

LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

Ninth Session
(Tenth Lok Sabha)



सत्यमेव जयते

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Corrigenda to Lok Sabha Debates
(English Version)

....

Friday, April 22, 1994/Vaisakha 2, 1915 (Saka)

<u>Col/line</u>	<u>FoI</u>	<u>Read</u>
91/3 (from below)	SHRI MOHAN RAWLE	SHRI MOHAN RAWALE
209/8(from below)	SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI	SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI
274/13-14(from below)	Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDAYA	Dr. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA
282/3 (from below)	SHRI MOHAN RAWLE	SHRI MOHAN RAWALE
364/9	SHRI MOHAN RAWLE	SHRI MOHAN RAWALE

CONTENTS

[Tenth Series, Vol. XXX, Ninth Session, 1994/1915-1916 (Saka)]

No. 23, Friday, April 22, 1994/Vaisakha 2, 1916 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Oral Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Questions Nos.: 381, 383	1-7,
385, 387, 391 and 392	9-42
Welcome to the Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation	8-9
Written Answers to Questions:	
*Starred Questions Nos.: 382, 384, 386,	
388 to 390 and 393 to 400	42-72
Unstarred Questions Nos.: 4282 to 4391 and	
4393 to 4513	72-391
Papers Laid on the Table	407-430
Assent to Bills	430
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	431
Twenty-Ninth Report— <i>Presented</i>	
Business Advisory Committee	431
Thirty-Ninth Report— <i>Presented</i>	
Estimates Committee	431-432
Thirty-Eighth and Forty-Second Reports— <i>Presented</i>	
Public Accounts Committee	432
Sixty-Seventh and Sixty-Ninth Reports— <i>Presented</i>	
Committee on Government Assurances	433
Twentieth Report— <i>Presented</i>	

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

(ii)

LUMNS

Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House	433
Sixth Report— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Agriculture	433-434
Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Communications	434
Seventh Report and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Defence	434-435
Second Report and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Energy	435-436
(i) Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	435
(ii) Records of Discussions— <i>Laid</i>	436
(iii) Minutes relating to procedural and miscellaneous matters— <i>Laid</i>	436
Standing Committee on Finance	437
Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Reports and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Petroleum and Chemicals	437-438
Fifth, Sixth, Seventh Reports and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Railways	438-439
Sixth Report and Minutes— <i>Presented</i>	
Standing Committee on Home Affairs	439
Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports— <i>Laid</i>	
Standing Committee on Human Resource Development	439-440
Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth Ninth and Tenth Reports— <i>Laid</i>	
Standing Committee on Industry	440-441
(i) Sixth and Seventh Reports— <i>Laid</i>	440
(ii) Eighth Report— <i>Laid</i>	440
(iii) Ninth Report— <i>Laid</i>	440
(iv) Tenth Report— <i>Laid</i>	441

Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests	441-442
Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports— <i>Laid</i>	
Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism	442
Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports— <i>Laid</i>	
Re: Concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round	442-445
Statements by Ministers	445-453
(i) Concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round	
Shri Pranab Mukherjee	445
(ii) Discontinuation of Steel Development Fund Levy	
Shri Santosh Mohan Dev	451
Business of the House	453-456
Election to Committee	456-457
Court of Aligarh Muslim University	
Joint Committee on Offices of Profit	457-458
Motion to elect two Members of Rajya Sabha to the said Committee	
Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) 1990-1991— <i>Presented</i>	458-459
Manipur Panchayati Raj Bill	459-469
Motion to introduce	
Shri Rameshwar Thakur	460
Motion to consider	
Shri Rameshwar Thakur	462
Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam	462
Shri Nitish Kumar	463
Shri Bhogendra Jha	464
Shri Guman Mal Lodha	465

Clauses 2 to 109 and 1	
Motion to Pass	
Shri Rameshwar Thakur	468
Announcement re: Postponement of the sitting of the House upto Fifteen of the Clock for want of Quorum	469
Message from Rajya Sabha	470
Punjab Gram Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishad (Chandigarh Repeal) Bill	471
As passed by Rajya Sabha— <i>Laid</i>	
Punjab Gram Panchayat, Samities and Zila Parishad (Chandigarh Repeal) Bill	471—474
As passed by Rajya Sabha	
Motion to consider	
Shri P.M. Sayeed	471
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	
Motion to pass	
Shri P.M. Sayeed	474
Railways (Amendment) Bill	474—482
As passed by Rajya Sabha	
Motion to Consider	
Shri Mallikarjun	474
Shri Basudeb Acharia	476
Clauses 2 to 13 and 1	
Motion to pass	
Shri Mallikarjun	482
Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions	482
Twenty-Ninth Report— <i>Adopted</i>	
Bills Introduced	483—488
Lotteries (Prohibition) Bill	483
By Shri Sharvan Kumar Patel	483
Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 2, etc.)	483
By Shri Ramesh Chennithala	483

	COLUMNS
Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Tenth Schedule)	484
By Shri Ramesh Chennithala	484
Representation of the People (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Section 20)	485
By Shri Ramesh Chennithala	485
Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new Schedule for the Schedule)	485
By Shrimati Dil Kumari Bhandari	485
Railway Protection Force (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new Long Title for Long Title, etc.)	486
By Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam	486
Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Insertion of new Article 243Z DD)	487
By Shri Jeewan Sharma	487
Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of Article 244, etc.)	487-488
Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam	487
Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill	488
By Prof. P. J. Kurien	488
Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Authority Bill	489-560
By Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat	
Motion to consider— <i>Negatived</i>	
Shri N.K. Baliyan	489
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	492
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	496
Shri Manjay Lal	498
Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam	500
Shri Ramesh Chennithala	501
Prof. Prem Dhumal	507
Shri Bhogendra Jha	513
Shri P.C. Chacko	521

	COLUMNS
Dr. P.R. Gangwar	527
Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya	530
Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan	538
Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat	540
Shri Oscar Fernandes	543
Shri Surya Narayan Yadav	546
Shri Balram Jakhar	551
Fixation of Limit on Borrowings Bill	561-562
By Shri George Fernandes	
Motion to consider	
Shri George Fernandes	561

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday April 22, 1994/
Vaisakha 2, 1916 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Coastal Tourism

*381. SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan for development of coastal tourism;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from State Governments for providing financial assistance to promote carriage of tourists along the coast in ships, particularly between Goa and Bombay;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the assistance provided therefor during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND

TOURISM (DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM) (SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR): (a) to (e). Certain coastal areas have been identified for development as Special Tourism Areas. These are the coastal areas of Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra, Bekal Beech in Kerala, Muttukadu-Mamallapuram in Tamil Nadu, Puri-Konark in Orissa and Diu in Union Territory of Daman & Diu. The concerned Governments of States and Union Territories have been asked to prepare master plans for development of tourism in these areas.

No proposal has been received from the State Governments to provide financial assistance to them to promote carriage of tourists along the coast between Goa and Bombay.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you know that the coastal areas to this country offer tremendous potential for development of tourism and consequently employment in those areas. Traditionally, the thrust of tourism has been on traditional areas. I must congratulate the Ministry for having taken the initiative of developing some areas in the coastal region and especially in Sindhudurg district which is a part of my constituency.

Secondly, here, the Minister has stated that the Master Plan is being prepared by the State Government. But after having declared these areas for tourism, there is no action on ground. So what is required is the development of infrastructure. What action is being taken to develop the plans quickly and the infrastructure in these areas?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, in Sindhudurg area, a coastal stretch of 84 kms. in length and 1 km. in breadth between Sindhudurg Fort and Vijaydurg Fort had been identified. M/s. Tata Consultancy Services have been appointed for preparation of concept plans. It is true that the plan was conceived two years ago but you will appreciate that developing such a large area and keeping in mind the environment and other things does take time and we want to do everything properly. We want to have a Master Plan not just for five years but for 10-15 years so that everything that is developed comes up properly.

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT: Sir, my second question relates to development of coastal tourism. As the name suggests, ITDC has been the premier institution in this country which has developed tourism infrastructure. But lately there has been a total stagnation. The debt equity ratio is 2:1 which itself is an indicator that there has been no expansion whereas no organisation can sustain itself in the process of stagnation. It has to expand. So, what ITDC is doing towards the development of infrastructure in the coastal regions and especially in Sindhudurg district.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, the role of ITDC is to promote tourism particularly in areas where the private sector did not find in economically viable to go. We have a large number of hotels and a few in the coastal areas also. We would like to encourage the private sector. They come under the State Government and if they feel that the ITDC need to come up and build hotels there, we will definitely look into that.

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I am very much grateful to

you for allowing me to ask the Supplementary question. It has been stated by the Tourism Department that Puri-Konark has been identified as a special tourism area. I would like to know whether before this financial year, any special provision has been made for the development of these areas. If not, why? And if the Government is thinking of providing some sort of developmental activities in these areas for the development of tourism in the coastal belt, then what steps have been taken so far by the Government?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, regarding the Puri-Konark area the State was asked to identify the areas which could be developed. They did identify an area and subsequently a road has been constructed along the beach and trees along the road have been planted.

Now there has been a hitch between the Ministry of Environment and the State Tourism Department because the Ministry of Environment does not want them to cut any trees. So the officials of the Ministry of Environment have visited the areas and they are discussing and trying to find a way by which least number of trees can be cut and the area can be developed. Once we have all these things sorted out, then we have to prepare a Master Plan and then only the question of money or anything else arises.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: An aspect of development of tourism along coastal area is due environmental concern. I would like to ask the hon. Minister that in the light of recent reports as for example, from Orissa or from Maharashtra where in the guise or name of development of tourism or tourist facilities on coastal areas a great deal of environmental consideration is being

given go bye, whether the Ministry of Tourism has taken into account the vital environmental consideration in the development of tourism in Bhubaneswar or the vital consideration of environment, forest and animal life in the development of hotel sites in coastal Maharashtra. How are you reconciling this with the State Government?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: The Ministry of Environment has issued regulations by which any plan which has to be passed for any hotel or any tourism facility has to be passed by the Ministry of Environment. They are taking a very strict view and we find sometimes the other way round. We want to do something but the Ministry of Environment puts the proposal down. It is very very strict. There is no question of allowing anything to happen which would degrade the forest or the marine life or the coastal area.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, Kerala is one of the most beautiful States of this country. There is a great potential for the development of tourism in that State. We say that Kerala is called the Kashmir of the South. I am glad that Bakel has been identified but there is another specific proposal to link the Kovalam Beach Resort with Veti through inland waterway. The hon. Minister was there last month and he personally saw it. It is about 20 kms. If that is allowed then the moment a tourist lands at the international airport, he can get into the boat and go to Kovalam, the famous international beach resort.

May I know from the hon. Minister, as a very special case, in view of the much needed foreign exchange because foreign tourists are coming there...

MR. SPEAKER: Now please come to the question.

SHRI A. CHARLES: May I know from the hon. Minister whether specific proposals will be looked into and given due consideration?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Yes, we will look into this.

[Translation]

SHRI HARI SINGH CHAVDA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what amount has been spent for the development of coastal areas in Gujarat or has the State Government made any demand or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: We have quite a few projects in the coastal areas starting from 1985/1986. We have given money for cottages in Ahmedpur, Mandavi, Dwarka, Somnath, Nargole Bulsar district, Dakor, Tithal, Madhopur and Porbander and for floodlighting Som Nath Temple etc.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Just now the hon. Minister has replied that they have already visited the area. But they have always visited the coastal areas only but not the hilly areas. Why are they not looking into those areas also?

MR. SPEAKER: That is because this question relates to the coastal areas.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: What is the problem? The Government is having a Master Plan

which has already begun. It has already become old and we are sitting in the present. Why does the Minister not visit the hilly areas?

MR. SPEAKER: They will visit them now.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: It is not true to say that we have not gone to the hilly areas. I have visited Darjeeling and Shillong. I have been to Sikkim also.

SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: I am talking about the hilly areas of Orissa.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the Puri-Konark beach which is one of the most beautiful beaches of the world. It has been identified for special tourism by the Government of India and particularly the hon. Minister of Tourism went to Puri and announced that the Puri-Konark beach will be developed for special tourism. An announcement was made in a public meeting.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the environmental aspects for which not only the people of Puri and Konark but the entire people of Orissa have been agitating in various forums. It is understood that the Government is totally giving areas measuring 500 hectares or 300 hectares to private hoteliers. Is it also true that this Ministry is pressurising the Ministry of Environment to clear this entire project?

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: There is no question of our pressurising the Ministry of Environment about this project.

11.12 hrs.

WELCOME TO THE VIETNAMESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, before we take up the next question, I want to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Mr. Nong Duc Manh, Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and Members of the Vietnamese Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

Other Hon'ble Members of the Delegation are:—

1. Mr. Ha Manh Tri, MP
2. Mr. Tran Van Phac, MP
3. Mr. Tran Van Nhan, MP
4. Mr. Vi Xuan Thanh, MP
5. Ms. Nguyen Thi Tuyet, MP
6. Ms. H'Ngia, MP
7. Ven. Duong Nhon, MP
8. Mr. Nguyen Van Nhan, MP

The Delegation arrived in Delhi on Wednesday, 20 April, 1994 evening. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President of the State Council, the

National Assembly, Government and the friendly people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

11.14 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO
QUESTIONS – *Contd.*

[*Translation*]

NRI Investment

+

*383. SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:
KUMARI MAMATA
BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received a large number of proposals from Non-Resident Indians for investment in India;

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

(c) whether the Government have approved all the proposals received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the total capital approved so far by the Government for NRI Investment in various States, State-wise?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE SHRI (M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)
Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). After the announcement of the New Industrial Policy in July 1991, 1857 proposals involving NRI Investment of about Rs. 5275.95 crores, have been approved till January, 1994, for setting up Industries by NRIs.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hobble Minister the statewise details of the proposals received by the Government from the NRIs in respect of making investments in the Industries and those sanctioned by the Government.

[*English*]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, in view of the liberalisation policies, we have allowed NRI investment under 40 per cent and 100 per cent schemes. One hundred per cent scheme is on repatriation basis. It would be invested in the new or the existing companies engaged in hospitals, hotels, shipping, computer software and oil exploration service. Also the NRIs are permitted to undertake revival of the sick industry by making bulk investment up to 100 per cent equity capital. We are allowing their capital contribution in any proprietary or partnership concern in India engaged in any industrial trading or commercial activity.

The third category is 40 per cent equity on repatriation basis. Under the scheme, they are allowed to invest in the new issues of new and the existing companies, raising capital through public issue up to 40 per cent of the new capital issue with full repatriation payment provided it is a manufacturing activity. Also, the NRIs can enter into the technical collaboration with the Indian companies

with a maximum payment of technical know-how fee of Rs. 1 crore. The foreign investment up to 51 per cent of paid up capital of the new companies has been permitted by the RBI under the Industrial Policy Statement of July 1991.

As regards the question relating to State-wise break-up figures, this question is mainly related to the Ministry of Industry. I will collect the information and furnish to the hon. Member.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH: I would like to know as to how many of these projects are export oriented and what will be their impact on Indian Export.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, as I have already stated, the NRIs are permitted to make investment under 40 per cent and 100 per cent schemes and their investment rose from 1990. In 1991-92, it was 62.4 million dollars.

As regards the question relating to the investment in export-oriented industry, I do not have that information. I will collect the information from the Ministry of Industry and furnish to the hon. Member.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, have not received a specific reply from the Minister. We had asked for State-wise and project-wise break-up figures. But in the earlier reply which I had received, I had seen that out of 1,857 FDI projects, in West Bengal only four projects had been approved.

I must congratulate the Finance Minister for his excellent performance. At

the same time I want to congratulate my Chief Minister also because in spite of his ill-health, he is going abroad every year to bring NRIs for investment in West Bengal and the result is that only a sum of Rs. 12.66 crore has been approved for investment. Out of 5,275.95 crore, only a sum of Rs. 12.66 crore has been approved in West Bengal. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether my Chief Minister is going abroad for a holiday trip or with the real intention of bringing NRI investments in West Bengal.

I would like to know whether there is any negligence on the part of the Central Government or whether there is any negligence on the part of the State Government due to their infrastructure problems or total failure in the State administration. NRIs are not coming to invest in West Bengal. I would like to request the hon. Minister to see that more NRI investments come into the State of West Bengal.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: It is true that from the State of West Bengal we have received only four proposals during the period between 1991-93 involving a total investment of about Rs. 12.66 crores. The actual implementation of the projects should be monitored by the State Government of West Bengal. Some more efforts from the side of the State Government are required in regard to the amount of investments in the area of NRIs.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, most of the NRIs come from Gulf countries and if you go by per month percentage, you will find that maximum remittances are coming from Gulf countries where most of the

Indians are working as labourers and technicians. Does the Government propose to formulate any such scheme under which NRIs can invest in the field of petrol pump, gas agency, land, housing and real estate in the urban areas for personal use and to make the land easily available to them on the basis of NRI licences issued to them because on their return they do not have any place to live in or any business of their own to invest in.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: The question mainly relates to the Petroleum Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI BUTA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the present liberalisation policy enunciated by our Finance Minister has generated a lot of enthusiasm among the NRIs, it has also infused in them a feeling of trust and the money they have invested in India is also bringing good results. Some representatives of an NRI organisation had met the hon. Minister of Finance and had given him a memorandum seeking dual citizenship, single window concept and a separate commissioner. The demand for a separate commissioner has been accepted. About the remaining two demands I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister. The acceptance of these demands might boost this process. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has made any progress in this regard.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, NRIs have put some demands before the Government and

they want introduction of a focal point to deal with the NRIs matters including policies, incentives and for the appointment of the Chief Commissioner in the case of NRIs. The Government has already taken a step and a post has been created. But the officer is yet to be appointed. As regards the need for single window agency to facilitate the coordination, the Government has already taken steps.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about dual citizenship.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, I am coming to that point. This is one of the points mentioned by the hon. Member. As far as the grant of dual citizenship for the NRIs is concerned, this is a matter concerning the Home Ministry. Even then I have got the information. Most of the NRIs from time to time have been pressing for amendment of Indian Nationals Act to enable them to have the advantage of dual citizenship. But the Ministry of Home Affairs have informed us that the concept of dual citizenship is not consistent with the Constitution of India as well as the Citizenship Act of 1955.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir,, I simply want to know that out of the 187 proposals involving Rs. 5275.95 crore, how many have so far been utilised by the NRIs and how much amount has so far been invested by the NRIs during this period, that is, from 1991 to 1994.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, I do not have the number of proposals readily available. I shall collect the information and furnish to the hon. Member.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG:

Sir, the question is about the NRI investment in various States, State-wise and, I am sure, the Minister will be able to give the information. I would like to ask the Minister, through you, that how much money and how many projects have gone to North-Eastern States.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA

MURTHY: Sir, I have already said that I do not have the break-up of State-wise figures. I shall collect the information from the Ministry of Industry and furnish the same to hon. Member.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, neither Central Government nor State Governments have funds for hydro-electric power generation projects. Through you, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Finance whether some proposals have been received from NRIs for generating hydro-electric power with a view to utilise the vast hydro power generation potential in Himachal Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, at present I have no information regarding the Himachal Pradesh hydro-electric power generation scheme.

Marketing Complexes for Handloom Weavers

*385. SHRI SHAN. ARAM POTDUKHE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up marketing complexes for weavers throughout the country under the Market Development Assistance Scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the schemes and the number and location of the marketing complexes proposed to be set up during 1993-94 and 1994-95; and

(c) the funds earmarked therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). No, Sir. However, the beneficiary organisations have the option to set up/renovate their showrooms by utilising upto 25% of the assistance under the Market Development Assistance Scheme (MDAS) which is meant to assist State Handloom Corporations, Apex societies and Primary societies in their marketing endeavour. An amount of Rs. 50.00 crores has been disbursed during 1993-94 under the MDA scheme as whole.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Mr. Speaker, Sir. MDAS scheme was launched in 1989-90. The Apex and Primary societies of Handloom Corporation are given assistance under this scheme. All these societies are running into losses. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to review this policy to give relief to the consumers.

[*English*]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, it is true that this scheme of Market Development Assistance is in operation since 1989 and under this Scheme, the Government of India has released Rs. 198 crore till

1993-94. It is also true that many of the handloom cooperative societies are not functioning very well.

As far as the question of reviewing the policy is concerned, the policy is constantly reviewed and whenever appropriate action needs to be taken, we always take such action.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE:

Sir, the hon. Minister has replied that an amount of Rs. 15 crore has been disbursed during 1993-94 under the MDA Scheme. I just want to know how much is the share of the State Governments in this. Does, this Rs. 15 crore include the share of State Governments also? I would also like to know whether Rs. 15 crore are sufficient for the cause of the weavers.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, under the MDA scheme the State Corporations and apex societies and primary societies will have to send their proposals. There are norms set up for the assistance to be given to the State Governments. Three options are given to them out of which they have to choose one. Since the question specifically relates to marketing outlets to be developed by the handloom sector, I would like to inform that out of whatever money is provided to them under MDA, they are allowed to spend 25 per cent of that amount for their marketing activities, to set up their marketing outlets and till today, as I have already stated, a total amount of Rs. 189 crore has already been released to the State Governments.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: Sir, this question has been asked for constructing market complexes all over the country under the Marketing Development Assistance. But the answer has not been given by the hon. Minister properly.

Under this Marketing Development Assistance scheme, Rs. 67 crore were allocated during 1993-94 for the expansion of all the marketing centres. At the same time they are granting assistance to all the corporations, apex bodies and primary societies too. The National Handloom Corporation has also constructed so many market complexes in Calcutta, Jaipur, Cochin and other important cities. So, similarly there is one society which is just providing facilities for the marketing of all the handloom products.

MR. SPEAKER: Please ask the question. You are giving the information.

SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI: I am coming to the question. One thousand common facilities centres have been proposed to be set up. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal on the part of the Government, because all these are for internal markets, for providing export promotion zones in important cities like Delhi, Bombay, Madras, Bangalore. It is because one-fourth of the total textile products is produced by handlooms. About 10.2 million labour is also engaged therein. That is why I want to know from the hon. Minister what sort of export promotion zones are going to be set up by the Government.

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, there is no specific proposal to start special export promotion zones.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV: The Minister has admitted that weavers cooperative societies are not functioning properly. They are facing the problem of marketing of their products. Does the Government propose to identify the areas which are pre-dominantly inhabited

by weavers and take initiative to construct such complexes as may help them to sell their products or does the Government propose to reconsider it and take a decision in this regard?

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, the corporations, apex societies and the primary societies are under the administrative control of the State Governments. It is the primary duty of the respective State Governments to see that their societies function properly. Our role is limited to giving them guidelines, formulation of policies and giving financial assistance under the specific scheme. To a certain extent formulas are available. It is true that the present formula is there under which MDA assistance is given to the State Corporations, apex societies and primary societies. There are representations from them to improve the scheme and to review the whole scheme. Government is actively considering the proposals which have recently come for improvement of this particular scheme.

Now as far as the market outlet is concerned, as the hon. Member who has asked the question earlier pointed out, we have got five market complexes which the National Handloom Development Corporation has constructed. We are proposing to have one more at Hyderabad. But that is very limited one. Last year, the Ministry of Textiles and announced an ambitious project for the setting up of 3,000 Handloom Development Centres all over the country at a cost of Rs. 849 crores. It is a very big project. Now as a part of this ambitious project we have made a provision that one of the components that will be earmarked or money can be sent is for establishing a rural market network for the handloom products. Therefore, over

and above the marketing outlets which have already come under the MDA Scheme, there is going to be another 3,000 outlets in the rural areas under a new scheme of handloom development centres and they have been allowed to spend money to the tune of Rs. 2.8 lakh for the purpose of setting up an outlet or expanding a marketing outlet. So, as far as the Central Government is concerned, we are making every effort to give assistance to the State Governments.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is not in connection with handloom but it is about the crises in the N.T.C. mills in Bombay, which are on the verge of closure. If you allow me, I would like to ask question in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER: No, No, I am sorry.

SHRI MOHAN RAWALE: Then I would like to ask question regarding running of mills on cooperative basis. I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister whether the Centre has agreed to handover those mills which are on the verge of closure due to crisis in N.T.C. Bombay to the Maharashtra Government which intends to run on cooperative basis by providing 50 per cent assistance? Will the Union Government also provide assistance in this regard and provide equity capital therefor?

MR. SPEAKER: Please, it is not like that.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the world famous Kota Sarees are manufactured in my constituency. I would like to submit that no

show-room has been set up in Kota exclusively with the financial assistance under MDA Scheme. Will the Government arrange to provide funds under MDA for opening a show-room there to encourage Kota Saree production and effect modernisation by introducing mechanisation.

[English]

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, out of the five marketing complexes under the National Handloom Development Corporation, one is located in Rajasthan and that is in Jaipur. I can give the details about the money released to the State of Rajasthan under Market Development Assistance Scheme.

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to have a marketing complex for Kota sarees?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: No, because it has to be done by the State Government.

SHRI SARAT PATTANAYAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government would consider setting up of a marketing complex for the handloom weavers in the backward districts to Orissa during 1994-95 and if so, the details thereof.

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: Sir, I have already stated that as far as the Government of India is concerned, we have only one more marketing centre to be constructed besides the existing five centres and that will be constructed in Hyderabad. But under the new scheme, we have provided money to have a marketing network in 3000 places all over the country. It is for the State Govern-

ments to choose the locations. I think the hon. Member can approach the State Government in this regard.

[Translation]

Constitution of Fifth Pay Commission

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*387. SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI:
SHRIMATI SHEELA
GAUTAM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted the Fifth Pay Commission for the Government employees;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of reference thereof; and

(c) the time schedule fixed for submission of report by the Commission?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The composition and terms of reference of the Fifth Pay Commission are contained in Department of Expenditure Resolution No. 5(12)-E-III/93 dated 9th April, 1994, copies of which are available in the Library of the Parliament House.

(c) The Pay Commission is required to submit its recommendations as soon as feasible.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether the representatives of the JCM met him on 13 April, 1994? If so, the details of the representation submitted by them?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not familiar with the details of the one particular meeting that the hon. Member has referred. The Joint Consultative Committee has been functioning. On the Government side, the Cabinet Secretary is the Chairman of the Committee. On a number of occasions, the members of the Joint Consultative Committee on the staff side have also called on me for a general discussion. No specific issues were discussed in their meetings with me.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NIHOR RAI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that whether in view of rising prices, the Government is contemplating to merge interim relief dearness allowance with basic pay so as to benefit lower grade employees? If so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Already before the setting up of the Pay Commission, in agreement with the JCM, an interim relief of Rs. 100/- was given to all Government employees. Also a part of the dearness allowance was merged for the purpose of death-cum-retirement gratuity benefit.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Through you, I would like to know from

the hon. Minister whether he has received a memorandum from the constituent organisation of the JCM in which while appreciating the announcement of setting up the Pay Commission, it has given several suggestions with regard to the composition and also the terms of reference as well as certain things about the pensioners.

Has the Minister received this memorandum and if so, what is his reaction to that?

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all these issues were discussed between the two sides. We had promised that before setting up of the Pay Commission, there would be discussions with the JCM. Those discussions were held and we have taken all these things into account while setting up Pay Commission and giving it the terms of reference.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE:

The memorandum is after the meeting where they have sought clarifications, where they have given several suggestions with regard to the terms of reference. I am asking whether those are being taken into consideration.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I have already replied that all these things have been taken into consideration.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Sir, through you, I would like to know the reasons for the delay in constitution of Fifth Pay Commission and whether the Government have issued necessary instructions to the Pay Commission to submit its report at the earliest? In this context, I also want to submit that some

of the recommendation made by the earlier Pay Commissions have not so far been implemented, due to which the retired persons or the pensioners are facing great difficulties. I would like to know whether these recommendations have also been taken care of in the terms of reference of the Fifth Pay Commission?

[*English*]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as of now, our view is that the terms of reference are comprehensive enough to enable the Commission to make appropriate recommendations as soon as possible on all these matters.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, after the talks with the Government, the JCM of the Central Government employees also submitted some representations in which it was also stated that during the period between Third and Fourth Pay Commissions, the prices had increased 110 per cent. Now, from 1984 onwards *i.e.*, the period between Fourth and Fifth Pay Commission, the increase in the prices has been much more than that were prevailing at the time of constitution of last Pay Commission. Further, it is apprehended that by the time the report is to be submitted by the Pay Commission, many of the Central Government Employees will retire and they would be deprived of the benefits of this Pay Commission. I want to know whether the Government is contemplating, in between to declare new pay-scales, as an interim measure by adding dearness allowance, which has reached upto 115 per cent as on date, with the basic pay?

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I think that has already been replied.

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: We are not making any other addition to the interim relief which has already been given before the establishment of the Commission.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: In the past, normally the Pay Commissions were given a fixed tenure. They were requested to submit a report in a particular period of time. Why is it that this has not been done this time? Also, there was a desire expressed—I was once a Member of the West Bengal Government Pay Commission—that there should be standardisation of wages in the different sectors of the economy as between public sector corporations, the Central Government as well as the State Governments. Will such things be looked into by the Pay Commission or will the Finance Minister advise them to do, so? In any case, why are not public sector corporation employees being brought under the terms of reference of the Pay Commission?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Generally, it is seen that despite identical nature of work of the employees working on the same post in different undertakings or Departments of the Central Government, there is big difference in their pay-scales. For example, the pay-scales of the employees working on the same post in banks, L.I.C., IOC, ONGC etc. are quite different. Now, the Fifth Pay Commission has been set-up. I would like to know whether

it has also been kept in view that there shall be no difference in the pay of clerk working in a Post Office and a clerk working in a bank, although they have identical nature of work? I would like to know whether some special instructions have also been given to the Fifth Pay Commission to do away with this disparity so that it would consider them and suggest some measures?

[English]

SHRI MANMOHAN SINGH: I have already mentioned about the terms of reference. These are public documents. Beyond that we do not propose to amend the terms of reference.

German Aid

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*391. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:
SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether, during the visit of the German Chancellor to India last year, the Government had expressed concern over the decline in disbursement of German aid and discussed ways for improving the aid position;

(b) if so, the response of the German Government thereto and the extent to which the aid disbursements improved as a result thereof;

(c) whether the question was further discussed and taken up during the Prime Minister's recent visit to that country in February this year; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does note arise.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The German Minister for Economic Cooperation & Development raised the issue of quicker utilisation of funds to step up the disbursement of German aid when he called on the Prime Minister during his visit to German and indicated that the period between planning and actual utilisation needed to be cut down.

Detailed discussions have been held between German and Indian officials to identify the reasons for delay on both sides and steps are being taken accordingly on that basis.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister the details of the amount received by the Indian Government as grant from the German Government during the last three years.

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: Sir, the German aid for 1993 consists of the following components: (a) financial assistance grants to the tune of DM 140 million; (b) financial assistance to soft loans on IDA terms to the tune of DM 215 million; (c) technical assistance grants to the extent of DM 35 million; The 1994 aid package will be finalised during the Indo-FRG Annual Aid

talks for which currently an Indian delegation led by the Joint Secretary (EEC) is in Bonn.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to know the details of utilisation of the amount given by the German Government; if this amount has not been utilized fully, the reasons therefor; and the arrangements made by the Government for monitoring its utilization?

[English]

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: We are seriously making all efforts to utilise this Aid Programme to the best of our availability. The Government is monitoring regularly on these raids and the implementation of it.

[Translation]

Minimum Wages

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*392. SHRI GUMAN MAL
LODHA:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the minimum wages fixed for the various categories of organised and unorganised labourers in different States/Union Territories of the country;

(b) the date on which these wages were revised last;

(c) whether the Government propose to suggest prescribed norms to the States for the fixation of minimum wages at the national level;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (e). A *Statement* is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

1. The minimum wages are fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 only in respect of the sectors where labour is not well organised and vulnerable for exploitation, having no effective bargaining power. The wages in the organised sector are settled through negotiated settlements. An Annexure indicating the minimum rates of wages for unskilled workers and date of last revision in different States is enclosed.
2. The issue relating to the fixation of a national minimum wage had been discussed in the past by many tripartite committees and conferences. The Indian Labour Conference, in its meeting held in November, 1985 expressed the view that till such time as a national wage is feasible, it would be desirable to have a regional minimum wage in regard to which, the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. Accordingly, the Central Government had issued guidelines in July, 1987 to all the State

Governments and Union Territory Administrations, providing for setting up of Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees. The Regional Minimum Wages Advisory Committees were required to consider the rates of minimum wages for specific employments, taking into account the concept of poverty line, the prevailing wage rates in the particular employment in different states of the region and the neighbouring regions, the capacity to pay, the requirement of skills for the employment and hazards involved, etc.

3. Besides, the Central Government had issued guidelines to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations, from time to time based on the recommendations of Indian Labour Conference, 1957, Labour Ministers' Conference, 1980, Indian Labour Conference, 1985 and the National Commission on Rural Labour, 1991 regarding norms for fixation of minimum wages, provision of Special Allowance linked to Consumer Price Indices and revision of wages.

ANNEXURE

Minimum Rates of Wages for the Unskilled Workers in different States/Union Territories Admn.

Sl. No.	Name of State Govt./U.T. Administration	Minimum rate of wages & date of last revision	Remarks
1	2	3	4
I. STATE			
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Rs. 676.00 to Rs. 750.00 p.m. 12.3.93	Rates vary from employment to employment.
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	Rs. 18.00 to Rs. 21.00 p.d. 4.11.90	Rates vary from employment to employment and areas to areas.
3.	Assam	Rs. 15.30 to Rs. 30.00 p.d. 18.3.91	Rates vary from employment to employment.
4.	Bihar	Rs. 16.50 to Rs. 26.00 p.d. 5.2.92	Rates vary from employment to employment.

1	2	3	4
5.	Goa	Rs. 15.00 to Rs. 20.00 p.d. 16.7.92	Rates vary from employment to employment.
6.	Gujarat	Rs.15.00 to Rs. 17.55 p.d. 31.3.93	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
7.	Haryana	Rs. 1046.50 p.m. 10.11.89	Single rates for all employment.
8.	Himachal Pradesh	Rs. 21.00 p.d. 1.11.90	Single rates for all employment.
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	Rs. 15.00 p.d. 24.3.89	Single rates for all employment.
10.	Karnataka	Rs. 23.44 to Rs. 42.53 p.d. 12.7.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
11.	Kerala	Rs. 19.50 to Rs. 36.40 p.d. 11.3.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
12.	Madhya Pradesh	Rs. 14.00 p.d. to Rs. 18.17 p.d. 4.3.93	Rates vary from employment to employment.
13.	Maharashtra	Rs. 12.00 to Rs. 20.00 p.d. 23.12.88	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
14.	Manipur	Rs. 23.70 p.d. (for plain) Rs. 26.70 p.d. (for Hill areas) 1.6.90.	Double rate for all employment.
15.	Meghalaya	Rs. 35.00 p.d. 16.3.94	Single rates for all employment.
16.	Mizoram	Rs. 28.00 p.d. 6.7.92	Single rates for all employment.

1	2	3	4
17.	Nagaland	Rs. 25.00 p.d. 6.7.92	Single rates for all employment.
18.	Orissa	Rs. 25.00 p.d. 1.7.92	Single rates for all employment.
19.	Punjab	Rs. 39.62 p.d. 1.9.89	Single rates for all employment.
20.	Rajasthan	Rs. 22.00 p.d. 2.7.90	Single rates for all employment.
21.	Sikkim	Nil	Minimum wages Act, 1948 is yet to be extended and enforced.
22.	Tamil Nadu	Rs. 13.20 to Rs. 43.30 p.d. 21.10.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
23.	Tripura	Rs. 11.80 to Rs. 23.65 p.d. 1.1.90	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Rs. 468.00 to Rs. 1038.00 p.m. 27.1.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
25.	West Bengal	Rs. 14.40 to Rs. 45.10 p.d. 24.6.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones)
26.	Andaman & Nicobar	Rs. 27.00 to Rs. 28.00 p.d. 13.8.92	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).
27.	Chandigarh	Rs. 1043.50 p.m. 22.2.90	Single rates for all employment.
28.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	Rs. 15.40 to Rs. 22.30 p.d. 5.10.89	Rates vary from employment to employment (according to zones).

1	2	3	4
29.	Daman & Diu	Rs. 22.00 p.d. 19.3.93	Single rates for all employment.
30.	Delhi	Rs. 53.15 p.d. 15.2.94	Single rates for all employment.
31.	Lakshadweep	Rs. 30.00 p.d. 1.1.93	Single rates for all employment.
32.	Pondicherry	Rs. 8.00 to Rs. 14.00 p.d. 15.12.89.	Rates for agricultural workers.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the reply given to the question regarding minimum wages is incomplete. In the question, information was sought to know the norms through which the Central Government monitors the fixation of minimum wages. But, in reply to that question, only statement has been laid on the table of the House. Today minimum wage of Rs. 8 per day in Pondicherry and Rs. 12 per day in Maharashtra as shown in the table is permissible under the guidelines issued by the Union Government particularly in view of so many agreements signed and the recommendations made by the labour conferences. If not, whether action would be taken to increase the minimum wage? My second question is: whether the provisions for minimum wage for the labourers of agricultural sector have been made in accordance with the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour? The minimum wage of Rs. 8 is not sufficient today even for feeding an animal. How could a person make both ends meet with such meagre wage? And...

MR. SPEAKER: No, please do not ask more than two questions.

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, the Minimum Wages Act does not provide any specific provision regarding the laws. But the Indian Labour Conference of 1957 has finalised the norms. This is a very old one—that of 1957. According to the decision of the Indian Labour Conference, the norms for the purpose of fixing the Minimum Wages are: (a) three consumption units for one earner; (b): minimum food requirements of 2700 calories for an average Indian adult; (c): clothing requirement of 72 yards per annum per family; (d) rent corresponding to the minimum area provided for under the Government's Industrial Housing Scheme and (e): fuel, lighting and other miscellaneous items of expenditure to constitute 20 per cent of the total minimum wage. That is the norm that has been fixed by the Indian Labour Conference as far back as 1957.

This matter has been discussed many times. In the latest judgment of the

hon. Supreme Court in 1991 this question was gone into very thoroughly. And the Supreme Court has said that over and above the norms which are already set by the Indian Labour Conference, the following should be added. The Supreme Court has said, additional component for children's education, medical requirements, recreation including festivals, ceremonies and provision for old-age, marriage etc., should constitute 25 per cent of the total minimum wage. That is the additional norm which has been set by the hon. Supreme Court.

The question of fixing of the minimum wage was gone into by the National Commission on Rural Labour. They have recommended that the minimum wage should be Rs. 20 per day. That is the recommendation of the National Commission on Rural Labour. This was discussed in the Indian Labour Conference as well as in the Labour Minister's Conference held last year. And we accepted the recommendations of the National Commission on Rural Labour and the State Governments have been intimated about it. I am sure, they are taking action on that.

Now the question of revision also comes in. The Minimum Wages Act provides that the minimum wages will be revised after every five years. This point was also debated for many years. Now the latest Labour Ministers' Conference has come to the conclusion when it was discussing the Report of the National Commission on Rural Labour that the five year gap is too much, therefore, the Minimum Wages Act should be amended.

MR. SPEAKER: The simple question is, Rs. 8 and Rs. 12 are not sufficient. Can you do any increase in that?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: It is the respect State Governments who have to give the minimum wages. We set the norms. And when we set the norms, these norms are normally discussed and adopted either in the Indian Labour Conference or in the Labour Ministers' Conference. After that, it is the State Governments who have to implement it.

[Translation]

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to whether, from the date of assumption of office, he has ever thought that the minimum wages of Rs. 8 and Rs. 12 are sufficient? Have you called the meeting of the Labour Ministers and told them that it was not sufficient and should be increased? In what condition do you want them to remain with a meagre wage of Rs. 8? These people are living below poverty line. Can 2700 calories be purchased with Rs. 8?... *(Interruptions)* Have you applied your mind in this regard and monitored the situation? They have been getting Rs. 8 since 1984 and now it is 1994. Have you taken any action in this regard so far?

SHRI P.A. SANGMA: I have said that a meeting of Labour Ministers was convened. This issue also figured in the Labour Ministers' Conference. The National Commission on Rural Labour, which was set-up by the Government, have recommended fixing of minimum wage at Rs. 20 per day. This recommendation has been accepted in the Labour Ministers' Conference.....

(Interruptions)

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA: Are you helpless in this regard?... *(Interrup-*

tions) Can't you get it implemented? There are 5-7 children, in a worker's family. They do not plan their families. If the head of a family gets Rs. 8 per day then it does not even come to Rs. 1 per head. One cannot get even a cup of tea with Re. 1. How would they bring up their 8-10 children? Have you ever thought about it from the humanitarian point of view?

[English]

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: I agree fully with the hon. Member that Rs. 8 per day is not at all adequate, it is not enough. The point I am making is that it is the respective State Governments who have to do it. We have done it from our side by calling the Labour Ministers Conference where it was unanimously decided that it should be Rs. 20. But it is for the State Governments to implement it.

I am not saying that Rs. 8 is enough.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that we are still discussing the issue of minimum wage. Minimum wage means that one should get more than this minimum wage but as the Hon'ble Minister has said about the norms, this minimum wage is quite insufficient according to these norms. Through you, I want to know from the Hon'ble Minister as to what action the Government is taking at its level to get these wages implemented?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: What can be done?

SHRI P. A. SANGMA: Sir, I have enumerated the rates of minimum wages fixed by the State Governments in the annexure. There are 1,175 scheduled employments for which minimum wages are fixed by the respective State Governments. Now, the hon. Member may kindly see the annexure where the details of maximum and minimum wages fixed by the State Governments have been given. I really do not know whether it comes to Rs. 8 per day or not. According to my calculations, it is certainly more than that. The lowest minimum wages about Rs. 13 per day and all these rates are O.K. I do not think, anywhere any State Government has fixed Rs. 8 as the minimum wages per day.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Textile Industry

*382. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H.
TOPIWALA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to modernise textile industry and set up a textile research fund for improving the quality of textile items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which the fund is likely to be set up; and

(d) the steps taken by the Textile Research Associations for improving the quality of textile items including cotton yarn to make it more competitive in international market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) There is no proposal to set up a Textile Research Fund. Modernisation is an on-going process.

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

(d) Textile Research Associations have carried out research work mainly with a view to improving the quality of textile items, right from the fibre to the fabric stage, as also of textile machinery.

[*Translation*]

Non-Official Directors

*384. SHRI ANAND AHIRWAR:
SHRI BARE LAL JATAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of non-official Directors on the Boards of the Reserve Bank of India and other public sector banks;

(b) the number of non-official Directors on the above Boards who even after completing their term of office are still in position;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to make fresh appointments to replace the above Directors;

(e) if so, the time by which they are likely to be appointed; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). The number of part-time non-official directors on the boards of directors of Reserve Bank of India, State Bank of India and the 19 nationalised banks are at present as under:—

(i) Central Board of Reserve Bank of India	—	10
(ii) Central Board of State Bank of India	—	1
(iii) 19 Nationalised Banks	—	85

Of these, the tenure of the 84 part-time non-official directors on the boards of the nationalised banks have expired and they are continuing pending appointment of their successors, in accordance with the provisions of the Nationalised Banks (Management & Miscellaneous Provisions) Schemes, 1970 and 1980. Government have already initiated necessary action for replacing these directors.

[*English*]

Passenger Baggage

*386. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been able to evolve a foolproof system to check the passenger's cabin baggage for bombs or explosives at airports, particularly in Bombay;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to evolve a foolproof system; and

(d) the time by which the Government expect to evolve and introduce the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The cabin baggage is either screened through X-ray machines or subjected to thorough physical checking. Latest explosive detectors and sniffer dogs are also used, whenever required. Bomb Detection and Disposal Squads are located at important airports to attend to bomb threat calls. An effective system, therefore, already exists to check cabin baggage.

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

Export of Granite

*388. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether from the top spot India has been pushed down to the third position in the export of granite following the entry by countries like China, South Korea and Canada into the international market in big way;

(b) whether India has faced a stiff competition from these countries; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of granite?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Reliable trade data on recent trends in world exports of granite is not available. However, India is facing stiff competition from countries like China, South Korea, Canada and Brazil.

(c) General measures taken to boost exports include directions to banks to increase availability of credit to export sectors; reduction in interest rate on rupee-credit, reduction in tariff level on import of machinery and rendering of marketing assistance by Indian Missions. Income on export of processed granite is also eligible for income tax benefits under Sec. 80 HHC.

[*Translation*]

Cultivation of Opium

*389. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether licence holders of opium farming are producing more opium than the prescribed limit;

(b) if so, since when more quantity of opium is being produced in Rajasthan;

(c) whether the smugglers are using this additional opium for producing narcotics;

(d) if so, the number of such cases which came to the notice of the Government during each of the last two years;

(e) whether the Government propose to take some concrete steps to check it; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (f). It is difficult to estimate what exact quantity every farmer produces in his licensed field over and above the minimum qualifying yield fixed. Some farmers have been giving more quantity than the minimum qualifying yield fixed by the Government.

In order to prevent diversion of opium to illicit channels several measures have been taken. They are as follows:—

- (a) Raising of minimum qualifying yield of opium for grant of licences for the year 1993-94 to 40 kgs./hectare in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 38 kgs./hectare in Uttar Pradesh from the earlier 37 kgs. and 35 kgs./hectare respectively.
- (b) Collection and storage of opium in plastic containers only.
- (c) Condition of crop cutting experiments through Agricultural scientists to evaluate the actual production of opium.
- (d) Posting of para-military forces to intensively patrol the poppy growing areas during lancing season to prevent leakage of opium.
- (e) Conduction of aerial survey of the poppy growing areas during the flowering season to locate illicit and excess cultivation.
- (f) Supervision of the measurements of the cultivators' fields by IRS probationers.

- (g) Introduction of Moisture Meters for measuring moisture content of opium which hitherto was only being sensed by touch of hand.

[English]

Bad Debts

*390. SHRI HARISH NARAYAN PRABHU ZANTYE:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether losses incurred by public sector banks on account of bad debts have been increasing;

(b) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years, bank-wise; and

(c) the details of action plan formulated to deal with the backlog of bad debts and speedy settlement of loan recovery cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There was a decline in the losses of public sector banks in 1991-92 as compared to the previous year. However, the quantum of loss registered a substantial increase in 1992-93. The losses incurred by the public sector banks in 1992-93 were due to the high level of their non-performing assets and the application of Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) prudential norms on income recognition and provisioning.

(b) The details of losses incurred by public sector banks during 1990-91,

1991-92 and 1992-93 are given in the attached *Statement*.

(c) RBI have been expressing from time to time their deep concern in regard to the increasing incidence of bad debts. They have taken the following steps to deal with the backlog of bad debts and expedite settlement of loan recovery cases.

- (i) Banks have been advised to set specific targets in their Action Plans to reduce the quantum of bad debts. In this context they have been advised to take, wherever possible, pragmatic action including compromise on reasonable terms instead of prolonging litigation.
- (ii) The position of all public sector banks is monitored by RBI through periodic inspections, discussion of inspection findings, Action Plan discussions, etc.

(iii) Ten debt recovery tribunals are proposed to be established for effecting recovery of debts due to banks.

(iv) RBI have also requested IBA to encourage their member banks to bring an increasing number of loan recovery cases to Lok Adalats/Nyayalayas and settle them through fair compromises.

(v) In the agreements entered by RBI with the Nationalised banks, performance parameters have been prescribed for each bank with reference to 31.3.1994. These performance parameters include, inter-alia, recovery management. Banks have agreed to constitute recovery cells for recovery of dues pertaining to non-performing assets and branch-wise targets have been fixed.

STATEMENT

Losses of Nationalised Banks for the Year 1990-91, 1991-92 & 1992-93

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the Bank	As on 31.3.91	As on 31.3.92	As on 31.3.93*
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Allahabad Bank	—	—	105.89
2.	Andhra Bank	—	—	141.09
3.	Bank of India	—	—	331.11
4.	Bank of Maharashtra	—	—	196.51
5.	Central Bank of India	—	—	383.31

1	2	3	4	5
6.	Dena Bank	—	—	90.46
7.	Indian Overseas Bank	-	—	752.74
8.	New Bank of India	45.00	41.52	75.79
9>	Punjab & Sindh Bank	5.45	—	195.19
10.	Syndicate Bank	—	—	670.08
11.	United Bank of India	—	—	279.36
12.	UCO Bank	42.96	20.99	444.19
13.	Vijaya Bank	—	—	97.88

* Results for 1993 are based on the prudential accounting, income recognition and provisioning norms introduced during the year whereas the 1991 and 1992 results were based on the old norms.

Mine Accidents

*393. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number and the details of mine accidents occurred in the country during each of the last three years till date;

(b) the number of workers killed in such accidents; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check the mine accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). During the last three years till date, number of accidents which occurred in mines and number of persons killed therein are as under.—

	Number of Mine Accidents	Number of persons killed
1991	1316	245
1992	1325	261
1993*	1273	265

* Data of 1993 is provisional.

These accidents were largely caused by factors such as roof falls, fall of rolling objects, Rope haulage, Trackless wheeling, fall of sides, air-blasts, fall from heights etc.

(c) Provisions for safety of persons employed in mines are contained in the Mines Act, 1952, and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. These provisions are kept under constant review and amended from time to time. During 1990, the Coal Mines Regulations, 1957 were comprehensively amended. The Directorate General of Mines

Safety also issues guidelines in the form of circulars to the management for improving safety measures. These provisions are required to be compiled with by the mine managements. The officers of the Directorate General of Mines Safety-inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions, and take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952, in cases of default.

Besides the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives, such as:—

- (a) Conduct of competency tests for creating a competent manpower of Managers, Surveyors, Overman, Foreman etc.
- (b) Scientific and technological support in terms of dust, noise and illumination surveys, study of blast induced vibrations, gas sample analysis, categorisation of coal seam; according to gassiness etc.
- (c) Self regulation by managements.
- (d) Workers' participation in safety management.
- (e) Tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels.
- (f) Training of workpersons.
- (g) Conference on Safety in Mines.
- (h) Observance of Safety weeks and safety campaigns.
- (i) National Safety Awards.
- (j) Survey of accident prone mines.

- (k) Development of Mines Safety Information System.

Value of Rupee

*394. SHRI RAMESH
CHENNITHALA:
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of rupee against the European and Asian currencies;

(b) the reasons for fall in the value of rupee; and

(c) the measures proposed to be taken to strengthen the rupee vis-a-vis other major currencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The monthly average exchange rate of Rupee against important European and Asian currencies for March 1993 and 1994 is given in the attached *Statement*.

It can be seen that the rupee has appreciated against most European and Asian currencies with the exception of the Pound Sterling, the Swiss Franc and the Japanese Yen between March 1993 and March, 1994 (Monthly average rates).

(c) The exchange rate of Rupee is determined by the free play of market forces under the unified exchange rate system introduced in March 1993. As such, the exchange rate of the rupee vis-a-vis major currencies reflects the interaction of the forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange market.

STATEMENT*Exchange Rate of the Rupee*(Monthly Averages)
(Rupees per foreign currency)

Sl. No.	Currencies	March 1993	March 1994	Appreciation (+)/ Depreciation (-) (per cent)
1.	Pound Sterling	45.9520	46.7971	- 1.81
2.	Deutsche Mark	19.1156	18.5319	3.15
3.	Swiss Franc	20.7457	21.9351	- 5.42
4.	French Franc	5.6395	5.4419	3.63
5.	Italian Lira	0.0198	0.0158	5.32
6.	Japanese Yen	0.2695	0.2984	- 9.68
7.	Malaysian Ringgit	12.0825	11.5640	4.48
8.	Indonesian Rupiah	0.0153	0.0146	4.79
9.	Thailand Baht	1.2418	1.2410	0.06
10.	Hongkong Dollar	4.0752	4.0602	0.37
11.	Pakistan	1.1983	1.0338 *	15.9
12.	People's Republic of China	5.5111	3.6041 *	52.9

* For February 1994.

Tea Growers

*395. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR
SHARMA:
DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE
be pleased to state:

(a) whether small tea growers are
facing problems in the country;

(b) whether the Government have
set up a High Power Committee to look
into their problems;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the
time by which it will submit its report; and

(d) the steps being taken by the
Government to improve the financial
condition of the Tea Trading Corporation
of India and ensure timely disbursement
of salary to the workers of tea gardens
under T.T.C.I, particularly in Assam and
other States of North Eastern region?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Dur-
ing 1994, prices of teas at major auction
centres in India including Cochin and
Coonoor have shown a declining trend
due to very low support from export
buyers particularly Russia and CIS coun-
tries. Tea growers apprehend that this
would adversely affect tea industry es-
pecially in South India which has a large

concentration of small growers. There are no other significant problems facing the Small Tea Growers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There have been marginal delays in disbursement of salary to the workers of tea gardens owned by Tea Trading Corporation. Tea Trading Corporation of India Ltd. is responsible for running day-to-day affairs of the tea gardens owned by it. The Corporation has been advised to tone up working of its Gardens Division so as to generate sufficient resources to meet its expenses.

