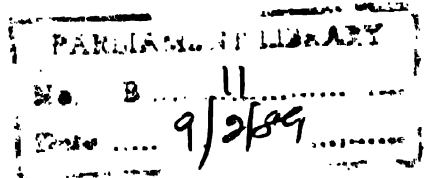


LOK SABHA DEBATES (English Version)

**Twelfth Session
(Eighth Lok Sabha)**



(Vol. XLIII contains Nos. 1 to 10)

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI
Price : Rs. .6.00**

CONTENTS

[*Eighth Series, Volume XLIII, Twelfth Session 1988/1910 (Saka)*]

No. 3, Friday, November 4, 1988/ Kartika 13, 1910 (Saka)

	COLUMNS
Oral Answers to Questions:	1-32
*Starred Questions Nos. 41 and 43 to 46	
Written Answers to Questions:	33-330
*Starred Questions Nos. 42 and 47 to 60	33-46
Unstarred Questions Nos. 234 to 244, 246 to 441, 443 to 447, 449 and 450.	46-326
Papers laid on the Table	330-359
Committee on Public Undertakings —	359
Forty-eighth Report — <i>Presented</i>	
Election to Committee —	360
Marine Products Export Development Authority	
National Highways Authority of India Bill — <i>Introduced</i>	360-362
Matters Under Rule 377 —	362-366
(i) Need to expand communication and transport facilities in Mirzapur district —	362
Shri Ram Pyare Panika	
(ii) Need to take steps to improve the financial position of handloom weavers —	363
Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi	

*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)

	COLUMNS
(iii) Need to declare the birthday of Maharishi Valmiki as a National Holiday —	363–364
Shri Harish Rawat	
(iv) Need to modernise Sindri Fertiliser Factory and to set up a big factory in that area —	364
Shri Shankar Dayal Singh	
(v) Need to review the implementation of Urban Land (Ceiling) Act and to make suitable amendments in the Act —	364–365
Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy	
(vi) Need to issue directions to sugar mills in Bihar to start crushing cane immediately in the interest of workers and cane growers —	365–366
Shri Kali Prasad Pandey	
(viii) Need to take measures to check the population growth in the country —	366
Shri Raj Kumar Rai	
Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill —	366–386
Motion to consider —	
Shri H.K.L. Bhagat	367–369
Shri Ananda Pathak	370
Prof. Saifuddin Soz	375–378
Dr. G.S. Dhillon	378–379
Shri Indrajit Gupta	379–380
Clause 2 to 10 and 1	382–385
Motion to pass —	
Shri H.K.L. Bhagat	380–382
Statement Re: Recent Developments in Maldives —	370–375
Shri Rajiv Gandhi	

	COLUMNS
Discussion Under Rule 193 —	386—421
Demands of Farmers and Agricultural Labour —	
Prof. Madhu Dandavate	386-398
Shri Balkavi Bairagi	398-409
Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi	409-414
Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao	414-421
<i>Bills Introduced</i>	422-430
(1) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 16)	422
(By Prof. P.J. Kurien)	
(2) Scheduled Caste Converts (Reservation of Posts and other Benefits) Bill	422
(By Prof. P.J. Kurien)	
(3) Married Women (Protection of Rights) Bill	423
(By Shrimati Basavarajeswari)	
(4) Banning of Sex Determination Tests Bill	423
(By Shrimati Basavarajeswari)	
(5) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Amendment of article 155)	424
(By Shri S.M. Guraddi)	
(6) Constitution (Amendment) Bill (Substitution of new article for article 263)	424
(By Shri S.M. Guraddi)	
(7) Right to work Bill	425
(By Shri Haroobhai Mehta)	

(iv)

COLUMNS

(8) High Court of Orissa (Establishment of a Permanent Bench at Berhampur) Bill	425
(By Shri Somnath Rath)	
(9) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	426
(Amendment of article 141)	
(By Shri Shantaram Naik)	
(10) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	426
(Amendment of article 344 etc.)	
(By Shri Shantaram Naik)	
(11) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	427
(Amendment of the Preamble)	
(BY Shri Shantaram Naik)	
(12) Constitution (Amendment) Bill	427
(Amendment of article 143)	
(By Shri Shantaram Naik)	
(13) Foreign Visits by the President and Members of the Council of Ministers Bill	428
(By Shri Syed Shahabuddin)	
(14) Official Languages (Amendment) Bill	428
(Amendment of Section 3)	
(By Shri Syed Shahabuddin)	
(15) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill	429
(By Shri Syed Shahabuddin)	
(16) Commissions of Inquiry (Amendment) Bill	429
(Amendment of Section 5)	
(By Prof. Madhu Dandavate)	

	COLUMNS
(17) Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill	430
(Amendment of Section 5)	
(By Shri Syed Shahbuddin)	
Constitution (Amendment) Bill —	430-480
(Amendment of Article 311)	
(By Shri Shahabuddin)	
Motion to Consider —	
Shri Suresh Kurup	431-436
Shri Vijay N. Patil	436-440
Shri Thampan Thomas	440-448
Shri Shantaram Naik	448-453
Dr. G.S. Rajhans	453-457
Shri N. Tombi Singh	457-461
Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh	461-464
Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh	465-468
Shri Harish Rawat	468-470
Kumari Mamata Banerjee	470-471
Shri P. Chidambaram	471-480

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 4, 1988/Kartika 13,
1910 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Steps to Curb Expenditure In Central Ministries

* 41. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANI-
GRAHI†:
SHRIVIRDHICHANDERJAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently
taken up the question of curtailing expendi-
ture in the major Central Ministries;

(b) if so, the specific measures pro-
posed to be adopted therefor;

(c) whether the areas for curtailing ex-
penditure have been identified; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.
GADHVI) : (a) to (d). given below.

STATEMENT

It is the continuous endeavour of the
Government to contain non-developmental
expenditure to the minimum necessary level.
All Government Departments have been

advised to exercise economy in expenditure
on travel, office expenses, publicity, semi-
nars/conferences etc. Additional expendi-
ture on dearness allowance, bonus is to be
absorbed by the Departments within the
existing allocations as far as possible. Sup-
plementary Grants are allowed only where
inescapable. Strict control on creation of
posts has been enforced. Cabinet Commit-
tee on Expenditure has been constituted to
ensure strict control on expenditure through
suitable measures. Ministries have been
asked to review their programmes and ac-
tivities adopting Zero Base Budgeting ap-
proach for more effective use of resources
on high priority areas. In addition to this, to
begin with, it is proposed to undertake an
indepth review of the selected sectors like
agriculture, education, health, social welfare
etc. to identify the schemes on which expendi-
ture can be contained.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir,
the answer as revealed from this Statement
which is laid on the Table of the House is of
a very general nature. In fact it does not
reflect the seriousness which this important
question of curtailing non-developmental
expenditure deserves.

As you know, in the current year's
Budget, there is a huge gap which is about
Rs 7,000 crores. When an anxiety was ex-
pressed, a categorical assurance was given
on the floor of the House by the hon. Finance
Minister that no effort would be spared to
curtail the non-developmental expenditure
and to run the economy properly from the
point of economy, many steps are to be
taken; there should be no cause for anxiety
about inflation, etc.

I would like to know in that background,
what specific measures have been taken
and what is the result thereof. There is a
mention in the Statement that a Cabinet
Sub-Committee has been constituted.
When was it constituted? How many times it

has it met? What are the recommendations or decisions taken? How have they been implemented? What are the results thereof?

Further, I would like to know whether at the time of presentation of the Budget there was any assessment about the percentage of non-developmental expenditure. Was there any target fixed, to indicate the level to which it would be brought down; and what is the present position today, when we are half-way through the financial year?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : It is incorrect to say that the statement does not indicate the specific measures which Government has initiated, to contain the expenditure-non-Plan and non-developmental. Various processes are on. There is a Cabinet Committee on Expenditure which meets from time to time, to contain the expenditure, to contain the deficit and also to review the overall economy. Internally also, there is a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary, which also looks into this. The Departments have been asked to prioritise their schemes, and also to adopt the zero-based budgeting system. Presently, to give the information specifically, i.e. as to what is the achievement because of these efforts, is not possible. But as the hon. Member is aware, we had a very severe drought last year. There was a tremendous pressure on the economy. The deficit which we had projected last year, i.e. budgeted for was Rs. 6080 crores; but the hon. Member and the august House would be happy to know that when it came to actuals, it came to Rs. 200 crores less than the revised estimate of deficit for last year. Our efforts on that very basis are on; and, therefore, in all the areas where we can find that particular savings could be availed of, or that a particular scheme or project can be diluted which is not relevant for the purpose, our effort is on and we are looking into them. When we present the budget, the hon. Member and the august House would also be pleased to know that our efforts on the economy drive would succeed, with bright colours.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : My

second supplementary is this: No doubt the Government are taking some good measures, but I wanted to know the details. Anyway, they can provide them later on also. But in spite of all these things, the Prime Minister has expressed, while addressing the Congress Parliamentary Party only the day before yesterday, his anxiety. It has come out in the papers also. I will read — only a few lines:

"Mr. Gandhi regretted that almost 85 per cent of the outlay on programmes was absorbed by the system, leaving only 15% to be spent on the schemes. Wastage would have to be stopped, and efficiency increased, to attain the growth rate."

At the same time, the President of India also has expressed his anxiety, and has laid stress on proper utilization of every rupee, through monitoring to see whether proper expenditure is there. In this background, I would also like to know the percentage. I had put this question, viz. whether there is any assessment done, and what further steps they are going to take, while monitoring these things in respect of wasteful expenditure, and whether areas have been identified. That is way I had said that the answer does not reflect the seriousness, and it is a very general nature. So, in this background, I would like to know specifically, at least about the action that is going to be taken from now onwards in this direction.

SHRI B.K.GADHVI : I share the anxiety of the Hon. Member, that in an area where at the other end of the tunnel the results do not permeate, we have to take care. The investment-output ratio, as stated, is 6:1. That is the pattern. But these areas specifically and primarily do not belong to the Government of India, because in respect of all our schemes for poverty alleviation and for anti-poverty programmes and others, we give the funds; but the monitoring and implementing agencies are those of the State Governments. Therefore, we are trying to bring about and evolve a system whereby the present sys-

tem of monitoring is made more effective. At the same time we also are trying to evolve a system whereby the target gets the benefit, and the beneficiaries get the benefit.

