relevant considerations, the Government have already given in this year's Budget certain concessions in respect of project imports. The rate of duty on project imports in general has been reduced from 65% to 45% ad valorem and that on power projects to 25% ad valorem, while fertilizer projects have been fully exempted.

The other suggestions of the Chamber have not been found acceptable.

**Request for exemption of replanting
Expenditure on Cardamom from
Income tax**

1465. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the replanting expenditure incurred by cardamom growers is not a deductible item for the purpose of income-tax at present;

(b) whether any representation has been received requesting Government to allow this expenditure as a deductible item for the above purpose; and

(c) if so, the decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). The income derived by growing cardamom is agricultural income. Taxes on agricultural income figures at item 46 of List II-State List in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. Therefore, the Union Government is not concerned with the matter.

**Scheme for Welfare of Plantation
Workers**

1466. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be Pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any scheme for the welfare of plantation workers in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The Plantation Labour Act 1951, provides among other things for welfare of Plantation workers and is enforced by the State Governments who are also empowered to frame the rules under the Act.

The Act among other things; casts an obligation on plantations to maintain wholesome drinking water supply proper conservancy arrangements, medical facilities, canteens, educational facilities, housing accommodation and other required amenities for workers.

In addition to these, the tea industry also provides subsidised foodgrains to workers.

The different Commodity Boards also have various schemes for educational stipends to wards of plantation workers, grants for educational institutions and hospitals, financial assistance for disabled workers or in cases of prolonged illness.

Production of Tobacco and setting up of Tobacco Trading Corporation

1467. SHRI N.V. RATNAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of tobacco produced in each State for the last five years;

(b) the steps taken by Government for fixation of minimum export prices for tobacco;

(c) the steps taken or proper canalisation of all tobacco exports;

(d) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have requested the Union Government to set up Tobacco Trading Corporation on the lines of Jute Government and Tea Trading Corporation; and

(e) The reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) A statement showing the production of tobacco Statewise during the last five years is attached.

(b) Minimum Export Prices (MEP) for export of different grades of Flue-Cured Virginia Tobacco, Sun-Cured Virginia Tobacco, Sun-Cured 'Natu' (Country) and Sun-Cured Jutty Tobacco for the crops of 1985, 1984 and 1983 as applicable from 1-2-1985 have been announced on 1-2-1985.

(c) Canalisation of the exports of all tobacco through a canalising agency has not been found feasible.

(d) and (e). The Andhra Pradesh Government had inter-alia suggested setting up of an organisation in the Central Sector to purchase VEC tobacco from primary growers. This has been examined by Government. An auction system has since been introduced in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh for sale of Tobacco. A Trading Wing has also been set up in the Tobacco Board to undertake limited market intervention in the auction system through mopping up of unsold offerings at the auction platforms at the minimum support price. Under the circumstances, it is not considered necessary to set up a Trading Corporation for the present.

Statement

Production of tobacco in major producing states of India from 1979-80 to 1983-84
(thousand tonnes)

S.N.	States	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
1.	Andhra Pradesh	154.9	164.0	193.4	270.2	191.9
2.	Bihar	11.7	9.7	13.3	12.9	13.4
3.	Gujarat	174.9	185.2	209.5	197.1	186.9
4.	Karnataka	26.6	33.9	29.0	38.4	28.8
5.	Maharashtra	7.9	6.8	7.3	7.1	7.9
6.	Orissa	8.6	11.3	7.8	7.2	10.2
7.	Tamil Nadu	19.1	22.4	22.9	9.2	13.7
8.	Uttar Pradesh	13.8	20.2	15.4	15.3	19.7
9.	West Bengal	11.5	17.4	13.3	15.8	15.5
10.	Others/Union Territories	9.5	9.9	9.2	8.4	9.1
All India		438.5	480.8	520.1	581.6	497.1

Invitation for Engineering Fair to Italian Government

1468. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of the Trade Fair Authority of India has made a statement that the Italian Government has been invited to Engineering Fair (recently held) as a "Partner Country"

(b) if so, the reasons for assigning this special treatment to Italy;

(c) whether there is any agreement with Italian Government in this regard;

(d) if so, when this agreement was arrived at; and

(e) the details of the agreement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) No, Sir. The Engineering Fair was organised at Pargati Maidan, New Delhi and the status of Partner Country given to Italy by the Association of Indian Engineering Industry, a private organisation.

(b) The organisers of the fair have stated that the status of Partner Country was given to Italian participation on the basis of the size of participation.

(c) No, Sir.

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

Filling up of Posts of Heads of Public Undertakings

1469. SHRI BALASAHEB VEKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to weed out inefficient/non-result-oriented heads of public sector undertakings;

(b) whether any exercise has been taken in hand in this regard;

(c) the number of posts of Chairman—Managing Directors of public sector

undertakings, lying vacant at present; and

(d) the time by which those posts are likely to be filled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Government is constantly reviewing various aspects of the management of public enterprises, including change in personnel, with a view to improve their performance. The Chief Executives of public enterprise are given an initial tenure of two years and their performance is kept under close watch through periodical performance review meetings. The extension of their tenure depends on satisfactory performance.

(c) and (d). According to available information, there are 19 public enterprises which do not have full time Chief Executives at present. The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB) have already made recommendations to the Government for filling 13 posts and the selections for the remaining six vacancies are under their active consideration. Appointments to these vacancies are likely to be made shortly.

Export of iron ore to China Through Paradip Port

1470. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of iron ore to China through Paradip Port came into force in 1983-84; and

(b) if so, the total tonnage of iron ore proposed to be exported to various countries, country-wise for the year 1984-85 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) In November, 1983, a contract was signed by MMTTC for shipment of 30,000 tonnes of iron ore to China from

Paradip as trial shipment. The shipment against this contract was made in December, 1984 from Paradip Port.

(b) Iron ore exports from Paradip Port during 1984-85 are expected at the level of 16.4 lakh tonnes, as against 9.28 lakh tonnes exported during the preceding year. The country-wise exports likely to be made from this port during the current financial year 1984-85 are as under :

(Qty lakh tonnes)

Japan	5.5
South Korea	4.2
Romania	1.6
German Democratic Republic	3.1
Czechoslovakia	0.7
Bulgaria	0.4
Hungary	0.2
DPR Korea	0.2
Iraq	0.2
China	0.3
Total	16.4

Malpractice in Export of Semi Finished Leather

1471. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that an organised malpractice of exporting semi-finished leather in the garb of finished leather by camouflaging it with a light coating, is in operation with a view to avail 7.5 per cent compensatory support for export of finished leather;

(b) if so, whether Government are contemplating any action against the unscrupulous exporters;

(c) if so, the details therefor; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) to (d). Some sections of the leather industry, particularly those manufacturing leather goods have complained that some varieties of finished leather being exported from India are in reality crust leather which is further processed in the importing countries. Government is seized of the matter.

Newsitem Captioned "Heroin Worth Rs. 35 Lakhs Seized"

1472. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Heroin worth Rs. 35 lakhs seized" appeared in the 'Hindustan Times' on 3rd March 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether any action has been taken against the persons apprehended in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On 1-3-1985, the Narcotics and Counterfeit Currency Branch of the Central Bureau of Investigation seized 5.322 kgs. of contraband heroin powder near Maurya Hotel, New Delhi from the possession of two persons. There being no authentic price for heroin and as the illicit market price of drugs is dependent on various factors like purity, place of sale, etc., on precise value can be furnished.

(c) Both the persons have been arrested and a regular case has been registered against them under Section 120-B I.P.C. read with Section 14 of the Dangerous Drugs Act, 1930.

Production and Distribution of Coal

1473. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the production and distribution of Coal in States and Union Territories during the last three years; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take for raising the coal production in

the Seventh Five Year Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) State-wise production and distribution of raw coal during the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 is given below :

(Figures in million tonnes)

Production	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
State			
West Bengal	19.91	19.04	19.30
Bihar	51.42	54.03	53.54
Orissa	3.32	3.46	4.17
Madhya Pradesh	27.83	30.74	36.35
Maharashtra	6.89	7.80	8.82
Uttrar Pradesh	2.06	2.37	2.55
Assam	0.07	0.71	0.80
Andhra Pradesh	12.10	12.35	12.59
total :	124.23	130.50	138.22

(in million Tonnes)

Distribution	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84
State			
Andhra Pradesh	7.18	7.59	8.93
Assam	0.45	0.37	0.28
West Bengal	14.88	15.16	14.95
Bihar	23.69	24.89	24.07
Gujarat	8.04	8.96	9.74
Jammu and Kashmir	0.09	0.7	0.06
Maharashtra	9.57	9.82	11.09
Madhya Pradesh	13.09	14.55	15.79
Tamilnadu	3.51	3.93	4.27
Karnataka	1.10	1.03	1.74
Orissa	4.49	4.21	4.89

1	2	3	4
Punjab	2.54	2.73	3.08
Haryana	1.44	1.77	2.13
U.P.	11.00	11.42	13.42
Rajasthan	1.28	1.47	2.41
Delhi	3.26	3.95	3.81
Himachal Pradesh	0.04	0.05	0.05
Kerala, Tripura and others	0.17	0.17	0.33
Total :	105.81	112.14	121.04

(b) The steps being taken to increase coal production, include improving infrastructural facilities, modernisation of existing mines, development of new mines, entering into foreign collaboration for introduction of new technology wherever necessary, expeditious-implementation of projects, and improving productivity of men and machinery.

[Translation]

Opening of Branches of Nationalised Banks in U.P.

1474. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences given to various nationalised banks for opening their branches in U.P. during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 and the number of branches opened by the banks indicating their names during these years; and

(b) the time by which the remaining

branches will be opened and the reasons for the delay in opening these branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) Available data for the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 relating to the number of licences/authorisations issued to the Public Sector Banks for opening offices in Uttar Pradesh and the number of offices opened by them in the State during the above period are set out in Statements I and II attached.

(b) As a large proportion of pending licences/authorisations were issued in 1984-85, the banks would require some time to complete the process of opening offices at the allotted centres. In a few cases lack of infrastructural facilities or non-availability of suitable accomodation also pose difficulty in opening the offices. The banks have, however, been advised to open the offices at allotted centres as early as possible.

Statement I

Number of licences/Authorisations issued to the Public Sector Banks during the period April 1983 to 20 March, 1985 for opening offices in Uttar Pradesh.

Sr. No.	Name of the Bank	Number of licences/Authorisations issued	
		From 1-4-83 to 31-3-84	From 1-4-85 to 20-3-85
1	2	3	4
1.	State Bank of India	9	81
2.	State Bank of Patiala	—	2

1	2	3	5
3.	Allahabad Bank	11	40
4.	Bank of Baroda	3	11
5.	Bank of India	1	15
6.	Canara Bank	3	43
7.	Central Bank of India	6	3
8.	Indian Bank	—	2
9.	Indian Overseas Bank	—	4
10.	Punjab National Bank	3	51
11.	Syndicate Bank	1	18
12.	Union Bank of India	1	54
13.	United Commercial Bank	1	8
14.	New Bank of India	—	5
15.	Punjab and Sind Bank	—	7
16.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	—	11
Total		39	357

Statement-II

Number of offices opened by Public Sector Banks in Uttar Pradesh during the period 1-4-83 to 30-1-85.

1	2	Number of Offices opened during	
		3	4
		1-4-83 to 31-3-84*	1-4-84 to 30-1-85
1.	State Bank of India	43	7
II.	Associates of S.B.I.	4	2
III.	Nationalised Banks		
1.	Allahabad Bank	15	3
2.	Andhra Bank	—	—
3.	Bank of Baroda	11	2

1	2	3	4
4. Bank of India		2	2
5. Bank of Maharashtra		—	—
6. Canara Bank		4	3
7. Central Bank of India		5	11
8. Corporation Bank		1	—
9. Dena Bank		—	—
10. Indian Bank		1	—
11. Indian Overseas Bank		1	1
12. New Bank of India		1	1
13. Oriental Bank of Commerce		5	1
14. Punjab and Sind Bank		4	—
15. Punjab National Bank		17	16
16. Syndicate Bank		9	2
17. Union Bank of India		4	16
18. United Bank of India		1	—
19. United Commercial Bank		2	—
20. Vijaya Bank		—	—
		83	58
Total of III			

*Includes number of offices opened against licences/authorisation issued to public sector Banks prior to 1-4-1983.

[English]

**Realisation of Rs. 40 crores from
HINDALCO**

1475. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Rs. 40 crores which have been outstanding since long from HINDALCO, Birla concern on Aluminum Regulation Account have since been realised;

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

(c) the time by which this amount will be recovered ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). HINDALCO withheld the payment of dues to the Aluminium Regulation Account—the gross amount due aggregated to Rs. 35,67,27630, for the period from 4-10-1979 to 31-8-1983 on the basis of interim orders of Supreme Court and Calcutta High Court. While Court cases were pending, HINDALCO offered to settle the matter out-of-court on the basis that it unconditionally accepts the gross liability as

computed by the Government for payment of dues. As HINDALCO accepted the condition, the matter was settled out of court. After adjusting the amount of dues already paid by HINDALCO during the court proceedings and the amount of additional electricity charges actually paid by HINDALCO to UPSEB for the period for which commitment had been given by the Government, net dues of HINDALCO for the period 4-10-1979 to 31-8-1983 worked out to Rs. 22,74,98,502. HINDALCO was allowed to pay the net dues in 48 instalments. Accordingly, HINDALCO has already paid Rs 6,63,54,176-, in addition to the payment of their current dues regularly. According to the schedule of payment of dues, the last instalment will be recovered by 31st December, 1987.

Payment of Commitment Charges of Rs. 70,000 per day to World Bank for unutilised loan for Railways

1476 : SHRI G.G. SWELL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government are paying commitment charges of Rs. 70,000 per day to the World Bank for a loan for the Railways which has not been utilised;

(b) since when we have been making the payment;

(c) the amount paid to date; and

(d) for how long more loan will remain unutilised ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). An agreement for a loan of 280.7 million was signed with the World Bank on 25-5-1984 for the Railway Electrification and Workshop Modernisation Project, Selection and appointment of a collaborator to assist the Railways in the implementing of the operation information system is a condition for effectiveness of this loan. Since this condition has not been fulfilled the loan

has not yet become effective. However, GOI has to pay to the Bank a commitment charge of 0.75% p.a. on the principal amount of the loan not withdrawn from time to time starting from 60 days after the date of the Loan Agreement. Thus, the commitment charges have started accruing from 25th July, 1984. These commitment charges on the total amount of loan works out to approximately Rs. 70,000 per day. No demand notice for this payment has been received from the Bank but the amount accrued upto 25th February, 1985 is approximately 1.225 million. It is expected that agreement with selected collaborator for the operation information system, will be signed by 15th April, 1985. The loan is likely to be declared effective by 30th April, 1985, when Railways can start utilising it.

Implementation of Vizag Steel Plant

1477. SHRI MOHAMMAD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that because of the continuous delay and slippage in the implementation of the Vizag Steel Plant its estimated cost has risen to soaring height;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the factors responsible for continuous delay and slippage in its implementation; and

(c) the measures taken by Government for its completion as envisaged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b). Construction of the Visakhapatnam Steel Project commenced in February, 1982 and the project was scheduled for completion in six years in two overlapping stages. The first stage for production of 1.2 million tonnes liquid steel was scheduled for completion in four years.

A review of progress of construction of the project made in the middle of 1984 indicated that while certain activities were on schedule (drawings and placement of orders) there had been some slippages in some items such as the erection of structures and equipment. Having regard to the finances available and the very large financial requirements of the project, a thorough review of the schedule of the project was made in order to synchronise the implementation of the different interdependent segments of the project fully consistent with the technological and operating parameters matching the production planned in the project with the market, and ensuring that expenditure is incurred in an optimal manner. On the basis of this review the stage I of the project is expected to be completed by 1987-88.

The original estimated cost for the Visakhapatnam Steel Project was Rs. 2256 crores (based on first quarter 1979 prices). The cost estimates of the project were revised and based on fourth quarter 1981 prices, the revised estimate was Rs. 3897.28 crores; this was approved by Government in 1982. The main reasons for the increase in the estimated costs were increase in prices as well as adoption of latest technologies and changes in the scope of work.

The revised estimate of capital costs for the project taking into account the revised schedule as well as the price escalation since the fourth quarter of 1981, has yet to be finalised.

(c) The progress of construction is monitored by the Project authorities as well as the Government and remedial measures taken to ensure commissioning of the project in time. Regular review meetings are also held with infrastructure agencies for expediting the progress, and with equipment suppliers and consultants for proper coordination of progress of engineering and supply of equipment.

Reserved Quota of Services in Banks for SC/ST Candidates

1478. PROF. MANORANJAN HALDER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether all the scheduled banks are not maintaining the reserved quota of services for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes candidates; and

(b) the bank-wise figures of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees *vis-a-vis* other employees ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The guidelines regarding reservation for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes are applicable to all public sector banks including Regional Rural Banks, and they are following the same. These guidelines are not applicable to other Scheduled Commercial Banks. The bank-wise figures of the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes employees in the public sector banks are at given in the Statement attached.

Statement

The Total Number of General Employees and the Number of Scheduled Castes and Tribes in Nationalised Banks as on 1-1- 1948

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	No, belonging to General		No. belonging to SC		No. belonging to ST				
		Category Clerks Officer	Sub-staff	Officer	Clerks Sub-Staff	Officer	Clerks Sub-Staff			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
1.	Central Bank of India	12073	16818	7218	467	2400	1579	87	713	328
2-	Bank of India	8026	20232	5487	954	2864	2496	371	996	424
3.	Punjab National Bank	8653	17319	6501	817	3507	3194	149	367	504
4.	Bank of Baroda	9236	16143	5785	798	2365	2016	102	393	454
5.	United Commercial Bank	7348	13726	5780	394	1621	1834	78	403	464
6.	Canara Bank	8374	19954	5380	592	3198	1184	221	754	165
7.	United Bank of India	3799	8333	4718	98	1520	1490	37	152	117
8.	Dena Bank	3457	6184	2365	200	1004	835	63	323	331
9.	Syndicate Bank	6371	15660	3831	561	2433	1536	177	613	288
10.	Union Bank of India	6698	11119	3763	330	2148	1752	73	195	192
11.	Allahabad Bank	3548	6395	2835	190	1076	932	30	117	75
12.	Indian Bank	4841	7629	1938	511	1454	930	168	168	112

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	2848	7201	2279	302	1077	795	71	194	243
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	5248	10473	2777	549	2849	1630	216	301	476
15.	Punjab and Sind Bank	3678	5023	2408	39	144	154	14	20	1
16.	Corporation Bank	3698	3181	577	42	171	146	—	44	21
17.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1865	2858	1436	22	355	72	6	48	33
18.	Vijaya Bank	2759	6427	2067	20	190	223	6	70	58
19.	New Bank of India	2564	5238	1746	7	407	504	2	69	32
20.	Andhra Bank	3226	5067	1715	37	728	351	17	102	139
21.	State Bank of India	42652	80773	29471	1299	14687	8857	323	2935	1486
22.	State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur	1931	4924	2291	108	1078	612	3	279	120
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	2148	5435	2404	61	564	303	18	54	66
24.	State Bank of Indore	976	2181	922	29	401	251	18	110	112
25.	State Bank of Mysore	1659	4548	1591	63	535	228	17	190	62
26.	State Bank of Patiala	1229	4011	1487	78	879	862	8	30	37
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	1072	2894	1367	81	422	190	13	154	43
28.	State Bank of Travancore	1805	4581	1676	103	615	498	21	90	85
Total :		161783	314327	111728	8752	50696	35454	2309	11084	6068

[Translation]

Smuggling of Heroin

1479. SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIBHAI MAVANI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Panch Arab ki heroin ke bare main talash karne ke liye swayam Interpol aa raha hai" (Members of Interpol coming to investigate smuggling case of heroin worth 5 billion and "Ahmedabad mein panch vyaktiyon ko hirasat mein liya gaya" (5 persons taken into custody in Ahmedabad) appeared published in 'Jai Hind', a Gujarati daily published from Ahmedabad on 2nd March, 1985;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the particulars of persons apprehended and the place where arrested;

(d) the details of articles recovered from them;

(e) whether all these smuggling activities are being carried on at international level through Pakistan-Rajasthan and other borders; and

(f) the steps taken or proposed to be taken for checking these activities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Reports received by the Government indicate that 55 pounds of heroin were seized at Amsterdam in January 1985 from a consignment of optical whitening agent exported from Ahmedabad. No arrest has been made in India in this connection. No report has been received by the Government to the effect that the Interpol officers are arriving in India to investigate in the matter.

(e) India, has, for some time past,

been increasingly facing the problem of transit traffic in drugs from some neighbouring countries.

(f) The field formations remain vigilant to check such smuggling. In addition to appropriate anti-smuggling measures taken in co-ordination with the Central and State Government authorities concerned, close co-operation with the international agencies concerned is also maintained to curb smuggling of drugs. The matter is kept under constant review for appropriate action.

[English]

Global Enquiry Floated by Bokaro Steel Plant to Purchase Carbon Blocks

1480. SHRI D.P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether blast furnaces in Bokaro Steel Plant need urgent repairs;

(b) whether due to delay in the repairs of the blast furnaces, the Bokaro Steel Plant is suffering huge losses due to low production;

(c) whether Bokaro Steel Plant floated a global enquiry to purchase carbon blocks to repair these blast furnaces in the month of September, 1984 with the target to complete the repairs by mid-February, 1985;

(d) whether this global enquiry was cancelled and another limited enquiry was floated on January 15, 1985 although offer to earlier enquiry was received on October 29, 1984; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) A global tender enquiry was floated by Bokaro Steel Plant in Septem-

ber, 1984 to purchase carbon blocks required for capital repairs of the blast furnace. In the tender enquiry, it was stipulated that the supply of materials is required in February, 1985. It was not meant to repair the blast furnace in the month of February, 1985.

(d) and (e). The due date for receipt of the tenders was 29-10-1984. On this date only one offer had been received. Requests had been received by Bokaro from certain probable tenderers to extend the last date. Bokaro decided to extend the due date to 12-11-1984. On this date also only one offer was received. A Committee of eight members considered this only offer received and based on their recommendations, it was decided on 31-12-1984 to issue a short-dated limited tender enquiry to five parties including the one who had offered on 12-11-1984. Offers received against the short-dated enquiry were opened on 15-1-1985 and order placed on 15-2-1985. The tender accepted by Bokaro Steel Plant was 26.4% higher on FOB basis than the lowest tender received. The lower offer was passed over on consideration of technical performance and delivery.

National Jute Manufactures Corporation

1481. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the object and reasons for the formation of National Jute Manufactures Corporation (NJME);

(b) the number of units presently functioning and particulars thereof;

(c) whether some more units are likely to be taken under National Jute Manufactures Corporation phase or within the Seventh Five Year Plan period ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND

SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA : (a) The main object and reason for the formation of National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. Calcutta is to manage the nationalised Jute mills in the country.

(b) The number of units presently functioning under National Jute Manufactures Corporation Ltd. is six 5 in West Bengal viz. National, Alexandra, Union, Khardaha and Kinnision and one in Bihar viz RBHM.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

(d) Does not arise.

Revision of Rate of D.A. of Public Sector Undertakings

1482. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the question of revision of the rate of dearness allowance of the employees of public sector undertakings; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Agreement Signed by FICCI and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade

1483. RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the agreement recently signed by FICCI and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) India will benefit in terms of foreign trade;

(b) the projects likely to be taken up

for implementation under the agreement; and

(c) the amount involved in the joint trade plan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The Agreement signed by FICCI and the China Council for Promotion of International Trade on 2nd March, 1985, will help the business communities of India and China to have better awareness about the opportunities for interaction in the Commercial and economic field.

(b) and (c). The Agreement does not detail any specific "Projects" or "Joint Trade Plan" for implementation.

Formulation of National Banking Policy

1484. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a National Banking Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the financial institutions including banks which are extending financial help to agricultural sector; and

(d) whether there is any proposal to bring all the non-nationalised banks and private financial institutions under the control of Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Government nationalised certain Indian banking companies in 1969 and 1980 having regard to their size, resources, coverage and organisation in order to meet progressively and serve better, the needs of development of the economy, and to promote the welfare of the people, in conformity with national policies and objectives.

It has been the policy of the Government and the Reserve Bank of India to ensure an orderly growth of banking system on sound lines so that all genuine credit needs of various sectors of economy are adequately met by the banking system.

(c) All Scheduled Commercial Banks including Regional Rural Banks and Cooperative Banks extend financial assistance to eligible borrowers engaged in agriculture and allied activities. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development is providing refinance facilities to these banks.

(d) No such proposal is under consideration of the Government at present.

[Translation]

Autonomous Body for Kandla Free Trade Zone

1485. SHRI NARSINH MAKWANA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the suggestions made by the Gujrat Government regarding the constitution of an autonomous body for the Kandla Free Trade Zone;

(b) the difficulties being faced by the Union Government in accepting them;

(c) the details of administrative set-up of the Kandla Free Trade Zone and whether Government propose to make changes in it; and

(d) the number of goods being produced and feasibility of setting up more industries in this zone ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). In connection with rapid development of Kandla Free Trade Zone, Government of Gujarat suggested that a high-powered statutory body should be appointed to facilitate decisions being taken on the spot. Action has been initiated to formulate the provisions for a Central Authority to control and govern not only the Kandla Free Trade

Zone but all the Export Processing Zones in the country.

(c) The administrative set up for the Kandla Free Trade Zone includes a complement of 134 personnel for developmental, accounts, customs appraisal and security under the administrative control of the Development Commissioner. No material change in this set up is contemplated at this stage.

(d) About 35 different types of items are produced by about 106 units in the Zone. There is possibility of setting up other units in the Zone.

Meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee on Ministry of Commerce and Supply

1486. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the Mistry's Hindi Advisory Committee held during 1984;

(b) the resolutions passed in these meetings; and

(c) the details in regard to implementation of these resolutions ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY. (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) One combined meeting of the Hindi Salahakar Samitis of the then Ministry of Commerce and the Department of Supply was held during 1984.

(b) and (c). A statement showing the recommendations/Suggaetions of the Committee made in the above mentioned meeting and details in regard to their implimentation is attached.

Statement

Statement showing the recommendations/suggestios of Hindi Salahakar Samittis of Ministry of Commerce and Supply made in the meeting held in 1984 and the details in regard to their implementanion.

S. No.	Recommendations/suggestinos made.	Details of implementation
1	2	3
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TEXTILES)		
1.	Regarding sub-committees of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti, the Chairman informed the committee that with the reconstitution of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti, its sub-committees have since been reconstituted in the meantime and said that the matter would be expedited and it would be ensured that the programmes of visits of various organisations by the sub-committees of the reconstituted Hindi Salahakar Samiti are worked out and implemented regularly.	As per instructios from the Department of Official Language to the effect that the Central Hindi committee had taken a decision that sub-committees or inspection committees of Hindi Salahakar Samitis in Ministries/Departments should not be constituted, it was decided not to pursue the matter further regarding organising visits of the sub-committees.

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|--|---|
| <p>2. It was pointed out that complete figures regarding progressive use of Hindi in Official work in the Ministry should have been placed before the committee.</p> | <p>This was noted for future compliance.</p> |
| <p>3. It was said that the progress in the use of Hindi for originating correspondence was not satisfactory and that some serious efforts should be made in this regard so that the targets of the annual programme could be achieved. The Chairman observed that steps would be taken in this regard and it would be ensured that the targets of annual programme are fulfilled.</p> | <p>Necessary instructions have been issued in this regard. This point was again stressed in the meeting of the O.L.I.C. in which all the Section heads were also invited.</p> |
| <p>4. It was suggested that simple Hindi should be used in day to day official work.</p> | <p>It was noted for compliance.</p> |
| <p>5. Meetings of the Hindi Salahakar Samiti should be held regularly.</p> | <p>Noted for compliance.</p> |
| <p>6. Regarding the number of English typewriters <i>vis-a-vis</i> the number of Hindi typewriters, it was informed to the Committee that Hindi typewriters in the Ministry were more than the requirement as it was related to the work load of Hindi typing work and committee was assured that with the increase in Hindi typing work more Hindi typewriters would be acquired.</p> | <p>Noted for compliance.</p> |
| <p>7. It was stressed that the Ministry should ensure compliance of the provisions of O.L. Act and O.L. Rules and all the Senior Officers should acquaint themselves with the provisions of O.L. Act and O.L.</p> | <p>Efforts are being made to ensure this through application of certain check points.</p> |

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Rules so that they may take suitable steps for implementing the same.

8. It was pointed out that the journal of MMTC named as 'MMTC News' contained only 5 pages in Hindi whereas the number of English pages was 19 and it was suggested that it should be bilingual alongwith bilingual name on the cover page.

Necessary action is being taken in this regard by MMTC.

Department of supply

9. The contract documents in respect of five sections of Dte. General of Supplies and Disposals were being issued in Hindi and English. It was suggested that this work may be extended to other sections of Dte. General of Supplies and Disposals also.

The decision of issuing bilingual contracts have been implemented in 2 more sections of Directorate General of Supplies & Disposals.

10. An inspection team on the lines of the Ministry of Commerce may be constituted.

The inspection team comprising of Joint Secretary, one M.P. and one non-official member of Hindi Advisory Committee visited Kanpur, regional office of D.G.S. & D. The work being done in these offices was appreciated by the team.

11. Various provisions of O.L. Act and O.L Rules may be fully implemented in the Department.

A shield scheme for the attached and subordinate offices of Dte. General of Supplies and Disposals had been implemented, as also a cash award scheme to individuals for giving encouragement in the use of Hindi in official work. Cheques issued by the Chief Controller of Accounts are written in Hindi. Hindi Workshops have been organised both in Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals and in the Department and all the offices have been instructed to fully implement the provisions of the O.L. Act and O.L. Rules.

[English]

wise; and

Per Capita Development and Non Development Expenditure of States

(b) the performance of West Bengal as compared to the All India average ?

1487. SHRI BHOLA NATH SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) the per capita development and non-development expenditure of different States and their achievements in the matter of mobilising resources from their own sources for finalising the Annual Plan outlays during the Sixth Five Year Plan period 1980-85, State-

(a) and (b). A statement-I showing the Statewise per capita Plan and non-Plan expenditure during Sixth Five Year Plan 1980-85 and Statement II showing the Statewise budgetary resources and contribution of Public enterprises during the Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) are attached.

Statement-I*Statewise per capita plan and non plan expenditure during Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)*

S. No.	States	Per Capita Plan expdr.	Per Capita Non-Plan expdr.
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	733.28	2083.95
2.	Assam	872.10	3054.95
3.	Bihar	527.51	1745.70
4.	Gujarat	1461.07	2289.18
5.	Haryana	1590.00	4240.78
6.	Himachal Pradesh	1893.24	4695.46
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	1988.85	3731.34
8.	Karnataka	881.91	3196.39
9.	Kerala	782.24	2474.91
10.	Madhya Pradesh	937.15	2030.54
11.	Maharashtra	1285.66	3132.44
12.	Manipur	2300.56	6883.13
13.	Meghalaya	2584.19	4336.86
14.	Nagaland	4406.20	15221.12
15.	Orissa	709.69	2384.68
16.	Punjab	1456.22	5889.89
17.	Rajasthan	724.97	2993.44

1	2	3	4
18.	Sikkim	6292.86	6468.10
19.	Tamil Nadu	879.58	5292.55
20.	Tripura	1753.86	3630.66
21.	Uttar Pradesh	683.94	1576.27
22.	West Bengal	513.81	2737.45
TOTAL ALL STATES		879.60	2494.53

Note : 1. This includes actuals for 1980-81 to 1982-83 pre-actuals for 1983-84 and L.E. for 1984-85.

2. For calculating per capita expenditure, 1971 census figures has been used.

Statement-II

Statewise Budgetary Resources and Contributions of Public Enterprises during Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85)

(Rs. crores)

S. No.	States	States' Budgetary Resources and Contribution of Public Enterprises.
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1139.42
2.	Assam	—460.97
3.	Bihar	145.92
4.	Gujarat	2636.55
5.	Haryana	918.34
6.	Himachal Pradesh	36.93
7.	Jammu and Kashmir	—330.05
8.	Karnataka	1444.72
9.	Kerala	386.09
10.	Madhya Pradesh	1997.09
11.	Maharashtra	4526.48
12.	Manipur	—139.99
13.	Meghalaya	—84.79

1	2	3
14.	Nagaland	—145.99
15.	Orissa	307.30
16.	Punjab	691.94
17.	Rajasthan	180.27
18.	Sikkim	—28.54
19.	Tamil Nadu	2199.12
20.	Tripura	—89.53
21.	Uttar Pradesh	2238.73
22.	West Bengal	243.94
Total All States		17963.98
		(+19245.84)
		(—1279.86)

Note : This includes actuals for 1980-81 to 1982-83 pre-actuals for 1983-84 and L.E. for 1984-85.

Setting up of a New Steel Plant in Dadra and Nagar Haveli

1488. SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new steel plant is being set up in Dadra and Nagar Haveli;

(b) if so, the location and purpose thereof; and

(c) whether setting up of a new plant will contribute to the growth of ancillary small unts ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Closure of Beehive Coke Ovens in B.C.C.L. and E.C.L.

1489. SHRI Y.P. YOGESH : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND

COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether about two years ago it was decided by the management that all beehive coke ovens in Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. and Eastern Coalfields Ltd. should be closed down;

(b) if so, the detailed reasons therefor;

(c) whether the closure of beehive coke ovens had resulted in sudden short-fall of hard coke;

(d) whether private coke ovens owners were benefited by decision mentioned in part (a) above who hiked their price by about Rs. 300 per tonne and their production increased from 40,000 tonne to about two lakh tonne during a month;

(e) if so, the details of (c) and (d) above; and

(f) the action Government propose to take against officials responsible for fall in per capita income of

these companies and to benefit the private coke even owners ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINIS AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :
(a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Expansion of Branches of Commercial Banks during Seventh Plan

1490. **SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand the branches of different commercial banks during the Seventh Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the number of branches of various commercial banks proposed to be opened in Orissa;

(c) whether Government propose to give priority to open bank branches in backward areas; and

(d) if so, the number of new branches of various commercial banks proposed to be opened in Phulabani, a backward district in Orissa during the above Plane period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). The branch licensing policy covering the seventh plan period has not yet been finalised. Pending finalisation of the above policy, it would not be possible to indicate the number of bank branches that would be allowed to be opened in various parts of the country including Orissa/Phulbani District. However, according to available information, the banks are currently holding licences/authorisations for opening 157 offices in Orissa (including 8 for opening offices in Phulbani District.) Banks have been advised to open offices at these centres as early as possible.

[Translation]

Amount sanctioned by Jale Branch of Indian Bank for installing tube wells

1491. **SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount sanctioned so far by Gramodaya Kendra of Jale branch of Indian Bank in Darbhanga District for installing tube wells for irrigation purpose, Panchayat-wise details thereof;

(b) whether rebate/subsidy is also given to small, medium and marginal farmers, in the amount sanctioned,

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of persons given rebate/subsidy so far in the amount sanctioned to the farmers by the said bank; and

(e) the number of persons yet to be given this rebate/subsidy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :
(a) to (e). Banks' data reporting system does not yield purpose-wise, branch-wise and panchayat-wise information in the manner desired. As regards subsidy presumably the Hon'ble Member is seeking information regarding subsidy under the Integrated Rural Development programme. Under this Programme the capital cost of the assets is subsidised to eligible beneficiaries to the extent of 25% for small farmers and 33½% for marginal farmers. Tribal farmers are entitled to a subsidy of 50%. The maximum subsidy that can be given to an individual non-tribal is Rs. 4000/ in DPAP areas and Rs. 3,000 in non-DPAP areas. For tribal farmers the ceiling is Rs. 5,000.

[English]

Income Tax Officers under Suspension

1492. - **SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Officers of the Income Tax Department who have been under suspension for (i) over three

months (ii) over six months and (iii) over one year without any charge sheet being served on them during the last two years;

(b) the justification for not serving the charge sheets for such a long period in contravention of Government orders in this behalf;

(c) the number of such cases reviewed within and after three months separately; and

(d) the reasons for not reviewing the other cases and also the details of such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) The number of Group-A and Group-B Officers are as under :

(i) Over three months	Nil
(ii) Over six months	Three
(iii) Over one year	One

(b) Charge-sheets have not been served in three cases since reports/documents from the C.B.I. are awaited and in the fourth case, the explanation of the officer is still awaited.

(c) All such cases are kept under constant watch.

(d) Does not arise.

Decline in Export of Tea, Coffee and Cashewnuts

1493. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased

to state :

(a) whether there is a decline in the export of tea, coffee and cashewnuts;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the State Trading Corporation has been exploring fresh markets for the export of coffee, tea and cashewnuts, etc;

(d) if so, the extent of success achieved so far in this regard; and

(e) the value of tea, coffee and cashewnuts exported during the years 1982-83, 1983-84, and 1984-85 and likely to be exported during the year 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A SANGMA) :

(a) and (b). There has been no decline in export earnings from tea, and cashewnuts during 1984-85 as compared to 1982-83 and 1983-84; However, coffee exports showed a decline on account of poor crops caused by drought condition in previous years.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. State Trading Corporation has succeeded in securing value added tea packets order for 1000 M.T. from Libya. Cashewnuts exports are expected to be marginally up from Rs. 4.29 crores to about Rs. 4.50 crores. For tea, West Asia and North African Markets, for coffee West Asian and non-quota countries and for cashew USA and Europe are being explored.