Financial Assistance by LIC

*396. SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:
SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the financial assistance provided by the Life Insurance Corporation of

India for various schemes during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of the schemes for which the Life Insurance Corporation of India propose to provide financial assistance during the current financial year; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the purpose; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The requisite information is given in *Statements-I, II and III.*

(b) and (c). LIC makes investments in State Government and other Government Guaranteed Marketable Securities and renders loan assistance to Socially Oriented Sectors, e.g. State Housing Apex Cooperatives, State Electricity Boards, State Road Transport Corporations, Municipalities, Zila Parishads etc. The amount under the various schemes to be allocated during the current financial year is yet to be finalised by the LIC in consultation with the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT-I

Investments made during 1991-92

(Rs. in crores)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpsns.	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	52.25	40.54	3.12	31.03	4.54	131.58
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	—	—	—	—	1.50

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpn.	Total
3.	Assam	5.00	1.26	—	—	—	6.26
4.	Bihar	40.00	6.00	—	19.31	—	65.31
5.	Chandigarh	—	0.50	—	—	—	0.50
6.	Delhi	—	13.00	—	—	—	13.00
7.	Goa	1.75	1.00	3.07	—	—	5.82
8.	Gujarat	21.50	45.88	32.01	25.02	6.12	130.58
9.	Haryana	17.00	22.07	—	19.55	—	58.62
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.48	4.61	—	3.22	—	13.31
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	11.60	9.62	—	—	—	21.22
12.	Karnataka	24.25	13.49	22.00	29.05	4.70	93.49
13.	Kerala	37.95	28.35	13.47	13.61	—	93.38
14.	Madhya Pradesh	39.50	13.49	4.31	24.52	—	81.82
15.	Maharashtra	29.80	25.32	37.57	23.24	5.63	121.56
16.	Manipur	4.00	0.43	0.97	—	—	5.40
17.	Meghalaya	1.50	0.50	—	5.67	—	7.76
18.	Mizoram	—	—	—	—	—	—
19.	Nagaland	3.00	0.02	—	—	—	3.02
20.	Orissa	40.70	13.08	—	49.13	—	102.91
21.	Pondicherry	0.14	0.50	—	—	—	0.64
22.	Punjab	5.55	15.53	14.25	14.15	—	49.48

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpn.	Total
23.	Rajasthan	50.90	4.70	4.43	29.42	—	89.52
24.	Sikkim	2.00	0.43	—	—	—	2.43
25.	Tamil Nadu	41.50	40.79	29.18	53.38	—	164.85
26.	Tripura	4.00	3.65	—	—	—	7.65
27.	Uttar Pradesh	56.30	18.51	—	—	7.77	82.58
28.	West Bengal	44.50	—	2.35	23.32	—	70.17
Total		541.67	323.44	166.73	363.71	28.76	1424.31
Through all India Institutions (Housing)		—	766.84	—	—	—	766.84
		541.67	1090.28	166.73	363.71	28.76	2191.15

STATEMENT-II

*Investments made during 1992-93**(Rs. in crores)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpn.	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	79.94	35.76	3.12	62.13	4.99	185.94
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	1.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
3.	Assam	20.00	—	—	—	—	20.00

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpn.	Total
4.	Bihar	67.00	7.81	—	24.51	—	99.32
5.	Chandigarh	—	—	—	—	—	—
6.	Delhi	—	10.00	—	—	—	10.00
7.	Goa	1.00	2.42	1.56	—	—	4.98
8.	Gujarat	24.00	25.87	17.64	47.52	6.73	121.76
9.	Haryana	28.18	22.54	—	21.50	—	72.22
10.	Himachal Pradesh	5.49	4.64	—	3.40	—	13.53
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.30	5.68	—	2.56	—	17.54
12.	Karnataka	34.07	18.12	20.18	33.52	5.53	111.42
13.	Kerala	55.79	35.00	10.00	11.11	—	111.90
14.	Madhya Pradesh	61.50	13.83	8.58	48.20	—	132.11
15.	Maharashtra	53.83	25.93	18.25	25.56	6.19	129.76
16.	Manipur	—	0.69	—	—	—	0.69
17.	Meghalaya	—	—	—	—	—	—
18.	Mizoram	—	—	1.67	—	—	1.67
19.	Nagaland	—	0.02	1.40	—	3.21	4.63
20.	Orissa	64.62	13.66	—	17.90	—	96.18
21.	Pondicherry	0.20	2.50	—	—	—	2.70
22.	Punjab	72.00	16.00	—	15.56	—	103.56
23.	Rajasthan	70.45	10.61	31.87	32.36	—	145.29
24.	Sikkim	1.50	0.47	—	—	—	1.97
25.	Tamil Nadu	70.28	41.74	32.10	55.72	—	199.84

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpns.	Total
26.	Tripura	3.25	3.72	—	—	—	6.97
27.	Uttar Pradesh	91.00	8.50	—	—	—	99.50
28.	West Bengal	50.00	29.32	2.64	35.00	—	106.96
Total		864.40	324.83	149.01	436.55	26.65	1801.44
Through all India Institutions (Housing)		—	908.40	—	—	—	908.40
		864.40	1233.23	149.01	436.55	26.65	2709.84

STATEMENT-III*Investments made during 1993-94 (Provisional)**(Rs. in crores)*

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpns.	Total
1.	Andhra Pradesh	92.57	39.25	3.92	68.95	—	204.69
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2.00	—	—	—	—	2.00
3.	Assam	20.74	—	—	—	—	20.74
4.	Bihar	87.83	—	—	26.92	—	114.75
5.	Chandigarh	—	0.50	—	—	—	0.50
6.	Delhi	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	State Govt. & Other Guaranteed Marketable Securities	Housing	Water Supply/ Sewerage	State Electricity Boards	State Road Transport Corpn.s.	Total
7.	Goa	3.00	3.66	6.07	—	—	12.73
8.	Gujarat	45.95	9.22	12.96	32.27	7.40	107.80
9.	Haryana	17.18	8.00	—	27.54	—	88.72
10.	Himachal Pradesh	9.53	1.14	—	4.35	—	15.02
11.	Jammu & Kashmir	9.20	6.26	—	—	—	15.46
12.	Karnataka	32.90	23.86	8.25	37.40	6.10	108.51
13.	Kerala	51.98	37.00	12.30	15.79	—	117.07
14.	Madhya Pradesh	72.48	12.94	5.41	52.02	2.50	145.35
15.	Maharashtra	49.50	25.90	43.88	42.13	6.81	168.22
16.	Manipur	4.94	0.75	—	—	—	5.69
17.	Meghalaya	4.00	—	—	—	—	4.00
18.	Mizoram	1.00	—	—	—	—	1.00
19.	Nagaland	6.00	—	—	—	—	6.00
20.	Orissa	73.00	15.66	—	41.28	—	129.94
21.	Pondichery	0.10	—	—	—	—	0.10
22.	Punjab	10.79	14.00	—	19.76	—	44.55
23.	Rajasthan	78.40	22.11	8.33	42.06	—	133.90
24.	Sikkim	2.00	0.40	—	—	—	2.40
25.	Tamil Nadu	61.50	43.41	38.75	61.84	—	205.50
26.	Tripura	4.00	3.72	—	—	—	7.72
27.	Uttar Pradesh	146.45	20.71	—	127.08	7.77	302.01
28.	West Bengal	79.00	17.32	0.43	41.97	—	138.72
Total		2966.04	288.81	140.30	641.36	30.58	2067.09

Export Sector

*397. SHRI CHETAN P.S.
CHAUHAN:
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to lift the restrictions of limit on the loans to be provided by the Reserve Bank of India and commercial banks to meet the requirements of export sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any fresh conditions have also been imposed in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has not imposed any restrictions of limit on the loans to export sector by commercial banks.

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

[English]

Handicrafts Exporters

*398. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have withdrawn the additional incentives which were being provided to exporters for boosting the exports of handicrafts including silk products and handloom items;

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

(c) whether Government are considering to restore those benefits; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No, Sir. The Export and Import Policy continues to provide the incentive of triple weightage to NFE earned by export of products, including handknotted carpets and silk products, manufactured by the handloom and handicraft sector for recognition as Export Houses, Trading Houses, Star Trading Houses and Super Star Trading Houses.

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

EOUs Scheme

*399. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI TARA SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any demand from the Export Oriented Units to review the existing scheme of cent per cent Exports by these Units;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be reviewed;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the steps being taken by the Government to redress the grievances of the EOUs;

(d) whether the performance of exporters is not upto the mark since the last several years; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Review of EOU scheme is an on-going process, which is done from time to time on the basis of representations/demand from EOUs.

The policy and procedures for EOU scheme have been reviewed last year by a Committee comprising of representatives from Trade & Industry, concerned Ministries and field organisations etc. The action on the recommendations of the Committee have been initiated and certain amendments to the Exim Policy have been effected.

(d) and (e). The exports from EOU sector are growing and reached a level of Rs. 1946 Crores in 1992-93 against Rs. 1046 Crores in the previous year i.e. 1991-92. The exports in 1993-94 are expected to keep up this trend.

[Translation]

Textiles Exports

*400. SHRI PREMCHAND RAM:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been an increase in the export of Indian textiles to USA recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any steps to promote the exports of Indian textiles to USA and other international markets; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Exports of Textile products (excluding coir, jute and handicrafts) from India to the USA during 1992-93 amounted to Rs. 3,514 Crores. The value of exports to the USA from April 1993 to February 1994 has provisionally been estimated to be Rs. 3,727 Crores.

(c) and (d). In order to step up exports of textiles to the USA and to other international markets, Government have taken several measures which include introduction of a unified market-determined exchange rate system; convertibility of the rupee on current account, facilitation of import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production, increased availability of export credit, permission to retain Foreign Exchange receipts to the extent of 25% in foreign currency account, encouragement of participation by exporters in Buyer-Seller Meets, Fairs, Exhibitions, etc.

[English]

Assistance to Fish Farmers

4282. SHRI MANIKRAO HODALYA GAVIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of assistance provided by Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India to fish farmers in Maharashtra during 1993-94; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote aquaculture in the above State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: (a) SCICI Ltd. has informed that no financial assistance has been provided by them to fish farmers in Maharashtra during 1993-94.

(b) The programmes of development of freshwater/backishwater aquaculture are being implemented in Maharashtra through 29 fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) and 4 Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies (BFDAs) under Centrally Sponsored Schemes. These agencies provide a package of technical, financial and extension support to fish/shrimp farmers for development of aquaculture.

Income Tax deduction on loss of Tea Crop

4283. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from Indian Tea Association regarding exemption/ deduction from Income Tax the capital loss of land and tea bushes due to flood water in Assam; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: (a) and (b). The matter is being verified and a reply will be laid on the Table of the House.

Funds for NTC

4284. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of financial assistance/subsidy given by the Union Government to the National Textile Corporation (NTC) for their mills during each of the last three years State/unit-wise; and

(b) the financial assistance for the working capital given to NTC for running their mills during the above period State/unit-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Government releases funds to NTC (Holding Company) on the basis of the total requirement of the Corporation and not State/unit-wise. The funds provided by the Government to NTC for working capital, modernisation, labour rationalisation (grant) and controlled cloth subsidy during each of the last three years is as follows:—

(Rs. in crores)

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
1. Working Capital	73.00	154.80	132.00
2. Modernisation	—	20.00	—
3. Labour Rationalisation (Grant)	18.00	248.00	40.00
4. Controlled Cloth Subsidy	21.83	15.00	16.00

Agra Fort Sound and Light Show

4285. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Japanese firm has offered for providing technology at the proposed Agra Fort sound and light show and also for overhauling the existing 30-year old show at the Red Fort as reported in the 'Economic Times' dated February 19, 1994;

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

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) whether the Japanese firm has promised to build any infrastructure in India for maintaining and servicing the systems; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). No workable proposal has so far been received.

[Translation]

Mahila Banks

4286. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open more mahila banks in the country;

(b) if so, the number and locations thereof; and

(c) the number of such banks working in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Losses in Andhra Bank

4287. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI:
SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of branches of Andhra Bank are continuing to suffer losses;

(b) if so, the number of such branches and the loss suffered by them during 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(c) whether the above bank has decided to close its loss making branches;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the other steps being taken to ensure that the Andhra Bank comes out of red soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Andhra Bank have reported that 84 branches (out of a total of 959 branches) incurred losses aggregating Rs. 115.18 lakhs during the year 1992-93. Figures for 1993-94 are yet to be finalised.

(c) and (d). Of the above 84 branches, only 8 of them—3 urban and 5 rural have been incurring losses continuously for the last 5 years. Of the 3 urban branches, the branch at Srinagar (J&K State) was closed in August, 1993. Steps have been taken by the bank to make the other two branches viable. Of the 5 rural branches two are likely to make profits during the year ended 31.3.1994. The remaining 3 rural branches are the only bank branches at their respective centres and as such cannot be closed. These branches are to be converted into satellite offices for making them viable.

Andhra Bank have drawn up a detailed corporate plan for the next 3 years i.e. upto 1996-97 with the sole objective of making the bank viable. These include:

- (i) improving the quality of loan portfolio by establishing high standard pre-sanction appraisal and post-sanction follow up;
- (ii) monitoring closely the accounts of large borrowers on a continuous basis;
- (iii) reducing the existing non-performing assets (NPA) and also ensuring that no new NPAs are added;
- (iv) focussing on low-cost deposits;
- (v) ensuring better management of funds and investment; and
- (vi) upgrading work technology through computerisation.

Encouraging NRIs to Travel by Air India

4288. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to encourage Non-Resident Indians to come to India by the Air India instead of foreign airlines;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction; and

(c) the response of NRIs thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). Air India has introduced three schemes, involving:—

- (i) Provision of 24 hours hotel accommodation at Air India's cost for passengers travelling on Air India to India;
- (ii) Substantially discounted room tariff at all ITDC hotels for the period April to September, 1994 and February to September, 1995;
- (iii) Free transportation on flights of Indian Airlines in economy class on selected tourism centres to first class/executive class passengers travelling to India from North America, Europe and Japan. It is too early to indicate NRI's response to these sales promotion measures.

Smuggling at Raxol Border, Bihar

4289. SHRI BAPU HARI CHAURE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) number of cases of smuggling between India and Nepal at Raxol Border, Bihar which came to the notice of the Government during each of the last two years;

(b) the details of the seizures and the value thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the smuggling at Raxol border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Number of cases of smuggling which came to the notice of the Government during each of last two years

between India and Nepal at Raxol Border, Bihar is as follows:

Years	No. of cases	
1992-93	—	215
1993-94	—	169

The details of seizures and value for 1992-93 and 1993-94 are attached *Statement*.

(c) Anti-Smuggling agencies have been strengthened by equipping them with better means to combat smuggling. Anti-smuggling agencies are acting in concerted manner to thwart smuggling and close coordination is being maintained among all law enforcing agencies concerned with detection and prevention of smuggling.

STATEMENT

Items of Seizure	No. of cases	Value (Rs.)
1992-93		
Gold	1	125452/-
Currency	1	12517/-
Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substances	38	27896675/-
Vehicle	5	9216700/-
Synthetic Yarn	5	13615/-
Electronic Goods	19	380495/-
Food Grains	4	226750/-
Masoor Dal	11	2786250/-
Others	131	1301404/-

Items of Seizure	No. of cases	Value (Rs.)
1993-94		
Silver	4	229575/-
Currency (Indian)	1	151150/-
Currency (Nepalese)	3	232105/-
Watches		9050/-
Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic substances	18	2616100/-
Vehicles	3	1528400/-
Synthetics Yarn	6	33813/-
Electronic Goods	17	311470/-
Food Grains	1	13000/-
Masoor Dal	6	689010/-
Others	110	2090398/-

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation of SSIs

4290. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any clear-cut scheme for rehabilitation of the sick small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of small scale industries in various States which have

been provided with financial assistance for their revival during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that it has issued guidelines to all scheduled commercial banks in regard to rehabilitation of sick small scale industrial (SSI) units, containing, inter-alia, definition of sick SSI units, viability norms, detection of sickness at incipient stage and reliefs and concessions from banks/financial institutions for implementation of packages in the case of potentially viable units.

(c) The number of sick SSI units in various states which have been pro-

vided financial assistance* for their revival during the last three years is given below:—

	As at the end of		
	Sept., 1990	March, 1991	March, 1992
Potentially viable units	16977	16140	19210
Of viable units those put under nursing	13235	13222	13289

* These figures relate to advances made by scheduled commercial banks.

[English]

Export of Pharmaceuticals to U.A.E.

4291. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of United Arab Emirates has recently banned the import of pharmaceuticals from India;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the effects of ban on our exports and its earning; and

(d) the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Government of United Arab Emirates had brought out a notification on 18.1.94 under their Federal Law cancelling registration of Indian Pharmaceuticals of companies for export of their products to U.A.E. As ascertained, the apparent reason for taking

such a step by the U.A.E. authorities is non-fulfilment of conditions of registration by the Indian companies.

(c) Total exports of Indian Pharmaceuticals to U.A.E. has been estimated at Rs. 27 crores only during the year 1992-93.

(d) The matter has been taken up at higher level in the U.A.E. authorities so that exports of Indian pharmaceuticals there may continue.

[Translation]

Long Term Loans to Cooperative Mills

4292. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Central financial institutions to sanction long-term loans for setting up Cooperative mills in the State;

(b) if so, the action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The All India Term Lending Financial Institutions viz., Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI), Industrial Finance Corporation of India Ltd. (IFCI), Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) and Industrial Reconstruction Bank of India (IRBI) have not received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh regarding assistance to new co-operative spinning mills.

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

[English]

Subsidy to Private Airlines

4293. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:
SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of private airlines recognised as scheduled airlines after the repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953 with their working capital and the sectors of their operation;

(b) whether the Government subsidise the Air India and the Indian Airlines operations to distant points in the country or in low remunerative sectors;

(c) whether there is a plan to extend the system of subsidy to private airlines operating in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the details of concessions the Government propose to give to financially weak private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Nil.

(b) No, Sir.

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

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration at present.

Seizure of Medical Equipment in Delhi

4294. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had seized sophisticated equipment running into crores of rupees meant for Government hospitals in Delhi from the private godowns;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Directorate of Revenue Intelligence had seized medical equipment worth Rs. 2.70 and Rs. 1.60 crores respectively from the premises of indenting agents for G.B. Pant Hospital namely

M/s. Consolidated Products Corporation and M/s. Medidyne Medical Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.

(c) Show Cause Notices have been issued to G.B. Pant Hospital, the concerned officials and also to the proprietor/partners of the identifying agents.

[*Translation*]

Deposits under Small Saving Schemes in Gujarat

4295. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount deposited under the Small Saving Schemes, Unit Trust of India Schemes, National Saving Schemes and in various nationalised banks in Gujarat during each of the last three years, institution-wise and district-wise; and

(b) the names of the financial institutions which have provided finance to the State Government of Gujarat indicating the conditions governing the said finance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The gross and net collections under Small Savings Schemes in Post Offices in Gujarat during the last three years were as under:—

(in crores of rupees)

Year	Gross	Net
1991-92	1528.04	598.98
1992-93	1415.78	396.23
1993-94 (upto 31.12.92)	1185.87	283.27

District wise figures are not maintained. Three fourth of the net collections in Small Savings Schemes in a State have been advanced as long term loan to that State for financing the Plan.

Information in respect of Unit Trust of India and Nationalised Banks is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Employment Scheme

4296. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to remove unemployment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the extent of unemployment proposed to be removed under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the plan lays stress on a high rate of economic growth combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential. Keeping in view the goal of achieving a near full employment situation over a period of a decade, the Eighth Plan envisaged generation of additional employment opportunities of around 43 million during the Plan period. Some of the important on-going Centrally sponsored employment generation schemes are Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Nehru Rozgar Yojana (NRY). The Prime Minister's Rozgar Yojana (PMRY) which aims at providing self-employment to educated unemployed youth by enabling

them to set-up enterprises in manufacturing, services and business ventures was also launched in October, 1993.

[English]

Auction of Cardamom

4297. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cardamom auction being executed by the farmers was performing well;

(b) whether the Government have changed the system of auction of cardamom recently; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Cardamom auctions are not executed directly by farmers. Licenced auctioneers are separate business entities and are partnership concerns, co-operative societies, limited companies and Government Undertakings.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Conference of North-East Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministers

4298. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of the North-East Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministers was recently held in Shillong;

(b) if so, the main points on which discussions were held at the conference;

(c) the details of recommendations made at the conference; and

(d) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir, on 26th March, 1994.

(b) to (d). The main issues discussed during the meeting were to augment tourist infrastructure in the identified tourist centres and augmentation of aviation facilities in North-Eastern region.

Emigration of Labour

4299. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of labourers sent to various countries during each of the last three years and as on March 31, 1994 from various States, State and Union territory-wise; and

(b) the number of labourers proposed to be sent to various countries during 1994 and 1995, State and Union territory-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Prior to 1993, the State-wise figures of workers seeking clearance from the Offices of Protectors of Emigrants were not maintained. During the years 1991 and 1992, 1.96 lakh and 4.17 lakh workers respectively were given clearance for contractual employment abroad. The State-wise figures of such

workers for the year 1993 and upto 31st March 1994 is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The workers go for overseas employment either through the Recruiting Agents registered with the Ministry of Labour or through Project Exporters or on individual basis as per the demand in foreign countries. No assessment about the likely number of workers who may seek clearances from Protectors of Emigrants for employment abroad during the years 1994 and 1995 has been made.

Separate departments for Customs and Central Excise

4300. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to separate the departments of Customs and Central Excise;

(b) if so, whether this subject had been analysed and explored in detail through any Committee; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). No Committee has been set up by the Government to analyse and explore this proposal.

Dumping of Steel

4301. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that some foreign steel companies from Japan, South Korea, U.K., Brazil and Argentina are trying to cash in on the present market condition prevailing in India and dump their products in the Indian market; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government and the precautionary measure being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Indian Customs Tariff Act, 1975, as amended in October, 1982 empowers Government to enforce anti-dumping duties in those cases in which dumped goods are found to be causing material injury to the domestic industry. Before, such a duty can be imposed, the Authority designated by Government has to make a finding on the existence of dumping and injury to the domestic industry; and a causal link between the dumped goods and the alleged injury to the domestic industry. The Designated Authority, under the Customs Tariff Act and Customs Tariff Rules thereunder, is normally required to initiate an investigation only upon receipt of a written request supported by evidence of dumping, injury to the domestic industry and a causal link between the two by or on behalf of the affected domestic industry. Government has since put in place the necessary arrangements to investigate and redress cases of injurious dumping.

The Designated Authority, under the Customs Tariff Rules supra has yet to receive a complaint from the domestic industry alleging injury caused to it by dumped imports of steel originating from Japan, Republic of Korea, U.K., Brazil and Argentina.

**British overseas Development
Corporation**

4302. SHRI ANANTRAO
DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of total grants to
India by the British Overseas Develop-
ment Corporation during the last three
years; and

(b) the objectives of these grants
alongwith their terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)
The amount of total grants, received by
India from the British Overseas Develop-
ment Administration during the last 3
years are as under:—

1990-91	—	£ 89.6 mln.
1991-92	—	£ 113.4 mln.
1992-93	—	£ 99.0 mln.

(b) The objectives of these grants
to India are to reduce poverty, to help
India address environmental issues and
to enhance economic growth. The grants
are utilised to further the Government of
India's long term development plans in
accordance with mutually agreed priori-
ties.

The terms and conditions for
utilising these grants depend on the
project for which the funds are committed
and are contained in the inter Govern-
mental project agreements.

[*Translation*]

**Security Measures for Mines
Workers**

4303. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNI-
HOTRI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be
pleased to state:

(a) the security measures adopted
by the Government for the labourers
working in the mines after the New
Kenda mines accident;

(b) whether roof-volting system has
been introduced in the mines in view of
security of the labourers working in the
mines;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the reasons identified by the
Government for mine accidents and
caving in the roofs; and

(e) the steps taken by the Govern-
ment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA): (a) to (e). Provisions for
safety of persons employed in mines are
contained in the Mines Act, 1952 and the
Rules and Regulations framed thereun-
der. The Safety Laws are kept under
constant review and amended from time
to time. During 1990, the Coal Mines
Regulations 1957, were comprehensively
amended. The Directorate General of
Mines Safety also issues guidelines in
the form of circulars to the management
for improving safety measures. These
provisions are required to be complied
with by the mine managements. The
officers of the Directorate-General of

Mines Safety inspect the mines periodically to oversee the status of compliance with the safety provisions and to take action as provided for under the Mines Act, 1952 in case of default.

Besides, the legislative measures, the Government is promoting a number of other initiatives/measures such as:

- (i) Conference on Safety in Mines;
- (ii) Self-regulation by management;
- (iii) Workers' participation in safety management;
- (iv) Tripartite and bipartite reviews at various levels;
- (v) Training of workpersons;
- (vi) Observance of Safety Weeks and Safety Campaigns;
- (vii) National Safety Awards.
- (viii) Establishment of National Mine Safety and Health Academy at Dhanbad and Nagpur.

Hon'ble Minister of State for Labour accompanied by a senior officer of the Ministry visited Dhanbad on 18.3.94 to undertake a review of mines safety measures alongwith Director-General, Mines Safety and senior Officers of DGMS. A Court of Inquiry has been appointed to find out the causes and circumstances leading to the accident which occurred at New Kenda Colliery on 25.1.1994. Based on the findings of the Court of Inquiry, further steps as may be required would be taken for prevention of similar accidents in future.

Roof bolting is progressively being used in mines for support of roof. Various types of roof bolts such as point anchored bolts, full column grouted bolts are being used in mines. Besides roof bolting wooden props, cross-bars and cogs as well as various types of steel props, girders and checks etc, are also being used in mines.

Broadly, the reasons for mine accidents are:

- Fall of roof;
- Fall of sides;
- Rope haulages;
- Dumpers;
- Truck, tankers etc.;
- Other machineries;
- Explosives;
- Fall of persons;
- Fall of objects; and other causes.

The caving in of roof takes place due to inadequate support or natural weakness in strata.

The matter regarding preventing of accidents has been deliberated upon in various Conferences on Safety in mines and a series of decisions taken/recommendations made. This was also taken up in the 8th Conference held in May, 1993. Implementation of the recommendation of the Conference is being monitored through Tripartite Committee.

[English]

Development of Floriculture with Dutch Assistance

4304. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA
RAO:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether seven projects have been identified to boost floriculture exports and are in the process with the assistance of Dutch experts;

(b) whether any Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the two countries;

(c) if so, the details thereof, project-wise including the cost involved; and

(d) the time by which these projects are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Government has not identified any specific projects for boosting exports of floriculture products. However, a number of projects in the private sector are coming up in different parts of the country for export oriented production of floriculture products in technical collaboration with Dutch companies.

(b) to (d). As no such Memorandum of Understanding has been signed, the question of project wise details and implementation schedule does not arise.

International Fund for Agriculture Development Loan for Assam

4305. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the permission has been granted to the International Fund for Agriculture Development to undertake a project aimed at supplying finance to those people who are below poverty line in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the population likely to be covered every year in the state.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir;

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

Export of Oilseeds

4306. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have fixed any target to export oilseeds during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also signed any agreement with foreign countries in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Item-wise targets have not been fixed.

(c) and (d). No such agreement has been signed.

Export of Flowers

4307. SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give a new thrust to the exports of flowers including Orchida from the hills and Himalayan regions of India;

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

(c) whether Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the two largest orchidology centres in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Government of India has identified floriculture as one of the extreme focus areas for exports. Ministry of Agriculture is also implementing a Central Sector Scheme on Commercial Floriculture during the VIII Plan with a total outlay of Rs. 10 crores. A series of measures have been initiated to give an export thrust to this sector which include simplification in the seed policy, infrastructure upgradation, rationalisation of custom duties and introduction of an air freight subsidy scheme for exports of floriculture products.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The Himalayan region, particularly the north eastern region, is very rich in orchid wealth where more than 50% of about 1300 species of orchids available in India are found. Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim are the major centres of availability.

Operations of International Airlines

4308. SHRI K.T. VANDAYAR:
-PROF. P.J. KURIEN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the routes in the country on which the Government have permitted the international airlines to operate;

(b) the details of profit earning routes among them;

(c) whether the royalty received from the international airlines adequately makes up the loss incurred on such routes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Foreign airlines are not granted traffic rights to operate on routes within the country.

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

Refinance by NHB

4309. SHRI PETER G.
MARBANIANG:
SHRI PROBIN DEKA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Housing Bank have provided refinance to scheduled commercial banks, housing finance companies and State level apex co-operative housing finance societies in respect of eligible loans disbursed by them to repair and construct the houses in Meghalaya and Assam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last two years, institution-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). National Housing Bank (NHB) provides refinance to scheduled commercial banks, housing finance companies and state level apex co-operative housing finance societies in respect of eligible housing loans disbursed by them. Besides, NHB also subscribes to Special Rural Housing Debentures (SRDHs) issued by State Land Development Banks. Refinance is extended for housing loans, including major repairs and upgradation, to individual beneficiaries as also in respect of project loans for Land Development and Shelter Projects (LDSPs) undertaken by various agencies. NHB has reported that refinance amounting to Rs. 144.75 lakhs has been extended during 1992-93 to a primary lender in West Bengal for the rental housing projects undertaken by tea gardens of Assam.

The institution-wise disbursements under NHB refinance schemes during 1992-93 (July-June) and 1993-94 (July-March) in the country were as under:—

(Rs. in crores)

Institutions	1992-93 (July-June)	1993-94 (July-March)
Scheduled Commercial Banks	52.62	23.60
Co-operative sector Institutions	38.97	45.24
Housing Finance Companies	394.33	175.96

NHB has reported that state-wise break-up of the above data is not available.

Tourism Development at Gulberga

4310. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have identified Gulberga in Karnataka as one of the Pilgrim centres for intensive development;

(b) if so, the amount of assistance given to the State Government for the purpose during 1993-94; and

(c) the facilities already provided or proposed to be provided there?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The State Government of Karnataka submitted a proposal for construction of Sulabh Shouchalaya Complex at Khwaja Bande Nawaz Dargah, Gulberga which has since been sanctioned for Rs. 2.58 lakhs during 1992-93.

Rally held by Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers

4311. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers held a massive rally recently in Delhi and submitted a Charter of Demands to the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). A copy of the Press Communique dated 17.2.94, issued by the Confederation, containing the following demands was received by the Government:

- (i) Delay in constitution of 7th Pay Commission;
- (ii) Non-increase in Interim Relief from Rs. 100/- to 500/-;
- (iii) Raising the Income Tax exemption limit to Rs. 50,000/-;
- (iv) Increase in Bonus ceiling; and
- (v) Long pending cadre review.

(c) Important demands raised by the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) were discussed in Special Meetings of the Standing Committee of National Council (JCM) in September 1993. Necessary orders on all the matters, as mutually agreed to, including grant of interim relief and setting up of the Fifth Pay Commission have already been issued.

[*Translation*]

Utilisation of Foreign Loans

4312. SHRI BALRAJ PASSI:
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
PROF. PREM DHUMAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large amount of foreign assistance is lying unutilised as on date;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; country/institution-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure proper and speedy utilisation of foreign assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The details of unutilised amounts out of loans/grants received from Multi-lateral and Bilateral donors as on 28.2.94 are in the *Statement* enclosed. The reason for unutilisation is largely because of the time profile of various projects which is usually 5 to 7 years. Apart from this, exchange rate fluctuations, inadequate provision of counterpart funds, delays in land acquisition and other project specific issues, are other reasons.

(c) Government has taken several steps like, passing on of 100% additional central assistance to states, release of 25% as advance central assistance, delegation of powers to the administrative ministries, establishment of a project monitoring unit and appointment of nodal officers to look after different sectors and states.

STATEMENT

*List of Multilateral/Bilateral Donors with undrawn balances as on 28.2.1994.**(In millions)*

Sl. No.	Donor Agency	Loan	Grant	Undrawn Balance	
				Loan	Grant
1.	ADB	US\$ 3269.667	—	2373.241	—
2.	IBRD	US\$ 10693.923	—	4588.239	—
3.	IDA	US\$ 9526.241	—	4449.075	—
4.	IFAD	US\$ 139.850	—	30.541	—
5.	OPEC	US\$ 61.500	—	18.272	—
6.	AUSTRALIA	US\$ 13.089	35.102	10.081	35.102
7.	AUSTRIA	ASch 340.00	—	19.775	—
8.	BELGIUM	BFrc 850.000	—	344.463	—
9.	DENMARK	DKr 420.000	2132.276	64.809	983.132
10.	FRG	DM 3390.663	54.894	699.302	44.020
11.	FRANCE	Frc. 8941.614	36.063	1490.227	26.653
12.	ITALY	US\$ 49.000	—	8.227	—
13.	JAPAN	YEN 650907	8991.500	451130	4705.400
14.	KUWAIT FUND	KDin 14.000	—	11.771	—
15.	NETHER- LANDS	DFL 219.225	498.938	58.540	204.567
16.	SAUDI FUND	SRi 416.200	—	170.920	—
17.	SWEDEN	SEK 806.707	1765.500	68.951	521.744
18.	SWITZER- LAND	SFrc. 120.000	66.555 RsCr.	39.535 Rs. Cr.	44.284

Sl. No.	Donor Agency	Loan	Grant	Undrawn Balance	
				Loan	Grant
19.	USSR	Rouble 5685.000	—	3887.458	—
20.	CANADA	—	380.217	—	305.348
21.	EEC	—	ECU 449.210	—	297.395
22.	JAPAN (GRANTS-WB)	—	YEN 1615.000	—	852.900
23.	NORWAY	—	NKr. 684.640	—	153.064
24.	SWITZER- LAND (GR.-WB)	—	SFrc 25.000	—	21.817
25.	USA	—	US\$ 415.484	—	391.755
26.	UK	—	PSt 826.185	—	298.909

[English]

Silk Worms' Eggs

4313. SHRI K.G. SHIVAPPA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have set up training camps to educate the farmers to develop high quality eggs of silk worms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new variety of eggs (races) developed by the Research and Development department of Central Silk Board during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Silkworm Seed Technological Laboratory

established by the Central Silk Board at Kodathi near Bangalore is imparting in-service training to officials as well as to the licenced seed preparers (farmers). So far, 13 licenced seed preparers from Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have been imparted this training.

(c) The following high yielding silk-worm races have been developed by the Central Silk Board's Research Institutes at Mysore & Berhampore:—

- (1) RD1 X NB 18
- (2) P2D1 X NB 18
- (3) P5, KPG-B, SF19, JD6 YS-3 Bivoltine Races
- (4) Bivoltine hybrids identified as B9 X A6, B910 X A4, B9 X CC1, B9 X CA2 and NB18 X

A4 for hilly and cooler climatic conditions.

Payment of Salary to Employees of Erstwhile New Bank of India

4314. SHRI R. ANBARASU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officers and staff of erstwhile New Bank of India merged with Punjab National bank have not been paid their salaries for the last two months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Punjab National Bank has reported that the employees of erstwhile New Bank of India are being paid their due emoluments excepting those who have not reported for duty at the transferee places under the principle of 'No work no pay'.

Registered Unemployed

4315. SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI THAKORE:
SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA
SHRI A. VENKATESH NAIK:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:
SHRI B.N. REDDY
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unemployed registered with various employment exchanges, State-wise and category-wise, during each of the last three years;

(b) the number of unemployed provided with jobs during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to generate more employment opportunities for them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) State-wise and category-wise number of job-seekers, all of whom were not necessarily unemployed, on the live register of employment exchanges as at the end of 1989, 1990 and 1991 (the latest available) is furnished in the *Statement I & II* enclosed.

(b) The number of persons provided employment by the employment exchanges during 1989, 1990 and 1991 was 289.2, 264.5 and 253.0 thousands respectively.

(c) Employment is a thrust area of the Eighth Five Year Plan and the Plan strategy emphasises the need for a high rate of economic growth, combined with faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas having high employment potential. Geographically and crop-wise diversified agricultural growth, development of wastelands and forestry, development of rural non-farm sector and rural infrastructure, faster growth of small and decentralised manufacturing and expansion of housing, are the basic elements of the employment-oriented growth strategy envisaged in the Plan.

STATEMENT-I

Number of job-seekers on the live register of employment exchanges at the end of year

(In thousands)

Sl. States/Union No. Territory	Total			Women included in Total			Educated (Matric and above) included in total		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
States									
1. Andhra Pradesh	2818.9	3005.9	3208.7	415.0	446.8	494.4	1640.7	1757.6	1950.0
2. Arunachal Pradesh	5.1	5.0	5.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	0.4	0.3	0.3
3. Assam	973.7	1039.9	1332.5	170.0	184.3	275.5	519.3	565.5	759.2
4. Bihar	3048.7	3393.7	3574.9	172.0	205.1	231.8	1845.1	2468.1	2225.4
5. Goa	78.7	92.3	101.9	23.7	28.2	31.2	56.5	61.3	74.2
6. Gujarat	939.0	952.7	982.3	118.6	118.7	125.3	570.0	599.4	631.1
7. Haryana	574.0	596.1	667.3	94.0	98.2	104.7	300.7	347.2	397.8
8. Himachal Pradesh	418.5	441.9	464.4	84.8	95.6	105.1	276.6	259.3	295.9
9. Jammu & Kashmir	125.5	112.2	136.5	12.6	10.6	20.7	51.2	37.7	44.0
10. Karnataka	1242.7	1314.4	1456.5	228.6	250.4	293.7	764.0	788.8	865.9
11. Kerala	3100.1	3426.7	3722.5	1504.9	1680.9	1838.1	1849.5	2076.6	2287.6
12. Maharashtra	2940.6	3041.9	3159.3	414.5	445.5	484.1	1885.8	1915.1	2096.8
13. Manipur	252.1	195.4	196.8	61.8	49.0	53.0	143.8	119.5	133.7
14. Meghalaya	23.4	22.8	24.0	8.1	7.9	8.3	10.8	10.3	11.0
15. Mizoram	42.0	36.2	37.0	9.8	8.4	8.9	11.0	11.9	13.5

16. Nagaland	27.0	19.9	23.0	6.9	5.4	6.5	15.4	12.0	13.8
17. Orissa	844.5	863.1	903.7	85.0	99.5	114.1	481.4	501.1	503.3
18. Punjab	584.3	656.0	751.4	109.9	137.1	162.1	315.8	411.3	467.8
19. Madhya Pradesh	1978.6	2067.2	1990.9	289.5	317.0	284.6	1248.0	1412.6	1393.0
20. Rajasthan	900.8	904.3	892.6	75.1	79.1	83.2	519.1	516.6	530.6
21. Sikkim*	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22. Tamil Nadu	2990.6	3209.1	3456.1	815.9	910.6	1007.9	1530.9	1744.7	2068.1
23. Tripura	147.9	158.9	166.4	47.8	51.8	54.7	46.7	49.6	53.5
24. Uttar Pradesh	3113.1	3099.5	2767.9	213.8	229.4	212.1	2018.8	2062.5	1902.9
25. West Bengal	14524.0	4831.1	5073.5	919.6	994.5	1049.5	2350.2	2563.7	2860.4
Union Territories									
26. A & N Islands	15.7	16.2	17.5	4.1	4.4	5.0	8.1	8.6	8.6
27. Chandigarh	153.2	156.7	160.1	30.1	31.3	32.3	83.4	86.0	89.5
28. D & N Haveli	2.1	2.2	2.5	0.5	0.5	0.7	1.2	1.2	1.2
29. Delhi	793.6	843.3	890.9	159.5	172.3	179.7	538.7	648.1	678.8
30. Daman & Diu	**	**	2.1	**	**	0.5	**	**	1.3
31. Lakshadweep	5.0	5.6	6.3	0.9	1.1	1.3	1.7	1.7	1.7
32. Pondicherry	112.7	121.8	125.3	30.5	35.2	37.6	62.6	68.5	73.5
Total	32776.2	34631.8	36299.7	6108.6	6699.8	7307.7	19147.3	21106.8	22434.5

Note: 1. * No Employment Exchanges is functioning in this State.

2. Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.

3. ** Figures for the year 89 and 90 included in Goa.

STATEMENT-II

Sl. States/Union No. Territory	Scheduled Castes included in Total			Scheduled Tribes included in Total		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
States						
1. Andhra Pradesh	314.8	338.9	378.3	70.2	76.3	79.8
2. Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Assam	54.2	59.7	72.7	87.5	99.8	130.2
4. Bihar	320.7	366.7	387.3	190.0	201.5	216.1
5. Goa	1.0	1.1	1.1	@	@	@
6. Gujarat	155.2	159.4	165.7	71.8	80.7	87.2
7. Haryana	99.6	101.7	111.0	@	@	@
8. Himachal Pradesh	76.4	79.1	81.4	12.9	13.8	14.1
9. Jammu & Kashmir	7.0	7.2	7.1	@	@	0.1
10. Karnataka	133.7	142.6	161.4	14.1	14.9	19.2
11. Kerala	282.2	307.7	330.7	14.7	16.5	17.7
12. Maharashtra	446.9	469.7	494.0	92.6	97.7	103.0
13. Manipur	1.4	1.1	1.4	55.3	44.9	49.2
14. Meghalaya	0.2	0.2	0.2	16.4	15.7	16.1
15. Mizoram	—	—	—	42.0	36.0	37.0
16. Nagaland	0.1	1.6	1.6	19.9	18.7	19.7
17. Orissa	97.2	104.0	102.5	64.6	67.7	69.1
18. Punjab	158.1	174.8	203.1	@	@	@

Sl. States/Union No. Territory	Scheduled Castes included in Total			Scheduled Tribes included in Total		
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990	1991
19. Madhya Pradesh	241.8	251.7	252.4	155.0	172.1	164.0
20. Rajasthan	128.0	130.7	128.7	60.0	61.6	59.3
21. Sikkim*						
22. Tamil Nadu	555.3	648.0	709.6	10.9	12.5	14.8
23. Tripura	10.3	10.3	10.3	11.5	11.5	11.5
24. Uttar Pradesh	535.8	538.9	512.0	8.8	9.8	10.0
25. West Bengal	383.2	403.0	423.5	76.1	79.6	82.4
Union Territories						
26. A & N Islands	—	—	—	0.7	0.7	0.7
27. Chandigarh	39.9	40.8	41.7	0.1	0.1	0.1
28. D & N Haveli	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.9	0.9	0.9
29. Delhi	107.9	105.2	122.7	8.9	10.1	13.3
30. Daman & Diu	•**	**	0.1	**	**	0.2
31. Lakshadweep	—	—	—	5.7	5.7	5.7
32. Pondicherry	7.3	9.4	9.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	4158.2	4453.5	4720.1	1090.6	1148.9	1221.6

- Note:**
- * No Employment Exchange is functioning in this State.
 - Figures may not add up to total due to rounding off.
 - ** Figures for the years 89 and 90 included in Goa.
 - @ Figures less than 50.

Suspension of Damania Airways Flights

4316. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) had ordered abrupt suspension of all flights of the Damania Airways with effect from March 10, 1994;

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

(c) whether the Damania Airways has been permitted to resume flights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The Air Taxi operators permit of M/s. Damania Airways was suspended on 9.3.1994, after consideration of their reply to the show cause notice issued by DGCA on 18.2.1994. The suspension was done after serious safety violations on M/s. Damania Airways were established in the course of the inquiry. The suspension was for a period of one month or till the date the operator took positive steps and institutionalised a system under which such violations would not occur in future, whichever was earlier.

(c) and (d). On being satisfied with the measures taken by M/s. Damania Airways to prevent violations of safety norms, DGCA revoked the aforesaid suspension order on 15.3.1994.

Inclusion of Tobacco in List of Extreme Focus Products

4317. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to include tobacco in the "List of Extreme Focus Products" to encourage export of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to include it in EFP?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Board of Trade in its meeting held on 23.3.92 considered the question of inclusion of tobacco in the Extreme Focus Plan. It decided not to include tobacco in the plan, as it was not likely to give the desired export growth of 30% per annum in dollar terms.

[Translation]

Production of Janata Cloth

4318. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the targets fixed by the Government of Madhya Pradesh for the production of Janata cloth for the year 1991-92 were less than the years 1989-90 and 1990-91;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production was also not in accordance with the targets fixed for the year 1991-92; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In view of the Policy of Government of India to phase out the Janata Cloth Scheme during 8th Plan Period, there had been reduction in the targets allocated for all the States including Madhya Pradesh in 1991-92.

(c) No, Sir. As against a target of 18 million square metres fixed for Madhya Pradesh during 1991-92, the achievement has been 17.63 million squares metres.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Import of Air Safety Equipment

4319. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to import modern equipment to ensure air safety;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the estimated expenditure thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Airports Authority (NAA) are importing Instrument Landing Systems (ILS), Very High Frequency

Omni Range, Distance Measuring Equipment, Airport Surveillance Radars, Air, Route Surveillance Radars, Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radars, Airport Surface Detection Equipment, Radar Data Processing System, Flight Data Processing System, Voice Communication and Control System and Automatic Self Briefing System.

(c) NAA has already entered into a Turnkey contract for the modernisation of the Air Traffic Services at Bombay and Delhi Airports. Action has also been completed for the import of ILSs and Radars and other equipment for other airports.

(d) The total cost on import of all these equipment is around Rs. 262 crores.

Bank Loans for Buying Luxury Items

4320. SHRI HARILAL NANJI PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some Nationalised banks have launched a scheme for granting loans for buying luxury items;

(b) if so, the details of such banks;

(c) the amount of such loan proposed to be granted and the time limit for its recovery;

(d) the rate of interest on such loans; and

(e) the other terms and conditions for extending the above loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to

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

[*Translation*]

Development of Rural Areas by IDBI

4321. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has selected ten blocks for the industrial development of rural areas;

(b) if so, the details of such blocks, and

(c) the reaction of the Government on the works executed in these blocks on experimental basis together with the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has selected ten blocks for industrial development in the rural areas. The names of such blocks and the State to which they belong are given as under:—

Name of the Block	State
Bheemgal	Andhra Pradesh
Gaya	Bihar
Rait	Himachal Pradesh
Dansal	Jammu & Kashmir

Name of the Block	State
Kothamangalam	Kerala
Boriguma	Orissa
Kishngarbhas	Rajasthan
Chaubepur	Utter Pradesh
Purulia	West Bengal
Kesla	Madhya Pradesh

(c) IDBI had initiated in 1983-84 an experimental programme for adopting ten selected blocks in different parts of the country for innovative experiments in the field of rural industrialisation. IDBI's support for block adoption programme was Rs. 3 lakhs per block per annum. The programme was concluded in June, 1991, as it was felt that by then the stage would have been set for self-sustained development. As on 31.3.1993, 2187 units had been set up in 10 blocks mentioned above channelising an investment of Rs. 226.04 lakhs and generating employment of 5845 persons.

IDBI has also reported that other agencies like National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) and Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) are now implementing block adoption programmes.

Agreement with Air Taxi Operators

4322. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH
BHADANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had signed any agreement with the air taxi operators:

(b) if so, the main features thereof;

(c) the names of air taxi operators who violated the conditions of the agreement upto January 31, 1994; and

(d) the action taken by the Government against each of them?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Agreement with Lufthansa

4323. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA):
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India has entered into any agreement with the Lufthansa Airlines thereby increasing Lufthansa's capacity to India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons thereof; and

(d) the loss likely to be suffered by the Air India in passenger traffic and foreign exchange earnings as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM

NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). A proposal for enhancing the capacity between Germany and India is under negotiation between the two Governments.

[Translation]

Tea Board

4324. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tea Board has suffered losses during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to check these losses?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Tea Board is a statutory body set up under the provisions of Tea Act, 1953 to promote all round development of tea industry in India. Activities of Tea Board are therefore essentially developmental in nature and the Board does not undertake commercial activities. Thus question of losses incurred by Tea Board does not arise.

[English]

Cadre Review for Indian Civil Accounts Service

4325. SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there had been three cadre reviews for Indian Civil Accounts Services since 1976 in the Depart-

mentalised accounting set up whereas there was no cadre review for other lower categories staff;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for proportionate cadre review for lower category staff in the same service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). While there has been no formal cadre review for the lower categories staff, the following steps have been taken to improve the promotional prospects in the cadres of Groups B and C:—

- (i) 80% posts of Pay and Accounts Officers cadre (Gr. B-Gazetted) in the scale of Rs. 2375–3500 have been upgraded to the scale of Rs. 2200–4000 w.e.f. 1.4.92.
- (ii) 80% posts of the Junior Accounts Officers (Gr. C) in the scale of Rs. 1640–2900 have been upgraded to Assistant Accounts Officers (Gr. B-Gazetted) in the scale of Rs. 2000–3200 w.e.f. 1.4.87.
- (iii) 80% posts of Junior Accountants (Gr. C) in the scale of Rs. 1200–2040 have been upgraded to that of Senior Accountants (Gr. C) in the scale of Rs. 1400–2600 w.e.f. 1-4-87.
- (iv) Level of stenographic assistance has been increased with

a view to improving the promotional prospects of stenographers as under:—

- (a) Officers in the scale of Rs. 4500–5700 are provided steno Gr. I in the scale of Rs. 1640–2900 in lieu of stenos Gr. II in the scale of Rs. 1400–2600 w.e.f. January, 91.
- (b) Officers in the scale of Rs. 5900–6700 and above are provided with Senior PAs in the scale of Rs. 2000–3200 (Gr. B-Gazetted) instead of steno Gr. I in the scale of Rs. 1640–2900 (Gr. C) w.e.f. 1.4.87.

Tourism Development in Tamil Nadu

• 4326. SHRI B. DEVARAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has submitted any master plan for tourism development in the State;

(b) if so, the date on which the plan was received by the Union Government;

(c) the salient features of the plan and the amount of assistance sought for each project;

(d) whether the Union Government have released some assistance on this account; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The plan was received on 24th November, 1993;

(c) The plan was prepared by the Government of Tamil Nadu at the instance of the Central Government to identify tourist places for development of tourism infrastructure.

(d) and (e). The tourist places which have been included in the plan and the projects sanctioned during 1993-94 at these places are given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the project	Amount sanctioned
1.	Purchase of water sports equipment for Mattukadu and Pulicat Lake	14.94
2.	Tourist Lodge at Courtallam	39.30
3.	Tourist Lodge at Kumban-konan	39.37

[Translation]

Loan to Educated Unemployed Persons

4327. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of educated unemployed persons who have sought loan from the public sector banks during the year 1992-93 for self-employment under the Self Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth Scheme;

(b) the number of unemployed persons to whom loans have been provided under the Scheme;

(c) the number of loan applications still pending; and

(d) the time by which the applications received during 1992-93 for granting loans are likely to be disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that 105872 (provisional) educated unemployed persons had sought loans from the public sector banks under the scheme for providing Self-Employment to the Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) during the year 1992-93.

(b) RBI has reported that 62879 (provisional) applications have been sanctioned loans by the public sector banks, out of which 47607 (provisional) cases have been disbursed loans.

(c) and (d). Under the SEEUY Scheme, for the programme year 1992-93, loans were to be sanctioned by 31st March 1993 and banks were required to disburse loans upto 31st March, 1994. For the programme year 1992-93, applications not sanctioned upto 31st March, 1993 automatically lapse for that programme year.

Cancellation of Indian Airlines Flight

4328. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZEPUR): Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Taar Káte Milne Se Indian Airlines Kee Uran Radd" published in the Jansatta of March 26, 1994;

(b) if so, whether the Government have conducted an enquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the action taken against the persons found guilty; and

(e) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to check recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). The matter is under investigation by the Police Authorities.

[English]

Mid-Term Encashment Facility on K.V.P.

4329. SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw the mid-term encashment facility on Kisan Vikas Patras;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for providing such facilities only on Kisan Vikas Patras?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kisan Vikas Patras are encashable at any time after the expiry of a period of two years and six months. This facility is a basic feature of the scheme to provide the investor with an instrument having a flexible maturity period.

Air Freight City

4330. SHRI SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal for setting up "Air Freight City" in Delhi as the gateway airport;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is a proposal to set up a Satellite Air Freight City in close proximity of Indira Gandhi International Airport, New Delhi.

(b) The salient features are as under:—

(i) Goods brought from one foreign country meant for another foreign destination, can undergo transshipment at the Gateway Airport without undergoing the routine customs checks.

(ii) The goods imported for domestic consumption can be

transported to other airports situated in the interior regions of the country without payment of customs duty.

- (iii) Manufacturers of export goods can have their goods examined at the nearest customs warehouse, thus eliminating the need for second examination at the Gateway Airport.

(c) The proposal is at a preliminary stage and it is too early to give any specific time frame for commencement of activities of Air Freight City.

Loan to SSIs In Maharashtra

4331. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the loans given to small scale industries by nationalised banks in Maharashtra during each of the last three years;

(b) whether a large number of units were not given loans on the ground of financial constraints; and

(c) if so, total amount earmarked for the purpose and loans given therefrom, during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (c). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that loans given to small scale industries sector in Maharashtra under the Annual Credit Plans for the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are as given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

Year	Target	Achievement
1990-91	219.39	239.06
1991-92	230.38	262.32
1992-93	246.89	277.13

(b) Data reporting system of RBI does not generate information in the manner asked for.

Nationalised Banks

4332. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the nationalised banks involved in the leasing business at present;

(b) whether some more nationalised banks propose to enter the business of hire purchase and leasing in near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the banks have found this business beneficial;

(e) if so, the achievements made therefrom; and

(f) if not, the reasons for permitting these banks to start this business?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have recently written to all commercial banks giving them the option to undertake equipment leasing, hire purchase financing and factoring services departmentally

also. Earlier commercial banks were permitted to undertake such activities only through separately established subsidiaries. In response to RBI's communication only one nationalised bank i.e. Corporation Bank has intimated RBI about its decision to undertake these activities departmentally. Response from other banks is awaited.

(d) to (f). It is premature to analyse the benefits of undertaking such activities departmentally.

Sick Textile Mills

4333. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
SHRI N.J. RATHVA:
SHRI JANGBIR SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of textile mills in the country as on date, State-wise;

(b) the number of textile mills incurring losses out of them, State-wise;

(c) the number of such mills which are sick and at the verge of closure, State-wise; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government to revive those mills and make them profitable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) As on 31.12.1993; there were 1166 cotton/man-made fibre textile mills registered with the Office of Textile Commissioner in the country. State-wise details are at *Statement-I*.

(b) and (c). As per the information furnished by BIFR, there were 262 mills

registered with BIFR as sick (as on 31.1.1994). BIFR has recommended winding up in 53 cases. State-wise details are at *Statement-II*.

(d) Government has set up a Board for Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR) to evolve and manage a rehabilitation package in respect of viable sick/closed mills.

STATEMENT-I

Statement showing the state-wise no. of Cotton/Man-made Fibre Textile Mills as on 31.12.1993

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Mills
1.	Andhra Pradesh	72
2.	Assam	5
3.	Bihar	9
4.	Goa	1
5.	Gujarat	122
6.	Haryana	16
7.	Himachal Pradesh	7
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2
9.	Karnataka	46
10.	Kerala	30
11.	Madhya Pradesh	31
12.	Maharashtra	141
13.	Manipur	1
14.	Orissa	14

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	No. of Mills
15.	Punjab	25
16.	Rajasthan	36
17.	Tamil Nadu	501
18.	Uttar Pradesh	55
19.	West Bengal	39
Union Territories		
1.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1
2.	Delhi	3
3.	Pondicherry	9
Total		1166

STATEMENT-II

State-wise details of the cases registered with BIFR as on 31.1.94.

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of mills	Winding up order issued by BIFR
1.	Bihar	3	1
2.	West Bengal	15	4
3.	Orissa	4	—
4.	Uttar Pradesh	30	5
5.	Delhi	2	—
6.	Punjab	5	—
7.	Haryana	9	—

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of mills	Winding up order issued by BIFR
8.	Chandigarh	1	—
9.	Rajasthan	13	4
10.	Gujarat	52	19
11.	Maharashtra	48	5
12.	Madhya Pradesh	13	6
13.	Andhra Pradesh	15	2
14.	Karnataka	15	5
15.	Tamil Nadu.	28	2
16.	Kerala	5	—
17.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	1	—
18.	Assam	3	—
Total		262	53

Merger of Vayudoot with I.A.

4334. SHRI ANNA JOSHI:
SHRI ANAND RATNA
MAURYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have appointed committees and sub-committees to sort out the process of merger of the Vayudoot with the Indian Airlines as well as the pending demands of the staff of Vayudoot;

(b) if so, the number of such committees/sub-committees set up and the terms of reference of each of them; and

(c) the time by which each of these committees/sub-committees is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM JABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

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

Sericulture Training Institutes in Bihar

4335. SHRI PREM CHAND RAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sericulture training institutes in Bihar;

(b) whether the Government propose to start more such training institutes in the State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The Central Silk Board has established a Central Tasar Research and Training Institute at Ranchi in Bihar.

(b) At present, there is no proposal to establish more such training institutes in the State.

(c) Does not arise.

UNDP Aid for Jute

4336. SHRI A. VENKATESH
NAIK:
DR. ASIM BALA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have not been provided by UNDP for development of traditional jute goods;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the curtailment of production of jute goods forced by an acute shortage of the fibre affected the jute prices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). UNDP assisted National Programme for Jute Sector primarily focuses its attention on the Development of value added non-traditional jute products.

(c) and (d). Raw jute prices rose during the season due to lesser production of jute. This also led to a rise in prices of jute goods.

Export of Tobacco to Russia and CIS Countries

4337. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any talks have been initiated with Russia and CIS countries with regard to exports of tobacco during 1994-95; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Talks are held with these countries from time to time at various levels, and they have been requested to purchase Indian tobacco. Tobacco is one of the commodities which Russia can import from India in 1994-95 under the debt repayment route.