Even in the area of poverty alleviation programme, anti-poverty programme, welfare, child welfare, woman welfare, we are thinking to find out a system how, with the better coordination with the State Governments, we could reduce the overheads expenditure, administrative expenses for some of the schemes and how the beneficiaries could get the maximum of what has been earmarked for them. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Members also — this is a very comprehensive endeavour which is to be undertaken — and request them that in their respective constituencies also in the area of anti-poverty programmes where funds are earmarked, if there are leakages, if there is misutilization of fund, then they should bring it to our notice and we will address the State Government and ask them to take remedial steps. We are on it. The evaluation process is going on: we have evaluated it. In some of the States, the leakage is of the higher proportion; in some of the States, it is of the lower proportion. But the monitoring agencies are on it. Every month it is being evaluated and it is being assessed and remedial measures and being undertaken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, large sums of money are being spent on administrative machinery. Just now we listened to the Prime Minister. He said that 85 per cent of the total expenditure is being spent on the administrative machinery.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Mr. Jain is wearing a Congress I badge.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Jain please remove it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We are anxious that the whole House should not be reduced to an AICC Session (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Why are you bothering about it? He has already removed it. There is no problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Every department incurs large sums of money on its administrative machinery. Due to this the poor people, who should be the actual beneficiaries are getting only 15 to 20 per cent of it and the remaining amount is consumed by administrative set up. A huge amount is being spent on the Government machinery. The vehicles are being misused. The vehicles are being used for private purposes which has an adverse effect but no department looks to it or controls it. In this connection I would like to suggest that only the Heads of Departments should have cars or jeeps and all other officers in the Department should use vehicles from the M.T Pool of the Department concerned. The Ministers also are doing a lot of expenditure. A large sum of money is being spent on their telephones. Expenditure on their travelling, office, publicity, seminars and conferences has no different story to tell. What steps the Government has taken to reduce these expenses. The hon. Minister may please give separate replies to this in detail. Let him tell us how he has strengthened the economic condition. We do not want to have a deficit Budget all the while and our economy to get weakened. I request the Hon. Minister to give a detailed reply to this.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I agree with Shri Virdhi Chandra Jain that the administrative expenditure goes on increasing. We are keeping a close watch as to how to reduce this expenditure so that the actual beneficiaries could get more and more benefits.

As I have said already that a number of schemes are there to alleviate poverty and these schemes are to be implemented by the

State Governments. We simply sanction the funds to them. We keep a constant watch to ensure that money sanctioned for a particular work is being spent on that work. You know that some states are not adhering to it. Two years back the Government sanctioned some funds for a particular work in Rajasthan but the funds were diverted to some other work. Last year also we had said that we will not allow any diversion especially we will not release further funds for drought and floods till expenditure statements are received from the States concerned. As regards the use of telephones and cars, there is a need to take austerity measures. Most of our non-plan expenditure includes defence, subsidy on food and fertilizers, interest payment, police, pension and increase in salary and payment of dearness allowance. You will appreciate and agree with me that subsidy on food and fertiliser is meant for weaker sections and even if the expenditure on this account is high, it is not possible to make a sudden cut in this expenditure. The expenditure on defence is meant for the security of the country and as such it cannot be reduced. However, as I have stated in the statement, we are keeping a close and constant watch. Instructions have been issued to all the Departments to keep a watch on their expenses. A review is being made every week. Efforts are being made to reduce the expenditure in consultation with the Financial Advisers and Secretaries of the Departments concerned, you will be glad to know that last year the actual saving was Rs 650 crores and preventive saving was about Rs. 2000 crores. Due to these savings, we were able to contain the rate of inflation. Otherwise the inflation rate had gone up by 20 per cent in the year 79-80. But it has not gone to that extent because our economy was under control.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : We do not want a general lecture here, we wanted something concrete, something specific.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I want a straight answer; I do not want any lecture.

The statement mentions that they have used all the funds in the priority sector. The Ministries and the Departments have been asked to follow the zero-based budgeting. I would like to know how many departments had adopted this method and what is the effect of it, what are the unproductive schemes which have been dropped, as a result of this zero-based budgeting. How many departments had adopted this system?

SHRI B.K.GADHVI : The hon. Member has asked a question saying that he does not want a general answer but he wants a specific answer. But he would appreciate that the zero-based budgeting approach or system is not such a system which could automatically be implemented in a day. Because there are certain schemes, on-going schemes, which may not be strictly very much relevant today, but over which we have spent and invested much amount. We have to finish them. That is why I said that a committee headed by the Cabinet Secretary is taking a review of all the departments and in the budget proposals when the departments demanded something to renew the schemes, we asked them to give a go by to a particular scheme which is of no relevance today and we have asked them to prioritize and that exercise is on. That is going on. Therefore we have taken concrete steps. Presently, I am not in a position to give you that so many schemes have been given a go by, or have been given up, and these new schemes have been adopted. But in the critical areas some schemes are on going and we want to adhere to those schemes irrespective of the expenditure because they are schemes relevant to the weaker sections and are in critical areas of the national economy.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) : May I supplement the answer given by my colleague?

The Cabinet Secretary wrote on 17.10.1988 to all the Departments and particularly Agriculture and Cooperation, Agricultural Research and Education, Education, Welfare, Culture, Women and Child

Development, Health and Family Welfare, that they have to send their replaces by 31.10.1988, indicating what were the schemes which in fact had lost their relevance and which had to be given up. They have to send all the details. This is not only confined to these departments which I have enumerated, but to all the departments; the Cabinet Secretary has written that within a particular specified date they have to inform the Finance Ministry as to how this exercise is being undertaken by them and what were their expectations, how many schemes they would like to give up. This is the first exercise that we would like to do. I am quite aware of the fact that there is going to be some resistance on the part of the administrative ministries. The next step will come where we get convinced that in spite of the fact that a scheme is not relevant has to be discontinued still they are continuing with the scheme. Then the Finance Minister will have to tell them that "for this scheme we will not be able to provide, you better discontinue."

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, arising out of the statement which is laid on the table, I want to ask two very brief questions. One is whether any general direction has been given to the Departments that vacancies occurring in Class III and IV posts are not to be filled up and they should remain unfilled. That means, no new recruitment is to be done... (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER : Ban on recruitment.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Yes, it amounts to ban on recruitment. Secondly, the allocations which have been made to the various Departments obviously did not take into account any future increase in DA, which is sanctioned from time to time by the Central Government according to the existing formula.

The statement says that any increase in DA has to be absorbed by the Departments within their existing allocations. How is it going to be possible? The existing allocations have not taken that into account.

SHRI S.B.CHAVAN : Sir, so far as the recruitment part is concerned, as a result of the Zero based budgeting, if any of the staff is declared as surplus, they are not going to be retrenched; but they are going to be taken on the surplus side and whenever any new recruitment takes place, these people who have been declared surplus will be adsorbed in the new recruitment, rather than taking altogether fresh people.

The second point which the hon. Member has referred, which I can well understand is that if that be the approach, certainly no saving is altogether possible.

In fact we have requested all the Departments that the bonus which is to be paid, the additional DA which is to be paid, they will have to absorb within the sanctioned grants, and we cannot provide any additional amount. That was the circular which the Finance Ministry has issue.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : How is it possible?

SHRI S.B.CHAVAN : At least I have not come across any Department saying that they will not meet and if such a situation were to arise, certainly we will have to do something about that because there is hardly any scope; if it is a very small Department and if we ask them to adjust these two items under the sanctioned grants, they might find it difficult. But those are very rare cases, which will have to be considered on merits.

Export Linked Import Transactions

*43. SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating to undertake those schemes which have a link between imports and exports;

(b) if so, the details of those schemes;

(c) the items intended to be imported under the above schemes, items which are

helpful for the manufacture of export-oriented products; and

(d) the items which are likely to get boost from export-linked import transactions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI. P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Government has decided to encourage public sector undertakings and private sector enterprises to promote exports linked to import of capital goods and bulk imports in order to augment foreign exchange earnings, to improve access for Indian commodities and manufactures in new markets and to develop new marketing channels. In addition, under the Import & Export Policy for 1988-91, Government may also permit import of canalised items by Trading Houses in order to promote exports, subject to such conditions as may be stipulated by the Ministry of Commerce.

Under these transactions exports of non-traditional items to existing markets, traditional items to new markets and projects exports are likely to get a boost

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is no doubt about the fact that the Department has made unprecedented strides especially in the field of import-export. It has made efforts to reduce the balance of payment to a large extent. For this, it offered a lot of facilities for the import of capital goods by a number of public sector undertakings and private enterprises. But monitoring is never done in time. Because it involves the Ministry of Finance as well as the Ministry under which the concerned industry comes. Will the hon. Minister make such arrangements as to decide the import-export matter at a single window. If so, what arrangements have been made in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, the hon. Member has stated just now about the overall performance of the Ministry so far as the imports and exports are concerned. I am thankful to the hon. Member for his compliments. It is true that there has been a cry by the trade and industry for a long time to make much more simplified procedure to have one window clearance. We have taken much more liberal steps in recent years and the new EXIM policy try to simplify most of the provisions. We are trying to see whether we could give much more support for one window clearance. It so happens that in some complicated matters earlier, the party or the unit of the Company had to run from door to door.

Now instead of that, we are sorting it out in the empowered committee of Secretaries where they sit together and sort it out. That way we have been able to reduce the burden and tried to make if not one window at least a very speedier disposal of these cases.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, having been satisfied with the reply of the hon. Minister I would like to ask him another supplementary question. So far as his Ministry is concerned, people seeking permission for export get the clearance within a stipulated period. But the position is somewhat different so far as other Ministries are concerned. When we talk of the Ministry of Finance, the Banks are also linked with it. I am personally seized of a case when the Ministry of Commerce gave clearance to export fish worth Rs 150-200 crores, when some people approached the Ministry for such permission in pursuance of the declared policy of the Government but the other Ministries obstructed the matter in many ways when the applications reached them despite the fact that everything was in order. In view of the facts stated above will the hon. Minister assure our entrepreneurs that once a clearance is given to them, no other obstruction will come their way. This

will help them not to waste their time and they will also be able to export the consignments within the stipulated time for which they are committed otherwise they will never be able to export the goods in time. Will the hon. Minister make arrangements to obtain clearance from other Ministries before the clearance of his own Ministry on an application.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : If I have understood the hon. Member's question correctly, by clearance he might be thinking of () giving export licence or to give incentive to a particular group of unit. We do so on the receipt of the proposals in time and examine it on merit. But in some cases where financial assistance is dealt by banking and other financial institutions, they go by merit. If we decide and recommend a matter for export urgency, the banks do take immediate steps.

If some units like the marine products, refer the cases to us for bank's cooperation as an urgent matter, we do take it up with the concerned Ministry or Department for early disposal. If any hon. Member has any specific case in mind, he may refer that to us. We shall certainly look into that.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : The statement attached with the answer is not at all clear. It is quite vague. From the European countries alone import worth about Rs 7500 crores is there whereas export is worth Rs 3000 crores only. And mostly obsolete technology, which is discarded in foreign countries, is being imported in this country in the name of machines and all that. As a result of that, our country finds it difficult to compete in the international market. An analysis of all these things should have been given in the statement instead of saying that we are promoting private sector and public sector. In fact, export is on the low side and import is on a very high side and that too of obsolete technology. Secondly, two items I would like to point out. Kerala is producing rubber. But tyres and natural rubber are imported. What is the impact of that on the Indian market ?