(e) Details of value realised on export of tea, coffee and cashewnuts are furnished as under :

Commodity	Year	Value (in Rs. crores)
1	2	3
Tea	1982-83	366-89
	1983-84	530 04
	1984-85	689. 43

(up to Jan. 1985)

1	2	3
	1985-86 (Target)	220 million kgs, Value will depend on trend of inter- national market price.
Coffee	1982-83	203.54
	1983-84	175.05
	1984-85	185.51
	(up to Feb. 1985)	
	1985-86 (target)	195.000 (tentative)
Cashewnuts	1982-83	132.28
	1983-84 (April-Dec. 1983)	148.27 (121.34)
	1984-85 (April-Dec. 1984)	147.27
	1985-86	Target not yet fixed

Export of Cotton

1494. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity and value of the cotton exported from India during the years 1982-83; 1983-84 and 1984-85 till date;

(b) the names of countries which are importing cotton from India;

(c) the names of the States where from the export was made and the quantity exported from each such State during the above period; and

(d) the agency through which the export was made and the steps being

taken to boost the export of cotton during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) The quantity and value of cotton exported from India during the cotton year (September—August) 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 are as under:

Year	Qty. (Lakh bales)	Value Rs. in Crores)
1982-83	6.97	155.16
1983-84	3.54	98.36
1984-85	0.55	21.86

(As on 25-3-85)

(b) The following countries have been importing cotton from India during 1982-83, 1983-84 & 1984-85: Algeria, Austria, Bangla Dash, Belgium, Bulgaria, China (Taiwan), China (Main Land), Czechoslovakia, France, Germany (West), Greece, Hongkong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea (North), Korea (South), Malaysia, Mozambique, Morocco, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tanzania, Tunisia, Thailand, U.K., USA and USSR.

(c) and (d). The cotton is at present being exported through the Cotton Corporation of India Limited, the Maharashtra State Corporation Cotton Growers Marketing Federation Limited, Bombay, the Gujrat State cooperative Cotton Federation Limited, Ahmedabad and the Andhra Pradesh State Cooperative Marketing Federation Limited, Hyderabad. As the CCI operates in all the cotton growing States except Maharashtra, it exports cotton purchased from various cotton growing States. During the current cotton Season *i.e.*, 1 September, 1984 to 31st August, 1985, Government have so far decided to export 2 lakh bales of long and extra-long staple cotton.

Eligibility SC/ST Entrepreneurs for Bank Loan

1495. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) to what amount of a bank loan a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe

entrepreneur is eligible;

(b) how this facility can be availed of and particularly in Adivasi area, which is the most backward area of the country; and

(c) the number of Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs granted loan during the years 1982-83, 1983-84 and 1984-85 till date by the various public financial institutions and their number; State-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). There is no restriction on the amount of a bank loan to SC/ST borrowers. The quantum of loan depends upon the proposed economic activity and banks consider the proposal on merits. The banks have been advised to increase the flow of credit assistance for the productive ventures of people belonging to SC/ST. Banks formulate and implement various schemes from time to time as part of their priority sector lending activities to increase the flow of credit to borrowers belonging to these communities. Banks are also providing loan under specific programmes having a support of subsidy for members belonging to these communities.

(c) State-wise details are available only upto December 1983. Advances to SC/ST borrowers by public sector banks as on December 1982 and December 1983 are set out in the Statement attached.

Statement

Public Sector Banks Advances to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes

(Amount Rs. crores)

Name of State/ Union Territory/Region	December 1982		December 1983*		
	No. of Accts.	Amount	No. of Accts.	Amount	
1	2	3	4	5	6
I. Northern Region:		48164	112.25	544986	135.29
1. Haryana		90253	18.65	106706	22.90
2. Himachal Pradesh		56189	9.42	67737	11.21

1	2	3	4	5	6
3.	Jammu and Kashmir	5773	1.15	5970	1.37
4.	Punjab	158554	38.12	166936	44.17
5.	Rajasthan	148726	38.15	170494	48.11
6.	Chandigarh	4945	3.10	5784	1.49
7.	Delhi	17325	3.63	21359	6.04
II. North Eastern Region :		116614	21.86	134901	32.19
1.	Assam	66857	6.32	80139	6.82
2.	Manipur	9954	1.32	8727	1.43
3.	Meghalaya	11515	4.49	16483	6.22
4.	Nagaland	4118	2.99	5573	5.35
5.	Tripura	20437	2.92	17991	4.62
6.	Arunachal Pradesh	1637	1.00	1810	2.65
7.	Mizoram	1200	1.79	1800	4.29
8.	Sikkim	896	0.41	2468	0.81
III. Eastern Region		655519	81.45	747469	105.77
1.	Bihar	202338	24.79	244199	36.00
2.	Orissa	219251	26.14	232774	36.85
3.	West Bengal	233861	30.26	270404	32.96
4.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	69	0.26	92	30.06
IV. Central Region		561265	143.97	726912	166.68
1.	Madhya Pradesh	194176	52.97	241246	49.18
2.	Uttar Pradesh	267089	90.99	495666	117.50
V. Western Region		501445	91.39	507812	108.95
1.	Gujarat	294028	43.15	309154	47.36
2.	Maharashtra	204713	47.81	255253	60.61
3.	Goa, Daman & Diu	2370	0.37	2840	0.87
4.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	334	0.04	565	0.11

1	2	3	4	5	6
VI	Southern Region	937558	157.92	11624.6	205.78
1.	Andhra Pradesh	372096	75.75	45323.6	88.53
2.	Karnataka	195116	32.04	23864.3	46.08
3.	Kerala	125680	14.25	13937.1	16.92
4.	Tamil Nadu	237637	37.03	32461.2	53.38
5.	Pondicherry	5131	0.69	592.8	0.70
6.	Lakshadweep	598	0.12	65.4	0.17
Total		3254165	610.86	388461.6	754.66

1. Data are provisional.

2. Data for New Bank of India and Central Bank of India relate to June 1983.

Distribution of yarn from mill sector to handloom sector

1496. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that there is no proper and stable distribution of yarn from the mill sector to the handloom sector;

(b) whether Government are also aware that yarn intended for handloom sector is diverted to powerloom sector; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take for the equitable distribution of yarn for the powerloom sector and the handloom sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Government have not imposed any distribution control regarding yarn. However, with a view to ensure regular and adequate quantities of yarn to the handloom sector, an obligation has been imposed on the mill sector to pack 50% of the total deliveries of yarn for civil consumption in bank from for consumption in the handloom sector.

(b) and (c). Government have on information about the diversion of yarn earmarked for the handloom sector to the powerloom sector. However, the State Governments have been advised to pool the hand yarn produced by the cooperative spinning mills, State textile Corporations and National Textile Corporation mills for distribution to the handloom cooperatives and State Corporations. Besides some of the State Governments have also set up their own yarn depots for this purpose. The National Handloom Development Corporation has already opened yarn depots in some areas and has plans to open yarn depots in other parts of the country after making tie-up arrangements with the state level agencies.

Production and Consumption of Steel

1497. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether per capita consumption of steel in India is the lowest despite the fact that India has cheap labour and reserves of high quality raw materials required for the production of steel;

(b) if so, the extent to which the production of steel is low and since when;

(c) whether Government have sought the views of experts to come out with short-term and long-term measures for improving steel production; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to improve output, quality and capacity utilisation and to remove some of the bottlenecks without taxing the country's resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL.
(SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) :

(a) and (b). No sir, Steel production is planned to match domestic requirements, though imports of certain items of steel is inescapable.

(c) Yes, Sir. A Steel Advisory Council has been set up under the Chairmanship of Minister (Steel, Mines and Coal) and consists of representatives of the Government, steel industry, experts consumers and labour leaders. The Council has been set up to advise the Central Government on long-term and short-term plans for efficient functioning of the integrated steel plants, mini steel plants and re-rolling industry.

Following five Action Groups have been set up to identify the most appropriate strategies to deal with the problems of the steel industry and to focus on the priorities to which the Government should address itself :

- (1) Investment Priorities for the Future;
- (2) Improving operations in the short-term;
- (3) Market Development;
- (4) Labour and Personnel;
- (5) Project Management;

(d) Production depends on various factors like the health of the plants, adequate availability of the right quality of inputs and the market needs. Efforts are made to attain high capacity utilisation by proper maintenance and inputs of the desired quality.

As a long-term measure output of steel in the country will also be increased by technological upgradation of existing plants and setting up of new steel plants.

For improving the capacity utilisation of mini steel plants, facilities like expansion of existing units, free diversification, forward integration, installation of continuous casting machines etc. have been extended.

Sale of Confiscated Goods through
Co-operative Stores

1498. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have allowed to sell confiscated goods through various Co-operative Stores in the country as well as through Super Bazaars;

(b) if so, the names of such Co-operative Stores as well as Super Bazaars in Delhi where such goods are sold;

(c) whether the Co-operative Stores and Super Bazaars are asked to lift confiscated goods in lots as a result of which they suffer loss on un-saleable goods; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. One of the approved modes of disposal of seized/confiscated consumer good is by sale to the National Co-operative Consumers Federation of India Ltd., (which, in turn, disposes them through different outlets which include Super Bazaars), State Co-operative Federations and Co-operative Societies approved by the Central and State Government and duly registered under the Co-operative Societies Act.

(b) Sales seized/confiscated goods have

been made to the following agencies located in Delhi from the Delhi Custom House:-

- (i) M/s. National Co-operative Consumer Federation Ltd., Nehru Place, New Delhi.
- (ii) M/s. New Super Consumer Co-operative Stores Ltd., 25/134, Shakti Nagar, New Delhi.
- (iii) M/s. Jai Laxmi Consumer Co-operative Stores Ltd., K-6 Malviya Nagar, New Delhi.
- (iv) M/s. West Bengal Consumer Co-operative Stores Ltd., 52, Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.

Such sales are also made to other authorised agencies located inside/outside Delhi from various Custom Houses/Collectorates from time to time.

(c) and (d). As per the terms and conditions of sale of confiscated consumer goods, the National Co-operative Consumers Federation, Co-operative Societies, etc. are required to lift the goods in lots offered by the Customs Department without any "pick-and-choose", except that if any of the items in the lot are found to be damaged, they need not be lifted.

Further, a discount of $14\frac{1}{2}\%$ is allowed on the fair prices fixed by the pricing committee to NCCF and 10% to other authorised lifting agencies to cover their overhead expenses. Government has no information whether these agencies are suffering any loss on account of unsaleable goods, if any.

Opening of Branches of Banks by Arab Countries in India

1499. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Arab countries have proposed to open branches of their

banks in some important cities in India; and

(b) if so, the names of those countries and the action taken by Government thereon?

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

(b) According to the Reserve Bank of India requests of banks from Bahrain and Sultanate of Oman have been received. Reserve Bank has granted a licence to the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait (BSC) to open a branch in Bombay.

Import of less Iron Ore by Japan

1500. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan is importing less iron-ore for the past two years from India;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) steps Government propose to take to find alternate market for iron-ore ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Exports of iron ore to Japan in 1982-83 and 1983-84 were affected by the following factors :

(i) Recessionary conditions in the world steel industry including Japan.

(ii) Dislocation of rail movement in Baila-dilla-Vizag sector during October, 1983, and

(iii) Strike in all major ports from 16th March, upto 16th April, 1984.

(c) Minerals and Metals Trading

Corporation of India Ltd., has been making efforts to diversify exports of iron ore to new markets and in the last 3-4 years, Indian iron ore has been introduced in the markets of Malaysia, Saudi Arabia, DPR Korea, Pakistan, Turkey and China.

Loss Suffered by LIC as a Result of Leasing out its Land and Building in Bombay

1501. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation has suffered huge loss by leasing out its land and building in Bombay and Bangalore;

(b) if so, the details of the properties of Life Insurance Corporation leased out in Bombay and Bangalore;

(c) the details of the amount due to be collected and the action being by the Life Insurance Corporation to recover the sum; and

(d) the action taken against the Life Insurance Corporation officials who entered into such fraudulent deals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) (a) No Sir.

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

Coal Mining in North Bengal by Tea Development Corporation

1502. SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of West Bengal have asked for approval of the Union Government for coal-mining in North Bengal by the Tea Development Corporation;

(b) whether Union Government have approved coal mining by Government

of Bihar, which has started coal mining at four collieries in Bihar in collaboration with some Private parties; and

(c) if so, the time by which State Government run Tea Development Corporation will be allowed to raise coal from two mines of north Bengal, which will be much helpful to the tea industry there ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VAJANT SATHI) :

(a) and (c). No, Sir. However, approval of the Central Government has been conveyed to the request of the Government of West Bengal for grant of mining lease for exploitation of coal, in isolated small pockets in Bagrakote and Dalinkote areas in Darjeeling District of West Bengal, for a period of two years, under section 5 (2) (a) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957, subject to certain conditions laid down by Central Government.

(b) No, Sir. The Government of Bihar, had intimated their intention to run some of the coal mines situated in isolated pockets alongwith the mines in respect of which the Supreme Court had earlier given clarificatory order that they could be worked in accordance with the rules and regulation. The Government had also informed that these mines were proposed to be worked by their Bihar State Minerals Development Corporation, as a holding company, through a subsidiary, with Bihar State Minerals Development Corporation holding 51% of the share—capital and private enterprise the balance 49%.

The State Government of Bihar has been informed that no prospecting licence or mining lease for coal mining can be granted except with the previous approval of the Central Government under section 5 (2) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957. They have also been told to advise the Bihar State Minerals Development Corporation not to start coal mining operations without comply-

ing with the provisions of the law.

Investment by International Finance Corporation

1503. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the International Finance Corporation is looking for a larger investment role in India in developing venture capital companies and promoting joint ventures;

(b) if so, whether any concrete formula has been evolved and the projects which are to be assisted by the International Finance Corporation identified;

(c) if so, the total investment likely to be made by the International Finance Corporation during the current financial year; and

(d) whether Government have accepted these projects ?

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

(b) to (d). No concrete formula has yet been evolved and world Bank in collaboration with IFC proposes to undertake an analysis of capital and credit markets in India with the aim to providing background material for work on Venture Capital, on financial intermediation and on capital markets during a period of liberalisation. International Finance Corporation has with the concurrence of GOI approved investment of \$ 31.96 million in following 2 private sector projects in 1984-85.

US \$ million equivalent

1. Bajaj Auto Ltd. (Auto-scooters 2 wheelers and 3 wheelers project)	22
2. Gwalior Rayon Silk Mfg. (Wvg.) Co. Ltd. (2nd Phase Cement Project)	9.96

Modernisation of Coal Mines

1504. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high-level Australian mining equipment and services trade mission which visited India during February, 1985 had a long discussions with representatives of major coal mines and senior officials of the Coal Department for finding out India's programme for modernising its coal mines;

(b) if so, whether Government of Australia have agreed to assist India in its task for development of coal mines.

(c) if so, whether any agreement has been reached;

(d) if so, the details thereof, and

(e) the details of the projects that will be assisted by them ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) An Australian Mining Equipment and Services Mission visited India in February 1985. They visited some coal mines and had discussions with officials of coal India Ltd. and its subsidiary companies and also of the Department of Coal.

The purpose of the Mission was to assess the prospects for cooperation between Australia and India.

(b) to (e). The Government of Australia have not sent any proposal to assist India in development of coal mines.

Oranges Produced in West Bengal

1505. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether West Bengal is producing oranges;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are exporting oranges from West Bengal;

(d) if so, the countries to which and the total quantity exported; and

(e) the earnings of State and Union Government therefrom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Jalpaiguri and Siliguri districts of West Bengal are the important orange growing districts. Rough estimates for citrus crop in West Bengal are given below :

(Area : thousand ha.)
(Prodn : thousand tonnes)

	1980-81	1981-82
Area	3.42	3.70
production	26.25	28.25

(c) to (e). State-wise data on export of oranges are not available. However, export of oranges, fresh or dried, from India during the years 1980-81 to 1982-83 (upto November, 1982) is given below :

Export of Oranges, fresh, or dried

(Quantity : In tonnes)
(Value : Rupees in Lakhs)

Year	Quantity	Value
1980-81	7090	127.50
1981-82	7124	135.51
1982-83	1015	17.09

(Upto Nov. 1982)

Oranges were mainly exported to Bangladesh.

Opening of bank Branches for working on sundays

1506 : SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to open some bank branches for working on Sundays in different parts of West Bengal;

(b) if so when and the names of places where such bank branches are likely to be opened indicating the names of the banks; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). It is for the individual banks to decide the working days of their branches taking into account the specific banking needs of the area, requirements of Shops and Establishments Act other local laws, obligations under the Industrial Award/Settlement and provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act, etc. The banks are not required to obtain approval of Reserve Bank of India in this regard.

Indo-polish Economic Cooperation and Trade

1507. SHRIMATI JAY ANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has been making efforts to give a boost to Indo-Polish economic co-operation and trade diversification in coming years;

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

(c) the target set for expanding trade relation between India and Poland for the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY. (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (b). Continuous efforts are being made to boost Indo-Polish economic cooperation and trade diversification. With these objectives in view, various steps like participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of commercial delegations, convening of Intern Government Joint Commission meetings and conclusion of annual Trade Protocols for exchange of commodities etc. are being taken.

(c) The Trade Plan for 1985 provides for a turnover of Trade of Rs. 429 crores. Targets in respect of certain identified items for the period 1986-90 are being worked out in consultation with the poles.

Production and Import of Rayon Yarn

1508. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to State :

(a) Whether the production of rayon yarn has increased in the year 1983-84 and 1984-85;

(b) Whether steps have been taken to reduce the import of rayon yarn for that reason;

(c) if so, the total production of rayon yarn in the above years; and

(d) the total tonnes of rayon imported in those years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The production of Viscose Filament Yarn during 1983-84 increased compared to 1983-83. However, production during 1984-85 is anticipated to be less than 1983-84.

(b) No, Sir. The imports of Viscose-Filament Yarn (First Quality) continues to be under the open General Licence.

(c) and (d). A Statment showing production and imports of Viscose Filament Yarn during 1982-83 to 1984-85(April-December) is enclosed.

Statement

Year	Production	Imports (Provisional)
1982-83	33,624 Tonnes	4438 Tonnes
1983-84	35,823 Tonnes	3,660 Tonnes
1984-85 (April-December)	24,592 Tonnes	700 Tonnes

Price of Viscose Yarn

1509. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be Pleased to State :

(a) whether the price of Viscose Yarn has gone up,

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to bring down the price of Viscose Yarn ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to

(c). The Prices of Viscose filament yarn have shown an increase in the recent past. the main reason for this increase appears to be the imbalance between demand and domestic supply. In order to augment supply import of first quality Viscose Filament Yarn is permitted under open General Licence. The import duty on wood pulp has been removed in the Budget for 1985-86.

Indo-Canadian Trade Cooperation

1510. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken to increase trade co-operation with Canada;

(b) if so, the trade target set between both the countries for the next five years ;

(c) the various fields in which Indo-Canadian trade relations have been established and proposed to be expanded in those years ; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA)

(a) and (b). Various steps such as exchange of specialist trade delegations, participation in trade fairs/exhibitions, setting up of trade offices of certain export promotion councils in Canada, establishment of an Indo-Canadian Joint Business Council between the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Canada-India Business Council, Ottawa, have been taken to increase trade cooperation with Canada.

However, bilaterally no trade targets as such, have been fixed between the two countries for the next 5 years.

(c) and (d). A statement is attached.

Statement

India-Canada trade relations have been established in the fields of communications, banking and energy.

The State Bank of India commenced operations in Canada from August, 1982 and the Bank of Nova Scotia of Canada established a branch in Bombay on the 14th May, 1984. The Air-India commenced operations from Montreal on the 2nd October, 1982 and added Toronto to the list of stations from where it operates from 19th January, 1985. The Air-Canada on the other hand, started operating three flights from Bombay.

The Government of Canada is participating in the Chamara Hydro-electric Project, Idduki Hydro-electric Project, both in the financial and the technical aspects of the Project. That apart, Canada has shown keenness to participate in development of mining, tele-communications, railway modernisation and energy in India.

Presently, industrial collaborations

with Canada (technical/financial) cover manufacturing in India items such as electrolytic generating systems, amperes wave tapes for T.V. transmission systems, high purity water and waste treatment systems, self-husting thermo-couples, solar selective block nickel coating, monofilament fabrics, hard gelatine capsules, automatic magnetic tapes, solar systems etc.

Scope also exists for enlarging the volume of trade, diversifying the pattern of trade and joint collaborations between Indian and Canadian companies in third countries in areas like ferrous and non-ferrous industries petro-chemical complexes, railways civil construction work etc.

Exemption of Import Scrap From Import Levies

1511. **PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Alloy Steel Producers Association of India have urged Government to exempt the import scrap wholly from import levies;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). The Alloy Steel Producers Association of India have represented to the Ministry of Steel and Mines for exemption from customs duty on carbon steel melting scrap on the ground that the landed cost of imported scrap has gone up due to increase in international price and appreciation in the value of the U.S. dollar.

(c) The matter is under consideration.

Voluntary Disclosure of Income

1512. **SHRI R. P. DAS :** Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a new scheme of voluntary disclosure of income with certain attractive concessions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the concessions that are proposed to be given to the persons making voluntary disclosure of income under this Scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government at present.

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

Export of sugar through State Trading Corporation

1513. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the sugar exports by the State Trading Corporation in the current year have been substantially lower as compared to those in the previous year;

(b) if so, whether in 1983-84 the Corporation slightly exceeded its seven lakh tonne target;

(c) if so, the total export of sugar this year and to what extent it will be less than the last year; and

(d) the main reasons for this decline ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (d). The sugar exports by STC during 1984-85 are likely to be about 1.56 lakh MTs as against 8.14 lakh MTs during 1983-84. The target for sugar exports during the calendar year 1984 was 6.5 lakh MTs.

The decline is attributable to low carry-over stocks, increase in consumption and a steep fall in production of sugar during 1983-84.

News-Item Captioned-Banking Circles Worried over Fund Scarcity

1514. SHRI SATYAGOALP MISRA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Banking Circles Worried Over Fund Scarcity" appeared in the "Statesman" Calcutta of February, 15, 1985;

(b) whether during the week ending February 1, borrowings of scheduled commercial banks from the Reserve Bank have declined Rs. 1,989 crores from Rs. 2,076 crores in the previous week;

(c) whether the cash balances of commercial banks have dropped to Rs. 8,548 crores from Rs. 9,061 crores because of transfer of funds to the Centre with special adjustments;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to overcome the funds scarcity ?

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

(b) to (e). The borrowings of scheduled commercial banks from the Reserve Bank of India declined from Rs. 2076 crores as on January 25, 1985 to Rs. 1989 crores as on February, 1, 1985. During the same period, the cash balances of scheduled commercial banks with the RBI declined from Rs. 9061 crores to Rs. 8548 crores. Week to week fluctuations in the scheduled commercial banks' borrowings from the RBI in the cash balances with the RBI are quite normal and, as such, these fluctuations by them-

selves do not warrant any action.

[*Translation*]

Stoppage of Circulation of Rs. 100 note to Unearth Black Money

1515. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of 100 Rupee denominated notes in circulation at present; and

(b) whether under the scheme to unearth black money Government are contemplating either to stop circulation of these notes or to get them deposited for issuing new notes in lieu thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The number of Rs. 100/ denomination notes in circulation at the end of June, 1984, the latest date for which information is available, was 1298 million pieces.

(b) No, Sir.

[*English*]

Production and Demand of Rubber

1516. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will

the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the total area under rubber cultivation in the country and the latest production figure;

(b) the percentage of increase in production during the last five years with year-wise break-up;

(c) the actual domestic demand of rubber during these years; and

(d) the steps being taken to augment production of natural rubber in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) Area under rubber cultivation at the end of 1983-84 was 3.08 lakh hectares and production during the 1983-84 was 175,280 tonnes. Estimated production during the 1984-85 is 187,000 tonnes.

(b) Year-wise production and percentage increase in production during the last 5 years :

Year	Production (Tonnes)	%age increase over the Previous year
1979-80	148,470	9.7
1980-81	153,100	3.1
1981-82	152,870	(—)0.2
1982-83	165,850	8.5
1983-84	175,280	5.7

(c) Domestic consumption of rubber is given below :

Year	Consumption (Tonnes)		1	2
	1	2		
1979-80	165,245		1980-81	173,630
			1981-82	188,420
			1982-83	195,545
			1983-84	209,480

(d) With a view to augmenisng production of national rubber in the country the Rubber Board is implementing a rubber plantation development Scheme for rejuvenating existing plantations and for undertaking fresh plantations, in non-traditional areas and is providing cash/particularly interest subsidy, extension advisory support, rainguarding material, high yielding planting materials for growers and is also undertaking research on various aspects of rubber cultivation and its production.

Financial assistance given by IDBI to sick units of large, medium and small scale Industries

1517. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India proposes to act as broker in the transfer of ailing units to the control of efficient and well established companies;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) The total amount disbursed by Industrial Development Bank of India during the last three years with year-wise break-up to large, medium and small scale industries separately;

(d) The number of units (large, medium and small) assisted by Industrial Development Bank of India classified as sick during the last three years in each category, showing amounts involving outstanding loans giving year-wise break-up thereof; and

(e) The reasons for the units going sick and the action Government contemplate to take to improve their working to avoid loss to Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). One of the methods adopted by banks and financial institutions, includ-

ing the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), for revival of sick units is amalgamation or merger or leasing out of a sick unit to a healthy unit.

(c) The information relating to the assistance disbursed by IDBI during the last 3 years to large, medium and small scale units under the Schemes of Project Finance, Soft Loans, Technical Development Fund, Refinance and Rediscounting of Bills is given below:—

Year	(Rs. in crores)	
	Amount disbursed	
	Large and Medium Scale Units	Small Scale Units
1981-82	638.56	604.52
1982-83	769.54	760.34
1983-84	1003.17	893.38

(d) IDBI's assistance to units with project cost upto Rs. 3 crores is at present routed through State Level Institutions and Banks. Sick units in the assistance portfolio of IDBI are therefore only those units which have been directly assisted by IDBI and whose project cost exceeds Rs. 3 crores. As per the information furnished by IDBI, there were 132, 144 and 191 sick units in the assistance portfolio of IDBI with outstanding loan amount of Rs. 182.23 crores, Rs. 207.50 crores and Rs. 303.64 crores as at the end of December, 1981, December, 1982 and December, 1983 respectively.

(e) Industrial units may become sick due to various factors such as management deficiencies, lack of adequate infrastructural facilities, marketing constraints, plant imbalances, deficiencies in process technology, labour unrest, paucity of funds, etc. In accordance with the policy of the Government, the banks and financial institutions identify sickness in an industrial unit at the incipient stage itself, carry out viability studies and nurse such units as are considered potentially viable. The banks and institutions, in case of viable sick units,

formulate a suitable rehabilitation programme containing several short term and long term measures such as grant of financial concessions including waiver of penal interest funding of interest, reduction in the rate of interest and margin, rescheduling the overdue liabilities/irregularities for recovery in a phased manner depending upon cash generation, grant of need based working capital and term loan facilities and other measures like change in management, amalgamation or merger or leasing out to a healthy unit, etc.

Setting up of Tea Board Zonal Office at Cochin

1518. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a zonal office of the Tea Board at Cochin;

(b) whether Government have received representation from Kerala Government in this regard; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Govt. of Kerala had represented that the office of the Chief Regional Executive, Tea Board which was to be set up in South India, may be located in Cochin. This was carefully considered. However, since the work of the Chief Regional Executives is primarily related to coordination and monitoring of developmental schemes of the Tea Board with a view to improving production and productivity of tea, it was decided to locate the office at Coimbatore in view of its convenient situation between the tea growing areas of Kerala and the Nilgiri,

Decrease in Demand for Indian Silk in International market

1519. SHRI MOHAN BHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the demand for Indian silk gone down in the international market;

(b) if so, the factors responsible therefore; and

(c) the efforts being made to improve the position of Indian Silk in the international market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Several steps are being taken to improve the position of Indian Silk in the international market. Some of them are as under :

(i) to provide facilities for duty free import of raw material required for production of goods for export, cash compensatory support, etc, to exporters.

(ii) to create awareness about Indian Silk in foreign countries by participation in international fairs and by sending trade delegations abroad;

(iii) to implement programmes for improving the quality of silk so as to make it more competitive in the international market.

Financial Assistance by Banks in Rural areas for setting up Business/Industry

1520. SHRI ANANTA PRASAD SETHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether some banks are extending their co-operation financially for the uplift of the rural areas for setting up business/industry in the States;

(b) if so, the names of such banks and the amount invested so far in the State of Orissa during the last three years;

(c) whether some banks have also selected some villages and given financial assistance for their improvement particularly the weaker sections of the society; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) All scheduled commercial banks give financial assistance for setting up business/industry in the rural areas.

(b) Data relating to total advances made by all scheduled commercial banks to Small Scale Industries (SSI) Units in Orissa for three years are indicated below :

(in lakhs)

Last Friday of December	No. of accounts	Balance outstanding (Rs.)
1980	34257	2932.30
1981	44092	3994.17
1982	47051	4721.55

(c) and (d). Under "Village Adoption Scheme" banks have adopted 141042 villages in the country as at the end of June, 1983. Of these, the 10,285, villages adopted in Orissa State, accounted for 257097 direct agricultural loan accounts in which the total amount outstanding was Rs. 6026.44 lakhs as at the end of June, 1983.

Losses suffered by Exporters due to non Acceptance of exported goods by the ordering party

1521. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases during the last three years, year-wise, when our exported goods were refused by the ordering party abroad as the goods were not in conformity with the specifications of the orders;

(b) the details of total loss exporters and Government suffered on this account, year-wise;

(c) whether the exports are entitled to the export incentive in such cases; and

(d) if so, under what circumstances and the number of cases in which the same was allowed during the above period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) :

(a) and (b). Usually acceptance or refusal of goods is a matter between exporters and importers and this Ministry comes to know of such cases only when the parties approach it with their complaints. Thus complete information as asked for is not available with this Ministry.

(c) No Sir. For export benefit to accrue, remittance should be received.

(d) Does not arise.

Indian Insurance Companies Operating Abroad

1522. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the Indian Insurance Companies which are operating abroad indicating the number of offices/branches of the each company;

(b) the countries where these branches/offices are located;

(c) the figures of profit or loss of each company for 1982-83 and 1983-84 separately; and

(d) the volumes of insurance business relating to our shipping companies

and percentage thereof to the total business ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a)

Name of Company operating outside India	Number of Offices/Branches
General Insurance	
(1) National Insurance Company Ltd., Calcutta	4
(2) New India Assurance Company Ltd. Bombay	29
(3) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd. New Delhi	6
(4) United India Insurance Company Ltd., Madras	2
Life Insurance	
(5) Life Insurance Corporation of India	5

(b) General Insurance
(1) Australia (2) Bahrain (3) Canada
(4) Fiji (5) France (6) Hongkong
(7) Japan (8) Jordan (9) Kuwait (10)
Mauritius (11) Nepal (12) Netherland
-Antilles (13) Oman [Muscat] (14)
Philippines (15) Saudi Arabia (16)
Singapore (17) Thailand (18) United
Arab Emirates (19) United Kingdom

Apart from the above, the general insurance companies also

operate through subsidiaries/ associate companies in the following countries:—

(1) Barbados (2) Dominica (3) Ghyana (5) Kenya (6) Malaysia (7) Nigeria (8) Sierra Leone (9) Trinidad and Tobago

Life Insurance

(1) Burma (2) Fiji (3) Mauritius (4) United Kingdom

(c) General Insurance

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of Company	Profits including dividends from subsidiary and associate companies during the year ending 31st December	
	1982	1983
1	2	3
National	21.71	75.30
New India	2205.75	51.91

1	2	3
Oriental	108.02	101.00
United India	84.50	110.84
G.I.C.	2.21*	2.80*
Total : 422.16		341.85

*Represent dividends from associate companies in Kenya and Malaysia.

Life Insurance

The profit or loss in life Insurance business does not arise. The position in this behalf is reflected in the form of valuation surplus/deficit as disclosed in the periodic actuarial valuation of life insurance business; the amount of valuation surplus in respect of LIC's foreign operations during the two years period ending 31-3-1983, being the latest valuation, amounted to Rs. 3.58 crores.

(d) The total gross marine hull insurance (including war risk) premium written direct in respect of Indian Shipping Companies for the year ending 31-12-1983 amounted to about Rs. 24 crores which constituted 52% of the total gross marine hull (including war risk) premium written direct by the G.I.C.'s subsidiaries in that year.

Bringing of more weaker sections within credit plan of Nationalised banks

1523. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state?

(a) whether there is any scheme of Union Government to bring more weaker-sections within the credit plan of the nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI-

JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b). Public Sector Banks have been advised to set up their priority sector advances to the level of 40 per cent of their total advances by March 1985 and to ensure that 25 per cent of such advances go to weaker sections of the society comprising small and marginal farmer, landless labourers, tenant farmers and share croppers, I.R.D.P. beneficiaries artisans and village and cottage industries, SC/ST beneficiaries of D.R.I. scheme. As per quick estimates, weaker sections had received Rs. 3405 crores involving 133.56 lakh borrowal accounts or 21.6 per cent of the priority sector advances of the public sector banks by September, 1984.

At present there is no proposal to enlarge the scope of weaker sections. However, banks have been asked to increase the quantum of lending to weaker sections with a view to meet the target set for them.

Deposit in and Credit advanced by banks in Tripura

1524. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total deposits in each of the banks functioning in Tripura and the credit advanced by them during the last three years (year-wise); and

(b) the ratio of credits advanced separately for agriculture, cottage industries, small scale industries, medium scale industries, large scale industries,

wholesale and retail trade and weaker sections of the society of Tripura ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Data on Deposits and advances for the last three years of each of the banks

operating in the State of Tripura is set out in the Statement attached.

(b) Available information regarding occupationwise distribution of outstanding advances of all Scheduled Commercial banks in the State of Tripura is given below :

(Amt. in thousand Rs.)

Occupation	December 1981		December 1982	
	Amount	Share in the aggregate%	Amount	Share in the aggregate%
I. Agriculture	52160	23.9	76903	27.8
II. Industry	40726	18.6	47592	17.2
of which Small Scale Industry	17654	8.1	20009	7.2
III. Transport Operators	64930	29.7	71957	26.0
IV. Personal and Professional Services	6205	2.9	3832	1.4
V. Trade	33644	15.4	34082	12.3
(a) Whole sale	9417	4.3	10676	3.9
(b) Retail	24227	11.1	23406	8.4
VI. Personal Loans (including Consumer Durables]	10141	4.6	14820	5.3
VII. Others	10785	4.9	27740	10.0
Total Bank Credit*	218591	100.0	276926	100.0

*These figures are according to utilisation and relate to accounts with credit limit over Rs. 10000.

Statement

Distribution of Deposits and Credit of Scheduled Commercial Banks functioning in Tripura State

(As on the last Friday of)

(Amount in lakhs of Rupees)

Name of the Bank	December 1981		December 1982		December 1983	
	Deposits	Advances	Deposits	Advances	Deposits	Advances
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
State Bank of India	11,41	6,98	16,02	7,48	18,29	9,80
Bank of Broda	83	42	1,00	50	1,20	53

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Allahabad Bank	36	10	66	13	73	15
Indian Bank	75	37	85	41	78	46
Central Bank of India	72	32	1,00	32	1.13	35
Union Bank of India	1,04	35	1,18	54	1,38	70
United Bank of India	16,51	8,58	18,22	11,83	29.51	14,12
United Commercial Bank	6,29	2,97	6,16	4,43	6,51	4,68
Punjab and Sind Bank	48	31	38	28	60	24
Vijaya Bank	24	12	38	17	62	24
Tripura Gramin Bank	5,36	8,52	6,37	11,97	9,61	14,68
Purbanchal Bank Ltd.*	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	43,99	29,04	52'22	38,06	61,48	46,03

Data are provisional.

*Data not available.

Outstanding loans and advances of Nationalised banks to Industries

1525. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total outstanding loans and advances of the nationalised banks and other public financial institutions to the industries in large scale-sector till date;

(b) the total amount shown as bad debts and written off; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to realise the outstanding loans from the large scale industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) As per the latest data available with the Reserve Bank of India, as the end of June, 1984 the amount of outstanding advances off all Scheduled Commercial Banks to industrial borrowers enjoying credit limit of Rs. 1 crore and above amount to Rs. 9374 crores.

As on 31-12-1984, the outstanding loans of the all India term lending financial institutions viz. Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI) and Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) to industrial units in which the individual amount of loans outstanding was above Rs. 1 crore, amount to Rs. 1678.35 crores, Rs. 776.03 crores and Rs. 934.05 crores respectively.

(b) According to the Forms of Balance Sheet and Profit and Loss Account prescribed under Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and according to the usages and practices customary among banks and institutions, the details of bad and doubtful debts in banks/institutions for which provisions are made to the satisfaction of their auditors are not to be disclosed.

(c) The banks and financial institutions have a system of continuous monitoring of the accounts of individual borrowers at various levels and stages. As soon as an advance shows signs that it may prove difficult of recovery, the same

is reviewed in detail with reference to the purpose for which the advance had been given, the nature of business and the status of borrower, availability of security, worth of borrower/guarantors, etc. On the basis of the review, steps are initiated to recover/regularise the advances. Steps taken may include attempts to nurse the unit, improve its business by diversifying its activity, enhancing the profitability, etc. If such steps do not bear any fruit, advances are recalled and steps are initiated to recover the advances by enforcement of security or by initiating legal proceedings against the party.