Salary Savings Scheme of LIC

4338. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that under salary savings scheme Government departments are supposed to deduct the monthly premium of its employees and deposit the same with the Life Insurance Corporation departments with a specified period in the same month;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in Delhi and Bombay when the premiums were deducted monthly but were not deposited with Life Insurance Corporation offices in time as a result of which the policies were lapsed; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Monthly deductions made by Government Departments are required to be remitted to LIC within a week from the date of deduction.

(b) No such case has come to the notice of LIC.

(c) Does not arise.

Preliminary Enquiry into Accident of Sahara Aircraft

4339. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the preliminary enquiry by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation into the Sahara Boeing crash has been completed;

(b) if so, the findings/ recommendations thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD).

(a) No, Sir.

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

Prepone payment of Loans

4340. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state:

(a) whether the Government have made a provision in the Union Budget for 1994-95 for the Indian industries to prepone payment of foreign loans;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to extend similar facility in regard to internal loans to enable Indian industries to prepone payment of such loans i.e. loans taken from financial institutions/banks; and

(c) if not, what impediments Government foresee in extending the ambit of this facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Resources for pre payment of foreign currency and Indian loans are expected to be generated out

of the companies' own resources, except where exchange losses under the Exchange Risk Administration Scheme are concerned. Budgetary provision for the latter would be made as and when required.

Families Assisted Under IRDP

4341. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO:
SHRI ARJUN CHARAN
SETHI:
SHRI SURENDRA PAL
PATHAK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of families assisted under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) in the country during 1993-94, State-wise; and

(b) the amount disbursed to each State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The number of families assisted and the amount of credit disbursed by banks in each State under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1992-93 (upto February, 1994, latest available) are given in the attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Statement showing the number of families assisted and the amount of credit disbursed by banks in each State under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) during 1993-94 (Upto February, 1994, latest available)

(Rs. in lakhs)

State/Union Territory	No. of families assisted	Credit disbursed by banks
Andhra Pradesh	202436	8521.67
Arunachal Pradesh	5351	38.96 (1)
Assam	45801	1666.88 (1)
Bihar	260341	11549.70
Goa	2847	164.07 (1)
Gujarat	70101	3426.96
Haryana	20765	1095.47
Himachal Pradesh	8040	405.10
Jammu & Kashmir	3976	217.92

State/Union Territory	No. of families assisted	Credit disbursed by banks
Karnataka	102374	4562.34
Kerala	48744	2351.24
Madhya Pradesh	192654	8980.02
Maharashtra	160123	8558.73
Manipur	5073	49.24 (1)
Meghalaya	2105	129.08 (1)
Mizoram	2673	NR
Nagaland	3632	142.83
Orissa	84832	3350.00
Punjab	18709	1224.08
Rajasthan	98936	4862.24 (1)
Sikkim	916	46.20
Tamil Nadu	175055	8221.99
Tripura	4727	263.77
Uttar Pradesh	390936	36730.55
West Bengal	31577	1683.51 (9)
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	492	25.83
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	281	20.04
Daman & Diu	467	34.86
Lakshadweep	66	3.85
Pondicherry	1294	46.64
Total	1945324	108373.57

N.R.—Not reported.

Figures in brackets indicate the Month upto progress reported.

Decontrol of Iron Ore Export

4342. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to partly decontrol iron-ore export which is at present done by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC); and

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Export Policy of Iron Ore is under review.

Construction of Airport at Cochin

4343. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Cochin International Airport Society has requested the Union Government to give "No objection Certificate" for the construction of a modern airport at Cochin and to start a company for the purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The Kochi International Airport Society set up by the State Government of Kerala had requested for a no objection to the registration of a Public Limited Company under the companies Act, 1956 for the construction and management of the airport promoted by the Society. The Government has conveyed its no objection.

Tripartite Standing Labour Committee

4344. SHRI RABI RAY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tripartite standing labour committee held its last meeting in July, 1992;

(b) if so, the amendments recommended by the Committee to the Trade Unions Act, 1926 and Industrial Disputes Act, 1947; and

(c) whether the Government propose to convene the next meeting of the tripartite standing labour committee soon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Committee recommended that specific proposals for a new Industrial Relation Law may be placed before the Indian Labour Conference and while formulating the proposals Government may keep in view that changes in the Industrial Relation Law must reflect the qualitative changes in the industrial/economic scenario in the national/global context. The matter was accordingly placed before the Indian Labour Conference held in September, 1992.

(c) No date has yet been fixed.

Instrument Landing System at Calicut Airport

4345. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Instrument Landing System has been installed at the Calicut airport in Kerala; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). National Airport Authority has already procured the Instrument Landing System for Calicut Airport. The equipment is in the process of installation which is likely to be completed by June, 1994.

Foreign Assistance for Development Projects

4346. DR. K.D. JESWANI:
SHRI HARIBHAI PATEL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have accorded approval to some development projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra for foreign assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be sent on those projects, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The details of externally aided ongoing projects in Gujarat and Maharashtra are at *Statements I* and *II* respectively.

STATEMENT-I

List of ongoing Externally Aided Projects in the State of Gujarat

(In Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Grant	Donor Agency
1.	Gandhar gas based combined cycle power proj.-I@@	Yen 13046	OECE
2.	Gandhar gas based combined cycle power proj.-II@@	Yen 42599	OECE
3.	Gandhar gas based combined cycle power proj.-III	Yen 19538	OECE
4.	Gujarat medium Irr.II	US\$ 196.98	IDA
5.	National Water Mgt.	US\$ 127.27	IDA
6.	Panam mini hydel	SEK 25.00	Sweden
7.	Gujarat water supply scheme (Lathi Liliya)	dfi 9.90	Netherlands

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Grant	Donor Agency
8.	Gujarat water supply scheme (Santhalpur II)	dfl 14.21	Netherlands
9.	Gujarat water supply scheme (Sami Hari)	dfl 33.75	-do-
10.	Socio Eco. unit, GWSSB	dfl 0.078	-do-
11.	Training of Women in Agri.	dfl 3.492	-do-
12.	Integrated Watershed Mgt.	ECU 17.00	EEC
13.	Inland Fisheries Dev.	ECU 22.10	-do-
14.	Gujarat Urban Dev.	US\$ 64.864	IDA
15.	Gujarat Rural Roads	US\$ 137.92	IDA
16.	IWD (plains)	US\$ 58.170	IDA
17.	Tech. Edu. I	US\$ 218.215	IBRD/IDA

STATEMENT-II

List of ongoing Externally Aided Projects in the State of Maharashtra

(In Million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Grant	Donor Agency
MAHARASHTRA			
1.	Ujjain HP Project	Yen 1500	OECF
2.	Ghatghar Pumped Storage	Yen 11414	OECF
3.	Urban city water supply	Yen 6788	OECF
4.	Ajanta Ellora conservation & tourism dev. project	Yen 3745	OECF
5.	Maharashtra Composite Irrigation-III	US\$ 182.62	IDA

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Grant	Donor Agency
6.	Agri. Commercialisation & enterprise project	US\$ 20.00	USAID
7.	Kharlands Dev. Ph. II	dfi. 3.50	Netherlands
8.	Gas lift at Bombay High	US\$ 32.00	Italy
9.	Chandrapur Thermal	US\$ 280	IBRD
10.	Maharashtra power-II	US\$ 350	IBRD
11.	Maharashtra power-I	US\$ 354	IBRD
12.	Maharashtra forestry	US\$ 124	IDA
13.	States Road Project (Multistate)	US\$ 56.60	IBRD/IDA
14.	Tech. Edu. II (Multistate)	US\$ 307.10	IDA
15.	Population V (Multistate)	US\$ 55.990	IDA
16.	IIInd National highway (Multistate)	US\$ 153 SDR 116.2	IBRD IDA
17.	Cataract Blindness Control (Multistate)	US\$ 112	IDA
18.	Pilot proj. for watershed dev. in rainfed areas (Multistate)	US\$ 29	IDA
19.	Maharashtra Rural Water Supply & Sanitation	US\$ 109.90	IDA
20.	Bombay water supply & sanitation III	US\$ 145.00	IBRD/IDA
21.	Bombay Urban Dev.	US\$ 137.50	IDA
22.	Watershed Maharashtra	DM 12	Germany
23.	MSEB-URAN-II	DN 310	-do-
24.	IIInd Ports Proj.	US\$ 129.00	ADB
25.	Maharashtra Rural Credit	US\$ 29	IFAD

Welfare Scheme for the Industrial Workers

4347. SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any Welfare Scheme for the industrial workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have introduced Group Insurance Scheme, for workers and all the workers come under the purview of Employees State Insurance Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (b). The Government has framed the ESI Scheme which provides for medical care and payment of certain cash benefits to the industrial workers of the country in the contingencies of sickness, maternity etc. The scheme is applicable to the persons employed in power-using factories employing 10 or more persons and non-power using factories/establishments employing 20 or more persons and drawing wages not exceeding Rs. 3,000/- p.m. Welfare Schemes such as Health, Housing, Education and Recreation etc. are being implemented by the Government for the Welfare of Beedi workers and Mine workers engaged in Beedi establishments and mining.

(c) and (d). A Group Insurance Scheme has been introduced with effect from 1.4.1992 for Beedi workers only. It is applicable to such Beedi workers who are in the age group of 18 to 60 years

and are holding genuine identity cards and are not subscribing towards Employees Provident Fund. The premium for the Scheme is paid in equal shares out of the Beedi Workers Welfare Fund and Social Security Fund of Life Insurance Corporation of India. Under the scheme, a lumpsum payment of Rs. 3000/- in case of natural death and Rs. 6000/- in case of accidental death is paid to the family of a deceased worker.

As regards the applicability of Employees State Insurance Scheme to all workers, it is clarified that the coverage of the ESI Scheme is according to the ESI Act, 1948 and is not universal. Moreover ESI Scheme is being extended in a phased manner covering industrial workers employed in factories/ establishments located in the areas notified from time to time.

[Translation]

New Stock Exchanges

4348. SHRI MAHESH KANODIA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to recognise and approve some more stock exchanges including one each at Surat and Vijayawada;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken by the Government to prohibit the trading of shares and other securities at the places where there are no recognised stock exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Government has recently conveyed permission for organising a Stock Exchange at Ranchi. Apart from this, the Government does not intend, at present, to grant recognition to any new Stock Exchange in the country, including at Surat and Vijayawada.

(c) if the trading in shares and other securities is taking place through unauthorised Stock Exchanges, it would be an offence under the provisions of the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. In order to safeguard the interest of the investing public, the Securities and Exchange Board of India has issued a Press Release in November, 1992 and also sent a letter to the Chief Secretaries of the State Governments and Union Territories, regarding prohibition of transactions in securities through stock exchanges other than those formally recognised.

**Assistance to Voluntary Agencies
by I.D.B.I.**

4349. SHRI ARJUN SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has provided any assistance to voluntary agencies from Rural Development Fund;

(b) if so, the procedure of this type of assistance; and

(c) the details of the works executed by these agencies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that it has provided financial assistance to voluntary agencies from its Technical Assistance Fund (TAF) and not from Rural Development Fund (RDF).

(b) and (c). IDBI has reported that the sanctions and release of funds to voluntary agencies are based on proposals received from them. The voluntary agencies engaged in economic upliftment of under privileged through creation of opportunities for wage/self-employment in industrial fields are eligible for assistance. To be eligible, the voluntary agencies should be registered organisations and schemes proposed by them should arrange for part of the capital expenditure as also for recurring expenditure. As on March 31, 1994, assistance aggregating Rs. 13.20 crore has been provided by IDBI to 142 voluntary agencies. The time and labour involved in preparation of statements giving details of the works executed by these agencies may not commensurate with the results to be achieved.

[English]

Trade with U.S.A.

4350. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have reached an understanding with the U.S.A. for exploring the major consumer markets; and

(b) if so, the details and likely impact thereof on our consumer industry?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Committee for RRBs

4351. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of Regional Rural Banks presently functioning in the country are inadequate to cater to the requirements of the rural areas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India set up a Committee in regard to these banks;

(d) if so, whether the above Committee has submitted its report;

(e) if so, the main features thereof; and

(f) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The existing 196 Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) with 14543 branches in 398 districts in the country with deposit amounting to Rs. 6909 crores and advances of Rs. 4611 crores are considered adequate to meet the banking requirements of rural population.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had not set up any Committee on the RRBs.

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

Special Assistance to Himachal Pradesh

4352. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of special assistance allocated to Himachal Pradesh during 1993-94; and

(b) the purpose for which this assistance has been utilized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No special assistance was allocated to Himachal Pradesh during 1993-94. However, an Advance Plan Assistance (APA) of Rs. 268.74 crores was sanctioned to Himachal Pradesh during 1993-94 to cover the State's entire opening deficit for 1993-94. The above amount of APA is to be adjusted in three equal annual instalments starting with 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise.

Closed Industrial Units of Madhya Pradesh

4353. SHRI KHELAN RAM JANGDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the industrial units lying closed in Madhya Pradesh and the number of those which are on the verge of closure;

(b) since when these units are lying closed and the reasons for their closure;

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to revive these industrial units;

(d) the number of the employees and labourers rendered unemployed due to closure of these units;

(e) whether any relief is provided to these labourers from National Renewal Fund; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (f). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Regional Rural Banks

4354. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:
SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the recommendations made by Kothari Committee and the Narasimhan Committee in regard to restructuring of the Regional Rural Banks to make them viable;

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government thereon; and

(c) the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India to give greater freedom to the Regional Rural Banks to rationalise

their existing branch net-work and to bring in operational efficiency?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Presumably the Hon'ble Members refer to the Kelkar Committee set up in 1986 which *inter-alia* recommended the enhancement of share capital of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs). The recommendations of the Committee including the enhancement of share capital have been implemented. The Committee on Financial System (Narasimham Committee, 1991) in its report, keeping in line with its recommendations to create rural subsidiaries of commercial banks, left the option open for the RRBs or their sponsor banks as to whether the RRBs should retain their identity or be merged on a voluntary basis with the sponsor banks' rural subsidiaries.

After considering different alternative models for restructuring of RRBs, a decision has been taken, as announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech in 28.2.94, to take up 50 of the 196 RRBs all over the country in the course of 1994-95 for undertaking comprehensive restructuring including cleaning up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. The experience with these 50 RRBs will guide the approach in later years to the other RRBs. The objective is to transform presently weak and ailing RRBs into financially viable and effective instruments of decentralised rural banking.

(c) With a view to improving their viability in the short term, a package of measures have also been announced by RBI in December, 1993. The measures include raising non-target group financing from 40 per cent to 60 per cent, increasing non-fund business, freeing RRBs

whose disbursements during 1992-93 were less than Rs. 2 crores from service area obligations and permitting them to relocate loss making branches at places like Mandis, Taluks/district headquarters, agriculture produce centres, etc. and to open extension counters at premises of institutions for which the RRB is the principal banker. The RRBs have also been permitted to install safe deposit lockers.

[*Translation*]

Refinance to Bihar by NABARD

4355. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of refinance assistance provided by NABARD to various Commercial, Cooperative and Regional Rural Banks in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) the limits prescribed in the matter of grant of loans by the Regional Rural Banks in the State and the extent to which these are followed;

(c) the percentage of the aforesaid refinance assistance utilized for benefit of the most backward and poor Adivasi areas of the State by various banks and cooperative institutions;

(d) whether NABARD has made any assessment of the benefits reaching the poor Adivasi through this assistance; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) (i) The refinance provided by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) to various banks under schematic lending in Bihar during the last three years is as under:—

Category of Banks	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>		
	Years		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Commercial Banks	6580	5385	4986
Cooperative banks			
(a) State Land Development Banks (SLDB)	187	774	732
(b) State Cooperative Bank (SCB)	3	9	79
Regional Rural Banks (RRB)	2177	1902	2318
Total	8947	8070	8115

(ii) The refinance provided by NABARD to SCB and RRBs under Non-

schematic lending in Bihar during last three years is as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Category of Bank	Years		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Bihar State Cooperative Bank			
Short Term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations)	6890.16	7068.30	—
Weavers	59.88	—	—
Regional Rural Banks			
Short term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations)	91.08	116.63	107.76
Short Term (other than Seasonal Agricultural Operations)	244.00	260.00	250.00
Medium Term (Non-schematic)	325.00	200.00	30.00

(b) and (c). The targets and achievement in availment of refinance by RRBs

in Bihar for last three years are as under:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Target	Achievement	% of Achievement
1991-92	2227	2177	97.7
1992-93	2300	1902	82.7
1993-94	3225	2318	65.8

The loans provided by the RRBs are generally for target groups viz. small and marginal farmers which take care of the requirement of poor adivasis.

(d) and (e). Studies have been conducted by NABARD in predominantly tribal districts of Ranchi, Godda and Sahebganj. The findings of these studies have revealed that the benefits of institutional finance have been reaching the poor adivasis. However, there are some impediments in the flow of institutional finance and income generation of the adivasis. These impediments include paucity of all weather roads connecting tribal villages with block and district headquarters, erratic power supply and non-selection of quality assets by beneficiaries which ultimately led to inadequate income generation.

[English]

Tea Departments of Banks

4356. SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector and other commercial banks in Calcutta have set up tea departments to provide finance to tea growers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such facilities are not available in Assam; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure setting up of tea departments by all banks in Assam to facilitate tea growers of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

Farm Exports

4357. SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI VEKARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for better coordination among Commerce, Agriculture and Food Processing Ministries for farm exports;

(b) whether a separate division would be set up for farm exports; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). To ensure coordination among the Ministries of Commerce, Agriculture and Food Processing, besides discussions at the official level, these Ministries are represented in various Commodity Boards like Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority, Tobacco Board, Spices Board, etc.

A separate Division for export promotion of agricultural products already exists in the Ministry of Commerce.

[Translation]

Restructuring of STC and MMTC

4358. SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received the recommendation from the Consultant on re-orientation and restructuring of State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also set up a Trade Development Cell in these organisations;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the said Cells; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Consequent upon the decanalisation of the import and export of a number of items hitherto canalised through STC & MMTC resulting in significant reduction in their turnovers, Government have been reviewing the need to re-orient and re-structure these Corporations in a manner consistent with a liberalised economy and competitive environment. In the overall exercise, the recommendations made by the Consultant appointed by the Ministry of Commerce are also being taken into account.

(c) No, Sir. However, in the changed scenario of its activities, STC had internally set up a Trade Development Cell to undertake actual trading operations.

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

[English]

Clearance system for Settlement of Foreign Exchange Transactions

4359. PROF. M. KAMSON: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India propose to set up a Clearing System for the settlement of foreign exchange transactions;-

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the aims and objectives expected to be achieved therefrom;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir; the Reserve Bank of India are working on the issue of establishing a foreign exchange clearing house for settlement of interbank foreign exchange transactions, but the details have not been finalised.

(c) It is expected to help in the reduction of communication costs, better management of foreign exchange funds, easier reconciliation of accounts and elimination of wrong and delayed credits/debits and consequential interest claims.

Malpractices in Capital Market

4360. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have given adequate statutory powers to Securities and Exchange Board of India to deal with malpractices in capital market;

(b) if so, the reasons for publishing advertisements by SEBI through newspapers stating that it does not hold statutory powers to deal with situation;

(c) whether the Government proposes to give more powers to the Securities and Exchange Board of India to deal with the situations arising in stock markets from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992, SEBI is vested with powers to register and regulate the functioning of stock brokers and various other intermediaries associated with the securities market. SEBI is also equipped to deal with cases of insider trading. Under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, powers having a bearing on the smooth functioning of stock exchanges including power to supersede the Government Board of a stock exchange have either been transferred or delegated to SEBI.

(b) Before the delegation of powers under the Companies Act in November, 1993, SEBI did not have powers to file complaints in respect of offences under certain sections of the Companies Act, 1956. This fact was reflected in the fortnightly press releases regarding investor complaints issued by SEBI prior to the delegation of powers under the Companies Act.

(c) and (d). Government has taken no decisions on the precise scope of possible amendments to the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act to give more powers to SEBI.

Export of Handicrafts

4361. SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES:
SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY:
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for the export of handicrafts during 1993-94 and the achievement made;

(b) the countries to which handicrafts were exported during the above period;

(c) the total foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(d) the steps taken to explore new markets for export of handicrafts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The target fixed for 1993-94 in respect of Handicrafts including Handknotted carpets, floor covering etc. was Rs. 3050 crores (Rs. 1790 crores for handicrafts and Rs. 1260 crores for handnotted carpets) and the achievement made till February, 94 is estimated provisionally at Rs. 2905.66 crores (Rs. 1710.86 crores for handicrafts) and (Rs. 1194.80 crores for handknotted carpets).

(b) The handicrafts including handknotted carpets are mainly exported to USA, UK, Germany, Japan, France, Italy, Netherland, Switzerland, Canada, Saudi Arabia and Australia.

(c) The total foreign exchange earned during 1993-94 (April-February) from the export of handicrafts and handknotted carpets is provisionally estimated at Rs. 2905.66 crores.

(d) The following steps have been taken by Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts and Carpet Export Promotion Council (under the administrative Control of this office) to explore new markets for export of handicrafts including handknotted carpets etc.

- (i) The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts participated in Import fair partner for progress Berlin (Germany), International Houseware Show, Tokyo, International Gift Fair, Madrid and MESSE CADEAUX-LEIPZIG, Germany during 1993-94. The EPCH also organised Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair, 1994 at New Delhi during January, 1994.
- (ii) The Carpet Export Promotion Council participated in International Carpet Manufacturers Fairs, Chicago, and in DOMOTEX International Trade Fair, Hannover (Germany) during the year, 1993-94.

Funds to Gujarat for Renovation of NTC Mills

4362. SHRI RATILAL VERMA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has requested to allocate funds to begin the renovation work of NTC mills in the State; and

(b) if so, the details of the funds allocated and released for the above purpose during 1993-94 and 1994-95, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). NTC (HC) releases funds, according to the availability, to meet various requirements of all its subsidiary corporations including NTC (Gujarat) Ltd. During 1993-94 NTC(HC) had released a sum of Rs. 26.63 crores to NTC (Gujarat) for

working capital requirements including payment of wages and bonus.

Retention Price Subsidy Scheme

4363. SHRI RAJ NARAIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an element of income tax was paid to fertilizer producing units under the Retention Price Subsidy Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any income tax has been paid by the fertilizer producing units after the introducing of subsidy scheme;

(d) if so, the details thereof during the last three years; and

(e) total amount involved in the irregular payment under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Under the Retention Price cum Subsidy Scheme, the retention prices of fertilizers are computed on normative basis taking into account various elements of cost of production, selling expenses, etc. and allowing 12% post-tax return on net worth. The post-tax return of 12% is computed after providing for tax liability grossed up at the prevailing rate of Corporate-tax;

(c) and (d). The actual payment of income-tax by the fertilizer units has no relationship with the computation of normative retention price. The actual income-tax payment depends upon various other factors such as the levels of production, the profitability of the unit including non-fertilizer activities, post

accumulated losses, general tax concessions available to the industry, etc. Hence the actual tax paid by the fertilizer units is not relevant;

(e) there is no irregular payment under the scheme in as much as the comparison of actuals with the normative price is not envisaged under the scheme.

[*Translation*]

Child Labour in Bidi Industry

4364. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state the number of children below the age of fourteen working in the Bidi Industry in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): As per provisions of Section 24 of Beedi & Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966, employment of Child Labour in beedi industrial premises is prohibited. As such no statistics in regard to child labour in the beedi industry are maintained.

[*English*]

Allotment of Shares by SBI

4365. SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitems captioned, "SBI rejects 6 lakh fake application; finalises allotment" and "Deemed seizures by I-T Deptt." appearing in the Times of India dated March 25, 1994;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon;

(c) whether the allotment of shares was strictly made as per the declaration of the State Bank of India in the newspapers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken to allot the shares to the persons fulfilling the conditions laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Housing Scheme for E.P.F. Subscribers

4366. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 320 dated March 18, 1994 and state:

(a) whether the Central Board of Trustees in its meeting held on March 31, 1994 to consider the recommendations regarding setting up of a Housing Finance Fund and for drawing up a scheme for providing Housing Finance loan to the Employees Provident Fund subscribers has taken any decision; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The Central Board of Trustees, EPF discussed the report of the Housing Finance Fund

Committee on 31.3.1994. The recommendations of the Board have not yet been submitted to the Government.

[*Translation*]

Strike In Banks and Financial Institutions

4367. SHRI SIMON MARANDI:
SHRI GAYA PRASAD
KORI:
SHRI R. SURENDER
REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the employees of all the nationalised banks, State Bank of India as well as the Reserve Bank of India and other financial institutions observed one day's strike on April 8, 1994;

(b) if so, the reasons for observing the strike and the details of their demands;

(c) whether the strike had paralysed the banking operations throughout the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reactions of the Government to the strike and to the demands of the employees of banking and financial institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). A section of the employees in financial sector participated in a nation wide strike on 8.4.94. Indian Banks' Association has reported that the strike was against the

alleged privatisation of banks and insurance industry, closure of banks' branches, job security and for early wage revision etc.

Government have, on a number of occasions, including the meeting of the Finance Minister with the trade union leaders in January 1994, allayed the fears of bankmen and have reiterated that there is no intention to denationalise public sector banks. Government have also made it clear that there is no move to privatise any public sector bank; nor to close any loss making branches on a large scale although rationalisation of the branch network to ensure better utilisation of resources is not ruled out.

In relation to the demand for wage revision several rounds of discussion on the charter of demand submitted by the employees' unions for the VIth Bipartite Settlement have so far taken place between IBA and the representatives of the employees' unions. In pursuance of these discussions, memoranda of understanding have already been signed between the major employees unions and IBA with regard to pension in lieu of C.F. and on computerisation and mechanisation. Discussions between IBA and the employees' representatives on the subject have not so far been concluded.

[*English*]

Multi-Fibre Arrangement Programme

4368. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether multi-fibre arrangement programme likely to have an adverse effect on several sectors;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Multifibre Arrangement is an international treaty dealing with international trade in textiles and clothing. India has been opposing this Arrangement since it enables developed countries to impose quota restrictions on textiles and clothing imports from developing countries. The Final Act embodying the results of the Uruguay Round Negotiations envisages that at the end of the 10 year transition period, the textile and clothing sector will get completely integrated into the Multilateral system.

Call Money Market

4369. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the low call money rates, foreign banks are managing to earn profits from the call money market;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the measures which Government propose to take to countenance the grey area of operation in call money market, providing a golden patch for foreign banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has

reported that scheduled commercial banks, including foreign banks, are permitted to borrow as well as lend in the call/notice money market and it is considered a legitimate activity for the purpose of equilibrating their short term liquidity position. With the excess liquidity in the Banking system, in the recent period call money rates have considerably softened. The turnover in the money market has also come down considerably. The average daily borrowings of 31 major Indian and foreign banks in the fortnight ended March, 4, 1994 was Rs. 5543 crores as against that of Rs. 6922 crores in the fortnight ended March, 5, 1993. Reserve Bank of India has further reported that major foreign banks are not borrowers in the call/notice money market, According to Reserve Bank of India profits earned by a bank are related to their total funds and it would not be meaningful to identify a particular source of funds as contributing to profits.

[*Translation*]

Loan to Voluntary Organisations by IDBI

4370. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of various voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh from which applications have been received by the Industrial Development Bank of India for providing financial assistance during the last three years;

(b) the number of applications approved and rejected, separately;

(c) the extent of financial assistance provided by the Industrial Deve-

lopment Bank of India for setting up industries in the State particularly in no-industry districts and in backward areas during the said period;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to issue directives to the Industrial Development Bank of India to provide more financial assistance to the industrial units in Uttar Pradesh; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that no application for financial assistance from voluntary organisations in Uttar Pradesh (UP) has been received during the last three years.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As at the end of December 1993, IDBI had sanctioned assistance under its direct finance scheme aggregating Rs. 819.3 crore to units in 'No-industry Districts' of UP. The assistance sanctioned to other categories of backward areas in UP aggregated Rs. 1149.9 crore. These together form 57.2% of the total assistance sanctioned to industrial units in UP aggregating Rs. 3435.3 crore upto December, 1993.

(d) and (e). The decision to locate a project in a particular State vests with the entrepreneur who is in turn guided by the availability of infrastructure, incentives from the State Government, availability of raw materials, proximity to market etc. The project location is assessed by the IDBI from the angle of its suitability to the project. It has been

always the endeavour of IDBI to support all viable projects irrespective of their location.

[English]

UTI Bank

4371. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued a licence in February, 1994 to the UTI to commence banking business;

(b) if so, whether the modalities in this regard have been finalised;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the number of branches of the UTI bank proposed to be opened during 1994-95 and the location thereof;

(e) whether the staff of the branches of UTI bank will be directly recruited or taken from other banks and financial institutions;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the time by which first branch of the bank is likely to commence the business and the location thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir. Reserve Bank of India has issued a licence on 28.2.1994 to UTI to commence banking business.

(b) and (c). UTI Bank is subject to the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 and other relevant statutes in regard to its capital, its management set up, liquidity requirements and the scope of its activities. The Bank is also subject to prudential norms in respect of banking operations, accounting policies and other policies as are laid down by the Reserve Bank from time to time.

(d) During 1994-95, UTI Bank proposes to open 7 branches. The first two branches will be located at Ahmedabad and Bombay. The decision regarding the location of remaining five branches is yet to be taken.

(e) and (f). The staff for the UTI Bank is being directly recruited at various levels according to the requirement. Initially, 39 (thirty nine) middle level and senior level executives have been shortlisted after interviews and many of them are expected to join soon. Besides, qualified and experienced personnel from UTI have been posted initially to manage the affairs of the Bank.

(g) The first branch of the UTI Bank has commenced its operations from 2nd April, 1994 at Ahmedabad.

Average Population Per Public Sector Bank Branch

4372. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the average population (according to 1991 census) per public sector bank branch in Bihar and in the country as a whole, and

(b) the deposit ratio in Bihar and in the country as a whole as on March 31, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) In the absence of final figures relating to 1991 census, the Reserve Bank of India has reported the average population per public sector bank branch in Bihar and in the country as a whole at 14000 and 11000, respectively based on 1981 census.

(b) The credit deposit ratio as at the end of March, 1993 in respect of Bihar of all scheduled commercial banks is 38.82 per cent as compared to 60.51 per cent for the country as a whole.

Rubber Plantation in N.E. Region

4373. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total acreage brought under rubber plantation in each State in the North-Eastern Region;

(b) the funds allocated to each State and the number of beneficiaries during 1993-94, State-wise; and

(c) the percentage of Scheduled Castes/Schedules Tribes beneficiaries, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The requisite details are as under:—

Name of State	Area in ha.	Funds allotted (Rs. in lakhs)	No. of beneficiaries during 93-94		
			Total No.	% of SC and ST	
				SC	ST
Tripura	978.35	24.55	833	12.12	65.45
Assam	108.00	5.50	126	9.52	29.36
Meghalaya	44.00	2.24	90	—	100.00
Nagaland	145.00	6.27	123	—	100.00
Manipur	40.00	0.71	14	28.57	71.43
Mizoram	11.00	0.56	9	—	100.00
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	—	—	—
Total	1326.35	39.83	1195	—	—

[Translation]

Refinance by NABARD in Gujarat

4374. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by NABARD in the form of refinancing in various co-operative banks in Gujarat especially in tribal areas during the year 1992-93 and the number of co-operative banks to which the amount has been provided;

(b) whether NABARD has also provided refinance to certain co-operative banks in Gujarat during the aforesaid period which were not eligible for the same; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that under schematic lending it has disbursed refinance of Rs. 5250 lakhs through State Land Development Bank and Rs. 1246 lakhs through State Co-operative Bank in Gujarat State during the year 1992-93. The refinance disbursed in predominantly tribal areas (for schematic lending) worked out to Rs. 2349 lakhs through State Land Development Bank and Rs. 762 lakhs through State Cooperative Bank during 1992-93.

(b) and (c). NABARD has reported that it has not provided refinance to any cooperative bank during 1992-93 which were not-eligible for the same.

[English]

Export of Alcoholic Beverages

4375. DR. K.V.R. CHOWDARY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether indigenously manufac-
tured alcoholic beverages are exported;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
total quantity of various beverages ex-
ported and the foreign exchange earned
therefrom during each of the last three
years; and

(c) the steps taken by the Govern-
ment to boost the export of alcoholic
beverages during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes,
Sir.

(b) and (c). Indian made liquors
such as Brandy, Liqueurs, Whiskies, Rum,
Gin, Beer, Wine, etc. are exported from
India. The total quantity of export of IMFL
and the foreign exchange earned during
the last 3 years are as under:—

(Qty. K.L. Val. Rs. in lakhs)

Item	1990-91		1991-92		1992-93	
	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.	Qty.	Val.
Brandy	11.2	5.166	87.100	23.221	81.333	31.575
Liqueurs	751.116	191.521	729.682	231.596	445.291	118.746
Whiskies	1413.861	426.647	3004.406	1168.471	4597.510	1926.769
Rum	159.795	36.979	251.889	73.771	562.074	215.891
Gin	378.931	90.702	155.231	36.703	120.733	41.508
Beer	4476.793	351.316	1224.297	149.321	1462.799	206.716
Wine	155.017	35.184	113.080	61.708	75.626	61.155

(Source: DGCI&S)

Steps taken by the Agricultural and
Processed Food Export Development
Authority to boost the export of alcoholic
beverages during 1994-95 include oper-
ation of schemes for:

(i) Export promotion and Market
Development;

(ii) for assistance to promote
quality and quantity control;
and

(iii) for supply of product samples
for the purpose of test market-
ing, product information and
promotion through publicity.

Loss Suffered Due to Sahara India Airlines Aircraft Crash

4376. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state: -

(a) whether the Sahara India Airlines aircraft crash at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on March 8, 1994 had caused damage to the airport;

(b) if so, the total loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to recover the loss from the Sahara India Airlines; and

(d) if so, the mode of payment thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total loss/damage suffered by the International Airports Authority of India (IAAI) is being assessed.

(c) IAAI intends to recover the loss suffered.

(d) The mode of payment shall be decided in consultation with the Insurance Companies of M/s. Sahara India Airlines and IAAI.

Free Trade Zone Port

4377. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to announce a new free trade zone port during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of such ports in the country which are making profits and extent of profits and export import made from these ports during each of the last three years;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide adequate facilities at these ports; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (e). A proposal to set up a Free Port in India is being considered on the basis of recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Free Port, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library. No Free Port presently exists in the country.

Scheme Formulated for Export of Mangoes by Andhra Pradesh

4378. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has formulated any scheme to boost the exports of mangoes;

(b) if so, the details of thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any request from Andhra Pradesh for the financial assistance in this regard;

(d) if so, the assistance provided by the Government in this regard; and

(e) the total amount likely to be realised by way of mango exports during 1994-95 by Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Government of Andhra Pradesh in June, 1993 have sanctioned a scheme for promotion of export of mangoes from AP through growers' cooperative societies with an expenditure of Rs. 47.87 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have given financial assistance for upgrading packing quality for an amount of Rs. 45,832 in March, 1994. Further, an amount of Rs. 1,81,935 was also released by the National Horticulture Board towards purchase of plastic crates used for exports.

(e) About 1000 MTs of fresh mangoes valued at Rs. 6 crores are expected to be exported.

(Source : Govt. of A.P.)

Smuggling across the Rajasthan Border

4379. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of narcotics arms and ammunition has increased in the border districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the number of such cases detected during each of the last three years;

(c) whether the Government propose to review the method being adopted for the checking of smuggling of these items; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The available information about the quantity of drugs seized with cases in brackets as well as the number of arms and ammunition seized with number of cases in brackets in the State, during 1991, 1992 and 1993 is given below:—

	1991	1992	1993
(i) DRUGS (In Kgs.)			
Hashish	564.670 (4)	362.475 (4)	939.060 (4)
Heroin	35.000 (2)	8.000 (2)	89.190 (8)
Opium	—	—	12.200 (4)
Cocain	—	—	0.960 (1)
(ii) ARMS	176 Nos.	27 Nos.	3 Nos.
(iii) AMMUNITION	42168 Nos. (42)	4559 Nos. (17)	45 Nos. (5)

(c) and (d). Narcotics Control Bureau, an apex body on narcotics, organised a Coordination Committee Meeting of Central and State Governments enforcement agencies; particularly on Indo-Pak Border at New Delhi in February, 1994 to review and check drug trafficking and exchange of intelligence on the subject. Next meeting of the said Committee is scheduled to be held shortly.

Besides, strict instructions have been issued to all the enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in various Acts. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. A part of Indo-Pak Border has been fenced. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided to the enforcement agencies. Border Security Force has made elaborate arrangements to check the smuggling of arms and ammunition and also narcotics from across the Indo-Pak Border.

Export of Coal

4380. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal is being exported to Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the total quantity of coal exported to Bangladesh during each of the last three years;

(c) whether a lot of irregularities have been committed in this export; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to regulate the coal export to that country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The total quantity of coal exported to Bangladesh during the last three years is as under:—

<i>(Qty. in tonnes)</i>	
Year	Quantity
1991-92	— 76,478
1992-93	— 4,07,372
1993-94 (April-Dec.)	— 2,28,808

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Domestic Airlines

4381. SHRIMATI DIPIKA H. TOPIWALA:
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI RAMPAL SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have worked out any new formulae to govern domestic airlines operations.

(b) if so, the reaction of air taxi operators thereto;

(c) whether there was any interaction with the air taxi operators before finalisation of the above formulae; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) All scheduled air transport operators are required to follow the guidelines promulgated on 1.3.1994.

(b) One Air Taxi Operator has already applied for permission to operate Scheduled Air Transport services.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A detailed discussion was held with the Air Taxi Operators on 12.2.1994 before formulating the guidelines.

Foreign Financial Institutions

4382. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign financial institutions have been demanding more concessions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Since the announcement of guidelines in September 1992 permitting investments by Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) in the capital market, the Government is constantly reviewing the facilities available for foreign investments. Suggestions made by FIIs from time to time for a more investor friendly climate are received and processed by the Government on an ongoing basis. Some of the facilities extended recently to FIIs include permission to FIIs to subscribe

(with limits) in public issues and firm allotments made by Indian corporate bodies. Further, Foreign Brokers registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) have been allowed to place orders on behalf of FIIs registered with SEBI.

[*Translation*]

Rehabilitation of Tribals

4383. SMT. SHEELA GAUTAM:
SMT. BHAVNA CHIKHLIA:
SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI:
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Bank of India have drawn up various schemes for the rehabilitation of the tribals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of the tribes rehabilitated during 1992-93 and 1993-94 under the above schemes, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that no separate scheme for rehabilitation of tribals have been prepared. However, financial assistance to tribals has been extended by State Bank of India (SBI) for setting up small business and industrial ventures through different Government sponsored schemes and also through banks' own promotional schemes. State-wise number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes financed by the bank as on 31.3.1993 and 30.9.1993 (latest available) are given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT

State-wise number of persons belonging to Scheduled Tribes Financed by the State Bank of India

State	No. of S.T. financed as on 31.3.1993	No. of S.T. financed as on 30.9.1993
Delhi	236	261
Punjab	2601	2827
Haryana	18	18
Chandigarh	50	51
Jammu & Kashmir	336	336
Himachal Pradesh	3862	4159
Rajasthan	6914	7071
Assam	29759	30286
Mizoram	7478	2960
Meghalaya	23422	23536
Arunachal Pradesh	3295	3578
Nagaland	10378	11062
Manipur	5132	5186
Sikkim	4770	4920
Tripura	20629	20811
Bihar	53896	63260
West Bengal	139625	139790

State	No. of S.T. financed as on 31.3.1993	No. of S.T. financed as on 30.9.1993
Orissa	101008	103960
A and N Islands	725	850
Uttar Pradesh	37415	40055
Madhya Pradesh	77398	78535
Gujarat	18216	18004
Maharashtra	90820	93008
Goa, Daman and Diu	1187	1212
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	0	0
Andhra Pradesh	108249	113636
Karnataka	28985	29360
Lakshadweep	0	0
Tamil Nadu	23557	23172
Kerala	11673	12426
Pondicherry	0	0

[English]

Insurance Claims

4384. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISSI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding delay in settlement of insurance claims and issuing premium notices by the Life Insurance Corporation in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the year 1993-94;

(c) the number of cases pending settlement by the LIC in the above State;

(d) the reasons therefor;

(e) the usual time taken by the LIC in settlement of the claims; and

(f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure expeditious settlement of LIC claims?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the period 1.4.1993 to 28.02.1994, 124 complaints regarding delay in settlement of claims and issuing of premium notices, including 3 complaints through Directorate of Public Grievances were received by the Life Insurance Corporation from policyholders of Andhra Pradesh. These complaints were promptly attended.

(c) The number of claim cases pending settlement pertaining to the State of Andhra Pradesh as on 28-02-1994 are furnished as under:—

Maturity claim cases	—	2592
Death claim cases	—	3059

(d) The reasons for the pending claims are due to non-compliance of requirements by the policyholders, non-availability of address of policyholders and Exchange Control Regulations. Some cases also remained pending as they were being processed.

(e) In case of maturity claim it is a practice to send Discharge Voucher to policyholder 2 months in advance so that the maturity cheque can be issued on or before the date of maturity. In case of death claim, the LIC try to settle the claims within 75 days from the date of receipt of intimation.

(f) All operating offices of the LIC have been instructed to take regular follow-up action to settle the claims expeditiously.

Tea Plantation in Meghalaya

4385. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey has been conducted for tea plantation in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the details thereof with its outcome; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c). 500 hectares of area has been identified in Naya Bungalow, Rongran and Sonaphar areas of Meghalaya as suitable for tea cultivation. Two nurseries have been set up at Rongran and Naya Bungalow with grant in aid from Tea Board. The financial grant provided for the purpose of upto 31.3.93 is Rs. 33.66 lakhs. During the financial year 1993-94, a further sanction had been accorded for setting up of nurseries at Umsning and Rongran areas for raising 16.80 lakhs plants at an estimated cost of Rs. 31,16,200/-. Plantations have been taken up in the aforesaid areas by small farmers.

Inflation

4386. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR
PATEL:
DR. KARTIKESWAR
PATRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of inflation dipped while the prices rose in the last weeks of January 1994;

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

(c) the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). During the last week of January, 1994 (ended 29th January), the annual rate of inflation at 8.96 per cent was slightly lower than the inflation rate of 9.14 per cent reached in the previous week ended 22nd January. The wholesale price index at 252.9 was also lower than the wholesale price index of 253.1 reached in the week ended 22nd January. The reason for the drop in this week was the decline of 0.4% in primary articles group.

Industries in Export Processing Zones

4387. SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is mandatory for the industrial units set up in Export Processing Zones to export cent percent products of their total production as per the per-conditions of the agreement;

(b) whether more facilities have been provided to those industrial units for export in comparison to the facilities provided to the other industrial units engaged in exports;

(c) if so, the details of the additional facilities provided or packages of incentives proposed to the industrial units set up in those Export Processing Zones and Export Processing Units, separately;

(d) whether those units could not export their cent percent products during the previous years despite availing the facilities provided to them for this purpose; and

(e) if so, the total production of those units during each of the last three years and the percentage of export made out of the total production and the percentage of the export made in dollars?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) While the industrial units set up in Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are required to export their entire production except rejects and permissible sale in the Domestic Tariff Area (DTA), it is not mandatory for them to export cent percent of production.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The facilities enjoyed by units in EPZs include duty free import of capital goods, raw materials, consumables etc., exemption from payment of central excise duty on capital goods and inputs procured from DTA, reimbursement of central sales tax paid on purchase from outside the state, 100% foreign equity participation, 5 year tax holiday, concessional lease rent on industrial plots and sheds, simplified approval procedures and custom formalities, liberalised DTA access with reduced

rate of duty etc. No package of incentives is proposed for the present.

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

Vapour Explosive Detectors

4388. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Airlines possesses the Vapour Explosive Detectors to check cargo, baggage and courier mail;

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal to procure the above detectors for the use in major airports in the country;

(c) if so, the number of such detectors proposed to be procured by the Indian Airlines; and

(d) the cost of the above detector?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) At present there is no such proposal.

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

Powers to Reserve Bank of India

4389. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give more powers to the Reserve Bank of India to ensure the safety and soundness of the financial system and bring about greater transparency and accountability in operations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The financial reforms initiated by the Government visualise a stronger role for the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in the management of the financial sector. At present, the powers of supervision and inspection of different sectors of the financial system are exercised by the RBI under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. With a view to ensure effective performance of these functions, it has been decided that a Supervisory Body will be set up under the aegis of RBI.

Free Sale Quota of Coffee

4390. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Coffee Board has recommended to the Government for the introduction of a "Free Sale Quota of Coffee"; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On the basis of the recommendations of the Coffee Board, the Central Government has since amended the Coffee Act, 1942 to provide for Free Sale Quota of Coffee to growers. Now, the Coffee Board can allow Free Sale Quota upto 50% of the produce to the growers without previous sanction of the Central Government and above 50% with Government's previous sanction.

[*Translation*]

Export of Gems and Jewellery

4391. SHRI RAJENDRA
AGNIHOTRI:
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a joint venture with U.S. company to encourage export of gems and jewellery;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard; and

(d) the value of gems and jewellery likely to be exported during 1994-95?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no proposal with the Government to set up a joint venture with US company to encourage export of gems & jewellery.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The export target for the year 1994-95, as reported by the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, is Rs. 14585 Crores.

[*English*]

Import of Consumer Goods

4393. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUHURY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to allow import of consumer goods like TVs, VCRs, VCPs, Washing machines against special import licences;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Consumer Electronics and Television Manufacturers' Association (CETMA) has submitted any note to the Government bringing out the drawbacks of the proposal;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The Govt. has considered various proposals for allowing import of select items against Special Import Licences. In all, 67 items have been indicated in the Shopping List in Appendix XXXV of the Hand Book of Procedures, Vol. I 1992-97 (Revised Edition March, 1994).

(c) to (e). M/s. CETMA had submitted a note on the Special Import Licence Scheme stating that free import of consumer electronics items would adversely affect the domestic industry, and in particular, joint venture investment and employment. Special emphasis has been placed on safeguarding the domestic TV Industry against foreign competition. M/s. CETMA has proposed that a period of minimum 3-5 years should be given to the domestic consumer electronics industry for increasing the physical production. The Government has expanded the list of items allowed for import under the SIL Scheme after carefully considering the suggestions contained in these representations.

India's Share in the World Trade*[Translation]*

4394. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the India's position as an exporter and as an importer in the world trade; and

(b) the value of trade and percentage of India's share in the world trade during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) India's position in the world was 33rd as an exporter and 29th as an importer during 1992.

(Source: CMIE "World Economy and India's Place in it", October, 1993).

(b) India's total trade and its percentage share in the world trade during 1990, 1991 and 1992 are given below:—

	<i>(US\$ Million)</i>		
	1990	1991	1992
India's trade	41017	36285	43143
Percentage share in world trade	0.59	0.52	0.57

Source:—

1. Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Statistical Division, UN, December, 1992 (For 1990 & 1991).
2. Foreign Trade Statistics of India, 1986-87 to 1992-93, CMIE, February, 1994 (for 1992).

Export Oriented Yarn Mills

4395. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the foreign exchange earned by the export oriented yarn mills during the last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to set up some more export oriented yarn mills; and

(c) if so, the locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The value of Cotton Yarn exported by 100% EOUs during the last three financial years is given below:—

	<i>(Rs. crores)</i>	
Year	Value	
1991-92	—	103.4
1992-93	—	207.2
April 93-February, 94	—	298.7

(b) and (c). Government does not propose to set up 100% export oriented yarn units. Such units are normally set up by private entrepreneurs in locations of their choice, subject to the locational policy of the Government.

Hawala Gangs

4396. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received information about relations of Dubai based Hawala gangs with the persons in various parts of our country; and

(b) if so, the efforts being made by the Government to trace out the persons related to these Hawala gangs and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Enforcement Directorate carries out intensive investigations all over the country to detect such offences and steps are also taken to award deterrent punishment to the offenders. As a result, cases involving compensatory payments to the tune of US\$ 43.1 million, 24.4 million and 98.6 million were detected during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94, respectively.

[English]

Assistance under "Mahila Udyam Nidhi"

4397. SHRI RAM NIHORE RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines issued by the Government/Reserve Bank of India to the Commercial banks to provide loan/assistance under "Mahila Udyam Nidhi" scheme;

(b) the Commercial banks in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh which provide loan/assistance under the above scheme alongwith the amount provided by these banks during 1992 and 1993, State-wise; and

(c) the rate of interest charged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has been operating Mahila Udyam Nidhi (MUN) Scheme to provide equity type of assistance to women entrepreneurs setting up new industrial projects in the Small Scale Industrial (SSI) sector. All new industrial projects in SSI sector as also service activities which are eligible for finance as per SSI norms and set up by women entrepreneurs are eligible for assistance under the scheme provided the cost of the project does not exceed Rs. 10 lakhs. Assistance under the scheme is in the form of soft loan to meet the gap in the equity after taking into account the promoters' contribution to the project subject to a maximum of 15% of the project cost. Minimum promoters' contribution is prescribed at 10%. No interest is levied on the soft loan but a nominal service charge of 1% per annum is payable annually. No security including collateral security need to be provided by the borrowers.

The repayment is to be made in 10 years including a moratorium upto 5 years. MUN Scheme is operated through State Finance Corporations (SFCs) and twin-function Industrial Development Corporations (IDCs) and not through the commercial banks.

Assistance sanctioned by SIDBI under MUN Scheme to units in SSI

sector in Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh during the last two years is as under:—

Name of the State	(Rs. Lakhs)	
	1991-92	1992-93
Uttar Pradesh	10.08	9.85
Haryana	1.00	5.94
Himachal Pradesh	0.98	1.58

(c) No interest is levied on the assistance provided under MUN Scheme but a service charge of 1% per annum is payable annually.

[Translation]

Premium for Marine and Transit Insurance

4398. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to allow four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) to fix the premium for marine and transit insurance of their own;

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

(c) the purpose of this relaxation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to

(c). The rates, terms and conditions for general insurance business are fixed by the Tariff Advisory Committee which is a statutory organisation constituted under the Insurance Act, 1938. This Committee has decided to allow the four subsidiary companies of the General Insurance Corporation of India to fix their own premium rates for marine and transit insurance business with effect from 1.4.1994. The relaxation now granted by the TAC is expected to enhance the ability of the insurance companies to analyse the risks and improve their underwriting skills, leading to an effective and healthy competition enabling them to compete more effectively on healthy principles in the new economic environment.

[English]

Tourism Development at Sea Beaches

4399. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received some proposals from the State Government for financial assistance for tourism development at sea beaches during the last three years;

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

(c) the amount of financial assistance sanctioned for each project?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of the project sanctioned during the last three years under beach tourism, State wise is given in the *Statement* enclosed.

STATEMENT*Tourism Development at Sea Beaches*

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned
Andhra Pradesh			
1.	Beach Resort at Tupplipalem,	1991-92	7.00
Goa			
1.	Toilet facilities at Golva, Miramar and Dona Paula	1992-93	11.95
2.	Public conveniences at Calangute Beach	1993-94	13.34
Gujarat			
1.	Tourist Complex at Bhuj	1191-92	13.08
2.	Preservation of Beach Resort at Chorwad	-do-	10.00
3.	Cafeteria at Porbandar	1993-94	14.60
4.	Flood Lighting at Som Nath Temple	-do-	17.46
Karnataka			
1.	Public Conveniences at Gokarna	1993-94	3.21
Kerala			
1.	Integrated Development of Bekal	1991-92	190.00
2.	Beach Resort at Paravoor	1993-94	26.13
3.	Beach Resort at Cherithala	-do-	24.69
Maharashtra			
1.	Tourist Complex at Ganapatipule	1993-94	26.57
2.	Beach Cottages at Harihareshwar	-do-	24.88

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Year of sanction	Amount sanctioned
3.	Tourist Complex at Kunkeshwar	1993-94	24.80
Orissa			
1.	Yatri Niwas at Puri	1992-93	44.85
2.	Tourist Complex at Gopalpur	1993-94	38.23
3.	Tourist Complex at Paradip	-do-	32.50
Tamil Nadu			
1.	Flood lighting of Mamallapuram	1991-92	9.98
2.	Beautification of Beach Kanyakumari	-do-	6.00
3.	Yatri Niwas at Rameshwaran	1992-93	44.73
West Bengal			
1.	Beach Resort at Shankarpur	1991-92	40.13
UNION TERRITORIES			
A&N Islands			
1.	Tourist Complex at Diglipur	1993-94	26.62
2.	Tourist Complex at Ranget	-do-	26.85
Lakshadweep			
1.	Accommodation at Kodmat Island	1991-92	23.00
Dadar, Nagar, Daman and Diu			
1.	Visitors Centres at Daman	1991-92	10.74
2.	Illumination of St. Paul Church at Diu	1993-94	4.03
Pondicherry			
1.	Tourist Lodge at Koraikal	1991-92	21.95

[Translation]

**Loans for Schemes Sponsored by
Uttar Pradesh**

4400. SHRI HARI KEWAL PRASAD:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of
India has issued the instructions to the
commercial Banks in Uttar Pradesh to
grant loan for various schemes sponsored
by the State Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the
amount of loan granted during the last
one year together with the names of the
schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)
and (b). The information is being collected
and to the extent available will be
laid on the Table of the House.

**Unemployment due to Liberalisation
of Economic Policy**

4401. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased
to state:

(a) whether the Government propose
to liberalise the process of temporary
retrenchment and termination of
workers in industrial houses by amending
the Labour Laws and other related laws
with a view to encouraging foreign investors
for setting up units in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have
assessed the employment opportunities
created as a result of liberalisation policy
vis-a-vis the workers deprived or likely to
be deprived of their employment due to
liberalisation process; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF
THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A.
SANGMA): (a) and (b). Based on the
recommendations of the Ramanujam
Committee on 'New Industrial Relations
Law' and deliberations held thereon in
various forums and after considering the
report of the Inter Ministerial Group on
Industrial Restructuring, specific proposals
to amend the Industrial Disputes Act,
1947 have been formulated. The thrust
of the proposed amendments, *inter-alia*,
is to remove the restrictive provisions
militating against enhanced domestic as
well as foreign investments in the industrial
sector and to streamline the laws so
as to secure a greater degree of harmony
in industrial relations conducive to
increased production and productivity and
growth of employment.

(c) and (d). Employment is a thrust
area of Government's policies and
programmes. It is not practical, however,
to correlate possible job losses with the
creation of new jobs. There are various
other factors besides labour laws that
would determine the mobility of labour
and the growth of new employment
opportunities.

[English]

Export to South Africa

4402. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA: Will the Minister of COM-
MERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Punjab, Haryana and Delhi Chamber of Commerce and Industry has formulated an action plan to achieve the export target of Rs. 2,000 crores to South Africa and promote joint ventures with that country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b). Based on the discussions held with the Chambers of Commerce and business leaders of PHDCCI's delegation which visited South Africa in September 1993, the PHD Chamber estimated that an export target of Rs. 2000 crores per annum to South Africa could be achieved within the next two years. The Chamber has identified the following items for setting up of joint ventures:—

Food processing, pig iron, coal mining, liquefaction of coal, conventional and non-conventional energy.

The Chamber has made necessary arrangements to assist businessmen in both the countries for promotion of trade and economic co-operation.