Similarly, export of coir products is not there. Has assistance been given to the import of technology or machines from Japan? Norther of that sort is mentioned in the statement I would like the Minister to answer all these points.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : The hon. Member will appreciate that the question was framed in a general way and not specific way. There are thousands of items under the sky which are being imported or exported. Details of each item cannot be laid on the Table. If the hon. Member has special interest in rubber or coir, he may ask a separate question specifically and I will be very glad to answer it separately. But this question, if you look at it, is originally mooted about the link of import and export and whether we should promote the ideals. We have replied on a recent occasion that in our export-import policy, we have allowed the trading houses even to import the canalised items on certain specific proposals, subject to certain conditions that we laid down. That is an advancement of our existing policy towards the private sector. Precisely, the question that the hon. Member has mooted is to ascertain the figures and facts to see whether the existing policy is going on well or not, and, therefore, we have answered it in a general way. So far as the obsolete technology is concerned, the hon. Member will agree that no private importer or even public sector undertaking, in order to modernise its unit or to increase the output or productivity, will import obsolete technology unnecessarily for improving his own prospects and earning foreign exchange. We do not allow it and it never happens. If specific cases are referred to, we shall certainly look into them and answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If any Member is wearing a badge, he should please remove it.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : Sir, the liberalisation policy of import has caused imbalance in the trade and our imports have increased and our exports have gone down. This has resulted in the sharp decline in our foreign exchange. In view of this, will the

hon. Minister review the import liberalisation policy and will see that this decline in our foreign exchange reserves is checked?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, so far as imports and exports are concerned, as I have stated many times on the floor of the House, they are not exclusively in the hands of our Ministry. We simply act as a catalyst agent providing import licences as per the requirements of various Ministries, various public sector undertakings and others. Insofar as liberalisation is concerned, it was every conscious decision with a view to modernise our technology to increase the output and productivity. But the only concept is that to match the whole situation, we require much more aggressive and vigorous marketing efforts so far as exports are concerned. We are actively doing it and we are still hopeful that the export turn-over will not disappoint the country.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Sir, is the Government vigorously following and implementing the policy of establishing more free trade zones where the single window clearance system is implemented? If so, is the Government clearing Vizag as on the free trade zones? this matter has been pending with the Government of India for a long time. So, is the Government clearing Vizag and establishing free trade zone there?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, I seek your protection, This question is not related to free trade zone.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether he is aware of the tendency to obtain clearance in regard to import in the name of export in the first place, then fail to export in adequate quantity and get the original conditionality of export relaxed at a later stage. Therefore, this phenomenon is growing and the Government has also not only been liberal in regard to import policies but it has also been liberal in regard to relaxation of this link. So, will the Minister clarify and answer?

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Sir, the existing practice is to make imports in exchange of export obligation. The guidelines are given which are strictly monitored to see whether the objections have been fulfilled or not. If there is any violation referred to us, we can take action. If the hon. Member sends us the specific cases, we will look into them.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Did the Government relax it? That is what I asked.

SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI : Never.

Soviet Assistance for Railway Projects

*44. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:
SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been signed with the Soviet Union for electrification of country's railway system and development of other sectors of Railways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government also propose to take assistance from the Soviet Union to provide rail link to areas of the country not connected with rail; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Sir, for question No. 44 with your permission, I would like to make a slight amendment to the answer because the focus was on electrification, that is why we said 'No, Sir'. But there are other areas which she has

asked about. Sir, with your permission, I would like to amend the answer. I would like to convert 'No, Sir' the into 'Yes, Sir'. And also, Sir, in part (1), she has asked about the sectors. The protocol signed with the Soviet Union covers the following areas:

- (1) the supplies of equipment by the USSR to India;
- (2) Consultancy,
- (3) Collaboration in R & D
- (4) Cooperation and Consultancy services and construction projects;
- (5) Cooperation in metropolitan Railway projects in India.
- (6) Training for Indian Railway technical personnel in the USSR;
- (7) Cooperation in sports activities; and
- (8) Export of wagon components from India to the USSR.

The answer for part (c) is "No, Sir," for (d) "Does not arise".

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Sir, they have not said anything in their reply. They have given the negative replies. But not they have changed the replies. Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government has accepted the Soviet Union's offer to construct metres in Delhi. If so, when will this work be started and whether it will also involve transfer of technology?

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, the protocol signed with the Soviet Union a few days ago identifies possible areas of interest where cooperation may be initiated. As far as metre railway is concerned, as the House well know, it is an area which comes under the jurisdiction and responsibility of the Ministry of Urban Development. Therefore

whilst we did show interest in this, I would like to read out the wordings. The Indian side showed interest and cooperation in the field of construction and operation of metropolitan projects in India. The Soviet side agreed to assist in initiating cooperation in the construction of metro systems in india on a turn-key basis with a suitable financial package including financing of local cost. The Soviet side will inform the appropriate authorities and Ministries so that they could take up final decision. In Soviet Union too, apart from the Railway Ministry, another Ministry deals with this subject. Therefore, they are also going to inform the appropriate authorities. They have reacted positively to our interest and we in our turn here will be informing the Urban Development Ministry, after which further efforts for concretisation, if decided feasible, will taken place.

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether in the Indo-Soviet protocol signed on 19th October last, the Soviet Union has offered to supply 10th Soviet high power locomotives. If so, I would like to know whether the government has accepted its offer or not.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, here again, we have shown interest in one-time import of 20 number of 25 KV AC thyrister locos which should be built according to our specification. The Soviet side is going to examine the feasibility of producing these 20 numbers of thyrister locomotives in the Soviet Union in accordance with our specification and will respond to us on this issue by February 1989. That is what they said.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Just now while giving replies regarding metres, he has stated that it requires sanction and cooperation of another Department, that is the Department of Urban Development. May I know from you whether the metro railways in Calcutta will be kept under the control of the Ministry of Railways or it will be handed over to the Urban Development Department for running the metro railways in Calcutta.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, at present the Calcutta Metro is being operated by the Indian Railways. However, various aspects of whether in future this should be under the independent authority, whether a separate Metropolitan Transport Authority should be set up, who should actually run the Metro and operate the Metro and possibly in the future even finance the Metro—this is an area which is being examined in all its details.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AMAR SINH RATHAWA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has paid a lot of attention to the electrification of railway tracks and took much interest in it. That is why we have made a lot of progress in this direction. There are large number of narrow gauge lines in our tribal areas. In this connection I would like to know from him if there are any plans to electrify the narrow gauge lines in the tribal areas.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Certain norms have been laid down for undertaking the work of electrification. Those sections and tracks, where large quantity of goods are loaded, are taken up first. If the quantity of goods loading is quite large in some tribal area, it could be considered for this purpose.

[*English*]

Increase In Import Duty on Pulses and Other Items

*45. SHRI V. TULSIRAM†:
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have increased import duty on pulses and other items recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the extent to which such an increase in duty will adversely affect the common consumers and local markets; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to maintain the regular supply of such items at reasonable rates without being affected by the increase in duty?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (d). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). With effect from the 3rd October, 1983, the rate of import duty on pulses has been increased from 10% to 35% advalorem. This increase has been made keeping in view the good crop prospects in the current year. The import of pulses constitutes a small percentage of the total supply and the prices are largely governed by demand and indigenous supply. Pulses are under O.G.L. and the trade is free to import as well as sell pulses without any restriction.

The rates of basic duty of customs of different types of raisins have also been increased with effect from the 3rd October, 1988 by about 50% of the rates which existed prior to that date.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I will like to know from the hon. Minister the names of the countries from which these pulses have been imported and the quantities of each of these pulses imported during the last three years. The duty has been increased from 10 per cent to 35 percent. What has been the consequential amount of profit accrued to the Government and its effect on the market and also the result and change in the purchasing power of the common man?

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : Sir, so far as the first portion of the question is concerned, mostly the pulses are imported from Thailand.

About the second question, the income expected from the pulses is 'Rs 75 crores from the import value at Rs. 300 crores.

So far as raisins are concerned, the expected earning would be Rs 11 crores from the import estimated at 9000 tonnes a year.

So far as the increase is concerned, we have seen that the Committee decided that there should be an increase of import duty, the decision was taken on 8th September 1988.

The decision was given effect to on the 3rd October. Thereafter, we are watching the situation. There had been increase of prices and the consumers had to pay more than that which they used to pay before the increase was effected. We are watching the situation; because of the guideline by which the increase took place we cannot decide finally now, it can only be decided after the Diwali and again, so far as rabi pulses are concerned, after March and April next year.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Does not ask any Supplementary.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Why not, brother?

[English]

SHRI MURLI DEORA : The reply is very clear.

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : It is never clear, Mr. Deputy Speaker. Those pulses which are imported, are further taxed. The rates of

pulses in the markets of Delhi and Bombay range between Rs 12 to Rs 14 per k.g. At what rate will these be made available to the farmers and the labourers in the villages after levying the import duty on the pulses. There were calamities of drought and floods everywhere. For instance, my state Andhra Pradesh is struck by drought at one time and by the floods at the other. Thus, everybody remains constantly affected some or the other way and even in such a situation the Government cannot provide pulses at the reasonable rates. What will be the rate of the persons who are solely dependant on pulses? If the Government cannot do it who else will do it? Even the central assistance provided for drought has not been given to our state. How will they be able to face the crisis in such a situation. Whether the Government is going to provide some more assistance to the farmers. The Agriculture Minister has just now stated that something has been done in view of the price situation of pulses to supply pulses to the common man at reasonable prices and give remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. Do the Govt. have any such plan as to provide more assistance to the farmers and to increase the import of pulses.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : There is something wrong in the case of pulses.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : The wrong has been persisting on your side.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : It is so with the Janata Dal.

[English]

SHRI A.K. PANJA : The hon. Member is worried about the consumers. But so far as the Government is concerned, we have to look after the farmers who are producing pulses as well as the consumers.

Sir, when there was good monsoon, immediately a special action committee of Secretaries was formed Consisting 12 very senior Secretaries of relevant Departments. They sat over and monitored the prices. At

the time when this decision was taken, it was found that so far as the wholesale price index was concerned, in respect of *anaj*, *moong* and *masoor*, it was going down by 1.0%, 2.6% and 3.3% respectively. If it is goes down and Government does not take steps immediately, then the remunerative prices of the farmers who produce for us, for the consumers, will suffer. So, step was taken and the import is only 4.5% of the total supply requirements in the country. Therefore, it was decided and recommended that there may be an increase between 25 and 30% in the import duty so that the price is balanced and the farmers do get remunerative prices.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee. Are you not asking the question?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : What I wanted to ask him is, for heaven's sake, do something about *Dal*. We are really getting mad absolutely about *dal*.

AN HON. MEMBER : The farmers are not getting remunerative prices.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : I do not want the hon. Member to get mad. Whatever doubt is there we will try to clear and we will try to see what price could be fixed so that the hon. Member gets *dal*.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today Shri Tulsiram has not been able to make his point effectively.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : I have had my say. But you have not been successful in your attempts. We will help you.