Assistance to Tripura for paying D. A. at Central rates to State Government Employees

1526. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tripura have approached the Union Government for finances to sanction Dearness Allowance at the Central rates to the State Government employees of Tripura;

(b) whether Government are aware that Tripura is a backward State and has no financial resources to sanction Dearness Allowance at the Central rates to the State employees without the financial assistance of the Union Government; and

(c) if so, whether the Union Government would sanction more funds to Tripura Government so as to remove disparity in Dearness Allowance between the Central and State Government employees ?

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

(b) and (c). Sanctioning of D.A. to the employees of State Government is a matter that falls entirely within the States discretion. It would not be

possible for the Centre to provide any assistance for this purpose.

Export of Salt to Africa by STC.

1527. SHRI SHIVENDRA BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether State Trading Corporation intend to export salt to Africa;

(b) if so, the quality thereof;

(c) the agencies through which it will be exported; and

(d) the amount of profit to accrue thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Both Crushed and Uncrushed Indian Marine salt with minimum 96% on dry basis.

(c) It will be exported through members of Indian Salt Manufacturers Association in the Country.

(d) STC's service charge is 1% on FOB prices for quantity above 1,000 MT and 5% for quantity of 1000 MT and below.

Trade and Economic Co-operation between India and Oil-producing Gulf Countries

1528. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that gaps of communication as also of confidence are coming in the way of greater and economic co-operation between India and the oil-producing Gulf countries; and

(b) the major steps proposed to be taken for more trade with these Gulf countries during 1984 and onwards ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Bilateral trade talks at Government level, participation in trade fairs and exhibitions, exchange of delegations, market surveys, participation in construction and other projects, setting up of Joint ventures are among the important steps taken by the Government to increase the trade with these countries. A Seminar on Indo-Arab Trade Economic and Technical Cooperation is also proposed to be held in New Delhi this year.

Recovery of Outstanding Bank Credit from large and small Industrial units in Tamil Nadu

1529. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of outstanding bank credit from 40 large industrial units from each of which the dues exceeded Rupees one crore and 8111 small industrial units that were reported to be sick in Tamil Nadu at the end of June, 1983; and

(b) the steps being taken to recover these dues or to revive these units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : (a) As per the information furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), there were 40 large sick units with outstanding

bank advances of Rs. 228.24 crores as at the end of June, 1983 and 8111 sick small scale units with outstanding bank advances of Rs. 59.52 crores as at the end of December, 1982 in the State of Tamil Nadu. As per the latest information available with the RBI, as at the end of December, 1983, there were 44 large sick units and 6955 sick small scale units in the State of Tamil Nadu with outstanding bank advances of Rs. 183.31 crores and Rs. 71.13 crores respectively.

(b) In accordance with the policy of the Government, the banks are required to identify sickness in an industrial unit at the incipient stage itself; carry out viability studies and nurse such units as are considered potentially viable. In the case of viable sick units, the banks formulate a package of rehabilitation, with a view to enable the units to recover and repay their dues. In the case of non-viable sick units, the banks could resort to recall of advances, enforcement of securities and other legal remedies for recovering the amounts due to them.

[Translation]

One Rupee Notes and Coins minted and Circulated during sixth Five Year Plan Period

1930. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the number of notes of one rupee denomination and the value of coins minted and circulated in the market by Government during the Sixth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY) : The information is given below :—

(In Million Pieces/Value in million Rupees)

Years	Production of one Rupee coins and notes		Total circulation as at the end of the period	
	One Rupee Coin	One Rupee Note	One Rupee Coin	One Rupee Note
1980-81	138	915	1360	2069
1981-82	139	712	1497	2119

1	2	3	4	5
1982-83	165	465	1653	2047
1983-84	186	206	1802	1979
1984-85	247	435	2032	1980
	(up to February, 1985)		(up to December, 1984)	

Accounting Lapses detected at Central Coalfields Limited

1531. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in his audit report on the accounts of the Central Coalfields Limited for the year 1982 has pointed out that details for the discrepancy amounting to Rs. 712.59 lakh in respect of sale of coal stocks were not available in the records of Sales Office and Area Office;

(b) whether the company could not furnish any voucher for Rs. 517.48 lakh stated to have been spent by the company on land;

(c) whether the company did not make efforts for realisation of Rs. 110 lakh advanced to various persons;

(d) whether company could not produce vouchers for Rs. 7984.05 lakh for verification in audit for the year 1982 by Comptroller and Auditor General of India; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Government regarding the misuse of such a big amount ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) The amount of Rs. 712.59 lakhs mentioned in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-

Union Government (Commercial) 1983-Part V is the difference between the Sales Office and the Area Office balances under 'Advance Deposit Cash Sales' and represents money deposited by customers for purchase of coal but not lifted within 31st March, 1982 and also includes unreconciled old balances. The details in certain cases could not be made available to the auditors. This position had already been indicated by the management in their note to final accounts Annexed to the Annual Report and Accounts for 1981-82 (Schedule Z), which has already been laid in the Lok Sabha. As the notes of the management (Schedule Z) of the Annual Accounts indicated the above observations in accordance with the requirement by both the Statutory Auditors as well as C.A.G.'s representatives, no separate mention in this respect was made in the Statutory Auditors' report and C.A.G., had also given a 'Nil comment' report as per usual practice.

(b) No, Sir. However, the reconciliation of land records with the amounts appearing in the balance sheet alongwith proper technical break-up for proper presentation of land in the various specific heads, namely lease-hold, free hold and mining rights could not be done by the company.

(c) The amount of Rs.110 lakhs mentioned in the Report represents the money advanced on account of local purchase/store purchases for company activities and do not represent personal advances. The balance under this being continuing balance varies from year to years.

(d) The amount of Rs.7984.05 lakhs mentioned in the Report represents estimated commitment for capital expenditure which is disclosed in the Annual Accounts in accordance with Company's Act and does not represent expenditure. As such the question of production of vouchers for the aforesaid amount does not arise.

(e) As no misuse of money is involved, question of taking any action does not arise.

Accounting Lapses Detected at BCCL

1532. SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General of India has not found any documents in regard to debt balance of Rs.5.42 lakh, current expenditure amounting to Rs.2270.46 lakh and purchase of land for Rs. 228.07 lakh in 1983 during the auditing of the accounts of Bharat Coking Coal Limited; and

(b) if so, action taken by Government for incurring such a huge wasteful expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on

the Table of the House.

[English]

Opening of New Branches of Banks in Midnapur District

1533. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of licences issued by the Reserve Bank of India for opening new branches by different nationalised banks from the middle of 1983 to February, 1985 in Midnapur District, West Bengal, bank-wise figures thereof;

(b) the number of new branches actually opened during this period;

(c) whether any bank has surrendered any of these licences, and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Available information relating to the number of authorisations/ licences issued to the Public Sector Banks from April 1983 to February 1985 for opening branches at rural/ semi-urban centres in Midnapore District, West Bengal and the number of branches opened by them till the end of December 1984 is set out below :

Name of the Public Sector Bank	Number of authorisations/licences issued for Rural/Semi-Urban Centres	Of which the number of authorisations/licences utilised till the end of December 1984 for opening branches
1	2	3
State Bank of India	24	6
United Bank of India	25	1
United Commercial Bank	39	—
Bank of India	7	—

1	2	3
New Bank of India	2	1
Allahabad Bank	14	4
Canara Bank	3	—
Punjab National Bank	19	6
Indian Bank	3	—
Central Bank of India	8	—
Indian Overseas Bank	3	—

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India have received a request from the Indian Overseas Bank for surrendering one centre Hijla out of the three centres allotted to it, for want of basic infrastructural facilities.

Excise Duty Evasion by Leading Cigarette Manufacturing Companies

1534. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some leading cigarette manufacturing companies have been recently found involved in avasion of Central excise duty to the tune of several crores of rupees; and.

(b) if so, the details of these companies, the amount involved and the action taken or proposed to be taken against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). A show cause notice dated 2-3-1985 has been issued to M/s. National Tobacco Company Ltd., Calcutta under the provisons of Central Excise law demanding excise duty of about Rs.4.08 crores alleged to have been avaded by mis-declaration of the sale price of cigarettes.

Steps taken to Improve Performances of Public Sector Steel Plants

1535. **SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY** : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the steps Government have taken to improve the performances of public sector steel plants to make them more economically viable and competitive;

(b) the details of the steps taken to bring the technology of steel production at par with other advanced countries of the world;

(c) whether any proposal for importing techonlogy in this sector is being worked out; and.

(d) if so, the detatils thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) and (b) Following steps have been taken to improve performance of Public Sector Steel Plants in the country :

(i) **Increased Production** : Production in the public sector integrated steel plants of SAIL (including IISCO) is planned to

be increased from the estimated 5.28 million tonnes in 1984-85 to 5.92 million tonnes in 1985-86.

- (ii) By diversification the production of special critical items which were being imported in earlier years has been increased substantially.
- (iii) Plant level cost control committees have been set up to meet regularly and achieve reduction in costs.
- (iv) Strict control on inventories of raw materials, stores and spares, in process materials etc. There was a reduction of Rs 23 crores in the inventory of stores and spares during the period April-December, 1984.
- (v) Special efforts to adhere to technological regimes in process and equipment operation and to techno-economic norms of efficiency despite deterioration in the quality of raw materials.
- (vi) Creation of awareness of the need for improving productivity by inter-action between all categories of personnel employed through seminars, workshops etc. and regular discussion on how to improve productivity with trade unions at plant level and at corporate level.
- (vii) Efforts are also being made to ensure adequate inputs of the right qualities. Captive power generation will be maximised.

(viii) Technological Developments.

Research and development efforts are being intensified to overcome the problems faced by the steel plants through the elimination of process constraints, reduction in costs (such as in energy and improvement in technological regimes and indices), improvement in yield and

development of high value steel items. 69 projects were taken up in 1982-83 and another 55 in 1983-84. Joint groups of R&D scientists and operating technologists in the plants have been formed in each plant and the adoption of technological innovation have been speeded up. Improved maintenance techniques are being introduced to improve the performance of each unit.

The performance of every unit in each steel plant has been reviewed by a group comprising scientists and technologists of Research & Development Centre of SAIL, design exports of MECON, operating technologists of the steel plants and other experts (such as from BHPV and BHEL) to pinpoint the deficiencies, formulate schemes to rectify these and improve the performance. Similar groups have formulated the most cost effective schemes of technological upgradation of each steel plant (suffering from obsolescence in a large number of areas leading to high costs) and these are under examination for investment approval.

Proposals for technological upgradation of Durgapur Steel Plant, Rourkela Steel Plant and IISCO, are at various stages of active consideration of Government.

Bhilai Steel Plant & Bokaro Steel Plant

Schemes are under preparation for technological upgradation and removal of bottlenecks in respect of Bokaro Steel Plant and Bhilai Steel Plant.

(c) and (d). The technologies which might become necessary to import for technological upgradation of the plants are :—

(i) Selective crushing of coal for coke even plants at DSP, RSP and IISCO, Burnpur.

(ii) Stamp charging (Samples have been sent to West Germany to ascertain suitability of Indian

Coals) at Rourkela Steel Plant.

- (iii) Anhydrous liquid ammonia by Phosam Process at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- (iv) Sinter technology improvement at DSP, RSP and IISCO, Burnpur.
- (v) Gas probes and pressure tapping at different level of blast furnace at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- (vi) Coal dust injection at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- (vii) Cast House Slag Granulation at Durgapur Steel Plant.
- (viii) KORF process at Rourkela Steel Plant.
- (ix) Vacuum refining facility at Durgapur Steel Plant.

Decisions on technologies to be imported would depend upon the final approvals of schemes for the Seventh Plan.

Negotiations are being carried out to enter into technology transfer of KR and INRED iron-making process.

Drop in Foreign Exchange

1536. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a drop in foreign exchange reserves during the past two months (January and February, 1985);

(b) if so, the details thereof as compared to the years 1977-78 and 1978-79;

(c) whether the foreign exchange earnings of the country have declined;

(d) if so, to what extent; and

(e) the present foreign exchange

earnings by various sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) as on 31st December, 1984, 31st January and 28th February, 1985 were as indicated below:

	(Rs. crores)
31-12-1984	6250.29
31-1-1985	6014.47
28-2-1985	6245.58

(b) The comparative positions during 1977-78 and 1978-79 was as follows:

	(Rs. crores)	
31st December	3998.29	4890.35
31st January	3959.31	5081.71
28th February	4103.11	5094.74

(c) to (e). The amount of net foreign exchange earnings from all external transactions is reflected in the levels and variations in the country's foreign exchange reserves. There has been an increase of Rs. 1117.66 crores in the foreign exchange reserves in the current year upto 22nd March, 1985. It is not feasible to make an estimate of the foreign exchange earnings from different sources.

Pending Income Tax Arrear Cases

1537. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases pending for recovery of Income-tax arrears in different courts in the country during 1984;

(b) the number of cases decided and the amount recovered during 1984; and

(c) the particulars of those cases in which arrears were more than Rs. five lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). Complete information about recovery of Income-tax arrears pending in different courts of the country is not available. However, the requisite information in respect of cases, where the income-tax demands exceeded Rs. 10 lakhs as on 1-1-1984, is as under :

88 cases were pending for recovery of income-tax arrears in different courts of the country as on 1-1-1984. Out of them, 17 cases were decided and the amount recovered/reduced is Rs. 4.55 crores. The particulars of such cases in which income-tax demands exceeded Rs. 10 lakhs are given below :

Sl. No.	Name of Assessee
1.	Indian Hotel Co. Limited
2.	Raymond Woollen Mills
3.	Jagatjit Industries Ltd.
4.	Sat Narain Aggarwal
5.	Ashoka Marketing
6.	Century Enka Limited
7.	Raja Balcedar Birla Somtatikesh
8.	Kesoram Industries
9.	Chevram Chemicals (C) USA
10.	International (Chemicals & Minerals)
11.	Gemini Distilleries (P) Ltd.
12.	Suri & Nayar Limited
13.	M.Ramanamma (Smt)
14.	Rafuilla & Bros.
15.	Perilovanpati Hindu Nadar
16.	Birla Jute Mfg. Co. Limited
17.	J.K. Birla.

Coal Mining by States

1539. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether States have been allowed to take up coal mining either on their own or in the joint sector;

(b) if so, the state which have been given the licences ; and

(c) the names of States and the names of mines for which they have been given licences to exploit ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL : (SHRI VASANT SAHHE) : (a) to (c). In 1979, it was decided that while continuing the existing policy of the Central Government carrying out coal mining operations in the country by its own undertakings, the State Governments might also be allowed to carry out coal-mining operations in isolated small pockets subject to the following conditions :

- (i) the State Government undertakings operating the mines directly and not through contractors;
- (ii) the mining operations being confined to non-coking coal;
- (iii) the coal mining operations being subject to the provisions of the Various mining and other laws on the subject;
- (iv) the sale of coal being in accordance with the grade-wise prices notified by the Central Government from time to time;
- (v) the mining operation being confined to open-cast operations only, and
- (vi) Coal India Limited, issuing a 'no objection' certificate stating that it has no plans for operating the concerned area in the near future.

The isolated small pockets, are those which are away from the main coalfields and have limited known reserves which are not sufficient for scientific and economic development in a coordinated and integrated manner and the coal

produced from such areas would be utilised for local consumption without transportation by Railways.

In the light of these guidelines, the State Governments of Assam and West Bengal approached the Central Government for grant of mining leases in favour of their State Undertakings for exploitation of coal in isolated pockets. The Government have conveyed their approval to the Governments of Assam and West Bengal to the grant of mining leases for coal in isolated small pocket, for a period of two years, in Garampani Area of N.C. Hills in favour of Assam Minerals Development Corporation and in Bagrakote and Dalinkote areas in Darjeeling District of State of West Bengal in favour of West Bengal Minerals Development and Trading Corporation Limited respectively, under section 5(2) (a) of Minerals (Regulation Development) Act, 1957. subject to the conditions mentioned above.

Computerisation of Banking Operations

1510. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a programme for computerisation of banking operations has been drawn up; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India had constituted in July 1983, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Deputy Governor to look into the question of computerisation and mechanisation in banks. The Committee, has suggested a phased programme of computerisation/mechanisation in banks. It has recommended mechanisation/computerisation at all the three levels namely, branch level the Zonal/Regional level and the Head Office level. Though the Committee has recommended mechanisation/computer-

isation in two phases over a period of five years, Government have requested the Reserve Bank of India to consider implementing the programme within two to three years. Reserve Bank of India has set up a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. C. Rangarajan, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India to monitor the implementation of the programme of computerisation and mechanisation by banks.

Floating of Debentures by Companies

1542. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a few companies which had floated debentures issues in August-September, 1984, have since then collected the allotment money without issuing Debenture Certificates or paying the interest ;

(b) if so, the names of such companies; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). During the period August-September, 1984, only two companies viz., M/s. Roche Products Ltd. Bombay and M/s. The Raymond woollen Ltd., Bombay, had issued debentures to the public through prospectus. As per the information available with the Stock Exchange, Bombay, these companies have still not issued debenture certificates of Registration of Mortgages/Charges from the Registrar of Companies have not so far been received by the companies. These companies have, however, issued Letters of Allotment which are transferable and permitted for trading in Stock Exchanges. Interest in the case of debentures issued by M/s. Roche Products Ltd., which fell due on 24-2-1985 for the first six months, has been paid by the company. In the case of M/s. Raymond woollen Mills Ltd., interest payment for the first six months is due only on 1-4-1985.

**Alleged Irregularities in Loans by
Nationalised Banks**

1543. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there have been serious irregularities in advancing bank loans by branches of nationalised banks and State subsidiaries amounting to millions of rupees during the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of such cases where irregularity of more than rupee one lakh has been detected during the same period in each bank;

(c) whether many amount of loan had to be written off and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action Government have taken to avoid such recurrences ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that during the course of its inspections of the banks, it does come across cases of serious irregularities in some of the loan accounts of the banks. However, since irregularities in the accounts occur in the normal course of business also, and as all irregular accounts are not doubtful of recovery, no separate material on such accounts is kept. However, appropriate follow-up measures are initiated by the RBI and the concerned banks to rectify the defects.

(c) According to the forms of balance sheet and profit and loss account prescribed under Banking Regulation Act 1949, banks are given statutory protection against disclosure of the quantum or particulars of bad and doubtful debts for which provision has been made to the satisfaction of their auditors. In view of this, information in this regard cannot be divulged.

(d) The Reserve Bank of India has

issued instruction to banks to review the systems and procedures in vogue in regard to the management of advances portfolio and control over advances on the basis of certain irregularities and deficiencies which have come to its notice in regard to sanction of or supervision over advances. Recently it has instructed banks to review larger advances, to look into large problem advances and has impressed upon the banks that it is the responsibility of the top executives to constantly review the position of larger advances and exposure to borrower groups and keep themselves apprised of the developments in regard to larger advances. It has also emphasised that the Executive Directors/Chairmen of the Banks are morally and constructively responsible for effective supervision and monitoring of larger advances.

**Ban on the purchase of Hindustan Contessa
Cars by Government Department and
Public Sector Undertakings**

1544. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have put a ban on the purchase of Hindustan Contessa cars by Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings;

(b) whether in spite of Government's orders, some Departments of Government and Public Sector Undertakings have purchased those cars;

(c) if so, the names of such Departments/Undertakings which have purchased Contessa cars during 1983 and 1984 ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto ?

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

(b) and (c). Orders in this regard were issued by Government on 19-4-84 for

Government Departments and on 7-6-84 for public sector enterprises. Therefore, the question of purchase of Contessa cars in 1983 in violation of ban orders does not arise. Information in respect of the year 1984 is being collected from various authorities and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as received.

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

Collieries lying closed

1545. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that a number of collieries have been lying closed in various states ;

(b) the number of such collieries lying closed;

(c) since when these are lying closed; and

(d) the arrangements being made by Government for their working at par with the textile mills in the country so as to provide employment to the backward labour ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASAST SATHE) : (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Export of Tobacco by Tobacco Producing States

1546. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which are producing tobacco;

(b) the quantity and the value of tobacco exported from each tobacco producing State, annually;

(c) the agency through which this export is being and the names of the countries which are importing Indian tobacco;

(d) whether there was a complaint from certain countries in regard to sub-standard tobacco being exported from India;

(e) whether any responsibility has been fixed in this regard; and

(f) the steps taken to maintain the standard for exporting tobacco ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal are the States producing tobacco.

(b) The quantity and value of unmanufactured tobacco exported during 1983-84, State-wise are as under :

State	Qty* in tonnes	Value* in Rs./lakhs
Andhra Pradesh & Karnataka	78366	17005.97
Gujarat	11570	1091.33
West Bengal	49	7.93
	89985	18105.23

*Provisional

(c) Exporters registered with Tobacco Board are allowed to export tobacco. USSR, UK, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Egypt are the major importers of Indian tobacco.

(d) and (e). There were complaints from China in regard to supply of sub-standard tobacco by India. Show cause Notices were issued by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection on the packers and grading of tobacco under Agmark by these packers who also suspended. The matter is pending since some of the parties obtained stay orders from the High Court.

Disciplinary proceedings against the concerned Officers are being initiated.

(f) Grading and Marking of tobacco before export under Agmark is carried out on compulsory basis in order to ensure that good quality of tobacco is exported. Quality Control measures are being strictly enforced by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection on exports of tobacco.

Break-out of Blast Furnance of Bokaro Steel Plant

1547. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether blast furnace number four of Bokaro Steel Plant had a break-out last year causing great loss to the Plant;

(b) whether any enquiry was conducted to look into the reasons for the break-out of this blast furnace;

(c) if so, the reasons for the break-out of this blast furnace; and

(d) whether any responsibility was fixed in this case ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir. There was a break-out in blast furnace No.4 on September 11, 1984. This

had caused a production loss of about 32,000 tonnes of hot metal.

(b) Yes, Sir. SAIL had set up an enquiry committee of five experts, one of whom was the Chief Soviet Expert (Specialist in Blast Furnaces).

(c) The enquiry committee came to the conclusion that air got in contact with the outer surface of the carbon blocks (which are in direct contact with the hot metal) and eroded the outer surface of these carbon blocks, thereby causing the break-out of hot metal.

(d) The enquiry committee could not pin point responsibility on any individual.

[*Translation*]

Advancing of Loans to Educated Unemployed in Surat

1548. SHRI C.D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases referred by District Industry Centre, Surat during 1983-84 and upto February, 1985 to each nationalised bank for advancing loans to educated unemployed persons under Self-Employment Scheme;

(b) whether grant of loans in the cases referred by District Industry Centre is either delayed or refused by branch managers of the banks ;

(c) if so, whether his Ministry have issued/propose to issue any instructions to banks for giving them loans without any difficulty; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Under the monitoring system prescribed for the Scheme for providing Self-Employment Unemployed Youth district-wise data pertaining to each bank is not readily available. However, as per the information available,

as against the target of 11,200 beneficiaries under the scheme for the year 1983-84, the number of cases recommended by the District Industries Centres in the State of Gujarat, were 19585; out of which 10497 applications amounting to Rs. 1538.88 lakhs were sanctioned by banks. For the year 1984-85 as per reports indicating the progress of the Self-Employment Scheme upto 15-2-85, 9058 applications were received by the District Industries Centres in the State of Gujarat, of which 3392 applications amounting to Rs. 620,40 lakhs have been accorded sanctions by banks.

The banks have been advised to dispose of every application within a period of 14 days of their receipt in the branch. The banks have also been advised by Reserve Bank of India, to gear up their machinery to ensure that the targets set for them in each district are achieved by them within the stipulated period. The RBI has also advised its Regional Offices to follow up the matter with the banks.

Loans Advanced to Weaker Section by Buhari and Bajipura Branches of Dena Bank

1549. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of loans advanced by Buhari and Bajipura branches of Dena Bank in Surat district in Gujarat to small and marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, rural artisans, educated unemployed persons, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) whether people of these categories have to face great difficulty in getting loans from both the bank branches ;

(c) the reasons why the loan applications are rejected without assigning any reasons ;

(d) whether his Ministry propose to

issue any instructions in this matter ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (e) The centralised data collection system of banks does not yield brach-wise and category-wise information in the manner desired. The total priority sector advances of public sector banks, in Gujarat were Rs. 963,39 crores as at the end of December 1983. The banks have also been directed to provide atleast 10% of their outstanding advances to weaker sections. While rejecting loan applications banks indicate reasons and instructions to this effect have already been issued to them. As and when specific grievances are brought to the notice of Reserve Bank or the Government, these are enquired into for appropriate remedial action.

Income Tax Raids in Gujarat

1550. SHRI C. D. GAMIT : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of income tax raids conducted in Gujarat during the period from January to February, 1985 and the particulars of persons whose premises were raided and the places where such raids were conducted;

(b) the amount of unaccounted money unearthed in each case; and

(c) the details of the penal action taken against the persons arrested in this connection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). During January and February 1985, Income-tax Department conducted 125 searches in Gujarat and seized prima-facie unaccounted assets valued at Rs. 58.87 lakhs approximately.

Having regard to large number of searches, it is not practicable to give particulars of all the searches. However, if the Hon'ble Member desires to have information about a particular case/search, the same can be furnished.

(c) There is no provision of arresting a person in course of searches under Income-tax Act. However, penal action, including launching of prosecution is considered in appropriate cases on the basis of evidence available on conclusion of investigation.

[English]

Modernisation of Textile Units

1551. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) the proposal or plans to further modernise and refinance with diversification programme of textile units in the country;

(b) whether Government will take special programme to save and revive the units of Gujarat and West Bengal; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Government policy permits replacement of old and obsolete looms and spindles by modern and sophisticated ones. The soft Loan Scheme of Industrial Development Bank of India is available to the textile industry for modernisation. Certain items of modern

and sophisticated textile machinery, not indigenously manufactured are allowed for import under OGL.

(b) and (c). Government have constituted a group of Officers to go into the problems of closed/sick textile units in Gujarat with a view to preparing rehabilitation packages in respect of those units which are capable of being revived. On the basis of recommendations of the Group, rehabilitation packages have been worked out in respect of some of the mills. A group of Officers has also been constituted to look into the problems of closed units throughout the country, including West Bengal.

Stabilisation of Wholesale Prices

1552. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the behaviour of prices (wholesale) month-wise during the last two years;

(b) whether the prices can be said to have stabilised over this period;

(c) whether the benefit of the stability in prices is being enjoyed by the retailers/consumers; and

(d) if not, the steps being taken to see that the benefit percolates to the bottom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The requisite data on the movement of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are given below :

Wholesale Price Index (base 1970-71=100)

Month (Average of Weeks)	1983-84	1984-85
1	2	3
April	300.3	323.4
May	307.4	327.5

1	2	3
June	309.3	334.6
July	312.9	342.7
August	317.7	346.0
September	319.1	342.2
October	318.9	342.6
November	319.3	340.8
December	318.7	337.3
January	322.7	338.8
February	323.2	
March	322.9	

Figures from February 1984 are provisional.

(b) and (c). It may be observed that there has been a significant improvement in the price situation during the current financial year. The rate of inflation in terms of WPI has come down to 4.9 per cent in 1984-85 upto January 1985, from 9.3 per cent in the corresponding period last year. The deceleration in wholesale prices is also getting reflected at the consumer level with the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (base 1960=100) registering an increase of only 5.4 per cent in 1984-85 compared with 12.2 per cent in the same period last year.

(d) Does not arise.

Discovery of Gold in Hilly Regions of Country

1553. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of STEEL,

MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Geological Survey of India has found traces of gold in the hilly regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where this has been found; and

(c) whether the find gives any indication of deposits which can be exploited on commercial lines ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) :

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Incidence of placer gold has been reported in the following places of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Jammu and Kashmir :

State	Location
1	2
Jammu & Kashmir	Dinga, Amb Nadi and Kethera areas of Jammu.
Himachal Pradesh	From stream sediments of Markanda, Somb, Data and of the Yamuna. Gold values have also been found near Trilokpur in Sirmur District.

(1)

(2)

Punjab

In the sediments of Patiali Rao and Jaintia Rao rivers in Ropar district.

Haryana

Near Ujjalki Majri village, Ambala district.

Uttar Pradesh

Between Ramnagar on the West and Ranib gh on the East and in the Kosi River Sediment of Nanital District. Sediments of Ramgar and its tributaries, Sone Nadi in Pauri Garhwal and Dehradun district have also shown some gold values.

(c) The traces of gold so far found are not economically significant. However investigations are continuing.

Standardisation of Wages and other Service Conditions in Public Sector

1554. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANI-GRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a chaotic situation prevailing in the public sector as regards wages and other service conditions; and

(b) if so, whether Government have given any thought to standardise wages and other service conditions in the public sector in the group of manufacturing, mining, banking other financial institutions, trading service organisations and taken over sick units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Government does not consider that chaotic situation prevails in the Public Sector Enterprises, as regards wages and service conditions. The wages and other service conditions are governed by wage agreements negotiated between the managements and the unions.

New Marketing Scheme of Unit Trust of India

1555. PROF. RAMAKRISHNA

MORE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Unit Trust of India has started a new Marketing Scheme to promote sales of its units in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Unit Trust of India (UTI) has recently initiated a new marketing strategy to promote sales of its units in rural and semiurban areas.

(b) The details of the new marketing strategy relate to introduction of a Project for Promotion of Sale of Units in Rural Areas (PURA) by linking up with the rural marketing outlets of some companies for spreading the message of units in the semi-urban and rural areas, identification of all areas of the country except the 221 cities with more than 1 lakh population as semi-urban and rural areas, higher incentive commission to agents for canvassing business from such areas, appointment of more agents and Chief Representatives in such areas, and adoption of imaginative publicity programme to create awareness about various unit schemes of the UTI in such areas.

Wanchoo Committee Report on Black Money

1556. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the suggestions made in the Wanchoo Committee Report on black money have been implemented;

(b) if so, the extent of success achieved so far; and

(c) whether there is any need of appointing another Committee to give recommendations in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Most of the main recommendations of the Direct Taxes Enquiry Committee (Wanchoo Committee) relating to black money have been implemented.

(b) The legislative amendments carried out have led to better performance in search and seizure operations and also in generally improving the effectiveness of the implementation of tax laws relating to concealment of income.

(c) It is not considered necessary to appoint another Committee now to give recommendations in the matter.

Estimated Cost of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

1557. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant originally estimated to cost Rs. 2,500 crores is now estimated to cost Rs. 8,000 crores at 1984 price;

(b) the reasons for delay in the completion of the project; and

(c) the percentage of cost escalation per annum?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The original estimated cost for the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant was Rs. 2256 crores

(first quarter 1979 prices). The cost estimates of the project were revised to Rs. 3897.28 crores (fourth quarter 1981 prices) and this was approved by Government in 1982. The revised estimates of capital cost for the project taking into account the revised schedule as well as the price escalation since the fourth quarter of 1981, has not yet been finalised.

(b) The main reasons for the delay are : slippages in some items such as the erection of structures and equipment leading to mis-matches in implementation and constraint of resources.

(c) Cost escalation has been 21.5% per annum between first quarter 1979 and fourth quarter 1981 due to price escalation, statutory levies increase, changes in scope of work etc.

Dhankuni Project of Coal India Ltd.

1558. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided about the fate of the gas from Coal India Limited's Dhankuni project which will be available from 1986 as to whether it should be used as town gas for domestic and industrial consumers or for some other purpose;

(b) whether the Government of West Bengal has been negotiating with the Coal India Limited in this matter; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to sort out the problem over use of Dhankuni gas ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). As per approved feasibility report of the Dhankuni Project Coal India Limited will sell gas to the West Bengal Government through the gas distribution net work of the State Government. The requirement of this gas in the domestic and industrial sectors has been assessed by them. As it

stands, at present, there is no change in regard to the utilisation of town gas for domestic and industrial use. The State Government had agreed to a gas price on the basis of certain escalation formula. However they have recently raised the issue of high price of gas arising out of increase in coal price, power cost, chemical and labour costs. The matter has been discussed in a meeting held on 22-1-85 which was also attended by the representatives of State Government. It has been agreed in the meeting that CIL and State Government will negotiate for arriving at a price, which should hold good for a period of 2 years from December, 1986.

[Translation]

Meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee on Ministry of Steel Mines and Coal

1560. SHRI KRISHAN PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the number of meetings of the

Hindi Advisory Committee of his Ministry held during 1984;

(b) the resolutions adopted in these meetings; and

(c) the details of the action taken to implement them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) In 1984 two meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee of Ministry of Steel & Mines were held on 27-1-84 and 28-7-84 respectively. In the Department of Coal, recently attached to Ministry of Steel & Mines, no meeting of Hindi Advisory Committee was held in 1984. In 1984, Department of Coal was attached to the Ministry of Energy.

(b) & (c). Information in respect of important decisions taken in the meetings of Hindi Advisory Committee of Ministry of Steel and Mines held on 27-1-84 and 28-7-84 is given in the attached statement. As regards Department of Coal, the information is 'nil'.

Statement

S. No.	Suggestions/Decisions	Action taken
(1)	(2)	(3)
(i)	It should be ensured that the implementation of the appeal issued by the Minister (S & M) for the progressive use of Hindi is strictly followed by all Undertakings/Offices under the administrative control of the Ministry.	The appeal issued by Minister is being strictly enforced by the Ministry of Steel and Mines in its Undertakings/Offices. Undertakings have circulated this appeal to all their officers/employees for compliance. For effective implementation it was decided in the Official Language Implementation Committee that all letters received in Hindi should be replied to in Hindi. The appeal has been published in the House Magazines of some of the Companies. Similarly Chairman, SAIL has also issued an appeal to the employees of SAIL. Appeal is showing positive results.
(ii)	Two Undertakings (HCL and SAIL) are not giving	In the Department of Mines about 52% original letters are sent in Hindi and

(1)

reply in Hindi of the letters received in Hindi. Hindi should be used in originating correspondence and implementation of Section 3(3) should be ensured.

(iii) Keeping in view the economy drive, all units may be advised to get all the condemned Roman Typewriters converted into Devnagri Typewriters.

(iv) Action may be taken to fill up vacant posts/creation of posts connected with Hindi work in the Offices/Undertakings under the administrative control of the Ministry and the vacant posts should be filled up at the earliest.

(v) Seminar on Official Language may be organised in the Undertakings under the Department of Steel.

(vi) The Ministry should start a programme for awarding

(2)

Section 3(3) is being fully implemented. From 1-1-84 all letters received in Hindi are being replied so in Hindi in Hindustan Copper Ltd. etc. Regarding position in SAIL, a d.o. letter was sent to Chairman for reviewing the discrepancies found in the implementation of Official Language Act/Rules in the Corporate Office/its units. The position has shown improvement in the use of Hindi. Position will further improve with the appointment of Hindi Staff in various units of SAIL.

All the Undertakings have noted the suggestion and they have sufficient Hindi Typewriters for the present needs. Some Undertakings have started the work of getting the key boards of condemned Roman typewriters converted into Hindi.

Due to transfers/promotions etc. some posts are vacant in some offices of Central Marketing Organisation (SAIL). The reason of vacant posts in some offices is the non-availability of qualified candidates in the local employment offices and the difficulties in getting 'No Objection Certificate, from the employment offices. However SAIL Headquarters is continuing its efforts in filling the posts. Other Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Steel have informed that they have initiated the action for filling the vacant posts and some posts have been filled up.

Some Undertakings (SAIL, NMDC) are organising such seminars once in a year on regular basis. In 1984 MECON and Official Language Department jointly organised a seminar on the subject of 'Occupational Hindi' which was a successful effort. Other Undertakings under administrative control of the Department of Steel have assured to organise Official Language Seminars on their Foundation Days'.

As far as Department of Steel is concerned, the functions for awarding of

(3)

(1)

(2)

(3)

of Shields to its Undertakings for Hindi work.

(vii) Chairman and Managing Directors should be nominated as Chairman in the Official Language Implementation Committees of the Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department.

(viii) The nomenclature of Hindi Officers/Translators should be changed as 'Rajbhasha Adhikari' & Rajbhasha Sahayak'.

(ix) 'Hindi Day' or 'Hindi Week' should be organised in Ministries/Departments of Central Government and their Undertakings.

Official Language Shield for the year 1983 has already been organised in September, 1984. As regards Department of Mines, the matter was discussed in the Official Language Implementation Committee of the Department and the format of the Shield-award is being prepared.

In some Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Steel, such as Mangnese Ore India Limited, Bharat Refractories Limited, Sponge Iron India Limited, MECON, MSTC and many subsidiaries of SAIL, Chairman and Managing Directors of these Undertakings are the Chairman of the Official Language Implementation Committees from their inception. Other Undertakings have noted the suggestion for compliance.

In all the Undertakings under the administrative control of Department of Steel, the nomenclature of Hindi Officers and Translators have been changed as Raj Bhasha Adhikari and Raj Bhasha Sahayak respectively. As regards Department of Mines, the designation of Sr. Hindi Officer of the Department has been changed as Deputy Director. In both the subordinate Offices of the Department of Mines, designations of Hindi Officers are being changed as Assistant Director. The designation of Hindi Officers/Translators, working in some of the Undertakings under the administrative control of the Department of Mines have been changed as 'Raj Bhasha Adhikari/Raj Bhasha Sahayak'. The matter is under consideration in other Undertakings under the Department of Mines.