(c) It is difficult to quantify the actual level of export which would take place in the coming years. However, considering state of economy of South Africa and complementarities of both the countries, the scope in above mentioned and other areas is substantial.

Resignation of Officials of SBI

4403. SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(DEORIA):
SHRI SRIKANTA JENA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of senior officials of the State Bank of India, Delhi, West Bengal and Bombay have resigned to take up assignment in financial institutions and private banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to check such trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). State Bank of India has reported that 15 of its officers in the Top Executive Grades Scale VI and above have, during the last one year, taken pre-mature retirement from the service of the bank to join service in the financial institutions and banks in the private sector for seeking better opportunities. The officers of the banks, including SBI, have to seek specific permission from their respective institutions to join any private sector institution. Since, at present, the number of such officers is small, Government interference does not appear to be called for.

[Translation]

Tourism Agreement with Turkey

4404. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with the Government of Turkey to encourage tourism in both the countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Air Safety Violations by Indian Airlines

4405. SHRI MOHAN SINGH
(FEROZEPUR):
PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has detected any safety violations on board Indian Airlines aircraft during 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the Indian Airlines/staff of I.A. in each case?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). Some instances of safety violations like wrong approach, tail strike, landing below minima, non-fastening of seat belts etc, have been reported on Indian Airlines flights during the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94.

(c) Cases of violation are investigated by DGCA and responsibility is fixed on pilot/co-pilot/flight engineer/cabin crew etc. Depending on outcome of the investigations, suitable action ranging from issue of warnings to suspension of licences is taken against the erring personnel.

[English]

Carpet Training Centres

4406. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up more Carpet Training Centres throughout the Country during 1994-95;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which those training centres are likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The Government through the office of the Development Commissioner (Handicrafts) is running 2 institutional training schemes in carpet weaving. One is run departmentally and other through various organisations. In so far as departmental training centres are concerned, there is no proposal to set-up any new training centre in carpet weaving in 1994-95. However, in case of training through other organisation, the details of training centre which have been sanctioned during 1993-94 for being set-up during 1994-95 is as per the attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

The details of Carpet Training Centres which were sanctioned during 1993-94 and would start functioning during 1994-95

Sl. No.	Name of the State	No. of Centres
1.	Arunachal Pradesh	1
2.	Andhra Pradesh	1
3.	Gujarat	3
4.	Haryana	1
5.	Manipur	3
6.	Orissa	9
7.	Uttar Pradesh	13
8.	Madhya Pradesh	5

Regional Rural Banks in Maharashtra

4407. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYYA SADUL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the regional rural banks functioning in Maharashtra till the end of March, 1994;

(b) whether any new bank has been opened in the State during the last three years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.

CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) There are ten Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) operating in the State of Maharashtra covering 17 districts with a net-work of 591 branches. As per latest data available, the deposits mobilised and advances (outstanding) by these RRBs in Maharashtra were Rs. 16292.15 lakhs and 15534.98 lakhs respectively as at the end of March, 1993.

(b) and (c). No new RRBs has been opened in Maharashtra during last three years.

Air Taxi Operators

4408. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
SHRI G. MADE GOWDA:
SHRI AVTAR SINGH BHADANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the names of air taxi operators which have sought permission to start air services during the last one year;

(b) the details of their fleet including type of aircraft and the proposed areas of operations;

(c) the names of air taxi operators, out of them, given permission in this regard;

(d) the names of air taxi operators, out of them, which have started air services; and

(e) the details of air taxi operators which are likely to start air services during 1984?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Twenty seven applications were received during the year 1993 for starting Air Taxi services. List of the applicants is at the attached *Statement-I*.

(b) Air taxi operators are free to operate to any airport open for scheduled operations. No specification of aircraft is required for obtaining No Objection Certificate (NOC).

(c) and (d). Only one operator has been issued air taxi operators permit the particulars of which are at attached *Statement-II*. This operator has already started air services.

(e) The future plan of the other applicants can not be indicated at this stage.

STATEMENT-I

Names of the applicants who have sought permission to start Air Taxi services during 1993

1. M/s. Aeolus Aviation Pvt. Ltd., Madras.
2. M/s. J.K. Industries, New Delhi.
3. M/s. V.I.F. Airways Pvt. Ltd., Hyderabad.
4. M/s. Dirmi Flying Academy Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
5. M/s. Indian Travellers Club Ltd., Secunderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
6. M/s. Span Aviation Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
7. M/s. Century Textiles and Industries Ltd., Bombay.
8. M/s. Mahendra Air Services Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi.
9. M/s. Max Business Aviation, New Delhi.
10. United India Airways, Kerala, Trivendrum.
11. Indo Pacific Airlines, Bombay.
12. M/s. Chokhani Global Express Ltd., New Delhi.
13. M/s. NEPC-Micon Ltd., 36, Wallajah Road, Madras-2.
14. M/s. Goa Way, Runwal Chambers, 2nd Floor, 1st Road, Chambur, Bombay.
15. M/s. LLW Landlords World Inc. P.O. Box 3274, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V6 B3XG.
16. M/s. Dwarka Air Taxi Ltd., B-14, Vasant Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
17. M/s. U.P. Air Services Society, Lucknow Airport, Lucknow.
18. M/s. Grasim Industries Ltd., Birlagram, Nagoda (M.P.), UCO Bank Building, (4th floor), Parliament Street, New Delhi.
19. M/s. Taneja Aerospace Aviation Ltd., Maharashtra.
20. M/s. North Star Airlines Pvt. Ltd., 13, Palam Marg, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi.
21. M/s. The East India Hotels Ltd., 7, Som Nath Marg, Delhi-110054.

22. M/s. Narbheram Leasing Co. (P) Ltd., Dimple Court, 26, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta-700 017.
23. M/s. Travel Master, India, Pvt. Ltd., Madras.
24. M/s. Gill Airways, 1st Floor, World Trade Tower, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi.
25. M/s. Gujarat Airways Ltd., "Centre Point" 6th floor, Panchvati, Ellisbridge, Ahmedabad 380006.
26. M/s. Sterling Airways Pvt. Ltd., 50/B, 1st Floor, Tolstoy Lane, Janpath, New Delhi-110 001.
27. M/s. Air Trade.

STATEMENT-II

Name of Air Taxi Operator to whom permit has been issued

Sl. No.	Name of Operator	Type of Aircraft	No. of Aircraft
1.	M/s. NEP-MICON Ltd., Madras	F-27-500	4

Insurance Cover to Current Account Depositors

4409. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Andhra Bank has drawn up a scheme to provide insurance cover to all its current account depositors;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount of the insurance;

(c) the impact of the above scheme on banks deposits;

(d) whether the Government propose to start the above scheme in other banks; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Andhra Bank has reported that it introduced an insurance linked current account scheme with effect from 21-2-1994 for all the current account holders including overdraft and cash credit holders. Each account holder is required to pay an insurance premium of Rs. 36 per annum to get the accident insurance cover upto Rs. 1,00,000.

In case of partnership firm, if each partner pays Rs. 36/- per annum towards insurance premium, accident insurance cover upto 1,00,000/- is available for each partner. In case of private limited or public limited companies, all the directors are eligible for accident insurance cover of Rs. 1,00,000/- provided they pay Rs. 36/- per annum per head towards insurance premium.

(c) Since the scheme has been introduced with effect from 21.2.1994, it is picking up slowly.

(d) and (e). The commercial banks adopt such schemes on their own as warranted by operational considerations.

Foreign Loans to States

4410. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHAB TOPE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to allow State Government to borrow money directly from the World Bank, IMF and other international agencies; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Restrictions on Sale and Advertising of Tobacco Products

4411. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:
SHRI RAMCHANDRA
VEERAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has collected data and information from other tobacco-growing countries on the prevailing restrictions on sale or advertising of tobacco products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by Tobacco Board to study the impact of various restrictions on tobacco products?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Disbursement of Credit by Central Bank of India

4412. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has detected serious irregularities in the process of Central Bank of India's disbursement of over 400 crore credit to certain companies during 1991-93 as reported in the "Economic Times" dated March 20, 1994;

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

(c) whether some officers of the Central Bank of India are found involved in the said irregularities; and

(d) if so, the action taken or contemplated against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its scrutiny of the relatively large advances sanctioned by the Central Bank of India during the year 1991-92 has revealed certain irregularities. RBI's scrutiny report had not given any aggregate figure of the limits sanctioned or outstanding in such accounts. However, Central Bank of India has reported that total present exposure in the accounts covered in RBI scrutiny is Rs. 191.79 crores. As directed by Board of Directors of the bank, all these accounts have been examined by the Chief Vigilance Officer of the bank and RBI is following up the matter. CBI is also investigating into irregularities in respect of two Group accounts. Two of the officers of the Central Bank identified for their involve-

ment in these irregularities have been placed under suspension. Five other officers who were identified as involved in sanction and disbursement of these advances have since retired/resigned. Action against those involved will depend upon the investigation results.

[*Translation*]

Strike of Employees of Regional Rural Banks

4413. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether thousands of employees of the regional rural banks went on strike recently;

(b) if so, the issues for which they have to resort to strike;

(c) whether the Government have held any negotiation with them in order to resolve those issues and for smooth functioning of the banks;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the present position regarding grievances of these employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (e). Regional Rural Bank (RRB) employees in the recent past had during their strike calls on different dates, demanded *inter alia* the following:—

(i) Early constitution of National Rural Bank (NRB),

(ii) Payment of arrears,

(iii) Amendment of RRB staff service rules, promotion and recruitment policy,

(iv) Pension in addition to CPF and Gratuity, and

(v) Halt to the move of the Government for privatisation of banks, Insurance companies and other financial institutions.

On receiving notices of such strike calls, the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) advises all RRBs of the various steps to be taken for their smooth functioning. As regards employees demand for formation of NRB, after considering different alternative models in this regard, it has been announced by the Finance Minister in his Budget Speech on 28.2.1994 that it is proposed to take up 50 out of 196 RRBs all over the country in the course of 1994-95 for undertaking comprehensive restructuring including cleaning up of their balance sheets and infusion of fresh capital. The experience with these 50 RRBs will guide the approach in later years to the other RRBs. As regards payment of arrears to employees on account of the Award of the National Industrial Tribunal (NIT), RRBs have not been able to pay the same due to their weak financial position.

[*English*]

Cargo Handling Facilities

4414. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cargo handling facilities and space at various airports in the country are inadequate to meet the demand;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has also recently stated that the Government should develop more cargo terminals at various airports in the country;

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

(d) whether any study has been conducted to check the bottlenecks in the existing cargo handling system; and

(e) if so, the details and findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e). The information

is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Foreign Assistance for Development Schemes in Assam

4415. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved foreign assistance for some development projects in Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount proposed to be spent, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The details of externally aided ongoing projects in Assam are at the attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

List of ongoing Externally Aided Projects in Assam

(In million)

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Loan/Grant	Donor Agency
1.	Assam gas turbine	Yen 30000	OECD
2.	Assam gas power station Transmission line	Yen 13552	OECD
3.	NARP-II (Multi-State)	US\$ 75.407	IDA
4.	NAEP-III (Multi-State)	US\$ 76.205	IDA
5.	National Seeds Projects (Multi-State)	US\$ 150.00	IDA
6.	Technician Education II (Multi-State)	US\$ 241.54	IDA

Market Borrowings

4416. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to permit the State Governments to go in for market borrowings similar to the provisions for the Central Government in this regard;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total market borrowing programme for the State Governments has been fixed at Rs. 5,000 crores for the financial year 1994-95.

(c) Does not arise.

Indian Stock Market

4417. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India displayed the poorest performance amongst the Six Asian Stock Markets in 1993;

(b) if so, the rank of Indian Stock Market in terms of International Finance Corporation Global Price Index alongwith the reasons for poor performance by India; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to improve the performance of the Indian Stock Market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) According to the International Finance Corporation (IFC) Global price index for the year 1993, India's position in terms of percentage change in the index was 9 out of 10 Asian countries included in the list of emerging stock markets.

(b) The rank of the Indian stock market in the IFC global price index for the year 1993 was 21 in the list of 25 emerging markets. The growth in the index of share prices for a stock market in a particular year depends upon a variety of factors such as the stage of development of the stock market, financial results of companies, expectations of the investors and the level of growth achieved in the preceding year. Therefore, the performance of the Indian stock market in comparison to other emerging stock markets needs to be viewed in the light of the factors mentioned above.

(c) Reforms in the working of the stock market are a continuous process. The securities and Exchange Board of India has also taken several steps for improving the working of the Indian Stock Exchanges.

NTC Mills

4418. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal from Bombay NTC units regarding selling of surplus land of NTC mills and handing over of sick NTC mills to private sector is pending with Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The Special Tripartite Committee on NTC has, in its meeting held on 9.4.94, reached the unanimous agreement that, *inter-alia*, surplus land may be disposed of and there should be no privatisation.

Purchase of Aircraft

4419. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to purchase new aircraft;

(b) if so, the number of new aircraft proposed to be purchased by the Government and the cost thereof; and

(c) the countries from which these new aircrafts are proposed to be purchased?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) There is no proposal for purchase of new civil aircraft by Government for carriage of passengers. However, new aircraft are acquired by the national carriers from time to time for renewal/augmentation of their fleet.

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

Commanders and Pilots with IA and AI

4420. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of commanders and pilots with Indian Airlines and Air India, separately as on February 1, 1994;

(b) whether there is shortage of commanders and pilots with Indian Airlines and Air India; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) As on 1.2.94, Indian Airlines had a total of 466 pilots including 169 Commanders and Air India had a total of 343 pilots including 148 Commanders

(b) Whereas Air India does not have any shortage of Commanders/Pilots, Indian Airlines is not able to achieve optimum utilisation of its aircraft due to shortage of Commanders. There is no shortage of Co-pilots.

(c) Indian Airlines has taken a number of steps to meet the shortage of Commanders. These are:—

- (i) service regulations have been revised so that pilots can resign only after a six months notice period;
- (ii) existing limits of Flight and Duty Time Limitations have been raised in consultation with Indian Commercial Pilots Association to increase utilisation of pilots;
- (iii) training pattern has been revised to accelerate the training of Commanders; and
- (iv) retired pilots have been re-employed on contract basis to meet

the immediate requirement of Commanders.

Foreign Loans

4421. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have laid down any rules and procedures governing the request for seeking foreign loans from international financial agencies like I.M.F. and the World Bank by the Union and State Governments and public sector undertakings under Central/ State Governments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Achievement of VABAL Scheme

4422. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the benefits derived by the Government through implementation of VABAL (Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme);

(b) whether the profit to be earned by traders has gone up on account of this scheme;

(c) whether the Government have received any information about the cases in which benefits under the scheme have

been reaped by traders as also about benami cases; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). Value Based Advance Licensing Scheme is a new concept introduced in the Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 with effect from 1.4.1992. Under this Scheme, licences are issued for a stated value, specifying only the items of import without indicating their individual quantities or values, thereby enabling the exporters to import one or more items, except the sensitive items, to the full value of the licence without any quantitative restrictions. The underlying idea was to free exporters from unnecessary inconvenience with the Government agencies by being required to establish a nexus of the export product to the imported inputs to the last grammage. Another underlying idea was to enable exporters to source their imports in desired quantities on more competitive rates as compared to meagre and uneconomic quantities allowed earlier under Quantity Based licences. Yet another factor in formulating the Scheme was that the exporter should be given some compensation for the losses suffered on account of withdrawal of direct subsidies like CCS and REP licences. These objectives have by the large been achieved.

Some complaints have been received about the misuse of the Scheme. One of the grounds of complaints is that Value Based Advance Licences have been obtained by non-existent firms. On-the-spot inspections carried out by the Enforcement-Cum-Adjudication Division of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade have revealed a few cases where the firms who obtained Value Based

Advance Licences are not functioning/ existing. Necessary penal action would be initiated against such firms after the investigations into these cases are completed.

[English]

Retail Outlets for Cotton Yarn

4423. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open retail outlets for sale of cotton yarn in major consuming centres of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the outlets proposed to be opened during the current financial year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Government do not directly supply cotton yarn to the weavers in the country. A number of State agencies with financial assistance from Central Government are undertaking supply of cotton yarn to weavers in the country, in addition to private sources of supply. The National Handloom Development Corporation is also supplementing the yarn supply operations of State Handloom Agencies.

(c) However, the National Textile Corporation (NTC) has recently identified 43 outlets for selling hank yarn to handloom weavers directly in view of the high prices prevailing. A *Statement* showing the State-wise details of outlets is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Andhra Pradesh

1. Warangal Mill Gate
2. Renigunta Mill Gate
3. Adoni Mill Gate
4. Anantapur Mill Gate
5. Chirala Yarn Depot
6. Cuddapah Showroom
7. Nellore Showroom
8. Guntur Showroom
9. Karimnagar Showroom
10. Anantapur Showroom

Karnataka

11. Gulbarga Mill Gate
12. Mangalore Showroom
13. Bellary Showroom
14. Gulbarga Showroom
15. Dayangore Showroom
16. Belgaum Showroom

Kerala

17. Alagappanagar Mill Gate
18. Tiruvananthapuram Mill Gate
19. Cannanore Yarn Depot.

Tamil Nadu

20. Coimbatore
21. Erode
22. Yarn Sales Depot, Salem
23. Yarn Sales Depot, Madurai
24. Yarn Sales Depot, Erode
25. Yarn Sales Depot, Tirupur
26. Yarn Sales Depot, Sumanur

Uttar Pradesh

27. Muir Mills Gate Shop, Kanpur
28. Pakki Sarai Showroom, Etawah
29. Mathura Showroom
30. Meerut Cantt. Showroom
31. Gorakhpur Showroom
32. Maunath Bhanjan Showroom
33. Basti Showroom
34. Muzaffarnagar Showroom
35. Faizabad Showroom

West Bengal

36. Ranaghat Showroom
37. Begumpur Showroom

Bihar

38. Biharsarif Showroom

Assam

39. Silchar Showroom

Orissa

40. Dhenkanal Showroom

Haryana

41. Panipat Showroom

Punjab

42. Amritsar Showroom
43. Ludhiana Showroom

Airport Runways

4424. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Airport Runways are constructed using natural rubber mixed with Bitumen, in several parts of the World;

(b) whether such type of runways are advantageous in comparison to normal tarred ones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to construct the runways at airports using natural rubber mixed with Bitumen?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). Construction of runway at airports using natural rubber mixed with Bitumen is at research stage. No data on use of this material abroad

is available. As the rubberised bitumen is not commercially available so far, neither the National Airports Authority nor International Airports Authority of India are using this type of material for construction of runways at their airports.

ADB Loan for Earthquake Relief Work

4425. SHRI BAPU HARI
CHAURE:
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA
GAVIT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have approached the Asian Development Bank for financial assistance for earthquake relief work in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Asian Development Bank in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Asian Development Bank has offered a technical assistance for an amount of US\$ 600,000 for earthquake relief work in Maharashtra. The technical assistance agreement is yet to be signed between the Govt. of India and the Bank.

Implementation of Auction System by the Tobacco Board

4426. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the internal market for tobacco has been stabilised through the implementation of the auction system by the Tobacco Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other steps the Tobacco Board propose to take to stabilise the tobacco market;

(d) whether any study has been made by the Tobacco Board on the potential fall out on tobacco farmers by proposed restrictions on sale of tobacco products in the internal markets; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Board to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Auction system has had the following beneficial impact on internal marketing:—

1. Better prices to growers because of competitive bidding on auction floors.
2. Assured and prompt payment to growers for the tobacco sold.
3. Quality-price relationship ensured.
4. Reduction in handling and sourcing cost for traders/ buyers.
5. Elimination of market risk through operation of minimum support price and minimum guaranteed price.

(c) Tobacco Board fixes the crop-size after assessing the internal and export demand with a view to match supply and demand which is essential for market stability.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Recarpeting of Runway at Airports in Madras

4427. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the runway recarpeting of the airports in Madras is proposed to be taken up by the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) when the carpeting was done last; and

(d) the average life of the recarpeting?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The International Airport Authority of India has taken up the work relating to recarpeting of runway at Madras Airport at an estimated cost of Rupees 5.09 crores.

(c) The carpeting of the runway was carried out last time in 1980-81.

(d) The average life of recarpetting is five to ten years for smooth operations, depending upon the types of aircraft, number of aircraft movements and the local climatic conditions.

Trade with Sri Lanka

4428. SHRI D. VENKTESWARA RAO:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sri Lanka has urged the Indian Government that there is a need for preferential treatment for exports to India during the Indo-Sri Lanka a joint meeting held in January-February, 1994;

(b) if so, the details of the suggestions made by Sri Lanka on reducing trade gap with India;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the steps taken to boost up trade with Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) No official India-Srilanka Joint meeting was held in January-February, 1994, at which suggestions for preferential treatment to Srilankan export to India were made.

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

(d) It is the constant endeavour of the Government to increase bilateral trade between India and Srilanka. The Indo-Srilanka Joint Commission and its sub-commission on trade, finance and investment during their sessions had been reviewing bilateral trade and economic relations between the two countries and identifying area of cooperation. India and Srilanka have set up a number of joint ventures, exchanged trade delegations and taken various measures for trade promotion like organising trade exhibitions.

[Translation]

Impact of Devaluation on Export and Import

4429. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR:
SHRI SHIVLAL NAGJIBHAI
VEKARIA:
SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRI-
YAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of increase in the earning of foreign exchange from exports after devaluation of rupee;

(b) the annual rate of increase in exports during 1993-94 as compared to 1992-93;

(c) the areas of export wherein rate of increase has been recorded more than that mentioned in part (b) above;

(d) the names of the importing countries to which rate of increase has been recorded more than that mentioned in part (b) above; and

(e) the position of balance of trade as on March 30, 1994 as compared to the position existing on March 31, 1993?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Foreign Exchange earnings from exports do not merely depend on devaluation of the rupee but several other factors such as global trading environment, domestic production, availability of imported critical raw materials and capital goods for export production, availability of credit etc. The extent of increase in the exports for the period July-March, 1991-92, 1992-93 and April-February

1993-94, as compared to the corresponding periods in the previous years are given below:—

Period	Percentage Growth of exports in US\$ terms (over the corresponding period of the previous year)
July-March, 1991-92	0.03%
1992-93	3.8%
April-February 1993-94	20.59%

(c) The areas of export where rate of increase has been more than 20.59% in dollar terms are Asia & Oceania (during April-December, 1993 over April-December, 1992)

(d) The names of the major importing countries where more than 20.59% increase in dollar terms has been recorded are Belgium, Finland, Iran, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Hongkong, Bangladesh, Nigeria etc. (during April-December 1993 over April-December 1992).

(e) Balance of Trade for the period April-February 1993-94, the latest period for which such data is available is US\$ 510 million as compared to April-February 1992-93 figures of US\$ 3504 million. The balance of trade for the period April-March 1992-93 stood at US\$ 3345 million.

Loan for Fishery Work

4430. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has requested the Union Government to provide loan on priority basis to the persons engaged in fishery work to create more opportunities of employment and to boost fishery work as is being given to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHADRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Government have not received any request from Government of Madhya Pradesh to provide loan on priority basis to the persons engaged in fishery work. Commercial Banks, however, provide short-term loans as well as medium and long term loans to farmers for development of fisheries in all its aspects i.e. from fish catching to stage of export, financing of equipment necessary for deep sea fishing, rehabilitation of tanks (fresh water fishing), fish breeding, etc.

[English]

Export of Ornaments by Neighbouring Countries

4431. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some neighbouring countries have decontrolled the export of ornaments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the impact thereof on Indian markets?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and

(b). On the basis of information obtained from some of our neighbouring countries, it is observed that except for Nepal which lifted the minimum value addition requirements for export of ornaments in July, 1993, none of the other countries has instituted major policy changes in the recent past for the export of ornaments.

Purchase of VFC Tobacco From Outside the Auction Platforms

4432. SHRI V. SOBHANA-DREESWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether same traders/ companies have purchased VFC Tobacco outside the Auction Platforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Tobacco Board in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). No case has so far been registered by the Board during the ongoing, 1994 marketing season in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) Board has constituted vigilance squads to curb illegal transactions of tobacco.

Trade Unions

4433. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to ban trade unions based on caste, creed, community and religion;

(b) whether the Government are also considering to curb the multiplicity of trade unions;

(c) if so, whether any final decision has been taken in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Notice has been given for introducing a Bill in the Rajya Sabha during its current session to amend the Trade Unions Act, 1926.

(d) The proposed amendment to the Trade Union Act, 1926 stipulates that the minimum number of members for registration of a trade union shall be 10% of the workmen engaged or employed in an establishment or industry with which the trade union is connected.

[*Translation*]

Export of Kishmish

4434. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to State:

(a) the quantity of Kishmish exported to foreign countries during each of the last three years;

(b) the total foreign exchange earned as a result thereof;

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to increase the export of dry fruits; and

(d) whether price of Kishmish has been registering an increase in the domestic market as a result of export?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). The quantity of Kishmish (raisins and sultanas and other dried grapes) exported and the foreign exchange earned during the last 3 years are given below:—

(*Rs. lakhs*)

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value
1990-91	1.11	0.50
1991-92	4.53	2.79
1992-93	30.93	13.37

(Source: DGCI&S)

(c) Government has substantially stepped up the outlays for development for dry fruits during the VIII Plan to increase production, productivity, improved post harvest handling, improved packaging etc. This would generate surpluses for export and enhance our export competitiveness, as well as help in retaining traditional markets like those of cashewnuts.

(d) The local prices of kishmish are influenced by the market forces prevailing at a particular time, including the prices of imported raisins.

Relations Between Labour and Management

4435. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to develop and streng-

then cordial and exploitation-free relationship between the labour and the management for the progress of the industry and the nation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). Various steps have been taken by the Government to promote cooperation between management and labour from time to time to strengthen cordial and harmonious relationship between them for industrial growth and national development. Workers' participation in management is one such scheme. The Participation of Workers in Management Bill, 1990 which was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on 30 May, 1990, has not yet been taken up for consideration. The proposed legislation on workers' participation in management is intended to democratise the decision making process in industry at the shop floor, plant and corporate levels. The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 also provides for participation of elected representatives of workers in management through the Bipartite works committees.

[English]

Miners Killed in Mica Mines

4436. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of miners killed in mica mine accidents in Kodarma (MITCO) in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation provided to the dependents of the miners killed in these accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). The number of the miners killed in mica mine accidents in Koderma Region (Hazaribagh and Giridih districts) in Bihar during 1991, 1992 and 1993 are 1,0 and 0 respectively.

One person was killed due to fall of roof in Shital Pit No. 3 Mica Mine of M/s. Suresh Kumar Jhanjhri on 12th Oct. 1991.

(c) Payment of compensation by the management to the next of kin of the deceased worker is regulated under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 which is administered by the respective State Governments/Union Territory Administrations. Information on this aspect is not maintained in the Ministry of Labour.

Recommendations of ILO Regarding Part Time Jobs

4437. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government have decided to bring part-time jobs under Labour Regulations as per the recommendations of the International Labour Organisation (ILO);

(b) whether the Government are also considering of redeployment and rationalisation of industries and Labour as many Central Government undertakings were suffering from huge losses; and

(c) if so, the broad features of the proposed legislation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The National Renewal Fund has been established with the objective of providing a safety net for labour needs arising from the consequences of industrial restructuring. It consists of funds for payment of separation compensation, implementation of employment generation schemes and schemes for training, re-training and redeployment.

Certain schemes are already under implementation for training and retraining of workers likely to be affected by industrial restructuring with a view to their redeployment.

(c) Government of India have supported the adoption of a Recommendations in the ILO on part time work which would be normative and no legislation is contemplated at present.

[*Translation*]

Profit/Loss of DCCBs and SCBs

4438. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the profits earned and the loss incurred by the District Central Co-operative Banks (D.C.C.Bs) and the State Co-operative Banks (S.C.Bs) in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1992-93;

(b) the reasons for the loss; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government for reducing the loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The details of the profits earned and losses incurred by Uttar Pradesh State Co-operative Bank (UPSCB) and 57 District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1992-93 are as under:—

- (i) UPSCB— registered a profit of Rs. 539.66 lakhs during 1992-93.
- (ii) DCCBs— Out of 57 DCCBs, 33 DCCBs earned a profit of Rs. 1428 lakhs and 24 DCCBs showed a loss of Rs. 1184 lakhs during 1992-93.

(b) and (c). The factors responsible for losses include high cost of management, poor recoveries particularly under interest and low margins in financing agriculture loans. In his Budget Speech, the Finance Minister has announced that each SCB/DCCB will prepare specific Development Action Plans (DAPs) for itself and this will form the basis of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the concerned parties, viz. NABARD, State Government, SCB and DCCB. These DAPs will aim at making the operations of all the DCCBs viable which would in turn ensure the profitability of all DCCBs.

[*English*]

Export of Buffaloes, Meat And Meat Products

4439. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposals to export buffaloes, meat, meat-products, pork, pork products and poultry;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the value of the buffaloes, meat, poultry likely to be exported during the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(c) whether any market survey has been conducted in this regard and prospective importing countries identified for the purpose;

(d) whether India and Philippines have very recently concluded any agreement for export of buffaloes and the above items; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Export of beef is banned. Export of meat of buffaloes, sheep and goat is subject to conditions specified in para 17 (A) of Appendix XLIII-I of Hand Book of Procedures 1992-97. Under the Exim Policy, the export of other items is allowed freely. As per export projections for the Eighth Plan* the export of meat and preparations by the terminal of the Eighth Five year Plan, is targetted at Rs. 354 crores at 1991-92 prices.

(c) The major markets for export of meat and meat products are Malaysia, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Jordan.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Grievances of Air India Pilots

4440. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Air India pilots have submitted a memorandum to the Management and the Government on their grievances, which have led to frequent breakdown of the Air India passenger service;

(b) if so, brief particulars of the demands and suggestions made therein; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereon and whether those decisions have been implemented by the Management?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b). The main demands of Indian Pilots Guild (IPG) submitted to the management of Air India in December, 1993 are as under:—

- (i) Issue of a circular on the authority of the Commander.
- (ii) Free telephone allowance to First Officers.
- (iii) Change of hotel at Delhi.
- (iv) Crew seats being provided on all aircraft.
- (v) Review of the Policy on upgradation.

*Source: Table 3.31—Export Projections for the Eighth Plan—Eighth Five Year Plan 1992-97 (Vol.1) by Planning Commission.

(c) These issues are to be settled between Air India Management and IPG under the mechanism of bilateral negotiations.

Export of Ginger

4441. DR. K. V. R. CHOWDARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the total quantity of Ginger exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during 1992-93 and 1993-94:

(b) whether any target has been fixed for the export of ginger during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The quantity of ginger exported and the foreign exchange earned during 1992-93 and 1993-94 are given below:—

Year	Qty. (MT)	Value (Crores)
1992-93	9517	16.55
1993-94 (E)*	10650	17.04

*(upto Feb., '94)

(b) and (c). Item-wise targets have not been fixed.

Recovery of Loans

4442. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Union

Government to establish a common mechanism to enable recovery of bank loans given to small borrowers under priority sector and antipoverty programmes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The State Government of Tamil Nadu has requested the Government of India to frame a Central Act to provide for the recovery of smaller loans in the States on the lines of the Recovery of Debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993. Since a large number of cases already pending are to be disposed by the Tribunals being established under the Act, the request of the State Government would have to wait so as to bring under their jurisdiction smaller loans till the streamlining of the procedures under the Act and completion of the establishment of the Tribunals.

[Translation]

Accident of Sahara India Airlines Aircraft

4443. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM: SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZEPUR): SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: PROF. K.V. THOMAS: SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: SHRI RAJVEER SINGH:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Boeing 737 aircraft belonging to the Sahara India Airlines crashed at the Indira Gandhi International Airport on March 8, 1994;

(b) whether a judicial enquiry has been instituted into the incident;

(c) if so,, the composition of the enquiry Committee;

(d) the time by which the Committee is likely to submit its report;

(e) the remedial step being taken by the Government to check such accidents in future;

(f) whether in view of the above accident, the Government propose to review the open sky policy; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). A Court of Inquiry headed by a sitting Judge of High Court is proposed to be appointed by Government to investigate the above accident. The Court would be requested to submit its report to Government within a period of three months.

(e) Measures such as implementation of recommendations emanating from accident investigation reports, dissemination of safety information, monitoring of Flight Data Recorders and Cockpit Voice Recorders, Conduct of safety audit of airlines, periodic inspection of aerodromes and implementation of measures for eradication of bird menace at airports etc. are some of the measures taken to improve the safety of aircraft operations.

(f) No proposal for review of existing policy is under consideration.

(g) Does not arise.

[English]

Tourism Action Plan

4444. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI:
SHRI N. DENNIS:
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
DR. LAXMIARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has approved the tourism action plan:

(b) if so, the main points of the action plan:

(c) the likely increase in tourist inflow as a result thereof; and

(d) the time by which the plan is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d). The Department of Tourism has drawn up a tentative plan for the development of tourism in the country. The plan envisages investments by different departments and undertakings of Government of India, State Governments and the private sector. The plan is presently being discussed with the concerned departments and agencies and is yet to be approved by the Government.

Narcotics in Meghalaya

4445. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the menace of narcotics is increasing in Meghalaya;

(b) if so, the number of drug peddlers arrested during each of the last three years and the quantity of drugs seized; and

(c) the number of drug peddlers prosecuted and punished in the State during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Since sale and consumption of narcotics is a clandestine activity, it cannot be said definitely whether it is increasing in Meghalaya or otherwise. However, available information about the quantity of drug seized and the number of persons arrested in the State during, 1991, 1992 and 1993 is given below:—

(Quantity seized in Kgs)

Drug	1991	1992	1993
Opium	—	—	50.000
Heroin	—	1.000	3.000
Ganja	4.000	840.000	4261.000
Hashish	—	—	13.000
Number of persons arrested	2	14	40

(c) As per reports available, 102 peddlers have been prosecuted so far and all the cases are pending trial in the Court.

Export of Textiles to U.S.

4446. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI:
SHRI K. PRADHANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the United States has given assurance that quota system regarding imports from third world countries will not be abolished upto the next fifteen years;

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

(c) the steps taken by the Union Government to persuade the U.S. Government to reduce the duty imposed on garments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). The Final Act signed on 15th April 1994, at the Ministerial meeting at Merrakesh envisages that the textiles and clothing sector will stand integrated into the Multilateral system at the end of the 10 year transition period. A large number of countries including USA and India have signed this Final Act.

Independent Status to State Bank of Mysore

4447. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to give independent status to the State Bank of Mysore and other subsidiaries of State Bank of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The Associate Banks of State Bank of India have been constituted under the provisions of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to change the status assigned to these banks in the aforesaid Act.

A proposal was received from State Bank of India for merger of its 7 Associate Banks into a Single bank. No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Self Certification Facilities to EOUs

4448. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Export Oriented Units to give them self certification facility instead of the bond system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The confederation of Export Oriented Units had requested that all

clearances in EOU/EPZ operations should be by and large on the basis of self-certification or certification by Chartered Accountants or Chartered Engineers.

(c) It has not been found possible to accede to the request.

Nationalised Banks in Kerala

4449. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of nationalised banks functioning in Karala;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has received proposals for opening more branches of the above banks in the State; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) As on 30-6-1993, 1674 branches of nationalised banks are functioning in Kerala.

(b) and (c). Based on the proposals received from banks for opening branches under the Branch Expansion Policy 1990-95, 9 rural centers have been permitted in Kerala as given below:—

Name of the Bank	Centre
1. Indian Bank	2
2. State Bank of Travancore	1
3. State Bank of India	1
4. Canara Bank	1
5. Bank of India	2
6. Central Bank of India	2

As regards semi-urban centres, the banks have freedom to open branches at such centres of their choice within the quota allotted to them on all India basis. No State-wise quota have been allotted to them for the purpose of opening branches at semi-urban areas. In respect of Urban/Metropolitan/Port Town centres, 34 centres have been allotted to banks for opening of their branches in the State during the period 1990-95.

[*Translation*]

Stock of Textiles In Madhya Pradesh

4450. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the production of cotton yarn in Madhya Pradesh during each of the last three years and its availability and consumption in the form of hank in handlooms and cone and bean in powerlooms;

(b) the details of the stock of textiles as on July 1, 1993 available with the handloom marketing societies and decentralised powerloom sector in Madhya Pradesh;

(c) Whether textiles sales position has become bad because of marketing

conditions in the organised handloom sector and decentralised textiles/powerloom sectors; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken for the betterment of marketing conditions of textiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) The market for yarn is a national market and figures of State-wise consumption keep varying according to the variations in demand and supply for cloth produced in the States. It has not therefore been possible to maintain the State-wise data. The details of total production of spun yarn and the deliveries of spun yarn made in different forms for civil consumption in different sectors of Textile Industry in the country during the last three years are as under:—

Production of spun yarn

(in million kgs)

Year		Total production
1991-92	—	1806
1992-93	—	1895
1993-94 (Estd.)	—	2066

Deliveries of spun yarn

(in million kgs.)

Year	Hanks	Hosiery cones	Weaving cones	Beams/pirns	Others	Total
1991-92	364	227	70	24	57	1372
1992-93	386	253	767	26	51	1483
1993-94 (Estd.)	418	274	832	28	54	1606

(b) The stock position of handloom and powerloom agencies are not maintained by the Government.

(c) and (d). Accumulation of stock is a seasonal feature in the handloom sector and is caused mainly because of the mis-match between sales and production of cloth at any particular period of time. In order to enable the State Handloom Agencies to liquidate the accumulated stock of handloom cloth, Government of India has been organising National Level Handloom Expos in various parts of the country. Government of India also provides Market Development Assistance to National/State Handloom Agencies and certain Primary Handloom Weavers Cooperatives for promoting marketing of handloom cloth.

[English]

Development of Oak Tasar in Gujarat

4451. SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the districts included under the study conducted for development of oak tasar in Gujarat; and

(b) the steps being taken to develop technology which is profitable from commerce point of view for the development of oak tasar in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). The Central Silk Board, under the Ministry of Textiles, has neither conducted any study nor established any of its units in Gujarat for the development of oak tasar in the State.

[Translation]

Development of No-Industry District by I.D.B.I.

4452. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has been extending adequate cooperation in the development of no-industry districts;

(b) if so, the achievements made by the I.D.B.I. in this regard during the last two years; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The amount of assistance sanctioned by the Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) under its direct finance scheme to industrial units in 'No-industry Districts' during the last two years is as under:—

(Rs. Lakhs)

Years		Amount
1992-93	—	297
1993-94 (April-February)	—	220

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Interest Rates on Government Securities

4453. SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has recommended the freezing of interest rates on Government Securities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have accepted those recommendations; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a):
No, Sir,

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

[Translation]

Sick Units

4454. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has find out the internal reasons of the sick units under its jurisdiction;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the number of sick units operating under the jurisdiction of the Industrial Development Bank of India upto December 31, 1993; and

(d) the outstanding amount as loan thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V.
CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)
and (b). The Industrial Development Bank

of India (IDBI) has reported that in course of follow-up and monitoring of assisted units, it is able to detect the internal reasons for their incipient sickness. The reasons for sickness in industrial units differ from case to case. Generally, the units become sick on account of internal factors comprising management deficiencies, time and cost overrun during implementation, technical obsolescence, labour trouble etc. The follow-up mechanism include the periodic visit of the unit, discussions with management other parties analysis of quarterly progress reports/ annual reports, nominee directors' report and returns submitted to commercial banks.

(c) and (d). As at the end of March, 1993, there were 375 sick units in the portfolio of IDBI and the outstanding amount in respect of these units aggregated Rs. 1344 crores.

[English]

Poppy Cultivation

4455. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN
PANDAYA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have announced general conditions relating to grant of licences for opium poppy cultivation for the crop year, 1993-94;

(b) if so, whether the objectives of the new policy is to combat vigorously the twin scourge of drug trafficking and drug abuse, and

(c) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Broad features of the licensing policy relating to opium cultivation for the crop year 1993-94 are as follows:

- (i) cultivators who had tendered a yield of not less than 40 Kgs. of opium per hectare in Madhya Pradesh & Rajasthan and 38 Kgs. in Uttar Pradesh during crop year 1992-93 were eligible for licences;
- (ii) cultivators whose crop was damaged due to natural calamities during crop Year 1992-93 and who were covered under the damage clause were eligible for licences;
- (iii) the area allowed for opium poppy cultivation per cultivator was 10 acres if the cultivators had produced and tendered a yield of less than 50 Kgs. per hectare of opium during 1992-93, and 15 acres per cultivator if the cultivators had produced and tendered a yield of or above 50 Kgs. per hectare;
- (iv) the condonable limit in respect of excess cultivation was 50 sq. metres (1/2 are) per licensee.

Relief to Victims of Terrorist Violence

4456. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the relief offered by the National Insurance Company limited, a

subsidiary of the General Insurance Corporation to the dependents of victims of terrorist violence in Punjab has been much less than the relief given by the State Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of compensation offered by Insurance companies in such cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). The amount paid by an Insurance Company by way of claim settlement and the compensation/relief paid by any State Government to the dependents of the victims of terrorist violence are not comparable since the subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India including the National Insurance Company Limited can settle the claims to the dependents only in respect of the policyholders to the extent of sum insured depending upon the terms and conditions of such policy covering the victim. In addition, under the Personal Accident Insurance Social Security Scheme for poor Families for which a master policy is taken by the Central Government, earning members of the poor families in the age group of 18 to 60 Years, and whose annual income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 7200/- are covered and a compensation upto Rs. 3000/- is payable to the dependents in the event of accidental death of an earning member which includes death due to terrorist violence.

Regional Vocational Training Institute for Women

4457. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) The number of Women candidates took training in various fields of basic skills and advanced skills from Regional Vocational Training Institute for Women, Trivandrum, Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for providing direct employment assistance to the successful candidates; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) 720 women have so far been trained at Regional vocational Training Institute for women, Thiruvananthapuram in basic and advanced skill levels in the areas of Electronics, Secretarial practice, Data preparation and Computer Software and Hair and Skin Care.

(b) and (c). A scheme for setting up of Placement Cells at the National Vocational Training Institute/Regional Vocational Training Institutes is under consideration of the Government.

International Trade Fairs

4458. SHRI DHARMANNA MONDAYA SADUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered at any stage to organise International Trade Fairs in the State capitals; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRI-

BUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India Trade Promotion Organisation has been organising India International Leather Fair at Madras, the State capital of Tamil Nadu every year for the last 9 years. In addition, the following fairs are being planned during the year 1995 at the following State capitals:

Tex-Styles	—	Bombay
(Fabrics Fair)		(Maharashtra)
Leather Products	—	Calcutta
Fair		(W. Bengal)
National Consumer	—	Bangalore
Goods Fair		(Karnataka)

Excise Duty Evasion

4459. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Directorate General of Anti-Evasion Central Excise, New Delhi has unearthed excise duty evasion of several crores of rupees by cement industry in Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Based on the "advise & intelligence" provided by Directorate General of Anti-Evasion, New Delhi, a special audit of selected units of Cement Industries were

organised by jurisdictional Central Excise Collectorates in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat, which resulted in detection of evasion of duty by cement industries.

(b) The details of the cases detected during the period from 1st April, 1992 to 31st March, 1994 unit-wise and collectorate-wise, are given in *Statements. I & II* for the States of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat respectively.

STATEMENT-I

The following Major cases of evasion of central Excise Duty have been detected against the Cement Manufacturing Units in Madhya Pradesh during the period from 1.4.1992 to 31.3.94

Sl. No.	Name of the Party	Collectorate	Estimated duty evasion detected (Rs. in lakhs).	Commodity	Modus operandi
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Diamond Cement Navsingarh.	Indore	103.03	Pollution Control Machines	Installed the machine without Payment of duty.
			435.38	Clinker/ Cement	Clandestine Removal.
2.		Raipur	78.02	Gypsum	Clearance without accountal and without payment of duty to other units for manufacturing cement.
			143.27	Clinker/ Cement	Clandestine removal suppression of production.
		SCN	29.5.92		
3.	Raymond Cement works Bilaspur	Raipur	52.70	Lime-Stone	Captive consumption without payment of duty.
4.	Birla Vikas Cement, Satna	—do—	695.16	Clinker/ Cement	Clandestine removal & Suppression of Production.
		SCN	29.5.92		
5.	Modi Cement (P) Ltd. Modigram	—do—	132.25	DG Sets	Installed without observing Central Excise for -malitics.
			256.88	Cement	Clandestine removal.
		SCN	1.7.92		

1	2	3	4	5	6
6.	Malhar Cement, Maihar	Raipur	34.22	Eletro-Static/precipitator	Installation without payment of Central, Ex. Duty.
7.	Vikram Cement Kher Div, Mandsaur	Indore	25.99	Cement	Clandestine removal & without payment of Central Ex. duty.
8.	Cement Corporation of India Ltd.	—do—	47.05	Cement	—do—
9.	Vikram Super Cement Kher.	Indore	102.04	Cement	Clearance without following Central Ex. procedures.
10.	Birla Jute & Industries Satna Cement Works Satna	Raipur	30.89	Gypsum	Clearance without payment of Central Ex. duty.

STATEMENT-II

The details of cases booked against Cement Companies in the State of Gujarat for the period from 1.4.92 to 31st March, 1994

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl. No.	Name of the party	Duty evasion
1.	M/s. Arihant Cement Co., Rajkot	3.11
2.	M/s. Narmada Cement, Rajkot	1.05
3.	M/s. Gujarat Ambuja Cements Ltd. Kodinar & Gujarat High Tech. Ind. Ltd.	31.44

N.B.: All the cases pertain to Collectorate of Central Excise, Rajkot.

Employment in Tobacco Sector

4460. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Tobacco Board has made any survey for compilation of statistics on the number of people employed in the tobacco sector; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Board has not conducted any such survey.

Air Travel Safety

4461. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Air Passengers Association (IAPA) has pointed out some basic problems affecting air travel safety in the country such as unsafe airports, poor infrastructure, lack of discipline and professionalism in the cockpit as reported in the Economic Times dated March 8, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof? and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c). The news report is based on a newsletter published by the International Air Passengers Association. Although safety record of Indian Airlines is lower than the world average, the newsletter gives an exaggerated account of the same. All efforts are constantly made to upgrade safety measures relating to aircraft operations.

Malpractices in Banking Operations

4462. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Vigilance Commission has noticed malpractices in banking operations;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a)

and (b). Central Vigilance Commission in Chapter 4 of its Annual Report for the year 1992 has detailed certain aspects of working of banks highlighted by the Commission in its meetings to review the vigilance profiles of 11 major banks. This report was placed on the Table of Lok Sabha on 16.3.94 and relevant extracts of the report are given in the attached *Statement*.

(c) Government has taken note of the observations made by the Central Vigilance Commission in the Report and action, wherever necessary will be taken thereon in consultation with Reserve Bank of India.

STATEMENT

Chapter 4

Review Meetings taken by the Central Vigilance Commission during 1992

4.1.1 As a part of strategy to activate vigilance work in various central government organisations, the Central Vigilance Commission has been, on a continuing basis, reviewing the vigilance activity of various organisations through periodical meetings with their chief executives. These review meetings have proved very useful to establish better communication with the organisations concerned to impress upon the chief executives personally, the Commission's concerns and priorities in regard to the different aspects of their vigilance functioning and to work out a broad vigilance action programme required to be followed by each organisation.

4.1.2 During the year 1992, the Central Vigilance Commissioner accordingly held in-depth discussions with the chief executives and the Chief Vigilance Officers of several prominent organisations, individually, including those in the banking sector, and as a result a broad work strategy for strengthening the vigilance units in different organisations and their vigilance activity was formulated, as briefly indicated in the following paragraphs.

4.2 Meetings with Banks

4.2.1 The Central Vigilance Commissioner held separate meetings with 11 major banks, named below, to review their vigilance profiles. These meetings were attended by the Chairman-cum-Managing Director and the Chief Vigilance Officer of the respective bank and also by the representatives of the Banking Division of the Ministry of Finance:—

1. United Bank of India
2. New Bank of India
3. Punjab National Bank
4. Bank of India
5. Indian Bank
6. Bank of Baroda
7. Canara Bank
8. Indian Overseas Bank
9. Dena Bank
10. Union Bank of India
11. Central Bank of India

4.2.2 The following aspects of vigilance work were highlighted the CVC in these meetings:—

(A) Preventive Vigilance:

Recalling the well-known maxim "prevention is better than cure", the CVC emphasised the need for paying priority attention to preventive vigilance as a more efficient measure for ensuring clean administration than the punitive vigilance. This approach essentially envisages establishment of procedures and practices which prevent and make more difficult wrong being done in the first place rather than wrong doer being punished after it is committed. It was noted that in practical terms preventive vigilance involved taking the following steps:

- (i) Areas vulnerable to corruption, such as awarding contracts, purchases, sanctioning of loans and advances, construction and hiring of buildings etc., are required to be identified and thereafter the procedures for these activities are required to be streamlined which includes plugging loopholes, if any, in the existing system. In banking sector, for example, it would be advantageous to make a detailed study of major bank frauds over the past about ten years so as to identify the deficiencies in the system exploited corrupt elements.
- (ii) Individual public servants particularly susceptible to overstep their limits are required to be identified and it is necessary to ensure that such persons are kept away from the sensitive posts. A well-defined policy of periodical transfers

should be strictly enforced in each organisation so as to ensure that no one was able to work at the same place for too long.

- (iii) It is necessary to maintain the "Agreed List" and "List of officers of doubtful integrity" and periodically review/update them so that the conduct of the officers appearing on these lists is kept under special watch, and
- (iv) A built-in system of scrutinising the property returns of all employees in general and those on "Agreed List" and "List of officers of doubtful integrity" in particular is introduced and enforced.

(B) Premature Retirement of Officials:

It was noticed that provision for premature retirement of corrupt and inefficient elements [analogous to FR 56(J) applicable to the Central Government employees] existed in the service regulations of all the banks but the provision was not being adequately used. The Commission stressed that adequate use of this provision was important both for weeding out undesirable elements and for deterring others from indulging in malpractices. The Commission also pointed out that proper use of this provision envisaged the need for building up records of total career profiles of individual officers in an objective and fair manner to serve as the basis for action against them. It was also noted that the system of premature retirement should provide for review at two stages in the service career of the officers as in the case of the Central Government servants.

(C) Continuation of Proceedings after Retirement:

It was noticed that service regulations applicable to the bank officers normally do not provide for continuation of disciplinary proceedings after retirement of the officer. This quite often provides opportunity and temptation for corrupt officers to indulge in malpractices on larger scale on the eve of retirement and get out of the pale of disciplinary action by the time misdeeds were detected. In case of some banks, however, the relevant provisions allowed continuation of disciplinary proceedings even after the retirement if the suspect officer was placed under suspension before actually attaining the age of superannuation. This procedure seemed too harsh in cases where the suspected officer was eventually found innocent or involved in a minor lapse. The Commission advised the Banking Division to formulate a scheme to be adopted uniformly by all public sector banks whereby disciplinary proceedings could be continued after retirement without the humiliation of suspension and ended up in appropriate cases in the penalty of cut in gratuity or in employer's contribution to provident fund.

(D) Reconciliation of Accounts:

The Commission felt concerned at the wide-spread laxity in the reconciliation of accounts in banks which was proving to be breeding ground for various kinds of malpractices in banking operations. Prompt reconciliation of accounts was noted to be essential to ensure detection of irregularities in time and a feeling of fear that the irregularities would be noticed sooner than later. The Chief Executives of banks were accordingly advised to give a more focussed attention to this vital area so as to expen-

ditiously remove the backlog in reconciliation work which was in heavy arrears in certain banks.

(E) Hiring/Dehiring of Commercial Premises and Construction Activities:

Serious irregularities appeared to have been committed in several cases of purchase or hiring of urban properties for official use. These included shifting of offices from premises at prime locations hired at cheaper rate to newly-constructed premises hired at much higher rate and purchase of flats constructed illegally or in gross violation of rules/norms prescribed by the local authorities. The Commission advised that special care needed to be taken by banks in these transactions so that interests of the banks are given the highest consideration and are fully safeguarded.

It was also observed that in the matter of getting their own premises constructed the banks did not followed any uniform technical and procedural code. The CVC, therefore, advised that the guidelines laid down on the subject by the Indian Banking Association should be scrupulously followed by the banks in all cases of construction work undertaken by them.

(F) Norms for Furnishing:

Tendency to go in for luxurious furnishing of office premises seen in some banks could not be justified even from the point of view of functional requirements. The CVC, therefore, suggested laying down suitable norms for this purpose, to be followed uniformly by all banks, so that wasteful expenditure is avoided.

(G) Appointment of Retired Public Servants as Inquiring Authorities:

It was observed that a large number of inquiries were pending with the banks for want of availability of suitable inquiry officers from within the existing establishment. Considering that the delay in finalisation of departmental proceedings tells on the efficient functioning of banks and can cause hardship to the accused public servants, the Commission emphasised desirability of amending the relevant provision in the Service Regulation of the Banks to enable them to appoint retired public servants as inquiring authorities on lumpsum remuneration fixed on case to case basis.

(H) Mutual funds:

It was observed that the Banks subsidiaries, like "Mutual Funds" functioned without any effective vigilance cover. The Commission stressed that the existing situation where it was practically free for all in the Mutual Funds should not be allowed to continue and these subsidiaries need to be urgently brought under the purview of vigilance network so that the interests of small investor are protected.

(I) Foreign Branches:

A sizeable part of the operations of some banks was conducted by their foreign branches. It was, however, observed that accumulation of over-dues in these branches was much higher than in the domestic sector. The Commission, therefore, emphasised the need to adopt a more rigorous system of inspections and vigilance in foreign branches of banks and suggested that Banks Division of the Ministry of Finance should adopt strict and uniform criteria for selection of

personnel for manning foreign branches of banks.

(J) Horizontal Movement of Officers at Senior Level:

The Commission suggested that the officers of the level of General Managers and above should be considered for horizontal movement from one bank to another in the interest of more efficient and clean functioning of the banks.

Welfare Schemes for Handloom Weavers

4463. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Government of Assam regarding implementation of welfare schemes for handloom weavers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). No proposal has been received from the Government of Assam regarding implementation of welfare schemes for handloom weavers during the year 1994-95. However, proposals were received during the year 1993-94 for implementation of Health Package Scheme and Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.

(c) A sum of Rs. 47.875 lakhs under Health Package Scheme and Rs. 8.87 lakhs under Workshed-cum-Housing Scheme was released to the Government to Assam during the year 1993-94.

World Bank Loan

4464. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI GEORGE
FERNANDES:
SHRI DATTATRAYA
BANDARU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the World Bank is considering any new loan proposals for the development of agriculture, export business, multi-modal transport and irrigation in the country;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan proposed to be provided; and

(c) the details of the projects proposed to be undertaken with this loan, State-Wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). Yes Sir,

Project-Wise & State-Wise details of the new loan proposals with the World Bank for the development of agriculture, export business, multi-modal transport and irrigation in the country are at the attached *Statement*.