[English]

Tax Arrears Against Top Industrial Houses

*46. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of top ten large industrial houses with latest assets of those companies ;

(b) the total arrears of income tax, excise and customs duty which are pending realisation against these industrial houses; and

(c) the steps taken to speed up the realisation of outstanding taxes and duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) The names of the 10-Top Industrial Houses according to their assets as on 31.3.1988 are as under :

Sl.No.	Name of the Industrial House	Assets (Rs.in crores)
1	2	3
1.	Tatas	4939.88
2.	Birla	4771.38
3.	Reliance	2021.53

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
4.	J.K Singhanian	1426.67
5.	Thapar	1151.48
6.	Mafatlal	1050.50
7.	Modi	860.16
8.	Larsen & Toubro	830.56
9.	M.A. Chidambaram	807.50
10.	Bajaj	777.79

(b) The total arrears of Income tax, Central Excise and Customs duty pending against ten top Industrial Houses are as under:-

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of the Industrial House</i>	<i>Income tax as on 30.6.88</i>	<i>Customs & Central Excise duty as on 30.6.88</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	Tatas	40.02	49.39
2.	Birla	17.49	12.72
3.	Reliance	32.84	16.16
4.	J.K Singhanian	9.37	17.02
			(out of Rs 17.02 Crores Rs 10.50 crores are Customs duty arrears)
5.	Thapar	2.84	2.57
6.	Mafatlal	5.37	6.73
7.	Modi	48.63	25.34
8.	Larsen & Toubro	0.75	0.79
9.	M.A. Chidambaram	16.32	14.13
10.	Bajaj	0.74	36.82

(c) The recovery of Arrears of taxes in an on-going process and administrative, legal and other steps continue to be taken from time to time. These steps include moving the various Courts and appellate authorities for vacation of stays and early decisions and engaging eminent lawyers to defend Government interest effectively in important cases. There are two corrections of typographical error in the reply, if I may point out. In the statement in sub-division (b), under item No.9, M.A Chidambaram, so far as the Customs & Central Excise duty as on 30.6.88 is concerned, it is 0.14 crores and not 14.13. So far as item No.3 Reliance, is concerned, under the heading Customs & Central Excise duty, it is 0.16 crores and not 16.16 I am sorry for the mistake committed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to offer my hearty thanks to the Finance Minister who furnished information about the evasion of income tax and excise duty by the big industrial houses. These figures include the figures with regard to Tata, Birla, Reliance, J.K. Singhania, Thapar, Mafatlal, Modi, Larsen and Tuobro, Chidambaram and Bajaj. An amount of billions of rupees of excise duty and income tax is outstanding against them. The Minister has himself stated in the reply that he has taken various steps for the realisation of this amount. I want to know from the Hon. Minister if any cases have been instituted so far against the ten big industrial houses for the recovery of the amount of taxes and if it has been done, the number of case which has been decided in favour of the Government and the number of cases which have been decided in favour of the Industrialists.

The second thing, I will like to know from the hon. Minister is whether he is going to enact a law requiring the industrialists to deposit the amount of excise duty and income-tax before resorting to the court procedure so that the Government dues may be recovered quickly and the development schemes of the country may be implemented? Whether the Government propose to enact such a law?

[*English*]

SHRI. A.K.PANJA : I have given the details of outstandings and I have checked up. So far as the figures given in respect of outstanding arrears of Customs and Central Excise duties are concerned, each one of the ten big houses obtained stay either from the Appellate Tribunals or from the honourable courts of law. Here also we are taking steps accordingly. We are engaging Senior consels on our panel and also applying to the court for vacating their stay. But under the law of the land, we have to obey and according to the Rules and the Procedure, we have to go by the orders of the court.

Similarly, so far as income-tax is concerned, many of the outstanding matters are sub-judice and therefore, we are taking steps to see that quick disposal of cases takes place.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I wanted a categorical reply from the Minister to the question if any cases have since been instituted against these industrialists and in case, the cases have been filed the number of cases decided in favour of the government and those decided in favour of the industrialists. Hon. Minister has not replied to this question.

The second thing is that shown generosity in giving some concessions in duty to some companies on nylon yarn viz. Rs. 40 per kg. so that small scale industrialists may get some relief but the industrialists have not reduced the prices inspite of these concessions. For example, companies like J. K and Singhania have not reduced their prices inspite of the concession is excise duty and they are still selling it in black. Whether the Government have conducted an inquiry in this regard and have taken or have proposed to be take any action against the companies which have not reduced the prices inspite of relaxations in excise duty and instead have sold their products in black.

[English]

SHRI A.K.PANJA : So, far as the information regarding the companies involved is concerned, as asked for by the hon. Member, there are 60 industrial companies involved under ten Commissioners of Income-tax. In respect of each one, as I said, steps were taken but under the law and also under Income-tax Act, they have got a specific right to prefer appeal. They did prefer appeal. In some cases stay has been obtained and, that is why these are not recovered right now.

So far as the steps taken against these companies are concerned we cannot take because they have obtained a stay from the honourable court which is permissible. Therefore, less preferential treatment is not at present possible because that will be affecting the pending proceedings in the court of law.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : A very important information is missing. The Government has computed thousand crores of rupees to be recovered from the Indian Tobacco Company as Central Excise arrears to the Government. It is not mentioned here. It also relates to the income-tax. Many a time, the Government is

saying that the matter is pending in the court. How long will it continue like this ? What concrete steps have been taken by this Government to collect those Excise arrears as well as income-tax computed on the basis of this information? I would like to categorically know from the hon. Minister.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : All steps were taken against the Tobacco Company. In fact, the hon. Member knows that they challenged even at the Show-Cause Notice stage. At the Show-Cause Notice stage, it was challenged in Madras where we engaged our Counsel and we had won. Government got the decision in its favour. They challenged in Calcutta. Day-to-day hearing took place in Calcutta High Court in the Single Bench and then again in the Division Bench. After that, we have got judgement from the Division Bench in our favour. Now the departmental proceedings are going on. The total days of hearing went at little more than 80 days so far. There, they are trying to cite 82 witnesses. Therefore, they are trying to delay as much as possible under the law of the land and we have to proceed according to law. Otherwise, the defaulters will escape. Therefore, we are taking all steps possible. I can assure this House that there has been no lapse on the part of the Department to recover these things.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Deputy Speaker, it has been admitted just now that action could not be taken against these big industrial houses because the courts have granted them stay on it. When special courts can be set up for the disposal of certain cases whether the Government propose to take action to set up special courts even in the case of evasion of income tax and excise duty worth billions of rupees or to withdraw the facilities being given to such persons by making legal provisions to that effect.

[English]

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Yes Sir, to overcome the delays, the Government have decided to expedite the cases pending before the courts of Customs, Excise and Revenue Appellate Tribunals. It is proposed to expedite the decisions in respect of the Excise and Customs disputes as also by the tribunals. We are trying to fill up those posts quickly and see that these cases; are expedited as quickly as possible. But even then if a constitutional point is involved or a fundamental point is involved, the courts are open to anyone under the law of the land. We cannot ask them not to go to a court of law. We are keeping our counsels alert. Whenever a stay is granted, we are asking the courts to serve notice on them. If they go to a court and obtain stay, that is a legal procedure which they are entitled to take. We cannot resist that. But, if they lose there, then the question of blacklisting does not arise. Then the system of less preferential treatment is there. We are taking such steps.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : There are already cases pending against some of the large industrial houses regarding customs and excise duty evasion. Regarding Reliance, the figure which has been given is only Rs 16 lakhs. But, already there were reports that cases are pending against them for import of machinery for there Patalganga factory in which they have completely evaded the customs duty. Do the figures include those arrears pending in such cases also? I would like to know the details with specific reference to Reliance.

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Hon. Members must have noticed that I have given the figures as on 30th June 1988. As soon as we get notice, we get only seven days' time. All over the country, there are businessmen. The question was regarding the assets of the 10 big industrial houses and also their outstanding. So, we could get this information up to 30th June, 1988.

So, far as Patalganga factory is concerned, I am not aware of. If the hon. Mem-

ber wants, I can find out the answer and give it to him.

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Sir, the hon. Minister has given the figures of the 10 large industrial houses about their arrears. He has also given the difficulties which are being faced by the Department. I would like to ask the Government whether the Government is contemplating to bring a special legislation which will streamline the legal proceedings and secondly, what are the total arrears in respect of excise, customs as well as income-tax up to 30th June 1988, all over the country.

SHRI A.K.PANJA: I am sorry that figure is not available with me. But I will supply the figures. As far as the special legislation is concerned, discussion took place, it appeared the action now being taken under the law is sufficient enough.

Some cases are pending in the courts. What I have done is that, it is for the information of the Hon. Members, I took a meeting of all the officers. First of all, we have taken up the cases which are pending in the Supreme Court. We have made a total list. We have found that by disposal of one case, 160 cases could be disposed of. We have made a total note of it so far as Supreme Court is concerned and handed over to our Counsel so that he could mention before the Hon. Chief Justice and get it heard.

So, far as Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi are concerned, the list is being prepared and after the list is prepared, we will ask our Council to mention it before the Hon. Chief Justices. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURLI DEORA : Do you have competent lawyers?

SHRI A.K.PANJA : Yes, we have got good and competent lawyers. If any competent lawyer is in the mind of the Hon. Member, please do supply to me, I will certainly take note of it.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]**Remission of Fine Imposed on Cine Stars for Violating Tax Laws**

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

(a) whether the Central Board of Direct Taxes has recently ordered remission of fine imposed on certain cine stars for violating the tax laws; if so, the details thereof with justification therefor;

(b) if so, whether remissions of this kind were allowed earlier also during the past one year; and

(c) if so, the details of these cases and the justification for issuing those orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). The Central Board of Direct Taxes has not ordered remission of fine imposed on any cine star during the past one year.

(c) The question does not arise.

[*English*]**Conversion of Bangalore-Mysore Track**

*47. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount allocated during 1988-89 for Bangalore-Mysore broad gauge conversion work;

(b) the amount spent so far out of the budget allocation of 1988-89;

(c) when the work was started and the time by which it is likely to be completed;

(d) amount to be required to complete the above work; and

(e) whether Government propose to allocate more funds during the current year to speed up the work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 6.84 crores.

(b) Rs. 2.31 crores, upto September 1988.

(c) Work was started in May, 1979. Its completion will depend on availability of resources in the coming years.

(d) Rs. 41 crores.

(e) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]**Development of Ancillary Industries In Railways**

*48. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the headquarters of South Eastern Railway, situated at Garden Reach, Calcutta have stopped the central purchases of essential items required by various Railway Wagon Repair Workshops and such purchases are now being made from locally situated small and ancillary industries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether an assurance was given by him in Bhopal in April, 1987 for organising exhibition of railway equipment and also for setting up of ancillary industries;

(d) if so, the reasons for not implementing that assurance so far; and

(e) the time by which instructions to that effect will be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

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

[English]

Fire In Intelligence Wing of Customs Collectorate, Bombay

*49. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a lot of record of the intelligence wing of the Customs Collectorate in Bombay was destroyed in the fire on 5 October, 1988 at Westview building, Colaba, Bombay;

(b) whether the record destroyed in the fire pertained to any industrial groups; if so, the steps being taken to complete the records;

(c) whether any investigation has been made regarding the cause of the fire; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Some records of West regional unit of Directorate General of Inspection (Customs & Central Excise) have been

destroyed in the fire. Intelligence Wing of Customs Collectorate, Bombay is not located at Westview building, Colaba, Bombay. Therefore the question of destruction of records belonging to them, in the fire, does not arise.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Investigation into the causes of fire is being made by both the police and Fire Brigade authorities.

Major Accidents/Derailments of Trains

*50. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:
DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of train accidents have taken place since July, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of the major accidents/derailments which took place during the last three months and the main reasons in each case; and

(c) the corrective steps being taken to ensure safety to the passengers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) During the period August to October, 1988, 102 train accidents occurred on the India Railways.

(b) The details of major accidents during the last three months (August to October, 1988), together with the main reasons in each case, are as under:-

<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Casualty</i>		<i>Cause of accident</i>
	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Injured</i>	
1. Accident between 234 Dn. fast passenger and a tractor trailer at an unmanned level crossing between Chomun Samod and Govindgarh Malikpur stations of Western Railways on 14.9.88.	10	7	The accident occurred due to negligent driving by tractor driver.