With a view to create consciousness and for accelerating the use of Hindi as Official Language, 'Hindi Day' was organised in Iron and Steel Control Organisation, Calcutta. Similarly 'Hindi Day' was also organised in Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd. and its subsidiary at Mangalore. Sponge Iron India Ltd., is also organising 'Hindi Day' on the first day of every month.

(1)	(2)	(3)
(x) The discrepancy in the pay scale of Assistant and Translator should be removed.		In this regard the Official Language Department has already sent a proposal to the IVth Pay Commission.
(xi) Member of the Hindi Advisory Committee should be co-opted in the Official Language Implementation Committee.		The suggestion of the Committee has been noted for compliance.

Setting up of Branches of Banks

1561. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDRA
JAIN :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of branches of banks that have been set up in the country, (State-wise and Union Territory-wise);

(b) whether more number of branches of banks are proposed to be set up in 1985-86; and

(c) if so, the number of new branches of banks proposed to be set up in different States during the next financial

year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c). According to available information, there were 46123 branches of commercial banks functioning in the country at the end of September 1984. The banks, in addition, were holding 5992 licences/authorisations for opening branches in the country. Statewise and Union Territorywise details are given in the statement attached.

The branch licensing policy covering the period April 1985 to March 1990 has not yet been finalised.

Statement

State-wise/Union Territory-wise distribution of branches of commercial banks in India as at the end of September, 1984.

Sr. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of branches as on 30-9-84	No. of licences/authorisations pending with banks as on 30-3-84
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	3551	318
2.	Assam	737	190
3.	Bihar	3283	635
4.	Gujarat	2789	276
5.	Haryana	1022	35
6.	Himachal Pradesh	501	41
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	641	57
8.	Karnataka	5528	195

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
9.	Kerala	2588	115
10.	Madhya Pradesh	3222	480
11.	Maharashtra	4474	534
12.	Manipur	51	33
13.	Meghalaya	102	22
14.	Nagaland	56	11
15.	Orissa	1506	207
16.	Punjab	1856	78
17.	Rajasthan	2195	427
18.	Sikkim	19	—
19.	Tamil Nadu	3673	151
20.	Tripura	89	27
21.	Uttar Pradesh	5992	1134
22.	West Bengal	2749	909
23.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	13	2
24.	Arunachal Pradesh	39	21
25.	Chandigarh	99	3
26.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	6	—
27.	Delhi	993	62
28.	Goa, Daman & Diu	258	3
29.	Lakshadweep	5	—
30.	Mizoram	21	24
31.	Pondicherry	60	2
Total		46123	5992

**Increase in Export to North America
and East Europe**

1562. SHRI SOMNATH RATH :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
SUPPLY be pleased to state ;

(a) whether there has been an appreciable increase in India's export to North America and East Europe;

(b) if so, the specific items of the export;

(c) since when exports have been increased to those countries; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). In regard to North America, India's exports have shown an appreciable increase since 1983, especially to USA. The main items of export to USA are crude petroleum, textiles, diamonds, cashew nuts, engineering items and leather and leather products. The main items of export to Canada are gems and jewellery, textiles, leather and leather products, tea, coffee, carpets, rugs and marine products.

In the case of East Europe there has been marked growth between 1975 and 1984. The main items of export to East Europe are agricultural products, chemicals and allied products, leather and leather manufactures, textiles, engineering goods and ores and minerals.

Licences granted for mining of coke in Bihar

1563. **SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD :** Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences for mining of coke have been granted to certain firms of Bihar during the period January, 1980 to 15 March, 1985;

(b) if so, the names and addresses of such firms with validity of licence in each case;

(c) whether certain firms in private sector are doing mining of coal without any appropriate licence;

(d) if so, the names and addresses of such firms and the exact date in each

case from which these firms have been functioning without licence;

(e) the action Government have taken or propose to take against firms as in (c) above to prevent this unlicensed mining of coke;

(f) whether a proposal to nationalise the private mining is under consideration of Government; and

(g) if so, the criteria of compensation proposed to be given in each case as in (c) above?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (g). Coke is not mined and as such the question of granting permission to mine coke does not arise.

The Coal mines in the country were nationalised in two stages. By the Coking Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 the coking coal mines and coke oven plants which were known to exist were nationalised w.c.f. 1-5-1972. By the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, all other coal mines were nationalised on 1-5-1973. In 1976, the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act was amended terminating all the private mining leases and prohibiting grant of leases in favour of persons other than those authorised by the Acts. Mining of coal by unauthorised persons in violation of the provisions of the Act was made cognizable offence punishable with imprisonment extending to 3 years and fine extending to Rs. 20,000. In violation of the provisions of the Acts certain persons surreptitiously indulge in illegal coal mining in certain areas. As the private mining in coal is prohibited and illegal, the question of nationalisation of such operations does not arise. Rather the coal companies and the State Governments' law enforcing agencies take concerted punitive and preventive action and book the offenders as and when detected.

Utilisation of Bauxite Deposits in Bihar

1564. **SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD** : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to utilise the huge deposits of bauxite available in Bihar, a proposal to set up an aluminium factory at Palamu near Chandih was under consideration of Government;

(b) whether the proposed aluminium factory for Palamu is now being set up in some other State;

(c) if answers to (a) and (b) be in affirmative, the reasons for dropping the proposal of aluminium factory in Bihar and setting it up in some other State;

(d) whether bauxite, an asset of Bihar will not be utilised in aluminium factory to be set up outside the State; and

(e) if so, the measures to utilise bauxite for the advancement and increase in revenues of Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) to (e). The Bihar State Industrial Development Corporation had in 1974 applied for a Letter of Intent for setting up an aluminium project at Latehar in Bihar. The application was not approved by the Central Government as the Corporation had not furnished full information regarding availability of Bauxite and Power for the project. The Government of Bihar was informed that should the Corporation come up with a concrete proposal, it would be considered on merits. No such proposal has so far been received either from the Corporation or from any other agency in any other State. At present Indian Aluminium Company and Hindustan Aluminium Corporation are getting part of their requirement of Bauxite from Palamu-Ranchi Area of Bihar.

Income Tax Officials staying for more than prescribed period at Agra

1565. **SHRI KESHAWRAO PARDHI** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Inspecting Assistant Commissioners and Income Tax Officers, Group-A in the Income Tax Department at Agra who have remained at that station beyond the prescribed period of maximum stay at a station;

(b) the time by which their transfer was due in each case; and

(c) the reasons for non-compliance of Government orders in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) None of the Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax and Income-tax Officers, Group-A have remained at Agra in violation of the guidelines governing the transfers.

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

Acute Shortage of Coins of Rs. 2 and One Rupee

1566. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA** : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons why no urgent steps are being taken to meet the continuing acute shortage of both notes and coins of Rs. 2 and Re. 1 denominations;

(b) whether the issue of Re. 1 notes declined from 99 million in 1979 to 27 million in 1984, without the gap being filled by additional issue of coins; and

(c) whether this has led to continuing circulation of huge quantities of soiled notes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) In the context of reported shortage of both notes and coins, Government have taken

several steps to ease the supply position. The steps taken so far are reflected in the increased production of rupee one and rupee two coins and notes :

Production	(Million Pieces)	
	1983-84	1984-85 (11 months only)
Re. 1 Notes	206.31	434.65
Rs. 2 Notes	936.17	1,336.29
Re. 1 Coins	186.4225	236.8710
Rs. 2 Coins	97.7200	—Nil—*

*In view of public complaints of difficulty in distinguishing easily between Re. 1 Coin and Rs. 2 coin, a new design of Rs. 2 coin is being processed. As such, production of Rs. 2 coins with existing design has been temporarily suspended.

(b) The actual circulation of one rupee notes and coins increased from 3,193 million pieces in 1978-79 to 3,599 million pieces in 1984-85 (upto December, 1984).

(c) As the supply of one rupee notes and coins, in the recent past has fallen short of the replacement needs of soiled one rupee notes in circulation, it is possible that some soiled but re-issuable notes are continued in circulation.

Trading in Skeletons and Skulls

1567. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

SHRI K. PRADHANI :

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

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "The Other Brain Drain" appeared in the 'Statesman', New Delhi of 12 March, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have looked into the matter as to how this trading in human skeletons came into existence;

(c) the checks exercised by the Customs and other connected authorities over the export of the human skeletons; and

(d) the action Government propose to take to check such gruesome trading in human skeletons or skulls ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The export of human skeletons was allowed only for medical and biological purposes.

(c) Export of Human Skeletons and parts thereof are allowed by the Port Licencing Authorities on production of certificates from (i) Police Authorities not below the rank of the Officer-in-Charge of the Police Station concerned regarding the source of procurement which should also indicate the quantity by weight or by number. (ii) The foreign buyer that human skeletons are required for biological and medical purposes only.

(d) State Governments concerned have already been advised to ensure

that no malpractices are allowed in this respect.

Execution of NALCO Project in Orissa

1568. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the execution of the National Aluminium Company Limited Project in Orissa in various spheres viz., construction of building, offices, staff quarters, installation of machinery and training of personnel, etc ;

(b) the number of tribal families displaced as a result of acquisition of their land which have been provided alternate sites and provided employment in the project ; and

(c) the action taken to open a school for the training of local population of tribals and others in the various trades to train them for skilled or semi-skilled jobs in the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) The progress of construction made upto 28-2-1985 in the execution of National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) project in Orissa is given below :

PLANT : The unit-wise progress in as follows :

(i) Mine construction	83.7%
(ii) Alumina plant construction	45.3%
(iii) Smelter Construction	45.0%
(iv) Captive Power Plant	40.3%
(v) Port facilities	57.0%

573 temporary houses, 648 permanent houses have been completed.

Remaining houses and other facilities as well as installation of equipment are in various stages of construction. Training of executives and non-executives has been taken up by NALCO as a continuous process.

(b) Out of 132 tribal families displaced as a result of their land acquisition in Damanjodi sector, nominees of 28 families have been employed in NALCO. All the families have been provided transit accommodation by NALCO. Besides, NALCO's contractors have employed displaced persons.

(c) NALCO has not opened any school, but stipendary training scheme has been introduced for imparting training in trades to nominees of displaced person, in batches, who will be employed after successful completion of their training.

Increase in Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks

1569. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the net aggregate advances of scheduled commercial banks for the year 1984 (upto December 1984) is higher than that of the corresponding period of 1983;

(b) if so, the extent to which the same has increased in terms of money ;

(c) the growth rate yielded as a result thereof ; and

(d) the reasons attributable in the advances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :

(a) According to provisional estimates, advances (exclusive of due from banks) of all Scheduled Commercial

Banks stood at Rs. 46764 crores as at the end of December 1984 as compared to that of Rs. 40280 crores as at the end of December 1983.

(b) Advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks increased by Rs. 6484 crores during 1984 as compared to that of Rs. 5469 crores in 1983.

(c) Growth rate of advances of Scheduled Commercial Banks was 16.1 per cent in 1984 as compared to that of 15.7 per cent in 1983.

(d) The variation in growth rate of advances is a normal phenomenon and there has been an increase of 0.4 percentage point growth rate in 1983 over 1983.

Aid to India from France

1570. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of assistance received by India from France for various projects in 1984 ;

(b) the details of the projects for

which assistance was received;

(c) whether the assistance received has been fully utilised; and

(d) if so, the project-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY), : (a) Under a protocol signed in February 1984, France agreed to provide financial assistance of FF 602.75 million, equivalent to Rs. 78.95 crores.

(b) The project and purposes for which funds are earmarked are shown in the attached statement. Reallocations can be effected by mutual agreement.

(c) and (d). French Assistance is tied to French goods and services and utilisation of the assistance depends upon award of contracts for French supplies and services, and consequent shipments of supplies and rendering of services. The mutually agreed terminal date of contracting under the above French Credit is presently 31st December, 1985 which can be extended by mutual agreement.

Statement

Allocations of 1984 French Assistance

(FF Million)

1	2	3
1.	Viral Vaccine Plant	102.75*
2.	Computer manufacturing plant	120.00@
3.	Coal mining equipment	55.00
4.	Central Power Research Institute, Bangalore	10.00
5.	Mahi river dynamics regulation	25.00
6.	Tuna purse-senior	40.00
7.	PABX manufacturing plant	25.00
8.	Electronic teleprinters project	31.00**
9.	State compensators for U.P. State Electricity Board	34.00

1	2	3
10. ICICI-Credit Line		20.00
11. Fertilizers		10.00
12. Chemical & other products		20.00
13. Light equipment		30.00
14. Palghat DTAX Project		80.00
		Total : 602.75

*Includes FF 2.75 million as grant for preparation of detailed project report.

©Includes FF 10 million for CKD/SKD import

***For CKD/SKD imports ; main equipment is financed under IBRD/IDA Credit.

Amount Looted by Robbers from Nationalised Banks in Badarpur and Greater Kailash, New Delhi

1571. SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount looted by the robbers from nationalised banks in Badarpur and Greater Kailash, New Delhi;

(b) the number of bank employees who sustained injuries in these incidents;

(c) whether the robbers have since been apprehended and money looted recovered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) No dacoity is reported to have taken place recently at an bank at Badarpur. The amount looted from the Greater Kailash, New Delhi (Evening) branch of State Bank of India was Rs. 4,18,998,

(b) No bank employee sustained injuries in the dacoity at the Greater Kailash branch of State Bank of India.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Improvement of Credit Deposit Ratio by Nationalised Banks in Himachal Pradesh

1572. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the nationalised banks in Himachal Pradesh have taken any concrete steps for the improvement of credit deposit ration;

(b) if so, the nature thereof and the exact credit-deposit ratio for each of the following banks in the State as on 31st December, 1984 (i) State bank of India, (ii) United Commercial Bank, (iii) Punjab National Bank, (iv) Central Bank of India, (v) New Bank of India, (vi) Punjabe & Sind Bank and (vii) State Bank of Patiala ; and

(c) if not, whether any immediate

steps are proposed to be taken by all or any of these banks as have not taken any such steps so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c).

Reserve Bank of India have reported that credit : deposit ratio of individual banks operating in Himachal Pradesh has not yet become available for December 1984. However, bank group-wise data is available only upto March 1984 and details are as follows :—

(Amount in Rs. lakhs)

	Deposits	Advances	C : D Ratio (%)
1. State Bank of India Group	14677	5718	39.0
2. 20-Nationalised Banks	21593	10737	49.7
3. Other Scheduled Commercial Banks (Including R.R.Bs.)	1908	787	41.3
4. All Scheduled Commercial Banks	38178	17242	45.2

The banks have been asked to take necessary steps for improving the credit deployment in the States where credit-deposit ratio is low. The banks are involved in the preparation of District Credit Plans with a view to facilitate deployment of bank credit in the implementation of development programmes. State Governments have also been requested to strengthen their infrastructure for deployment of large bank credit. All such measures are expected to improve the flow of credit in Himachal Pradesh.

Unsold Steel Lying in Stockyards of SAIL

1573. SHRI DHARAMVIR SINGH TYAGI : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of steel lying unsold in the stockyards of the Steel Authority of India Limited and the amount of losses incurred by it during 1983-84;

(b) whether the current steel glut in the public sector steel plants is due to the poor quality of the steel manufactured by these plants; and

(c) the manner in which Government proposed to stimulate the demand for steel to end this glut ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) SAIL had an opening stock of 1.52 million tonnes of saleable as on 1-4-1983. On account of various measures taken, SAIL was able to bring down these stocks to 0.83 million tonnes as on 31-3-1984 thereby reducing their interest burden.

During 1983-84 SAIL had suffered a loss of Rs.214.53 crores, the main reason for this loss was that their net realisations remained lower than increases in the costs of production.

(b) and (c). SAIL are presently holding a stock of 0.64 million tonnes (provisional), this is neither excessive nor is there a glut of steel with SAIL.

Charge-Chrome Plant at Choudwar in Orissa

1574. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of STEEL, MINES AND COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a Charge-chrome plant at Choudwar in Orissa;

(b) if so, the number of people who

can be provided employment in that proposed charge-chrome plant;

(c) the cost of the project; and

(d) the steps taken to implement the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) There is no proposal to set up a charge-chrome plant by the Government. A unit has been licensed in the private sector to set up a charge-chrome plant at Choudwar in Orissa for manufacture of 50,000 tonnes of charge-chrome per annum.

(b) The firm proposes to employ 935 persons in the project when operating at full capacity.

(c) The total capital cost of the project is estimated at Rs. 27.38 crores.

(d) According to information received, the project is under implementation.

The firm has stated that 15% of the capital cost of imports has been advanced and land required for the project is available.

Export of Oranges

1575. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) names of countries to which oranges are being exported; and

(b) quality of oranges exported during the last three years to those countries, country-wise and year-wise details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) (b). The details of oranges fresh and dried exported from India from 1980-81 to 1982-83 (Nov. 1982) are given below :

Name of the country	1980-81		1981-82		(Qty : In tonnes) (Val. : In Rs. lakhs) (Upto Nov. 1982) 1982-83	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
Bahrain	1	0.07	—	—	10	0.25
Bangladesh	6994	123.55	6681	119.31	783	8.43
Kuwait	11	0.45	1	0.04	—	—
Nepal	12	0.62	47	2.24	1	0.05
Qatar	5	0.31	28	0.65	5	0.13
Portugal	—	—	9	0.11	—	—
Seychelles	4	0.28	—	—	—	—
Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	—
United Arab	5	0.20	—	—	—	—
Emirates	56	1.96	358	13.11	215	8.17
U.K.	1	0.04	Neg.	0.05	—	—
Other countries	1	0.02	—	—	1	0.06
Total :	7090	127.50	7124	135.51	1015	17.09

**Export of Orange from West Bengal
Via-Jalpaiguri-Cooch Behar Border**

1576. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND
SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to export orange via Jalpaiguri-Cooch-Bihar border instead of Bongaigaon border as at present;

(b) whether Government are aware that it will save unnecessary expenditure; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND
SUPPLY (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a)
to (c). Under the policy of exports of
fresh fruits and vegetables, exports of
oranges is freely allowed. Exports may
take place via any of the established
Land Customs Stations.

**Public Sector Industries set up in Jammu
and Kashmir during Sixth Plan**

1577. PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state :

(a) the details of the Public Sector industries set up in Jammu and Kashmir State during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount of money spent on such industries during the said period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and
(b). Presumably the Hon. Member is referring to investment in Central public enterprises in Jammu & Kashmir during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. A Statement showing the details of investments in the Central public enterprises located in Jammu & Kashmir measured in terms of value of gross block, capital work-in-progress and unallocated expenditure during construction as at the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan, viz., as on 31-3-1980 and as on 31-3-1984 is *enclosed*. The investment made by public enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir State during the first four years of the Sixth Plan has quadrupled compared to the figure at the beginning of the Sixth Plan.

Statement

Details of Investment in Central Public Enterprises in Jammu and Kashmir measured in terms of value of gross Block, Capital Work-in Progress and Unallocated Expenditure during Construction as on 31-3-1980 and 31-3-1984

(Rs. in lakhs)

S. No.	Name of the Enterprise	Amount as on 31st March	
		1980	1984
1	2	3	4
1.	National Hydro-electric Power Corporation Ltd.	—	731
2.	H.M.T. Ltd.	510	725
3.	Hotel Corporation of India Ltd.	10	715
4.	Indian Oil Corpn. Ltd.	105	250
5.	Food Corporation of India	—	153

1	2	3	4
6.	Indian Telephone Industries Ltd.	23	82
7.	India Tourism Development Corporation Ltd.	47	49
8.	Bharat Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	6	41
9.	Hindustan Petroleum Corpn. Ltd.	4	21
10.	National Building Construction Corporation Ltd.	—	40
11.	Steel Authority of India Ltd.	—	4
12.	Engineering Projects (India) Ltd.	—	1
Total :		705	2812

Measures for Promotion of Export of Cardamom

1578. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of cardamom has increased both in terms of quantity as well as in earnings during the past five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the main export promotion measures being taken to step up its export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b). The exports of cardamom during the last five years in terms of quantity and value—

Year	(Qty. in tonnes) (Value in Rs. crores)	
	Qty.	Value
1980-81	2345	34.70
1981-82	2325	30.20
1982-83	1052	16.37
1983-84	258	5.44
1984-85 (April-Feb., 1985)	1970	55.64

It will be seen that because of two consecutive drought years *i.e.* 1982-83 and 1983-84, when production fell the exports have declined. During 1984-85 there has been a considerable recovery and the earnings have been higher than any time during the past 5 years.

(c) The major steps for increasing the export are given below—

- (1) Introduction of schemes like cardamom replantation Loan-Cum-Subsidy scheme for increasing production, so that more cardamom may be available for export.
- (2) Increasing the rate of CCS on the cardamom export in consumer packs of 2 Kgs. and below from 7% to 10% to make the commodity competitive in international market.
- (3) Participation of the Board in the selected Fairs/Exhibitions abroad.
- (4) Sending Sales-cum-Study delegations abroad.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, the entire film industry in South India is feeling discriminated and let down by the Ministry of Information

and Broadcasting for the failure on the part of the Ministry in selecting not even a single film produced in Tamil, Telugu or Kannada or Malayalam languages for the films to be shown in USA and France during the India Festival week, I have given a notice of Calling Attention motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Facts are being collected. I shall consider it.

SHRI M. RAGUHMA REDDY : Sir, the rabi paddy in Andhra Pradesh has been harvested but the Food Corporation of India has not so far opened the purchasing centre with the result that the farmers are resorting to distress sale.;

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Have You given a notice ?

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : I have already given

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will consider it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, hundreds of Indian doctors are stranded in Iran and despite our efforts and efforts by other peace loving countries the war between Iran and Iraq is escalating. Parents of these doctors are very much worried. I have received several telegrams from J & K. They want Government of India to repatriate these doctors. I have moved an adjournment motion and also given notice of a Calling Attention motion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Adjournment Motion is not possible. I will consider Calling Attention. I will consider it.

Why are all of you getting up ? Please sit down.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I have given a Calling Attention. Curiously enough, it is rather the opposite of what Mr. Soz has said.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : It is different, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : the Minister is going away. I wanted to raise it when he was here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please tell me.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Calling Attention may be admitted by you. I hope it will be admitted. The Government of Iran has requested the Government of India. They have made an appeal for Indian doctors to be sent there to attend to. what say, the victims of chemical and gas poisoning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I told you, I will consider it. What do you want Mr. Kabuli ?

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : This is regarding the same matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Then please sit down.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI : I have discussed with Mr. Speaker yesterday. He has allowed me to have submission under Rule 377 on this very issue.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has already given Calling Attention Notice. I will consider it. Please sit down.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : rose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want, Mr. Kurup ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I raised this matter in the zero hour. I have given Calling Attention Notice. It is regarding the construction of a Five-star Hotel near Bombay Sahar International Airport.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you have given I will consider it. There are so many things.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I only want that assurance-that it will be considered.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have told you. It will be considered. I will consider your Calling Attention. Please sit down.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : I am very glad that you have come today in the morning. Day before yesterday when that reference to Rajya Sabha was made by Prime Minister you will go through the record. What is your ruling ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You come to my chamber.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : We want ruling from you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You wanted to discuss it with the speaker. I do not know what is the outcome. You come to my room. I will discuss it with you.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE : We shall be satisfied if you keep it under consideration ; we shall meet you.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHURY : What is your ruling ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given it. Everything is there. If you want to discuss, you can come to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you want to discuss anything. please come to my chamber. You come to my room. I will discuss with you anything that you want.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : rose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have received your notice.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : **

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't record it. Nothing will go on record. It is an individual thing. Don't record.

SHRI T. BASHEER : rose.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you want ?

SHRI T. BASHEER: In tody,s paper...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No. What do you want? No reading of the paper without my permission.

SHRI T. BASHEER : Only one sentence.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't read the paper. Without my permission you can't read the paper.

SHRI T. BASHEER : This is regarding construction of embankment by Bangladesh along the river bed... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am hearing you, Please come to the mike and tell me. What do you want.

SHRI T. BASHEER : This is regarding 'Construction of massive embankment by Bangladesh along our river bed in violation of the pacts between India and Bangladesh.' Sir, it is a very important matter.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You give notice. I will consider it.

Now, Papers to be Laid on the Table.

12.22 hrs.

in laying the papers mentioned at
(1) above. [Placed in Library.
See No. LT610/85]

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

**Notification under Emblems and Names
(Prevention of Improper use)
Act, 1950**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GULAM NABI AZAD): On behalf of Rao Birendra Singh I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S O 239 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 1985 inserting the name of "Shrimati Indira Gandhi" in item 9A of the Schedule to the Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act, 1950, issued under section 8 of the said Act. [Placed in Library. See No. LT609/85]

Review and Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta for the year 1984-85 and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying the papers

THE MINISTER OF STEEL, MINES AND COAL (SHRI VASANT SATHE): 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 on the working of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Copper Limited, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts and the Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay

Industrial Finance Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to employees) Regulations, 1968; Annual Report of and Review on the Industrial Development Bank of India, etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): On behalf of Shri Janardhana Poojary I beg to lay on the Table :—

(1) A copy of the Amendment to Industrial Corporation of India (Payment of Gratuity to employees) Regulations, 1968 (Hindi and English versions) regarding quantum of gratuity payable to 'Workmen' employees of the Corporation, under sub-section (3) of section 43 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948. [Placed in Library. See No. LT611/85]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Development Bank of India together with Audit Accounts of the General Fund and the Development Assistance Fund for the year ended the 30th June, 1984, under sub-section (5) of section 18 and sub-section (5) of section 23 of the Industrial Development Bank of India Act, 1964.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Industrial Development Bank of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1984. [Placed in Library. See No. LT612/85]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1984 along with the statement showing the Assets and Liabilities and Profit and

[Shri Gulam Nabi Azad]

Loss Account of the Corporation, under sub-section (3) of section 55 of the Industrial Finance Corporation Act, 1948.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of Industrial Finance Corporation of India for the year ended the 30th June, 1984. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT613/85*]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, I have already given notice. Please permit me also.....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have already taken enough time. That is enough.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Next item No. 6—Shri K. Natwar Singh.

Review on and Annual Report of the India Iron and Steel Company Limited, Calcutta for the year ended the 31st March, 1984 and the Statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STEEL (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : 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 on the working of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year ended the 31st March, 1984.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited, Calcutta, for the year ended the 31st March, 1984, along with Audited Accounts and the

Comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT614/85*]

Notification under Central Silk Board Act, 1948; Annual Reports of and Review on the Tea Board India, etc. and Statement showing reasons for delay in laying papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): On behalf of Shri P.A. Sangma, I beg to lay on the Table :—

- (1) A copy of the Tobacco Board Second Amendment) Rules, 1984 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G S R 26 in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1985, under sub-section (3) of section 32 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT615/85*]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 :—
- (i) The Central Silk Board (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G S R 141 in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1985.
- (ii) The Central Silk Board Contributory Provident Fund (Amendment) Rules, 1984 published in Notification No. G S R 142 in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1985.
- (iii) The Central Silk Board Study Leave (Amendment) Rules, 1984, published in Notification No.

G S R 143 in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1985.

- (iv) The Central Silk Board General Provident Fund (Amendment) Rule, 1984 published in Notification No. G S R 144 in Gazette of India dated the 9th February, 1985. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT616/85*]
- (3) (i) A copy of Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board India, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Tea Board India, Calcutta for the year 1983-84 together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Tea Board India, Calcutta, for the year 1983-84. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT617/85*]
- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Wool Research Association, Thane, for the year 1983-84. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-618/85*]
- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures, Kanpur, for the year 1983-84 along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of

the Export Promotion Council for Finished Leather and Leather Manufactures, Kanpur, for the year 1983-84.

- (6) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (5) above. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT619/85*]

12.28 hrs.

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[*English*]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, I have to report the following messages received for Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha :—

- (i) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 3 Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."
- (ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 20th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no

[Secretary-General]

recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

(iv) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure, and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 3) Bill, 1985, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th March, 1985, and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill."

12.23 hrs.

[English]

**CALLING ATTENTION TO
MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE**

**Reported Confiscation by Custom
Authorities at Bombay Airport of
Large amount of U.S. Dollars and
Travellers Cheques intended to
be Deposited in Foreign Banks**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur): Sir, I call the attention of

the Minister of Finance to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon.

"Reported confiscation by Custom Authorities at Bombay Airport of large amount of U.S. dollars and Travellers Cheques intended to be deposited in foreign banks and the action taken by the Government in the matter."

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND
COMMERCE AND SUPPLY (SHRI
VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):**
According to reports received by the Government, officers of the Air Intelligence Unit of the Customs (Preventive) Collectorate, Bombay intercepted two passengers, namely S/Shri Chandrakanth Shivabhai Amin and Asutosh-Pratulchandra Nanavathy on the 19th March, 1985, when they were leaving for Hong Kong by flight No. AI-316, which was to depart for Hong Kong at 18.50 hours. On suspicion, the two passengers were directed to present their checked-in baggage for Customs examination. After they identified the three suitcases checked-in in their name, the same were opened and examined. On examination, one of the suitcases, checked-in in the name of Shri Asutosh Pratulchandra Nanavathy was found to contain a red/black canvas bag in which there was a large quantity of currencies consisting of:

US \$ — 3,04,526 (currency note)

US \$ — 48,900 (travellers'
cheques)

Singapore S—1

Indian currency—Rs. 500

Total equivalent to Rs. 46,63,850

Thereupon, currencies were seized in the reasonable belief that they were attempted to be smuggled out of the country in contravention of the provisions of Customs Act, 1962 read with the

Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

In the statements recorded, the two passengers admitted that the foreign currency carried by them belonged to Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna of Ahmedabad and that they were carrying the foreign currency to Hong Kong under his instructions. They further deposed that Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna was scheduled to leave for Ahmedabad by Indian Airlines Flight No IC-111 that evening at 6.00 P.M. Thereafter, Shri Mrugesh was apprehended at the domestic air-terminal when he was about to board the flight for Ahmedabad. Shri Mrugesh admitted in his statement that the seized foreign currency belonged to him and had been purchased by him with the help of two persons who belonged to Ahmedabad and that the seized currency was to be sent through the Union Bank Switzerland at Hong Kong to his wife's relative in U.S.A. The two passengers and Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna were arrested on 20-3-1985 and have been remanded to judicial custody till 2-4-1985.

As the case, prima facie, involves violations of the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and Direct Taxes Laws, besides the breach of the provisions of the Customs Act, further follow-up action and investigation are in progress in close co-ordination between Customs, Directorate of Enforcement and the Income-tax authorities. As the case is under investigation, the Hon'ble Members would kindly appreciate that it will not be expedient to disclose further details at this stage. I may, however, assure this House that action would be taken against all persons involved as warranted by law.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Prof. Dandavate, I want to make some observations now. Afterwards, you can speak.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, do you want to draw the attention of all the Members of the House or me alone?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I want

to make the observation for the benefit of all including yourself, Prof. Dandavate.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate has given notice under Rule 353 intimating that during Calling Attention, he would mention names of certain persons connected with the subject. Under Rule 353, no allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature can be made by a Member against any person unless the Member has given previous intimation. Prof. Dandavate gave the intimation to me in the morning and I requested him to furnish the basis on which he would mention the names of persons. So far, Prof. Dandavate has not given me the required information. I would, therefore, request Prof. Dandavate not to make allegations or mention the names of persons who are not here to defend themselves.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Your information is not up to date. I have given; it may not be up to your satisfaction. I have got all the precedents with me of Antulay and others; do not worry. I will take care of rules, and without violating the rules, I will expose corruption.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Better take care of corruption, rather than taking care of me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please observe the rules.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, I have tabled this Calling Attention Motion basically on the question of confiscation of foreign currency and also of travellers cheques to the tune of about Rs. 48 lakhs from two industrialists who were already proceeding to Hong Kong as has been admitted by the hon. Minister.

I would like to raise a number of issues connected with this. I am in-

[Prop. Madhu Dandavate]

interested not merely in the technical part of confiscation of currency, but I am more concerned with the type of ganging up that is taking place in this particular affair. It involves smuggling of currency; it involves corruption by industrialists; it has also an espionage angle; it has also an association and links with high placed politicians in Gujarat. Combined with all that, there is an overriding question of public morality and that is the reason why I have raised this question.

In this House, I may remind you, Calling Attention notice is a powerful instrument in the hands of Members to unearth and expose corruption and also bring to the notice of the Minister concerned and the House certain financial transactions, as had happened in the case of the famous trust floated in Maharashtra, as a result of which a man in a very high position had to be removed from the position he had held.

Permit me to say, Sir, that with the issues which I raise, I have confidence that soon people responsible for those crimes and transactions will be out of their high political position. I have full confidence about it, and with full confidence and authority, I say this and authenticate every word that I have said on the basis of the information that I have collected.

It is already admitted that two industrialists, one Shri Chandrakant Shivabhai Amin and the other Asutosh Prafulchandra Nanavathy were caught while proceeding to the flight going to Hong Kong and when their checked-up luggage was taken charge of, it was found out that foreign currency was there. They were taken charge of by the Customs authorities and the same evening the industrialist, Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna, whose name has also been mentioned by the hon. Minister was proceeding to Ahmedabad by 6.00 p.m. flight. He was also taken into judicial custody and certain confessions have been made. The two industrialists, or the two representatives of the indus-

trialist magnate had admitted that it was Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna who had handed over the currency to them and they were simply carriers of the currency. After this episode had taken place and on the one side the two industrialists were hauled up and some information was ascertained from them, I would like to know whether it is a fact that incriminating documents were found in the raid that was conducted by the authorities at Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna's residence, and whether there was any evidence to show that the smuggled currency was sought to be carried first to Hong Kong and then to the Swiss Bank, and whether there was any evidence that the money belonged to** the Chief Minister**...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. K. K. TEWARY (Buxar) :
There is a ruling that he cannot mention names *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What I have observed already will apply. I have already informed. *(Interruptions)* I know. I request the members to be silent.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am not saying that it belonged to him. Being a person of high morality, I do not think that it belongs to him. But I merely want to know whether it belonged, as has been reported somewhere, to him. Being a man of high morality, I really do not think that the money has been actually given. I want to know whether the amount was given. Sir, here I want to point out something which cannot be objected to. Because, this is actually what has happened, as an administrative measure. I am not making an allegation. I am only telling about the administrative decisions that have been taken and implemented. Whether there is a nexus or not, I leave it to the Minister. I want to know whether the Chief Minister of Gujarat, **obliged Mr. Mrugesh Jaikrishna, who is the Vice-President of Cricket Board of India and the President of the

Cricket Control Board of Gujarat, in constructing a new stadium near Gandhi Nagar by giving away 50 acres of land at throw-away prices.

(Interruptions)

This is no defamation. In Delhi when the Asiad Sports were held, I have asked the question in this House whether so and so was given certain land ..

(Interruptions)

Sir, I would quote a precedent. In this very House when hotels were being constructed for Asiad, I had raised the question, mentioned particular names and also referred to the Minister whether he had granted permission to that particular individual to construct a hotel for HIL and whether it was given away at a throw away price. It was not at all rejected, but a very satisfactory answer according to the speaker as well as according to the Minister was given. I am simply raising an administrative question, whether it is a fact that as far as Mrugesh was concerned, he was given for the stadium some land—50 acres of land—at throw-away prices. Only a statement of fact is required.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : It is not at all connected.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It is connected. Money is accumulated. It is accepted even by the Minister. In his statement, he said that two industrialists who were carrying the currency admitted that Mr. Mrugesh had given them the money and Mrugesh when he was confronted by the Customs Authorities, he has also accepted that.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I have informed, not accepted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is all right. He has confirmed

that the information was given by the two persons. I would grammatically correct my grammatically incorrect statement. He has confirmed that those two persons who were interrogated, had actually accepted the fact that Mr. Mrugesh had given that money. And who is this Mrugesh ? He is the same man who constructed a stadium near Gandhi Nagar. How did he get the land of 50 acres ? It was given by the Chief Minister,** I only want a statement of fact whether it was given.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. K. GADHAVI (Banaskantha) : It is all irrelevant. It was long back...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : So, they have admitted that it was done, but long long back...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI B. K. GADHAVI : The question is whether he is entitled to relate a matter which is totally irrelevant. He is referring to a matter three years old about the Gujarat Cricket Association...

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : This is important and it has got relevance....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister will reply to it. Please sit down.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Through you, I may remind him that his point of order is ruled out.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Is it your ruling ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No. I am communicating his ruling. He could not hear it properly.

I would now like to make an enquiry, because it is related to this problem : whether prominent Congress (I) leaders,

**Not recorded.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

including four MPs, even MLAs—and I congratulate them—and about ten district Congress presidents wrote to former Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi about the questionable relationship between the Chief Minister** and Mrugesh, and warned that the Indira Stadium might one day prove as harmful as the Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratishthan floated by Mr. A R. Antulay. (*Interruption*) If they challenge, I will produce the letter, Sir. But that will embarrass the Congress members. I will produce the letters.

That industrialist wanted the stadium to be called as Indira Gandhi Stadium or Indira Stadium

SHRI B. K. GADHAVI : It is called Gujarat Stadium.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No; he wanted it to be called as Indira Gandhi Stadium. I am congratulating you. You friends told the late Prime Minister : "Don't get trapped into the trap of Mrugesh", I am congratulating them. (*Interruptions*) What I am telling is that 4 MPs, 7 MLAs, and 10 district Congress presidents went to Mrs Indira Gandhi and told her : "Mrugesh wants the stadium to be called Indira Stadium. Please don't listen to the Chief Minister** That will be another episode of Indira Gandhi Pratibha Pratishthan. We would warn you not to do it." I congratulate the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She openly declared: 'I do not want my name to be given to this stadium. It will not be called as Indira Stadium. You can call it by any other name.' As my colleague rightly said, it is called Gujarat Stadium. Long live Gujarat'. I have no quarrel with it.