STATEMENT

Word Bank Pipe Line Projects in Agriculture, Export Multi-Model Transport and Irrigation Sectors

Sl. No.	Name of the project		Loan/Credit (in US\$ M)	State	Sector
1.	Assam ADP		100.00	Assam	Agriculture
2.	Karnataka ADP		100.00	Karnataka	Agriculture
3.	Container Corporation of India (CONCOR)		98.00	Central Sector	Multi-Model Transport
4.	EXIM Bank		300.00	—	Export
5.	WRCP Tamil Nadu	IBRD: IDA:	80.00 170.00	Tamil Nadu	Irrigation
6.	A.P. Irrigation III	IDA: IDA: SDR	100.00 71.9m	Andhra Pradesh	Irrigation
7.	Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project		200.00	Orissa	Irrigation
8.	National Water Resources		150.00	Multi-State	Irrigation
9.	National Hydrology		130.00	Multi-State	Irrigation

Productivity Bonus

4465. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether removal of the ceiling on pay for the payment of productivity bonus is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) to (c). A proposal for enhancement of the eligibility and calculation ceilings under the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is under the consideration of the Government.

Trade with Thailand

4466. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Government propose to expand its trade relation with Thailand;

(b) if so, the target fixed for the Eighth Plan;

(c) the areas identified for expanding Indo-Thailand trade; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific target has been fixed for the Eighth Plan.

(c) Precious stones & Jewellery, cotton, yarn, fabrics and made-ups, soya-bean extraction, Iron & Steel rods, sheets, oils and structurals, Agro-chemicals, Dye & Dye-stuff, Machinery and Engineering items, Chemicals, Automotive parts, Consultancy services, Railway rolling stocks, Diesel engines, Machine tools, Marine products, Spices-blends, curry powder, oil & oleoresins and tobacco, Fresh fruit and vegetables and dairy products, Electronics hardware & software, Project goods and projects, Office equipment, Drugs & pharmaceuticals, Ceramics are the identified items of export interest from India to Thailand.

Items of export interest from Thailand to India are Rice, Tapioca starch, Natural rubber and rubber products, Pulses, Sugar, Synthetic fibres, Plastic and Plastic products, Ash and residues of metals, Carbon black, Precious stones

and jewellery, Electrical appliances, Pharmaceutical products, Chemical products.

(d) Regular interaction at Government level by way of institutional mechanism of Joint Commission and Joint Trade Committee, promoting exchange of business delegations between the two countries and encouragement to private sector for participation in fairs exhibitions and dissemination of business information are some of the steps being taken by the Government to expand trade and trade relations with Thailand.

U.T.I. Schemes

4467. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.T.I. has announced book closure for several of its schemes such as Master-plus 1991 and Mastergain 1992;

(b) if not, whether a large portion of shares of these schemes floating in the market bear bogus signatures of the transferers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir. UTI has not announced book closure for its schemes except for Mastershare scheme.

(b) and (c). UTI has reported that some fake certificates of two of UTI's schemes, Master-plus and Mastergain have been seized in Delhi. UTI has

cautioned the public immediately and informed all stock exchanges to be more vigilant, also released notices and advertisement and also advised stock exchanges to display the UTI advertisement and notice on their Notice Boards. It has instructed its Registrar, M/s. Datamatics to scrutinise all shares of Master-plus and Mastergain schemes given to them for transfer, reject the transfer of fake certificates and advise investors accordingly. No further action needs to be taken by the Government.

Export of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals

4468. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL
KATHERIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of drugs and pharmaceuticals exported and foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have explored the possibilities to further increase the export of drugs and pharmaceuticals; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Government to boost the exports of drugs and pharmaceuticals?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The value of exports of drugs and pharma-

ceuticals including fine chemicals for the last three years is as under:—

Exports

(Value: Rs. in crores)

1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto Feb., '94)
1347.4	1410.3	1544.9

(SOURCE: CHEMEXCIL, BOMBAY)

As there is a large number of items under drugs and pharmaceuticals, it is not possible to maintain specific country-wise/quantity-wise figures.

(b) and (c). Drugs and pharmaceuticals has been identified as thrust items in the chemicals and allied products sector. A number of incentives including full convertibility of rupee has been made available under the Liberalised Export Import Policy 1992-97 to manufacturer-exporters of drugs and pharmaceuticals to achieve substantial export growth in this sector.

[*Translation*]

LIC Branches

4469. SHRI N.J. RATHVA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH
CHAUHAN:
SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI
THAKORE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches of the Life Insurance Corporation of India operating in various States;

(b) the average and actual annual business done, profit earned and capital

invested by LIC in various states during each of the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the number of persons enrolled by LIC under various insurance schemes during the above period, State-wise; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to get more people insured with LIC and to increase the Corporation's investment in those States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The requisite information is contained in *Statement I*.

(b) the information is given in *Statements II, III & IV*.

(c) the number of persons covered by LIC under Social Security Schemes namely (1) Group Insurance Schemes for Landless Agricultural Labourers, (2) Group Insurance Scheme for IRDP beneficiaries, (3) Group Insurance Schemes for weaker sections of the society who are engaged in 23 occupations approved by Central Government where 50% of the premium is being met from Social Security Fund during the year 1991-92, 1992-93, 1/4/1993 to 28/2/1994 are given in *Statements V, VI, and VII*.

(d) With its extensive network of sales persons, mass media, publicity campaigns and by designing new policies for different people, LIC has been endeavouring to spread the message of Life Insurance far and wide. Investments are made by LIC in socially oriented schemes in the States and as per the allocations made by the Planning Commission.

STATEMENT-I

The number of branches of LIC in each State

Sl. No.	State	Number of branches
1.	Delhi (U.T)	68
2.	Himachal Pradesh	22
3.	Punjab	63
4.	Jammu & Kashmir	17
5.	Haryana	30
6.	Rajasthan	99
7.	Uttar Pradesh	229
8.	Madhya Pradesh	121
9.	Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram	62
10.	West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar, Sikkim	128
11.	Bihar	96
12.	Orissa	51
13.	Andhra Pradesh	144
14.	Karnataka	149
15.	Kerala	80
16.	Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	166
17.	Gujarat, Diu, Daman	135
18.	Maharashtra	235
19.	Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	11
All India		1906

STATEMENT-II*The average business for the last two years in various States**(Average of 1991/92 & 1992/93)**

	Average Business	
	No. of Policies	Sum Assured (Rs. Crores)
Delhi	277586	1436.86
Himachal Pradesh	61990	232.54
Punjab, Chandigarh	213972	999.43
Jammu & Kashmir	42024	168.86
Haryana	126518	507.75
Rajasthan	448082	1669.65
Uttar Pradesh	1052041	3952.36
Madhya Pradesh	471711	1778.45
Assam, Maghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram	218313	857.25
West Bengal, Andaman, Nicobar, Sikkim	807614	2514.73
Bihar	452897	1703.73
Orissa	233536	745.32
Andhra Pradesh	1032334	3194.67
Karnataka	721998	2133.27
Kerala	490263	1589.09
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	932757	2893.60
Gujarat, Diu & Daman	733739	2539.44
Maharashtra	1236529	4798.81
Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	44152	194.82
All India	9598056	34010.63

* Figure for 1993-94 not available.

STATEMENT-III

The actual business done by LIC during the last 3 years State-wise

States	Actual Annual Business					
	1991-92		1992-93		1.4.93 to 31.1.94 @	
	Policies	S.A.* (Rs. in crores)	Policies	S.A. (Rs. in crores)	Policies	S.A. (Rs. in crores)
Delhi (U.T)	267375	1372.10	287798	1501.62	196794	1076.52
Himachal Pradesh	59218	216.30	64763	248.78	39865	164.05
Punjab Chandigarh	204487	934.28	223457	1064.59	149590	739.88
Jammu & Kashmir	37536	141.82	46513	195.90	32636	133.46
Haryana	118831	468.77	134206	546.73	88368	374.58
Rajasthan	431017	1594.44	465148	1744.86	289460	1151.15
Uttar Pradesh	978739	3687.18	1125344	4217.54	751825	2830.24
Madhya Pradesh	456468	1707.36	486954	1849.55	337858	1334.46
Assam, Meghalaya, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Tripura, Mizoram	208291	798.52	228335	915.98	162165	669.74
West Bengal, Andaman, Nicobar, Sikkim	771615	2400.62	843612	2628.85	558083	1875.56
Bihar	436581	1676.79	469213	1730.66	319429	1207.07
Orissa	226322	705.78	240750	784.86	148848	533.86
Andhra Pradesh	1047042	3093.27	1017625	3296.07	618357	2357.15
Karnataka	697697	1987.61	746299	2278.94	499420	1685.40
Kerala	474900	1458.63	505625	1719.54	364357	1370.52
Tamil Nadu & Pondicherry	865159	2616.80	1000354	3170.39	588893	1960.38
Gujarat, Diu, Daman	720881	2516.10	746597	2762.77	423892	1656.91
Maharashtra	1193431	4509.01	1279626	5088.61	777534	3323.56
Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli	42674	179.06	45629	210.58	26281	134.36

* Sum assured. @ Date upto which data is available.

STATEMENT-IV

State-wise Gross Investments by LIC during 1991-92, 1992-93 & 1993-94

(Rs. in Crores)

Zone/State	Gross Investments made during		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Central Zone			
(a) Madhya Pradesh	128.47	173.89	145.35
North Central Zone			
(a) Uttar Pradesh	123.50	121.21	302.01
Eastern Zone			
(a) Andaman & Nicobar Islands	—	—	—
(b) Arunachal Pradesh	1.50	1.00	2.00
(c) Assam	11.33	26.55	20.74
(d) Bihar	149.67	135.91	114.75
(e) Manipur	5.40	3.69	5.69
(f) Meghalaya	7.76	3.00	4.00
(g) Mizoram	—	5.39	1.00
(h) Nagaland	3.02	9.13	6.00
(i) Orissa	115.55	120.45	129.94
(j) Sikkim	2.43	1.97	2.40
(k) Tripura	7.65	3.25	7.72
(l) West Bengal	122.16	248.13	138.72
	426.47	558.47	432.96
Northern Zone			
(a) Chandigarh	0.50	2.00	0.50
(b) Delhi	189.00	334.09	—
(c) Haryana	69.55	80.93	52.72
(d) Himachal Pradesh	13.31	14.83	15.02
(e) Jammu & Kashmir	21.22	17.54	15.46
(f) Punjab	61.19	74.05	44.55
(g) Rajasthan	111.62	179.71	133.90
	466.39	703.15	262.15

(Rs. in Crores)

Zone/State	Gross Investments made during		
	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
South Central Zone			
(a) Andhra Pradesh	303.39	198.94	204.69
(b) Karnataka	141.03	142.58	108.51
	444.42	341.52	313.20
South Zone			
(a) Kerala	96.42	115.23	117.07
(b) Pondicherry	2.91	5.16	0.10
(c) Tamil Nadu	341.88	260.03	205.50
	441.21	380.42	322.67
Western Zone			
(a) Goa & Daman	6.78	8.42	12.73
(b) Gujarat	258.70	243.00	107.80
(c) Maharashtra	499.11	569.29	168.22
	764.59	820.71	288.75
Grand Total	2795.05	3099.37	2067.09

STATEMENT-V

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered (Under Landless Labourers Group Insurance Scheme)		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto Feb. 94)
1.	Haryana	NA	NA	NA
2.	Himachal Pradesh	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered (Under Landless Labourers Group Insurance Scheme)		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto Feb. 94)
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	NA	NA	NA
4.	Rajasthan	200000	200000	200000
5.	Punjab	400000	400000	400000
6.	Chandigarh	NA	NA	NA
7.	Delhi	NA	NA	NA
	N. Z. Total	600000	600000	600000
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1200000	1200000	1200000
	C. Z. Total	1200000	1200000	1200000
9.	Uttar Pradesh	1300000	1300000	1300000
	N. C. Z. Total	1300000	1300000	1300000
10.	Assam	0	0	227992
11.	Bihar	1800000	1800000	1800000
12.	Orissa	400000	400000	400000
13.	West Bengal	800000	800000	800000
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	NA	NA	NA
15.	Manipur	0	0	28613
16.	Meghalaya	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs
17.	Mizoram	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs
18.	Nagaland	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered (Under Landless Labourers Group Insurance Scheme)		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94 (upto Feb. 94)
19.	Sikkim	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs
20.	Tripura	NA	NA	NA
21.	Union Territories	NA	NA	NA
E. Z. Total		3000000	3000000	3256605
22.	Kerala	100000	100000	100000
23.	Tamil Nadu	1300000	1300000	1300000
24.	Lakshadweep	NO LALs	NO LALs	NO LALs
25.	Pondicherry	30000	30000	30000
S. Z. Total		1430000	1430000	1430000
26.	Andhra Pradesh	675000	675000	675000
27.	Karnataka	900000	900000	900000
S. C. Z. Total		1575000	1575000	1575000
28.	Goa	7000	7000	7000
29.	Gujarat	800000	800000	800000
30.	Maharashtra	NA	NA	NA
31.	Daman & Diu	NA	NA	NA
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	3000	3000	3000
W. Z. Total		810000	810000	810000
Grand Total		9915000	9915000	10171605

Note: N. A. – Not Available.

STATEMENT-VI*Group Insurance Scheme for Integrated Rural Development Programme*

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94*
1.	Haryana	16326	13606	
2.	Himachal Pradesh	5845	4871	
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	8163	6803	
4.	Rajasthan	13806	88189	
5.	Punjab	105818	11507	
6.	Chandigarh	0	261	
7.	Delhi	1564	0	
	N. Z. Total	151522	125237	
8.	Madhya Pradesh	219698	183097	
	C. Z. Total	219698	183097	
9.	Uttar Pradesh	443427	369554	
	N. C. Z. Total	443427	369554	
10.	Assam	45249	37711	
11.	Bihar	331578	276337	
12.	Orissa	108539	90457	
13.	West Bengal	185332	154457	
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	15022	12519	
15.	Manipur	1310	1092	

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered		
		1991-92	1992-93	1993-94*
16.	Meghalaya	3930	3275	
17.	Mizoram	6259	5216	
18.	Nagaland	6572	5477	
19.	Sikkim	1251	1043	
20.	Tripura	4635	3863	
21.	Andaman & Nicobar	1564	1304	
	E. Z. Total	711241	592751	
22.	Kerala	56335	46950	
23.	Tamil Nadu	148749	123969	
24.	Lakshadweep	150	133	
25.	Pondichery	1251	1043	
	S. Z. Total	206485	172095	
26.	Andhra Pradesh	165680	138079	
27.	Karnataka	103701	86425	
	S. C. Z. Total	269381	224504	
28.	Goa	3129	2608	
29.	Gujarat	68227	56861	
30.	Maharashtra	177472	147906	
31.	Daman & Diu	625	522	
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	312	NA	
	W. Z. Total	249765	207897	
	Grand Total	2251519	1875135	

Note: N. A. – Not Available.

* Figures yet to Receive.

STATEMENT-VII

50% Subsidised Social Security Group Schemes

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered		
		1991-92	1992-93	1.4.93 (Upto Feb. 94)
1.	Haryana	2621	1038	2169
2.	Himachal Pradesh	284	989	0
3.	Jammu & Kashmir	1453	NA	0
4.	Rajasthan	10975	41070	3365
5.	Punjab	1299	1122	937
6.	Chandigarh	0	1631	725
7.	Delhi	0	101	0
	N. Z. Total	16632	45951	7196
8.	Madhya Pradesh	1509975	334857	24586
	C. Z. Total	1509975	334857	24586
9.	Uttar Pradesh	59065	242941	31006
	N. C. Z. Total	59065	242941	31006
10.	Assam	3570	750	858
11.	Bihar	28696	213541	0
12.	Orissa	9433	36998	0
13.	West Bengal	9884	164950	229
14.	Arunachal Pradesh	0	0	0
15.	Manipur	0	0	0

Sl. No.	Zone/State	Lives Covered		
		1991-92	1992-93	1.4.93 (Upto Feb. 94)
16.	Meghalaya	0	0	0
17.	Mizoram	0	0	0
18.	Nagaland	0	0	0
19.	Sikkim	0	0	0
20.	Tripura	0	0	0
21.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	0
E. Z. Total		51583	416239	1087
22.	Kerala	14432	1935	780
23.	Tamil Nadu	4489	4333	7130
24.	Lakshadweep	0	0	0
25.	Pondicherry	399	NA	0
S. Z. Total		19320	6268	7910
26.	Andhra Pradesh	81816	80676	2371
27.	Karnataka	1081	11850	13292
S. C. Z. Total		82897	92526	15663
28.	Goa	467	6346	0
29.	Gujarat	190167	312567	19929
30.	Maharashtra	12807	59771	1806
31.	Daman & Diu	0	0	0
32.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0	0	0
W. Z. Total		203441	378684	21735
Grand Total		1942913	1517466	109183

Note: N. A. – Not Available.

[English]

Export of Sugar

4470. DR. K.D. JASWANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of sugar exported and the foreign exchange earned therefrom during each of the last three years, country-wise;

(b) whether the Government have fixed the quota for export of sugar during 1994-95; and

(c) if so, the details thereof country-wise and with its value?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The details of export of sugar during 1991-92, 1992-93 and April-December, 1993 are available in : (1) March 1992 issue of the Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India (Annual Number for 1991-92)-Volume I - Exports and Re-exports; (2) March 1993 issue of the Monthly Statistics of Foreign Trade of India (Annual Number for 1992-93) - Volume I- Exports and Re-exports; and (3) December 1993 issue of the Foreign Trade Statistics of India (Principal Commodities & Countries) respectively, brought out by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics, Calcutta, copies of which are available in Parliament Library.

(b) and (c). In view of decline in domestic production of Sugar, Government is not considering any free export of domestic sugar during 1994-95, except against the limited preferential quota to USA and EEC and a limited quantity to Nepal, Sugar exports, however, are allowed under the Advance Licence

Scheme against import of raw sugar, which is processed into white sugar for re-export.

Anti-Hijack Squad

4471. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up anti-hijack squad to look after immigration and general airport security as well as hijacking of aircraft;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the squad is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (b). The Government propose to set up a Civil Aviation Security Force to look after general airport security including anti-hijacking functions. The proposed force is, however, not intended to look after immigration work.

(c) No definite time frame can be indicated for establishment of the new force, at this stage.

Anti-Dumping Duties on Importing Pharmaceutical from China

4472. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any anti-dumping measures against China for dumping pharmaceutical products;

(b) if so, the measures taken in this regard;

(c) whether Government is having any plan to simplify the prescribed format for filling anti-dumping petitions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Designated Authority, under the Indian Customs Tariff Act and Customs Tariff rules/thereunder, has initiated anti-dumping investigation concerning import of Isobutyl Benzene originating from the People's Republic of China.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Suggestions for simplifying the questionnaire for lodging anti-dumping complaint have been invited from the domestic industry. After taking into account the suggestions of the domestic industry it is proposed to simplify the questionnaire.

Bench Mark Price of Natural Rubber

4473. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any representation from the growers for revising the bench mark price of natural rubber announced on February 22, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A representation has been received from the Indian Rubber Growers Association requesting for revision of the Bench Mark Price based on latest cost of production (1993-94).

(c) The Bench Mark Price was announced as recently as February, 1994 @Rs. 24,900/- per MT for RMA - 4 Grade and Rs. 24,400/- per MT for RMA - 5 Grade of natural rubber based on the recommendations made by the Cost Accounts Branch of the Ministry of Finance. This bench mark price was recommended taking into account the cost of cultivation and the cost of inputs used by the farmers. Therefore, it is too early to revise the bench mark price of natural rubber now.

Debt Equity Ratio of Shipping Industry

4474. PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the debt equity ratio proposed by the Shipping Credit and Investment Company of India (SCICI) for Shipping Industry; and

(b) its impact on the growth of Shipping Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The debt equity ratio for shipping industry proposed by SCICI currently ranges between 1.5 : 1 to 1 : 1 for the company as a whole completion of the project.

(b) SCICI has informed that a lower debt equity ratio would have a positive

impact as it would ensure the long term health of the industry.

Trade Development Board of Singapore

4475. DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Trade Development Board of Singapore has opened its office at Madras recently;

(b) whether the Union Government have given its approval for the said office; and

(c) if so, the conditions on which approval has been granted to such Trade Boards of foreign countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c). The Singapore Trade Development Board (STDB) intends to open an office in Madras in November this year for which they would need to seek appropriate approval from the Central Government.

However, in order to facilitate trade and investment links between Singapore and South India, presently the Singapore Trade Development Board (STDB) is being assisted by an Indian national functioning as an Honorary Trade Representative based in Madras.

Export of Tobacco

4476. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO:
SHRI S. B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tobacco exports has increased during the year 1993-94;

(b) if so, the percentage of increase as compared to the corresponding period of last year and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of countries to whom tobacco is likely to be exported with its quantity during 1994;

(d) the foreign exchange likely to be earned from its exports during the above period, country-wise;

(e) whether Russia has approached India for importing tobacco during 1994; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) For the period April-January, 1993-94, the increase over the corresponding period in 1992-93 was 22.79% in quantity terms and 0.53% in value terms. This increase was mainly due to (i) higher exports to Russia and Estonia, and (ii) export of sizeable quantities of tobacco to Ukraine, Belarus and Latvia for the first time.

(c) and (d). Item-wise/country-wise targets have not been fixed.

(e) and (f). No orders have been placed so far the current Andhra crop.

[*Translation*]

Savings Schemes

4477. SHRI RAJESH KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken any steps to mobilise resources by encouraging savings within the country instead of taking loans from foreign countries; and

(b) if so, the details of the schemes prepared by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). For promoting savings it is imperative to improve the parameters which have a bearing on savings behaviour. These include rate of growth in the economy, level of fiscal deficit, tax policies, inflation, efficiency of the banking system and the capital markets and confidence in the economy. The various economic reform measures undertaken so far are expected to have a favourable impact on the aggregate savings.

[*English*]

Leasing of Storage Unit to a Private Organisation by MPEDA

4478. SHRI SOBHANADREE-SWARA RAO VADDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has taken serious exception in awarding the lease of 500 tonnes storage unit to a private

organisation by Marine Products Export Development Authority;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHARJEE): (a) and (c). The CAG has pointed out the loss in running the 500 tonnes cold storage by MPEDA. The 500 tonnes storage unit was set up at a cost of Rs. 1.02 crores in 1983 for operating it on a no profit-on-loss basis. During the period 1983-84, the unit sustained a loss of Rs. 8 lakhs in its operation when it was run departmentally. From November, 1984 to January, 1989 the unit was shut down for repairs. MPEDA, finding sale or lease to highest bidder as impractical, leased it out to Sea Food Exporters Association of India on a monthly rent of Rs. 21,500 from February, 1989. Comptroller and Auditor General of India has pointed out that this leasing arrangement caused a loss of Rs. 37.93 lakhs between the period February 1989 to April 1992, on account of salary of MPEDA staff and repairs. This observation is based upon a formula calculating interest at the rate of 10% on investment and the equated annual depreciation on plant and machinery. Sea-food Exporters Association of India is a registered association of Indian sea-food exporters. Since the MPEDA was incurring heavy losses in running the unit departmentally and since the purpose of setting up the same was to provide the cold storage facilities to sea food exporters at reasonable cost, MPEDA was decided to lease it out to SEAI in the best interest of sea-food exports. The terms of agreement of lease worked out at that time was the most suitable that could be agreed to. The licence fee has since been enhanced to

Rs. 43,000/- per month effect from 15-9-1993. According to the current arrangement, management and maintenance of the storage will be the responsibility of SEAL.

Setting UP of Exporters Grievances Redressal Cell

4479. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state.

(a) whether any decision has been taken to constitute an Exporters Grievances Redressal Cell in his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Textiles has constituted an Exporters' Grievances Redressal Cell to look into and follow up all complaints/Grievances/Problems/Suggestions relating to exports of Textiles. An officer of the rank of Deputy Secretary in the Ministry is kept incharge of the Cell.

[*Translation*]

Export of Leather Goods

4480. SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any target has been fixed for the export of leather products during 1993-94;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the total quantity of leather product exported and the foreign

exchange earned therefrom during the above period, country-wise?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The target for export of leather and leather products for the year 1993-94 has been fixed at Rs. 4768 Crores.

Item-wise break-up of the target is as follows:

<i>(Value in Rs. Crores)</i>	
1. Finished Leather	928.00
2. Leather Footwear	736.00
3. Footwear Components	752.00
4. Leather Garments	1328.00
5. Leather Goods	1024.00
	4768.00

(c) A *Statement* is enclosed.

STATEMENT

Quantitative figures of exports are not maintained. However country-wise provisional export figures of leather and leather products for the year 1993-94 are as follows:-

<i>(Value in Rs. Crores)</i>	
Country	1993-94
1. Germany	998.34
2. Italy	375.30
3. U.K.	518.23
4. Belgium	29.06

Country	1993-94
5. Denmark	61.50
6. France	214.55
7. Greece	7.60
8. Ireland	2.35
9. Netherlands	97.25
10. Portugal	47.86
11. Spain	77.51
12. C.I.S.	156.27
13. Czechoslovakia	39.38
14. U.S.A.	821.03
15. Canada	56.52
16. Japan	49.15
17. Australia	89.17
18. Switzerland	49.71
19. Korea	17.76
20. Others	526.41
Total	4234.95

(Source: CLE, Madras)

[English]

Pay Scale of Section Officers

4481. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal regarding revision of pay scale of Section Officers in the Central Government is pending for a long time;

(b) if so, the stage at which the decision is pending; and

(c) the time by which the decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) to (c). No, Sir. no such proposal is under consideration of the Government. A decision has, however, been taken to refer the matter of revision of pay scales of Section Officers and Private Secretaries belonging to the Central Secretariat to the Fifth Pay Commission, which has already been constituted.

[Translation]

Production of Cloth

4482. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI:
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

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

(b) whether the productivity of the textile industry in Uttar Pradesh is much less in comparison to other Southern States;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to boost the production of textiles in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) State-wise figures of Cloth Production in all sectors are not maintained. However, the production of cloth in the country during the last three years as been as under:—

1991-92 – 22,978 Million Sq. Meters.

1992-93 – 25,475 Million Sq. Meters.

1993-94 – 26,372 Million Sq. Meters.
(anticipated)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The reasons for low productivity per loom in Uttar Pradesh could be due to the following factors:

(i) The total number of composite Mills in Uttar Pradesh are only 13, out of which a majority *i.e.* 9 mills are NTC/BIC units which had not been performing well.

(ii) As against the above position in Uttar Pradesh, in the Southern States the total number of composite mills are 44 of which a majority *i.e.* 27 mills are in the private sector and most of those mills have been comparatively doing well.

(d) Government has made efforts to boost production of textiles in the country, including Uttar Pradesh as under:—

1. Removal of restriction on creation & expansion of capacity subject only to locational guidelines.

2. Liberalising the licensing requirements, except in certain cases and confirming to locational guidelines.

3. Measures to ensure availability of raw material to the industry through Policy Intervention whenever necessary.

4. Permitting Import of Textile Machinery under OGL and reduction in duty on such Machinery Imports.

[English]

Payment of Insurance Commission

4483. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been cases in which the Life Insurance Companies have not paid Insurance Commission to the Insurance Agents for the last three years in Delhi and Bombay;

(b) if so, the number of such cases in Delhi/Bombay, separately; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure payment of insurance commission to the agents on yearly basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The Life Insurance Corporation of India have reported that wherever and agent has been entitled to commission, he has been paid his due commission.

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

[*Translation*]

Financial Assistance to Punjab Government

4484. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (FEROZEPUR): Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab has asked for financial assistance to make cash payment of bonus, house rent allowance and dearness allowance to its employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to provide this assistance to the State;

(d) if so, the time by which this amount is likely to be made available; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e). Does not arise.

[*English*]

ILO Direction on Workers' Right

4485. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on March 28, 1994 gave cautious backing to calls for a new world trade body to consider measures to ensure workers' rights were not abused in the drive for free trade;

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

(c) the stand which the Government is likely to take at the Morocco meeting on April 12-15 on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The International Labour Organisation in its Governing Body Meeting held on March 28, 1994, did not discuss the establishment of the new World Trade Body.

(b) does not arise.

(c) In the Morocco meeting, India has taken the position that whereas we stand committed to internationally recognised labour standards, we see no merit in the attempt to link labour standards and other social policy concerns with trade policy.

Primary Market Reforms Suggested by SEBI Chairman

4486. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new Chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has recently proposed comprehensive primary market reforms;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the objectives to be achieved by the proposed reforms;

(d) whether the reforms are likely to improve the functioning of various stock exchanges in the country as well as remove the misgivings of the shareholders about the malfunctioning of the exchanges;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reactions of the Government/ Reserve Bank of India to the reforms suggested by the Chairman of SEBI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. These include a system of standardising net asset value calculations by mutual funds, vetting of prospectus only by exception, introduction of bought out deals, more transparent and frequent disclosure of performance by companies, early introduction of depository system for shares and reforms of the secondary market through modernisation of stock exchanges.

(c) The objectives sought to be achieved by the proposed reforms are to ensure overall efficiency in the functioning of the primary market while at the same time allowing more freedom to the issuers.

(d) and (e). The above reforms will help to make stock market dealings more efficient thereby promoting liquidity.

(f) While there are no formal proposals to the above effect, the Govern-

ment will evaluate them when details are received from SEBI/RBI.

[*Translation*]

Impact of Devaluation of Rupee

4487. SHRIMATI SHEELA
GAUTAM:
SHRIMATI BHAVNA
CHIKHLIA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the effect of devaluation of rupee on import and export;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the percentage of increase or decrease registered in export and import in terms of dollars as on March 30, 1994;

(d) the impact of devaluation of rupee on our trade with those countries to whom we make payment in rupees; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to promote trade relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The changes in the effective exchange rate and changes in volume and dollar value of exports and imports are given in the table below:—

Changes in Effective Exchange Rate & Volume and Value of Exports

Year	% Change in effective exchange rate*		% Change in exports %		Change in imports	
	Neer	Reer	Volume	Value (US\$)	Volume	Value (US\$)
1991-92	-22.2	-13.8	7.5	-1.5	-4.1	-19.4
1992-93	-22.5	-13.2	6.9	3.8	22.8	12.7
1993-94	-7.9	-1.4	N.A.	20.6£	N. A.	2.0£

* Export-weighted 10-country index for calendar years. Numbers for 1991-92 stand for 1991 and so on.

Neer - Nominal effective exchange rate.

Reer - Real effective exchange rate.

£ Data relates to April-February.

It may be seen from the above table that the depreciation of the Rupee is associated with higher exports and lower imports.

(d) and (e). The Rupee Payment Area (RPA) is less relevant at present as trade with these countries are now switched over to freely convertible currencies except that exports to Russia is against payment of Rupees from out of their accumulated rupee balances in India arising from our Rupee debt service obligations. Exports to Russia were Rs. 1345 crores during April- December 1993 compared to Rs. 1185 crores during April-December 1992, *i. e.* a growth of 13.5 per cent. Trade promotion to Russia and other former RPA countries continue to occupy priority in our commercial policy as these countries represent emerging markets for our goods and sources for essential imports.

[English]

Merger of IAAI and NAA

4488. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 7436 on May 3, 1993 and state:

(a) the progress made so far in regard to merger of the International Airports Authority of India and National Airports Authority;

(b) the reasons for delay in implementation of the decision; and

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

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM

NABI AZAD); (a) to (c). The Airports Authority of India Bill, 1993 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 23.8.93. This was referred to the Department Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism by Rajya Sabha Secretariat in consultation with the Speaker, Lok Sabha. The said Committee has recommended the Bill with some modifications which is likely to be discussed during the current Session.

Tourism in Meghalaya

4489. SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya has submitted some schemes to the Union Government to promote tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The Central Department of Tourism received three incomplete proposals from the State Government of Meghalaya for development of tourism in the State during 1993-94 and clarifications were sought from the State Government. However, the central assistance to the extent of Rs. 1.85 lakh was sanctioned during 1993-94 for holding Nongkerem Dance Festival.

[*Translation*]

Losses by NTC

4490. SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick textile units under the National Textile Corporation; and

(b) the accumulated loss incurred by each unit during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). A *Statement* indicating the details of accumulated loss/profit during the last three years of each of the mills of the subsidiary corporations of NTC which have been declared sick by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under the provision of the Sick Industrial Companies (special Provision) Act, 1985 is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The Mill-Wise Companies Net Profit/Loss from 1991-92 to 1993-94.

Sl. No.	Mill Name	Cumrnulative (Rs. In lakhs)
1.	Dayalbagh Mills	-755.77
2.	Suraj Textile	-358.80
3.	Sri Bijay Mills	-651.02
4.	Kharar Textiles	-311.77
5.	Udaipur Mills	-321.67

Sl. No.	Mill Name	Cumulative (Rs. In lakhs)	Sl. No.	Mill Name	Cumulative (Rs. In lakhs)
6.	Ajudhia Mills	-2227.30	27.	Apollo Mills	-1587.15
7.	Mahalaxmi Mills	-772.79	28.	Bharat Textiles	-1341.70
8.	Edward Mills	-977.26	29.	Digvijay Mills	-1546.02
9.	Panipat Mills	-804.92	30.	Jupitar Mills	3406.30
10.	Hira Mills	-2652.53	31.	New Hind Mills	-2913.15
11.	Sadeshi Mills	-2364.53	32.	Mumbai Mills	3090.15
12.	New Bhopal Mill	-1688.93	33.	Aurangabad	-349.44
13.	Bhuranpur Mills	-825.65	34.	Chalisgaon Text.	-264.11
14.	Bengal Magpur	-2189.36	35.	Dhule Text.	-999.81
15.	Indore Malwa	-3643.68	36.	Nanded Textiles	-871.74
16.	Kalyanmal Mills	-2685.74	37.	Indu No. 1	-2628.39
17.	Sri Vikram Mill	-1021.34	38.	Indu No 2	-2289.54
18.	Bijali Mills	-861.65	39.	Indu No. 3 & 4	-3017.03
19.	Swadeshi Mills (MB)	-392.57	40.	Indu No. 5	-1305.88
20.	Raebareli Mills	-520.83	41.	Indu Dyes Works	-863.77
21.	Swadeshi Mills (Naini)	-1763.34	42.	Model Mills	-2368.44
22.	Muir Mills	-3604.00	43.	R. S. R. G. Mills	-823.70
23.	New Victoria	-4418.87	44.	R. B. B. A. Mills	-544.61
24.	L Krishna Mills	-2273.85	45.	Savatram Mills	-766.53
25.	Swadeshi Mills (Kanpur)	-4808.82	46.	Viderbha Mills	-983.43
26.	Barshi Mills	0.70	47.	Rajkot Mills	-734.68

Sl. Mill Name No.	Cummulative (Rs. In lakhs)	Sl. Mill Name No.	Cummulative (Rs. In lakhs)
48. Mahalaxmi Mills	-2128.75	69. Minerva Mills	-2143.94
49. Petlad Mills	-1305.48	70. M. S. K. Mills	-1635.25
50. Ahmedabad New	-2512.77	71. Parvati Mills	-1010.05
51. Ahmedabad Jupitar	-3202.58	72. Azamjahi Mills	-1348.23
52. Jahangir Mills	-2343.47	73. Bengal Text.	-1186.65
53. Rajnagar 1&2	-3116.52	74. Luxmi Narayan	-1365.70
54. Viramgam Textiles	-1530.53	75. Arti Cotton	-888.64
55. Newmaneck Chowk	-1384.93	76. Bengal Fine II	-506.90
56. Himadri Mills	-1060.36	77. Kanoria	0.00
57. Netha	-229.45	78. Sadepur	-572.70
58. Natraj Mills	-472.26	79. Associated	-871.76
59. Anantpur Mills	-396.07	80. Bihar Coop.	-720.02
60. Tirupathi Mills	-338.41	81. Orissa Cotton	-882.91
61. Sree Yallama	-349.13	82. Central Cotton	-2020.05
62. Cannanore, Can	-98.07	83. Bengal Fine 1	-1444.55
63. Kerala Luxmi	-34.62	84. Bengal Luxmi	-1488.53
64. Vijay Mohini	-104.25	85. Shree Mahalaxmi	-1602.36
65. Cannanore, Mahe	-33.03	86. Rampooria	-1890.23
66. Adoni Mills	-164.73	87. Bengasari	-838.27
67. Algappa Mills	8.15	88. Jyoti Factory	-504.99
68. Mysore Mills	-2317.02	89. Gaya Cotton	-1100.57
		90. Manindra Mills	0.00
		Grand Total	Rs. -123070.34

[English]

Financial Assistance to Karnataka to Start Export Promotion Industrial Parks

4491. SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the Government of Karnataka for financial assistance to set up "Export Promotion Industrial Parks" to boost exports;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any amount has been released to States under the Export Promotion Industrial Park Scheme; and

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

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir, Govt. of Karnataka have submitted a proposal to set up an Export Promotion Industrial Park at Hoodi, near Bangalore at an estimated cost of Rs. 24.71 crores with Rs. 10 crores is to be Central grant.

(c) and (d). No amount has been released to State Governments so far as the scheme is envisaged to be implemented in 1994-95.

Guidelines for External Commercial Borrowings

4492. SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAO-SAHEB TOPE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry has suggested that the R. B. I. should issue guidelines in respect of external commercial borrowings and joint ventures; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in a meeting with the Controller, RBI on 25.2.1994 has suggested that RBI should issue comprehensive and clear guidelines for joint ventures.

Indian companies can make direct investments in joint ventures and subsidiaries abroad with the prior approval of the Government of India. The Ministry of Commerce have notified comprehensive and clear guidelines for direct investment abroad in their notification no 4/11/91-EP (OI) of October 21, 1992. These guidelines indicate the norms for and limits of investments as well as conditions for repatriation of profits. Further, procedures for remittances connected with exports or imports are indicated in Chapter 9 of the Exchange Control Manual published by the RBI.

No suggestion has been received by the RBI from the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry for the issue of guidelines on External Commercial Borrowings.

Tea Board Offices Working Abroad

4493. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the overseas offices working under the Tea Board; and

(b) the number of employees working in each office there?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Tea Board has five offices abroad located at London, Brussels, New York, Dubai and Moscow.

(b) India based officers and staff working in the overseas offices of the Board are given as indicated below:—

Location	Man power	
	India Based Officer	India Based Staff
London	1	2
Brussels	1	1
New York	1	3
Dubai	-	3
Moscow	1	1*

*Will join shortly.

[*Translation*]

Grants to Voluntary Organisations for the Welfare of Workers

4494. SHRI MAHENDRA KUMAR SINGH THAKUR:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHAUHAN:
DR. K. D. JESWANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the voluntary organisations/labour institutes and centres provided grants for the welfare of the workers during each of the last three years indicating the amount of grants provided to them, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have reviewed the working of these organisations/institutions/centres;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The details of Voluntary Organisations/Labour Institutes and Centres provided grants for the welfare of the workers during the last three years is given below:—

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(1) Self Employed Women's Association, Indore M. P.	Rs. 50,544/-	Rs. 41,793/-	Rs. 42,582/-
(2) Centre for Women's Dev. Studies, New Delhi.	Rs. 49,933/-	Rs. 78,059/-	Rs. 47,180/-
(3) Tamil Mahilla Katida Thozhilalar Sangam, Madras, Tamil Nadu.	Rs. 32,975/-	—	—

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(4) Tamil Nadu Pengal Nalla Sangam, Tiruchirapalli.	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 56,216/-	—
(5) Kalaiselvi Karunalya Social Welfare, Madras.	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 41,225/-	Rs. 14,991/-
(6) Christian Social Service, Calcutta.	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 41,225/-	Rs. 13,754/-
(7) Rural Dev. Society Wangjing, Manipur	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 37,478/-	Rs. 17,347/-
(8) Service & Education for Welfare Action, Imphal.	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 18,739/-	Rs. 37,477/-
(9) Self Employed Women's Association, Ahmedabad.	—	Rs. 4,970/-	—
(10) Ahilya Devi Mahila Mandal, Nagpur.	—	—	Rs. 24,985/-
(11) Solidarity Movement of India, Kerala.	—	—	Rs. 13,875/-
(12) IPER, Calcutta (Girl Child Project).	Rs. 178,782/-	—	—
(13) ICCW, New Delhi (Street Working Children Project).	Rs. 61,069/-	Rs. 94,409/-	—
(14) Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod, Tiruchirapalli.	Rs. 74,700/-	Rs. 56,757/-	Rs. 24,900/-
(15) ICCW, New Delhi (Beedi Workers Project in Madhya Pradesh).	Rs. 152,429/-	Rs. 78,341/-	Rs. 46,820/-
(16) Ruchika School, Bhubaneswar.	Rs. 124,029/-	Rs. 123,750/-	Rs. 41,250/-
(17) Malarchi Trust, Vahaikulam.	Rs. 102,448/-	Rs. 78,210/-	—

	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
(18) Vivekananda Education, Society, Calcutta.	Rs. 9,234/-	Rs. 54,703/-	Rs. 18,475/-
(19) IPER, Calcutta (South, North & Central).	Rs. 807,234/-	—	Rs. 1,061,900/-
(20) Karnataka State Council for Child Welfare, Bangalore.	Rs. 62,901/-	Rs. 86,981/-	—
(21) Central Board for Workers Education.	Rs. 619.11 lakh	Rs. 979.14 lakh	Rs. 650.24 lakh
(22) National labour Instt.	Rs. 62.68 lakh	Rs. 212.47 lakh	Rs. 204.15 lakh

(b) and (c). Government have been reviewing the working of these Organisations as per the requirements prescribed under the relevant schemes before releasing the grants from time to time. Besides, officers of this Ministry also carry out on-the-spot review of the working of these organisations as and when considered necessary. The findings of the review are taken into account for release of grants to these organisations or for their discontinuance.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Wholesale and Consumer Price Indices

4495. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the monthly wholesale and consumer price indices during the financial year 1993-94;

(b) the annual rate of inflation during the year;

(c) the average and maximum and minimum monthly rate of inflation during the year;

(d) the average and maximum and minimum rate of inflation during the year;

(e) the names of commodities and products which had a higher annual rate of inflation during the year than the average rate of inflation; and

(f) whether any steps have been taken to bring down the rate of inflation in respect of those items which contribute to the rise of inflation rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Monthwise indices of wholesale price and consumer price are as below:—

Month	Wholesale Price (1981-82 =100)	Consumer Price (1982 =100)	Group/Sub-group/item	Annual rate of inflation (%)
			All Commodities	10.2
April	234.6	245	Primary articles	11.6
May	237.0	246	Foodgrains	16.1
June	239.8	250	Wheat	18.5
July	243.1	253	Pulses	30.0
August	247.0	256	Potatoes	11.0
September	250.9	259	Eggs, Fish & Meat	13.7
October	252.2	262	Tea	11.9
November	251.6	265	Coffee	18.4
December	250.6	264	Non-Food articles	24.2
January	252.7	263	Sugarcane	11.7
February	252.9(prov.)	265	Minerals	17.0
March	255.1(")	NA	Fuel, Power, Light and Lubricants	13.1
			Electricity	30.7
			Food products	11.8
			Sugar	18.1
			Khandsari	29.4
			Gur	22.6
			Rape & mustard oil	11.3
			Groundnut oil	121.7
			Oil cakes	24.5
			Textiles	14.8
			Wood and wood products	17.1
			Non-Metallic mineral products	11.2
			Other miscellaneous manufacturing products	16.8

Based on the above monthly indices of wholesale prices the annual rate of inflation on point-to-point basis was 9.6 per cent during the year.

(c) and (d). The requisite details are as below:—

	Rate of Inflation (%)	
	Monthly	Annual
Average	0.8	8.2
Maximum	1.6	9.6
Minimum	-0.4	6.9

(e) Following groups/sub-group/and selected commodities registered higher annual rate of inflation than the average rate of inflation as shown below:—

(f) For moderating the price rise, the Government's intervention has been primarily in augmenting supplies of essential commodities. Increasing allocation through PDS, open market sales of wheat and rice by FCI, import of essential commodities and higher monthly releases of non-levy sugar are some of the steps taken to stabilise the prices.

[*Translation*]

National Child Labour Project

4496. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:
SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any amount has been provided to Bihar and Gujarat under the National Child Labour Project during the last three years;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to provide funds under the National Child Labour Project to Bihar and Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (c). Yes, Sir. During 1993-94 grants released for the sanctioned National Child Labour Projects in Bihar and Gujarat amounted to Rs. 6,46,000/- and Rs. 70,000/- respectively.

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Handloom Sector

4497. SHRI MANORANJAN
BHAKTA:

SHRI UPENDRA NATH
VERMA:
SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI N. DENNIS:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Janata cloth and some other items which are reserved for exclusive production in the handloom sector are also being produced in powerloom sector in some States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to ensure the implementation of the Handloom (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985 recently upheld by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Instances of violation of Handloom Reservation Order have been detected and FIRs in 47 cases have been lodged in the Police Station concerned. Production of Janata cloth is allowed only in the handloom sector, while controlled cloth is produced in the mill sector.

(c) To ensure effective implementation of the Act, Government has issued directions to the implementing agencies from time to time. Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors working in the Weavers' Service Centres have also been authorised to implement the Act, besides other implement agencies like Textile Commissioner and Directors of Handlooms of State Governments. The Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Act to review the nature of articles that may be reserved

for exclusive production by handlooms. Central Assistance for setting up of Enforcement Machinery to some of the States has been released.

Production of Hank-Yarn

4498. SHRI M.V.V.S. MURTHY:
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE
RAI:
SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA
RAJE:
SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken action against some textile mills under the Essential commodities Act, 1955 for not fulfilling their obligation to produce 50% hank-yarn out of their total production;

(b) if so, the names of those mills alongwith the action taken against them;

(c) whether the Government provide tax exemption for utilisation of hank-yarn in handloom sector;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether this tax-exempted hank-yarn is being used in other sectors in addition to handloom sector; and

(f) if so, the steps being taken to ensure utilisation of hank-yarn in handloom sector only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Government has filed FIRs against the spinning mills who have contravened the provisions of Hank Yarn Packing Notification

and those mills who have not furnished the information as directed under the Textile (Development and Regulation) Order, 1993 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Cotton and Jute yarn supplied in plain reeled hank form are exempt from levy of excise duty. Concessional rate of excise duty is leviable on cotton yarn supplied in cross reeled hank form to the Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies and National/State Handloom Development Corporations for use in the handloom sector.

(e) Some quantity of hank yarn, particularly cross-reeled hank yarn, is reportedly being used in the production of yarn dyed varieties in decentralised powerloom sector.

(f) In order to minimise use of hank yarn enjoying excise concession in powerloom sector, such concession is available only for yarn supplied to handloom agencies

Popularisation of Sheep Rearing Techniques

4499. PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether modern and scientific techniques of sheep rearing, grading of wool are being popularised among sheep breeders through audio-visual media in the rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in this regard, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The Wool Development Board has organised publicity campaign to popularise modern and scientific techniques, grading of wool techniques etc. in about 50 villages of Rajasthan. The Board has also organised fairs and exhibition and sheep breeders conference in Himachal Pradesh.

The Wool Development Board has also taken up Integrated Sheep & Wool Development Project in four States with this aim in view.

(c) There has been encouraging response and large scale participation from the sheep breeders in these programmes.

Revenue Collection from Traders

4500. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of revenue collected under new Income-Tax Scheme for small traders, entrepreneurs professionals and self employed assesseees during 1992-93 and 1993-94. State-wise;

(b) how does it compare with the anticipated amount of revenue collections;

(c) whether actual collections are too short of original estimates;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps being taken by the Government to expedite the Income-tax collection under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Collection figures are not maintained State-wise. However, these are maintained CCIT region-wise. *Statement* showing the collections for each CCIT-region during 1992-93 & 1993-94 is enclosed.

(b) No separate Budget has been fixed for collection under this Scheme. It forms part of the overall Budget target for collection of Income-tax. The collection under this scheme during 1993-94 is quite encouraging as compared to the same during 1992-93.

(c) and (d). Question does not arise in view of reply to part (b) above.

(e) Since the scheme is a voluntary one, a campaign was launched through newspapers, electronic media etc. to educate the prospective payers about the benefits of this scheme.

STATEMENT

Region-wise collection of Presumptive tax during 1992-93 and 1993-94

<i>(Rupees in Lakhs)</i>			
Sl. No.	CCIT region	During 1992-93	During 1993-94 (Provisional)
1.	Bombay	49	65
2.	Delhi	143	147
3.	Calcutta	17	46
4.	Madras	109	68
5.	Ahmedabad	64	96

Sl. No.	CCIT region	During 1992-93	During 1993-94 (Provisional)
6.	Pune	171	183
7.	Chandigarh	434	611
8.	Bangalore	101	291
9.	Kanpur	43	25
10.	Patna	60	91
11.	Hyderabad	242	641
12.	Cochin	18	25
13.	Lucknow	36	34
14.	Bhopal	60	23
15.	Jaipur	100	124
Total		1647	2470

National Weavers Welfare Fund

4501. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a National Weavers Welfare Fund from surcharges levy on import of cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which the Government propose to utilise this fund?

SHRI MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) to (c). Govern-

ment of India implement several welfare schemes like workshed and housing scheme, thrift fund scheme, group Insurance Scheme for which funds are provided from the budget grants. There is no proposal to get up a separate Weavers Welfare Fund.

Child Labour

4502. SHRI MOHAN RAWLE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have launched any action plan for improving the working conditions and creating disincentives for employing children; and

(b) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) and (b). Child Labour is prohibited under various labour laws such as the Factories Act, 1948, Mines Act, 1952, Beedi and Cigar Workers (Conditions of Employment) Act, 1966. The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 prohibits child Labour in various occupations and processes as listed in its schedule. The working conditions of child labour are regulated under Part III of this Act in areas where child labour is not prohibited under the Act. A vigorous enforcement of these legislations through an effective inspection machinery is expected to act as a deterrent for employing children. Government have launched a training programme for labour inspectors for more effective inspections under the International Programme on Elimination of Child Labour (IPEC). 600 inspectors have been trained during the year 1993-94 under this scheme.

Moreover, as per the National Policy on Child Labour, 1987, project based

action programmes are being encouraged and assisted through NGOs and State Governments for the welfare as well as prevention of child labour.

Revenue Collection

4503. SHRI PROBIN DEKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total revenue earned in Assam by the Government through Income-tax, Excise duty and small savings during the year 1993-94;

(b) the amount given back to the State out of the total revenue so collected;

(c) the number of Income-tax payers in Assam as at present; and

(d) the number of raids conducted in the State by the Income-tax Department during the year 1993-94 and the property seized therefrom?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) The small saving collections from Assam during 1993-94 were Rs. 97.66 crores. The figures of revenue collected through Excise and Income-tax from Assam during 1993-94 are not available as yet.

(b) The amount given to the Govt. of Assam as share of Central taxes was Rs. 732.38 crores and the total of long term loans given on account of net small savings collections was Rs. 98.01 crores.

(c) The no. of Income-tax payers as on 31.12.1993 was 2,28,991 in the North East Region (which includes Assam).

(d) During 1993-94, Income-tax Department conducted 113 searches in Assam, which resulted in seizure of cash/jewellery etc. to the tune of Rs. 208.17 lakhs.

Forward Trading

4504. SHRI BOLLA BULLI
RAMAIAH:
SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India has decided to ban forward trading in the stock market;

(b) if so, the details of the provisions made and the impact thereof; and

(c) the other steps being taken by the Government to check the stock market aberrations in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). Keeping in view the rise in the prices of shares, the stock exchanges at Bombay, Ahmedabad, New Delhi and Calcutta were directed by SEBI on 13.12.1993 to ensure that no carry forward of transactions in securities would be allowed except for the purpose of liquidating the then existing carry-forward business positions of members and that, henceforth, all transactions in securities would be settled at the end of each settlement by delivery and payment. Subsequently, SEBI has decided on March 9, 1994 to allow carry forward facility in these stock exchanges under a framework of transparency and effective regulation, provided the stock exchanges satisfy SEBI that they are in a

position to implement the system as proposed by SEBI. The stock exchanges have not yet approached SEBI with their proposals for implementation of the new system.

(c) Besides general measures for investor protection which have been taken by SEBI over the last several months, Government and SEBI will continue to closely monitor the functioning of the stock exchanges and will intervene in a manner which supports the interests of investors.

Carpet Export to Germany

4505. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) Whether carpets are being exported to Germany;

(b) if so, since when and the amount of foreign exchange earned therefrom during the last three years;

(c) whether Germany has recently imposed certain restrictions for the import of carpets from India;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The year since when Indian carpet is being exported to Germany is not exactly known. However, Germany is a traditional importer of Indian carpets. The foreign exchange earned in terms of Indian

Rupees from the exports of handmade carpets to Germany during the last three years is as under:

Year		(Provisional) (in Rs. crores)
1990-91	—	200.60
1991-92	—	276.35
1992-93	—	385.12

(c) and (d). The Government has no information as to the restrictions imposed by Germany on the import of carpets from India.

(e) Does not arise.

Indian Sea Food

4506. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the French Government has banned the import of Indian sea-food;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Recently the French Government issued a decree to the effect that import of fish and fishery products from all countries be restricted to units which are at least equivalent with European Community

Standards. The ban imposed on India was lifted up on intervention by our Mission in France.

(b) On account of agitation by French fisherman on import of cheap fish from Russia, U.K. etc, the French Government imposed the above restriction.

(c) The Government of India reacted immediately and got the ban lifted.

Strike by Vayudoot Employees

4507. SHRI N.J. RATHVA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot services were affected due to strike by employees of its Engineering Department in August, 1992;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of Vayudoot flights which had to be suspended and losses suffered as a result thereof;

(d) whether the matter has since been resolved; and

(e) if not, the effective steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The details of the flights suspended were as follows:

- (i) Delhi-Ludhiana-Delhi;
- (ii) Delhi-Dehradun-Delhi;
- (iii) Delhi-Chandigarh-Kulu and back;

(iv) Delhi-Shimla-Kulu and back;

(v) Delhi-Chandigarh-Dharamshala and back;

(iv) Delhi-Lucknow-Delhi;

Vayudoot had incurred only notional loss of revenue due to non-operation of the aforesaid flights. Since none of the Vayudoot flights meets the costs of operation, non operation of any flight does not increase the total loss of the company.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Setting up of Singapore Bank Branch in Bombay

4508. DR. K.D. JESWANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singapore Bank has got clearance from the Reserve Bank of India for setting up of its Branch in Bombay recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government also propose to permit the above Bank to set up its branches in other parts of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the locations where these branches are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY: (a) and (b). According to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Development Bank of Singapore had submitted an application for opening

a branch in Bombay. Considering the principle of reciprocity, financial strength of the bank and its involvement in India related trade, RBI have approved 'in Principle' the banks proposal. Pending opening of the branch, RBI have also agreed to the bank opening a representative office in India.

(c) RBI have not received any request from this bank for opening more branches in India.

(d) Does not arise.

Lapsed Insurance Policies

4509. PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:
SHRI RAM KAPSE:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of unclaimed and lapsed policies with the Life Insurance Corporation of India during 1992-93 and 1993-94, and the amount involved in these policies, State-wise;

(b) whether the Government have drawn up any scheme to utilise the unclaimed amount; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

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

Use of Foreign Aircraft by Air Taxi Operators

4510. SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO: Will Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have come out with fresh guidelines for the air taxi operators in order to exercise control over foreign aircraft leased by them;

(b) if so, whether these guidelines are applicable to all foreign aircraft taken on lease and engaged in public transport operation by the Indian operators;

(c) the details of guidelines issued in this regard;

(d) whether all the air taxi operators are fully adhering to these guidelines;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the action taken against the defaulting air taxi operators?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. A copy of the guidelines is attached as *Statement*.