<i>Accidents</i>	<i>Casualty</i>		<i>Cause of accident</i>
	<i>Killed</i>	<i>Injured</i>	
2. Accident between 22 Down passenger train and a bus at an unmanned level crossing between Thakurganj and Taibpur stations of Northeast Frontier Railway on 27.9.88.	22	43	The accident occurred due to negligent driving by bus driver.
3. Derailment of 1 coach of 40 Up Bangalore-Madras Brindavan Express at Bangalore Cantt. on Southern Railway on 7.10.88.	3	11	Under investigation by Commissioner of Railway Safety.

(c) The following corrective steps are being taken to ensure safety to the passengers:-

aids like slide projectors, practical demonstrations etc.

[*Translation*]

- (i) Greater emphasis upon rehabilitation of rolling stock, including passenger coaches.
- (ii) Increased pace of renewals.
- (iii) Induction of sophisticated technology to supplement human vigilance viz. auxiliary warning system, axle counters etc.
- (iv) Ultrasonic testing of axles and rails.
- (v) Modernisation of workshops to improve the quality of repairs and maintenance.
- (vi) Greater emphasis on training, refresher courses, etc. to safety categories of staff viz. drivers, station masters/assistant station masters, guards, switchmen and cabinmen etc. Loco simulators being procured to improve the training of drivers.
- (vii) Revamping of training systems, methods and procedures etc. through use of modern teaching

Third Railway Line in Bilaspur Division and Doubling of Bilaspur-Katni Railway Line

*51. DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to lay third railway line in Bilaspur Division, Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, on which route the line will be constructed;

(c) whether the work on laying double railway line between Bilaspur and Katni is ongoing; and

(d) if so, the present stage thereof and the time by which it will be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Various alternative proposals are under examination for provision of such a line to cope with the anticipated growth of freight traffic on the trunk route.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[English]

Drop In Foreign Exchange Reserves

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

(a) whether the foreign exchange reserves have dropped considerably in the recent past;

(b) the position of foreign exchange reserves as on 31 October, 1988;

(c) the reasons for the drop in foreign exchange reserves; and

(d) the remedial measures Government are taking to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Foreign Exchange Reserves, (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 7287 crores as on 31.3.88 had gone down to Rs. 5382 crores on 1.7.1988. The foreign exchange reserves as on 31.10.88 stand at Rs. 6382.82 crores.

(c) The decline in reserves as per available indications, was due to the bunching of some import payments, unusually high international prices for metals, edible oils, petrochemicals and other imports, increase in import of bulk commodities such as diesel, edible oils, steel and wheat necessitated by unprecedented drought last year and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last year.

(d) A Special Action Plan drawn by the Government for Balance of Payments turnaround aims at measures to generate additional exports, contain imports and augment foreign exchange earnings through NRI

Deposits/Bonds, additional direct/indirect investments and increased tourism receipts.

Electoral Reforms

*53. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:
SHRI KALIPRASAD PANDEY:

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

(a) whether Government have decided upon the electoral reforms in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken so far by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Pay Limit for Payment of Bonus to Central Government Employees

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

(a) whether there is a proposal under the consideration of Government to raise the existing pay limit from Rs. 2500/- to Rs. 3500/- for the payment of bonus to Central Government Employees;

(b) if so, Government's decision thereon; and

(c) when the necessary orders in this regard are likely to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Sharing of Responsibility Between Banks and Financial Institutions for Revival of Sick Units

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

(a) whether the public sector banks and financial institutions in the country are not sharing their responsibility for the revival of the sick units in the country;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also expressed a view in favour of sharing responsibility between banks and financial institutions; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto and further steps Government propose to take to put responsibility on banks as well as financial institutions to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Public sector banks and financial institutions are already assisting the revival of sick, but potentially viable industrial units, keeping in view the guidelines laid by the Reserve Bank of India from time to time. They also share responsibilities as appropriate, in terms of the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Income Tax Raids

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

(a) whether a number of income tax raids were conducted in Gujarat and other parts of the country during 1 August, 1988 to 13 October, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of unaccounted money, benami accounts, silver, gold and other

things found there in each raid:

(d) the details of persons involved therein and the action taken against each of them; and

(e) the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) to (c). During the period from 1st August, 1988 to 13th October, 1988, the Income-tax department conducted 1829 searches in various parts of the country, including Gujarat. During these searches, unaccounted assets worth approximately Rs. 4099.76 lacs were seized, besides incriminating documents indicating tax evasion. During these searches the persons searched have admitted undisclosed income of Rs. 8090.72.

(d) As a large number of searches are involved, the information required can be gathered only by going through the relevant records in each case, which will present practical difficulties. Besides, the outcome will not be commensurate with the enormous efforts.

(e) The final outcome of these searches will be known only after further inquiries and investigations have been carried out and assessments for the relevant years are completed.

Proposal for Introduction of New Housing Scheme

*57. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) and the General Insurance Corporation (GIC) have launched any housing scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether Government have asked the LIC and the GIC to introduce any housing scheme;

(d) rate of interest charged by LIC on housing loans; and

(e) whether the Government would suggest to the LIC to reduce the rate of interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (e). Life Insurance Corporation has launched a new housing Scheme "BIMA NIWAS YOJANA" with effect from 1st September, 1988. General Insurance Corporation of India do not have any housing scheme.

2. Under the LIC's new housing scheme, loan facility is available for purchasing ready-built flats, flats under construction as also for purchase of existing flats which are less than 15 years old. The loan amounts vary from 55% to 75% of the flat view and for this purpose, borrowers are divided into two categories viz. Salaried persons/professionals and others. The term of loan is 20 years for salaried persons/professionals and 15 years for the other category and limited to the age of superannuation. The rate of interest varies between 12% and 15%. The maximum loan is Rs. 2 lakhs which can be increased to Rs. 3 lakhs in special cases. In the case of flats under construction, there will be an Agreement to create mortgage initially and the regular mortgage will be executed on completion of construction and on obtaining possession of the flat. The scheme is at present in operation in Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

3. The rate of interest varies between 12% and 15% per annum depending on the amount of loan. The rate of interest charged on housing loans is on graded scale and is not considered high, taking into account the prevalent bank rate and the need for LIC to protect the interest of its policyholders whose money is held by LIC in trust. Therefore, the question of Government suggesting reduction in the rate of interest does not arise.

Upper Indravati Project

*58. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTANAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work on World Bank aided Upper Indravati Project in Orissa has made desired progress;

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

(c) the cost and time overrun on account of the delay; and

(d) the work done to rehabilitate the displaced persons of this project?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). There has been delay in execution of the project due to the time taken in land acquisition, and because of constraints of funds and remoteness of area.

(c) The present estimated cost of the project is Rs. 619 crores as against the initially estimated cost of Rs. 208 crores. The project is now expected to be completed by March, 1995.

(d) So far, there has been no displacement from the submergence area. The State Government has undertaken the necessary surveys and finalised the rehabilitation policy.

Tea Gardens In Assam

*59. SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tea gardens in Assam;

(b) the number of tea gardens which are on the verge of closure; and

(c) the details of temporary and permanent labour force engaged in tea gardens in

1961 and 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) As per last available information, there were 844 tea estates in Assam.

(b) No such case has been reported.

(c) A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) Total number of labour force en-

gaged in tea gardens in Assam in 1961 and in 1986 (latest figures available) was as under:

(i) Average daily number of labour employed in tea estates of Assam in 1961:

Resident	Outside	Total
372275	66845	439120

(ii) Estimated total number of labour employed in tea estates of Assam as on 31st December, 1986 (latest available figures).

Resident	Outside		Total
	Permanent	Temporary	
387413	33646	78192	496551

Purchases by Bofors

*60. SHRI SURESH KURUP:
SHRI SATYAGOPAL MISRA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Swedish arms manufacturing company Bofors is lagging behind in its purchase from India as required under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries in March, 1987; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to compel the said firm to honour the MOU?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding (MCU) signed in March, 1987 between M/s. AB Bofors and State Trading Corporation (STC), M/s. AB Bofors have to arrange exports from India worth Swedish Kroner 4.2 billion by March, 1996. In terms of the phasing agreed upon, exports from India of Rs. 95

crores (Swedish Kroner 425 Million) have to be completed by the end 1988. At the end of September, 1988 contracting worth Rs. 117 crores (Swedish Kroner 520 million) has been done. Out of this, shipments worth Rs. 27 crores (approx.) have been done upto 30th September, 1988, as there is a time lag between contracting and shipment.

Regular review meetings are held between M/s. Bofors and STC to monitor the progress of the implementation.

Cultivation of Opium

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

(a) whether Government have announced a new policy for the licensing of cultivation of opium poppy in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. As per the new policy announced by the Government for the licensing of cultivation of opium poppy, the average minimum qualifying yield for the grant of licence for 1988-89 has been fixed at 32 kgs. per hectare for normal village and 15 kgs. for partially damaged villages.

For the crop year 1988-89, the minimum qualifying yield is being raised to 34 kgs. per hectare. Licences for the crop year 1989-90 will be renewed on the basis of this increased minimum yield.

Due to accumulation of huge stocks of opium in the Government opium factories at Ghazipur (U.P.) and Neemuch (M.P.), it has been decided to restrict the area per licence to 10 acres only.

Under the new pricing policy applicable from the crop year 1987-88, Rs. 175/- per kg. will be paid upto a yield of 34 kgs. per hectare and Rs. 205/- per kg. for yield above 34 kgs. These rates will be applicable for the entire quantity of opium in either of the two slabs.

Guidelines for Opening New Regional Offices of Banks

235. **PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for opening new regional offices by the nationalised banks approved by the R.B.I./Union Government,

(b) the names of regional offices, State-wise, of (i) the Punjab National Bank, (ii) the U.C.O. Bank and (iii) the State Bank of India as on 30 June, 1988 in the country along with the number of branches covered by each of the regional offices of each of these banks;

(c) Whether any proposals for opening new regional offices in each of these three banks have been under consideration during the current year; and

(d) if so, the decision on these propos-

als?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Nationalised banks set up their Regional Offices keeping in view the volume of business, the branch spread in the command area, the cost benefit analysis, the need of customers, administrative exigencies etc. As per the existing guidelines, a Regional Office should cover at least 40 branches, excepting where very long distances are involved.

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

(c) and (d). Reserve Bank of India has reported that no proposals, for opening of new Regional Offices by State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and UCO Bank during the current year, are under its consideration.

Export of Cashew Kernel

236. **SHRI H.B. PATIL:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of cashew kernel and earnings therefrom in 1988-89 may suffer due to problems monopoly procurement in Kerala and low world commodity prices;

(b) whether price of the commodity in Kerala, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa is less than the price fixed by the State Government; and

(c) if so, the remedial steps contemplated by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information available with the Cashew Export Promotion Council no State has fixed price for raw cashewnut except in

Kerala, where, the State Government has fixed prices higher than market prices in other States.

(c) Apart from various Export Promotion measures, efforts are being made to increase the availability of raw cashewnut. Buying delegation for raw cashewnut is being sent to Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia, Philipines and Singapore. To promote export of cashew kernels three trade delegations are being sent, one to UK, Federal Republic of Germany, Netherlands and France, the second to USA and Canada & the third to Japan, Hongkong, Taiwan and South Korea.