In a letter addressed to Shrimati Indira Gandhi in the middle of November 1982—take note of the month; if they want the date, I will be prepared to give it—did they not say that they would leave the party if the Chief Minister's conduct in this regard was not controlled? Is it not a fact that

Shrimati Indira Gandhi responded favourably and persuaded with all her persuasive powers, the Chief Minister** to dissociate her name from the stadium, and give it any other name?

I would like to know from the hon. Finance Minister : who forced the public sector organizations in Gujarat to become Life Members of the Gujarat Cricket Control Board, of which Mr. Mrugesh who has been arrested was the Vice-President? All public sector organizations. You will be surprised to know which are the organizations which joined as Life Members—even the Slum Clearance Organization joined the Cricket Control Board I do not know whether they wanted to play cricket, or they wanted to build....

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : What is your thinking?

PROF. MADHU DANDATE : My thinking will not be palatable to you.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah): For Mr. Dandavate's information.

(*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Das Munsi, what you have said will not go on record because you have not given the Calling Attention motion. He has given it. He is speaking on it.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am Very sorry. I thought be rose on a point of order. That was why I sat.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : We want to help and cooperate in the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The cooperation is welcome.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a fact that there is a close relationship between the Chief Minister** and

the entire business, industrial and family circles of Jaikrishna? it a fact? Is This is a very important administrative matter. There is no question of defamation. Is it a fact that about 16 textiles in Ahmedabad closed down during the last two years? Sixteen textile mills closed down. It is not defamation against anybody. It is really defamation against the unemployed workers. Sixteen textile were closed down, and the Relief Act was invoked. what is the purpose of the Relief Act?

How was the patronage through Relief Act given by the Chief Minister to this great industrialist who is caught in the trap now? The Relief Act which gives protection to an undertaking and prevents creditors from recovering dues was extended, out of 16 textile mills, with were closed down, it was extended, the Relief Act was extended only to one mill in Ahmedabad. *(Interruptions)* My friend is a trade unionist. He should join me. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not like members to go on talking like this. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Out of 16 textile mills that were closed two years back, only in the case of one mill in Ahmedabad and that is Saharangpur Cotton Mill No. 2, the Mill under the management of Jaikrishna family, was given the benefit of Relief Act. If this Relief Act. was applied in a spirit of compassion we have no objection. But, what are the economic consequences? From where did this business magnate get money to be sailed through his friend to Hong Kong by the benefit of this law; and Jaikrishna family saved Rs. 2 crores by denying creditors their right to recover their dues because once this Act is extended to a particular undertaking, if creditors approach them and ask for the return of the credit, they can say, that according to the Relief Act, I am completely exempted from all these obligations.' So, they were able to save Rs. 2 crores.

Within a couple of days of this benefit from** I would like to know whether Mrugesh Jaikrishna had gone to Switzerland.

Now I would like to refer to a High Court case, a criminal case filed by Jaikrishna against their cashier for misappropriation of funds, because their deals were found to be shady. It always happens that in a bank if some person in a high authority is found to be guilty of a fraud, he places the entire blame on a peon that is standing at the entrance of his building or some clerk or Head clerk. So, in the criminal case filed by Jaikrishna against their cashier for misappropriation of funds, what was the judgment that was given by the Gujarat High Court? They did not accept the contention of Jaikrishna family that all the fraud and misappropriation was due to their employees and they quoted Sherlock Holmes. It adds a little tinge to this particular calling attention. Quoting Sherlock Holmes, the Gujarat High Court says :

“When the theft is committed at night and the watch-dogs do not bark, the reason is that the owner himself is the chief.”

This is the quotation from Sherlock Holmes; and I admire the literary Indian ingenuity of the High Court Judge who rightly quoted. Is not the management responsible for this misappropriation of fund? Was it not done for their benefit and did they not amass wealth through this misappropriation?

Jaikrishna Hari Vallabhadas continued as Chairman of the Gujarat State Fertilizer Corporation only because of the patronage given by the Chief Minister**. Otherwise, he would not have continued.

SHRI B. K. GADHAVI : He was appointed by the Janata Party Government, for your information.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : No. Action against Mrugesh and his wife; After the seizure of foreign currency on 19th March, I am referring to this incident. Is it not a fact that Mrugesh Jaikrishna who was Director of Gujarat Industrial Investment Corporation and Gujarat Tyres Limited was removed from these posts on 31st March 1981? They had accepted the *bonafide* case and allegation. Otherwise, they would have been removed from the post. They have said, "We are awaiting a full investigation". But I know, with all the elementary legal knowledge at my command, I can tell you, that whenever certain matters are being investigated, if there is a *prima facie* case, some quick action is taken, and therefore, he was removed from both the posts. Was not his wife, M-s. Parul Mrugesh who was the Director of Gujarat Tourism Corporation, also removed from her post on the 31st March 1985?

And now, I would like to know further whether the report that Congress (I) funds were kept with Mrugesh for distribution to candidates—correct, or it might be wrong—whether 65 Congress (I) candidates (and if the time comes I will produce the list of those 65 Congress (I) candidates), whether these 65 Congress (I) candidates, Assembly candidates were given about Rs. 10 lakhs from Mrugesh's residence. So, the distribution was conducted from his house. I would like to know the position. I have full confidence, having placed before the House all the information...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : How can the legislators or Congress (I) candidates, whoever it is come into this matter? That is the position. This is not the way...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : He is telling the particulars (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Professor, you are telling particularly regarding some Congress (I) MLAs. Are you having any contention?

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They have not become MLAs. I would raise a technical point. If I refer to MLAs you can object. At the time at which they were given the money they were not MLAs; they were candidates. (Interruptions) I am not referring to MLAs. I am referring to candidates. They were pure and simple candidates.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the proceedings. Please sit down. I will go through the proceedings.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : He is establishing the link with the Chief Minister** and the party in power.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am telling the House that I will go through the proceedings; whatever is not correct I will not allow....I will expunge it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever is not relevant, if here is anything against the rules, I shall go through the record.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the proceedings. All of you please sit down. Please sit down.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : I raise a point of order,

whether in any matter in this House any allegation in the nature of defamation against any legislator of any State Assembly can be there. Can any allegations against the candidates of any recognised political parties be referred to in the discussion in the House ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the proceedings. If there is anything against the rules I will expunge it. I assure you.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will go through the proceedings.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I am on a point of order. Rule 353 really says that any allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature against a person requires intimation.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : As far as the 'person' connected referred to, a 'person' is a legally different term. About 'person' referred to, I am sure, he must have given intimation. Now, today he has referred to a group of persons. He is not identifying X, Y, Z.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : It is not...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I will quote five precedents, Mr. Das Munsi.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not the way of conducting the proceedings. You have to address me; do not address others...(Interruptions)

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Therefore, it is perfectly valid for him because it is relevant. What he wants

to establish is the complicity of the Chief Minister.***

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That I have already ruled out. No point of order. Please sit down. (Interruptions)

SHRI AJITSINH DABHI (Kaira) : When Mr. Munsi was speaking, you said that he had not given the notice so far as the Calling Attention was concerned and you did not allow him to speak. Now you are allowing Mr. Unnikrishnan.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has raised a point of order which I have ruled out. I have ruled out your point of order.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Congratulations for ruling out the point of order. All that I want to tell you is that I will take care of the rules... (Interruptions) Doctor, will you listen to the patient ? Be more kind.**

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will not allow. Let him finish. No point of order. Too much time is taken. Nothing will go on record.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I raise on a point of order I invite your attention to rule 197. It says that there shall be no debate on such statement at the time it is made but each member in whose name the item stands in the list of business may, with the permission of the Speaker, ask a question. That is what is stated in the rule. As such can there be a debate ? I am rising on a point of order because this rule has been infringed. The point of order is always with respect to the rules if they are infringed. This time rule 197 has been infringed by allowing the hon. Member

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

***Not recorded.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

to speak for a long time and making it a debate. He has to put a question only. I want a ruling on this because this rule has been infringed.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : For the last 25 years we have been accepting the Member's right to make submissions even on Calling Attention.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude and put the question.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will take only one minute. If I speak with this throat, those of us who speak will develop cancer of the throat and those who listen to us will develop cancer of the ear. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : When I am rising on a point of order, other Members should resume their seats. The hon. Member should not give the ruling as it will not be binding. The ruling is to be given by the Chair. Hon'ble Member is not to say anything on my point of order. That is the minimum courtesy required. I will not enter into a dialogue with the Member who speaks sitting.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I am sorry for that.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I raised this point of order. Please give a ruling. I want a ruling from you whether allowing the hon. Member to speak for such a long time and making it a debate does not infringe rule 197. My second point for ruling is whether the convention should prevail upon the rule...

(Interruptions)

13.00 hrs.

SHRI GIRDHAR LAL VYAS (Bhil-

wara) : Whatever the hon. Member Prof. Dandavate has spoken is irrelevant and should not go on record...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I won't allow this kind of discussions. As regards your Point of Order, I ask the Professor to put the question.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, if you check the record, every time I have been using the words 'is it a fact', 'does he agree', 'will he give us the information'. Deliberately I have been putting question marks in order to fulfil the technicalities. I know the rules better than what the hon. Member knows. I will make only one clarification. While referring to the 65 persons, I have deliberately not said '65 MLAs' because at the time at which they had received the money, they had not become MLAs at all and, therefore, the question of MLA-ship does not arise. I have not referred to MLAs, I have only referred to candidates... *(Interruptions)*. Shall I request the hon. Minister to give us a clear assurance that all these aspects which we have raised are allied to the major problem under consideration, and whether a through judicial enquiry into the matter will be made? And one request to you, Sir, in the end. If you go by the advice of these Members, I am afraid, my entire submission will be expunged. For God's sake don't do it. Let it remain on the record...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No, no, you cannot speak. I won't allow. Please sit down, the Minister is already on his legs...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No Point of Order now.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

Instead of expunging my remark, expunge Mr. Vyas's remarks.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : In this stadium of the House, Prof. Dandavate was making a marathon race of his questions...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : These are called compound questions.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I was just awaiting when he would formulate the questions. He formulated one question in the beginning and one at the end. In between he was supposedly giving lot of information...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Well begun is half done. All is well that ends well.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : The first question he has raised is whether searches were made and, if so, what has been the progress. Before I say anything, I must compliment the alertness of the Customs Officer at the airport. He deserves all credit and we are even thinking of rewarding him for his alertness...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Part of the reward pass on to me, Sir.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : And I think it is a very high sense of duty that he has shown. There was full follow-up action after this and the Enforcement Directorate searched the premises of the office of M/s. Ambika Mills, Cuff Parade, Bombay; Sky Jet Aviation owned by Mrs. Mrugesh Jaikrishna; the Guest House at Worli, Bombay, in occupation of Mrs. Mrugesh Jaikrishna. Apart from the Customs and Enforcement Directorates, the Income-tax authorities also searched M/s. Ambika Mills Ltd. in which Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna is the Managing Director; Sky Jet Aviation in which Shrimati Parulben Mrugesh Jaikrishna is the Chairman; the residence of Shri

Mrugesh Jaikrishna; the residence of Shri Deepak Ambalal Shah, an employee of Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna; and the residence of Shri Prashant Naik an employee of Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishna. The cupboards were also sealed because Mr. Mrugesh was under custody. So, by this, you will see that the Government has spared no efforts, made no compromise at any time. I can assure the House, as Prof. Dandavate said, that we will pursue this investigation and action to its logical conclusion and will not stop at any connection, high or low, whatever it may be.

As for his connection, and imputation that there have been connections, I have no information with me at the moment. I am told that Shri Mrugesh was in the GFT during the Janata period also, but it is irrelevant. When we prosecute a person under a law, for the violation of the law, the violation of the Direct Taxes Act, the violation of the Customs Act, even in that, what violations are there, we have taken action and on, what will be violative it, we will surely take action. Now whether he has Janata party connection or Communist Party connection or Congress Party connection is irrelevant, so far as the criminal prosecution is concerned. That is all I have to say.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Hon. Minister, only one clarification. I want to ask only one question, whether the father of Shri Mrugesh Jaikrishan, Shri Hari Vallbhdas, was the Chairman of Messrs. S. M. L. Maneklal & Company, whose Director, Shri Yogesh Maneklal and employee, Shri Coomar Narain, were the principal accused in an espionage case, in which the staff of the Prime Minister's Secretariat are involved. Kindly give me that information. This is a very important espionage angle. I would like him to clarify that point.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : Our investigation shows that Shri Hari Vallabhdas was a Director of S. L. M. Maneklal Industries Limited.

[Shri Somnath Rath]

But we have not got any information of his connection with espionage so far.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :
Was he a Director of the same company involved in the espionage case?

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH I have already told you that.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH (Chhapra) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the issues of smuggling and espionage activities have been discussed quite often. Such incidents are being reported daily in the newspapers and in this House also these things are raised but unless you go deep into the matter and unless you punish the offenders severely under the law, these things will go on happening.

I agree that nobody can escape the long arm of the law, it does not make much difference because you can punish the guilty only when the authorities concerned with the enforcement of the law have the long arm, that is to say, full powers. Actually, the people entrusted with the enforcement of the law do not have adequate powers, and that is why the guilty person goes scot-free. The incident under discussion is not an isolated one, Such incidents occur daily. Unless you consider this issue seriously, the country cannot be rid of such evils.

Today, persons committing crime in the country can be divided into two categories—the persons in the first category take to crime for earning their livelihood and the persons in the other category take to crime to lead luxurious life and to have the benefit of the 'five star' culture. If the persons in the second category are apprehended but they escape the clutches of the law, then the inference is that the Government want to encourage that culture.

If you look at the points raised by the hon. Professor, you will find that the hon. Minister has replied to only one point while the others have been left untouched. For example, a point was raised about the construction of a stadium by the Cricket Control Board near Gandhi Nagar. He said that the land for the stadium was given to Yogesh. The person occupying the highest post in Gujarat had given the land. The Minister has not touched this point as to why and how the land was given.

The Professor referred to the 16 textile mills in Ahmedabad and according to him only one mill was given the benefit of the relief aid by the Government. On account of this concession, the mill owner was benefited to the tune of Rs. 2 crores with which he is running his own business. The hon. Minister has not revealed the name of the owner of the Mill to which the concession was given and he has also not told us why the aid was given only to one mill. The hon. Minister has also not revealed the identity of the person who was involved in smuggling. He has left this point also untouched that the people of Gujarat, the Chairmen of the District Councils of the Congress Party, the legislators and the Members of Parliament belonging to that State had given in writing to the then Prime Minister, late Smt. Indira Gandhi, that the then ****Chief Minister**** was in collusion with Mrugesh. Yogesh and that if she wanted her name to be associated with this stadium, then that would become another Antueay scandal. The Minister has not made any clarification even in this regard. If you really want that such people, who encourage wrongful activities and the 'five star' culture, should be punished, then you must reply to all these questions and tell us whether a very important person of Gujarat to whom the responsibility for the protection of the lives and the property of the crores of people of Gujarat has been entrusted by the people, is in collusion with the

capitalists. You must get it investigated if you want to dispel any doubts in the minds of the people and if after investigation that person is found guilty, on leniency should be shown to him. But if you let off that person by avoiding the taking of action on one pretext or the other, then you cannot dispel the doubts in the peoples, minds.

This House, where we are sitting, is the highest court of the people and if a doubt is created in the minds of the people that we also indulge in favouritism, then the country cannot progress. I want to narrate the story of King Rama here. Although he was above the law of the land, yet to dispel the misgivings in the minds of the people, he sent his wife, Sita to exile. Though that was a black act according to me, yet Rama rising above his personal considerations, sent Sita to exile. But today allegations are made the against the person in power that they indulge in favouritism in the enforcement of the law. If you want that such allegations are not made against you, if you want that there should be no misunderstanding in the minds of the people about you, then you must try to reply to the questions raised by professor Madhu Dandavate and assure the House that howsoever big a person might be, whether he is the Chief Minister of any State or a Central Minister, Member of Parliament or Legislator if he breaks the law, indulges in smuggling or violates laws concerning customs duty, action shall be taken against him and he shall be given the severe punishment.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH. So far as the question of somebody going scot-free, in spite of the long arm of the law, is concerned, the hon. Member has been able to deliver such a lengthy speech only after we have apprehended the culprits, not before that. Therefore, the long arm which has apprehended the guilty has

a firm grip. You have said about the collusion, the exile of Sita, and all that, but rest assured there is no scope for escape under the FERA and the direct tax laws and if any one is hooked under these laws, he shall not be spared. The Government can and shall act under these laws.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all, I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister under whose strict orders the action to apprehend the offenders has been initiated. So far as this particular incident is concerned, there is nothing special about it. Currency has been seized, certain persons have been arrested and have been sent to jail and legal action is being taken against them. But just now, a respected opposition leader, Prof. Madhu Dandavate, has tried to give it a political colour and it seems, because of this politicking, the importance of this Calling Attention Motion has been reduced. Otherwise, these are routine matters that persons are caught by Customs Officers and sent to jail and legal action is taken against them. The long speech of Prof. Dandavate related more to the ****Chief Minister** and less to this incident. I do not know he was so much annoyed with the ****Chief Minister** and why he is so irritated with him. It is the ****Chief Minister** who had to bear the brunt of all his anger. There cannot be two opinions that our Prime Minister as well as our Government are committed to provide clean politics and clean public life. If a person, howsoever big he may be, does a wrong, he should not be spared, whether he is Gujarat Chief Minister or Karnataka Chief Minister or anybody else. Old order should change now. During the Janata Party regime, Prof. Dandavate was a Minister, why did he not show morality at that time?

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am on a point of order. He has to put the question.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is putting the question. Mr. Basher, please put the question.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : He is talking in the same way as Prof. Dandavate talked.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : He is referring to what Mr. Dandavate has said. He is not seeking any clarification from the Minister.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : I am entitled to take as much time as Prof. Madhu Dandavate has taken.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He should be given more time, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You put everything in the form of a question.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Thank you very much, Sir. But this is not the way. (*Interruptions*).

[*Translation*]

At the time when Dandavate was a Minister in the Janata Government, a Chief Minister of a State had sent money to Nepal to be deposited in his account; where was morality at that time? I do not want to name anybody. This incident is known to everyone that the Janata Party Chief Minister of a State... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I know only this much that I was not involved in that.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : But you were a Minister, when this incident took place. At that time, a Chief Minister of a State had deposited Rs. 50 lakhs in Nepal and the helicopter or the State plane used for the purpose was seized. What action did Shri Dandavate take at that time? These things were published in the newspapers. This is an open thing and everything is clear. Perhaps that Chief Minister is now no longer a member of that Party but at that time he was a Member of the Janata Party.

Similarly, many points were raised regarding the activities of the son of the then Prime Minister (Janata Party Prime Minister) and investigations were also made and a charter of allegations was also submitted in Rajya Sabha.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is this? Don't disturb. There is no point of order. Please sit down. You can't go on interrupting the Member like this.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : He is always referring to Dandavateji.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. Your point of order is ruled out. I ruled out your point of order. That is all.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : One who lives in a glass house, should not throw stones at others. Do not forget it.

A charter of allegations was submitted. Had Shri Madhu Dandavate resigned on that, he would have become a hero,

he would have earned a great name.
But, he did not do so.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I cannot resign with retrospective effect now.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Thereafter, gold was auctioned during the Janata rule. Gold Control [Enquiry Commission was set up. It held an inquiry into that.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : What is this, Mr. Deputy Speaker ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Is anything objectionable ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Is this allowed in the call attention motion ?

SHRI JAINUL BASHER : Some day, you will also have your call attention. Don't forget it.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : We must have all this right. I agree with you. (*Interruptions*).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is on his legs. Why are you interrupting him ? Please sit down.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : When Dandavate Saheb was speaking, why did you not argue in this manner ?

[*Translation*]

The report of the Gold Control Inquiry Commission was discussed in this very House last time. Where was his morality at that time ? So far as

this case is concerned, it was said that two persons had already been arrested.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I tell you, have you forgotten Vaidyalin-gam Commission ?

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : In the first instance, Shri Chandrakant Shiv-bhai Amin and Shri Nanavati were arrested. Both of them disclosed that money belonged to Shri Mrugesh. Shri Mrugesh was also arrested. I want to ask the hon. Minister whether Shri Mrugesh had said or not that the money belonged to the Chief Minister of ** ? On being interrogated, both of them disclosed the third name and revealed that they were carrying his money. Was the third person arrested and on being interrogated did he say that the money belonged to the Chief Minister of ** and that they were going to deposit the money some-where ? In case he did not say so but he said that the money belonged to him, how did it affect the Chief Minister of **. If he has said that the money belonged to the Chief Minister...

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : You will give a chance.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : In case they have disclosed that the money was given to them by the Chief Minister of ** for carrying it. Then I would request the hon. Minister not to repeat what was done by the Janata Party to save their Chief Minister, who had secretly deposited Rs. 50 lakhs. If such a thing has happened, action should be taken against the Chief Minister. There are no two opinions about it. Our Government have promised the people a clean administration. Therefore, who soever he may be, even if he is the Chief Minister of any State, he should not be spared. In this particular case, the hon. Minister will tell us whether it was said or not.

So far as his connections are concerned, he has connections with the Chief Minister and so the money could belong to him. Shri Madhu Dandavate also knows it, he is also in politics and so am I. Many people come to us and similarly many people also come to meet him. If some theft is detected, it can be construed that the person concerned used to visit Shri Dandavate and so he might be carrying Shri Dandavate's money.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I do not have anything to carry.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : They do not visit my place.

[*English*]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : One thief came to my house and he abused me that I had nothing to be stolen.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Dandavate Sahab, at least you have got a pistol, take pistol.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That was borrowed from S.H.O.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : In this very House, you had shown that you had a pistol. It is a very dangerous thing. You are keeping a pistol. If that illegal weapon is caught and somebody says that it belongs to Shri Dandavate, action should be taken against you. Therefore, the thing is not like-that. If the Chief Minister is guilty, action should be taken against him. The wife of Shri Mrugesh, whose name perhaps is Parul Mrugesh, has a connections with R.S.S. She attends the R.S.S. functions as the Chief Guest. Therefore, she is pro-R.S.S. It is just possible that one of his brothers or relatives may be in the Janata Party.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate may enquire about it. Perhaps one of them may be in the Janata Party. He should find out by writing to their Gujarat Unit. When people join the Congress or the R.S.S., some may be in the Janata Party also.

So far as the question of constructing the stadium is concerned, this stadium is not his personal property. This is a public property. Even test matches were played there; you may give it any name. This is a good work. Anybody can do it, donations can be collected anywhere, there is nothing objectionable about it. Everything is going on well. So far as this case is concerned, investigations are going on and I hope the hon. Finance Minister would spare none. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has tried to politicize this Calling Attention. I condemn it. It has because his habit always to find out from the newspapers who is friendly to whom.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What is your opinion about my speech ?

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : I am replying to that. Your speech was aimed at only giving this case a political colour and not at assisting there proceedings. Had you wanted to assist and had you any definite information with you, you would have quietly informed the hon. Minister of Finance instead of raising it here in this manner. Then only I would have been convinced that you did a good job. It is not good to throw political mud in this way.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH : I fully agree with the hon. Member that politics should not be brought into this question. Politics should neither be brought into the question nor into the proceedings. He has also said that his wife had links with the R.S.S. or a Chief Minister went to Nepal or he mentioned the name of the son of a former Prime Minister—in my opinion, these questions need not be answered.

So far as the statement of Shri Mrugesh is concerned, when he was questioned whose money that was, he said that the money was his own, and this currency was purchased by him through two persons, Deepak Shah and Prashant Nayak. Of these two, Deepak Shah has been arrested. He did not say that the money belonged to the ** Chief Minister.

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Now that the Finance Minister has stated that the statement of Mr. Mrugesh does not involve the Chief Minister of **, will Prof. Dandavate withdraw the insinuations made by him against the Chief Minister ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I shall not withdraw a single word. I will be prepared to prove every word that I have uttered on the floor of the House.

STATEMENT RE : CONSTITUTION OF WAGE BOARDS FOR WORKING JOURNALISTS AND NON-JOURNALIST NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEES

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : Hon. Members are aware that the first Wage Board for Working Journalists under the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955 was headed by Mr. Justice Divetiya whose decisions were published in May, 1958. The Second Wage Board for working journalists was constituted in 1963 headed by Mr. Justice Shinde and the majority of its recommendations were accepted by Government in 1967. The Second Wage Board for non-journalists and the Third Wage Board for working journalists were set up in June, 1975

and February, 1976 respectively. In view of the difficulties experienced in the functioning of these Wage Boards, Government decided to amend the Act of 1955 providing for replacement of Wage Boards by one man Tribunals and accordingly this Act was amended in 1979. The Tribunals submitted their recommendations to Government in August 1980 and subject to certain modifications their recommendations have been accepted by Government as notified in December, 1980.

Government have been receiving persistent requests for constitution of new Wage Boards both for working journalists and non-journalists newspaper employees. Accordingly, it has been decided to set up fresh Wage Boards for the purpose. We are now in the process of constituting these Wage Boards. I want to take this opportunity to appeal to all the representatives of the working journalists and non-journalists employees as well as the managements of the newspaper establishments to extend their co-operation to Government so that the reports of the Boards can be finalised early and their recommendations considered for implementation.

13.32 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Khursheed Alam Khan will make a statement on Shri Larka at 2.00 P.M. Now Matters under Rule 377.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

- (i) Need to allocate adequate funds for vaccination of children against various diseases

SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH (Purnea) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am speaking under rule 377.

Children are the priceless assets of the country because the future of the country depends on the health of the children. The future of our country depends on healthy children. At present, they are suffering from many diseases, like dysentery, Colera, Polio, T.B. etc. Thus, it is necessary to vaccinate the children against such diseases. Although, the responsibility for this was that of the Central Government, so far only 50 per cent children have been covered under this scheme. A sum of Rs. 60 crores only was allocated for this purpose during the Sixth Plan. The benefits of this scheme do not reach all the children in all the States. Adequate arrangements have not been made for the import and the production of vaccines in the country, because the question of their production is also linked with the inoculation programme. At the same time, the supply of vitamin A to weak children in the rural areas should also be arranged.

I request the Government that a comprehensive scheme for preventive vaccination for the children throughout the country should soon be implemented and necessary funds provided for the same.

[*English*]

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *In the Chair*]

(ii) Need to re-open the Phulwari Cotton Mills, Patna (Bihar) to save the workers from starvation

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna): Sir, Phulwari Cotton Mills, Patna, Bihar is lying sick since long. Some of the workers have died and the rest are starving. The matter is shuttling between the State and Central Government and no solution is in sight. I request the Government to intervene and get this Mills started so, that thousands of workers are saved from starvation.

[*Translation*]

(iii) Need to provide electricity in unauthorised colonies in Outer Delhi

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, lakhs of poor families are living in old unauthorised houses built before 1981 in Outer Delhi. Lakhs of children study in schools there. During the day time they go to the school. but they cannot study at home in the absence of electricity. The eyesight of those children, who study in candle light, gets weak due to inadequate light.

In these colonies, which are scattered throughout Outer Delhi, there is complete darkness in the absence of street light and a number of thefts take place there, as a result of which these poor people are suffering. The streets of these rural colonies remain water-logged. 612 colonies are outside Lal Dora. Provision of electricity is a must there. The people living in houses built before 1981 in villages or colonies have been experiencing great difficulties without electricity. Early arrangements should be made to provide electricity and water to the poor people under the 20-p. int programme.

[*English*]

(iv) Need to take immediate steps for reviving sick and closed units of West Bengal, Particularly in Howrah

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI (Howrah): Sir, Howrah was known as the Sheffield or Birmingham of India in the industry map of our country. Over the last several years, due to power crisis, bad management, speculation, untimely supply of raw materials and unhelpful attitude of public financial institutions and banks, the industries have become sick, and a large number of small and big industries in jute and engineering sectors are closed. More than 40,000 wage-earners are starving,

The ancillary units of major industries are also on the verge of collapse due to power crisis.

The large scale curtailment of orders to wagon-builders has crippled the prestigious Burn and Standard Company of Howrah.

Government's policy that 'bad management is bad currency' should, in real sense, be applied immediately.

The Industry Ministry must call an urgent meeting of the Finance and Commerce Ministries, officials as well as the representatives of West Bengal Government to urgently take up the matter of sick and closed units of West Bengal in general and Howrah in particular.

For the revival of Industry in Howrah, the Industry and Finance Ministers must submit comprehensive proposals for the Seventh Plan with a view to set up major units or plants in Howrah to save the ancillaries.

- (v) Violation of prescribed laws by deep sea fishing trawlers by Fishing in Shallow Waters and need to confine their operations to depths exceeding 200 metres

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) :
The livelihood of traditional fishermen and fishermen with mechanized boats operating on the east coast has been put in jeopardy following the deployment of a fleet of about 80 sophisticated deep sea fishing trawlers. The number of various species of fish and prawns in the seas off the east coast has been fast depleting following indiscriminate fishing by the trawlers.

The trawlers chartered by major sea food exporting companies often do not observe even the basic rules of fishing. They often fish in shallow water violating prescribed laws. Moreover, over-fishing by trawlers has threatened the breeding ground of prawns in the sandleads of the Bay of Bengal.

If steps are not taken to control the operation of trawlers, marine resources off the east coast would dry up.

The trawlers had to stop fishing off the west coast as their operations there had depleted marine resources. Similar restriction should be imposed on the east coast.

I demand that issue of licences to trawlers be stopped and the operators made to confine their activities to depths exceeding 200 metres. The patrolling of seas should be launched to ensure that trawlers do not violate fishing regulations.

[Translation]

- (vi) Rude and unhelpful behaviour of the Telephone Operators at Sangod (Kota) and need to redress grievances of subscribers and obviate losses to the exchequer

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to raise a matter regarding the irregularities indulged in and the carelessness shown at Kota Telephone Exchange in respect of trunk calls booked from Kota by the telephone subscribers of Sangod, which falls in my constituency Kota.

When a call is made to Kota Telephone exchange by the local telephone subscribers to book a trunk call, either there is no response or if at all there is response, it is after great delay. In addition, if a subscriber wants to know the ticket number of the trunk call, the officials concerned tell him that ticket number would not be given and that in case a complaint is lodged, his trunk call would never materialise. In such a situation, the subscribers are experiencing great difficulty.

I would like to bring to your notice that Kota-Sangod is an industrial and commercial centre and hundreds of trunk calls are booked from there daily. In the prevailing situation, the trade is suffering a heavy loss. Besides, the Department is also suffering loss of revenue to the tune of lakhs of rupees every month.

I request the hon. Minister of Communications that keeping in view the seriousness of the matter, prompt

action should be taken in the matter in order to remove the difficulties being faced by the subscribers and to avoid heavy loss of revenue to the Department.

[*English*]

(vii) **Power Crisis in West Bengal and need to consider the offer of Britain and Hungary to Supply T.G. Units and Turbo Generators for CESE and Ramman Hydel Project of West Bengal**

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Government of West Bengal gave two proposals to the Central Government for importing T. G. Unit for Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation and 4 numbers of turbo generators for Ramman Hydel Project in West Bengal. For the first proposal for importing T.G. Unit from Britain an assurance was given by the Central Government that they were ready to consider the proposal of help offered by the British. The Chief Minister of West Bengal had talks with the then Finance Minister and the Industry Minister in this regard. But the then Finance Minister informed the Chief Minister of West Bengal that the British offer has been considered for other purposes and he advised that for this the State Government should discuss with BHEL. But the price of T.G. Unit of BHEL is higher than the T.G. Unit to be imported from Britain. Then CESE asked for permission to obtain loan to import T.G. Unit and submitted their proposals to the Central Government. The latter informed the State Government that since the BHEL has reduced the prices, let the CESC contact BHEL. Same is the case with regard to Ramman Hydel Project of Government of West Bengal. As the price offered by Hungary was less than that of BHEL and the latter was not also ready to accept the proposal of long term loan payment which Hungary had accepted.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to reconsider the offers immediately to combat the serious power crisis in the State.

13.44 hrs.

MOTION RE : THIRTY-SECOND AND THIRTY-THIRD REPORTS OF THE UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION ALONG WITH GOVERNMENT'S MEMORANDUM ON CASES OF NON-ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSION'S ADVICE MENTIONED THEREIN—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI ZAINUL BASHER) : The House will now take up item No. 10 of the agenda.

Shri Ramachandra Reddy to continue his speech.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur) : Yesterday while the House adjourned I was speaking about the unemployment problem and also about the enhancement of the age of recruitment. To-day I would like to mention a few facts about this unemployment problem. The unemployment problem is a problem of himalayan proportions in our country. On a rough estimate about 450 lakhs of people have been registered in the Employment Exchanges. Every year the number is increasing by 10 to 12 lakhs, and out of these people it is the duty of the UPSC to select those who are fit to be government servants. While doing so the difference here is that as far as the rural people are concerned they are not in a position to compete on equal footing with the people who are living in cities. Rural

people do not have the same conveniences. So, the UPSC must come forward with a modified formulate with regard to those people who come from the rural areas.

As far as the rural people are concerned when once they get registered with the employment exchange they go back to their villages and busy themselves with some agricultural work. I know of a particular case when I interviewed candidates for Telugu teachers. One of the candidates from the rural area who had registered himself ten-twelve years back told me when I asked him questions about Telugu language that he had forgotten it since he was not in touch. He wanted employment to be given and then he will pick it up again. When such is the case that those who go back to the rural areas and settle there, they are not in a position to keep in touch with the subject and when they are not on equal footing to compete with the people who come from urban areas, some way has to be found so that the people from rural areas are given employment. For this thing it would be better if a quota of say 70 to 80 per cent is fixed for the rural people and the rest for the urban dwellers.

Then, Sir, people who are already in employment—their sons, daughters and relatives get employment more than those who are not connected with the government service. A survey has to be conducted of such persons who are serving the Government as to how many people connected with them were registered and got employment. This will reveal that a high percentage of their sons and relations alone get employed to the disadvantage of rural people who need employment. So, I request the Minister to be kind enough to launch a survey and see how many

people among the employees' relations are employed and see also that some quota is fixed for the rurally unemployed. I am of the view that at least one man per family should get employment.

As far as the reserved seats for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are concerned if suitable candidates are not coming forwards then these posts are not filled up. They are kept vacant for 2-3 years and in some cases 5-6 years. If these posts are kept vacant like this in medical services, colleges and schools then the public at large suffers. So, I would like to suggest that if suitable candidates are not coming forward then the posts should not be kept vacant for long and suitable candidates from other quota should be taken. The practice of keeping these posts vacant for a long period should be done away with. Government has adopted an attitude to take away jobs from the purview of UPSC by giving exemptions to certain categories. They say, these posts should not go to the UPSC. In that way, those people who are able to influence them get these employments. The Ministries and Departments are able to give such appointments to their 'near and dear' ones, and for people who are capable of influencing them. So, this practice of giving exemptions in regard employment must be put an end to very strictly. Government should not give any exemption to anybody. All these things must come only through the UPSC.

As far as irregular appointments are concerned, the Ministries and Departments are in the habit of appointing people of their own choice for 4 or 5 years. Then they come before the Commission and they say that these people are employed for 4 or 5 years or 6 years; so, let them be given some

exemption or some weightage at the time of selection, so that they are absorbed. Now, Sir, I wish to point out that this is a bad practice and this should be put an end to. The Public Service Commission's jurisdiction should be there. The Public Service Commission should not be relegated in such matters. These people should be treated on par with the other unemployed people and no weightage should be given to them on the ground that they have served for 4 or 5 or 6 years. This is my submission.

Then, as far as scheduled castes appointments are concerned, there are interviews held; sufficient candidates do not come up for interview. Then what happens is this. These posts are kept pending for so many years. This should not happen. These posts should be filled up by persons of other categories who are available.

Regarding police verification, when once the Commission recruits people, this police verification should be done in 6 months or one year. There should be a time limit for it. On the ground that verification takes time, the Departments and Ministries are continuing those people whom they have previously appointed either on *ad hoc* basis or irregular basis. This should not be done. This practice should be put an end to. I wish that the Commission must come forward with a rule saying that once the recruitment is over these persons must be appointed within a time limit or within a period of 6 months or one year, whether the verification is over or not. This is my submission. Some such time-limit should be prescribed for this purpose.

Regarding disciplinary cases, I wish to state some things. Large number of

candidates selected by UPSC are working in the services of States Governments. For some irregularities in duties the said State Government sometimes takes disciplinary action against such Government servants. The Centre is revoking such suspension orders on some ground or the other. Recently the Government of Andhra Pradesh suspended 4 officials on disciplinary grounds. But the Centre revoked their suspension orders and posted them to the same State Government. In such a case what happens is, it becomes very difficult for the State Governments to manage things and to get work extracted from such unruly Government servants. This thing should not be permitted. It must be left to the UPSC to decide and to make an enquiry whether suspension is to be continued or otherwise. This is my submission.

Then my last point is this : This is with reference to appointment of persons to the UPSC itself. Only persons of exceptional merit, whose integrity and honesty is unquestioned, should be appointed to the Commission. Persons with shoddy past should not be appointed. Then only the Commission will be able to perform its functions well. Government should be very careful to select suitable persons to man the various Public Service Commissions.