(d) to (f). No case of the guidelines not being complied with has been noticed.

STATEMENT

Airworthiness and Operational Control of Foreign Aircraft Leased by Indian Operators

1. Introduction

In recent years, the practice of operating foreign aircraft leased with or without crew by Indian operators has become prevalent in India. National regulations of the States require that the Airworthiness authority should ensure

that every aircraft on their registry, including those leased out to an operator conducting flights under the authority of another State, operate in compliance with the regulations of the State of Registry. However, in discharging this responsibility, practical problems arise because the leased aircraft mostly operate in distant areas where the State of Registry finds it difficult to conduct their safety inspections. Compliance with the safety standards of the State of Registry may, therefore, diminish and violations of their regulations may occur. These may remain unknown to the State of Registry with the result the enforcement action to prevent such violations unlikely to be taken with respect to operations of such leased aircraft. Unless clear guidelines and requirements for control of airworthiness and operational aspects of such aircraft are laid down, it may create complex legal, safety, enforcement and practical problems for both the State of Registry of the aircraft and the State of Operator because of possible uncertainty as to which State is responsible for the safe operation and airworthiness of the aircraft and as to which State's regulations are required to be complied with. The problems associated with leased aircraft may become more widespread because a number of lessee have little or no previous experience in aviation industry. This Civil Aviation Requirement is, therefore, issued under provisions of Rule 133A of the Aircraft Rules 1937 and Section 5A of the Aircraft Act 1934 to lay down requirements for maintenance and safe operation of foreign aircraft leased for operation by or on behalf of Indian operators.

2. **Applicability**

This part of Civil Aviation Requirement is applicable to all foreign aircraft taken on lease and engaged in public

transport operations by or on behalf of Indian operators.

3. **Definitions**

- (a) *Dry Lease*: The lease of an aircraft without crew is normally referred to as a Dry lease.
- (b) *Wet Lease*: The lease of an aircraft with flight crew provided is referred to as a Wet Lease.

4. **Maximum Permissible Age of Aircraft for Import in India Under Lease Arrangements**

The maximum permissible age and cycles/flying hours of aircraft that an Indian operator can import for operations under lease arrangements shall be as follows:

- (a) No pressurised aircraft shall be more than 15 years in age or has completed 75% of the design economic cycles or 45000 pressurisation cycles, which-ever is earlier.
- (b) In the case of unpressurised aircraft, the decision will be on a case to case basis and on a complete examination of the records of the aircraft being procured. However, Director General of Civil Aviation would normally not allow such aircraft which are more than 20 years old.

5. **Requirements Relating to Operations with Aircraft taken on Dry Lease**

- 5.1 Broadly in Dry Lease arrangement, the Indian operator must

exercise complete airworthiness and operational control over the aircraft with all the attendant responsibilities. The entire responsibility of the airworthiness, maintenance and operation will rest with the Indian operator and the aircraft will be subjected to airworthiness certification, maintenance and inspection procedures prescribed by the DGCA.

5.2 For operation of a foreign aircraft on dry lease, the aircraft should be registered in India. In order that the Indian operator could exercise effective maintenance and inspection of the aircraft, it is necessary to know the complete history of the aircraft and, therefore, the lessor should provide complete information, including the following about the aircraft to the lessee who in turn will submit the same to the DGCA:

- (i) The aircraft type and serial number;
- (ii) Date of manufacture;
- (iii) Registration details;
- (iv) Total aircraft flying hours/cycles logged since new.
- (v) Cycles/Hours logged by each engine since new/since last overhaul;
- (vi) Status of compliance of mandatory modifications/Service Bulletins;
- (vii) The areas of previous operation;

- (viii) Details of maintenance programme followed and approved by the airworthiness authority of the country of Registry;
- (ix) Name and address of the owner/operator;
- (x) Details of accidents/incidents, if any;
- (xi) Details of repairs carried out;
- (xii) TBOs and lives of all lived components;
- (xiii) A statement from the owner/operator that the aircraft fully complies with the airworthiness requirements of the country of Registry.

5.3 The Indian operator wishing to use the dry leased aircraft shall provide the following information to the DGCA.

- (i) Complete maintenance programme of the aircraft to the Regional Airworthiness Office for approval wherein the issue of flight release, maintenance policy, keeping the engineers licences current, storage of components and other items as mentioned in CAR Section 2 Series 'E' part I. Operators shall not be permitted to adopt the maintenance programmes of the lessor unless the lessee (Operator) have the same facilities in terms of trained manpower, adequate inventory, reliability monitoring system, shop facilities etc. Such operators shall, therefore, adopt a maintenance programme based on

- the Maintenance Planning Document (MPD) or any DGCA approved programme.
- (ii) The operator shall arrange to have their engineers and flight crew trained to the satisfaction of DGCA and their licence endorsed before they are allowed to certify the aircraft or operate the same. The training programme should be got approved by DGCA prior to sending the engineers and crew for training. The operator shall also have to submit Minimum Equipment List in case he desires to take advantage of this system. Where the list is not submitted it will be deemed that all systems and equipments installed on the aircraft will be serviceable prior to the commencement of a flight.
- iii) **Mandatory Modifications/Airworthiness Directives/ Equipment:**
- (a) It will be the responsibility of the new operator bringing the aircraft on lease to ensure that all mandatory modifications, as approved by the DGCA and the Airworthiness Directives are complied with even if it is not mandatory in the country from where the aircraft is imported. The aircraft will also be required to be fitted with the instruments and equipments in accordance with the approved Indian regulations detailed in CAR Section 2 Series '0' Part II and CAR Section 2 Series '1' Part II besides the requirements of the country of manufacture.
- (b) Specifically the operator must ensure that the aircraft has floor path lighting, fire blocking material, Emergency Locator Transmitter (Water and impact activated), appropriate type of FDR/DFDR and CVR etc. fitted on the aircraft.
- (iv) In accordance with CAR Section 2 Series '1' Part II and CAR Section 2 Series '0' Part II installation of flight recorders (CVR, FDR, DFDR) is/are mandatory. Although the aircraft being imported by these operators have these recorders installed, they do not serve useful purpose unless the operators have facilities for retrieving the information stored in it. The main reason for the installation of these recorders is to obtain all cockpit conversations and aircraft data for the purpose of accident/incident investigation. This data is also required for monitoring to ensure that the aircraft has been operated as per the laid down procedures and within the approved flight envelope. All operators should, therefore, make arrangements for read out of CVR and FDR/DFDR. If they do not have facility of their own for this purpose, initially for some time DGCA may permit an arrangement of sending the recorders to another agency within the country or abroad for preparing the read outs as and when required. The arrangement so

evolved should be got approved from the Regional Airworthiness Office. The operator, however, should have its own facilities for preparing the read outs on regular basis.

(v) Facilities:

- (a) The operator should also ensure that all ground equipments such as Battery Cart, Trestles, Tools, Special tools specific to the aircraft/engines for all inspections and schedules to be carried out within the country are available with them before start of the operations.
- (b) In case of an engine change, the operator must either have spare engine and tools with them or make alternate arrangement with another agency. The operator should also establish their own ancillary shop for investigation of failed components, repair, overhaul of the rotables installed on the aircraft. In case the operator is unable to arrange such allied shops they may set up shops in collaboration with other such operators or they may also take the services of other DGCA approved shops. If the operator sends premature removed or defective components abroad, it should be ensured that complete defect investigation report is obtained from the overhaul/repair agency submitted to the DGCA.

- (vi) The Indian registration of the aircraft will be valid so long as the lease is in force and the aircraft is operated in accordance with the guidelines of DGCA and terms and conditions specified in the operator's permit/certification and the operations manual of the operator.
- (vii) The cabin attendants must have successfully undergone the DGCA approved training as laid down in the Civil Aviation Requirement Section 7 Series M. Part-I.
- (viii) All flight crew shall be in possession of current appropriate licences with current IR on type and valid proficiency checks. They shall also fully familiarise themselves with the routes they intend to fly. They are to operate under the operational control of the lessee.
- (ix) The operator shall have an approved operations manual before commencement of operation. All the flight crew shall be made thoroughly familiar by the operator with the contents of the manual before they start flying. The manual will be updated from time to time incorporating the latest instructions and operating procedures which should also be brought to the notice of each crew concerned.
- (x) All safety regulations promulgated by the DGCA must be complied with.
- (xi) If the operator has to use foreign crew or engineers for

a limited period with the permission of the DGCA, such crew and engineers will have to comply with the same conditions as stipulated in subsequent para 6 for wet lease operations.

- (xii) The flight despatchers should have undergone the DGCA approved training course successfully.
- (xiii) The commercial staff shall be adequately trained for the preparation of load and trim sheet and proper loading of the aircraft.

5.4 Dry leasing of an aircraft type not presently in service with any Indian operator will require training of DGCA personnel so as to enable DGCA to exercise airworthiness and operational control on the new type of aircraft. The lessee will, therefore, arrange at his cost training of at least two DGCA officers at the facilities of the aircraft manufacturer or any other approved agency where they will be train their own engineers.

6. Requirements for Operation with Aircraft Taken on Wet-Lease

6.1 The basic principle of permitting leased aircraft operations in India is that all such aircraft operated by Indian operators should be on the Indian registry so that they are subjected to Indian regulatory control. Therefore, operation of foreign wet-leased aircraft by Indian operators is normally limited to

short term arrangement, for example, when a new domestic operator is training his own engineers and crew, seasonal capacity augmentation by an Indian operator, etc. Any Indian operator using foreign wet leased aircraft must hold an operating permit or a certificate issued by the DGCA for such operation.

6.2 The operating conditions in India are more stringent and demanding than in most of the other countries because of severe weather conditions, hot, humid and dusty environment, many airports surrounded by hilly terrain, availability of limited runway length at some airports and non availability of precision approach facilities at many airports. It is, therefore, necessary to exercise stringent safety measures. The Indian operators using foreign wet leased aircraft should therefore comply with the following requirements:

- (i) The flight crew should be appropriately licensed. The Pilot-in-Command and Co-pilot of foreign country, if employed by the operator, should have a minimum of 500 hours experience on the type of aircraft in respective capacities.
- (ii) The crew should undergo medical examination at the periodicity prescribed in the Indian Aircraft Rules;
- (iii) The flight crew should undergo periodic refresher at least once in a year;

- (iv) The flight crew should comply with the Flight Duty time Limitations of the Indian operator and in no case exceed the FDTL laid down by the DGCA.
- (v) The flight crew shall follow the weather minima of the Indian operator as approved by the DGCA/National Airports Authority, India. The operator shall ensure that the flight crew of the lessor used for operating flights of the lessee are proficient to meet the operational requirements including weather minima as laid down in the lessee's operations manual.
- (vi) The flight crew will operate Indian registered aircraft under the authorisation had till the validity of authorisation granted by the DGCA.
- (vii) The flight crew will be subjected to pre-flight medical examination as per the requirements laid down by DGCA and shall comply with the provision of the Aircraft Rules in this regard;
- (viii) It will be the responsibility of the Indian operator to give thorough briefing to the foreign crew used for operations, about the Aircraft Rules, procedures of Indian airports, standard operating procedures, prohibited areas and precaution to be exercised while operating at various airports in India;
- (ix) Before the foreign crew are scheduled to operate flights to critical airports like, Leh, Srinagar, Kulu, Port Blair, Imphal etc. they should undergo thorough briefing about the special operating procedures to these airports and also undergo a minimum of one satisfactory route check each to these airports.
- (x) The Flight Inspectors of the DGCA may carry out random inspection/check of operation by foreign crew.
- (xi) In case of any violation or accident/incident attributable to crew proficiency, the authorisation granted to foreign crew for operating Indian registered aircraft may be withdrawn.
- (xii) The foreign crew can be deployed by the Indian operators for operating flights only after they are cleared by the security and other agencies and on issue of authorisation by the DGCA to operate Indian registered aircraft.
- (xiii) Flight crew of more than 60 years age cannot operate Indian registered aircraft for commercial purposes or hire and reward of any kind.
- (xiv) The cabin crew shall undergo training in accordance with the requirements laid down in Civil Aviation Requirements Section 7 Series M, Part I. If the operator wishes to use some cabin crew of the foreign operators, they should undergo the differences training necessary to meet the aforesaid requirements of the DGCA.

- The cabin crew should either be trained and certified on the aircraft type or they should be additional to the normal crew required to operate the flight where their duties shall be confined to facilitation work only.
- (xv) The flight despatcher used should have undergone the DGCA approved training programme successfully.
- (xvi) The commercial staff shall be adequately trained for the preparation of load and trim sheet and proper loading of the aircraft.
- (xvii) It will be the responsibility of the Indian operator to provide pre-flight briefing and conducting pre-flight medical examination.
- (xviii) The Indian operator shall thoroughly brief the foreign crew about the contents of the Operations Manual and the flight crew shall meticulously follow the procedures and requirements laid down in the Operations Manual.
- (xix) The operator should have approved check lists for safe operation of aircraft.
- (xx) The flight crew shall ensure reporting of all incidents/accidents to the DGCA in accordance with Indian Aircraft Rules and DGCA instructions.
- (xxi) The flight crew should be fully proficient to communicate in English with the Air Traffic Services Units.
- 6.3. Under wet lease arrangement, the aircraft is registered in the State of the lessor and the State of Registry is normally charged with the responsibility of ensuring compliance of regulations with regard to airworthiness of the aircraft. However, it is recognised that the State of Registry may not be able to fulfil this responsibility adequately when leased aircraft are operating in another State. The DGCA may, therefore, stipulate certain additional airworthiness requirements and impose surveillance on maintenance of such aircraft while in operation in India. The lessee operating such aircraft shall be responsible for.
- (i) ensuring that the aircraft remain airworthy to the required maintenance standards and maintenance/inspection procedures of the State of Registry are followed scrupulously;
- (ii) providing and ensuring that the engineers engaged in the maintenance are having the valid licences issued by the State of Registry and have a minimum of one year maintenance experience on the type of aircraft and are maintaining the aircraft in accordance with the prescribed procedures.
- (iii) ensuring proper tools, equipments and maintenance bases having the required facilities to properly maintain the aircraft.

- (iv) arranging sound maintenance system with adequate stores back up, literature and related facilities required for the proper maintenance of the aircraft;
- (v) ensuring that the aircraft has valid and current Certificate of Airworthiness and a Certificate of Registration;
- (vi) providing an approved MEL/CDL, otherwise the aircraft should be released without snags;
- (vii) ensuring that there is an adequate system of reporting and investigation of all defects occurring during operation of the aircraft.

7. **General Requirements**

- (i) For leased aircraft operations in India, the aircraft should have been type certificated by Federal Aviation Administration of USA or Joint Airworthiness Authority of Europe or Civil Aviation Authority of UK or any other authority acceptable to DGCA. The DGCA may, however, stipulate any additional airworthiness requirements considered necessary for safe operations of aircraft in India which must be complied with before the aircraft is imported or operated in India.
- (ii) The lessee shall provide a copy of the lease agreement to the DGCA.
- (iii) The lessor shall give an undertaking that he will comply

with all the applicable requirements of this CAR.

- (iv) DGCA may refuse to allow import of operation of any aircraft under lease if reasonable doubt exists regarding airworthiness/ safety of such aircraft.
- (v) DGCA may withdraw permission of operation of a particular aircraft under lease agreement in India if during service it is found that airworthiness and safety of the aircraft operations is in doubt or the requirements of this CAR other safety rules and regulations are not being complied with.
- (vi) DGCA may stipulate such additional requirements as considered necessary to do so with a view to enhance the safety of such aircraft operations.
- (vii) DGCA may waive any of the requirements if it is impractical to comply with the same and adequate justification is provided by the lessee.

Sd/-

(H. S. Khola)

Director General of Civil Aviation

Excise Duty Concessions Reaching to Consumers

4511. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have received a report regarding the industries

which had not passed the relief of excise duty granted in the 1993-94 Budget to the consumers;

(b) if so, the findings thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action against the industries which have not passed the excise relief to the consumers;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir, a copy of the BICP Report was received from the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution.

(b) The BICP Report had *inter-alia* indicated that the four industries namely tea, cosmetics, drugs and man-made fibres had not passed on the entire excise duty concessions to the consumers.

(c) to (e). The Government has not taken any action against the industries which have not passed on the excise relief to the consumers. There is no provision in the central excise laws for taking any such action.

[*Translation*]

Prices of Non-Agricultural Goods

4512. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a steep increase in the prices of non-agricultural

goods as compared to the prices of agricultural products;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) and (b). The wholesale price index (base: 1981-82) of agricultural products rose by 11.1 per cent at the close of the year 1993-94 over the corresponding date last year whereas wholesale price index of non-agricultural products rose by 9.8 per cent during the same period.

(c) Price of both agricultural and non-agricultural goods has increased. A number of steps have been taken to moderate further rise in the prices. Open market sale of wheat and rice by FCI, allowing sugar import on OGL with duty exemption, and release of edible oils through PDS are some of the measures taken to dampen the inflationary expectations.

[*English*]

Insurance for Scavengers

4513. DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce health insurance and life insurance for scavengers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India on 14.5.1992 declared LTTE as an unlawful association to prevent violence and spreading of gun culture under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 on the request made by the Government of Tamil Nadu. Now the ban order is expiring on 14.5.1994.

Even after the ban, there is a continuing threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of India on account of the objectives and Activities of the LTTE and have not undergone any change. The LTTE is now striving very hard to regain its lost base in Tamil Nadu in order to restore supply and communication channels with the help of sympathisers in Tamil Nadu, with the sole purpose of fulfilling its nefarious objectives.

In the interest to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the nation, the maintenance of internal security and the prevention of the spread of gun culture and violence, the Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Government of India on 28.1.1994 itself with necessary supporting materials to extend the ban on LTTE for a further period of two years with effect from 14th May, 1994. All additional materials required by the Home Ministry have been furnished by the

State Government. Four months had elapsed since Tamil Nadu Government wrote to the Centre, but no progress had been achieved for extension of the ban. Moreover, the Home Minister, Shri S.B. Chavan, when he visited Tamil Nadu recently stated that so far no request had come from Tamil Nadu Government as if he did not know about the letter written by the State Government. He also stated that the State itself could ban LTTE without asking the Centre. How is it possible for a State Government to ban LTTE which has international network? If the State Government enacted a new legislation to declare LTTE as unlawful, it would have effect only within the State, whereas the threat posed by LTTE is likely to cause great harm at the national level. Everyone knows including the Government of India that LTTE has been in close touch with many terrorist groups functioning in many States, particularly with the war Group Naxalites in Andhra Pradesh, ULFA in Assam State and with the JKLF in Kashmir. These facts have been already admitted by the Government of India.

The Home Minister also commented that Tamil Nadu Government should substantiate for the continuance of the ban on LTTE. Here I would like to bring to his kind notice that Shri Rajiv Gandhi, who was the Prime Minister of our country was assassinated in May, 1991 and a case had been filed in the Special Court at Madras, The Court had ordered that the leader of LTTE, Shri Prabhakaran, is accused number one and that he should be arrested. The LTTE would have vengeance against the Union Government for having included Prabhakaran as accused number one and also because we have given publicity all over the world that Prabhakaran is a criminal who was responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Does

it not in itself a substantial reason in support of the continuance of the ban on LTTE? I hope this is more than enough. Even the Tamil Nadu Assembly has passed a resolution to this effect to strengthen the hands of the Government of India on this issue. It is our considered view that until all the accused in this case are arrested and convicted by the Court, the ban should be allowed to continue.

Therefore, the responsibility for taking necessary steps lies with the Government of India. This is a national problem. The Government of India should not indulge in dilatory tactics on this vital issue of national security out of political vendetta. So, I urge upon the Government of India to take all immediate legal steps without any delay to ensure that LTTE continues to be declared as an unlawful association under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act, 1967 for a further period of two years with effect from 14.5.1994 (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I would like to have a response from the Government. It is a very important issue.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a very long statement. Let them study it and then they will respond.

SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG (Shillong): I wish to draw the attention of the Government through you Sir, to the cyclonic storm that lashed Meghalaya on 1st April this year at about 2015 hours. The cyclonic storm affected five districts which included 3000 villages. About 15000 families were affected by the cyclonic storm. About 200 persons were injured. Luckily no death was reported. From the estimates that we have received, about Rs. 800 lakh worth properties were damaged like dwelling houses and school buildings. I wish to draw the attention of the Government that immedi-

ate relief should be extended to the State of Meghalaya to meet the expenses on the damage caused by the cyclonic devastation. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Would somebody on behalf of the Government like to respond to Shri Marbaniang's submission on cyclonic relief?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDHYACHARAN SHUKLA): We will look into the matter.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission the issue of giving relaxation in age limit to other backward classes in UPSC examinations has already been raised. The Hon. Minister of welfare Shri Sitaram Kesari has also given assurance in this regard. I had also written a letter to the Hon. Prime Minister on this issue and on his behalf the Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension, Shrimati Margaret Alva, has replied that the Government do not propose to relax age limit in UPSC examinations for other backward classes. Further it has been stated that the scheme is under implementation, so decision will be taken afterwards on the basis of experience. We have contended that there is provision for relaxation in age limit for all the reserved categories in UPSC examinations. The Second point we raised is that notification regarding reservation was issued first time in 1990 and the matter was taken to the Supreme Court. The judgement of Supreme Court came in December, 1992 and the Government implemented it in 1993 and thus it is delayed by three years. There is no fault of these people who were eligible to take UPSC examination three years earlier. On this

ground a demand for five years relaxation in age limit for them was put forth which was supported by all the political parties in this House. Mr. Speaker Sir, now the Government has decided that no relaxation in age limit will be given to other backward classes.

Sir, through you I again urge upon the Government to give a second thought to this decision. All the Categories which have been provided with the facility of reservation are given relaxation in age limit. So, I request that the competitors of this category, who had filled up the forms in these special situations should be given this benefit, as they already have suffered for the last three years without any fault on their part. So, through you I would like to make a request that the Government should honour its assurance. You can understand that it is a sensitive issue and related to the future of millions of youth in the country. Representations have been received from all over the country on this issue and at several places people are launching agitation, So I request you to issue instruction to the Government in this matter that people belonging to other backward classes should be given justice otherwise this reservation will only be a farce.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I urge upon the Government to honour its assurance.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharash): Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of India has announced to provide Rs. one crore to every Member of Parliament to execute schemes in their constituency.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak to the Rural Development Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, the Government of India has sent Rs. 5 lakh to the State Government for this purpose. Bihar Government has deposited this fund in treasury. *(Interruptions)* I request the Government of India to interfere into the matter so that developmental work could be taken up in rural areas. It is my demand. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Hon. Minister of welfare has given assurance in this regard. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV (Madhepura): Everytime this matter is postponed in such a way.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You can ask it as a question also, like, is it a fact that this kind of an assurance was given or is it a fact that it was not fulfilled, etc.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir the examinations are going to be held *(Interruptions)*....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I have permitted you to rise the issue. You are stretching this too far.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (Mainpuri): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise an important matter regarding public importance and before this I would like to read out these two lines:-

*"thande dil se Katha hun mein,
Ise na lo avesh mein,
aise kaise chal payega,
Prajatantra ise desh mein."*

Country has suffered a great deal on score of nexus between politics and violence. (Interruptions). The three Gandhis have been assassinated here and these amounted to attacks on ideologies. A new incident came to light in the same sequel in which a youth attacked the Chief Minister Mulayam Singh on 4th April in Lucknow. I do not want to accuse anyone in this matter. I do not want to say anything about anybody or point out any name in this matter. But I would like to say that it should be debated in the House in the interest of democracy. This type of attack on one's life is a very bad deed but it is good that all the people have condemned this incident. This youth told us that he had attacked Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav because the name of secularism he did not let us do what we had desired to do. So I would like to say that his views and mentality was more venomous than his poisoned knife. So it should be taken up by this House for discussion.

I request the Government that this case should be thoroughly investigated. God forbid had such attack been made on my colleagues from opposition Parties and knife, papers and letter related it found in our party's office or in Janata Dal, Congress or Communist Party's, what you would have thought? We do not feel scared for our lives and we are

not taking up this matter to save our own lives but I would like to say—

*"Hamne socha jindagi chahe na mil
paaye hamein,
Kintu agali nasal doshi to na thahraye
hamein.
Chaar din ki jindagi khud ko jiye to kya
jiye,
Baat to tab hai ke jab mar jayein oron
ke liye.
Yah hamare sochane-jeene ke paimane
rahe,
Jindagi ko hum dharohar ke rup mein
mane rahein."*

I would like to know from the Government as to What steps will be taken in this matter. It should be replied.

[English]

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, you were kind enough to assure the House that the atrocities on women, would be discussed in the House. Atrocities on women are increasing day by day. Recently, in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and New Delhi women have even been paraded naked. That is why the Central Government has already set up the National Commission for women. The Government of West Bengal and some other State Governments have also set up their Mahila Commissions. But due to lack of infrastructure and communication between the Mahila Commission and the administration, they are not going to react in this regard. May I request you to please allow a discussion so that we can discuss this matter in a proper manner?

MR. SPEAKER: You can give a notice. We will consider it in the Business Advisory Committee.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: It is a very serious matter. It is pending since the last session.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue raised by the Hon. Member is a very serious one. I request the Central Government to get the matter investigated by CBI and to make arrangements to avoid recurrence of such incidents. We all condemn such incidents.

But the way this issue is being given a political colour is not good. The moment this incident occurred we condemned it from the very beginning and demanded an enquiry into it. I want that this incident should be enquired into by the C.B.I so that the facts may be brought before the country. The hon. member has also wanted to know the reaction of the other party if they would have been attacked like this. I would like to point out that these days leaders of our party are being frequently attacked in Uttar Pradesh. Some days back Shri Satya Deo Singh an hon. member of Parliament from Balrampur, was attacked. We have been provided z-level security by the Government of India. We demand that better security arrangements should be made in Uttar Pradesh so that nobody can do any harm to the life and property of the people.

Mr, Speaker, Sir today Caste-war is going on in Uttar Pradesh and such incidents are taking place frequently. If a member of any party is murdered or fatally attacked that incident should be condemned I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs who is sitting here, that he should get it investigated and make a

Statement in the House so that the facts may be brought before the country.

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has raised this issue in a very humble way. He has demanded an enquiry into the incident. The Government must become alert after the attack on Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and they must realise as to what extent communal tension has spread and how deeply the communal hatred, has affected the mind of a youth who attacked a person with a poison-soaked knife. The way his letter and his belongings have been recovered from the B.J.P. office is really shocking. The hon. Member wanted to know the reaction of the other party if this would have happened with them. I would not like to say anything more because the matter is being investigated. But it is not the question of investigation only. How such incidents are affecting the unity of the country must be noted and this trend should be checked. Such incidents should be condemned and nobody should say anything in praise of such incidents and adequate security arrangements should be made. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Who is speaking in favour of this incident?

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: The hon. Members of your party are speaking in that vein.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: I have condemned this incident and have said that this should be enquired into (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: A letter has been received from your party office.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as Shri Sharad Yadav has stated I have also condemned this incident and have asked for an enquiry into it. No incriminating documents or details have been recovered from our party office in this regard and that person has no relation with our party. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know how you will invite us for discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I have invited you.

[English]

You should also weigh your words please.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I take my seat you have allowed me.

MR. SPEAKER: There is a difference between permission and invitation.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I did not invite anybody to speak. You can speak but I did not invite them to speak. Inviting and allowing are different things. You should be careful in weighing your words please.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: You have allowed the discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: I did allow.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I do not know whether you will allow this discussion. The hon. Shri Sharad Yadav says that the man left the B.J.P. office leaving a bag there and letters have been found from there that the Bhartiya Janata Party etc. *(Interruptions)* the hon. Member have just stated that Prabhakaran and the LTTE have a direct nexus in the murder of late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and Prabhakaran had especially met the hon. Prime Minister who was also the Minister of Defence and Minister of External Affairs at that time. How for it is Correct if we start alleging that the congress and LTTE are hand in glove.

[English]

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Chandigarh): What is the analogy you are giving.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: This is not an analogy. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to state only this much that the Shiv Sena Chief Shri Bal Thackareyji had stated that if the youth has done so.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAN SINGH RAWALE (Bombay) (South Central): This is wrong.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here to reply to your statement.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Shri Bal Thackarey had stated that he would be proud if he happens belongs to our party.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: He is not here to defence himself.

[Translation]

SHRI SHARAD YADAV: These all such things should be condemned. *(Interruptions)* This is an issue for investigation. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: I think these are the matters which we should take in the correct perspective. If something has happened to the Chief Minister, the Chief Minister himself is strong enough and he has the machinery at his disposal to protect himself. But if somebody is speaking against the trend, he has expressed in a proper manner and he has sat down. There is nothing to rebut or nothing to explain. But if you want to do that, you are at liberty to do so.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I have said everything that had to be said. All that I wish to say is.

[Translation]

We should try to find the truth. The Government should probe it in whatever manner it likes. and should inform the House about the outcome of the probe. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the House and the nation that Orissa Government has

now initiated a proposal to sell out a public sector power unit to a foreign company as also to sell another old one. There is no doubt that this is a very scandalous deal taking place in Orissa today and we are opposed to it. I would like all sections to give their opinion on this so that the Orissa Government do not go 100 per cent to sell out a public sector unit. I am raising this question because...

MR. SPEAKER: We do not have enough information with us about all those things. We are expected to assess what you are saying. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: It is not the State Government alone. I may tell you, the Central Government is also involved. Let me put the facts before you. The Power Finance Corporation has given money. BHEL has given deferred payment. But recently on the 5th, two units were given to the AES Company in Ib Valley. The Power Minister has told that the Orissa Government has initiated a proposal to give one per cent incentive on plant load factor. On the 9th the reply given by the Central Government to my question on Ib Valley project is that it is under consideration. But before it is finalised, the Minister went there and laid the foundation stone on the 5th. And on the 9th they have given this reply. This is nothing but misleading the House. If you go through the matter, you will find that when this question was raised, even the Central Electricity Authority have sought clarification on 22 points. I am submitting all these facts because we are opposed to the sale of a public sector unit. It should not be sold. Shri Chandrasekhar may comment on it. And I want Shri Somnath Chatterjee to comment on it and also my friend Shri Sharad to comment on it. Should we agree when the State Chief Minister

wants to sell away the whole project outright in a rather scandalous and suspicious manner? I want every one in the House to express their concern. The Government of India too should express its concern... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: For the last few days we have not worked and we have some urgent matters to be disposed of. Please sit down.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: I will only take two minutes. I refer to the reported statement issued by the Chairman of the Jubilee Finance, one of the companies alleged in the Bofors matters. The Chairman of this company is reported to have said that he is ready to share with the Government all information relating to Bofors matter.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladutura): Also with you!

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Yes certainly with us also! with the Government and with us.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Subject to your stopping to scandalise him after that?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Not at all Sir! In fact, so far as the Bofors matter is concerned, the bona fides of the hon. Speaker from the Treasury Benches are somewhat not verifiable. And so far as our bona fides about Bofors investigations are concerned, we do not have to establish them.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: You have to! You said you would give the names in fifteen days and you supported that Government to be able to do it. I have been waiting for the names. Where are they? Sir, I take strong objection to

his statement that my credentials for raising this issue are not verifiable. It is I who on the floor of the House demanded it and repeated the statement of Shri Rajiv Gandhi that we want to know who are the people who have taken the money. We want this Government to give us the names quickly and we want to stop Mr. Vajpayee, Mr. Jaswant Singh and all the other members in the opposition from continuing to scandalise this nation by making allegations and by claiming that they would reveal the names which they had failed to do all these years. We want the opposition to produce the proof. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We would like to know what the Prime Minister is doing in this matter and what the Government of India is doing in this matter. What disclosures are they making to the nation on this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, the statement of Shri Jaswant Singh that the bona fides of Shri Aiyar are not verifiable seems to be very very unfair and far-fetched. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Let the Prime Minister come to the House and make a statement on the issue. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: The point that I wish to make is very simple and very direct. Whatever our feeling is, I would like to remind the Government firstly of what the Chairman of Jubilee Finance said. He said that he is ready to divulge facts; that he finds that the

Central Bureau of Investigation is not inquiring into the matter properly and, he has given certain suggestions.

All that I wish to make, Sir, is the Chairman of Jubilee Finance has come up rather late with the suggestion, even then the Government should seize this opportunity and ask him what are the facts that are in his possession. After all, the hon. prime Minister in this House has himself said that he will monitor the Bofors case on day to day basis and let the parliament know about it. This is the significant development that has taken place and we want to know from the Government what is their reaction and what further Actions are they going to take in this regard.

12.31 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Notification Under International Airports Authority Act, 1971 etc.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) On behalf of Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the International Airports Authority of India (Employees Contributory Provident Fund and Family Pension Fund) Amendment Regulations, 1993 (Hindi and English ver-

sions) published in Notification No. PERS/1114/75-Vol.VI in Gazette of India dated the 9th March, 1993 under subsection (4) of section 37 of the International Airports Authority Act, 1971 together with an Explanatory Note thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5650/94]

- (2) A copy of the Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 20(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th January, 1994 under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 together with an Explanatory Note thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5651/94]

Thirty first Report of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India, from July 1990 to June 1991 and on explanatory Note showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Sitaram Kesri I beg to lay in the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Thirty-First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India for the period from July 1990 to June, 1991

- (2) An explanatory Note (Hindi and English versions) regarding delay in laying the above Report.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5652/94]

Annual Report and Review on the working of Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi for 1992-93 and a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Council of Arbitration, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5653/94]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for

the year 1992-93 under sub-section (3) of section 22 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972.

- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 1992-93 together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 1992-93

- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5654/94]

Financial Estimates and Performance Budget for 1994-95 of the Employees State Insurance Corporation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri P.A. Sangna: I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Financial Estimates and performance Budget for the year

1994-95 (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation under section 36 of the Employees State Insurance Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5655/94]

**Notification under Dock workers
(Regulation of Employment) Act,
1948**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Jagdish Tytler, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Bombay Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Revocation Scheme, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 203(E) in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1994 under section 8A of the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948.
- (2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 204(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th February, 1994 directing that all the powers and functions exercised or performed by the Bombay Dock Labour Board shall be exercised or performed by the Chairman, Bombay Port Trust, Bombay for a period of one year with effect from the 25th February, 1994 issued under sub-section (1) of section 6B of the Dock Workers

(Regulation of Employment) Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5656/94]

**Annual Report of Press Council of
India New Delhi for 1992-93
alongwith a statement showing for
delay in laying these papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri K.P. Singh Deo, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Press Council of India, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5657/94]

**Annual Report of Centre for
Development of Telematics, New
Delhi, for 1991-92 and a statement
showing reasons for delay in
laying these papers**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Sukh Ram, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 1991-92 alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English version) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5658/94]

Notification under Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 893(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th November, 1993 specifying the ports of Okha, Bombay, Cochin, Madras, Visakhapatnam, Port Blair, Calcutta and Porbandar as "Specified Ports" for the purpose of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981 issued under section 2 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5659/94]

Notification Under Essential Commodities Act, 1955

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 305(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 11th April, 1994 directing the supplies of fertilisers to be made by domestic manufacturers of fertiliser to various States. Union Territories/Commodity Board during the period from the 1st April, 1994 to the 30th September, 1994 (Kharif 1994 Season) under sub-section (6) of section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5660/94]

Notification Under Consumer Protection Act, 1986 and Review on the working of and Annual Report of Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation India Ltd, New Delhi, for 1992-93 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Consumer Protection (Amendment) Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No G.S.R. 800(E) in Gazette of India dated the 30th December, 1993 under sub-section

(1) of section 31 of the Consumer Protection Act 1986.

delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5661/94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5663/94]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India—Union Government (No. 1 of 1994)—(Commercial) for the year ended its 31st March, 1993 Review of Accounts etc.

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation India, Limited, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) under article 151(1) of the Constitution:—

(ii) Annual Report of the Mineral and Metals Trading Corporation India, Limited, New Delhi for the year 1992-93. alongwith Audited Accounts and Comments of the comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(1) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India— Union Government (No. 1 of 1994) — (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March 1993 — Review of Accounts.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5662/94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5664/94]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Packaging, Bombay, for the year 1992-93 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India— Union Government (No. 2 of 1994) — (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March, 1993 — Comments on Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indiann Institute of packaging. Bombay, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5665/94]

(4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for

(3) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India — Union Government (No. 3 of

1994) – (Commercial) for the year ended the 31st March, 1993 – Audit Observations.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5666/94]

Notifications Containing Presidents Order Re: appointment of Shri Arun Sinha in place of Shri M.C. Gupta, Issued Under Article 280 of the Constitution and Notification Under Customs Act 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 223(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1994 containing President's order regarding appointment of Shri Arun Sinha as member – secretary of the Finance Commission in place of Shri M.C. Gupta upto the 30th June, 1994 issued under article 280 of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5667/94]

- (2) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962:—
- (i) G.S.R. 118(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th February, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 607(E) pub-

lished in Gazette of India dated the 13th September, 1993.

- (ii) G.S.R. 291(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd March, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum containing Corrigendum to the Notification No. G.S.R. 785(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th December, 1993.
- (iii) G.S.R. 294(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd March, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 208/77 Cus., dated the 1st October, 1977 so as to include Bhutan for giving duty drawback facility on exports of goods to Bhutan through Land Customs Stations of Darranga or Ultapani, subject to the payments for such goods being received in freely convertible currency.
- (iv) G.S.R. 321 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 18th March, 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to the Notifications mentioned in the table annexed with the Notification.
- (v) G.S.R. 393(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st April 1994 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No.

29/89 Cus., dated the 1st March, 1989 so as to prescribe basic customs duty of Rs. 35 per kg. and Rs.50 per kg. as standard and preferential rates respectively for almonds in shell.

Statements showing Action taken by Government on various Assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5668/94]

- (3) A copy of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Annual Report) Rules, 1994 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 373(E) in Gazette of India dated the 7th April, 1994 under section 31 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act. 1992.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5669/94.]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on various assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Lok Sabha:—

(1)	Statement No. XXIX [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5670]	Seventh Session, 1986	
(2)	Statement No. XXXVI [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5671]	Ninth Session, 1987	Eighth Lok Sabha
(3)	Statement No. XXXIII [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5672]	Eleventh Session, 1988	
(4)	Statement No. XXVII [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5673]	Second Session, 1990	
(5)	Statement No. XXIII [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5674]	Third Session, 1990	Ninth Lok Sabha
(6)	Statement No. XX [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5675]	Sixth Session, 1990	
(7)	Statement No. XX [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5676]	Seventh Session, 1991	

(8)	Statement No. XIX [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5677]	First Session, 1991	
(9)	Statement No. XVI [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5678]	Second Session, 1991	
(10)	Statement No. XIV [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5679]	Third Session, 1992	
(11)	Statement No. XII [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5680]	Fourth Session, 1992	
(12)	Statement No. IX [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5681]	Fifth Session, 1992	Tenth Lok Sabha
(13)	Statement No. VIII [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5682]	Sixth Session, 1993	
(14)	Statement No. IV [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5683]	Seventh Session, 1993	
(15)	Statement No. II [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5684]	Eighth Session, 1993	
(16)	Statement No. I [Placed in Library. See No. LT 5685]	Ninth Session, 1994	

Report of the Single Member Commission of Inquiry headed by Justice George Vadakkel (Retd.) to enquire into the incident of firing in Andrott (Lakshadweep) on 23.4.90 etc. and Notification under Delhi Municipal Corporation Act 1957 etc.

headed by Justice George Vadakkel (Retired) to enquire into the incident of Firing in Andrott (Lakshadweep) on the 23rd April, 1990.

(ii) Action taken Note on the above Report.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT: On behalf of Shri P.M. Sayeed I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of section 3 of the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1952:—

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5686/94]

- (i) Report of the Single Member Commission of Inquiry

(3) A copy of the Notification No. U-14011/160/89-Delhi (Hindi and English versions) published in Delhi Gazette dated the 5th March, 1994 making certain

amendments to the Order published in Notification No. U-14011/160/89-Delhi(i) dated the 6th January, 1990 issued under section 490 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5687/94]

Annual Budget of the Damodar Valley Corporation, for 1994-95

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation for the year 1994-95. under subsection (3) of section 44 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5688/94]

Indo-Tibetan order Police, Sub-Inspector (Compounder/Stores/Pharmacist) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules 1993

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police, Sub-Inspector (Compounder/Stores/Pharmacist) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 581 in Gazette, of India dated the 27th November, 1993 under sub-section (3) of section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act. 1949.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5689/94.]

Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 1993, Annual Report and Annual Accounts of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi for 1992-93 along with a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): On behalf of Shri S. Krishna Kumar, I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) A copy of Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 533(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th August, 1993 under subsection (3) of section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968 together with a Corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. G.S.R. 696 (E) dated the 10th November, 1993.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5690/94]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for

delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5691/94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5692/94]

Annual Report, Annual Accounts and Review on the Working of National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for 1992-93 and a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers

University Grants Commission (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1993, Annual Report and Review on the working of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for 1992-93 along with a statement showing reasons for delay in laying these papers etc.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): On behalf of Dr. C. Silvera, I beg to lay on the table.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): I beg to lay on the Table—

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Health and Family Welfare, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for

- (1) A copy of the University Grants Commission (Recruitment) Amendment Rules, 1993 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 720 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 26th November, 1993 under section 28 of the University Grants Commission Act. 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5693/94]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 1992-93, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the In-

dian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla, for the year 1992-93.

cal Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

- (7) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (6) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5694/94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5696/94]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93.

- (5) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (4) above.

- (9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (8) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5695/94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5697/94]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Council of Philosophical

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Indian Museum, Calcutta, for the year 1992-93.

- (11) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (10) above.

delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5700/ 94]

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5698/94]

- (12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Samiti, Bhopal, for the year 1991-92 alongwith Audited Accounts.

12.33 hrs.

ASSENT TO BILLS

[English]

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Rashtriya Manav Sangrahalaya Samiti, Bhopal, for the year 1991-92.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table the following nine Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the current session and assented to since a report was last made to the House on the 22nd February, 1994:—

- (13) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (12) above.

(1) The Appropriation (Railways) Vote on Account Bill 1994

(2) The Appropriation (Railways) Bill, 1994

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5699/94]

- (14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1991-92, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(3) The Manipur Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1994

(4) The Manipur Appropriation Bill, 1994

(5) The Jammu and Kashmir (Vote on Account) Bill, 1994

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of Allahabad Museum Society, Allahabad, for the year 1991-92.

(6) The Jammu and Kashmir Appropriation Bill, 1994

(7) The Banking Regulation (Amendment) Bill, 1994

(8) The Appropriation (Vote on Account) Bill, 1994

- (15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for

(9) The Appropriation Bill, 1994

12.34 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE
MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

Twenty-Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI S. MALIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur): I beg to present the Twenty-ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

[English]

12.34 ½ hrs.

**BUSINESS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE**

Thirty-Ninth Report

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): I beg to present the Thirty-ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.35 hrs.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

**Thirty-Eighth and Forty-Second
Reports**

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (Sambalpur) : I beg to present the following Reports:—

- (i) Thirty-Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action

Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Estimates Committee (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of External Affairs—Consular, Passport and Visa Division.

- (ii) Forty-Second Report (Hindi and English versions) on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighteenth Report of Estimates Committee (Tenth Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting—Newsprint Policy.
-

12.35 ½ hrs.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

**Sixty-Seventh and Sixty-Ninth
Reports**

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATERJEE (Dum Dum): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee:—

- (i) Sixty-Seventh Report on Action Taken on 2nd Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) relating to Uneconomic purchase of engines for Shaktiman vehicles.
- (ii) Sixty-Ninth Report on Action Taken on 44th Report (Tenth Lok Sabha) relating to Union Excise Duties—Non levy/short levy of duty due to incorrect grant of exemption—Motor vehicles.
-

12.36 hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
ASSURANCES**

Twentieth Report

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): I beg to present the Twentieth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances.

12.36 ½ hrs.

**COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF
MEMBERS FROM THE SITTINGS
OF THE HOUSE**

Sixth Report

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the Chair.

12.37 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE**

**Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and
Eleventh Reports and Minutes**

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir, I beg to present the Seventh, Eighth,

Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on the Demands for Grants-1994-95 regarding Department of Agriculture and Co-operatives, Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairy, Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Food Processing Industries respectively and the minutes of the sittings of the Committee related thereto.

12.37 ½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS**

Seventh Report and Minutes

[English]

KUMARI VIMLA VERMA (Seoni): I beg to present the Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Communications on Ministry of information & Broadcasting—Demands for Grants (1994-95) and the Minutes of the Sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.38 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
DEFENCE**

Second Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jakore): I beg to present the Second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Com-

[Shri Buta Singh]

mittee on Defence on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defence for the year 1994-95 and the Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

(I) Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports and Minutes

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy):

- (i) Fifth Report on Non-Conventional Energy Sources Schemes: their Assessment and Implementation and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee/Sub-Committee relating thereto.
- (ii) Sixth Report on Ministry of Power—Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (iii) Seventh Report on Ministry of Coal—Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (iv) Eighth Report on Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources—Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (v) Ninth Report on Department of Atomic Energy—Demands for Grants (1994-95).

(II) Records of Discussions

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I beg to lay on the Table the following records of discussions held by the Standing Committee on Energy:—

- (i) Record of discussion held with the representatives of the Ministry of Power regarding the Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (ii) Record of discussion held with the representatives of the Ministry of Coal regarding the Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (iii) Record of discussion held with the representatives of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources regarding the Demands for Grants (1994-95).
- (iv) Record of discussion held with the representatives of the Department of Atomic Energy regarding the Demands for Grants (1994-95).

(III) Minutes relating to procedural and Miscellaneous matters

[English]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the sittings of the Standing Committee on Energy relating to Procedural and Miscellaneous Matters.

12.40 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh Reports and Minutes

[English]

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports and Minutes (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance:—

- "(i) Fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Finance and Minutes of the sitting of the Committee relating thereto.
- (ii) Sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Planning & Programme Implementation and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (iii) Seventh Report on the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Amendment Bill, 1993' and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto."

12.41 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS

Fifth, Sixth, Seventh Reports and Minutes

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA (Nabadwip): Sir, I beg to present the following Reports

and Minutes (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum & Chemicals:—

- "(i) Fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (ii) Sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals) and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.
- (iii) Seventh Report on 'Demands for Grants (1994-95)' of the Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers) and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto."
- (iv) Minutes relating to Procedural and Miscellaneous matters.

12.41 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

Sixth Report and Minutes

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Railways on Demands for Grants, 1994-95 and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

[Shri Somnath Chatterjee]

The Report was presented under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha to the Hon. Speaker on 7th April 1994 when the House was not in Session.

12.42 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HOME AFFAIRS**

Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports

[English]

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOUDHURY (Katwa): Sir, I beg to lay the Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Reports each (in English and Hindi) of the Committee on Home Affairs on the Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministries of Home Affairs, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, and Law, Justice & Company Affairs, respectively.

12.42 ½ hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
HUMAN RESOURCE
DEVELOPMENT**

**Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth
and Tenth Reports**

[English]

SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN (Betul): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (Hindi and English) of the Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth and Tenth Reports of the Committee on Human

Resource Development on the Demands for Grants 1994-95 of the Departments of Education and Youth Affairs and Sports, Women and Child Development, Family Welfare, Health and Culture respectively.

12.43 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
INDUSTRY**

(i) Sixth and Seventh, Reports

[English]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Sixth and Seventh Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the Public Sector 'Iron and Steel Companies (Restructuring) and Miscellaneous Provisions (Amendment) Bill, 1993 and Bharat Gold Mines Limited respectively.

(ii) Eighth Report

SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MALIK (Durgapur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Eighth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the Trade Marks Bill, 1993.

(iii) Ninth Report

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Smastipur): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Ninth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the Demands for Grants for 1994-95 of the Ministry of Steel.

(iv) Tenth Report

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Tenth Report of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry on the Demands for Grants for 1994-95 of the Ministry of Mines.

(v) Twelfth Report on the Detailed Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Department of Science and Technology (Ministry of Science and Technology).

(vi) Thirteenth Report on the Detailed Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (Ministry of Science and Technology).

12.44 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY,
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS**

**Eighth, Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh,
Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports**

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each (English and Hindi) of the following Reports of the Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests:-

- (i) Eighth Report on the Detailed Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Department of Biotechnology (Ministry of Science and Technology).
- (ii) Ninth Report on the Detailed Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- (iii) Tenth Report on the Detailed Demands for Grant (1994-95) of the Department of Space.
- (iv) Eleventh Report on the Detailed Demands for Grants (1994-95) of the Department of Ocean Development.

12.45 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORT AND TOURISM**

**Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth
Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR (Bareilly): Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the Sixth, Seventh, Eighth and Ninth Reports (Hindi and English version) of the Departmentally related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport and Tourism on the Demands for Grants for the Deptt. of Tourism for the year 1994-95 and Deptt. of Civil Aviation for the year 1994-95 and the Anti-Hijacking (Amendment) Bill, 1993. The Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against Safety of Civil Aviation (Amendment) Bill.

12.46 hrs.

**RE: CONCLUDING MINISTERIAL
MEETING OF THE URUGUAY
ROUND**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Minister of Commerce to make a statement.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack):
On what subject will he make statement?
(Interruptions) A statement has already
been laid on the Table of the Rajya
Sabha, the other House.

It is of no use now. In fact we will
not be in a position to discuss this
matter.

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it
later on. You are not a Member of the
Business Advisory Committee. We dis-
cussed it there.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the
question is about the discussion. (Inter-
rptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Srikanta Jena,
this was decided. There are some formal-
ities.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: There is
some confusion.

MR. SPEAKER: You should not be
confused. At least, you hear me. He is
making a statement about what he has
done in the Conference which was held
at Marrakesh. If you want to discuss it,
or something else, an opportunity will be
given to you. It was decided in the
meeting of the leaders as well as the
Business Advisory Committee. We are
going to fix up the time and the modal-
ities which have to be followed.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: When will
it be discussed? (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: It is not to be
decided on the floor of the house. We
will decide it in the Chamber.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Sir,
how can he make such a statement till
it is known in what form it will be
discussed?

(Interruptions)

SHRI JASWANT SINGH
(Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are
right but I just want to submit that the
Minister should make a statement, it is
his exclusive right.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is correct.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: It is the
right of the Government to make a
statement but it is our right to agree with
that statement or not. Therefore, I would
submit that we may please be informed
on what date it will be taken up for
discussion and in what form it will be
discussed, it is for you to decide.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Jaswant Singhji in
our meeting it was decided that Minister
of Finance would give his reply on
Monday and it would be discussed on
Tuesday.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA
(Bankura): Please tell us in what form we
will discuss it. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You please
tell us.

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot ask me to tell all those things. Shri Basudeb Acharia, at least you know the words you are using, Shri Jena, please sit down.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us understand it. This will be decided in consultation with your leaders at a proper place. This is not the place for it.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: You have not told us about it.

MR. SPEAKER: I am not supposed to tell you. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

12.50 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Concluding Ministerial Meeting of the Uruguay Round

[English]

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): Sir, India has authenticated the Final Act of the Uruguay Round, representing the outcome of the Seven year long multilateral trade negotiations, on 15 April 1994. Hundred and ten other countries also authenticated the Final Act. Additionally hundred and four countries also signed the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organisation.

There was endorsement of the results of the Uruguay Round as a whole from all countries, developing and developed. The meeting was, however, divi-

ded over what the future work programme of the WTO should focus on. While the US and some European countries attached importance to the consideration of the link between trade and international labour standards, India alongwith some other countries attached greater importance to issues like restrictive business practices and immigration policies. While none of these issues became the subject of a Multilateral decision or declaration, the Preparatory Committee of the WTO will be competent to discuss which issues should be included in the future agenda of the WTO. Any decision in this regard can only be taken by consensus. The concluding remarks by the Chairman of the Ministerial Meeting includes, *inter alia*, the following statement:—

"In the statements which they made in the course of this meeting, Ministers representing a number of participating delegations stressed the importance they attach to their requests for an examination of the relationship between the trading system and internationally recognised labour standards, the relationship between immigration policies and international trade, trade and competition policy, including rules on export financing and restrictive business practices, trade and investment, regionalism, the interaction between trade policies and policies relating to financial and monetary matters, including debt and commodity markets, international trade and company law, the establishment of a mechanism for compensation for the erosion of preferences, the link between trade, development, political stability and the alleviation of poverty, and unilateral or extraterritorial trade measures."

[Shri Pranab Mukherjee]

A number of developing countries decided to cooperate in formulating their response to any attempts to introduce linkages between social policy issues and trade policy.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the United States of America and Japan have also authenticated it on the 15th of April or not. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: On Tuesday you can raise it and probably you would get the reply.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): We had some discussion on this subject. From the paper, we see the Commerce Minister had woken up some what and tried to talk to other developing countries. As we had asked them during the discussion, why did you not do that earlier? During the negotiation, you could have put a sort of pressure on them. Now, when you find that you cannot tackle America, you are going to some other countries and trying to mobilise their support. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I had allowed Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: They should have some lessons of seriousness. (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not here at their mercy. Sir, you have been kind enough to permit me. This is a matter which is concerning the whole country. The country is agitated on this matter. If you want to ignore it, ignore it. It is for you to decide. These are the

issues which are agitating the minds of the people, the workers, and the peasants and everybody is concerned. The people had staged demonstrations and agitations throughout the country. The Parliament is agitated. They are trying to bully us down. I can assure them that they cannot succeed in that. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai): Sir, it is completely violative of the order of the House. He is not allowed to make a statement. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I had allowed him.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: What I am respectfully submitting through you, Sir, is that there are several questions, which were raised during the discussion in the House. We had expressed our difficulties in accepting whatever was said because many things were not answered. Now, this was a very important Round. The Minister had gone there for four day. What has he done there? Excepting this barest statement, we do not know anything about what has really happened, What are the effects of what has happened, on vital questions what is the final decision of the Government of India and what is going to happen because many things have now been supposedly left to the WTO for further discussions. What is the result of that in absolute terms so far as the country is concerned? Nothing has been said about that in this statement. What is the purpose of this statement? Sir, the Parliament of India has been taken for a ride or whatever it is, I do not know. Therefore, I would have expected that the Commerce Minister should have been more candid.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Chittorgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had very kindly permitted a two day special debate prior to the hon. Minister going to Marrakesh and we had an occasion to voice our feelings. Thereafter, well within the right of the Government and the Minister, the Minister has come forward to the House and made a statement. In the other House, the discussion has taken place. My difficulty is that this statement itself is a bare skeleton of what has taken place.

This in fact does not even factually cover all the aspects of the negotiations, discussions, deliberations at Marrakesh. There are a number of issues which have been taken up at Marrakesh, There are a number of aspects of this decision and authentication at Marrakesh including coming into being of the World Trading Organisation. It was our expectation that the hon. Minister would now come forward with the opportunity to give factually as correct and as exhaustive statement to the House as is possible. This is the real difficulty in addition to the difficulty that we have. That is why our dissatisfaction is there. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: He is quoting from the statement.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh). Mr. Speaker, the statement made by the Minister of Commerce does not throw any light on this matter. The discussion was held on 29th and 30th in this very House and the feelings of our countrymen were reflected therein. The strength which the Government could have gained by this, should have been used by these people at Marrakesh but they failed to

do so and could not fulfill their Commitment....