Upgradation of Howrah-Delhi Railway Route

237. SHRICHINTAMANIJENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to upgrade Howrah-Delhi rail line;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the approximate cost likely to be incurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (c). Howrah-Delhi route is classified as Group A route. The track is progressively being upgraded by providing of heavier rails, prestressed concrete sleepers and welding of rail joints as well as improved signalling and communication facilities.

During 1988-89 a total expenditure of Rs. 110 crores (approx.) is proposed to be incurred on track renewals on this route.

Representation for Provision of an Alternative Mail Train from Dooars to Calcutta

238. SHRI ANANDA PATHAK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have received any representation from the people of Dooars in the district of Jalpaiguri for providing an alternative mail train from Dooars to Calcutta: and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Representations to this effect have been received.

(b) Lack of terminal facilities at Jalpaiguri preclude introduction of such a train.

Amount Spent on the Great Indian Rover

239. DR. B.L. SHAILESH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent by his Ministry on getting together The Great Indian Rover;

(b) whether the train was dismantled in less than two years;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether in view of the successful launching of the Palace on Wheels Government propose to revive the Great Indian Rover to attract foreign tourist traffic in the country; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Rs. 47.26 lakhs.

(b) Yes, Sir. The coaches were dispersed and utilised on regular train services.

(c) The occupation was poor.

(d) and (e). No such decision has been taken keeping in view the past experience.

Free Trade Zone In Goa

240. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Goa has sent proposal to establish a Free Trade Zone in Goa;

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

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). The Government of Goa proposed in March, 1978 that a Free Trade Zone may be established in Goa. The investment estimated at that time was of the order of Rs. 35 lakhs and net foreign exchange earnings in the first year of production were of the order of Rs. 47 crores. The proposal was duly considered along with requests received from other State Governments and a decision was taken in 1983 to establish four new Export Processing Zones in the country located at Noida (U.P.), Falta (West Bengal), Madras and Cochin.

Failure To Repay Loan by Companies

241. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of individuals and companies including companies belonging to monopoly and big business houses have failed to repay the loans and advances taken from public sector banks;

(b) the amount of loans and advances

for which recovery proceedings have started or are in process since last three years by the nationalised banks including State Bank of India with details, bank-wise and year-wise; and

(c) the percentage of such loans to the total advances outstanding?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The RBI has reported that the percentage of overdues to outstandings of 28 public sector banks as on 31st December, 1987 in the large and medium industries sector was 15.6%.

(b) and (c). Information is being collected and to the extent available and admissible under the rules would be laid on the Table of the House.

Strategy for Leather Exports

242. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for export of leather and leather goods during the Seventh Plan;

(b) the achievement made so far; and

(c) the details of strategy adopted for leather export during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The details of the targets fixed for export of leather and leather manufactures during the Seventh Plan and of the achievements are as under:-

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Seventh Plan Target	Achievements*
1	2	3
1985-86	540	769.91

1	2	3
1986-87	605	787.18 (p)
1987-88	715	1148.24 (p)
1988-89	870	340.65 (p)
		(April-June, 1988).
1989-90	1070	—

(P) - Provisional

* Source - DGCI & S.

(c) A Working Group on Leather and Leather Goods Industry has been set up by Planning Commission for Eighth Five Year Plan to, inter-alia, assess the demand for export of leather and leather products during the Eighth Plan.

Electrification of Platforms in A.P.

243. SHRI T. BALA GOUD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway platforms, at present, in Andhra Pradesh where arrangements for electricity do not exist; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to electrify such railway platforms during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Arrangements for electricity do not exist at railway platforms at 91 stations in Andhra Pradesh.

(b) Out of the 91 stations, 75 stations do not qualify for electrification, power supply from State Electricity Board not being available within a reasonable distance of 1 Km. from the station. Of the remaining 16, there are plans for completing six stations during the current financial year, subject to service connection being made available by the State Electricity Board. It is also proposed to electrify balance ten stations during the next

financial year i.e. 1989-90.

Visit of Confederation of Engineering Industry of India Delegation to Thailand

244. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-level delegation of the Confederation of Engineering Industry of India visited Thailand to explore the expansion of trade with Thailand;

(b) if so, the response of the Thailand Industrialists;

(c) whether there is big scope to export capital goods, raw material and consumer goods to Thailand; and

(d) if so, the details of trade agreement, if any, signed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. The Confederation of Engineering Industry had successful meetings and useful discussions with the Federation of Thai Industrialists' (FTI), Board of Trade of Thailand (BOTT), The Metal Working and Machinery Industries Development Institute (MIDI) and Board of Investment (BOI). FTI and BOTT agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with CEI to help promote trade and

industrial cooperation between the two countries. MOU with BOTT has already been signed for promotion of bilateral trade. The Mission found that there was good potential in certain sectors of capital goods, raw materials and consumer goods exports.

Streamlining of Income Tax Department

246. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Computerisation has been introduced in the Income Tax Department and work thereof revamped or streamlined; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Computer systems have been installed at 34 out of 36 head quarters of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and selected Commissioners of Income Tax. The installation of computers at the two remaining stations would be completed soon. Standardised software programmes have been developed for computerisation of Income-

tax assessments, collection, tax deductions at source from salary income, allotment of permanent account number, challan processing, summary assessments, monitoring of public grievances etc.

Poor Recovery Rate of Loans in Karnataka

247. SHRI D.K. NAIKAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rate of banks recovery from the debtors is very low in Karnataka because of successive droughts;

(b) if so, whether the NABARD criteria is coming in the way of refinancing the banks in Karnataka; and

(c) the steps Government are contemplating to facilitate the refinancing of the banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Position relating to recovery of the Public Sector Banks in respect of their direct agricultural advances in Karnataka vis-a-vis all India position for the three years ended June, 1986 as reported by Reserve Bank of India is given below:

Year	Percentage of recovery to Demand	
	All India	Karnataka
1984	51.6	48.4
1985	54.2	50.4
1986	56.5	53.4

The recovery performance of Karnataka, it may be observed, is more or less comparable to the all India average. The recovery position has shown an improvement.

(b) According to National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), its refinance to various agencies in Karnataka has gone up from Rs. 83.68 crores in 1984-85 to Rs. 129.01 crores in 1987-88.

(c) NABARD had issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks to conduct case by case study of their overdue accounts and afford necessary relief to the deserving borrowers by rescheduling their payment schedules with a view to bring down their overdues at more realistic level and thus improving their own eligibility for refinance.

Income Tax Outstanding Against Bombay Based Film Producers Etc.

248. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MAN-DAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Income-tax outstanding on disclosed and undisclosed income by the Bombay based film stars and film producers and distributors, as per latest information available with his Ministry;

(b) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Tax-evaders' eyes fixed on stars" appearing in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated 15.10.1988 and if so, the action taken on the tax-evasion cases of film stars;

(c) the particulars of cases where prosecution cases had been launched against some film stars for evasion; and

(d) which of these have been compounded and at what terms and conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE

MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) This information is not available as there is no bifurcation of arrears on account of tax on disclosed and undisclosed income. However, the overall income-tax arrears of Bombay based film persons, who individually owe Rs. 1 lakh or more are Rs. 17.69 crores as on 30.6.88. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 7.17 crores is not inforceable.

(b) Government is aware of the news item captioned "Tax evaders' eyes fixed on stars" that appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi, dated 15.10.88. Appropriate action under the Direct Taxes Acts is taken in all cases of tax evasion, including those of film stars.

(c) On the basis of information available at present with the Central Board of Direct Taxes, particulars of cases, where prosecutions have been launched against film stars for evasion of tax, are given in the Statement below.

(d) None of these cases has been compounded. However, in the case of Kumari Rekha Ganeshan, on the recommendation of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, the Central Government approved the proposal of the Commissioner of Income-tax that prosecution launched for the assessment years 1979-80 and 1982-83 may be withdrawn because her case was covered by the general instructions issued by the Board regarding Amnesty Scheme, which was in force from November, 1985 to March, 1987.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name S/Shri</i>	<i>Assessment year</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>
1.	Kr. R. Jayaprada	1979-80 to 1982-83
2.	Rajesh Khanna	1976-77 & 1982-83
3.	Amjad Khan	1979-80 to 1981-82
4.	Kadar Khan	1980-81 to 1983-84

1	2	3
5.	Tina Munim	1981-82
6.	Miss Rekha Ganeshan	1979-80 & 1982-83
7.	Smt. Hema Malini	1981-82
8.	Dharmendra Deol	1981-82
9.	Mohd. Yasuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar	1964-65
10.	Asha Parekh	1963-64
11.	Prem Nazir	1978-79 & 1983-84

Impact of Seafood Export on Domestic Supply

249. SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been phenomenal increase in seafood export over the years;

(b) whether Government are aware that

this has resulted in poor domestic availability due to high rise in prices and reduced supply for internal consumption; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the export policy pending real increase in fish production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Exports of marine products during the last few years were:

Year	Qty (in tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
1983-84	92691	373.02
1984-85	86187	384.29
1985-86	83651	398.00
1986-87	85843	460.67
1987-88	97179	531.20

(Source: MPEDA, Cochin)

(b) Export of Seafood works out around 10-12% of total fish production in India and export mainly consists of items like shrimp, cuttle fish squid, lobsters etc., which do not have an established domestic market. There

is no evidence that export of marine products has resulted in non-availability or shortage of fish for internal consumption.

(c) No, Sir.

Modification in Loan Sanction Rules by LIC

250. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the LIC has modified rules pertaining to sanction of loans to customers; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir. The rules pertaining to sanction of loans to customers have not been modified recently.

(b) Does not arise.

Transfer Policy Regarding Women Officers and Clerks

251. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the general policy of transfer of women officers and clerks in Nationalised Banks in the country;

(b) whether this policy is uniform for all metropolitan cities viz. Delhi, Calcutta, Madras and Bombay; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Officers in Public Sector Banks whether serving in Metropolitan cities or elsewhere are liable for transfer to an office or branch of the Banks in any place in India. Workmen employees are liable for transfer as per the Bipartite Settlements. These provisions, as laid down, are applicable in case of women employees also, without any distinction. However, Banks do accommodate couples to the extent possible as per guidelines.

Claim Inspectors in the New India Assurance Company Limited

252. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Claim Inspectors in New India Assurance Company Ltd, promoted in December, 1986, under One time Promotion Policy;

(b) the number out of them doing the same technical work as that applicable to engineers appointed in Assistant Administrative Officers' Grade;

(c) the number out of them which are getting the conveyance allowance;

(d) the number of engineers recruited in A.A.O. grade by General Insurance Corporation in 1987 and 1988; and

(e) the number out of them allotted wider technical functions other than Motor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) 36.

(b) Job requirements of Claim Inspectors are different from the job requirements of Engineers appointed directly in the Assistant Administrative Officers' (AAOs) grade and hence reply to this question does not arise.

(c) Under conveyance facilities scheme, AAOs on field duty are entitled to conveyance allowance.

(d) In 1987, General Insurance Corporation of India did not recruit any Engineers in AAOS grade. In 1988, 123 AAOs (Engineers) were recruited.

(e) All the Engineers recruited in 1988 have been allotted wider technical functions other than Motor such as risk inspections, etc.