With these words I conclude and I thank you for giving me the time.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) :
First of all, I congratulate the hon. Minister for his introductory speech.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to invite the hon. Minister's attention to the Thirty-third Report of the Commission and some points raised thereunder.

Sir, in the Thirty-third Report of the

Union Public Service Commission, for proper assessment of vacancies to be filled through competitive examinations held by the Commission, it has been stated as—

“(v) The Commission regret to state that in spite of repeated observation made by them in this behalf in their earlier Reports, cases continued to occur where the Ministries/Departments failed to intimate even the approximate number of vacancies for publication in the Commission's Notices of their examinations for the information of the prospective candidates.”

They have also mentioned in their Table that the percentage of increase between the number of vacancies notified and the number of vacancies finally reported has gone up to, 683.33 in the case of Section Officers'/ Stenographers', etc. and to 781.82 in the case of Stenographers' Examination, 1982. Therefore, when certain number of vacancies are anticipated in various Ministries and Departments, it is better the Government work out the approximate requirement of the same and intimates the Public Service Commission so that while making advertisement for filling up various posts, the U.P.S.C. may mention the same. In this way, the candidates will come to know the number of vacant posts in various categories and accordingly they can decide whether they should apply for a particular category of posts or not. Otherwise, after the examination, if the candidates who are not able to come within the selection zone because of a very small number of posts available for a particular category, then they face a lot of difficulties and they are unemployed for so long.

Secondly, in the case of selection of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates, the U.P.S.C. always tries to select them to fill up the posts against the required percentage of vacancies reserved for them in each category. But many posts have been vacant and they are not able to fill up these vacancies from those candidates. This situation not only hampers the administration but also hampers the solving of unemployment problem. This point requires the consideration of the Government for immediate action. Moreover, the UPSC has also mentioned in their report that the posts reserved for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes could not be filled up in many cases because sufficient number of candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are not forthcoming with the required qualification or they do not appear for the various examinations conducted by the UPSC. Under these circumstances, if the posts are kept vacant for a number of years, it will affect the administration. Apart from this, the backlog vacancies would get added up and a time will come when all the vacancies will not be filled up and the other candidates will not get opportunity of employment. This is a point which requires serious consideration of the Government if in a particular year, sufficient number of candidates from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe are not available, those posts should be de-reserved. I do not know why those posts should not be filled up by other candidates.

The Public Service Commission has also mentioned about the delay in the case of confirmation, and promotion of officers. If the confirmation is delayed, there can be no job satisfaction for the officers. Therefore, I would request

the hon. Minister to consider confirmation of the officers within a reasonable time so that they get the job satisfaction as also incentive to work.

It has been observed in the UPSC report :

“Such delay on the part of Ministries/Departments are not only not conducive to the morale of Services but have adverse effects and erode away all the benefits of the systems.”

This may please be looked into and the confirmations done on due time.

The Commission has also mentioned about measures taken to eliminate delays in finalisation for transfer on deputation/confirmation cases. Whenever an officer is required to be sent on deputation, his suitability for the job in view should be the main criterion, and not that because an officer is not good and his services are not required for some obvious reasons, he should be deputed somewhere else. The criterion ought to be whether the person concerned has got the requisite qualifications or not for the job in view.

Then, there is a reference to delayed references and irregular appointments in the report. This is a matter which requires immediate attention. Para 24 of the 33rd Report says :

“The Commission are pained to note that cases in which consultation with the Commission was inordinately delayed or where appointments made were *ab initio* irregular, continued to occur during the year. Particulars of some of the cases in which references to the Commission

were inordinately delayed and of those where in view of the irregularities involved, the Commission decided to treat the appointments as unapproved are contained in Appendices XVIII and XVIIIA.

The emphasis is on the word *ab initio*.

This should be avoided as far as possible.

Then, I congratulate the Minister for his saying that now in our country, the candidates are being allowed to appear in the examinations conducted by the Commission in their own languages. The question pertaining to relaxation of age also requires rethinking. It should be considered keeping in view, whether it would eliminate unemployment or it would increase unemployment.

My hon. friend from the opposition mentioned about the exemptions granted to certain officers of some Departments from the purview of the Union Public Service Commission. By this rule, officers employed in a particular department are not to appear before the Public Service Commission. In my view, such exemptions are necessary, for example for certain Defence organisations, or for Parliament Secretariat. They need not be further examined by the Union Public Service Commission.

I have me a copy of the memorandum issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms which explains the reason, for non-acceptance of the advice of the Union Public Service Commission. One such case is about 3 persons who committed irregularities in the matter of purchase of certain stores. The Central Vigilance Commission

recommended exoneration of one officer and imposition of minor penalty against the other two officers. After further examination, the Ministry concerned proposed that no penalty be imposed on the second officer since he had been already been compulsorily retired in another case. But, as for the third one, it is mentioned that because it is not for commission but for omission, he is to be exempted. I want a clarification from the hon. Minister when the second officer who is found guilty for commission has retired and it is a compulsory retirement how could the third official has been treated on par with him. That is one question.

The second is about the Driver in Delhi Milk Scheme. Of course his appeal was dismissed and then he preferred a petition to the hon. President and the Commission has suggested withholding of two increments of pay for two years without cumulative effect. May I know from the hon. Minister because he has been dismissed and is not in service. Since the matter is referred to the hon. President and the Commission has also suggested that only two increments could be stopped, will the justice be met if it is treated as compulsory retirement? As for the other two cases, I think Government is correct in not accepting the reference, because it is necessary for administrative purpose.

Before closing my speech, I request the hon. Minister that while selecting members to this august body, it must be taken into consideration that men of knowledge, integrity and high order should be selected, as they are to recommend to the Government for appointment in many case, not only of administration but also to assist to run the country.

Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI ZAINUL BASHER) Shri : Khursheed Alam Khan, the Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs, will now make a statement.

STATEMENT RE : SITUATION IN
SRI LANKA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI KHURSHEED ALAM KHAN) :
PM had instructed the Foreign Secretary to visit Sri Lanka. He returned from Colombo yesterday.

As Hon. Members are deeply concerned in regard to the situation in Sri Lanka, I am giving details of his visit and its outcome. I may mention that the Sri Lankan authorities put out a press release, extracts of which appeared in our press yesterday. It was not a joint statement or a communique.

The President of Sri Lanka received him on the first day of his visit for a preliminary exchange of views. Prior to his departure from Colombo, the Foreign Secretary was again received by the President for a more detailed discussion.

The Foreign Secretary was received amongst others by the Prime Minister, the Foreign Minister, the Minister for National Security, the Minister for Home Affairs, and the Minister for Rural and Industrial Development. He also took the opportunity of meeting several prominent personalities. This afforded him an opportunity for a frank exchange of views. These were conducted in an atmosphere of cordiality.

The objective of the visit was to have an exchange of views on both international and bilateral issues. In the course of his meetings the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka was discussed in all its aspects. There was a shared anxiety and concern over the continuing violence and unsettled situation in Sri Lanka. The Foreign Secretary conveyed to Sri Lankan leaders our anxiety, insofar as aspects of the situation in Sri Lanka that have repercussions in India. These include the question of refugees and the latest influx, and the plight of fishermen. He emphasized what our Prime Minister has repeatedly stressed that conditions must be created for refugees to go back to Sri Lanka in safety and with honour. He also raised other matters such as that of stateless individuals of Indian-origin.

The Foreign Secretary urged that an immediate solution must be found to the ethnic problem, acceptable to all concerned and with a view to redressing the legitimate grievances of the Tamil community. This should be achieved through negotiations. The existing conditions of hostility, tension, suspicion and distrust were working against this objective.

The objective in Sri Lanka is now to defuse the situation, bring an end to violence, the withdrawal of security forces and the restoration of normalcy. This would pave the way for a political dialogue.

On our part, we reaffirm our support to the independence, integrity, unity and non-aligned status of Sri Lanka. We would like to cooperate in any way we can towards Sri Lanka's development and progress.

We hope that Sri Lanka will recover quickly from the trauma of the last few

years, and that it will resume the progress towards stability and prosperity that has been interrupted by the ethnic crisis. It was stressed that resumption of peaceful economic development will be possible only after normalcy returns to that Island State. The meeting of the legitimate aspirations of the Tamils is obviously the responsibility of the Sri Lankan leadership. They have assured us that they are more keenly aware of this than anyone as also of the gravity of the challenge and their responsibility to meet it. As a concerned and friendly neighbour, we offer them our sincere hand of friendship. We have been assured of reciprocal goodwill towards India from Sri Lankan leaders.

Normal commerce between our countries is being strengthened and where this has been disrupted, links are being restored. It has been agreed that a shipping service will start soon between Colombo and Tuticorin, and this should be of benefit to the nationals of both countries. It has also been agreed that there will be regular consultation and contacts at official level on a wide spectrum of issues including the present problem to maintain and consolidate our traditional and friendly relations.

The next opportunity of a further exchange of views will be provided when the Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka comes to New Delhi for the Ministerial meeting of the Nonaligned Coordinating Bureau.

**MOTION RE : THIRTY-SECOND
AND THIRTY-THIRD REPORTS
OF THE UNION PUBLIC SER-
VICE COMMISSION ALONG
WITH GOVERNMENT'S MEMO-
RENDUM ON CASES OF NO-
ACCEPTANCE OF COM-
MISSION'S ADVICE MENTIONED
THEREIN—*contd.***

[*English*]

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the
Chair*]

14.12 hrs.

SHRI TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity given to me to take part in this discussion on the 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Union Public Service Commission. To begin with, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to page 36 of the 33rd Report under the head, "Promotions and Confirmations", wherein it has been said :

"...Further, no Selection Committee meetings had been held for the last three years for all the three cadres of Jammu and Kashmir, and the Indian Administrative Service and Indian Forest Service for Nagaland, as no proposals were received from the concerned State Governments. In the case of three States, namely Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Manipur—Tripura (Indian Administrative Service and Indian Police Service), the meetings could not be held as the dates suggested by the Commission did not suit the convenience of the State Governments."

This is a very serious lapse, because in certain areas, and for certain communities, the promotion quota is a very important issue, because once timely promotion is denied, it is very likely that a number of officers will be retired without getting the privilege of this promotion to the IAS or Indian Police Service. In the particular case reported, the list involved 192 posts for IAS, 153 for IPS and 94 for Indian Forest Service. For no fault of the officers, the meetings of the Selection Committees could not be held for three years.

In certain cases, there was no certainty when such meetings could be held. The government should have some mechanism to check such lapses. For an area like Manipur, we have very special conditions because here one-third of the population is ST and two-thirds from the non-scheduled tribe population. But, otherwise, socially, educationally, the entire bulk of the population stands on the same footings because of the protection received by the ST candidates. There has been created a serious imbalance among the officials because the majority community in the State of Manipur is known as Meithei forming two-thirds of the population. They have not been able to compete with the rest of the country on merit, because human material is the same. While the ST have the protection, it is very good and we do not grudge the protection, and we are not against reservation also, but the point to be made is that there might be certain other communities in the rest of the country facing similar difficulties; they are graded general castes, but they do not come under the general caste for such competition. So, they have been suffering all these decades without getting any representation on the

basis of direct selection. So far as Meitei Community is concerned, they have got maximum one or two direct selection in the Indian Administrative Service and one or two in the IPS. In this context, it is the government who should have some statutory protection for such community which cannot stand in competition with the bigger community in such competitions. So, for such community, the promotion quota in IAS, IPS or in other Indian Services is so important that there should be a mechanism provided by the Home Ministry that the State Government concerned should not fail to submit the necessary material for the promotion of these officers.

The Public Service Commission has to play a role in the integration of the country because the Indian Services, either Police Service or Administrative Service or other services like Forest Service, they should not only train them in administrative matters and management but also in motivation, about the real thing, about the mission that they are going to perform in different parts of the country where they would be posted. They go with a complex as if they are the hang-over of the Indian Civil Service that was prevalent in the colonial ages; they go to different places, backward areas and look down upon the people and also the officers who work under them. We should provide necessary motivation that they should be trained not only in administrative matters but also motivation factor.

It should be compulsory for the IAS and IPS people to learn the local language wherever they serve; it was a necessity; it was compulsory during the colonial days that whoever goes as a member of the civil Service should

learn the language of that area, should be conversant with the local conditions. But, now, it seems that this has not been given sufficient emphasis.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the medium of examination for the Public Service Commission. The relevance of the Eighth Schedule has been recalled here. There has been a long drawn debate about amendment of Eighth Schedule. There are number of languages awaiting inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. I do not like to mention the names. But during the lifetime of the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi it was promised that the case of Manipuri would be taken into consideration along with some other languages. This has become very important because in certain languages examinations are being conducted. Then, a community whose language is the official language in the State, whose language is well-advanced, well-developed in every department or every sphere of translation, novels, drama, essays, poems and modern and contemporary literature, etc. also demands it. When this advantage is denied to certain communities this is a basic denial. I would like to suggest that till the amendment of the Eighth Schedule, the languages recognised by the Sahitya Academy should be the media of examination if at all the examination has to be conducted in languages other than English and Hindi. Only then the legitimate demands of the small communities and small States will be met.

Then, another point I would like to mention is about the process of examination. I have nothing to say against the examinations as such. But the process is time-consuming. Beginning with January this year with applications, and then the Preliminary examination some

time in April, results coming out in June-July, and then main examination in November and then the final results of the main examination, in March-April, it takes virtually more than one year. So, the candidate appearing for this examination has to spend more than one year. It is not only time-consuming but it is also a strain on the physical and mental abilities of the candidate. Also, many students will not be able to wait for so many months, because there is no certainty whether they will pass or whether they should switch over to other choices. Therefore, this process of time-consuming examination should be looked into. We may suggest that the time should be cut at least by half.

Another thing we can mention is about the reduction of the age limit from 28 to 26. The reduction was done with proper justification. But this reduction was implemented, and no proper notice was given, even though a notice of at least three years could have been legitimately given. A second chance has to be given for 28-year old candidates. It is good if it is given, it is in the fitness of things that another chance, should be given so that those students who were supposed to get their chances, and whose chances were reduced to two, could have another chance. If this is done, I think many of the grievances of the candidates will be removed.

SHRI SUDHIR ROY (Burdwan) : The 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Commission reveal what a stupendous task they have to perform. And they have done their task in a most appreciable way. We are also happy to note that the Commission could recommend all the candidates for the posts reserved for the Scheduled Castes and the Sche-

duled Tribes. It is also a fact that examination reforms and introduction of regional languages as medium of examination have induced more and more young men from rural areas to sit for the UPSC examinations and come out successful. But there are certain disturbing factors which I would like to raise.

First of all, it is found that the Government of India is still continuing with the practice of making *ad hoc* or irregular appointments on a large scale. This is violation of the rule of law because in a democratic country public appointments are public property and they should be filled up only on the basis of merit and experience. Such *ad hoc* and irregular appointments are often made with political patronage. Hence Government should do away with this practice.

Secondly, it is found that often offer of appointments are made to candidates after inordinate delay. Naturally, successful candidates, when they are offered appointments, cannot join Government services. Meanwhile they seek employment elsewhere and find a job elsewhere. As a result, efforts and huge expenditure involved in their selection become infructuous. Often the excuse given is that the verification of character and antecedents have not been completed. We hope that such verification of character and antecedents should be completed in time.

It is also found that the Government do not notify the recruitment rules. Though the instructions given by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms on 13th August, 1969 and again on 22nd May, 1979, clearly laid down that within four weeks of the advice received from the Commission

recruitment rules should be notified, cases are rare where notification was made with such expedition.

Let me quote from the Commission's report :

"Out of 720 cases pending notification, in 92 cases recruitment rules have not been notified even after five years, in 22 cases over 4 years, in 33 cases after three years, in 81 cases after two years, in 102 cases after one year and in 95 cases after 6 months."

Absence of recruitment rules induces the Government to make irregular and *ad hoc* appointments. Hence Government should notify recruitment rules as early as possible.

We find that a large number of students from metropolitan universities such as Delhi University, JNU, Bangalore University, Rajasthan University, Jaipur, come out successful in the UPSC examinations. This indicates that even now majority of the successful candidates have urban upper middle class background. But the nation lives in villages. The services should represent the cross-sections of the people. Especially more and more young men from rural areas, more and more Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes candidates, candidates from racial and linguistic minorities should have representation in the services. Otherwise, the services would be dominated by the urban elite. These urban elites does not cater to the needs of the rural people. Hence it would be good if coaching centres are started under the auspices of all the state universities. Financial assistance should be made available to the State Universities by the Government of India. It is also found that cases of promotion, seniority, punishment, etc.

are often shelved and the Commission is not informed in time. Naturally the Commission cannot take decisions swiftly. As a result members of the public services suffer from a sense of frustration. Hence such cases of promotion, discipline, etc. should be referred to the Commission as early as possible.

The Government is keeping a large number of services outside the purview of the Commission. This erosion of the UPSC's authority is not good. Nothing should be done by the Government to undermine the authority of the Public Service Commission. At the end I would like to reiterate the views expressed by some learned friends that only those people who have unimpeachable integrity, should be made Members of the Commission. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the Minister who presented these two Reports to the House. It is a matter of gratification that the Commission has expressed its satisfaction about the working of the Government regarding the *ad hoc* appointments because the complaints from the Commission's side have regularly been that *ad hoc* appointments are made by the Government without consultation of the Commission and without informing the Commission about the existing vacancies. But in the present Report, the Commission have expressed its satisfaction. On page 5 of the Thirty-third Report they say :

"The Commission are happy to note that during the year under report, there has been some reduction in *ad hoc* appointments in Government. The Ministries/Depart-

ments are now more circumspect in resorting to *ad hoc* appointments. Refusal of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet to allow *ad hoc* appointments to be made or continued against regular vacancies, has a very heartening impact in putting almost a total stop to *ad hoc* in higher posts."

So, this is one of the very good signs so far as the selection of the candidates for higher posts is concerned. But I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the upper age limit which was 28 years, has been reduced to 26 years, perhaps on the recommendation of the Kothari Committee. But, at the same time, in some cases the Commission itself has recommended that the upper age limit should be 28 years. On page 11 of the Thirty-third Report, they have said :

"The upper age limit prescribed for the Engineering Services Examination was 27 years till 1982. On a proposal received from the Government, the Commission agreed to raise the upper age limit for this examination to 28 years to bring it at par with the upper age limit prescribed for the Civil Services Examination. The revised upper age limit will be effective from the Engineering Services Examination, 1983."

So, the Commission also, in its own wisdom, thought it fit that the upper age limit for the Indian Engineering Service should be 28 years. I do not know the logic behind this because it was for the Committee to consider this matter and there might have been many reasons for doing this. The Minister also, when he was expressing Government's views on the matter, was under the impression that it will help the rural population if the urban popu-

lation does not get more chances by resorting to this upper age limit. But this is not the case because generally after passing the 10+2+3 examinations and after doing post-graduation or LLB, the age of the person who becomes competent to appear in the civil service examination is near about 23 and he must be given two or three chances at least. The Kothari Commission has introduced the preliminary examination also in which the result is that out of one lakh candidates, nearly 15,000 candidates who get through and only those candidates who get through in the preliminary examination, get a chance to appear in the main examination. So, keeping in view all these things, there should not be any reduction in the age limit and I would request the hon. Minister to see that the age limit is raised from 26 to 28 years, so that more and more people of calibre may get a chance to appear in the examination.

Now, there are two examinations—the Preliminary, and the Main. If a candidate gets through the Preliminary, but not the Main, next year he has again to appear for the Preliminary first. Once a candidate has cleared the Preliminary, why should he again be asked to appear for it? Why do you not allow him to appear for the Main examination? This view should be considered.

It is the general feeling that engineers, doctor and other professional people prefer to enter the IAS. We can get over this problem by the creation of All India Engineering Service, All India Health and Medical Service and All India Educational Service. The question of the creation of these three cadres has been raised from time to time since 1963. It is time that Government consider this proposal seriously and sympathetically.

The Estimates Committee has recommended that some more benefits should be given to these services. It is necessary because the IAS officers are getting the same emoluments, which they were getting since 1960, in the super-time scale of five years. Government should look into the matter and consider raising their emoluments, as recommended by the Estimates Committee of Parliament.

Some of the IAS officers are employed by foreign governments after their retirement. In fact, some of these officers have held crucial posts before they were appointed by the foreign governments. I am quoting from *The Patriot* of 24th April 1984 :

“When the Government considers the material rewards for the All India Services, it should bear in mind that the salaries of judges have also remained unchanged for years and inflation has eroded their incomes. Furthermore, it is time the Government consider whether it should not be regulating the post-retirement benefits many civil servants draw from foreign governments and private business firms. Former Foreign Secretaries of India have been employed by foreign governments. One is said to be currently an officer of the Pentagon. Aside from the propriety dignity, is this practice compatible with the requirements and consistent with national security? How can India match the material benefits to the senior civil servants which the future foreign governments and private employers can shower to purchase information and influence these officials have gained in their capacity as senior civil servants?”

This aspect should also be considered. A person who has served as Defence

Secretary or Foreign Secretary should not be allowed to accept any foreign assignment. One officer, who was the Foreign Secretary here, has taken up a high executive post in the United States. These things should be stopped. It should be incorporated as one of the service conditions that they will not be allowed to take up such assignments after retirement.

The House is happy to note that the Government of India has taken a decision that 50 per cent of the persons recruited in these services should be posted in States different from their home States. But at the same time I will request the Minister to look into another aspect. The promoted officers are hand in glove with the local State or the home State. Therefore, this formula should be applied to the promoted officers also. That is 50 per cent of the promoted Officers should also be allocated to the States other than their home States.

Though these national services were created by the Secretary of State for India during the British regime, they have also given some good service to the country. One is national integration. Another is that these IAS Officers are not only the executive functionaries, but sometimes they influence the policy-making of the country. Therefore, it needs re-orientation. We have gone through these reports and there is no programme like that. There should be change in the outlook of the officers. There should be change in the approach of the officers so far as the present policies of the Government are concerned. As a matter of fact, he is not only a bureaucrat today, but, when he comes to the status of a Secretary or an Advisor to the Government of India, he assumes another role, a role of an adviser to the Ministry or to the Minister. In that capacity the nature and approach

of the officer is of very material value. Therefore, it needs orientation.

I would also say that there should be mixed cadre. This will help promote national integration because unity in diversity is the theme of the Indian culture and the Indian nation. Therefore, it is very necessary that this culture should be imbibed in our officers, who are in the highest cadre in the bureaucracy.

Lastly when we consider Section 311, some of the officers have behaved in a way which is a slur upon this Cadre. Recently there have been some cases in my State—Rajasthan—about one IPS officer. Prior to that there was a case about another IPS Officer. So, as a matter of fact, under the garb of Article 311 they should not be exempted if they are found committing such atrocities or mal-practices or an act which is unbecoming of the Officer of that Cadre. Therefore, should be some mechanism to get rid of such handicaps because till they get the approval from the Union Public Service Commission, no action can be initiated against them. Therefore, the Government should think over it and see that prompt action can be taken against such officers who commit errors or who are found guilty. As a matter of fact at present it takes a very long time to take action against them. First of all there should be an inquiry and after that, if he is found guilty, a prompt action against him should be initiated. So, this needs to be looked into.

With these words I thank the Minister for the new directions which he has initiated and for the commendation of the Commission to improve the performance of the Government services.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr, Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all, I would like to draw your attention to the letter written to various State Governments by our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, two days ago, wherein he has said that only persons with undisputed integrity and efficiency should be appointed on the Public Service Commissions. Sir, it indicates the policy of our Government and our new Prime Minister particularly in respect of this important matter.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : It was not so earlier.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : It was the policy earlier also. (Interruptions)...

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please go on. Don't pay any attention to them.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : I am not at all perturbed.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Not perturbed. Please don't pay any attention.

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Not at all. I will see only the Chair. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

Sir, first of all I would like to congratulate our young Prime Minister for the views expressed by him yesterday which deserve to be commended.

Our Public Service Commissions have

a glorious history. They have discharged their responsibilities with great honesty and devotion. Till today the people in the country have a very good impression about the Public Service Commissions. The People are of the view that one can get his work done at other places through underhand means but it is not possible to do so in the case of Public Service Commissions. I would, therefore, like to congratulate the Public Service Commission people also. In this connection I would like to give some suggestions also.

Sir, we have seen this report. There is no doubt that after independence there has been an increase in the number of persons belonging to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the weaker sections in Government services. Although their number in Government services has been increasing constantly, yet it has not yet reached the desired level. I would like to say that the training and coaching schemes undertaken by various universities for these sections of our society should be encouraged and extended to all the 40 to 50 universities. Special attention should be paid in this regard in the backward areas so that their standard could be raised.

Sir, the Constitution confers on us the Right to Equality, but nobody follows it. On the one hand, there are no buildings for even primary schools in remote adivasi areas in the country; there are no suitable seating arrangements for their children, but on the other hand, public schools are being set up in big cities. The graduates coming out of the colleges in the adivasi areas cannot compete with the graduates coming out of the colleges in the urban areas.

I would like to make a mention about the preliminary test which is called by

you as objective test. A large number of candidates are eliminated in such tests. Its very purpose is to eliminate candidates. But who are eliminated? Generally, they are from remote villages where modern educational facilities are not available. Today, we should follow a policy under which the thousands of brilliant students from these areas also could be given modern educational facilities so that they could compete with the candidates from urban areas. You shall have to adopt a new thinking in this regard.

Besides, you should not restrict the training to certain cadres only. It should be extended to other fields also. You have entrusted certain services to the Public Service Commissions. You want to bring about integration in the country. The power position in the country is very bad. The working of the Electricity Boards is not improving despite all the reforms undertaken and directions given by the Centre, the reason being that the service conditions of the engineers are not uniform. If the service conditions of the engineers are made uniform throughout the country and there is a single service commission for them, then there will not be any agitation by them in support of their demands. Similarly, there are many other services at State level. If these services are made all India level services, for which a demand is also being made, like medical and engineering services, a lot of improvement can be made. You have done something in respect of Forest Service, but much more is yet to be done. You should try to do the needful so that the country may develop and the problem of regional imbalance and national integration may be solved.

I would to make a mention about the conflict between IAS and IPS, which is observed in actual working. It vitiates

the entire administration. The Superintendent of police says that he is higher in Status than the Collector while the Collector says that his status is higher. Sometimes, an old I.P.S. Officer is posted under a young Collector. Something must be done to rectify these things.

Just now an hon. Member was referring to promotions being made in State services. I consider it a right thing. But in some States, the salary of an officer of the provincial service is higher than that of an I.A.S. officer due to which there is great resentment among the I.A.S. officers. When I.A.S. has been deemed the topmost service and they constitute the cream of the society, then you will have to ensure that they do not get less pay than the personnel of State services. In my view, it is not good to create resentment among I.A.S. officers throughout the country in this manner. My next suggestion is that when the personnel belonging to State Services are accorded the same status as that of an I.A.S. officer then it should not be restricted to executive services only; it should be extended to engineering and agricultural services also. Some percentage may be 25, 30, 35 or 40 per cent, should be fixed for them in the States other than their home States. All these things will have to be done at the basic level.

I would like to say one thing more. Sometimes, Government do not accept the recommendations of the Commission. Attention should be paid towards it. A perusal of the last year's report reveals that you did not accept a recommendation when high officers were involved, but you immediately accepted it if lower employees were involved. It indicates your policy that you want to protect the high officers. It is not a good policy. This policy will have to be changed.

I am very thankful to the Commission that it has detected an irregularity after a thorough scrutiny. A doctor had got himself appointed in Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital or some other hospital by producing a fake Scheduled Caste certificate. As there is reservation for Scheduled Castes, he would naturally demand promotion also. Certain doctors brought this case to our notice. I am very thankful to the Public Service Commission that it had conducted an inquiry in the matter and communicated to the Government that some irregularity had been committed and a job had been secured by producing a fake certificate. The Home Ministry or the Medical department should take up this case. It pains me that the Government have not accepted the recommendation of the Commission and the Doctor is still being considered a Scheduled Caste. (*Interruptions*) I think for raising the morale of the Officers of Commission and to show that they are working in an unbiased manner, it is necessary that their recommendations should be accepted and action be taken against the officers who are facing charges. The Vigilance department has given adverse reports against several I.A.S. Officers in Uttar Pradesh but no action has been taken against them. The Association of I.A.S. Officers may be good for other purposes but I would like to point out that it is the general feeling in the country that no punishment can be awarded to an I.A.S. Officer and ultimately he is let off.

In the end, I commend the efforts made by the hon. Minister. A separate Ministry has been created. I hope that my suggestions will be kept in view.

[English]

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO
(Koraput) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this

U.P.S.C. Report is an important one. The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms which was tagged on with the Home Ministry is now under the direct control of the Prime Minister. The intention of this separation from the Home Ministry is to put emphasis on the administrative machinery which is to run the country and which is to give an accelerated tempo to the development of the country as desired by the people.

What is democracy? The definition of democracy is: It is by the people, for the people and of the people. What is bureaucracy? The bureaucracy is by the Government, for the Government and of the Government. What is Government? The Government is a Government which is made by the people, which works for the people and which is answerable to the people. If we take these three definitions together, then the essence of these definitions will be that both the politicians and the personnel are for the development of the country and for giving justice, legal, developmental, social and political, to the people.

Yesterday, while the hon. Minister was initiating the debate, he said that they have given reservations to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in order to bring them to the mainstream of national life. I agree with him. But this is not actual intention of giving reservations to these people. The actual intention is to have the participation of these people in the development of the country so that they are able to give justice to their own people. If they are given an appropriate training as well as education, then only it will be possible to achieve the desired result.

After Independence, we have got a number of Scheduled Castes people in

the IAS, IPS and in other all-India services as well as in State services. The question is whether the Scheduled Tribes people have at last come to the level of Scheduled Castes people, or not. The educational opportunities in the tribal areas are very much less with the result that very few tribal people join the administrative services. So, I would ask the hon. Minister what are the steps that the Government propose to take to give appropriate education to these people so that they come up to the level by which the tribal people can at least join the administrative services to administer their areas.

Another thing which is important today is administrative reforms. There was the Administrative Reforms Commission. The report of this Commission covers nearly 30,000 pages. In that report, nowhere rights there any mentioned relating to the backward or tribal area administration. There was no emphasis on any aspect relating to tribal administration. It means no investigation was made at all about the administration of the backward and tribal areas. According to the Government, administrative reforms for the country means the reforms for the entire country excepting the tribal and backward areas. Is it not a fact that the North Eastern region and the tribal belt of Central India and other backward areas of the country require a separate administrative set-up for the sake of their economic development and for meting out social and legal justice to those people?

It is generally presumed that administration is meant for the developed areas and the implementation of certain rules and procedures in such areas. But this is not administration in actual terms. If the attitude and approach of the

administrator towards that development of backward areas and backward people is negative, that cannot be called true administration and we do not want that type of administration.

It is very interesting to find that we formulate the plan and allocate money and by implementing the plans, we want to achieve certain objectives. In the implementation of the Plan, the representatives of the people, the Ministers and the officials, all the three, have their respective roles to play. The representatives of the people have to make the policies and the officials have to implement those policies and the people must get the results. But, unfortunately, there is no coordination between the representatives of people, the Ministers and the officials. Before we interpret the plans, we suddenly jump into the aspect of implementation. If the plans are not implemented properly and if there is a failure, then only we will analyse the causes for our failure. Then only we will try to find out whether the exact intention behind the plan or scheme is properly interpreted or not.

I would, therefore, suggest that first of all you must be clear what precisely is the policy you want to follow and then you must implement your policies.

Earlier, everybody had an interest in implementing the Plan. At that time, there was no personal interest or vested interest and there were no clashes of interests. But now, there is only one interest and that is vested interest. That is why, the Plans are not being properly implemented.

Government is now proposing to delink degrees from jobs. This was conceived long before by our late Prime Minister Shri Jawaharlal Nehru. While

speaking at the opening session of the Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas Conference in New Delhi on June 7, 1952, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru said :

“It is better to send a totally uneducated man who has passed no examination, so long as he goes to these people with friendship and affection and lives as one of them. Such a man will produce better results than the brilliant intellectual who has no human understanding of the problem.”

This is the intention, this is the approach, that we want, whether in tribal areas or in backward areas or in any other area.

I would make this request to the hon. Minister.

Now there should be no question of another Commission. He should constitute a Committee in his own Department to study the problems of the backward areas, tribal areas and other areas to see what difficulties are there and how far these difficulties can be removed and what type of officials should be appointed in these areas.

I would suggest that you create a separate cadre called the Scheduled Areas Administrative Service. ‘Scheduled Areas’ means those areas covered under the Fifth and Sixth Schedules. The Sixth Schedule covers the north-eastern areas while the Fifth Schedule covers the other tribal areas. The officials should be given the option whether they would like to serve in the hill areas or in the plains or in any other area.

I conclude my submissions with the hope that our new Minister will inject a new thinking in the administration and that we will get the desired results.

SHRI K.R. NATARAJAN (Dindigul):
Sir, the Central Government has provided for reservation of appointments or posts in favour of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as per Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution of India with reference to their population. The reservation is not adequate. Even the reserved posts have not been filled by Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates. So, their due share should be given in the matter of appointments.

Under Articles 15(4) and 16(4) of the Constitution, reservation should also have been made in favour of the backward classes in the matter of appointments under the Central Government and public sector undertakings with reference to their population. The population of backward classes is about 75 per cent. At least 30 per cent of appointments must be reserved for the backward classes.

Denotified tribe, nomadic tribe and semi-nomadic tribe candidates should have been given special treatment. Fifteen per cent of appointments should be reserved for them. During the British days, denotified tribe people were treated as criminals: they were not allowed to move about without passport from one village to another village.

Piramalai Kallar community in Tamil Nadu belongs to martial race. Their population is about 35 lakhs. During the British days, they were treated as the worst criminals; however rich the individuals may be, however great the individuals may be and however good the individuals may be, they were considered as criminals under the Criminal Tribes Act. The only offence they committed was that they supported the

Indian National Congress wholeheartedly and sacrificed their lives for the sake of the Congress in those days. So, the Britishers imposed the Criminal Tribes Act on them in 1917. This imposition was opposed tooth and nail by the Piramalai Kallars. 21 persons were shot dead. The then Congress leaders in Tamil Nadu, namely, George Joseph, Vaidyanatha Iyer, Satya-murthy, Mothuramalinga Thevar, Rajaji, Kamaraj and N.M.R. Subbaraman fought against the victimisation and imposition of the Criminal Tribes Act on Piramalai Kallars and Maravars in Tamil Nadu. Piramalai Kallars were treated as the worst criminals because of their wholehearted support to the Indian National Congress. A special police officer in the rank of District Superintendent of Police with designation as Kallar Superintendent of Police was appointed with a number of subordinate police officers to assist him. Inspectors of Police and Sub-Inspectors and other police officers used to visit Piramalai Kallars during nights. They maintained attendance registers in respect of Piramalai Kallars in each village. The Sub-Inspector or Inspector or any other officer police used to take attendance during the dead of night.

If anybody was found absent he will be subsequently arrested and produced before magistrates. The absentees were punished and sent to jail. Piramalai Kallars were prevented from moving about from one village to another village without passports. So, they were effectively prevented from doing business. Their economic status was completely shattered. They were completely ruined and pushed five centuries behind. So much they were crippled economically, educationally and socially. They were branded as criminals. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that they are rehabilitated and

brought up. So at least three per cent of the posts should be reserved for them out of the posts within the purview of the UPSC and under the public sector undertakings, Reserve Bank of India and other nationalised banks.

Selection of candidates to the posts is mainly on the ground of marks obtained in the written examinations and interviews. Competition is between unequals. The backward classes and denotified tribes come generally from rural areas. Most of them are living below poverty line. They study in village schools and colleges in the rural atmosphere. The teachers are not brilliant and not of high calibre. Libraries worth the name are not available there. They are not receiving good education there. Socially they do not get encouragement. Economically they are at the bottom. So they cannot think of making preparation for competitive examination so well. Therefore, the competition should be among the candidates who come from the same or similar classes of people. Once a person from the backward classes or D.N.T. or P.K. is selected to a post he will match anybody in discharge of duties pertaining to his job. So opportunity should be given to them to render public service. Such opportunity should not be denied. So, the mode or method of selection to the posts should be changed and the method of selection should be formulated in such a way that they are also selected to the posts.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister that not only the poor and downtrodden scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, backward classes, D.N.T. people have been sincerely exercising their franchise in favour of the Indian National Congress all these years but also their forefathers fought and died for Independence. So,

they are also entitled as citizens of this country to have their due and equal share in the matter of appointments. Their keeping away from public service on any ground whatever is immoral, unethical and undemocratic. I am sure the hon. Prime Minister as a disciple of Śwami Vivekananda and Gandhiji and as a son of divine mother Indiraji will definitely bestow his personal attention on this matter and help the poor and downtrodden backward classes and D.N.T. people to have their due share in the appointments with reference to their population and with reference to their educational and social backwardness. So, it is the duty of the Central Government to see that they are rehabilitated and provided with their due share of appointments under the Central Government and their undertakings.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA
(Pali): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,
there is a judgement of the Supreme
Court delivered in 1984—

[English]

The establishment of an independent body like Public Service Commission is to ensure selection of best available persons for appointment in a post to avoid arbitrariness and nepotism in the matter of appointment. It is constituted by persons of high ability, varied experience and of undisputed integrity and further assisted by experts on the subject.