MR. SPEAKER: You are being permitted to speak on Tuesday in this regard.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: If I am not allowed to complete my sentence I will not be able to conclude my views. Mr. Speaker, Sir, action has already been initiated to constitute the World Trade Organisation and the Government of India had assured that they would never agree to the social clause which America wanted to include. But they have accepted that clause in toto.

(*Interruptions*)

Through you we only want to get this clarification as to whether the Government would get this far reaching treaty ratified by the Parliament in the same manner as was done in the case of the Simla Treaty?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is enough.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Are you interested in saying something?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I will take one minute to say something of the statement which I have given.

MR. SPEAKER: I will say something and if it is necessary you may say. Otherwise, it will be covered. I think what the hon. Minister has done through his statement is that he has informed the House about what has been done. He has informed the House what were the

[Mr. Speaker]

points which were raised. They are before the House for discussion. On Tuesday all these points can very well be raised by you at length and we would not like to restrict you speaking on these points when we take up this matter for discussion, But today do not do it now. The ratification has to be done according to the Constitution and according to the Rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the statement by Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

[Translation]

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Most of the facts have been conceded in the statement made by the home minister...

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Only Shri Sontosh Dev's statement will go on record. The other does not go on record.

*(Interruptions)**

(II) Discontinuation of Steel Development Fund Levy

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, the Steel Development Fund (SDF) was created in 1978 for ensuring a minimum and sustained flow of funds for financing programmes for the modernisation and development of the steel industry. For

this purpose, it was decided to levy a development surcharge on specified products of the main steel producers, namely Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) Indian Iron and Steel Company (IISCO) and Tata Iron and Steel Company Limited (TISCO) and (subsequently) Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant).

The rate of levy was initially Rs. 100 per tonne and subsequently revised from time to time. The rates after the last revision ranged between Rs. 350 to Rs. 500 per tonne.

The Fund has been utilised mainly for providing loans to the main producers for financing their modernisation and development schemes. The Fund has been managed by a Managing Committee comprising Secretary (Steel) as Chairman, with Secretary (Planning Commission) and Secretary (Expenditure) as Members and the Development Commissioner for Iron & Steel as the Member-Secretary.

The SDF has played a useful role in the development of the steel industry by making substantial funds available to the main steel producers for modernisation and expansion of their steel plants. However, after deregulation of the pricing and distribution of steel with effect from January, 1992, it became necessary to review the need and desirability of continuing this levy. It was represented by the main producers that the levy placed them at a disadvantage against the secondary steel producers who are not required to pay such a levy and also against imports on which no levy is charged. The Chelliah Committee on Tax Reforms in its final report submitted in January, 1993, has also

recommended abolition of the SDF levy since it leads to distortions in price competitiveness.

Taking all these factors into consideration, Government has decided to discontinue SDF levy. The manner of utilisation of the corpus remaining in the SDF which is in the shape of loans advanced to the main steel producers will be decided by Government subsequently. It is proposed to use the interest accruing on the SDF loans for taking up research and development programmes.

12.59 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): With your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business during the week commencing 25th April, 1994 will consist of:—

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Discussion on the Resolution for adopting the recommendations of the Railway Convention Committee, 1991.
3. Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 1994-95.
4. Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 1990-91.

5. Discussion and Voting on the Demands for Grants (General) for 1994-95 under the control of Ministries of:—

- (a) External Affairs
- (b) Water Resources
- (c) Human Resources Development
- (d) Defence
- (e) Agriculture
- (f) Industry

13.00 hrs.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Sir, I request that the following item may be included in the next week's agenda:—

Atrocities on women are increasing day by day in all parts of the county, particularly in West Bengal, U.P., Rajasthan and Delhi.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR (Bareilly): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

1. The funds required to construct a bye-pass near Bareilly on National Highway. No 24, be sanctioned.
2. Arrangement for proper funding for the development of Bareilly. Chosen as counter magnet city, should be made.

[English]

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. To discuss whether the GATT Final Act violated the basic structure of India's Constitution in any way and whether it is violative of the people's fundamental rights in any manner.
2. To discuss the demand of allotment of additional quota of kerosene and levy sugar to the State of Orissa.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Inclusion of Rajasthani language in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution.
2. The water scarcity conditions of Western Rajasthan, specially in Pali District, requiring consideration of supply of Ganga, Yamuna, Brahmaputra flood water through canal to Rajasthan.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Sir I request that the following items may be included in the next weeks agenda:—

1. The need to provide special assistance by the Central Government for immediately making up the losses of crores of rupees suffered by the farmers

in Rajasthan due to hailstorms and severe storms in 422 villages of 17 districts.

2. The need to urgently implement total prohibition all over the country before the half century of the independence in 1997 for the prosperity and well being of the people.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): Sir, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:—

1. Price rise of all essential commodities.
2. Occurrence of subsidence in and around Raniganj town due to unscientific coal mining operations.

13.04 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Court of the Aligarh Muslim University

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA): Sir, on behalf of Shri Arjun Singh, I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of Clause (1) and Clause (2) of the Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University,

the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to other provisions of the said Statutes *vice* Shri Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi resigned from the Court. The member so elected shall not be the employees of the Aligarh Muslim University."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of Clause (1) and Clause (2) of the Statute 14 of the Statutes of the Aligarh Muslim University, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, one member from among themselves to serve as a member of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to other provisions of the said Statutes *vice* Shri Mohd. Ali Ashraf Fatmi resigned from the Court. The member so elected shall not be the employee of the Aligarh Muslim University."

The motion was adopted.

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Subramanian Swamy and Shiv Pratap Mishra from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit, in the vacancies caused by the retirement of Sarvashri Subramanian Swamy and Shiv Pratap Mishra from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the Members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The Motion was adopted.

13.05 hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES
OF PROFIT

**Motion to Elect two Members of
Rajya Sabha to the said Committee**

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA
(Karnal): Sir, I beg to move:

13.07 hrs.

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS
GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1990-91

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI
MALLIKARJUN): Sir, on behalf of Shri
C.K. Jaffer Sharief I beg to present a

statement (Hindi and English versions) showing the Demands for Excess Grants in respect of the Budget (Railways) for 1990-91.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 5703/94]

13.08 hrs.

**MANIPUR PANCHAYATI RAJ
BILL***

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Now we have a Bill which is to be introduced and passed to have the Panchayat Raj in Manipur and the date on which the Bill has to be enacted. I think, is 23rd April, that is tomorrow. And tomorrow being a holiday, the Bill has to be passed today and it has to be assented to by the President also, in the Business Advisory Committee meeting, everybody had agreed that because this Bill has come from the Government of Manipur, this should be passed and as quickly as is possible, if possible even without discussion also so that the formality which has to be completed as per the Constitution is completed. It is ultimately for them, the Legislative Assembly of Manipur, to decide the real contents of the Bill.

So, if you so desire, we can take it we now.

[Translation]

SHRI JASWANT SINGH
(Chittorgarh): You are requested to take

it up now and the Railway Budget can be taken up between 2.30 P.M. to 3.30 P.M.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM
(Inner Manipur): Sir, I want to speak on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Let it be introduced first.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution and organisation of Panchayats as units of local self-Government in the rural areas of Manipur and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

Sir, I want to draw the kind attention of the House to Clauses 97 and 98 of the Bill which should have been printed in thick bold print type but inadvertently could not be printed as such.

Sir, The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992 came into force on 24.4.1993. It stipulates that the law relating to Panchayats in force in States, immediately before the commencement of the 73rd amendment, which is inconsistent with the provisions in these amendments, shall continue to be in force until amended or repealed by the State Legislature, or other competent authority or until expiration of one year from such commencement, whichever is earlier.

Therefore, the States are required to either amend their existing Panchayat Raj Act, or to bring in a fresh legislation after repealing the existing one so as to conform to the provisions contained in the Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act, 1992, and this task has to be completed by 23.4 1994 at the latest.

Like all other States and Union Territories, the State of Manipur too has to conform to these constitutions provisions. However, the State of Manipur has been brought under President's Rule with effect from 31.12.1993. As per the notification under Article 356 of the Constitution, the power of legislature now vests in Parliament, as far as Manipur is concerned. Therefore, the Panchayati Raj legislation, which is proposed to be brought in order to conform to the 73rd Amendment of the Constitution, has to be introduced in Parliament for passage and after that if would come into force only after President is pleased to accord his assent on the Bill.

The subject Panchayati Raj is being dealt within the Ministry of Rural Development and, therefore, necessary action for initiating the fresh Manipur Panchayati Raj Bill has been initiated by this Ministry.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution and organisation of Panchayats as units of local self-Government in the rural areas of Manipur and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I introduce** the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: You can now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and organisation of Panchayats as units of local self-Government in the rural areas of Manipur and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

MR. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and organisation of Panchayats as units of local self-Government in the rural areas of Manipur and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I understand that this Bill will be brought in the Legislative Assembly when it functions. So, I am not putting up any other argument for or against this Bill than simply pointing out that certain areas are not covered under the jurisdiction of either the Municipalities or the Hill Area Committees. Those areas are outside the purview of the local Self-Government. The difficulty is, in the hill districts the Hill Area Committees are exercising the powers of local self-Government. There are certain areas which are covered by the Municipalities and some by the notified areas. But certain other areas are not covered by these two bodies. Now the Panchayats can cover these areas so that they can be brought under development.

** Introduced with the Recommendation of the President.

[Shri Yaima Singh Yumnam]

In Senapati district and other districts in the hill areas, the areas are inhabited by Nepalis. Muslims and some other people. They are cosmopolitan villages, but they are not included under any of the local bodies. So, I urge the Government to investigate this matter and to bring them under the purview of the Panchayats.

Secondly, I would like to mention that in the existing Panchayati Raj Act the terms "Pramukh" and "Upa-Pramukh" are used. But here it is mentioned as "Adhyaksh" and "Upadhyaksh". So, the necessity for substituting these terms may also be examined. Due to the law and order situation in the State, we are concerned whether the election to the Panchayats can be carried out now. The election is long overdue and many important development works are kept pending because there are no people's representatives. The election is overdue because of not passing this Bill so far. So, I urge the Government to take effective steps so that the election to the Panchayats can be held as quickly as possible.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support Manipur Panchayati Raj Bill and I would like a clarification from the Government in this regard. There is a provision in the amendment to the Constitution that all the Assemblies will enact laws within a year in this regard. But as the hon'ble Member has mentioned and everyone is aware that the elections to Panchayats are over-due in several States. The elections to Panchayats in Bihar have not been held for the last 15-16 years. Similarly, there are several other States where the elec-

tions to Panchayats are overdue for years. So far as the constitutional amendment to Panchayati Raj Legislation is concerned, the amendment has been incorporated and many states have also carried it out but it is not clearly mentioned in the Constitution as to how much time will be given for it and whether there will be any time-limit or not, or the elections will be put off at one pretext or other. If it happens then the purpose of the constitutional amendment will be defeated. How has the 'Reasonable Period' been interpreted? Does it amount to holding elections within the stipulated period in consultation with the States or on their own?

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill because there is no other alternative and Kashmir is also under the control of the Central Government... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: It is not so. You are veering away from Manipur to Kashmir.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: I was a Member of the Select Committee. We had passed the 72nd Amendment Bill to the Constitution without any discussion. But these people are indulging in Sabotage in Kashmir. The elections to the Panchayats have not been held for the last 16 years. People are making fun of the Constitution as to what will happen after the passing of the Bill? Why a Bill is not introduced for Kashmir... *(Interruptions)* some leaders who have no roots in Kashmir want that this may be done without taking Parliament into confidence. The Kashmir problem will continue. It is a matter of national integrity. The Bill regarding holding elections in Kashmir should be introduced in this session only and the elections should immediately be held in other States also and if need be,

the rights should be demanded from the Parliament.

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA (Pali): Mr. Speaker, Sir, So far as the constitutional amendment regarding elections to Panchayats are concerned the judiciary cannot interfere in the election process under section 329 of the constitution. I remember the case of Rajasthan. A stay-order had been issued in Rajasthan after implementing 'De-limitation' and after that one more order was issued, it happens time and again because the judiciary has the right to interfere. There can be no interference of Judiciary in the elections to Lok Sabha and Assembly under the R.P. Act under Section 329 of the Constitution. After the elections have been held, if there is an interference in the election petition it should be considered. And it should be ensured that the democratic system is properly followed in Panchayats and Municipal Corporation and the elections are held and no interference is made. If a party is sure of its defeat in the elections it tries to put obstructions in the election process through the Judiciary and the elections are put-off 10-15 years. The constitutional amendment should be considered to ensure that there is no interference in the election to Panchayats and Municipal corporation as per the Section 329 of the Constitution.

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Sir, so far as the Bill is concerned, sub-clause (2) of clause 1 of the Bill clearly states:

"It extends to the whole of Manipur excepting any area to which the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act, 1971 or the Manipur (Village Authorities in Hill Areas) Act, 1956

extends, or which has been or may hereafter be declared as, or included in, a municipality under any law for the time being in force, or which has been or many hereafter be declared as, or included in a cantonment under the Cantonment Act, 1924."

So, the clause itself is very clear on these provisions.

The hon. member has raised a wider question, whether it will be applicable in Schedule V area, hill areas or not. At the moment, it excludes clearly those areas, as per the provisions made by the State Government which we have adopted. This is excluded for the hill areas also. There is an option to them. There is a committee formed on the suggestion of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

It is to examine Schedule of the 5th and 6th areas in what manner these Bills could also be applicable.

A question has also been raised in regard to Pradhan and Upapradhan. Here there are only two tiers. Firstly, the Panchayat and the Zilla Parishads. Where the population is less than 20 per cent, they have the option to have only two tier and not three tier. Accordingly, we have the Pradhan or Upapradhan normally in the mid-level. Therefore, it is not there.

As regards the election within one year, firstly we need the cooperation of all the hon. Members. Earlier, the question was whether it is possible to have rectification within time. I would humbly like to seek the cooperation of all the States. Rectification of Constitutional Amendment of December, 1992 was carried within four months and the Bill was made applicable from 24th April, 1993.

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

As regards the amendment to the laws in all these States, I am very happy to inform today that all the States have cooperated excepting Manipur and Jammu & Kashmir about which we will talk separately. All the other States have passed the Bill. Maharashtra passed the Bill yesterday at 4 AM. This morning at 5 AM, Kerala has passed it. All the States have cooperated. They have passed. There is no difficulty about it.

As regards Jammu & Kashmir, a legal question was raised. This is under examination of the Law Ministry about the applicability of this law. It is under examination.

As regards election to the Panchayati Raj, this matter came up in the question. You are kind enough to give certain direction. I am very hopeful that all the States where elections are due will carry on the elections within the stipulated period. We have done it in the case of Union Territories also. (*Interruptions*). It has been extended except in the case of Chandigarh. It has come to the Rajya Sabha. Yesterday it has been introduced. Only a Repeal Act has to be introduced by the Home Ministry itself. It has been introduced. It will come here. All other States have done it.

As regards elections, last year there was a meeting of all the Panchayati Raj Ministers and Secretaries and a Resolution has been adopted by consensus that where laws are passed, the States would do it within six months. I am hopeful that elections will be taking place in all the States.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution and organisation of Pan-

chayats as units of local Self-Government in the rural areas of Manipur and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 to 109 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 109 were added to the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, The Enacting Formula, the Preamble, and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. SPEAKER: the question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

MR. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble at 14.30 hours.

13.25 hrs.

The Lok Sabha than adjourned for Lunch till Thirty Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

14.30 hrs

[English]

At 1430 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 1433 hours quorum bell was rung again and no quorum was made. At 1436 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made. Thereafter the Secretary-General made the following announcement:

14.42 hrs.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE: POSTPONEMENT OF THE SITTING OF THE HOUSE UPTO 15.00 HRS FOR WANT OF QUORUM

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: There is no quorum. So, the House cannot meet. We cannot start the House till there is quorum. The Speaker has directed that the House will meet at 3.00 p.m.

15.08 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Eight Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, before the proceedings of the House start, I have a point of information. It is an important issue as to how seriously the Hon'ble Members of the Treasury Bench are taking the House. The proceedings of the House have been obstructed due to the hon'ble members being busy with the cricket match.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Message from Rajya Sabha. Secretary-General.

15.09 hrs.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 111 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to enclose a copy of the Punjab Gram Panchayat, Samities and Zila Parishad (Chandigarh Repeal) Bill, 1994, which has been passed by the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 22nd April, 1994."

15.09 ½ hrs.

**PUNJAB GRAM PANCHAYAT
SAMITIES AND ZILA PARISHAD
(CHANDIGARH REPEAL) BILL**

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

SECRETARY GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table, the Punjab Gram Panchayat, Samities and Zila Parishad (Chandigarh Repeal) Bill, 1994 as passed by Rajya Sabha on 22nd April, 1994.

15.10 hrs.

**PUNJAB GRAM PANCHAYAT,
SAMITIES AND ZILA PARISHAD
(CHANDIGARH REPEAL) BILL,**

As Passed By Rajya Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
P.M. SAYEED): Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to repeal the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to repeal the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961.

At present there is three-tier Panchayat Raj System in the Union Territory of Chandigarh:

- (i) Gram Panchayat at the village level;
- (ii) Panchayat Samiti at the Tehsil level; and
- (iii) Zila Parishad at the district level.

There are 22 villages in Chandigarh which are governed by 21 Panchayats under Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952. Panchayat Samiti, Chandigarh, has been constituted at the Tehsil level under the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. The Zila Parishad, Chandigarh, has also been constituted under the aforesaid Act.

To harmonise the provisions of the local laws with Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Act, 1992, the State Legislature of Punjab has passed the Punjab Panchayati Raj Bill, 1994, replacing the earlier statutes, viz. Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961. It has been decided to extend the above Act, when enforced, to Union Territory of Chandigarh. However, this can be done only after the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952, and the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 are repealed. This is necessary because unless the laws already in force are repealed and a tabula rasa created, it will not be possible to extend the new law, viz. the Punjab Panchayati Raj Act, 1994 to the Union Territory of Chandigarh under Section 87 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966. It is not possible to repeal an existing law by extension of another law. A law by the

Parliament will be necessary to repeal the existing laws in the Union Territory of Chandigarh.

I commend this Bill to this august House for approval.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): This is a disrespect to the feelings of the Members. We have just been told that it is being passed. Had we been told earlier, we should have taken part in the debate.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to repeal the Punjab Gram Panchayat Act, 1952 and the Punjab Panchayat Samities and Zila Parishads Act, 1961 as in force in the Union Territory of Chandigarh, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will not take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill.

The motion was Adopted

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.17 hrs.

RAILWAYS (AMENDMENT) BILL

As passed by Rajya Sabha

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): On behalf of Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief, I beg to move:*

"That the Bill to amend the Railways Act, 1989 and the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

(Shri Mallikarjun)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion

moved:

Sir, under the provisions of Section 124 of the Railways Act, 1989 only the victims of passenger train accidents are entitled to compensation in case of injuries or their kith in case of death.

"That the Bill to amend the Railways Act, 1989 and the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

No compensation or insurance cover is available to the bonafide passengers who become victims of the incidents like terrorist acts, violent attacks, dacoities, bomb blasts, robbery, rioting, shoot-outs, fire and arson in trains or in waiting halls, cloak rooms, booking offices or on any platform or other places within the precincts of the railway station.

Mr. Acharia, I think we can pass this Bill without discussion.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): No, Sir. There should be a discussion on the Bill.

Keeping in view the pressing demand in both the Houses of Parliament and also the changed social environments of the country, it is proposed to provide insurance cover to the bonafide passengers who become victims of the above mentioned untoward incidents in trains or in the station premises.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr Acharia, it was decided so in the BAC meeting and you have got an opportunity to discuss the matter again on Railway Demands for Excess Grants. This is just relating to compensation which is a very small matter.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No, Sir, this is a different matter.

No compensation will, however, be payable in case of death or injuries due to suicide or attempted suicide, self-inflicted injuries, criminal acts of the passenger and acts committed by the passenger in a state of intoxication or insanity, natural cause or disease or medical or surgical treatment unless such treatment is undertaken due to an injury caused by any of the untoward incidents or accident.

At the outset, I support the Bill and the move to include some of the incidents within the parameters of accident by widening the definition of accident and by including the attack by terrorists, bomb blasts and some other incidents connected with them.

In order to provide the insurance cover, it is imperative to amend the Railways Act, 1989 and also to make certain consequential amendments in the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987 through this Bill.

The Railways Act was amended in 1989. There was a joint Select Committee to amend the Railways Act of 1898 and the Committee deliberated upon the Railway Bill and there were a number of suggestions. One such suggestion was that if the daily wage railway workers such as gangmen or engineering staff while working on the railway track happen to die due to some accident arising

out of derailment of passenger or goods train, that should be treated as a rail accident and the victim should be entitled to get compensation not as determined by the Workmen's Compensation Act but on par with railway passengers. We made some suggestions and a number of suggestions were accepted. In the Railways Act of 1898 the definition of 'passengers' was restricted to only those who are actual passengers. The railway employees on duty such as the guard, driver, assistant driver, ticket checking staff and other staff and are not included in this definition of 'passengers'. By an amendment of the Act, they are brought within the definition of 'passengers' if they are on duty and if they happen to die or get injured in the accident, they are treated as passengers and paid the compensation accordingly.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Acharia, please conclude. We have to start the Private Members Business.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The discussion can continue even on Monday. Why are you in such a hurry?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): There are many victims who have been killed or injured in bomb blasts and other terrorist activities. Their condition will have to be looked into. Unless this kind of a Bill is passed, they cannot be helped. Therefore, I appeal to Shri Basudeb Acharia not to hold it up.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: But why was it not brought earlier?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: It was brought earlier. But there had been

a series of adjournments of the House and the Bill could not be taken up. Moreover in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee, we have decided to pass this Bill without discussion. Just because you were kind enough to allow Shri Acharia to speak, he should not take so much time. The victims of accidents can be helped by passing this Bill and not by delaying it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We too feel concerned about all those who died due to bomb blasts and other terrorist activities. But why was this not brought earlier?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: This could not be brought earlier because we had a series of adjournments in the last three days.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Why this Bill was not brought in the first phase of the Session?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think this amendment serves the immediate purpose. Still, if you wish to add something more, you have got an opportunity to say.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: The Minister can consider my amendment.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: Sir purely as per my Statement, we have tried to give an insurance cover to the victims of terrorism and such other types of activities which are not covered at the moment by compensation rules. The hon. Member has suggested that if anybody, engineer or gangmen, while working in the track dies because of derailment of passenger or goods train he should also be considered for payment of compensation.

[Shri Mallikarjun]

There is a Workmen's Compensation Act and under that Act if any such incident takes place—if any person becomes a victim of derailment necessary compensation is paid to the victim as per the provisions of this Act. So, with these words I commend this Bill for passing.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: No, Sir. I have many more things to add. I know about the Workmen's Compensation Act and the amount paid under this Act.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If we had sufficient time at our disposal we should have allowed you to speak at length.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: We can continue on Monday.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The difficulty is that we have to pass it today itself. It was decided in the BAC that this will be passed today without any discussion.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I request the hon. Member to withdraw his amendment.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I cannot withdraw my amendment. On the contrary, I request the hon. Minister to accept it. This is very simple amendment.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We will consider the subject matter of his amendment while taking up the Railways Appropriation Bill. I request the Minister to dwell at length on this point while replying to the Railways Appropriation Bill.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: So, you will consider this at that time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That Clause 2 stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause-3-Compensation an account of untoward incidents.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, I beg to move:

Page 2,-

after line 36, insert—

"124 B. When a railway worker while working on railway track or within any railway precinct dies due to an accident arising from the derailment of passenger or goods trains, the railway administration shall be liable to pay compensation to such extent as may be prescribed." (11)

Since the Minister has assured the House that while considering the Demands of Railways the Government will consider my amendment, I withdraw my amendment.

Now, I seek leave of the House to withdraw my Amendment No. 11 to Clause 3.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Has the Hon. Member Leave of the House to withdraw his amendment.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

Amendment No. 11 was by leave withdrawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"Clauses 4 to 13 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4 to 13 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Twenty Ninth Report

[English]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (Guwahati): I beg to move the following:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd April, 1994."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Twenty-Ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 22nd April, 1994."

The motion was adopted.

15.32 ½ hrs.

LOTTERIES (PROHIBITION) BILL*

[English]

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL
(Jabalpur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prohibit institution, promotion, conduct and sale of lotteries and for matters connected therewith.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit institution, promotion, conduct and sale of lotteries and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SHRAVAN KUMAR PATEL:
I introduce the Bill.

15.33 hrs.

PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHT
(AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA
(Kottayam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:
Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

(Amendment of Tenth Schedule)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA
(Kottayam): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce the Bill.

15.35 hrs.

**REPRESENTATION OF THE
PEOPLE (AMENDMENT) BILL***

(Amendment of Section 20)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1950."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (SIKKIM)
SCHEDULED TRIBES ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL.***

**(Substitution of new Schedule for
the Schedule)**

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Tribes Order, 1978."

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

**RAILWAY PROTECTION FORCE
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

**(Substitution of new Long Title for
Long Title, etc.)**

[English]

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Insertion of new Article 243Z DD)

[English]

SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA (Almora): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA: I introduce the Bill.

15.39 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL***

(Amendment of Article 244, etc.)

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: I introduce the Bill.

15.40 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED
CASTES) ORDERS
(AMENDMENT) BILL***

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order, 1978.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) (Union Territories) Order, 1951, the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order, 1956, the Constitution (Dadra and Nagar Haveli) Scheduled Castes Order, 1962, the Constitution (Pondicherry) Scheduled Castes Order, 1964 and the Constitution (Sikkim) Scheduled Castes Order, 1978.

The motion was adopted.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE
PRICE FIXATION AUTHORITY
BILL

By Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We now take up further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat on the 24th February, 1994, namely:—

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an authority for the fixation of minimum remunerative prices of all the agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

SHRI N.K. Baliyan

[*Translation*]

SHRI N.K. BALIYAN (Muzaffarnagar) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have risen to speak in favour of Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Authority Bill which has been presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

15.43 hrs.

[SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*]

Sir, we all know that 70% of our population is engaged in agricultural work. And it is a matter of great pride that the former has made our country self-reliant in the field of production of food grains. But is it not distressing that even today no scientific basis has been fixed for the

payment of his produce? The farmer has no such trade unions/organisations like other production units, to pressurise the Government to yield to his demands. It is also true that he is not able to store his produce for want of funds and as a result thereof, cannot survive the fluctuations of the market and thus, does not get the reasonable price for his produce and the middlemen take away the whole profit. Sir, the farmer does not even have a say over the cost-price. The prices of fertilisers, seeds, water, pesticides are constantly increasing. The wages of the workers have also increased manifold. It is important to keep these factors in mind while determining the prices of the produce. The farmer has also to face the natural calamities like drought, floods, hailstorm, windstorm etc. Our agriculture is a gamble because of its dependence on Nature and there is always a situation of uncertainty. The need of the hour is to establish a remunerative payment system for the protection of occupation of the farmers and prosperity of the nation. That's way, once Chaudhary Charan Singhji had said that a way to prosperity of the country is through agricultural fields. He also opined that the government should establish a system to provide scientific prices to the farmers, no matter even if they have to close down various bodies set up in the name of progress of the farmers. But it should also make such an arrangements that the farmers must get prices for their produce on Scientific basis. If it happens, then, the farmer himself will be able to get good quality seeds, fertilizers, water and pesticides and the country will prosper. Our Country has recently signed the Dunkel Proposals resulting in the uncertainty of our farmers future. His future has become very uncertain. One condition of the Dunkel proposals is that we will have to regularly import three and half per cent of our consumption of

[Shri N.K. Baliyan]

foodgrains from abroad irrespective of the fact that our country may already be self-reliant in the field of foodgrains. This condition is going to adversely affect the economic condition of our farmers. Two years back the price of wheat in the open market was Rs. 550 per quintal but the government imported 30 thousand metric tonne wheat from abroad resulting in the decline in the price of wheat to Rs. 200 per quintal and farmer was not able to get minimum prices. It is very difficult to understand that in view of the said circumstances how will we be able to compete with the international market and make progress.

I will cite the example of the current year, when the farmers were given the remunerative price for sugarcane, they were able to resume the pending construction work. They were able to do much more and it helped to give a boost to his economic progress. When the labourers, money-lenders, shop-keepers began having a regular flow of money in their hands the economy of the villages also started progressing. There was only one reason behind it. The farmer became hopeful of getting remunerative prices for his produce. So for as the inflation is concerned, if we study the impact of the inflation on the prices of items used by the farmers we will see that the manner in which the prices of agriculture-linked products have increased, the farmer is not getting the remunerative prices for his produce accordingly. Besides, the standard of living in our villages is also improving and the daily expenditure as well as requirements are also increasing. In view of these the farmer is not getting remunerative prices for his produce and the labour he puts in. If we propose to make our country forge ahead, improve the village-econo-

my and we want to make our country self-reliant in respect of foodgrains, it is imperative to establish such a system so as to make payments to the farmer for his produce on scientific basis. With these words, I conclude and thank you for allowing me to speak.

KUMARI MAMTA BANERJEE (Calcutta South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful that you have allowed me to speak on the Bill and put forth my views. I, definitely, support the intention with which this Bill has been presented by the hon'ble Member Shri B.S. Rawat for the improvement in the condition of the farmers because party affiliations should not come in the way of discussion on improvement in the condition of farmer. Every one of us should consider it that it is essential to bring the farmers into the mainstream. Our country survives because of the hard labour put in by the farmers, the progress of our country depends on the prosperity of our farmers and our country can forge ahead with the success of our farmers only. The hard work of the farmers had resulted in the green revolution, they had slogged day and night. I want to congratulate the farmers of our country.

Sir, it is true that the farmers are putting up in villages and are engaged in agriculture but they do not even get the reasonable prices for their produce, and this situation has mainly been created by the middlemen. The major portion of the benefit is taken away by these middlemen without putting in any labour but the poor farmer, who slogs in the fields, does not get even the minimum prices for his produce.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am aware that the central government has set up an Agricultural Price commission to ensure the payment of remunerative prices to the farmers. But this commission is also

not being able to fully protect their interests. Today the members of the opposition are propagating that the congress party is not in favour of the farmers. I would like to tell these people that the congress party is the only party which is a well wisher of the farmers. The congress party was greatly instrumental in bringing about green revolution. The rural development schemes have been launched because of congress party only. RLEGP, NREP, IRD, 20-Point Programme, Jawahar Rojgar Yojana, Indira Housing Scheme, Nehru Rojgar Yojna, Rural Electrification etc. several programmes have been launched because of congress party only. This year also 40 per cent of the budget has been earmarked for Rural Development.

Efforts have been made since the time of Pt. Nehru to upfit the condition of the farmers from the grass root level and oversince all the facilities have been provided to the farmers. Panditji's slogan was to modernise the country. The slogan of our former Prime Minister Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri was "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". This feeling was from his core of heart because he was the well wisher of the farmers. Similarly, Indiraji had launched "Garibi Hatao" Programme but the opposition Parties had tried to defame that programme by dubbing it as "Garib Hatao".

Rajiv Gandhiji had also started several rural development programmes immediately after swearing in as the Prime Minister. Now the opposition lament about GATT. The Chief Prime Minister of China writes to the Indian Prime Minister that they want to be included under GATT. The Communist Party of Cuba has also expressed desire to be included under GATT. I have read from the proceedings of the meetings

held in this regard and the chief Minister of China had said.

[English]

"The GATT will be our moral booster and it will be big booster for our exports."

[Translation]

It will make it clear that there is a big difference between what they say and do.

When Rajiv Gandhiji was the Prime Minister, these people used to say that on being defeated he would go abroad with the Indian money but even after getting defeated Rajivji remained in this country only and even gave his life for this country.

"Pyaaasi Zamein thei, Lahu pila diya. Mujh par vatan ka karz tha maine chuka diya."

Rajivji and Indiraji showed that they would fight for this country and finally gave their lives for this country. But, at no cost, they ever misled this country.

I have read the statement of the Commerce Minister given in Marcos we are not proposing to change our policy made, for the farmers and they will be given full protection. We do not propose to withdraw any subsidy on fertilizers. I suggest that the farmers should be given support price. Several laws are enacted in our country and are implemented by the State Governments. If there is any need to issue guidelines to the State Governments, the Central Government should do so, otherwise, the State Government would sit idle and indulge in politics. The farmers are of the opinion that there should be no politics.

[Kumari Mamta Banerjee]

16.00 hrs.

Besides, the farmers need to be imparted training in post-harvest technology also. There are many vegetables, etc. but the farmers face difficulties in cultivation of these vegetables for want of complete knowledge. It would be fruitful if the farmers are trained for this. I would like to request the hon'ble Minister that it is a very important matter and he should not let them down. The farmers should get the first support. There is no need to constitute a new commission. The farmers should be given the support price within the existing set-up only and side-by-side the consumers should also be given attention.

The prices of the essential commodities are on a constant increase. I would like to remind the government that they have essential commodities Act but several State Governments do not implement it, and as a result thereof, black-marketeers, hoarders want to take advantage and the public has to face difficulties as a result thereof.

There is a lot of politics indulged in, in providing lease to farmers. Even if they get lease, these are embroiled in some lawsuit and the case goes on for 20-25 years. Though it is not linked with it, yet I would like the hon'ble minister to pass it as to the Ministry of law because it is very important to solve the lease problem to the farmers.

We have had land reforms. The farmers should also be benefited from it.

With these words I support it and want to say that it should be made more successful.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill introduced by Shri Rawat and thank him that he introduced the Bill in the interests of the farmers at proper time.

First of all I would like to submit that India is a large country. It is called an agricultural country. The deteriorating condition of farmers is a topic which is discussed time and again in the House. There are many reasons behind this. Farmers work hard to grow crops. But when crops are ready for harvest, sometimes they are damaged by floods and at other times by drought thus the hard labour and expenditure of the farmers go waste. But it does not demoralise him and he goes on with his hard work. The factories which are running in loss, are closed down and the labourers working there are removed. However, the farmer of this country does his work unrestrained despite bearing a heavy loss, he feeds the entire country. The Government should pay attention towards this. I would suggest the implementations of crop insurance policy for this purpose. At some places this scheme has been implemented but not in the drought prone areas. The land of Bihar is extremely fertile, but still this state is being neglected. The Government spends crores of rupees in providing relief, but it does not provide any permanent relief, instead, the Government should formulate a policy to protect the crops of farmers.

Farmers do not get remunerative prices of their crops. It is true. The poor section of the society has to purchase majority of the household items from outside. Farmers have to spend a large amount in purchasing the things required

for agricultural purposes as well as those of household goods. These commodities are manufactured in factories—whether it is fertilizer of the household item like soap etc. A proper coordination should be established between the commodities manufactured in factories and those produced in fields so that the farmers do not have to purchase the articles from outside and suffer loss. By doing so the government would be protecting the interests of farmers.

Adequate irrigation facilities should also be provided to farmers. It is a powerful section of the society. They can produce foodgrains which may suffice the demand of the entire world. If the quantity of Basmati rice is increased, we may export it and thus earn foreign exchange. This would strengthen the country.

The Government has signed the GATT agreement. It is being opposed everywhere today. If the Government want to compete in the international market, adequate facilities including irrigation water will have to be provided in agriculture. Water of many rivers is going waste these days. If that water is utilized properly, the farmers can be benefited. The Punpun Dardha and Murhar Schemes of Bihar have been lying incomplete since 1980. Had these schemes been completed, for the farmers of the State, agriculture would have been beneficial. Today, agriculture is proving non-profitable to farmers there, thus creating many more problems. If a farmer acquires 20-25 acres of land and have two children, he cannot keep his children with him, because in that case, the land would be non-profitable to him. If the land is profitable, all the family members would enjoy the benefit. His children can be educated and get job thus bringing prosperity to the family. People do job to lead

a prosperous life. If the agriculture is made profitable it would be beneficial both the ways. These peoples have been in power for the last 42 years but they never paid attention to farming, so we are witnessing the consequences thereof.

They state that the position in agriculture in Punjab and Haryana is good. Such a State in agriculture could have developed in all other States too. But they did not take measures in that direction. Who is at fault, it is their mistake that they did not pay any attention to agriculture. That is why only the older generation and not the coming generation of farmers are inclined towards farming. Had agriculture elsewhere been developed like that in Punjab and Haryana, it would certainly have checked unemployment and the terrorist activities which are being carried out all over the country and the country would have become prosperous to the extent that it could rather export and not import the food-grains.

I would like the Government to fulfil the demand of constituting a commission, review the various aspects of agriculture and fix remunerative prices to provide benefit to the farmers.

With these words I support the Bill and conclude.

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir ours is a country of farmers and 80 per cent of the total percent of the total population of this country depend on agriculture. However the number of big farmers here is quite less but the number of small farmers is very high. The census is carried out after every 10 yrs. which reveals that within the passage of every ten years more and more number of small farmers are ren-

[Shri Manjay Lal]

dered agricultural labourers due to the division of their land. By selling the land in fragments on occasions like sickness, marriages etc. they are rendered labourers.

When our country was enslaved the population was quite restricted and still we had to import foodgrains from other countries. Thereafter the farmers worked hard and made the country self reliant. But we are not paying any attention towards farmers and agriculture. If adequate irrigation facilities are made available, the production of food-grains can be doubled. But the increase in production would be of no use as long as we do not fix any price policy. The farmers have to sell their produce at cheaper rates and purchase the items of their necessity at higher rates. That is why Dr. Lohia had suggested to adopt a fixed price policy. Regarding agriculture he had stated that '*Ann daam ka ghatna barhna ana seir ke bheetar ho, karkhania maal ka daam laagat kharch se diyorha ho.*' Whatever a farmer produces he has to sell it at cheaper rates. But if he has to purchase the same articles after 5-6 months he has to pay much more than his selling price. If the variation *i.e.* rise and fall in the prices remain within a fixed limit the farmer would neither have to purchase the foodgrains at higher rates nor to sell it at cheaper rates. Besides, the prices of the commodities manufactured by the capitalists in factories also vary at large. A policy in this regard should also be fixed under which the price fixed for the commodity should not exceed on and a half times more than the actual cost of the commodity. In this manner, there would be a proper balance between the prices of agricultural products and the commodities manufactured in factories. Which would ulti-

mately help in checking the current tendency of changing heavy prices of various commodities.

I am thankful to Shri Rawat who has introduced a Bill for the prosperity of farmers and the country. It would provide remunerative prices of agricultural produce to the farmers. I do support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, I rise to support the Bill for the establishment of an authority for the fixation of minimum remunerative prices of the agricultural produce in the country. As you know, a little more than two-thirds of the entire population of the country are agriculturists. So, it will be logical to say that until welfare of the large population of the agriculturists is not ensured welfare, we cannot claim the country to be a welfare country.

So, I support this Bill which proposes for the formation of statutory authority for fixation of remunerative prices for all the agricultural produce. As mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons, I also agree with the Member in-charge of the Bill that while in the case of industrial products, the producers fix the price of their produce. In the case of agricultural produce, the agriculturists do not have that power to fix the price. It is fixed by the Government. So, sometimes, the agriculturists who are the agricultural producers are exploited. While considering the interest of the consumers, the Government sometimes fix the price of the agricultural produce just below the remunerative rate. So, there is a clash between the interests of the producers and the interests of the consumers. In that case, I would like to propose that the Government must pro-

vide subsidy in favour of the agriculturists so that they may not be exploited.

As proposed in the Bill, I also support for the establishment of the statutory authority which will consider all the expenditure incurred for producing the agricultural produce while fixing the price. At present, the traders, the capitalists, some vested interest industrialists exploit the agriculturists and try to exploit the agriculturists at their mercy. Until the agriculturists are paid a reasonable price of their produce, the country cannot claim that it is a grown-up country.

I would say, in my State, the farmers produce maize in large quantity. But where is the market for it? The producers are at the mercy of the traders. The producers have no right to claim the remunerative price. In that case also, if this Authority is instituted, it can look after their interests also. I am not prepared to give a long speech on this. I simply rise to register my support to the Bill and also for the case of agriculturists in the larger interests of the country.

With these few words, I support the Bill.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottayam): Sir, I rise to support the Bill which is introduced by our hon. Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawatji.

This is a welcome step. The intention of this Bill is definitely welcomed by all sections of this House.

This Bill is for establishment of an Authority for fixation of minimum remunerative price for all agricultural produce.

Our country is predominantly an agricultural country and 90 per cent of

the population is dependent on agriculture and major part of our total production is agricultural products. So, we have to give more importance and emphasis for the proper development of agriculture in our country.

This primary sector, as other hon. Members have pointed out here, should be given more importance and more care so that we will be able to achieve the largest production in this field.

We have achieved self-sufficiency in foodgrains. It is because of the achievements during the time of the Green Revolution. But now it is necessary for us to strengthen all aspects of agricultural revolution. This green revolution has definitely given a stimulus to our agricultural sector. So, we are now self-sufficient in foodgrains. Even though we are self-sufficient in production of foodgrains, we have to strengthen this agricultural sector.

The productivity side is the most important thing. We are far below the international level of productivity. For example, in the case of wheat our productivity per hectare is very low as far as the international standards of productivity are concerned.

About rice also, it is the same case. The per hectare yield which we are getting in our country is far less than international productivity. A concentrated effort should be there to achieve the international level of productivity so that we can be more self-sufficient and excess can be exported to other countries and our economy will be strengthened by this.

Our agriculturists are facing lot of problems. There is no availability of new

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

technology and new varieties of seeds. The most important is the escalation of prices in the case of fertilisers and lack of power and irrigation facilities. These are the problems which every farmer in the rural area is facing. If we are able to make available new technology, our productivity level can be raised easily. There are a variety of seeds. Unfortunately, in the rural areas, we are now still dependent on age-old mode of cultivation and sowing. We are selecting seeds which can give us only the yield.

Our agricultural operation should be strengthened. It must be streamlined. More and more new technologies which are available in the world should be made available to the farmers. Our farmers should be given proper training for this. All agricultural operations should be streamlined.

Next, power shortage is one of the major impediments coming in the field of agricultural operation, especially in the rural areas. Everyday, we can see that the power-cut is hampering the prospects of agricultural operations. So, the shortage of power is one of the major impediments. Now, our farmers are coming out of the age-old cultivation. When they are going to adopt the new methods, power is the most important factor. Lack of power and a series of power-cuts are definitely hampering their agricultural prospects.

About irrigation facilities, time and again in this august House we have discussed about the inordinate delay in the commissioning of the irrigation projects. Some of the irrigation projects which were taken up earlier were not completed. Inordinate delays are there. We visualise that such and such irrigation

project will be commissioned and it will be helpful to the farmers in a particular area and their operation can be conducted very carefully. But because of the inordinate delay in commissioning of these irrigation projects, they are facing a lot of problems. From our exchequer itself, we are spending crores and crores of rupees. If the original estimate is of a particular sum, because of the inordinate delay, when the project is commissioned, it would incur an expenditure of double the original estimate or more than the original estimate envisaged. Our exchequer is losing much on this. Minor irrigation operations will be affected by this. The total plan will be upset by the inordinate delay in the commissioning of the irrigation projects especially in the rural areas where we are laying more emphasis on minor irrigation. Of course, the minor irrigation activities are taken up by the State Governments. But it is very unfortunate that the State Governments are paying little attention to minor irrigation and lift irrigation. Minor irrigation projects and small minor irrigation activities could not be carried out by the farmers in the rural areas because of non-availability of support from the State Governments. Particularly, there is inadequate planning in this area. We can divert more of the rural areas for agricultural operations by improved irrigation methods. So, I think we should attach much importance to this so that we can be able to extend our agricultural operational areas and ultimately it will help in the increased production of foodgrains in our country.

Next, in the case of industry, if an industrialist is producing an industrial product, when it comes to the question of fixing the price, it is definitely the industrialist who is producing the product who will decide the price. According to his price fixation policy, we have to buy

his product But in the case of agriculturists, the prices are fixed by the Government. Therefore, the Government should take ample care while fixing the price of the agricultural products. Government should take care of the various conditions, various problems which are faced by the farmers and cultivators in each and every area. How are we fixing the prices now? At present, the system is that the price is fixed on the basis of the overall expenditure. If we look into the price fixation policy, the fixation of price is not at all satisfactory. Ant we see that poor farmers are very much distressed with the price fixed for each and every product and they are arguing for this and they are going on strikes. This means that they are not satisfied with the present mechanism of fixing the prices. I think, the Government should take care of this and the Government should review the present policy and present mechanism for fixing the price. For example, I am coming from a State where we give more importance to agriculture produce like spices and rubber. Rubber is the concern of the Commerce Minister. The price of rubber is revised in every two or three years. Our Rubber Board has suggested price which is remunerative. But the Study Group rejected the proposal of the Rubber Board and they fixed the price which was not at all remunerative. The prices of all inputs are going up. But they are not taking into account all these things. For example, wages are going up and the price of fertilizers are going up; price of pesticides are going up. And rubber cultivation has become more costlier. When the Government is fixing the price, they are not looking into all these aspects; they will not look into the wage component. They will not go into the reality. Because of this small holders, small farmers and middle level farmers are suffering. The price fixing mechanism is not at all satisfactory and the small

farmers are not getting the remunerative price. I have quoted this example because we have been experiencing this for so many years. The support price is announced when the season is over. Even if they declare the support price, it will not give any benefit to the farmers because by then season will be over. Because of this, medium level agricultural holders are suffering a lot.

Regarding coconut, coconut is grown in almost every house especially in Southern part of our country. There have been repeated requests made by the Chief Ministers of the Southern States for announcing the support price for coconut. But the Government has not announced it. We have been repeatedly requesting for the announcement of the new support price for coconut through the Question Hour or by way of submissions. In every house, coconut farmers are there and their livelihood is plucking the coconut. There have been repeated requests made by the Members cutting cross party lines as there was fall in the price of coconut oil, but till now the support price of coconut has not been announced. Then how are you expecting the farmer to perform well? How can you expect that our farmers can grow more agricultural produce? How can you visualise exporting agricultural products if you cannot satisfy our farmers? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Without knowing, you are speaking against the GATT.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: I am saying that if you cannot give proper prices of our agriculturists we cannot export. There are ample opportunities now available under the GATT for the

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

export of our agricultural products. The only point is we have to encourage our farmers, we have to give remunerative price to our farmers, so that they can produce more and export. We have to take care of that. We have to utilise that opportunity. That is my contention.

I request the Government to review the present mechanism of fixing the prices for agricultural products and spices. Otherwise every year we will have the same problem. When we are announcing the prices it is after the harvest. After everything is over, the Government is coming forward to announce the prices. It must be done in time. It must be remunerative and after taking into consideration of all the aspects and the prevailing after taking into consideration all the aspects and the prevailing condition of each and every agricultural operation. Then only we will be able to achieve and stabilise the results of the Green Revolution.

[*Translation*]

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Authority Bill introduced by the hon. Member Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. This bill has been introduced for the establishment of an authority for the fixation of proper remunerative prices of the agricultural produce and making provision for concerned subjects.

As all the speakers have just now, pointed out that the spirit with which it has been introduced is appreciable. Because the economy of the country depends on agriculture. About 80 per cent of the total population depend on agriculture. Most of the raw material

supplied to the industries is from agriculture. The provision made under part (a) of section 6 at page 2, which has been supported by all the speakers, states that 'it would fix and declare the remunerative prices of agricultural produce before sowing every crop' This has been said about the authority proposed to be set up.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government do fix the prices of agricultural produce every year. Rather it has become just a tradition that the Government would increase the prices of food-grains every year. It appears that they have found a cheaper and popular way to prove themselves to be the well wishers of farmers. This procedure is proving fatal to the middle class people and poor section besides farmers. As I have already submitted that we do welcome the economic perspective, but assuming that fixing the prices of some agricultural products would solve the problems of farmers or improve the economy of the country is not feasible. I have a chart which shows that the price of wheat during 1982-83 was only Rs. 151/- per quintal which has been increased to Rs. 305/- in 1992-93. Mr. Chairman, Sir your also belong to the community of agriculturists and you are well aware of the fact that all farmers do not produce as much quantity that they way sell their produce in the market. Therefore, whenever a Bill for the fixation of agricultural produce is introduced or a law is enacted, the Government should be considerate to the interests of consumers *i.e.* a common man and also to the fact that a small farmer who does agriculture work during a limited period throughout the year, is also a consumer and purchases things. When the prices of several products are increased thus causing a negative effect in the market, it may prove beneficial to the big farmers

but not to the small farmers. I do not include Shri Netam in the category of big farmers. Rather I am referring to Shri Bhagwan... (*Interruptions*)... You should not have any objection to my statement. If you listen to me, you would realise that the big farmers may get profit out of it but not the small farmers. The Government should adopt a balanced policy in this regard and bring a comprehensive Bill in the House, so that the farmers may get remunerative prices of their produce.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The time allotted for discussing this Bill has expired. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time allotted by one more hour?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, the time allotted for discussing the Bill is extended by one more hour. Shri Dhupal may continue.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: My submission is that fixing the prices should not be restricted only to a formality or a ritual. A few days ago we have witnessed the scenes while fixing prices as to what things are to be taken into consideration. The announcement of a heavy increase in the minimum support price of Rabi crops has raised several questions. Due to the differences between the various ministries, the announcement was delayed too much and resultantly the farmers did not get any moral boost to sow wheat. This increase has been beneficial only to big farmers and not to small farmers. Because the small farmers do not have extra produce to sell. An increase in prices is likely to increase inflation. Our Budget is an evidence of steep increase in the inflation due to this fact. The increase in prices is not proportionate to the cost price of the products. So much so that it has led to an increase in the price of wheat being

sold under Public Distribution System. The most surprising thing is that whenever the matters regarding price-rise, consumers price index etc are raised here, the Government justifies the price rise on the plea that it is but natural in view of the increase in the support price of agricultural products. But how much increase was made in the support prices of agricultural products? Farmers were given a bonus of only Rs. 25/- per quintal, thus making a rate of Rs. 3-30 per kg. However, the Government is selling foodgrains at much higher prices under PDS. Has PDS been set up to gain profit by the Government?

The purpose behind it is that the poor should be provided foodgrains at cheaper price if they can't afford to purchase the same due to market competition. But its result has been quite adverse due to the policy of the Government. The Govt. claims that they had offered better procurement prices to the farmers and hence there was increase in the rates of foodgrains in the Public-Distribution System. I did not want to raise this GATT issue on this occasion, but Kumari Mamata Banerjee and Shri Ramesh Chennithala have supported the GATT here. But GATT is not the sole cause for increased rates of foodgrains in the Public Distribution System. The Government so often reiterates that it has given increased support prices to the farmers and therefore, the prices have increased. But it is not the fact. Rather the Government has been compelled to increase the prices of foodgrains in the Public Distribution System under the pressure of foreign countries.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the most important factor behind it is that the Government did not announce it prior to the sowing season. It has always been emphasized. Every manufacturer or industri-

[Prof. Prem Dhuma]

alist first finds out as to which items have the highest demand in the market and then increases or decreases his production accordingly. But our farmers are kept in dark and they do not know what price they will get of their produce. When their crops are nearing harvesting season, the Government fixes the price of their produce. Therefore, the main objective of the introduction of the Bill by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat in this August House is that prior to sowing the farmers should know the rates they are going to get for his produce.

The farmers must know that from the prices of their produce they will be able to recover the expenditure they have incurred on fertilizers, electricity charges, irrigation labour and the instalments of insurance premium, if any. If he feels that he will be in loss, he will not sow that crop. It is, therefore, essential that the Govt. should announce the support price of foodgrains prior to seed time.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, emphasis has been given on this point in Clause 9 of this Bill. It has clearly been stated that the authority likely to be set up for fixing these agricultural produce will make wide publicity of the price fixed through mass-media, like radio and television and press. It is good. But if this announcement does not reach the farmers living in rural areas how can they be benefited? It is good that its wide publicity will be made because the farmers will come to know as to what seeds they should sow so that they can get incentives therefor.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, along with the agricultural production there is another important issue of Agriculture Science Centres. You must have experienced its

need in your own constituency too and it might have been a long-standing demand of the people there to set up such centres there.

It is good that the hon. Minister of Agriculture is coming here. In order to provide remunerative support price to the farmers and to ensure a quality improvement and bumper production, the farmers should essentially be trained in cultivation with latest equipments. Agriculture Science Centres at various suitable places in the States should be set up for this purpose. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here. He is aware of the fact that such demands are frequently being made from the States but the Government expresses its inability to fulfil the demand for want of funds. If they are not imparted such training how can they increase their production and improve its quality? As stated by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat, if the Government really wants that our farmers compete with those of America and England, they should be properly trained through these Agriculture Science Centres so that they may be in a position to compete in the global market.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): By-and-by.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL: You want this change gradually, but the world is progressing very rapidly. Through you, I, therefore, would like to submit that on the basis of proposals received from various States including my constituency in Himachal Pradesh Agriculture Science Centres should be opened there and farmers be imparted training in them. The government points out that there is shortage of funds and therefore, farmers from other districts should join the Agriculture Science Centre which are al-

ready functioning and get training there. But I would like to point out that Himachal Pradesh is a hilly and backward area. Farmers would have to spend plenty of money to travel from one district to another. Therefore, they will prefer to purchase fertilizers with that fund.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, we do support that the farmers should get the genuine remunerative price for their produce but any by effecting increase in the prices of their produce a vicious circle is created which leads to a hike in the prices of other commodities and this trend should be checked. I, therefore, told that I supported the spirit of the Bill, but this Bill is unlikely to solve this problem. I, therefore, request the government to introduce a comprehensive Bill in this regard which may safeguard the interests of consumers. In this era of global competition the government would have to provide all such facilities to farmers as may enable them to compete with others in international market.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to repeat what my other Hon'ble colleagues have stated but this issue of consumer prices has always created an atmosphere of conflicts. On the one hand when we talk about the remunerative prices of agriculture products, a contradictory argument from the side of mass-media, press and urban people is that it will further enhance the burden on consumers. This also causes an impediment in the policy of the Government. Previously, we did not bother about it. Earlier we used to take care of the consumers only and imported rations under PL-480 on certain terms laid by the exporting countries. During sixties we brought about some amendment in the policy and thereby some relief was given to farmers and consequently the produc-

tion increased from 5 crore tons in 1950 to 19 crore tons today. Land reforms have contributed to a great extent in this achievement. Of course ever increasing irrigation facility and price policy have also contributed to some extent. But merely the fixation of prices cannot ensure remunerative prices to farmers. As many of my Hon'ble colleagues have stated that majority of our farmers are small and marginal, for example their percentage is 87 in Kerala, 87 to 88 in Bihar, 91 to 93 in West Bengal. The number is more in Punjab. Punjab is the only State where the position is reverse. I would not go into its merits and demerits. There the affluent people take the land of small and marginal farmers on contract. In other parts of the country the marginal and small farmers take the land of big farmers having access land in their possession on contract. Thus the agricultural production in Punjab has increased because farmers take land even on contract and apply modern methods of agriculture. The Bhakhra Nagal Dam has played a key role in the agricultural prosperity of Punjab. But in the remaining parts of the country the majority of the farmers are bound to sell their produce right from the beginning of harvest time even if later this may lead them to starvation. This is called the distress-sale. They sell wheat or paddy, whatever they produce, during the harvest time irrespective of the fact that lateron they might have to purchase foodgrains/seeds even by selling out their land for it. But they do not get remunerative or even minimum support prices lateron; The middle men earn double profit by selling their production in the village or market.