Rajahmundry Railway Station

253. SHRI SRI HARI RAO: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to develop and properly maintain the Rajahmundry railway station on South Central Railway; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amounts sanctioned for that purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The remodelling of the Rajahmundry Railway Station provides for the following works:-

- (1) Provision of accommodation for the Telegraph Office and Pay Office.
- (2) Provision of Godavari refreshment stall on Platform No. 1
- (3) Provision of reservation complex in the station building.

Rs. 14 lakhs are likely to be spent on the above Works.

LIC Housing Schemes

254. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI S.M. GURADDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has implemented a scheme for financing the purchase of housing flats in metropolitan cities;

(b) whether Government propose to amend the Life Insurance Corporation Act to bring within its scope the housing schemes and if so, the kinds of schemes proposed to be started by the Life Insurance Corporation initially; and

(c) the existing housing schemes operated by the Corporation and the rate of interest charged, the prescribed period for repayment of the loan and the number of persons benefited thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. A new scheme called "BIMA NIWAS YOJANA" has come into effect on 1.9.1988 in metropolitan cities of Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi and Madras.

(b) No proposal to amend the LIC Act is under consideration. The Insurance Act, 1938 has already been suitably amended for this purpose.

(c) Details are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

The desired data in respect of existing housing schemes are furnished below:-

S. No.	Name of the Scheme	Rate of Interest & Repayment Period.
1	2	3
1.	Mortgage Loans on Immovable Property.	14% p.a. to 16% p.a. depending on the amount of loan to be repaid in 15 years.
2.	"Own Your Home" Scheme	12% to 15% p.a. to be repaid in 25 years or on superannuation or completion of 65 years of age.

1	2	3
3.	Loans to Public Ltd. Companies for houses for their employees.	13 1/2% p.a. to be repaid in 15 years.
4.	Loans to Cooperative Housing Societies of employees of Public Ltd. Companies.	12 1/2% p.a. to be repaid in a maximum period of 15 years.
5.	Loans to Cooperative Housing Societies of the employees of LIC.	14% p.a. to be repaid over a period not exceeding 30 years.
6.	Loans of Individual Employees of LIC.	14% p.a. to be repaid over a period not longer than the future service period of the employee.
7.	Loans to Cooperative Housing Societies of employees of Public Sector Undertakings.	12 1/2% p.a. granted for a period upto a maximum of 15 years.
8.	"Own Your Apartment" Scheme.	12 to 15% p.a. Repaid in 25 years or on attaining 65 years age or on superannuation of the borrower, if in employment.
9.	Loans to Agents of LIC.	13% p.a. 25 years from the date of the Mortgage Deed; Date of attaining of age 60 by the Agents; and Date exactly 5 years' prior to the date of expiry of the Lease if the property is leasehold.
10.	Loans to Individual Employees of LIC for purchase of flats.	14% p.a. Repayable over a period at beyond the normal date of retirement of the concerned employee.
11.	Loans to Public Sector Undertakings for construction of Staff Quarters.	13 1/2% p.a. To be repaid in 15 years from the date of Mortgage Deed.
12.	Loans to Cooperative Housing Societies of Employees of Universities, Private Limited Companies and Public Limited Companies (other than approved employers).	12 1/2% p.a. Upto a maximum of 15 years.
13.	Loans to Public Limited Companies for construction of Commercial Buildings mainly for their own use.	17% p.a. with the maximum term of payment of 15 years.

1

2

3

14. BIMA NIWAS YOJANA.

Between 12% to 15% p.a. Repayment term shall be 20 years for professionals and employees or superannuation of the borrower, or attainment of 60 years age by the borrower whichever is earlier.

In respect of others, the maximum repayment term shall be 15 years or attainment of 60 years age, whichever is earlier.

As on 31.3.1988 as many as 81,000 persons have been benefitted under the above Schemes.

Assistance to Retrenched Workers of Sick Units

255. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the General Insurance Corporation propose to provide cash assistance to workers retrenched due to modernisation/rehabilitation of potentially sick units;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's response to the scheme and the reaction of labour unions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) No, Sir.

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

[*Translation*]

Trade Fair Centres In States

256. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 29th April, 1988 to the Unstarred Question No. 8995 regarding trade fair centres in State and state:

(a) whether Government propose to

assess the usefulness of Trade Fair Centres prior to their setting up in the states; and

(b) the names of the State Governments which have submitted proposals in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The usefulness of setting up exhibition complexes in State capitals has been conveyed to the State Governments. The State Governments which have shown interest in setting up such complexes are Maharashtra, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Up., Rajasthan, Karnataka, J & K etc.

[*English*]

Improvement of Old Lakes and Tanks In Tamil Nadu

257. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to start some new schemes for improvement of old lakes and tanks in Tamilnadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RE-

SOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Three project proposals for improvement of Old Tanks in the Tamil Nadu are being processed, details of which are given in the Statement below.

STATEMENT

Details of proposals, received from Government of Tamil Nadu.

1. Tank Irrigation Systems Phase-II

This scheme envisages modernisation of 150 tanks with command areas ranging between 100 to 200 has. and renovation of 80 Ex-Zamin tanks with command areas ranging from 4 to 50 has.

2. Modernisation of Tank irrigation systems in Tamil Nadu.

This scheme envisages modernisation of tanks with individual command areas ranging from 50 to 100 has. in the districts of Chengalpattu, south Arcot, North Arcot, Pudukottai, Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Anna, Chidambaranar and Tirunelveli Kattabom-man.

3. Standardisation of irrigation tanks in Tamil Nadu.

This scheme envisages standardisation of Tanks with individual command areas less than 40 has. in the districts of Chengalpattu, North Arcot, south Arcot,

Salem, Coimbatore, Periyar, Tiruchi, Thanjavur, Madurai, Anna, Tirunelveli, Kattabomman Chidambaranar and Kanyakumari, Dharmapuri, Pasumpon-Muthuramalingam, Ramanathapuram and Kamarajar districts.

Salt Export

258. SHRI S.G. GHOLAP: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to states:

(a) whether India is exporting salt;

(b) if so, the quantity and value of the salt exported, country-wise;

(c) whether there is a scope to increase the export to new areas; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to tap them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Liberalisation of the export policy on Salt, constant review of exports to identify new areas, enlisting the assistance of Indian Missions abroad etc., are some of the steps taken/being taken to diversify export of Salt.

STATEMENT

The quantity and value of salt exported, country-wise, during April-August, 1988, as reported by the Salt Commissioner, Jaipur, has been as follows:

(Quantity in Tonnes)
(Value : Rs. '000)

Country	Quantity	Value
1	2	3
Bangladesh	37,093	6,532
Bhutan	3,534	239

1	2	3
Indonesia	10,650	2,467
Iraq	9,250	8,554
Japan	57,498	4,956
Maldives	240	75
Malaysia	10,468	953
Korea Democratic Republic	40,347	3,908
Nepal	13,389	1,174
Singapore	3,300	1,363
Tanzania	13,488	2,092
U.A.E	4,885	4,645
Zambia	2,000	3,141
	2,06,142	40,099

[*Translation*][*English*]

Recruitment of Tribals in Jamalpur and Chittaranjan Railway Workshops

Enquiry Report on Train Accident at Quilon in Kerala

259. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

260. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN:

(a) the norms laid for recruitment of the tribal people in the Jamalpur Railway Workshop; and

(b) the number of tribal persons given appointment during the last three years in Jamalpur Railway Workshop and Chittaranjan Loco Factory and the percentage thereof?

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the findings of the enquiry made into the causes of the train accident at Quilon in Kerala on 8 July, 1988;

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid out in the Table of the Sabha.

(b) what are the steps taken to prevent recurrence of accidents along that route, and

(c) the total compensation paid to victims/bereaved families by the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) As per the Preliminary Report of the Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, this accident occurred due to the failure of the railway staff.

(b) On this route, the track is being maintained in satisfactory condition by adequate inputs on maintenance.

(c) Compensation will be paid to the victims of this accident as per the directions of the Ad hoc Claims Commissioner appointed for the purpose.

Smuggling Activities on Indo-Nepal Border

261. DR. G.S. RAJHANS:
SHRIMATI MADHUREE
SINGH:
PROF. CHANDRA BHANU
DEVI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government are aware that smuggling activities on the Indo-Nepal border are increasing day by day;

(b) if so, whether smuggling of narcotics drugs is more than other items on the Indo-Nepal border; and

(c) the steps so far taken by Government to defuse the activities of mafia gangs operating on this border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.R. PANJA): (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of contraband goods being smuggled into or out of the country across the Indo-Nepal border. However, the value of contraband goods and narcotic drugs seized in the Indo-Nepal sector of the land border during the last few years are as follows:-

<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>		
<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of narcotic drugs seized</i>	<i>Value of total contraband goods seized</i>
1985	251	609
1986	322	895
1987	378	1288
1988 (up to 24th October)	243	1385 (Provisional)

These figures indicate that the value of narcotic drugs forms a major portion of the value of seizures effected in this sector.

(c) During 1988 several steps have been taken to defuse the activities of the gangs of smugglers operating on the Indo-Nepal border. 247 persons have been ar-

rested. 67 prosecutions have been launched in the Courts of Law, 3800 cases have been adjudicated departmentally wherein contraband goods have been confiscated and

penalty imposed on the smugglers, properties of 6 absconding smugglers have been ordered to be attached and 92 persons have been detained under the provisions of the Conservation of Foreign Exchange and Prevention of Smuggling activities Act, 1974 and Prevention of Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1988.

The intelligence machinery for the detection and prevention of the activities of smugglers has been geared up. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling activity supports this Collectorate.

Equipment in the nature of vehicles, fire-arms including self-loading rifles, metal detectors and drug identification kits have been provided to the officers of the Indo-Nepal border Customs Collectorate. The Customs formations of this Collectorate have been linked with each other through a wireless network to enable quick exchange of information and follow-up action on seizures.

Setting up of Major and Medium Irrigation Schemes In Kerala

262. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for setting up major and medium irrigation schemes in Kerala during the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) the extent to which the target has been achieved in the last three years; and

(c) if the targets have not been achieved, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) There are 10 major and 5 medium on going irrigation projects under the VII Plan. In addition, two other major projects have

also been taken up during the period.

(b) Against the target of 123 th.ha. of creation of irrigation potential and 129 th.ha. for utilisation of potential for the first three years of the Plan, the anticipated achievement of potential creation and utilisation is 55.6 th.ha.

(c) Constraint of resources is the major factor inhibiting target achievement.

Revision in Pay Scales of Bank Employees

263. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 15th April, 1988 and 29 July, 1988 to Unstarred Question Nos. 7004 and 424 respectively regarding revision of pay scales of bank employees and state:

(a) whether any settlement has since been reached between the bank employees and Government in regard to revision of the pay scales and other conditions of service consequent on the vacation of injunction by the Court;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in the finalisation thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the finalisation of demands of bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The Indian Banks' Association which conducts negotiations of behalf of Bank managements has informed that no settlement has so far been reached between them and union of bank employees on revision of wages and other terms of service conditions. They have further informed that Calcutta High Court has issued an injunction restraining the Indian Banks' Association from holding negotiations with the majority unions or finalising the bipartite settlement. The injunction is valid for a period of two weeks till

after the re-opening of the High Court after Puja holidays. The Indian Banks' Association is taking action to get the injunction vacated so that a settlement could be reached with the unions as early as possible.