[Translation]

The main question is to administer the country in a proper manner and for this purpose people are

appointed as members of the Public Service Commission. A small article had appeared in the Economic Times of 9th July, 1983. I would like to give excerpts from it.

[English]

The Bane of Public Service Commissions : 9-7-84. One of the major causes of deterioration in civil administration in Punjab and Haryana is the politicalisation of public service commissions resulting in appointment of favourites as Chairman and members of these august bodies which are supposed to select the right type of civil servants and establish healthy conventions.

A study on 'Public Service Commissions' in Punjab and Haryana—Organisations, functions and role, reveals that academic qualifications were not at all kept in view while making the appointments of selectors. For instance, a politician, a favourite of the then Chief Minister, who had no formal education at all, remained a member of the Public Service Commission in Punjab for 5 years and later on as Chairman of the Haryana Public Service Commission for 6 years. Referring to the academic and socio economic background of the Chairman, the study says that in Punjab only one Chairman possessed the degree of Master of Arts one had the degree of LL.B one had the degree of Bachelor of Education while three others were graduates only. Out of 23 members appointed during the period from 1966 to 1982 one was undermatriculate, one was intermediate in science, five were graduates, one was a trained graduate, five were post-graduates, five were law graduates, one was M.Sc (Engg) and one was B.Sc (Engg).

[Translation]

The appointments made in the Public

Service Commission will reveal the types of persons appointed therein—

[English]

An officer belonging to a State Government was appointed by the Ministry of Railways to the post of Asst. Director Official Languages, in the Railway Board on *ad hoc* basis with effect from May 1, 1975. On September 1, 1976 the Ministry of Railways sought the concurrence of the Commission in the continuance of the *ad hoc* appointment of the officer upto November 30, 1976. In reply to the Commission's letter dated September 30, 1976 in which certain information was called for, the Ministry stated that the draft recruitment rules for the post were being finalised and would be sent to the Commission for their approval.

[Translation]

Secondly, the Government do not make an appointment when they do not get men of their choice and instead *ad hoc* appointments are made. For years together, no rules, policy and bye-laws are framed. The Public Service Commission writes to the Government to frame bye-laws and appries it about them but the Government do not bother. Thereafter, *ad hoc* appointments are made. If you look into it you will find that cases keep on pending for as long as two years.

[English]

Those draft rules were never sent. The appointment of the Officer on *ad hoc* basis was continuing upto 31st December, 1977. This is the condition.

[Translation]

You do not want to make the Public

Service Commission honest. In the first instance, you should appoint persons of integrity and dedicated persons. What has led to deterioration in the Public Service Commissions ? They tender their advice umpteen times and quote from the rules but you simply do not care. The policy of the Government to make *ad hoc* appointments is wrong. You do not frame rules of recruitment. They are not laid on the Table of the House. There is a mandatory provision that rules and regulations should be framed within six months and laid on the Table of the House. But you want to appoint your own people in the service and so you make *ad hoc* appointments. There are instances where such appointments continued for as long as ten years. A perusal of the Report reveals how appointments are made and no period is fixed for them. You keep on extending the *ad hoc* appointments. The Public Service Commission repeatedly reminds that such things should be avoided, but you do not care. You may see the answer page 32. I would like that every Report should be discussed every year. Today, we are discussing two Reports. I would like to know why this Report has been laid on the Table today? Why is it being discussed after a period of two years? The Report for 1982 should have been discussed in 1982 itself or at the most in 1983, but today the Report for 1982 is being discussed. You should have laid it on the Table of the House, but here Reports of two years are being discussed. This way the Reports do not serve any purpose. You do not give the required attention towards it.

[English]

It is mentioned under 'Shortage of candidates' in the Report. I will read out that portion.

"As stated in sub-para (i) above, Commission could not find suitable candidates for 352 posts at different levels requiring specialisation in different fields. Of these, 112 posts were reserved for Scheduled Castes, and 117 for Scheduled Tribes and 18 for either Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes. The remaining 105 posts were unreserved. The details of these posts are given in Appendix IX to this Report."

PROE. N.G. RANGA : It requires special training. Is it not so ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Nothing. The report says that this is the condition.

[Translation]

Now tell us what the mode of recruitment is. Some are made Collectors forthwith, some are made so after some months and some are retained on the same posts. The Public Service Commission says that it seeks clarification from the Government but no reply is received for months. In giving a reply 6, 8 or 12 months are taken. The Public Service Commission is an independent body whose decision is binding on them. But they do not accept it. The Government do not appoint a person if he is not of their choice. There are innumerable complaints mentioned in the Reports. Even a U.D.C. turns down the Report and the recommendations of the Public Service Commission. He simply points out some lacunae. If corruption is to be eliminated from the administration, then we shall have to see whether the person to be appointed is honest and dedicated or not. What are the criteria and how are they verified? Is it possible

to find out within the 2 to 4 minutes for which the Public Service Commission holds the interview? It is generally sould today that recommendation is needed to get a job through the Public Service Commission. You can get a job only if you have the pull. This is the corditions. It is written in the Report of the Public Service Commisson that the Government also do not give their clearance and they (the Commission) also do not agree with the Government. There is no coordination between them. Members cannot go through the Report thoroughly This Report shows that the Government are not serious about the performance. This way the administration of the country cannot become efficient, honest and dedicated. If you want progress in the country, then honest and dedicated persons would have to be brought to streamline the administration, otherwise things will not improve. Now we have a law Minister. He should bring honest persons here.

[English]

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the first place, I would like to suggest that the number of members on the Public Service Commission should be increased because of tremendous task before the Commission. Secondly, in my opinion, reference of cases for dssciplinary action to the Commission is an additional burden on it. With the formation of a separate Ministry, certain machinery can be provided there to whom cases for disciplinary action against persons recruited through the Commission could be referred.

We find that the formation of departmental promotion committces is delayed because of the heavy burden on the

Commission. Secondly, as my hon. friend Shri Daga mentioned, ad hoc appointments are made in many cases and they contiaue for years. This is more say in cases of medical and engineering departments.

Lately, we find that the selection in the main Services by the Union Public Service Commission shows a trend that majority of the people in Delhi or around Delhi get selected and it appears as if the Central Services are the monopoly of some priviliged classes. Like monopoly houses, business houses, there are monopoly services houses also. In some families, the father and mother are retired IAS officers, son and daughter-in-law as also daughter and son-in-law are IAS officers or in some Central Service.

The entire family is in the Central Service.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : But they are selected. Is it not so ?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Yes. But it becomes a monopoly service. That is why I want to maintain, as my friends on the other side have said that the majority that gets selected comes from Delhi, Rajasthan, Punjab and mostly from Allahabad University also. Sir, if we take the figure of persons who have appeared in the examinations.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only one minute is left. Will the hon. member like to finish or continue some other time ? You see, we have to take up the Private Members' Business.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : I will continue on Monday, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now we will take up Private Members Business. First, Bills for introduction.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Other things can be taken afterwards. Why not ? It is the practice.

(Interruptions)

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL.

(Insertion of new article 16A etc.)

[English]

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

(CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL—contd.

(Amendment of Eighth Schedule)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before we take up further discussion on the Constitution (Amendment) Bill by Shri Satyagopal Misra, I would like to remind the House that out of two hours that is allotted, one hour and fifty-seven minutes are over. Shall we extend the time by one hour.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : But then the other business will suffer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you do not want to discuss, I will call the Minister to reply. If you want to discuss, I will extend the time. I leave it to the House to decide. I want to seek the opinion of the House.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There are certain practices. Members who have given their names to participate in the Debate, can participate.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is why I am seeking the opinion. One member says he is interested in extension. But the other says ‘no’.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : You apply your mind.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can do that. But I want to seek your opinion, I told you.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, you know that Private Members Business is too long. Most of those members who have tabled their Bills, should be given a chance to speak something.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down. The problem is, nobody is restricting his time. I restrict them to ten or five minutes, but everybody takes half an hour and so on. They go on talking.

AN HON. MEMBER : You regulate the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am ready to do it. I want to help the

Members. But they should cooperate with me also.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : How many members are there to speak ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are four.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Allow these four to speak, but do not permit the fifth one. Why should one be so rigid ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Okay. I request you to be brief. Now we will go according to the time schedule.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : There are four Members. That is all. Mr. Vyas will now speak, but only five minutes are allowed.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS : Whithin five minutes, how can I do justice to the subject ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Whatever is spoken thereafter will not go on record. The first bell I give will be a warning. After the second bell, nothing will be recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhiwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have two suggestions to make with regard to the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Mishra. First, he has mentioned about 'Right to Employment' in Section 18-A. It reads—

[English]

“Every citizen of India within the age limit of eighteen years to sixty-five years shall have the right to employment.....”

[Translation]

This age limit of 65 years, I think, is not justified.

[English]

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Sir, he is speaking on a different Bill.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : When I was speaking on the Calling Attention motion, the same thing happened.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Mr. K.D. Sultanpuri.

[Translation]

SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI (Simla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to say something about the Nepali Language Bill, It was mentioned here that 10 Lakh Nepali speaking people were living in India and that they were citizens of India and, as such, their Nepali language should be included in the Constitution.

So far as Nepalis are concerned, they are very brave and nice people. At different places, Nepalis speak different languages, some speak Bhutani, some Sikkimi and some Bengali. Nepalis have also settled in Arunachal, Himachal and Kashmir. The objective behind moving this Bill is to get votes of Nepalis living in Darjeeling and Bengal. It is only for this purpose that they want Nepali to be on the Statute Book.

We respect all the languages. All the languages of the South are spoken in India. Government are taking steps to promote those languages. So far as the National Language is concerned, it is only Hindi, although we have included Tamil, Telugu, Malyalam, etc. in the Constitu-

tion. It is not proper to say that Government are not doing justice to the provisions of the Constitution.

I would like to submit it is not correct that 10 lakh Nepalis live in India. Nepali language, as they speak, is written in Devanagri. *Pahari* language is spoken in our Himachal Pradesh. The population of *Pahari* speaking people is 42 lakhs. They also want their language to be brought on the Statute Book. They have an Academy of their own, of which Mr. Parashar is the Vice-President. I think, it would not be a healthy practice to go on increasing the number of languages, whereby every person could say that his language should be included in the constitution. It is a stunt to win votes. It is only a question of their exploitation.

My submission is that all the languages are beautiful languages, whether it is Bengali or any other language. In India various languages are spoken and dialects vary from village to village and from area to area. How will it be justified to put all of them on the Statute Book? We have to develop a National Language and being the citizens of one nation, we should learn all the languages. We want to learn Bengali, Malayalam and Telugu as well. They are all dear to us. They should be promoted in their respective areas, from where you are to solicit votes. Every Nepali speaking person should know it. You should raise this issue in the State Assembly, so that this language is taught in the school there.

National Languages are being given their proper status. It has been the endeavour of the Government to enrich them further. I am not prepared to accept the allegation that the Government are not paying proper attention to them.

I would request the hon. Minister, who has introduced this Bill to amend the constitution, to withdraw it. It is in the interest of the people that they should respect all our national languages. With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : I support the conclusion of Nepali Language in the Eighth Schedule. Nepali Language in an Indian language. Since it is spoken in Nepal, so it is not an Indian Language, I think, comrade Ashok Da would not agree with this. Bengali is very much spoken in Bangladesh and also in West Bengal; that does not mean that Bengali Language is not an Indian Language. So, this comparison is wrong. This was what sometimes Mr. Morarji Desai stated. I know you also do not agree with this. We think it is an Indian language and it should find a place in the Eighth Schedule.

What is being feared and apprehended is that no sooner will Nepali be included this list than the Pandora's Box will be opened and other people also will start clamouring that their languages should also get a place in the Eighth Schedule. I think that this great national movement of India should never be afraid of this. It so happens; it is bound to happen. These who are dormant today, will rise tomorrow, those languages are today neglected, will be having good languages tomorrow. India is a multilingual State. Many languages shall be coming, say the language of the Santhals, who are backward today, say, other languages which are backward today, shall grow and definitely they shall fight for their inclusion; and that would not violate the status of India as a Republic. It is only the chauvinistic attitude of the Hind-speaking people which is standing as a bar

against inclusion of such languages in the Eighth Schedule. We would be very cautious about it.

Already, you have accepted Sindhi in the Eighth schedule. At least, there are more number of Nepalis in India who speak Nepali than the people who speak Sindhi. I do not know; I think Prof. Ranga can tell me whether money played a part or not, because Sindhis are rich people; So, their language could be included. But poor Nepalis, agricultural labourers, are fighting for your independence, are fighting on the borders of your State; why should you not include their language in the Eighth Schedule? If you can accept Sindhi, why can't we accept Nepali? Why should we not agree?

Shri Priya Ranjan Das Munsi spoke of one language and he mentioned that in the Soviet Union all people are learning Russian. This is not true. In the Soviet Union, every Russian is compelled to learn one more Russian language, and all non-Russians, are requested to learn the Russian language. Understand the difference. All Russian people must learn one Russian language and of each non-Russian, it is expected that he will learn the Russian Language.

AN HON. MEMBER : It is not compulsory.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : It is not compulsory. So, what has happened is that the Russian Language is learnt by every body. So, everybody knows Russian. Here, had we followed that principle, today Hindi would have been accepted by the entire country. Because the Hindi chauvinistwalas have tried to force Hindi on the South Indians and on the Eastern Part of India, so there was a difference. If you really love Hindi, follow the principle of the Soviet Union and you will see that Hindi will gradually spread.

AN HON. MEMBER : A common script should be there.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : I am not speaking about common script now.

Even in the 1980 Congress Election Manifesto they wanted that Nepali should be included. I think at that time they had to defeat the Janta Government, because Janata Party was in power in 1977-79, and they included this thinking that if they includes it they could get votes. And Shrimati Indira Gandhi whenever she want to Darjeeling—I understand Shri Morarji Bhai, he was a frank and forthright man, whatever he understood, he used to speak very frankly—she mentioned it. But it is the so-called great men with hypocritic feelings who whenever they were in Darjeeling favoured Nepali to be included in the Eighth Schedule. In the West Bengal Assembly these Congress people had passed a unanimous resolution stating that Nepali should be included in the Eighth schedule. But when they come here they say that it cannot be done. So, this hypocrisy of the ruling party I fail to understand. But I request them, the Sun will not fall from heavens, there will be no earth tremors if Nepali is accepted. We request the Law Minister that Nepali should be immediately accepted.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : No, no.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : You may say 'No'. You are giving birth to fissiparous tendencies. It is Nepali today, tomorrow there will be some other people, they may feel that they are debarred from getting their rights. But fissiparous tendencies, these things develop from these areas, tilly areas, backward areas, when a people feel that their language, their rights are being curtailed, when they think that 'we are not part of India, our rights are being curtailed'. I, therefore, request the hon. Law

Minister to kindly accept Nepali for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. Heavens will not fall if it is included. Only the chauvinistic Hindi-speaking people do not want it. Kindly do not prevent it. It will do more harm than good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I think everybody is cooperating well, and finishing in less than five minutes, even three or four minutes. I think this should be maintained for future also.

Shri Tombi Singh.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, this Bill has got a very special importance, because the amendment of the Eighth Schedule has been demanded from many language groups. So, when we consider Nepali there are other languages. Naturally, therefore, we look for a leadership a national thinking, through which we shall see the nation comprehensively.

I recall when we, the States and Union Territories in the North-East, were demanding separate administration and separate States, many in the country were like the proverbial six as blind men seeking an elephant, they only saw their nearest parts and described the elephant accordingly. But through the great comprehensive eyes of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his able successors Shastriji and later Shrimati Indiraji, the North-East was reorganised. That brought together the North-East region, giving birth to States like Manipur, Nagaland, Meghalaya and Tripura.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh.

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were made Union Territories.

But if you judge by the size, you will see that these are small States and Union Territories, most of them much smaller than districts in Uttar Pradesh. The fact is that, there were other considerations. There are language groups other than Nepali. Manipuri, I think, by any consideration. On top of other languages in the consideration because it has been the language of the court and administration, the language of the masses and also has a very developed literature in the State of Manipur. Since early days this has been the language of an independent State, an independent Kingdom, before the merger, on integration with the great Indian Union. This demand for inclusion of Manipuri in the 8th schedule has been hanging fire for so many decades. When we demanded statehood, we also demanded that Manipuri language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. Then our leaders said that all the things should not be asked at a time although there were justifications for that. They assured that they would do it at the right time. Where is the right time? The amendment of the Eighth Schedule should be opened. Arguments are made that the Eighth Schedule is too big. If the Eighth Schedule can have 15 languages, it can very well have 16 or 17 languages also. That should be our consideration. Now, the question is : what should be the criteria? I am not opposed to Nepali. Similarly, I am not opposed to other languages. Whatever languages have been recognised by the Sahitya Akademy should be taken for the purposes of the Eighth Schedule, as they have been recognised on academic merit. Either increase the number of languages in the Eighth Schedule as suggested by many hon. Members, if all these languages are to be retained, then we have to include Manipuri, and other deserving languages in the Eighth Schedule or remove all the other languages except Hindi and English. Let us discuss it in a comprehensive manner. I would like to appeal to the national leadership, the able successors of Panditji, Shastriji and Indiraji, and

now at the helm of affairs, Shri Rajivji to see the national interest comprehensively and avoid seeing things like the proverbial six blind men describing different parts of the elephant. Ours is a big country. Let us see the Eighth Schedule comprehensively and amend it to include Manipuri, and other languages which deserve a place in that. Number should not be the criteria, but the criteria should be something else. Dr. Suniti Kumar Chatterjee, a great linguist, who was not a Manipuri, said that in spite of the smallness of the population speaking Manipuri, it is one of the richest languages of the country. Population-wise we are not small. We have about two million Manipuris in the country. This is the official language of a State and medium of instruction and examination upto the secondary stage. It is a subject in the honours studies. One can study M. A., M. Phil in that. This is the language of the courts in Manipur. This language has a history beginning with the ancient times followed by medieval, modern and contemporary. We have a rich storehouse of literature covering departments like translations, original writings. It covers the entire Hindu Vedic literature in translation beginning with the Vedas, the Upanishads, the Puranas, the Gita, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata. We have the translation of books by great writers in Bengali, Hindi, English and other Indian languages. Its original products cover novels, dramas, essays, poems and stories. So this language deserves on its own right, not as a special consideration, inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, this should be considered on top of other aspirant languages. It is imperative that our national leadership should not prolong this because if we go on prolonging it for long, we shall only be inviting agitations and revolution which our late Prime Minister felt was no more necessary. If you do not like agitations, we should have consideration at the literary, academic and gentlemanly level of discussion. We expect that some positive action will be taken in this direction.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI A.K. SEN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been lot of misunderstanding about the utility and function of Article 344 to which the Eighth Schedule is attached. Article 344 has been inserted only for a specific purpose, namely, to name certain languages only for the purpose of throwing colour, for the enrichment of Hindi, and for no other purpose. May I read Article 344 for the benefit of the House once more :

“344. (1) The President shall, at the expiration of five years from the commencement of this Constitution and thereafter at the expiration of ten years from such commencement.....”

For the purpose of ten years, we go back to January, 1960, and I remember that this Commission was set up when I was in charge of Law Ministry in 1960—

“by order constitute a Commission which shall consist of a Chairman and such other members representing the different languages specified in the Eighth Schedule.....”

A commission is to be set up by the President after ten years from the commencement of the Constitution representing the eight linguistic groups mentioned in Schedule Eight, and for what purpose? That is mentioned in sub-Article (2) :

“(2) It shall be the duty of the Commission to make recommendations to the President.....”

This is the duty, for making recommendations to the President. And for what purpose ?

“.....as to—

(a) the progressive use of the Hindi language for the official purposes of the Union.”

Not for the progressive use of any other language. This Commission will recommend measures to the President for the progressive use of Hindi in different parts of India. It further says

“(b) restrictions on the use of the English language for all or any of the official purposes of the Union.”

Not of the States—

“(c) the language to be used for all or any of the purposes mentioned in article 348;

(d) the form of numerals to be used for any one or more specified purposes of the Union;

(e) any other matter referred to the Commission.....”

And in making the recommendation, what they have to take into account is specified in sub-Article (3)—

“(3) In making their recommendations under clause (2), the Commission shall have due regard to the industrial, cultural and scientific advancement of India, and the just claims and the interests of persons belonging to the non-Hindi speaking areas in regard to the public services.”

So, here it comes, that their recommendations have to be also in keeping with the interest of the non-Hindi speaking areas and that includes Nepali-speaking areas like Darjeeling, Sikkim and so on. And sub-Article (4) says—

“(4) There shall be constituted a Committee consisting of thirty members, of whom twenty shall be members of the House of the People and ten shall be members of the Council of States to be elected respectively by the members of the House of the People and the members

of the Council of States in accordance with the system of proportional representation.....”

You will find that this is only for that purpose. For the purpose of use of particular languages which are confined to particular geographical areas, provision has been made very carefully in Articles 345 and 347 of the Constitution.

16.00 hrs.

This is what is lost sight of when everybody thinks that every language must come in the Eighth Schedule. Now let us see article 345.

“Subject to the provisions of articles 346 and 347, the Legislature of a State may by law.....”

That brings in Nepali, a language spoken in the northern part of Bengal, which is called Darjeeling district. Lepcha is a language spoken by a large group inhabiting these areas. Then we have the Nepali group, the Sikkim group and the Bhutia group. All these four languages are spoken in that district. In Sikkim, we have Sikkimese and Nepali. Now the Nepalese and Sikkimese say: let us come to the Eighth Schedule. Article 345 makes them the official language for that particular area. It says:

“.....the Legislature of a State may by law adopt any one or more of the languages in use in the State.”

Not in the Eighth Schedule. Therefore, the use of any language in a particular State, having regard to the particular linguistic groups inhabiting that State, is not governed by the Eighth Schedule at all; it is governed by article 345, and the State has to enact a law, prescribing the use of the particular language in that State.

May I say here that Shri Narayan Choubey had a dig at the ruling party;

I do not mind that dig at all, because we are used to digs and counter digs. But may I remind him that in West Bengal the Government is being run by a Front called the Left Front, the chief constituent of which is the CPM. My hon. friend's party is also a constituent of that Front. That Government has passed a law, prescribing the use of the Nepalese language in three districts, namely, the districts of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Kurseon. In these areas, let me say again, in these sub-divisions, Bengali is spoken by a fairly large number, Sikkimese is spoken in Darjeeling Sub-Division by a fairly large number, Bhutia is spoken by a fairly large number, Nepali is spoken by a fairly large number and Lepcha a spoken by Lepchis, who are workers in the tea gardens and other areas. But that Government has not prescribed the use of Nepali for the entire State. It is a very significant fact. I am not having a dig at them. They did not do it because to say that Nepali would be used in the areas where Santhal is spoken would be a monstrosity, because that is an area where there is hardly any Nepalese-speaking Nepali. That is why they have restricted the use of Nepali as an official language in these three sub-divisions.

In Sikkim the majority of the population is Nepali-speaking, but there is a very substantial minority of Sikkimese-speaking people. As you know, the ruling family is Sikkimese. They have a sizable population of Sikkimese-speaking people. Besides that, there are Hindi-speaking and Bengali-speaking people also. Therefore, in Sikkim, under article 345, they have prescribed Sikkimese as the official language, as you have Tamil as the official language in Tamil Nadu, Kannada as the official language in Karnataka, Telugu as the official language in Andhra Pradesh or Telugu Desom, Marathi as the official language in Maharashtra and Gujarati as the official language in Gujarat.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Only the

name of the party is Telugu Desom.

SHRI A.C. SEN : It is the same; Andhra will remain Andhra. Andhra will remain Andhra, the old land of Satavahanas. They were great in Indian history. There was a time when Satavahanas had over-run the entire country. And about Chalukias there is a wonderful painting, which you still find in Ellora and Ajanta and other places.

Anyway, India is proud of all, including Nepal. We are proud of Nepali. They are part of our population. But let us not get mixed up as we got mixed up in Punjab politics with all types of sentimental questions. You will find Gurumukhi is not included in the Scheduled VIII and still it is the official language of Punjab. Therefore, misunderstanding has arisen because one does not notice the purpose of the Schedule VIII and one does not notice Article 345 and Article 347, which prescribe the procedure for making a particular small linguistic group enjoy a particular language in their own area, and, if necessary in the entire State. Article 345 gives that power to the State. Now, the West Bengal Government has not used that power. I am sure the official language in Manipur is Manipuri. That is according to Article 345. But their non-inclusion in Schedule VIII has not prevented them from becoming the official language. Now, Article 347 is very important. It says :

“On a demand being made in that behalf, the President may, if he is satisfied that a substantial proportion of the population of a State desires the use of any language spoken by them to be recognised by that State, direct that such language shall also be officially recognised throughout that State.”

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Nothing happens because of that Article. A very big memorandum with lakhs and lakhs of signatures was presented to the then President of India with respect to

the status of Urdu in U.P. No reply till now.

SHRI ASHOK SEN : I am telling you because you have not followed the ingredients of Article 347. Ingredient is 'substantial proportion of the population' Now, population in U.P. was about seven crores in UP. The substantial proportion should have been at least fifty per cent. That means at least the number should have been three and a half crores to make it substantial proportion. Lakhs should not mean three and a half crores. The hon. Member is forgetting arithmetic. The population of UP at present is eleven crores. Therefore, eleven crores makes it worse for the hon. Member. At least five and a half crores must make the representation. So, the language of Article 347 is what I have stated just now, but Article 345 removes even that limitation. According to Article 345, the State Legislature may pass a law even though there is no 'substantial' demand. Therefore, Article 347 is again lost sight of.

I know about this because I have a substantial number of Urdu-speaking Muslims in Calcutta and they have always told me what the hon. Member tells me. Now, I cannot convince them, but I can convince the hon. Member that 'substantial number' means substantial number and not only a small number.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : In that case guarantee has no meaning because 'substantial' you put at three and a half crores, when Urdu-speaking population in UP was about two crores and more than forty lakhs of people had given signatures to the then President of India.

SHRI A.K. SEN : Article 347 is not a guarantee. It is a power.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : It is paper guarantee in that case.

SHRI A.K. SEN : The hon. Member is forgetting that guarantee of language is in Article 29, where every sect and every segment of the population has the freedom to pursue their own language and to develop their own language. The hon. Member may kindly read Article 29. Therefore, Article 347 is a power, not a guarantee. Guarantee is a limitation on the power. This is the difficulty when we get mixed up with emotions in interpretation of the Constitution. Therefore, Article 29 reads :

"Any section of the citizens residing in the territory of India or any part thereof having a distinct language, script or culture of its own shall have the right to conserve the same."

That is the guarantee. Therefore, I have appeared for many minority linguistic groups, as for instance, the Arya Samaj group in Punjab. When the Hindi language was sought to be abolished from certain schools as medium of instruction, the Supreme Court struck it down on the ground that the Arya Samaj community which speaks Hindi must have the guarantee to conserve their culture and script. And there is another language like that. If you look at Article 26, it says :

"Subject to public order, morality and health, every religious denomination or any section thereof shall have the right—

(a) to establish and maintain institutions for religious and charitable purposes;

(b) to manage its own affairs in matters of religion;" and so on.

Many religious institutions in U.P. and other places carry on instructions through Urdu. That cannot be prevented. Secondly, Article 14 is another guarantee which says.....

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Sir, I am on a point of order, I will submit that we are not making submissions before a court of law. We are making submissions before a forum which can make law.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Are you making submission on a point of order ?

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : The hon. Law Minister is defending according to the Constitution, while also he seeks amendment of the constitution.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I ask the Member : What is your point of order ?

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : This is my point of order.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Point of order means a point which immediately puts a ban on the discussion. That is the point of order. We are dealing with the Constitution itself, the Eighth Schedule. Therefore I am saying, the Eighth Schedule does not give any guarantee. Then every language spoken in the country must come to the Eighth Schedule. It says only that these languages shall have representatives on the Commission which will be constituted after ten years from the commencement of the Constitution—for what purposes? to advise the President as to how Hindi should be developed and not how Manipuri and Nepali and others should be developed.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Not about their own languages.

SHRI A. K. SEN : Their own languages are to be developed in their own States and the States have the power under Article 345 and Article 347 is the President's power. Supposing

an overwhelming number of people as in Sikkim—take; for instance, Sikkim—a majority of people there are Nepalese-speaking, about 51 per cent of the population. Supposing they say, 'Let it be the official language' and the State dared to introduce Sikkimese as the official language, then the President may be approached stating that there is a substantial number seeking that language to be made the language of the State, but the State is not doing it. Then the President can impose it. Therefore, these are the conditions and the fallacy lies in this complex when people feel that anything not in the Eighth Schedule has been given an inferior status. Not at all. There are so many languages, as, for instance, Manipur itself has a rich language of its own—very rich—and fortunately it is written in Bengali script and I read it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : You should not laugh at that.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I am not laughing, I am appreciating. I am sorry, when the sentiment comes in, I have to tell that. I am very happy about it. Fortunately, I say it because I read it in that script. When it comes to Urdu, I cannot read it; I have my limitation though Urdu is such a rich language. Similarly, in respect of Maithili language, I read it because Maithili is in Bengali script. Maithili and Bengali have the same script and they have very close systems. I read Assamese because Assamese is in Bengali script.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : And it has an advantage for everybody.

SHRI A. K. SEN : I will tell you why. Oriya and Bengali are much closer than Assamese and Bengali and yet I cannot read Oriya because Oriya script is different. I am saying that when we come to the rock bottom of the Constitution we must not get

mixed up with other emotional issues. As I said, I gave a very good example that Gurumukhi was not in the Eighth Schedule and yet Gurumukhi is the official language as Punjab says, and you see in Delhi, the streets in Delhi bear the names in Gurumukhi everywhere. I was reading the other day 'Rajaji Marg' which is written in Gurumukhi. That is why I am saying, Sir, that it is not proper to include everything in the Eighth schedule; then we will be burdened with a host of linguistic groups. Whose recommendations to include in the VIII Schedule, the Constitution framers did not think it necessary for the purpose of enriching Hindi or for the purpose of accelerating the progress of the use of Hindi. That is all. If that is so and if the purpose is appreciated, I think, these demands will be given a quietus. What will be more important is to see that due recognition is given for every linguistic group in every State. If they form the majority for making that language as the official language of the State, like Sikkimese in Sikkim, instead of trying to get every language into the VIII Schedule, it would be better. If they start including every language in the VIII Schedule, the number will go to about 100. You will have to get Maithili. You will have to get Munda, Konkani and various other languages. Konkani is a distinct language according to the then Chief Justice who presided over the Delimitation Cases and I lost the case. I argued that Konkani was only a dialect of some other. But he held very solidly that Konkani is a distinct language. So, therefore, let us not get bogged with this idea that anything not contained in the VIII Schedule is of no utility. They are of very great utility. You go to Darjeeling; go to Kurseva; go to Kalimpong. A large number of people speak Nepali there. Nepali is spoken even in schools. Even Bengalis and Hindi speaking people speak Nepali. Of course, Nepali is so close to our language; it is more close to Bengali than Hindi and it is written in the Devanagiri script. I don't know whether Nepali ever had its own script,

But Nepali, as we know, is all written in Devanagiri script and so closely descended from Sanskrit and Pali. That is why, it is so near to us, more than Hindi. When I listen to the Nepali programme of the All India Radio, I follow every word of it. It is because we follow Nepali much more easily than anybody else. Therefore, at the moment, if we shed ourselves of this idea that anything not contained in the VIII Schedule is attached with stigma, I think, this demand will have a quietus of its own.

With these words, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill. Otherwise, it will be our duty to oppose it. Let us not bring politics into it. Mr. Narayan Choubey is thinking that as though the inclusion of Nepali in the VIII Schedule will bring them some votes of Nepalis.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA
(Tamluk) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion and contributed a lot to the debate. I am particularly grateful to the hon. Members from the Opposition Benches including my AIADMK friend who have unconditionally supported this Bill. I am also grateful to the hon. Law Minister who has intervened in the debate and said something perhaps against this Bill.

I will not take much time of the House. The hon. Minister has cited some Constitutional points. He has referred to articles 344, 345 and 347. If I accept his arguments, then the inclusion of Sindhi language would have become, unjustified. That is not possible. He tried to take this Bill in a wrong direction. When the language Sindhi was included in the year 1967, articles 344, 345 and 347 were also there in the Constitution.

The hon. Law Minister also spoke about the script. Many languages have their own scripts and many languages

do not have their own scripts. Even Hindi has not got its own script. They are following Devnagari script.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Devnagari is a script.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : It is not a Hindi script. Not only the script but other aspects also should be taken into consideration while accepting any language for inclusion in the Eighth Schedule.

Again, the hon. Law Minister said that on other language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. Is that the intention of the ruling party or the Government? Are you going to put a full stop in the Eighth Schedule?

PROF. N.G. RANGA : For the limited purpose.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : At one time, you will include Sindhi and at another time you will refuse to include Nepali or Manipuri or Konkani. There is no logic in that. I do not think that the Eighth Schedule is a complete list.

Certain criteria should be taken into consideration while including a language in the Eighth Schedule. There are so many languages in our country and all the languages have made their valuable contribution to our national integration, to our composite culture. Every language is flourishing. When a language comes to a certain stage of development and fulfils certain criteria, at that appropriate time that language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. That is the major consideration. What stage of development Sindhi reached in 1967, you cannot deny what the Nepali language has achieved today. Certain criteria should be there. When any language in India achieves a certain stage of development, then that language

should be included in the Eighth Schedule. That should be the consensus of all sections of the people and the linguistic groups of our country. I think, Nepali language has achieved that stage of development which was found acceptable at the time of inclusion of Sindhi in the Eighth Schedule in 1967. I have no objection against any other language, whether it is Manipuri or Bhojpuri or Konkani or Rajasthani and so on. What I am trying to say is that all the languages are developing languages and, when they come to a certain stage of development, then they should be included in the Eighth Schedule. My plea is that Nepali language has reached that stage of development and it should be included in the Eighth Schedule right now.

I want to refer to the discussion held on 13th and 27th June, 1980 in the Seventh Lok Sabha. A similar Bill was piloted by Mr. Chitta Basu and another Bill was moved by Dr. Karan Singh. The Bill of Mr. Chitta Basu was to include Nepali in the Eighth Schedule and the Bill of Dr. Karan Singh was to include Nepali and Dogri in the Eighth Schedule. What was the reply of the Government at that time? Please go through the records. At that time, it was told by the Government that they would develop a national consensus to settle the matter as early as possible. This is on record. Now, the hon. Law Minister is referring to certain articles of the Constitution. My question is: Was the then Law Minister who intervened in the debate not aware of those articles of the Constitution? At that time, it was categorically said that a national consensus will be developed within a very short time.

But five years have gone and now the hon. Law Minister without making any point, any argument, is asking me to withdraw the Bill.

Other things are also there. Shri Mool Chand Daga and Shri K. D.

Sultanpuri have, in their own style, talked of course about the vote banks. It is not the Opposition party who through all these things go for votes. It is you who want to exploit the situation.

I want to refer to one thing in West Bengal Legislative Assembly. On 2nd June, 1977 unanimous resolution was accepted by the West Bengal Legislative Assembly requesting the union government to include Nepali in the 8th Schedule, of which Congress party.....
(Interruptions)

That was the concensus in West Bengal and here you are saying that we are going for votes and all that. I will add some more things also. In 1980, in West Bengal, this demand found place in the Congress-I manifesto itself. Now you are saying this cannot be done. Who are going for votes?

Whenever the Prime Minister went over to Darjeeling or Gangtok, Sikkim, he said that they accept this is principle and that they will look into the matter.

They always say in that manner there and here they are saying something opposite to that. So, I want to remind Shri Mool Chand Daga and Shri K. D. Sultanpuri that we are not hankering after votes.

I want to point out here the recent development in West Bengal. I have a newspaper *The Telegraph* of 27th instant. The agitation is going on there for Urdu language, to accept Urdu language in West Bengal as the second official language. Some MLAs of the Congress party are with that movement. Here you are saying one thing and in the countryside you are saying another thing.

KUMARI MAMTA BANARJEE

(Jadavpur): That is not true. It is a commitment of the West Bengal Left Front Government before elections. The only demand is that the question papers for Urdu people should be set in Urdu language. It is the Urdu people who agitated and demanded. CPI (M) is trying to politically malign it.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : It is after all in the newspaper. You will be astonished to know that instead of the popular song—

*“Saare Jaban se achha Hindustan
hamara*

now they are saying—

Urdustan hamara

Are you to tolerate all these things?

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE : There is no political motive in that at all.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let him finish.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : I have full respect to the hon. Lady Member.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not allow all these things.

(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't go out of track.

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : In West Bengal for having some votes, they are supporting that Urdustan and all that.

Then I come to Mr. Priya Ranjan Das Munsi. He uttered one sentence

that he supported the Bill, but in the course of the discussion, he actually opposed the Bill; he took much more time for advocating Hindi. I have no objection to the Hindi language, but this is not the occasion to discuss the development of Hindi or taking Hindi or English as the link language of our country,

Taking all these things into consideration, we come to the conclusion that it is high time that we came to a consensus and included the Nepali language as another language in the Eighth Schedule. The Law Minister is here; the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs is also here. Please go through the record of the last Lok Sabha. Five years have passed. Do not wait any more. I agree with Mr. Tombi Singh that 'waiting' means inviting more confrontation and agitation. It is high time that we accommodate some more languages and in the process included the Nepali language also.