I would like to quote the example of the Government which we had supported. Shri George Fernandes was the Minister that time. That Government

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

announced the increase in the procurement price of wheat two times and the second announcement of increase in price was made in the month of May. Now you can guess who filled their coffer by making such announcement. The wholesalers were benefitted. Some of such wholesalers were cultivators as well. I think that the integrated agriculture policy needs to be formulated. The first aspect of the integrated agriculture Policy is that the farmers should get remunerative prices. While fixing these it must be noted that after reducing the total cost wages and expenditure incurred on latest technology, the farmers get profit. While formulating such policy it should be kept in mind that when prices of factory items increase, prices of agricultural goods should also be increased. The Government should fix the procurement prices for farmers and purchasing price for actual consumers in such a way that the difference between these two should not be more than 20 or 25 per cent. So that the interest of the consumers is protected. I am not talking about the middlemen who plunder money in the name of actual producers. My submission is that the difference between the price given to actual producers and purchasing price given by consumers should not exceed 25 per cent. There should not be any clash between the interest of these two. There is no village throughout India where the farmers themselves are also not consumers. Even they have to purchase foodgrains for one to five months for their own consumption. Therefore, the Government should make such an arrangement that farmers get remunerative prices. It is not that only urban people have to purchase foodgrains at higher prices.

The farmers should be provided inputs at prescribed price and that too

in time. In a State like Bihar the seeds are supplied there after the season for agriculture has passed. A little quantity of seeds is used for sowing and its major portion is used for consumption. Therefore, the seeds should be supplied at the proper time and in proper proportion. Seeds, agriculture equipments and fertilizers should also be supplied. Usually they do not get electricity. Electricity or diesel should be supplied through government's fair price shops. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and the Hon'ble Minister of Finance are present here. In this atmosphere of Dunkelization we doubt whether we will be able to protect our agriculture or not. Some of our medium farmers will be reduced to small farmers and the small farmers are likely to be reduced to marginal farmers. The marginal farmers would go adrift and live in penury and come on roads. Our country is not Hong Kong, Singapore or Taiwan. If the country having a population of 90 crore becomes a pauper nobody will be left here to purchase the agricultural produce obtained from thousands of acres of land then what will be the condition of our country? Which country will feed us? Therefore, the agricultural policy was formulated after great deliberation. That time the ruling party was divided. Great thinkers, like Late Shri Raja Gopalachari and Late Shri Charan Singh revolted in the congress and demanded to stop land ceiling and land reform. It led to severe conflict that time.

In the present situation who will be ready to buy our industrial goods. The indigenous market of the country will disappear. In the want of purchasing power there will be no indigenous market. Therefore, this vast country cannot progress merely by exporting or importing. Therefore, a serious threat has been posed. Since the Government have already bowed down before the Dunkel agreement. Some certain precautions

are a must. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture has assured us to introduce a Bill. We want to get that Bill introduced in time so that we can discuss it properly and adopt it unanimously. So that we can safeguard the interest of agriculture, farmers and national interests.

We are still backward in certain fields. We were lagging behind in the production of pulses and oil seeds. But we have improved our position to some extent after we put some emphasis on their production. The cotton was fetching genuine prices to farmers this time, but due to the Dunkel's GATT agreement cotton was imported. The agriculture produce was imported. Is it proper that our farmers are not given genuine price of their produce. Ensuring genuine prices to them through our price control policy or our Public Distribution System and instead of this foreign goods and surplus American goods are being imported through European common market. It will prove a very dangerous policy.

Even if the Hon'ble Minister of Finance and the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture regret it, the loss cannot be made up. We can follow Family Planning Programme, but no policy has been evolved in the family planning which may ask to withdraw a 15 year child. Such a grown up child is being presented in the form of the Dunkel's proposal, and it cannot be withdrawn.

I, therefore, would like to submit that our Hon'ble colleague has merely paved way for such improper things by introducing the Agriculture Price Policy Bill. But we want that the Government may introduce such a Bill which is worth deliberation. Comprehensively and by which interest of farmers can be protected.

There is still immense possibility to boost agriculture production. Water is an important resources and there are enough opportunities for its exploitation but some hindrances are being faced in this regard. There are persons who do not want construction of Tehri and Narmada Dams. Both Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat are at logger-heads in this regard as if there is no sanctity of the entity called 'Bharat' and there are only individual States. People advocating the cause of tribals want that they should continue to live in jhonpris and not concrete houses, devoid of electricity so that they continue to backward. In fact they do not want the tribals to become modern. People pleading such things could be sincere and honest but still the country has to progress. I submit that integrated price policy should be formulated for improving the lot of the farmers.

It has been said by hon. Members that hon. Minister of Agriculture should pay more emphasis on land reforms with regard to land ceiling and share cropping. If it is so, then I am happy. He should fix target of one year for implementing these and implement the same within one year period. Man power is our national asset. We have 90 lakh strong labour force. I would like to submit that greater emphasis should be laid on production. Alongwith agriculture extra planned productive activities should be started to fully utilise this manpower.

In the presence of both the hon. Ministers of Agriculture and Finance, I would like to submit that cheap means could be evolved in the country by developing appropriate indigenous techniques. There is a person called Rampriti Pandit who has developed pipe made of clay under the brand name of Prabhakar potteries. About 12-14 years back i.e. in

[Shri Bhogendra Jha]

1982-83, around 30 such tubewells were installed in the vicinity of Masaur Chowk in Darbhanga district and these are functioning quite satisfactorily. Even iron gets rusted but clay never gets rusted. If this technique is adopted then cost will come down five times. This technique was implemented and adopted in two districts and some grant was also given but later on it was abruptly changed. At present, the Government of Bihar is not agreeable to it because in the iron deals probably crores of rupees as commission could be got.

17.00 hrs.

However, commission in clay products is not possible. Number of clay tubewells or big tubewells could be increased five times in the country. Therefore, the Government should go in for such tubewells. I am prepared to render all the required assistance in the matter of improvement. This will totally bring about transformation in the country. The person engaged in this task does not have sufficient capital to take such risk.

Similarly, I would like to make a submission about an agricultural produce, which is not grown on other places. In my area it is known as 'Rahriya-Seem and Vokula'. This is grown in Mithila region of North Bihar. I got a study conducted in this regard from Agriculture University, Ludhiana and Agricultural Research Institute. They have sent the study report too. It is better than Soyabean in many respects but unfortunately, it has not been imported from USA. I submit that if its cultivation is undertaken then production cost will be very low. For the last two years I have undertaken its cultivation in my kitchen garden of the residence allotted to me as MP. Produc-

tion cost is low and yield is more. Likewise cultivation of 'Makhana' is also undertaken on largescale in my area. This also is not cultivated in other regions of the country. It is a very protein rich food. 'Makhana' sells at R. 50 per kilo in my area. However in Bombay and Madras, its selling price is Rs. 100-125 per kg. and in USA it is Rs. 2500 per kg. Its cultivation is not an easy task. Persons engaged in its cultivation have to sow the seed in deep water. It is a unique commodity and therefore, I urge that its cultivation should be undertaken on a large scale. Experts in its cultivation could be engaged for starting the cultivation in other areas too. 'Makhana' is not cultivated anywhere else in the world. I would like to submit that a rosary of 'Makhanas' was presented to Krushchev by a Minister when he visited India. There are some things from which much benefits could be derived through less expenditure and a little bit of modernisation. I submit to the hon. Minister of Finance who always talks about foreign exchange crunch that huge amount of foreign exchange could be earned from the export of 'Makhana' as it is not grown anywhere else in the world except India. Probably Indian soil is more suitable for its cultivation. Therefore, I submit that if not everywhere atleast in some areas its cultivation could be undertaken.

The hon. Minister of Agriculture should himself introduced a Bill in the House regarding the new price policy to make agriculture a profitable profession so that the agriculturists may not think it to be a non too profitable profession as it is being thought about at present. Persons owning even 10-15 acres of land crave for service and try to dispose off land to lead a prosperous life. It is not easy to sell lands and since there is no interest left in agriculture, so nothing is happening. Therefore, lands remain un-

cultivated. In this scenario, I would like to submit that an integrated price policy to take care of the interests of the agricultural labourers should be adopted to avoid conflict between the interests of the rural and urban people because consumers live in both the areas. Only the middlemen at present reap all the benefits without putting in any efforts or investments. These middlemen traders take loans from the banks as per the directions of the hon. Minister of Finance, Dr. Manmohan Singh. These middlemen traders with bank loans, procure agricultural crops at throw away prices and store them in bank godowns produce of farmers gets stocked in godowns. Consumers cannot go to the godowns directly. That's why the demand and supply theory propounded by the economist Adam Smith becomes operative when prices shot up, these traders mint lot of money, by releasing stocks from godowns. Moreover, Government is going to accept Dunkel proposal so that the middlemen may amass more money. So, for no efforts and pains they are becoming millionaires. The hon. Minister of Finance has paid no attention till now towards the interests of the farmers, who have been left on the mercy of the big capitalists. In this context, I urge adoption of an integrated price policy and a integrated agricultural policy so as to compete with others. With these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for this opportunity. I am very happy that this House is getting another opportunity to discuss the problems of the farmers about which this Government is very much concerned and is very much committed.

Sir, this Bill is being brought before this House by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. I congratulate him because I support the spirit of this Bill, the idea behind this Bill but whether such a Bill is necessary in view of the steps the Government is going to take will be explained by the Agricultural Minister. Anyway, it is very good and it is very happy to note that even the BJP is concerned about the farmers' problems, even though most of the time they used to oppose the farmers' interests in the name of GATT and other things. When the farmers are getting opportunity even such leaders like Shri Bhogendra Jha are also having a lot of confusion about the farmers' opportunities which they are going to get because of GATT.

When political issues are overtaken most of the friends who are thinking at least occasionally about the farmers' interests, they forget the farmers' interests and they go as per political slogans. Anyway this has brought certain vital issues before the consideration of this House and I hope that the hon. Agricultural Minister who is a supporter and protector of the farmers' interests in this country will definitely take note of these things which are being brought before this House in the form of this Bill.

Sir, fixation of the agricultural prices in the existing system definitely needs overhauling. It needs some change because India is an agricultural country; from State to State different kinds of agricultural produce are being produced in large quantities and this country and the world is proud of Indian farmers who produced 180 million tonnes of food-grains this year. Whatever the prophets of doom have been campaigning in this country and in spite of the failing monsoon, the farmers of this country under the able leadership and support of this

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

Government could make wonders and they could produce record foodgrain production in this country. This is something unique in the whole world. Farmers in this country definitely need encouragement and there problems are to be understood in the right perspective. I am sure that this Government, the Agricultural Ministry and the hon. Agriculture Minister will not fail to understand their problems. Sir, because of inherent problems in the system, their problems are not being understood properly. I would like to highlight these things only taking a few minutes.

I come from a State which is producing cash crops in large quantities. We are not producing food grains but cash crops. My friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala was explaining about one or two items.

We are producing cardamom. The largest quantity of cardamom in the country is being produced by the Karala State but we are not able to get international price of cardamom most of the time because it is also produced in Guatemala and other countries where productivity is more and this cardamom is smuggled through Nepal and other big borders of India. It is coming to the country and the Indian cardamom price is being slashed. So the remunerative price for the farmers is a big problem. Of course, I know this problem is dealt with in Commerce, Finance and other Ministries also. But the fact remains that the Indian cardamom grower is not getting remunerative price.

Same is the case of clove farmers. I come from the Central part of Kerala where people took this new form of cultivation.

When they started clove cultivation some ten years ago one kilogramme of clove was getting Rs. 400. The ruling price now is Rs. 80 per kg! It has become totally unremunerative. What can the farmers do? The situation is that we are producing hardly what is enough for the country. If there is a small quantity which is brought to this country through clandestine methods, or smuggling across the borders, the produce in the whole country gets affected. The prices are slashed and the farmers suffer. We have made representations and the Minister of Agriculture was very sympathetic to us. He had asked the Ministry to prepare a note to examine how to help the clove farmers. They are on the verge of perishing. They cannot sustain for long. In the last two or three years almost continuously their produce has been attracting a very low and unremunerative price and they are not able to sustain. The farmers are not people with resources or reserves and with one crop or two crops if they cannot get a remunerative price they suffer a lot. This is happening to the cloves Kerala is producing.

Shri Ramesh Chennithala has explained about rubber also. Whatever price is there, that is fixed by the industry. The farmers are not getting a remunerative price. The Rubber Board which is the nodal agency as far as the industry is concerned had recommended a price. Shri Ramesh Chennithala is a Member of that Board also. They went and visited and recommended a price. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture is not exactly concerned. The Commerce Ministry also is involved in it. But it is basically an agriculture problem. The price paid for the rubber is a totally unremunerative price.

What is the price of a tyre? What is the component of rubber used by the

rubber industry? What is the *modus operandi*? The industry is not paying the farmer what is due to him. That is the problem. So, rubber is not getting a remunerative price in the country.

The same thing is happening with coconut also. The hon. Minister is very considerate. The Chief Minister had spoken to him about this and one or two conferences were held where detailed discussions took place. The Agricultural Prices Commission was not at all realistic. They have recommended a price which is not realistic, to the Ministry.

The price of fried copra is fixed at Rs. 2150 per quintal. I am very much grateful to the hon. Minister and I would like to thank him on behalf of the Kerala coconut farmers as he had raised the price by Rs. 75. But even this price of Rs. 2,225 per quintal is totally unremunerative and the coconut farmer is facing a crisis the type of which he had faced never before.

All these products, like cardamom, cloves, rubber and coconut show that the farmers in Kerala even though they are producing spices and cash crops, they are not getting remunerative prices.

So, as suggested in this Bill by the hon. Member, there are certain factors which are never taken into consideration. I am not blaming the Ministry of Agriculture. Whoever is the existing agency for making the recommendations is only making stereo-typed recommendations. Every year it is being done. One point is, the increase in the cost of production should be taken into account. The farmers are paying more for the fertiliser, more for pesticides, and for the labour, though I welcome more being paid for labour. All these aspects where the prices are going up, the increase in the

inputs, the increase in the raw materials have to be considered. When these are not taken into account the farmer is at a loss. A remunerative price is not fixed.

Sir, now the Indian farmers are going to get good prices in the world. We are very proud about that, Whatever they may say, or block the roads or disturb Parliament, or raise bogus slogans, it is true that the Indian farmer is getting a very big opportunity. Because, we know what the prices of agricultural products in other countries are. When we go to the markets of other countries, when we go to buy some fruits or any agricultural products, we know the price. What is the Indian farmer paying there? What is the global price? We are hopeful to get a good price. Here is an opportunity for Indian farmers to get a good price.

But whoever is going to oppose that, that is not going to stand and the farmers of this country will welcome that. I am sure that the Government is thinking of bringing forward a total comprehensive legislation to help the farmers in sorting out this problem.

I do not think, it is necessary for this House to pass this Bill for the time being. But the idea mooted through this Bill should be recognised and should be considered by the Government because the farmers not only in foodgrains but also in cash crops and many other areas are being deprived and exploited and at their cost intermediaries or middlemen or industry or wherever the value added process is taking place, they are all getting profits.

The farmer, who is toiling in the field, is the real asset of the country and is the backbone of this country. If the farmer is deprived of his share and at his cost if somebody is allowed to pocket

[Shri P.C. Chacko]

something, then that is unethical and immoral and the Government should not allow that.

The idea behind this Bill is very good and I appreciate that. I congratulate Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat for that. But taking into account the issues that are raised in this Bill. I hope that this Government will definitely, in the post GATT situation, when it is thinking of bringing forward a comprehensive legislation to help the farmers, take into account all these aspects.

With these words I wind up while supporting the essence of this Bill and requesting the Government to take into account all these aspects.

[*Translation*]

DR. P.R. GANGWAR (Pilibhit): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is an agricultural country and 80 per cent of its population depends upon agriculture. We wish that agricultural production should increase in the country but farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce. Therefore, the farmers are worried.

17.18 hrs

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Bill brought by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat. I would like to say that our farmers have small land holdings whereas American farmers have big farms and are getting remunerative prices for their produce. Agriculture, in our country, is not making the required progress as the farmers are getting low price for agricultural produce. India cannot progress unless the agricul-

ture is developed and the farmers make progress. Farmers cannot store their produce due to their poverty. They have to sell it immediately at low price to buy the essential commodities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as per Government policy the foodgrains from the farmers should be purchased through sales counters opened by the Government but these counters are either not opened or if they are opened, they buy foodgrains from commission agents with the result that the poor farmers all unable to sell their produce. Sometimes, when farmers launch an agitation then they are given 2 or 4 rupees more per quintal and that too goes waste. Labour also charges Rs. 6-7 per bag from the farmers and thus farmers incur loss in this respect also. Employees in the grain markets also prohibit farmers from carrying their produce to other markets for selling. My suggestion is that the farmers should be given freedom in this respect but at present it is not so. I would like to say that price should be fixed before the harvest. Remunerative prices should be fixed on the basis of cost incurred on seeds, fertilizers, water, pesticides etc. You may not include the cost of labour but remunerative price should be fixed on the basis of the cost incurred by the farmer. As I have said earlier also, we have a large number of middlemen and the foodgrains of these agents is weighed first and not of farmers. Price of sugarcane was raised by Rs 4 per quintal this year or last year but as the same time price of sugar was also raised by Rs 2. per k.g. 9 to 10 kilograms of sugar can be prepared from one quintal of sugarcane. Thus the price of sugar was raised by Rs. 20 per quintal, which mean that you gave Rs 4 per quintal only to the farmers but industrialists get Rs. 20. Ultimately farmers suffer due to such wrong policies. I would like to say that

the existing policy is a wrong policy. You have raised the prices of other commodities by Rs. 4.35 whereas the prices of wheat and rice have been raised by Rs. 3.3. It is injustice. I would like to tell that earlier the cost of sugarcane production was Rs. 45 per quintal which has escalated today to Rs. 179 per quintal. But we are not getting the remunerative prices whereas cost has increased.

Just now Ms. Mamta Banerjee was saying that Congress Government had given a lot of relief to farmers but I would like to say that even today farmers are not getting remunerative prices, for their produce. Moreover, the land on which our farmers used to make salt for foreign companies has now been handed over to those companies. Farmers staged Satyagraha and were on strike on this issue but the Government paid no heed to it. Those farmers are on the verge of unemployment. Kargil company has acquired 25% right on sunflower seeds. How our farmers will be benefited by it? Ms. Mamta Banerjee also mentioned about GATT. Our Minister has also said, that we will be out of GATT if we do not accept their conditions within a period of six months. I would like to tell that farmers produce foodgrains but according to the Dunkel proposals, farmers will not be permitted to use seeds produced by him and it will be essential for the farmers to buy seeds from those companies. There is also a provision for imprisonment for three years with a fine of Rs. 10,000, if the seed is of inferior quality. Moreover, we will have to import 3.3% of our total agriculture produce. According to our present total production, we have to import 60 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Our farmers produce foodgrains in such a large quantity that it is exported after fulfilling our requirements. Then what will happen to our agricultural production? Who will buy it?

At present, the prices of potato and tomato seeds are Rs. 300 per kg in our country but we have to buy this seed at the rate of Rs. 15 thousand per kilogram from foreign companies from where this money will come? Hon. Minister of Agriculture, is really more learned person and has many acres of land but we are small farmers, He has large holdings, more than one thousand acres but in a country like ours, 80 per cent of the farmers have small land holdings and they will suffer. And time may come when we will again become economically dependent.

With these words I conclude and support the proposal brought by Rawatji regarding the Agricultural Produce Price Fixation Authority Bill.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, sir, I fully support the Bill presented in the House. I know that the Minister of Agriculture cares for the welfare of farmers. In his statements he repeatedly assures to solve the problems of farmers but I could not understand why farmers do not have their say in fixing the price of their produce for which they labour hard day and night in winter, rainy season and summer season, whereas on the other hand, the prices of goods produced by other people are fixed by the producers themselves. The farmer is the only class in the country whose production is sole through auction in the market while other goods are not auctioned in this manner. It is very unfortunate for the farmers. Gradually land holdings are becoming smaller and uneconomical due to division of land. There is a need for radical change in Agriculture policy so that small farmers could be benefited.

Several charges have been levelled against the Agriculture Minister and

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

I have the proof with me. We see the newspapers which say that announcements made by the Agriculture Minister are hollow. I would like to draw your attention towards a news published in "Nai Duniya" which says that principle enunciated by Agriculture Minister that farmers should be compensated for the increase in the cost of agricultural production is dangerous. This principle does not apply to any other sectors. Dearness allowance cannot be considered as compensation for price rise.

If this principle is implemented by the salaried class will be adversely affected the revenue of the Government. I am unable to understand how for this is correct because the prices of goods produced by other sectors also have effect on the price hike and inflation. The increase in the prices of diesel and petroleum products, will definitely increase the prices of other goods. I do not agree with it that there will be inflation if the support prices of agricultural produce are increased. I would like to say that while replying to this question, the Agriculture Minister should clarify the point as to how the interests of the farmers will be protected by making an increase in the support price of agricultural products and its negative impact on the market, and how you have come to this conclusion that this is the only reason of price rise. (*Interruptions*) I am mentioning the same charge which has been levelled against you and which has not been contradicted by you anywhere. The poor farmer produces paddy from the land and remains worried as he has to depend upon the nature. Farmer becomes happy and prosperous if there is enough rain. Otherwise if there is drought, he rushes to seek help. Recently in my constituency, crops were destroyed by cold wave and farmers rushed

to you for relief. After all, why the farmers face all these difficulties. What is the support price? Support price is the price fixed for his produce on the basis of the cost incurred by him. But he gets less price for his produce than the cost incurred by him. I am not talking about the remunerative price; our farmers do not get it. Had farmers been given remunerative price, today, the price of wheat would have been fixed at Rs. 600-700 instead of the present price Rs. 320.

He has not been given even the cost incurred by him. The rate of electricity has been increased by about 38 per cent, prices of edible oils have risen by 22 per cent and the price of diesel etc. have risen by 20 per cent similarly, prices of other things have also risen enormously. In the light of increase in the cost of agricultural inputs, the support prices are quite insufficient. For one thing you have increased Rs. 5 and for other it is Rs. 20. Prices of sugarcane have been increased by Rs. 10 per quintal but sugar mills have paid Rs. 70. 80 and 90 per quintal for sugarcane in open market. You know this very well. In proportion to the increase in the rates of electricity, fertilizers chemical pesticides and thrashers, it would have been better if the Government had increased the prices of agricultural produce by 50 per cent. But you have not increased and I am pained.

I agree to the point that an Authority should be constituted for fixing the prices as has been proposed in the Bill under consideration. The Bill says that the chairman of the proposed authority would be appointed by the Centre but he should be a qualified person so far agriculture is concerned. What is your objection to it? This authority should have one member from every State and Union Territory, one representative each from Agriculture, Chemical and Fertilizer Mini-

stries, four representatives from Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to be appointed by the Central Government, representatives of labourers, to be appointed by the Government, four representatives of farmers and six members of the Parliament. I would like to know what objection you have to this proposal?

What your Agriculture Price Commission is doing? Its officials prepare report sitting in Krishi Bhavan. In the fields, it is possible that one farmer may suffers loss due to cold wave and other may not; two farmers may suffer from the hailstorms and four may remain unharmed but the affected farmers will not be compensated under the Group Insurance Scheme which you have introduced. Because the compensation is paid only for 50 or 60 per cent damage of crops. This is the rule but if a single farmer is ruined, he is not given any compensation. Why are you not introducing the individual crop insurance scheme, so that farmer may insure the crop as he desires. You are not accepting it. I, therefore request you to accept the demand regarding constitution of Agriculture Produce Price Fixation Authority and implement it at the earliest.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, some more points have been mentioned in this Bill. It says that expenditure incurred by farmers on the inputs should be kept in mind while fixing the prices. I come from Mandsaur area which produces opium. Sir, you have visited this area. You have laid foundation stones of several schemes in that area. Sir, the daily wages of the labourers engaged in opium farming has risen upto Rs. 40 to 50., though it is said that these are still low but at the time of wheat harvest, the daily wages are generally paid at the rate of Rs. 25-30. In the same way higher labour charges have to be paid for the crops of 'Urad'

and soyabean. And thus, farmers are not getting even the cost incurred by them on these crops.

In the beginning, soyabean was sold at Rs. 1200 per quintal, after some-time it used to be sold at Rs. 800 but presently, its rate is Rs. 700 per quintal. In the same way, in the beginning, the rate of cumin seed was at Rs. 1000 per quintal which came down to Rs. 800 per quintal but at present it is being sold at Rs. 300 per quintal. These ups and downs ruin the farmers economically. Just now the hon. Chairman was saying that the crop of cardamom is grown in his area and for these crops, the farmers have to depend totally on the market. They do not get any opportunity to balance themselves economically. They do not get opportunity to prosper. The small farmers cannot prosper.

There are people who have acquired 500 acres of land in the name of their near relatives. People who own large areas of land are benefited. The Government also gives encouragement to those people. All Government schemes are aimed at benefiting the big shots and small farmers receive no benefits.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill gives an account of expenditure made by farmers on farming, seeds, chemical fertilizers, wages and on reaping and sowing etc. In addition they have to take loan for agricultural purposes.

The co-operative societies provide loans at 13-14 per cent interest. When loan is not available from these societies, the farmer has to take loans at 20 per cent interest from the market which overburdens him monetarily. The farmer will be benefited if all these factors are kept in mind while fixing the prices of agricultural produces.

[Dr. Laxminarayan Pandeya]

The farmer sells his produce in the open market. The Government had also said that they will fix support price for open market. On the contrary it asked the Cotton Corporation of India to make purchases.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: The time allotted is over, it was up to 5.35 p.m. Now five more Members would like to participate in this discussion. If the House agrees, we may allow them to speak.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): Initially, three hours were allotted. It was extended by one hour more. In all fairness, it will be justified, if the hon. Minister is asked to reply. Again, the Member has to reply back.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am thankful to the Minister for pointing out this. But this being an important issue, I would suggest that if the House agrees, we can allow four more Members.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): This is a very important subject and we would like to speak on this.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: I have no objection provided it is completed today.

MR CHAIRMAN: I would request the Members to the very brief.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzafferpur): After completion of this Bill, I hope I will be permitted to just move my Bill today for consideration.

Once this discussion is over, I may be allowed to move the Bill so that it comes on the 6th May for consideration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If we can finish the other discussion before 6 O'clock, we can take it.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I would like to draw your attention to the storage need of the farmer for which proper ware-houses are not available to him many times. He is, therefore, compelled to sell his produce at throw away prices in the market. I would like that ware-housing facilities should be provided to the farmers at different places. Though, the Central Warehousing Corporation has for the past some time made arrangements for storing their produce but it is very less. Therefore, attention should also be paid to this aspect.

The Bill provides that the farmer can sell his produce in the open market but in case he fails to do so, the Central Government should procure it at fixed prices through the Food Corporation of India.

It is regretted that whenever the question of giving a subsidy to the farmer arises, it is said that it is difficult to give such grants while the hon. Minister of Agriculture assured that if grant is not given, the farmers would be supplemented in some other way.

I would like to cite an example. prices of other commodities are controlled by the prices of agriculture produce. At present, there is a need to check prices of agricultural commodities. Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. We will face dire consequenc-

es of destroying this bone under the pressure of International Monetary Fund. An Indian farmer receives a grant of only 4 US dollars per annum while an American and a Japanese farmer gets 32 dollars and the farmers of the European community receive 82 dollars as grant.

I am citing this example from an article of 'Nai Dunia'.

This should be pondered over seriously. There should be a provision to grant subsidy to the Indian farmer in regard to chemical fertilizers and other cases.

An hon. Member was just now saying that the Bharatiya Janata Party is not the patron of the farmers. I think that most of the BJP members come from real rural areas, the agricultural areas. I come from an area totally dominated by the farmers. The Bharatiya Janata Party is the real well wisher of the farmers what is the condition of farmers there, today. Cumin, Asagandha, Shatawari, Sugar-cane, Soyabean and Sunflower are grown there still the condition of an ordinary farmer is not as good as it should have been.

I welcome the provision of this Bill in regard to support price. It envisages that the authority should be made so powerful and effective as to protect the interests of the farmers and make small and marginal farmers feel protected. The prices of many commodities fluctuate and the farmers face hardship. At times, the prices of garlic register a steep fall Rs. 50% per quintal from Rs. 150 per quintal and at other times it makes a quantum jump upto Rs. 3000 per quintal. This throws the farmer into troubled waters. There is a need to announce its

support price to the farmers in advance. By that, the farmer will prepare himself to face any eventuality and it will be beneficial for his family as well and make him capable of strengthening the country's economy. I hope that the Government will pay due attention to it, take it seriously and accept the Bill. The Government as well as this Bill aim at safeguarding the interests of the farmers. I would, once again, impress that this Bill should be accepted. I support it once again.

*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palakkad): Mr. Chairman, I am happy that this Bill has given us an opportunity to discuss the problems of our farmers. India is an agricultural country and agriculture is the backbone of our economy. If the interests of our farmers are not protected, then agriculture will suffer and the economy will be ruined. The present Bill seeks to create an Authority to fix remunerative price for the farmers produce. Sir, the most important issue is fixing a remunerative price for the various crops. The price the farmer gets today is not remunerative at all. It does not even cover the cost of production. The cost of all inputs has gone up phenomenally over the years, but that is not fully taken into account while fixing the prices of agricultural commodities. Mr. Chairman and my friend Shri Ramesh Chennithala have already spoken about it in detail. So I do not want to go into any details. But the fact is that the farmer has no right to fix the price of his produce. The price of fertilizer is fixed by the factories which produce it. The prices of agricultural implements are fixed by the manufacturers. But the farmer has no freedom fix the price of the crops he grows.

* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

[Shri V.S. Vijayaraghavan]

Sir, when India became independent, we had 35 crores of people and we were not able to provide even one time meal to our people. We were importing foodgrains from America and other countries. But thanks to the hardwork of our farmers and the inventive genius of our scientists and the correct policy approach of the Government, today we have achieved self-sufficiency in food production. Our population has reach almost 900 million but we have enough food grain to feed them. The farmers contribution in the attainment of self-sufficiency is the most significant. But his interest is not fully protected.

I am coming from Kerala and Kerala derives its name from 'KERA' which means coconut. Coconut is the backbone of Kerala's economy. Sir, the coconut growers of Kerala are facing a serious crisis today due to the steep fall in its price. Coconut is subjected to wild fluctuations in the markets because of persistent demands. The Government has fixed a support price. But it is quite inadequate to say the least. The coconut growers are demanding a reasonable support price, But nothing is being done by the Government. I am sure, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister who is present here, will take care of the interests of the farmers. He is an experienced farmer himself. He is fully aware of there needs and he supports them. Shri Jhakhar was the Speaker of this House for ten long years and he used to give priority to issues relating to the farmers in the House. So, I am sure that the interests of farmers are safe in his hands.

Sir, I do not want to go in to any details. My friends have already spoken at length. I strongly feel that a foolproof mechanism should be devised to provide

remunerative prices to the farmers. He has to pay higher power charges. He has to pay higher water charges. In the Ayacut areas, the farmers have to pay for water whether the water is available or not. So much so, that he has to pay even higher charges for water drawn from the tanks and rivers which are under the control of the Government. Now, this should change. So, my demand is that the Government should evolve a suitable mechanism to fix remunerative prices for the farmers produce. This Bill in the present form may not be adequate. But the Government itself should come forward with suitable proposals very soon. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Agricultural Produce Prices Fixation Authority Bill presented by Shri Bhagwan Shankar Rawat.

In fact, India is primarily an agricultural country and 80 per cent of its population is dependent on agriculture, one way or the other. First of all, I would like to pay my obeisance to the farmers. A poet has rightly said — '*Sheet kampta jiske bhaya se, aatap thankda pad jata hai, liye phawada path par aata, warsha se voh kya darta hai.*'

Our Purans make a mention of moving Shiva and it is, in fact, in an Indian farmer that we can have a direct view of a moving Shiva. As Shiva can be easily appeased, he bestows to other any boons demanded of him. He himself does not eat good food, or wear good clothes but sacrifices everything for his country and countrymen. In Vedas, it is said *Krishi meeth Krishaswa—i.e. oh man, you are a farmer, do farming and maa akshaima divya—do not take to gambling.* That was the message for man and since

then agriculture is continuously moving ahead on the path of progress in this country. Fortunately, today we have achieved self sufficiency in agriculture. On this occasion, I am reminded of late Lal Bahadur Shastri. India's dormant self esteem was awakened when America threatened, in order to mount pressure on us, that it would not supply wheat under PL 480. Then late Lal Bahadur Shastri gave the slogan, 'Jai jawan' 'Jai kisan' and make an appeal to one and all of his countryman to observe fast on Monday every week and take meals once a day. He also advised people to use vacant land around their houses for producing crops so that our food problem is over. The self-respect of the Indian farmer was shaken and he made efforts in the direction of making the country self-sufficient. Green revolution was brought about in this country by the efforts of the contemporary Government and other agencies. As a result, we are, today, totally self-sufficient in the matter to food. Still, Sir, I would like to say, through you, that the most talked about Dunkel is a slur on the face of this country. On the one hand, we have the salaried bureaucracy or the organised union availing the dearness allowance, the interim relief. They have the Pay Commission, Earned leave and various other facilities, the LTC the pension and gratuity. But a poor farmer, after producing crops expects a remunerative price in return but does not get it. Through you, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture to announce support prices prior to reaping season of crops so that the farmer may continue to make efforts for increasing production on the basis of support price. Then we take agricultural decisions and fix cost prices etc. While sitting in the air-conditioned rooms of Krishi Bhawan. Such teams on Members of such commissions should, at times, take agricul-

ture related decisions only after sitting among the farmers, talking to them and assessing the ground realities. I was saying that employees and their salaries least affected by famines. Heavy rains, hailstorms, droughts, storms, tempests etc. do not effect on the organised unions. All their demands are concealed to but when a poor farmer witnesses with own eyes that his blooming crops are being destroyed by a hailstorms or a tempests he loses everything and all his labour goes waste, he must be compensated for it. We have the crop insurance scheme in the country, but some states have adopted it while others have not.

I do not consider crop insurance scheme to be a success because its position is very deplorable in the country.

Farmers are not compensated under it. They are faced with power failures and burning of motors and all these problems are artificially created for them. I would, therefore, like to say, through you, that the Government should accept this Bill whole-heartedly because it provides for setting up an Agricultural Produce Prices Fixation Authority and the Constitution thereof. Its Chairman will be appointed by the Central Government who should be a well versed and experienced agriculturist. It will also be represented by a member each from a State Government and the Union Territory administration and from the Union Agriculture Ministry and Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

In addition, there would be four representatives from the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, one representative of agricultural labourers and 6 Members of Parliament.

Sir, it is not a matter of difference of opinion but a matter of the interest

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

of the farmers. It is a matter of the interest of 80 per cent population of this country. It concerns all whether it is a marginal, small or big farmer. Therefore, I would request that the Government must pay attention to it and fix the prices of crops after taking into consideration all the factors that have been suggested so that they can get remunerative price for their produce which would help further them to lead a comfortable and happy life.

Sir, the farmer of India is born in debt, lives in debt and also dies in debt. It is said about our budget.

[English]

"Indian Budget is the gambling of the monsoon."

[Translation]

Farmer is the worst hit by famine and excessive rain. Therefore, it is essential to provide facilities to the farmers. In the event of natural calamity, he should be duly compensated so that he could gather courage to put up a brave front to such calamities. It is ironical that the price of his produce is determined by the Government. I would request that keeping in view the hard labour of a farmer and all other factors he should be given remunerative price of his produce.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): Sir, I am going to speak in Kannada.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: But no translation is available.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please speak in English;

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: I will speak in English Sir.

Sir, our farmers have to depend on the vagaries of nature. The farmers have become intelligent enough today to decide as to which crop they have to switchover. But this should not be the case because experience has shown us that if you stick on to a particular crop, you will be able to get a better yield. Now if the farmer does not get proper prices, the farmer is forced the change the crop.

18.00 hrs.

For example in our State farmers have switched over to cocoa. When the prices fall down, that would destroy the entire cocoa plantation. We are landing in the same situation as far as coconut is concerned. The prices of coconut shot up like anything at one time. For example in Delhi we were paying a price of Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 a coconut at a time when we were paying around Rs. 5 to Rs. 8 there. But now the price of coconut has come down to Rs. 2 a coconut and in Delhi we are paying Rs. 7 to Rs. 8 a coconut. This has made our farmers think whether they should go in for coconut cultivation also. Many people were depending on coconut. Especially people in Kerala and coastal Karnataka are heavily depending on coconut. The price of coconut is falling. The same thing happened with sugarcane. When by and large the sugarcane prices are falling down the farmers feel if we grow sugarcane we will not get a good price, okay, we will switch over to some other crop. This year because the production was low, farmers have again switched over to sugarcane and there will be a surplus.

It is a cycle which goes on and on, one year the farmers will lose and another year they will gain. For this we need a proper and through law. The country has to decide how much we have to grow each crop. In a country like India it is very difficult. I know as a practical farmer it is very difficult in a country like India to tell the farmer that this is the crop you have to grow. But my point is if the farmer knows that whatever crop he grows he is going to get a definite price through which he could sustain, then we can tell the farmer that look, here is a crop you grow and whatever is the loss or profit we will try to help you out. But it is a very difficult proposition that I am making. It is necessary in a country like ours if we have to support the farmer.

There is an interesting thing. In villages we see a lot of traders. When they enter the village they come as practically paupers. But within a couple of years you see how they flourish. But the farmers still live in debt. So there should be a change of the living condition of the farmer. He has to send his children to school; he has to give them proper education and health care. For this he needs a definite change in his living condition.

We have to tackle farming in various ways. I come from a district where there are a number of rivers where the water is continuously flowing into the sea. If we can impound this much of water and we are able to utilise it, then we are able to grow a better crop. Now our effort is to have dams. But, for big dams a lot of money is required and large areas of and will go under water. So in order to avoid this situation, if we are able to have small barrages at a run off say ten kilometers all over, then I think this water could be properly utilised and we will have a better farming in many of the

coastal districts, whether it is the west coast or the east coast in our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat for a minute. The extended time was up to 6.02 p.m. The time is over. If the House agrees we will extend the time of the House for another half an hour and finish the discussion today. The Hon. Agriculture Minister has been patiently listening to the discussions and he may want to intervene. So we can finish this Resolution today. I would like to know the sense of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharasha): Mr. Chairman Sir, it is an important matter since it concerns agriculture and farmers. Therefore the time must be extended.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN: The Business Advisory Committee allowed three hours for this discussion. We have already extended it for two more hours. I think in all fairness we should finish it. The extension of the sitting up to 6.30 is fairly good enough and it should be acceptable to all the hon. Members. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will finish it by 6.30 p.m.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: No, Sir. Business Advisory committee to take a decision, but....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no difference on that point. Everybody agrees that this is a very important subject and is why the Minister also has agreed to it even though he has other programmes. So, we will finish this by 6.30 p.m.; and the time of the House is extended upto 6.30 p.m.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Please allow a couple of members who have been left to speak and thereafter let the Agriculture Minister reply to the debate.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is enough time. Now, only one Member has to speak and then, the Minister will reply. We can finish it by 6.30 p.m.; and the time of the House is extended upto 6.30 p.m. Now, Shri Oscar Fernandes may continue his speech.

[English]

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: We have certain crops like potato, onion, apple or fruits. During the season, we do get a big crop coming in and we have to sell it at a throw away price. We do not have sufficient processing facility or proper storage facility. If we have this storage or processing facility, may be, the farmer will be able to get a better price. When we are talking of remunerative prices, we appeal to the hon. Minister that if these kinds of facilities are made available, then, the farmer will be able to get a better price throughout the year rather than selling it at a throw away price.

It happens in the case of fish also. I come from the coastal district and I have seen it on many occasions that we have plenty of fish at times and it was thrown on the road; people were not able to carry it to the cold storages; ice was not available. Similarly there is famine in fish also. At times we have plenty of fish and at times, we have famine in fish with the result the fishermen also have good days and bad days. If we have enough storage facility for storing fish or for storing agricultural produce like fruits and vegetables, I think, the price will stabilise at a particular level and the farmers will benefit.

My ultimate appeal to our Agricultural Minister—he is taking so much interest for the welfare of the farming community—is that he has to see that more facilities are extended to the farmers and a better price is given for farmers.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I heartily support this Bill because the former of this country is helpless. The natural contour of this country is such that although the laws are enacted in the Lok Sabha, no facilities can be given and better prices fixed for the farmers according to these laws. These laws prove to be useful in some parts of the country but in other parts these may be harmful. However, no survey in this regard is done. The result is that one who provides food to us becomes helpless. Although, he produces food, the prices are determined by the money lenders sitting in Delhi. The Hon'ble Minister also fights for that and then it becomes a fight between the money lenders and the Minister. In the meantime, the farmer suffers a huge loss. This

has been happening for the last several years. It is my personal experience. As far as the Hon'ble Minister is concerned, he is very experienced person as well as a farmer. He has great sympathy for the farmers. The Government too has its own problems. Let these problems be studied. I do not say that the study undertaken by the hon. Minister or the incentive he is prepared to give to the farmers, is inadequate. He would agree that the remunerative prices, which the farmers were supposed to get and which he had wished to give them, were not received by them. For instance when the farmer produced more jute, its prices dropped to Rs. 300 per quintal. The farmer thought that growing jute is not remunerative and so he did not grow jute the next year but the prices that year shot upto Rs. 1500 per quintal. What measures would the Government adopt in this regard? Will the big traders determine this also? Until it is in the traders hands, the Government can not give remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. That is why I support this Bill. Many points have been left out in this Bill. But if the Hon'ble Minister agrees to give representation to the representatives from every State, they themselves will determine the prices and it would definitely benefit them to some extent. Now, the hon. Minister is the only ray of hope. When Devi Lalji was in the Government, he had said that he was formulating an Agricultural policy and for this, a board had been set-up. I do not know what happened to that Agricultural Policy? We were hopeful that their Government would certainly work for the better fortune of the farmers but it did not happen. Now, we have expectations from the hon. Minister because he too is a farmer. Everytime, it is the son of a farmer who becomes Agriculture Minister and if the hon. Minister does not pay attention to their grievances, who

else will? Perhaps he is bound by the law. When Shri George Fernandes was the Minister of Railways, he too was bound by the law and inspite of having a desire, he could not accomplish many of the tasks. But to accomplish task the restrictions are required to be done away with and one who does it, becomes the man of the age and earns a name. Therefore, I submit that he should look into it. This House as well as the farmers who constitute 80 per cent of the population of this country are behind him. Although the farmer has made the country self-reliant, but even yet the Government have failed to provide him water, electricity, the facility of transportation and schools for the education of his children. After all the people of this country will not eat gold, silver or jewellery; they need food. The farmer has been rightly compared with lord Shiva who gave food to the people even after drinking poison. I do not understand the reason as to why the Government is hesitating to give the farmers remunerative prices. Without taking much time of the House, I support this Bill with a heavy heart because I have myself grown crops in the field. I have full sympathy for the farmers because of the standing crop is hit by hailstorm or excessive rain, the crop gets destroyed. Now, the Government have said that the farmers would be given some relief after getting the survey conducted through the Life Indusrance Corporation. The Government collects the data from one particular area and take it for granted for the whole country. If there is a cyclone in the South, the Government fixes norms of relief on that basis in the whole country. I think, in this way, the farmer can never become self reliant. If the Government does not show sagacity and this house also does not feel concerned over it, the farmer will adopt the same approach which he is adopting in the

[Shri Surya Narayan Yadav]

case of traders today. The farmer will be compelled to say that he will produce only for himself and not for the consumption of others. As the Government have failed to provide remunerative price of his produce. I request that today, the hon. Minister must speak about this so that the message goes to the farmers that the Government of India have taken a revolutionary step in the interest of farmers. The hon. Minister still seems to be bound by the policies of the Government but today, I say that he should stand up in the House and make a departure from the trodden path. I am confident that the farmer of this country will definitely stand by the Prime Minister.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Hon'ble Members have expressed their individual views here. I think there cannot be any difference opinion because we are aiming at the same objective. We would have to think how could we achieve that objective with the available resources. So far as the question of protection of the interest of the farmers is concerned, we are committed to it and we are taking steps to protect the interests of the farmers. The farmer feeds the nation. He has never betrayed the country. He never indulged in black marketing. On the contrary, he has made sacrifice for the country. He undergoes all kinds of suffering—as goes an alage "only the wearer knows where the shoe pinches". However the occupation of a farmer *i.e.* agriculture is in a state of uncertainty. There may be uncertainty in any field but as Rawatji and some other hon. Members were saying farmer is the worst sufferer in this world. If the seed goes

waste, it is the farmer who suffers. If there is excess rain, if there is hailstorm, if there is a cyclone, if any disease hits the crops in all cases it is the farmer who suffers. If the production is in excess or if there is less production, the farmer becomes the victim of all these uncertainties. He is born to undergo all these sufferings, He has to toil in the cold nights as well as in the scorching heat of summer noons. I am aware of all his sufferings and I am making every possible effort to remove these sufferings so that the farmer of this country can live happily. Today, the situation is such that he has to run towards cities because he does not get good returns in the village. In the cities, he has to live in slums where he is cursed for spreading more dirt. Thus, he becomes a victim on both the counts. There is a solution to his problems. We would have to create such resources which could help in increasing the income of the farmer, creating conditions for him to live in his own village. For this purpose, we shall have to take up construction of schools and hospitals, and providing facilities of electricity and roads etc. In the villages for this, it is necessary that he should be given the due value for his produce.

Today I wanted to say something about the farmers but there is nobody to listen to it. I want the people to understand their sufferings so that the farmer could know that there are these people here who feel sad about his sufferings and who have the capacity to think about his problems. We want to uplift him and he must know about it. I am well acquainted with the points raised by the Members while speaking on this Bill and I am also doing something in that direction. The Members might have seen during the last one and half years that what we have done in this direction. Nobody could think of what we have

done. Whereas previously the Government used to give Rs. 10-25 as increase in procurement price in one year—but now, what we have done for them is before us all. The Hon'ble Prime Minister gave patient hearing to our suggestions and explained to us how to go about it. It is result of that understanding that we give an increase of Rs. 55 twice in the support price. We gave an increase of Rs. 110 in case of paddy and Rs. 250 in case of cotton. Some hon. Members have mentioned about spices, This item was not in our list. It is grown in a small area. Further, its consumption is very low. There are some items like black pepper and coriander, the prices of which are fixed by the CACP. These items are not included in our list. There are only 22 items in this list. We shall try to bring them under the purview of this commission. I know how to bring them under the purview of this commission. Although there is huge production of potato, Yet it goes waste. There are many other vegetables which get perished. About 25 to 30 per cent fruits get perished. Although we produce potato in huge quantity, but due to lack of storage facility it gets perished. We cannot even conserve vegetables and fruits because we do not have the means of transport. In Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, the best quality of apple is produced but before reaching Delhi it becomes tasteless like potato. If it is pre-cooled and transported in an air conditioned vehicle, its taste would be different. You would enjoy its taste and the farmer would also get good price. All these things are in my mind.

In the Seventh Five Year plan, a provision of Rs. 24 crore was made for this purpose. Now I have increased it Rs. 1000 crore. We have provided this much of amount so as to undertake this work. Today, we do not do the work of grading,

packaging, forwarding, transportation, storage and processing. The things work when you do value addition to an item. In foreign countries, 60 per cent of the product is processed but in our country not even 2 per cent processing takes place. That is way, I have started working from the bottom. A farmer plants a rapling of mango, then grafts it and after that he waits for five years to get the fruit. The same is the case with me.

Not that I do not know all these things I know everything. I am equally concerned about them. I can even fight the Almighty God for the sake of farmers. I have demonstrated myself how to produce more, I can exploit to the optimum level but what concerns us is that we do not have resources. We are providing drip and sprinkle irrigation facilities but it could be provided in those areas where are tubewells. How useful it would have been if this kind of irrigation could be done. It is a point worth pondering over.

I went to Israel and saw many areas there. The Agriculture Minister of that country also visited India. He told me that after 10 years from today, potable water would be recycled. We have get enough water. We can save the country by utilising this water. If we are to feed the increasing population, 30 per cent irrigation would not suffice. Every year, two crore people are added in the population. They need bread, clothing, a house and what not. Has anybody given a thought to the fact that the area of the earth does not increase? I, time and again, request in this House to ponder over it. It is a joint task and party affiliations should not come in its way. There should be a consensus how increase in population could be checked.

[Shri Balram Jakher]

China is also entangled in this problem. At present, the population of that country is 112 crore. They were also saying that they are concerned about this problem, though they have adopted one child norm. They give disincentive to the person who produces more than one child. Here, we have yet to adopt that norm. How would it be done then? There can be only one way out that we should irrigate more areas with the water available with us.

I went to Gujarat. There, I told Narmada authorities as well as Chiman Bhai that though they are constructing canals and taking the water into Kutch but the soil of that area is alkaline.

In the Indira Gandhi Canal Command Development Area there was high content of Gypsum in the sub soil. As a result after four years salinity developed and the farmers were ruined. If this water was used by a country like Israel it could have transformed the country. If you go for drip irrigation, you will be able to irrigate at least three acres of land instead of one acre. No doubt, it is a costly affair but the investment can be covered up within 2 years period. The consumption of fertilizers will go down by 50 per cent and the production will increase from 10 maund to 15 maund in a acre of land. I have told them that whatever dams and canals are built by them it is the Central Government which ultimately bears such expenses. If the farmer is ready to bear the 50 per cent of expenses and the Centre bears the rest 50 per cent, it can do wonders. If you want to safeguard the future of the farmers the reconstruction of the existing canals will have to be undertaken. I am providing funds for this purpose from my

budget at present. I have advised you not to put any limit in this regard as you have already fixed a limit on the farmers for this purpose. Let him give the amount whatever he wants to. It is his courage that he is giving subsidy to us. This would open a new chapter in the history.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Kindly explain this new chapter.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: If we change the irrigation system and adopt drip irrigation system we will be able to irrigate two and half acre of land instead of one acre and the production of one acre land will increase from 10 maunds to 15 mounds. In case of fruit and vegetable crops we will be able to irrigate 3 acres of land instead of one acre with the same amount of water and as a result thereof the expenditure will come to 50 per cent.

I visited the fields of a farmer. He gets 12 thousand cubic meter water in a year for which he has to pay an amount of Rs. 1 lakh but even then he earns lakhs of rupees. We are making efforts to improve the situation. The only thing which is needed for this is the will to work. Some Members have demanded to open more Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Nobody can be more eager than I am. Unless we teach them how can things improve. Shri Surya Narayan will ask, that if the Government can do it in the area of Shri Bhogendra Jha then why the same cannot be done in his area? When I used to be the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, at that time I made electricity available in 4650 villages in the 6 months period. Earlier it was a matter of ridicule only. There were poles in the villages but there was no electricity. I did it within six months.

I would like to tell you about Rajarampur village of Bihar. Agriculture was not taken up there seriously as there was saline water. Only during rainy seasons they used to get sweet water in the rivulets. Now instead of 7 tonne in an acre of land they are able to produce 60 tonnes. Seeds costing Rs. 15,000 per quintal were sown by farmers in that area. These seeds were provided by an American firm. The farmers do not lack knowledge. The only minus point is that ours is a big and vast country. Moreover we believe in democracy. We cannot pressurise anybody. We cannot order anybody to produce a particular crop. If there is good production of sugarcane the price of sugar falls. Next year if there is less production then automatically the price soars. This is called rat race. We should from a Zonal System and make publicity that if it is produced in such quantity the price will be as such. Members are right when they say that it is beyond farmers control. Everybody fixes his own price and farmer depends on others as he lacks storage facility. He has to sell off whatever he produces in his fields for his subsistence.

There is not much difference is the present commission and the authority envisaged in the Bill. I do not want to go in details. When there will be a discussion on the budget than I will let you know about the efforts that are being made in this regard.

[English]

The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) was required to keep in view:

- (a) the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting technology and for maximising production;

- (b) the need to ensure rational utilisation of land and other production resources; and
- (c) the likely effect of the prices on the rest of the economy particularly on the cost of living, level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.

When an overall balance between demand and supply was in sight in 1980, the criteria for CACP were modified and the Commission was called upon to consider:

- (a) the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for developing production pattern broadly in the light of national requirements;
- (b) the need to ensure rational utilisation of land, water and other production resources;
- (c) the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy particularly on the cost of living level of wages, industrial cost structure, etc.;
- (d) terms of trade between agricultural sector and non-agricultural sectors.

While recommending the price policy for 22 commodities included in its terms of reference, the Commission takes into account not only a comprehensive over view of the entire structure of the economy of a particular commodity but also a number of important factors as indicated hereunder:—

1. Cost of Production.
2. Changes in input prices.

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

3. Input output price parity.
4. Trends in market prices.
5. Demand and Supply.
6. Inter crop price parity.
7. Effect on industrial cost structure.
8. Effect on general price level.
9. Effect on cost of living.
10. International market price situation.
11. Parity between prices paid and prices received. (Terms of Trade)

It will, thus, be seen that while fixing support procurement prices, it is ensured that it covers the reasonable cost of production and also provides a margin of profit to give incentive to farmers for investment and adoption of improved technology.

The cost of cultivation production taken into account includes all paid out costs, such as, those incurred on account of hired labour, bullock labour machine labour (both hired and owned) and rent paid for leased-in land besides cash and kind expenses on use of material input, e.g. seed, fertilizers, manures, pesticides, irrigation charges, including cost of diesel electricity for operation of pump sets. Besides, cost of production includes imputed value of family labour. The cost also covers depreciation of farm machinery and buildings. As such, the cost of production covers not only payout costs but also imputed value of owned assets including land and family labour for which the farmers do not incur cash expenses.

The Government have recently enlarged and restructured the Commission

for Agricultural Costs and Prices from 4 Member Commission to 7 Member Commission. Besides, the Chairman, the Member Secretary and the two official Members there are three non official Members, who represent interests of farmers of different regions. Therefore, the interests of the farmers are not only being looked after by the agricultural economists and experts but also by non-official Members who represent the interests of the farmers of the various agro-climatic regions.

[Translation]

The Bill which has been presented here has many weaknesses. If we make it an elaborate Authority as envisaged in this Bill it will not be possible to take speedy decisions. At present, we are able to control the situation. Therefore, rest assured about the interests of farmers. We will never compromise or bow down under any pressure. We are even ready to fight any power on earth for the sake of safeguarding the interest of farmers. This is very small matter, we will do our utmost efforts. You need not worry about Dunkel, we will take care of it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the mover of the Bill Shri Bhagwan Shanker Rawat is not in the House, I am putting the Bill to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an authority for the fixation of minimum remunerative prices of all the agricultural produce and for matters connected therewith, be taken in to consideration."

The motion was negatived.

18.38 hrs.

[English]

**FIXATION OF LIMIT ON
BORROWINGS BILL**

By Shri George Fernandes

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES
(Muzaffarpur): Mr. Chairman Sir, I beg
to move:—

"That the Bill regarding for action
of limit on borrowings by the
Government of India, be taken in
to Consideration."

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Fernandes,
you may defer your speech for the next
time, please.

The House stands adjourned to
meet again on Monday, the 25th April,
1994 at 11.00 hrs.

18.39 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
25 April, 1994/Vaisakha 5,
1916 (Saka)*