I offer my thanks to the hon. Members who have taken part in this discussion, and I appeal to all the hon. Members of this House, I appeal to the whole House, to accept my Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Daga, are you withdrawing your amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes, Sir, I want to withdraw it.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Satyagopal Misra, are you pressing ?

SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA : Yes, Sir. I want that this Bill should be passed. I appeal to all the hon. Members to vote for it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Before

I put the consideration Motion to the vote of the House, this being a Constitution Amendment Bill, voting has to be by division. Let the lobbies be cleared.

Now the hobbies have been cleared.
The Question is :

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into Consitution.”

The Lok Sabha divided.

A Y E S

1. Banatwala, Shri G. M.
2. Bhoopathy, Shri G.
3. Chubey, Shri Narayan
4. Chowdhury, Shri Saifuddin
5. Dandavate, Prof. Madhu
6. Ghosh Goswami, Shrimati Bibha
7. Iyer, Shri V. S. Krishna
8. Kabuli, Shri Abdul Rashid
9. Misra, Shri Satyagopal
10. Penchalliah, Shri P.
11. Rao, Shri Srihari
12. Riyan, Shri Baju Ban
13. Roypradhan, Shri Amar
14. Saha, Shri Ajit Kumar
15. Tiraky, Shri Piyus

N O E S

Abdul Ghafoor, Shri
Azad, Shri Ghulam Nabi
Baghel, Shri Pratapsingh

Bairagi, Shri Balkavi
 Banerjee, Kumari Mamta
 Bassavaraju, Shri G. S.
 Bhagat, Shri H. K. L.
 Bharat Singh, Shri
 Bhardwaj, Shri Parasram
 Birinder Singh, Shri
 Charles, Shri A.
 Daga, Shri Mool Chand
 Digvijay Sinh, Shri
 Fernandes, Oscar
 Gadgil, Shri V. N.
 Gomango, Shri Giridhar
 Gupta, Shrimati Prabhawati
 Jain, Shri Dalchander
 Jain, Shri Viridhi Chander
 Janarthanan, Shri Kadambur
 Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub
 Khirhar, Shri R. S.
 Kujur, Shri Maurice
 Kuppuswamy, Shri C. K.
 Mahabir Prasad, Shri
 Mahajan, Shri Y. S.
 Mallick, Shri Lakshman
 Misra, Dr. Prabhat Kumar
 Mohanty, Shri Brajamohan
 Murthy, Shri M. V. Chandrashekara
 Nawal Prabhakar, Shrimati Sundar-
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 Neckhara, Shri Rameshwar
 Nehru, Shri Arun Kumar
 Nirmala Kumari, Prof.
 Pandey, Shri Manoj
 Panigrahi, Shri Chintamani
 Panika, Shri Ram Pyare

Parashar, Prof. Narain Chand
 Paswan, Shri Ram Bhagat
 Pilot, Shri Rajesh
 Pushpa Devi, Kumari
 Qureshi, Shri Aziz
 Ram, Shri Ramswaroop
 Ranga, Prof. N. G.
 Ranganath, Shri K. H.
 Rao, Shri K. S.
 Rath, Shri Somnath
 Sen, Shri A. K.
 Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad
 Shankaranand, Shri B.
 Shastri, Shri Hari Krishna
 Siddiq, Shri Hafiz Mohd.
 Sidnal, Shri S. B.
 Singh, Shri Lal Vijay Pratap
 Sinha, Shrimati Ram Dulari
 Sultanpuri, Shri K. D.
 Tewary, Prof. K. K.
 Tigga, Shri Simon
 Tombi Singh, Shri N.
 Vyas, Shri Girdhari Lal
 Yadav, Shri Shyam Lal
 Yadava, Shri D. P.
 Yogeshwar Prasad, Shri.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Subject to correction*, the result of the Division is :

Ayes 15

Noes 63

The motion is not carried by the required majority.

* AYES : The following Members also recorded their votes. S/Shri S.M. Bhatam, Manik Reddy, A.J.V.B. Maheshwara Rao, Dr. Chinta Mohan, C. Sambu, Dr. G. Vija y Rama Rao :

NOES : S/Shri H.B. Patil, Radhakanta Digal, K.R. Jangde, Jujhar Singh, Tilakdhari Singh, Kalicharan Ram Ratan, M.R. Janardhana.

The motion is not carried in accordance with Rule 157 of the Rules of Procedure and in accordance with the provisions of Article 368 of the Constitution of India. The motion is negatived.

The motion was negatived.

16 40 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL

(Omission of Article 44)

by

Shri G. M. Banatwalla

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India by Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

Now, before we take up the Bill for consideration, we have to fix the time for the Bill.

Shall we fix 2 hours ? Is it all right ?

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : There is no need to fix any time limit.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We have to fix a time-limit. Shall we fix 2 hours ?

HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, 2 hours have been fixed for the Bill. Now, Shri G.M. Banatwalla.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani):

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into Consideration”.

The Bill seeks to delete Article 44 of the Constitution of India.

Article 44 is as under :

“The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.”

The aim of the Article is eventually to do away with all the personal laws of the various communities.

The final objective is that, instead of citizens being governed by their separate systems of personal law in regard to marriage, divorce, succession, inheritance and such other matters, they should be governed by one system of law.

Now, Sir, this uniform system of law, it is said, should apply even with respect to matters in which the citizens are subject to different systems of personal law. My amending Bill, as I have said, seeks to delete this Article.— Article 44—of the Constitution of India.

I need hardly point out that Christians and Parsis have their separate codified Marriage and Divorce laws. Further, the laws of the Christians are supplemented in South India by a lot of local legislation also. The Jewish Law of Marriage also remains uncodified. Then, the Muslims in India are today governed in these matters by their personal law, or, in other words, by the *Shariat*.

Before I proceed further, let me point out the exact nature of the Muslim personal law. I submit that the Muslim personal law is an inalienable part of the Islamic injunctions. A Muslim must adhere to it steadfastly lest he should cease to be a Muslim.

Therefore, Sir, you will find that there cannot be an abrogation of the Muslim personal law in their application to the Muslims and their replacement by any uniform civil code as may be envisaged by Article 44 of the Constitution of India.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me briefly point out now to this august House some of the basic features of the Muslim personal law. The *Koran* and the *Sunnat* contain specific laws relating to Marriage, *Meher*, Divorce, *Khula*, *Iddat*, Inheritance, will, Wakf and so on. It is not merely that it contains all these specific rules. These laws are related to basic values and the ideals of the religion. They are not merely optional. They have laid down boundaries which cannot be crossed. I may here be permitted to draw the attention of the House to these boundaries. After laying down the law relating to marriages, the Quran says—

“This is the law from Allah and you are bound to obey it (3:240)”—

I may give another quotation—

“It is a decree of Allah for you (IV:24).”

I may point out another provision—

“That is the judgement of Allah. He judgeth between you.” (LX : 10).

Similarly, after laying down the law relating to divorce and *Khule*, the Quran says—

“These are the limits ordained by Allah, Do not go and beyond them, and if anyone exceeds these limits, he is the transgressor.” (2:229).

Further, after laying down the law of succession, Quran says—

This is the law ordained by Allah.” (4:11).

Sir, you will therefore find that the Muslim Personal Law has Islamic injunctions which have religious obligations as far as Muslims are concerned. Their contravention amounts to transgression and sin. I may again quote from the Quran and when I say I quote, I give the English version for the convenience of the House.

“And who so disobeyeth Allah and His messenger and transgresseth His limits, He will make him enter fire, where such will dwell for ever, this will be a shameful doom.” (IV :14).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, what I am pointing out is that the Muslim Personal Law is a part of immutable Shariat. Even the prophet—Peace be upon him—did not have the right to make any changes in the injunctions of Quran. For, these were not his creation. They were only revealed to him by God. He was a messenger of exalted status to convey and communicate these revelations to the people. The Muslim Personal Law is the religious obligation of every Muslim. The observance of the Shariat is a necessary condition of one being a Muslim. A Muslim will be prepared to lay down his life rather than surrender any part of Shariat. Even a part cannot be surrendered. Observance in toto is the condition. Moreover, I must emphasise that it is the faith of Muslims that the welfare of Muslims lies not in surrendering any part but in strictly adhering to the whole of the religion. I have, therefore, to invite the attention of this House to consider calmly the grave situation that emerges because of the continuation of Article 44 in the Constitution of India which presupposes annulment of the personal laws of various communities.

This concept of uniform civil code was never there at any time during our struggle for independence. The concept suddenly came up when the Constituent Assembly was busy preparing a Constitution for us. There was a suggestion by

Shri M.R. Masani at the meeting of the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee on 28th March, 1947 to include among Fundamental Rights a provision for a common civil code applicable to all citizens. This was the first time that the concept of a common civil code was advanced. The suggestion was struck down by a majority of 5:4. The subject was, however, later pressed, though it was rejected, as I said, in the meeting of the Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee on 28th March, 1947. The suggestion was pressed on 30th March, 1947. The Fundamental Rights Sub-Committee then decided by a slender majority to include a clause for uniform civil code in the Directive Principles of Social Policy. Accordingly, we have this Article 44 among the Directive Principles.

Even when the Constituent Assembly was discussing this provision, four amendments were moved to this Article. They were moved by Mohd. Ismail Sahib, Nazir-ud-din Ahmed Mehboob Ali Beg Sahib and B Pocker Sahib. As I submitted, during the independence movement, neither the Indian National Congress, nor the All Party Conference or the Sapru Committee had suggested the need for having a uniform civil code.

17:53 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the chair*]

The concept was not there at all. Not only that but the 47th session of the Congress in 1933 adopted a resolution to protect culture, language and script of the minorities and it is the way of life envisaged by a religion, that forms the culture of that religious group.

The 47th session of the Indian National Congress held in Calcutta on the 1st April, 1933 adopted a resolution

under the heading 'Fundamental Rights, Duties and Economic Programme'. There were 17 articles in this resolution and I will not take much time of the House at least on this point. These articles were divided under four heads. The resolution said :

"The Congress is of the opinion that to enable the masses to appreciate what 'Swaraj' as conceived by the Congress, will mean to them, it is desirable to state the position of the Congress in a manner easily understood by them.

This resolution further goes on to say :

"The Congress, therefore, declares that any Constitution which may be agreed to on its behalf should provide, or enable the Swaraj Government to provide for the following..."

And then, under the heading Fundamental Rights and Duties :

"1 (iii) : The culture, language and script of the minorities and of the linguistic areas shall be protected".

Therefore, I was submitting that Article 44 or the concept of a uniform civil code is a total reversal of the pre-independence thinking as also our cherished policy of unity in diversity. We never insisted on uniformity. Our policy has always been that of unity in diversity. This insistence on common civil code, I submit, signifies an inroads into religious freedom guaranteed by articles 25 and 26 of the Constitution and a total eradication of minority culture protected by article 29. Thus Sir, the continuation of article 44 in our Constitution, even as a directive principle, not enforceable by law, tends to discredit constitutionalism itself.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the underlying idea behind this concept of uniform

civil code as was pointed out at the time of discussion during the Constituent Assembly was delinking of religion from the way of life. This was the terminology used in the Constituent Assembly also. With respect to this idea of religion from the way of life, I must respectfully draw the attention of this House to some important thinking on the subject.

Sir, Prof. W. Paton in his 'Textbook of Jurisprudence' on page 105 says that Gustav Radbruch "considers that legal philosophy should study legal values, but should not attempt to choose between them. The choice is not a matter of science, but of conscience..."

Similarly Sir, while L. L. Fuller contends that Law is in quest of itself, W. Friedman says that it is not possible to determine the absolute ideals of justice without the guidance of religion.

Therefore, this whole assumption behind article 44, the assumption of delinking religion from the way of life is hollow and does not stand any test. W. Friedmann in his treatise "Legal Theory" says at page 414 and I quote—

"A theological basis provides the simplest and perhaps the only genuine foundation for absolute ideals of justice."

How then can there be delinking of religion from the way of life ?

17.00 hrs.

The same W. Friedmann, in this Chapter 30 giving an interesting account of his search for absolute ideals of justice says—I quote from page 416 :

"What emerges from all these varying attempts is the utter failure to establish absolute standards of justice except on a religious basis. But religion is ultimately a matter of

revelation and faith. The principles established by God must be believed in as part of one's religious faith."

It is Dr. W. Windelband who, in his treatise "A History of Philosophy" tries to expound the thoughts of Voltaire—Voltaire, on believer in God or any concept like that; but even he comes to this conclusion. With respect to the thoughts of Voltaire, Dr. Windelband says—and I quote him from the same treatise, at pages 495-496 :

"The deity and immortality are now for him only valid as postulates of the moral feeling; faith in them is regarded as only the condition for moral action...."

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA rose.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : I do not yield at this juncture. Later on, during the discussion on this Bill, we can listen to what he has to say. The above author continues :

"If this belief should perish, the motives for honest conduct, and thus the foundations of social order, would, he thinks, perish with it."

Similarly, I seek the indulgence of this House to quote Prof. Paton from his "Textbook of Jurisprudence" at page 104 :

"What interests should the ideal legal system protect ? This is a question of value, in which legal philosophy plays its part. It is essentially the problem of natural law, though other terminology may be used. But, however much desire the help of philosophy, it is difficult to obtain. No agreed scale of values has ever been reached; indeed, it is only in religion that we can find a basis, and the truths of religion must be accepted by faith or intuition and

not purely as the result of logical argument."

I will give one more quotation from the same W. Paton and then not seek further indulgence of the House with respect to these quotations. At page 109 of the same book he says—I quote :

"The orthodox natural law theory based its absolutes on the revealed truths of religion. If we attempt to secularise jurisprudence, where can we find an agreed basis of values ?"

I need hardly point out that these and such are the thinking of the greater philosophers, of those widely respected in the area of jurisprudence. However, I quite realise that the protagonists of the uniform Civil Code argue, the protagonists demanding delinking of religion from the way of life have an assumption, that affairs such as marriage, divorce, inheritance etc. are purely mundane affairs unrelated to worship and religious life. They say : "What have these matters to do with your worship of God ?" That is a different matter, they say, and all these matters, viz. marriage, divorce, inheritance and so on and so forth, they argue, have nothing to do with man's relation with God. Therefore, they seek to delink these matters from religion and want a common civil code. They say that all these matters belong to the social, cultural and economic spheres and do not form part of religion. I submit that several religions reject worldly life and consider this as driving away man from God. For the quest of God, according to these religions, man is driven to the solitude of caves and jungles—only one direct relationship between man and God. However, such is not the thinking in Islam; in Islam, the way to Allah is right through the affairs of this life on world. It is by a proper conduct through the multifarious activities of worldly life which include all these, marriage, divorce and so on, that one can earn the pleasure of God

and happiness in the life thereafter. Therefore, though protagonists of a uniform civil code may have an argument with respect to some religions, their argument does not stand.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Can he cite other beliefs and other religions ? There are certain people who have certain faiths.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not criticising other religions.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : He has said about it.

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : I hold everybody with utmost respect. But I am only pointing out the features of the Muslim Personal Law.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : How have they injured the Muslim feelings, please let us know ? The Constitution came into effect in the year 1950. How you been affected ?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : He has no patience; he only shows his obstinacy and nothing further.

SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Is there no time limit ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : 40 minutes he has taken and he has quoted all English authors and philosophers.

(Interruptions)

SHRI C.M. BANATWALLA : I pointing out therefore that the Muslim Personal Law is a religious obligation on each and every Muslim. Now, the protagonists of a uniform civil code say that uniformity in way of life leads to national solidarity and unity. I very much respect the concern for this national solidarity and unity. But I must submit that it is unity in diversity, the principle which we cherish rather than uniformity in a plural society like India

that leads to national solidarity and unity. We have so many uniform laws, civil procedure code and so on and so forth. Why then do we still face challenges to national unity and solidarity despite all these uniform Laws? So, what I was pointing out is that India is a plural society and the basis of this plural society lies in our adherence to the principle of unity in diversity. The principles of Muslim Personal Law do not injure anybody else. They need not; they need not take any offence if a Muslim wants to continue with his adherence with the Shariat; the Shariat is immutable, as I said, and the fundamental principles of Shariat are not open for reconsideration.

Sir, it is some times argued that changes have taken place in the personal laws of Muslims in certain other countries, certain Muslim countries. It is sometimes argued. I must here point out that there are at least seven schools of Islamic Law which are currently prevalent in various parts of the world. These are the Hanafi, Shafei, Malki, Hambali, Ithna Ashari, Ismaili and Zaidi. Now, an individual is generally expected to adhere to any one of the schools *in toto* and is not supposed to make his own choice of legal rules from these several principles of jurisprudence.

Saudi Arabia, Libya, Yemen, Bahara-in, Northern Nigeria, Gambia, Somalia, Mauritania, Chad and Afghanistan have not at all introduced any legislation to bring about changes in the locally prevalent schools of traditional laws of Islam.

Of course, in U.A.R., Sudan, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Morocco, Algeria, Iraq, Iran and Pakistan the legislatures have replaced—have replaced—some provisions of one school of law generally followed by their citizens, by the corresponding principles of other schools. You will, therefore, find that the object is to have those principles which are best for local conditions; but which are permissible by Islamic juris-

prudence. They are within the permissible limits. It is totally erroneous, therefore, to believe that Muslim countries have abandoned Islamic law in favour of any Western legal principles except perhaps in one or two countries where there is already a move to go back to the personal law.

The protagonists of the uniform Civil Code also point out or have an argument saying that certain provisions of the Muslim personal law are outdated or are at fault, or the faulty, and so on and so forth. I must here point out that their attack on these provisions of the Shariat laws stems from their being taken away or carried away by the glittering of the hallow principles of Western values.

If you want to talk about women themselves, I must submit that Muslim women themselves have held large conferences in various parts of our country like Bombay, Nagpur, Nanded, Pabhani, Hyderabad, Pune, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Allahabad, Bangalore, Calcutta and Kanpur. These conferences have been attended by thousands and they have voiced their support for the Muslim personal law.

An International Islamic Conference was held in London from April 3 to 12, 1976. A session was devoted to Women and Islam. It was addressed by two Muslim women, both coming from Western background—one English and the other German.

In her paper on "Women in Islam" Fatima Heeren concluded by saying :

"The more perfect a society has become in the eyes of a superficial spectator, the more heart-rending may all its utterly impersonal social achievements appear in the sight of those who know the cherishingly care and warmth of a truly Islamic family life."

There was another woman delegate at this Conference and she has also spoken at length praising the entire laws.

To conclude I may say that India is a plural society. It is a cradle of several cultures. The unity and solidarity of our country lies in achieving unity in diversity. The talk of a uniform civil code with its implications, agitates the minds of the minorities especially the Muslims. The talk of the uniform civil code is an attack on the traditional spirit of tolerance and secular ideals of our society. It is not through uniformity that we can maintain our society. Uniformity leads only to the destruction of the very basis of our plural society. It opens floodgates to needless and avoidable conflict and confrontation. I have, therefore, pointed out the nature of the Muslim Personal Law, the implications of Article 44 and the continuation of Article 44 encouraging certain sections to continue with their campaign giving rise to conflicts, resentment and agitated minds. I have, therefore, come before this House with an amending Bill to delete Article 44 of the constitution of India and I commend the Bill for the approbation of the House.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved :

“That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India be taken into consideration.”

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : I beg to move :

“That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion by 31st July, 1985.”

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN
(Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I

rise to oppose the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Banatwalla.

[*English*]

Article 44 says :

“The State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a uniform civil code throughout the territory of India.”

[*Translation*]

It is clear from the provision made in the Constitution that we shall endeavour to secure a uniform civil code throughout the country. During the British rule also, such legislations were enacted as were against the *Shariat*. The Transfer of Property Act and the contract Act were enacted. As regards criminal law the Criminal Procedure Code and the I.P.C. were passed. They extend to the whole of India. Similarly, the Negotiable Instruments Act is in force. The Koran contains certain specific tenets, rules and laws which are violated by the aforesaid laws. All have supported it and none has opposed it. It is our endeavour to have a uniform civil code in the country which could preserve the unity of the country so that we could be successful in our secular policy. A special emphasis has been laid on the secular policy in our Constitution. Therefore, we thought it fit to endeavour to secure a uniform civil code.

If we look at the Hindu Law, it has also separate schools of succession, for example Mayukha school of succession, and Mitakshara school of succession in Bengal also, there is a separate Dayabhaga school. Similarly, separate schools of succession exist for the followers of Shia and Sunni sects, and there also, there is no uniformity among them. There are certain communities among the followers of Shia and Sunni sects also which do

not accept them. Therefore, we should also keep this Viewpoint before us and not overlook it. Besides, it is the Succession Act of the Hindu Law which is being followed in the North West Frontier Province. What I mean to say is that there is at present a controversy over this subject in our country and on the laws which I referred to namely the inheritance law and the Marriage Law which are the major laws, the Marriage law includes the divorce law as well. Under the inheritance law, we want to enact such legislation as could give equal rights to men and women. Even in *Shariat* and Koran, women do not have rights and status equal to those men and even in Hindu Law, women have not been kept at par with men. But, in the modern age, we want to give them equal rights and place them on an equal pedestal. This is why we have made amendments in the law, we have amended the inheritance law and even in the case of property, we want to give women rights equal to those of men, we have made extensive changes in the age-old laws and it is our constant endeavour to change them in accordance with the times. Therefore, this is my request to you that the way we are changing the laws and the Hindus are accepting them, the Muslims also should not adopt a rigid attitude, but should instead view it from the angle of how justice can be done to women with the changing times and circumstances and how we can march forward unitedly on the path towards development, how we can surge ahead in the race for development.

A Provision in this regard exist under Article 35 of the Constitution and amendments thereto have also been moved from time to time. For instance, Shri Nazeeruddin Ahmad, Shri Mohammad Ismail Shri Mehboob Ali Baig, Shri D. Pokar and Shri Hussain Imam had moved amendments. In all these amendments, emphasis was laid on the fact that no such provision should be kept in the Constitution. But in the Constitution Amendment Bill proposed

by you, you do not want any change to be made in our old laws, but instead, want to continue the old law in its original form, which came into being thousands of years ago. We find that changes continue to take place in society and our laws also change in accordance with such changes. Today, in our country we do not want to live society which is not responsive to changes, because we know that we cannot progress without making changes. If the same old laws continue, how can we march ahead? Without change how can our country cannot progress? Therefore, I vehemently oppose this Bill. Our Government should endeavour to create such a situation with the cooperation of the leaders of the Muslims, the Christians and the Hindus, in which such changes are made in the laws as aim at achieving progress and marching towards development.

With these words, I oppose the Constitution Amendment Bill moved by Shri Banatwalla.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali)
Mr. Chairman, Sir, our Constitution came into force on 26th January 1950. It has been in seen in reports that the progressive people want to raise their standard of living by taking advantage of the developments made in the fields of science and technology. The policy of the Government is very clear in this regard.

I do not know what the need was for Shri Banatwalla to have brought forward such a legislation. He has not mentioned in his speech the reasons for which he has brought forward such a law.

Since 1950 the Government of India have been emphasizing time and again that they believe in unity in diversity. The temple, the mosque and the church, all of them would continue to exist. We welcome all of them. But if any Muslim in India wants to make any plea,

Government have already made their policy clear in this regard. The first question was put before the Law Minister here and the reply given by him on behalf of the Government in 1983 was as follows :

[English]

In answer to a question in 1983 it was stated :

“The enactment of a uniform civil code will require changes in personal laws of the minority community. The policy of the Government has not been to effect any changes in personal laws of the minority community, unless the initiative thereof comes from the community itself.”

[Translation]

Thereafter the then Law Minister Shir Jagannath Kaushal answered a question here.

[English]

On the 15th March 1982, Shri Jagannath Kaushal, the then Law Minister, answered a question put by Shri Shivchandra Jha. I am reading both the question and the answer :

“...Whether the Government propose to bring legislation for a common civil law for the whole of this country and, if so what are the details in this behalf ?”

The Minister says :

“No, Sir, does not arise. Legislation for a common civil law for the whole of the country would involve changes in the personal law relating to the minority community. The policy of the Government is not

to effect any changes in the personal laws of the minority communities, unless the initiative thereof comes from those communities.”

[Translation]

This version was received after asking questions four times in this House. Some people have gone to the Supreme Court recently. The Supreme Court has observed that there are certain basic features in the case of marriage in which it does not want to interfere.

The hon. Member has said that it is a law from Allah and anybody disobeying it would be a sinner. I have not been able to understand the language of vice and virtue. He wants to tell me the difference between vice and virtue that God had given decrees to the Prophet and whatever decrees were given by him continue to be the law today. We believe today that the intelligence and the wisdom of a person always continue to develop. Should we accept the idea of human sacrifice before goddesses ? Should this belief continue to be recognised even today ? You have said that a man may have four wives. This issue was raised in the Supreme Court recently. A question has been asked what the law is in this regard. I do not have the newspaper cutting with me at the moment, otherwise I would have shown it to you.

Under your law, if a person says ‘Talaq, Talaq, Talaq, three times, divorce is considered to have been given. Do you consider it to be good ? We do not say that you want this law now or that there should not be any change. There is a different law in Russia in this regard. In China also, where there is some Muslim population, there is a separate law. All are bound by their laws. He says that *shariat* or the Koran permits them to do so. But we have kept our minds open.

Today we see that they grow a beard. It is your belief that the beard should always be grown as it is a blessing of God. Such are their beliefs. In this connection, I would like to say how such practices have come into vogue. We made the law regarding divorce more stringent and the law relating to dowry was amended. We say that we should have laws for making progress. We respect the provisions of the laws.

No body knows the circumstances under which certain decrees were made. We, the Hindus take bath before worshipping God, but in his community, we have seen that they do not wash their hands and feet. It seems, at that time there must have been shortage of water, that was why this became a law or a practice. What is law? It is man's wisdom which takes the shape of law. Tulsidas has said :

*"Dhol, Ganwar, Shudra, Pashu, Nari,
Yeh Sab Tadan Ke Adhikari."*

One does not know the circumstances under which he had said this. I fail to understand how a scholar like Banatwalla has made such comments.

I do not have the "Opinion" with me, otherwise I would have shown that Muslims have themselves demanded that their law should be amended.

There was a time when their countries were inhabited by different tribes and the leader of the tribe used to have hundreds of wives in his *harem*. Nobody knew their exact number. Mohammed Saheb did not like this situation that the leader of the tribe should have so many wives. So, he ordained that nobody should have more than four wives. He considered the situation prevalent at that time when every girl was forcibly taken to the *harem*. That was why he limited the number of wives to four. It is said about Lord Krishna that he used to dance with one thousand

women. Should we follow him in this regard? Should we also follow these conventions? When I was young, I used to believe that the earth was stationary and it was the Sun and the Moon which revolved. When I grew up, I came to know that it is a scientific fact that the earth is revolving. So, our conceptions go on changing with the passage of time.

How had this question arisen then? Whose feelings are we injuring? The beauty of India is found in these words of a poet that *Saare Jahan Se Achchha Hindustan Hamara* our country is the best among all the countries, where there is maximum tolerance. We want that the maulvi may offer his prayers in the mosque, we consider it good, we respect him. But the hon. Member has said a new thing that this Article should be deleted. I would urge him to rather associate himself with it. There are many conventions in the Muslim community due to which women suffer. The laws about divorce or the *Mehar* are the cause of torment for Muslim women. I had expected him to give certain suggestions for amending those laws. But, instead, he has suggested that this Article itself should be deleted. I am an atheist. I do not believe in the existence of God. I believe in Karma, *i e.* good deeds. I have neither seen God, nor believe in his existence, I attach the greatest importance to hard work. We have the capacity to think as also a sense of discrimination. That is the greatest thing.

You have said a strange thing in this era of science. You know this is not the law, it is not binding, as it is a part of the Directive Principles. It is written here "shall endeavour", it is not at all binding. And for that you have brought this Bill. I think you want publicity by bringing this Bill. I think we take more care of the interests of the Muslims than you. According to me, a Muslim is one who protects the rights of the Hindus as well as his own

religion. Similarly, a Hindu is one who protects the rights of the Muslims. We are equally entitled to protect the rights of the Muslims and we are Hindus because we do that. The followers of one religion should respect the other religions and all should endeavour for a common code for marriages and other things. When the Hindu Code was framed and enforced as a law, our daughters got certain rights which they did not enjoy previously and we gave the right of franchise to women, which was not available even in England. Today, they have the right to vote, But these scholars sometimes express conservative views. I would say that this tactic of soliciting votes should be stopped

Earlier they had demanded that the Nepali language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. They thought that at least the people in Darjeeling would be pleased by this. They have devised this vote catching method....
(Interruptions)

Shri Banatwalla is a very wise Parliamentarian. I was listening to him intently. If I had time I would have quoted from the voice raised by the Muslim brethren and progressive people, so much so that even the High Courts and the Supreme Court have also held that there are certain provisions which are violative of the Constitution. Therefore, I would request them to leave this controversy aside and divert their minds to wards other things. If there is uniformity in all religions, there will be novelty in all of them because religion is an attitude which relates to thinking from within. It should not be related to marriage, divorce and succession. Religion is connected with one, heart and soul. You consider civilisation and culture as one, culture and religion are one. It is one thing to that one saction should not hurt anybody but religion is another thing. I am not interfering in any religion. I am mentioning those things which are a source of solace and provide happiness for the mankind. We

do not want to interfere in your religious matters, but we do want that such things should be done as are conducive to the establishment of a good society. The old order should change. You must also be wishing that men and women should have equal rights. Both should have equal rights to property. The provision of divorce should also not be misused in this manner. Therefore, I would request you to help us in removing such shortcomings in the laws and respectfully withdraw your Bill.

17.43 hours.

[English]

SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN (Jalgao):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am sorry that Mr. Banatwalla has not been able to carry conviction with us. His proposal can be dealt with in two ways. Firstly, as my friend Mr. Daga has said the Government have declared more than once that they do not wish to alter the Muslim Personal laws. We do not undertake any steps to have uniform Personal laws for this country unless the Muslim minority takes the initiative in this matter. That has been our policy for the last 40 years and we have reiterated it in this House a number of time. But still Mr. Banatwalla comes with the proposal to drop article 44, the proposal has absolutely no justification. There is no threat to have uniform personal law. This is a formal way of dealing with his Proposal.

But on its merits, I should say, Mr. Banatwalla has not put forward arguments which can be accepted by the Members of this House. The Muslim personal laws and the Hindu personal laws deal with marriage, succession, inheritance and custody of children. On these matters, conservative tradition has decreed certain rules and regulations. Mr. Banatwalla's contention is that these present practices Muslims regarding derive directly from what has been said by God, to Mohammed Prophet.

I think to say what has been said by the Prophet is immutable, is a fundamentalistic attitude which even the religious people all over the world are not prepared to accept unless they believe in creating friction in the society. wherever this sort of an attitude has prevailed, it has not succeeded in evolving a peaceful, developing and progressive society.

Now, even if we accept his contention how is it then that he himself agrees that there are seven schools of thought? If it is something which is immutable' how can it be multiplied into seven schools of thought? He even says, "If you accept this; you are a Muslim. Otherwise, you are not a Muslim." Even Pakistan our neighbour, Ceylon and Indonesia conferred the Power to regulate bigamous marriages upon institutions, such as, the Arbitration Councils. One must take the permission of the Arbitration Council before one can have a second wife. They have made an alteration they have made a change. Are they not Muslims? They will not agree with him if he says that they are not Muslims.

Then, there are countries like Iran, Iraq Singapore and Syria where the permission of the court is necessary for a bigamous marriage of the husband. This is another variation.

Again, there are countries like Turkey where polygamy is abolished by law. Tunisia also forbids plurality of wives. The Muslims in U. S. S. R. and China are governed by the rule of monogamy.

Now, to say that they are not Muslims and you alone are Muslims, they will not believe in that. They will not agree to that. This sort of religious belief in immutable laws of religion which do not change under any circumstances is not compatible with progressive views of people in modern times.

We are Hindus. But we have changed the Hindu Law beyond recognition. We are prepared to change it any number of times to suit the social and economic conditions of our country so that progress may become easy. The founding fathers of our Constitution, the architects of our Constitution, foresaw unity in diversity of Indian society. We believe in unity in diversity, but not unity in fissiparousness. Diversity is different from fissiparousness. If there is a common civil law, then it will be a homogeneous State, an integrated State, a powerful and a modern State. It will be able to absorb the benefits of science and technology and have an important place in the comity of nations. That is what our ambition is. We want to abolish poverty and we want to use modern methods of science and technology in order to see that our people live a happy life.

What do the people who believe in Muslim law preach? According to the Muslim personal law, they subjugate half of their population, their womenfolk, to a subordinate status. The Muslim women have not got the same status as that of the Muslim men. The Muslim women do not have the same rights so far as divorce is concerned. If a Muslim woman wants divorce, she has to go to a court. We have changed their personal law. The women have a right to go to a court. There is a lot of litigation, with protracted procedure. But if a Muslim man wants a divorce, he has to simply say "Talak" three times. There is no equality. Our people who framed the constitution believed in equality, equality of opportunity, and justice. We believe in equality for both men and women. Women must have the same rights. They are our mothers, sisters and daughters. They should have even more rights than what men have. Therefore, to subjugate women, to keep Muslim women in a subordinate position is to violate the principle of equality, the principle of democracy, enshrined in the Constitution. It is violative of the principle of justice.

It is well recognised all over the world

and a number of Muslim intellectuals are of the view that permission for polygamy under the Quran was an exception. As an exception, it was meant as a remedy for many evils. In this male-dominated society, rules have been interpreted to the disadvantage of women. Otherwise, why not our mothers, sisters and daughters be given equal rights?

I am afraid I cannot agree with Shri G. M. Banatwalla. He has been conservative, obscurantist and fundamentalist in his views. It is not in keeping with modern notions of justice and equality. There is no necessity to bring this resolution in a formal way because nobody in the Government has said that he is going to bring such a proposal for uniform civil law.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhune): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am drawing your attention towards the Muslim Law. In Saudi Arab in there is a mountain range from Mucca to Arafat. There is a cave in these mountains named 'Garcheera'. In this cave, our holy 'Mohammad-ur-Rasul Lillah Salillahu-valeh Vasallam' had worshipped God. When he was about 40 years old, God sent to him a special angel 'Jibrael-Al-Islam'. When 'Jibrael-Al-Islam' first came to him he gave his first Commandment:

"*Ikrabe Isme Rabbikal Lazin Khalkka*", *Salillahu-valeh Vasallam*. This means: "Make a start in the name of your Creator". This is the first *Aayat* which was given by the Almighty to the respected. This relationship continued till the end and thus this "*Vahi*" was ordained. The collection of these "*Vahis*" is called '*Quran Sharif*'.

In this holy 'Quran' it is clearly ordained for all of us that we must consider the county where we live as

our homeland and if we are not loyal to it then we have no right to live in that country. These are the words of the holy 'Quran'. I say it clearly that if any Muslim does not believe in it, he is not a Muslim. I am not saying this by way of a lecture, this is written in *Shariyat*. If I have said anything wrong, tomorrow a *Fatwa* (a religious decree) will be passed against me. Therefore, this is a universal truth and this thing has been said in Toret, Bible, the New Testament as well as in the Ramayana and the Gita.

In this Holy Book, another Commandment has been given and it is not for Muslims only because it is written there "*Alhumdu lillahi Rabbil Almin*". Had it been exclusively for Muslims, the words would have been *Rabbil Musalmin*." Therefore, this commandment is for the entire humanity. The Almighty further says in the '*Quron*' that I will test you in every way, through women children etc. and I will impose upon you such a cruel ruler as will torment you in every way. This is merely to put you to test. The Almighty does not help the community which does not want to change its condition.

Now I refer to our *Shariyat*. In our religion, there is, of course, permission to have more than one wife but the law for that is very strict. A Muslim can marry a second time only when he does not discriminate at all between his first wife and the second wife and, in this world of today, no one will be found having such a quality. Similarly, one can have a third wife or a fourth wife only when one does not discriminate at all. You can very well imagine from it that how difficult it is to have more than one wife. If somebody marries twice to fulfil his lust, he is committing a sin.

Now, I will tell you about divorce. Some of the Members, like Shri Daga, spoke only for the sake of speaking.

They do not know what *Shariyat* is all about. They spoke just to get their names included in the list of speakers, but I am telling you on the basis of my study of *Shariyat* that Shri Banatwalla knows very well and is fully acquainted with the divorce system in Islam. For a Muslim, there cannot be a greater sin than divorce. He can divorce his wife only under very compelling circumstances. I do not want to utter any offending words. If the wife is sinful, she can be divorced. The law is so harsh in the matter of divorce and remarriage. If any Muslim remarries to fulfil his lust, he is not a Muslim. There is permission in Islam to have four wives but it is not his duty and the same applies to divorce also. One can divorce only under compelling circumstances. It does not form part of his duty. It is not a fun to divorce and remarry. It involves religious sentiments.

The first teaching of our religion is to remain loyal to the country and this

feeling of loyalty is the biggest asset. With these words, I conclude.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I share the sphere of this subject, but I oppose the text or substance of the Bill. Please allow me to use English, Bengali, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu because unity in diversity is an Indian feature and we like to establish it.

[Translation]

We sas in Bengali :

*Dive aar nibe milabe mlabe gabena
phire Rai bharter mahmanver sagar teere.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member may continue in the next occasion.

18.1 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday, April 1,
1985/Chaitra 11, 1907 (Saka).*