Pre-Shipment Inspection of Exported Basmati Rice

264. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pre-shipment inspection according to Government laid down specifications is compulsory for the export of basmati rice;

(b) if so, the organisations entrusted to conduct the inspection;

(c) whether any violation of norms in the inspection of such exports has come to the notice of Government during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 1. Export Inspection Agencies under Ministry of Commerce.

2. Directorate of Marketing and Inspection under Ministry of Agriculture (Dept. of Rural Development)

(c) and (d). A few instances have been reported against the Inspecting Officers of Dte. of Marketing Inspection about the non-observation of procedure. The matter is still under investigation and no final decision has been taken in this regard.

Measures to Increase Exports During Current Financial Year

265. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared a long term plan and approved a package of measures to help the country achieve higher exports during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of revised export target for 1988-89 vis-a-vis performance in 1987-88?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Government has taken a series of initiatives designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to encourage product and market diversification in both in the short and long terms. The steps initiated for immediate step-up in exports during the current financial year include addition to the export basket of items such as, Polyester Staple Fibre (PSF), Plastic woven sacks, Polyester filament yarn (PFY), Linear Alkyl Benzene (LAB), Cement etc.; a special scheme to ensure 100% supplies of pig Iron, Billets and H.R. Coils to exporters of engineering goods by SAIL; major changes in the Gold Regime in order to facilitate export of value added gold jewellery items; additional CCS for export of non-quota items to quota countries and non-quota exports to GCA markets etc.

(c) For the current financial year 1988-89, Government have approved an export target of Rs. 18795 crores, envisaging a growth of about 20% over the provisional export figure of Rs. 15719 crores during 1987-88.

Separate High Court for Manipur

266. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of the High Court Complex/building in

Imphal;

(b) whether the delay in the institution of a separate High Court for Manipur is due to the delay in the said construction; and

(c) if not, the latest position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). In its letter dated 2nd September, 1988, the Government of Manipur intimated that it was expediting the matter of providing the infrastructural facilities required for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the Gauhati High Court at Imphal. A separate High Court for Manipur is to be formed only after the permanent Bench has been established.

[*Translation*]

Railway bridges In Uttar Pradesh

267. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway bridges in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether there is a need for repairing these bridges or any of these bridges;

(c) if so, the details of the repairs done during the last three years and the amount spent on it; and

(d) the names of the bridges proposed to be repaired during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Such information is maintained Railway-wise and not State-wise.

It may, however, be stated that all railway bridges are inspected annually and any repairs as found necessary are carried out.

Bridges showing signs of distress are rebuilt or rehabilitated by carrying out special repairs on a programmed basis.

[*English*]

New Scheme for Checking Visitors to India

268. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Customs Department has introduced a new system of checking passengers and visitors to India at their first point of entry;

(b) if so, the details of the new system introduced;

(c) the number of smugglers arrested after introducing the new system and details of the items seized; and

(d) further steps Government propose to take to improve the checking system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). International passengers breaking their journey in Bombay Airport while travelling to another Indian Customs Airport by an international flight of Air India are being asked to get cleared through immigration and Customs at Bombay itself. This is designed to prevent smuggling by way of abuse of transit facilities by such passengers.

(c) and (d). This is a preventive measure and therefore the success of this measure cannot be stated in terms of number of arrests made and value of goods seized.

Indira Gandhi Canal Project

269. SHRI BIRENDER SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the construction of Indira Gandhi Canal project of Rajasthan;

(b) when the construction of the canal is likely to be completed; and

(c) how the finances required for the construction of the canal are being arranged by the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUS-

(i)	Advance Plan Assistance	Rs. 45.00 crores.
(ii)	Boarder Area Development Programme grant.	Rs. 25.00 crores.

Besides a sum of Rs. 20 crores has been earmarked for the project under the Drought Relief Assistance for the year 1987-88 and 1988-89. A further provision of Rs. 11 crores is also available in 1988-89 under the Border Area Development Programme. Water courses in the Culturable Command area of Stage-II of the project for which irrigation potential has been created till March, 1988 would be covered by the CAD Programme under which Central assistance is admissible on a matching basis. For CAD Programme in Rajasthan, including the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project, Rs. 87.46 crores have been provided to the State.

Decision Taken at Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference

270. SHRI BRAJA MOHAN MOHANTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the decision taken at the recent Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference with regard to reducing the debt burden

TICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The project is being implemented under the State Plan for which block grants and loans are provided by the Central Government. Stage-I of the Indira Gandhi Nahar Project has been completed. The main Canal of Stage-II of the Project has also been completed. The work on the distribution system of Stage-II is in progress and was envisaged to be completed by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan, but because of constraint of resources, the completion of the project is likely to spill over to the Ninth Plan.

However, with a view to provide additional resources for early completion, the following Central assistance to the project has so far been provided:-

of developing countries and the reaction of the developed countries and financial institutions like World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) thereon;

(b) whether any suggestion had been made for restructuring the World Bank and the IMF, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) At the Commonwealth Finance Ministers Conference in September 1988, the Minister stressed the need for continuing efforts to resolve the problem of severe indebtedness of many developing countries. They welcomed the recent initiatives by official creditors in reducing the debt burden of these countries and welcomed moves to provide debt relief to the poorest and most heavily indebted countries. They urged that internationally agreed programmes towards alleviating the

debt burden of developing countries be implemented speedily and in a manner that would have greatest impact on resource transfers.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Restructuring of Bank Lending Rates

271. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has given directions for restructuring the bank lending rate;

(b) whether the policy of the Reserve Bank of India would effect credit policies being followed by the nationalised/scheduled banks in the country;

(c) whether Government are contemplating in terms of giving retrospective effect from 1985 onwards; and

(d) if so, whether it envisages all banking loans from Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 2 lakhs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has recently restructured the bank lending rates with a view to providing some relief to borrowers with good credit record, and at the same time, to provide flexibility to scheduled commercial banks in the matter of determining lending rates. Effective from October 10, 1988 all lending rates which were hitherto prescribed at 16.5 percent (fixed) ceased to have a ceiling stipulation; the lending rates for such categories of borrowers will, however, be subject to a minimum of 16.0 percent. Reserve Bank of India has also restructured interest rates on bank loans for housing purposes. It is not contemplated to give effect to this measure retrospective to 1985. Short term loans to small scale industries upto Rs. 2 lakhs were not subject to this rate of 16.5 percent and as

such the measure announced is not applicable to such borrowers.

Sardar Sarovar Project

272. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether investment clearance has been accorded for the Sardar Sarovar Project;

(b) if so, whether any conditions have been stipulated for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) The conditions specified by the Planning Commission are as under:-

- i) To comply with the conditions laid down by the Ministry of Environment & Forests while according clearance from the environmental angle and under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.
- ii) To give sufficient priority by ensuring adequate funding during the Eighth Plan to match with the construction schedule.
- iii) To make a programme of drainage and ground water balance studies for areas beyond Mahi.
- iv) To ensure adequate revenue to meet at least the operational and maintenance cost, and setting the water rates suitably.
- v) To study siltation aspect in the main canals through a special group of experts.

- vi) To draw up detailed time-schedule for completion within 5 years the investigation, detailed survey, planning and cost estimates for completion of micro-level network system.
- vii) To draw up implementation schedule, segment-wise, for completion of the canal network.

Under Staffing In Public Sector Banks

273. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether most of the public sector banks are under staffed and the branches of nationalised banks are not being opened in the unbanked areas;

(b) whether the Banking Recruitment Boards are not able to provide adequate staff which could serve in unbanked pockets; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to allow nationalised banks to recruit their staff themselves according to their need in unbanked, backward and tribal areas of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Most Public Sector Banks are not under-staffed and hence, there are no major complaints about their inability to open branches on this account. However, the problem faced by some banks pertains to their inability to adjust staff from surplus to deficit areas for various reasons. Banking Service Recruitment Boards are in a position to provide adequate staff on the basis of timely requis-

tions received from banks and therefore, the question of allowing nationalised banks to recruit their own staff does not arise.

Rural Bank Branches In Orissa

274. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of rural bank branches in Orissa is much lower as compared to other States;

(b) if so, the number of bank branches functioning at present, districtwise, in Orissa; and

(c) whether Government propose to open more branches of rural banks in that State and if so, the details of the plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Under the current Branch Licensing Policy for opening branches in rural and semi-urban centres, one branch has to be opened for every 17,000 population in each Block. There should also be a bank branch within 10 kms. On the basis of list of identified centres received from the Government of Orissa, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had issued licences for opening branches at 182 centres under this policy. RBI has reported that though the number of rural bank branches in the State of Orissa are less as compared to States like West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra etc. they are more as compared to some other States like Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Assam etc. District-wise details of bank branches functioning in Orissa as on 30.6.1988 are indicated below:-

<i>Name of District</i>	<i>Rural and Semi-Urban</i>	<i>Urban/Metro-Politan and Port Town</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4
Balasore	149	—	149

1	2	3	4
Bolangir	90	—	90
Cuttack	265	56	321
Dhenkanal	116	—	116
Ganjam	167	26	193
Kalahandi	99	—	99
Keonjhar	73	—	73
Koraput	143	—	143
Mayurbhanj	111	—	111
Phulbani	52	—	52
Puri	163	68	231
Sambalpur	121	18	139
Sundargarh	62	33	95
Total: 1611		201	1812

RBI has advised the banks to open branches at the allotted centres expeditiously. RBI has further advised the Lead banks to identify additional centres for opening branches in deficit blocks and forward the list thereof as approved by the State Government to RBI for consideration of further allotment of centres. As such, it is not possible at this stage to indicate the details of more branches that will be opened in rural areas of Orissa.

Payment of DA to Central Government Employees

275. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the twelve monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index for industrial workers for the period ending June, 1988 on the basis of which D.A. instalment to Central Government has been paid recently; and

(b) how much it will cost to the exchequer during the year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) The twelve monthly average of Consumer Price Index for the period ending 30.6.1988, (Base 1960 = 100) on the basis of which payment of dearness allowance to Central Government employees has been allowed at revised effective from 1.7.88 is 752.75.

(b) The total additional expenditure on this account in the current financial year will be Rs. 236 crores.

Rise in Swiss Bank Deposits Held by Indians

276. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Rapid growth in Indian deposits in Swiss banks' appearing in the 'Business Standard' dated 6 October, 1988;

(b) if so, whether the deposits held by Indians in Swiss Bank have been increasing by 30 to 35 per cent annually during the last four years; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Government have seen the Press which is based on an article entitled 'Capital Flight and Developing Countries' published in September, 1988 issue of Central Bank of India's Economic Bulletin. In that article, the author has mentioned that according to some estimates Indian funds in Swiss banks have been going up by about 30-35 per cent every year. This view is not based on any study undertaken by Central Bank of India, nor supported by any authentic data or information. The views expressed in the article are personal views of the author and not of the Central Bank of India. No person resident in India can keep accounts in Switzerland or any other country outside India without the

permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

[*Translation*]

Performance of Locomotives

277. SHRI MOHANLAL JHIKRAM:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) which engine of the steam, diesel and electric engines is more convenient/ useful from maintenance speed, environmental and commercial point of view;

(b) the comparative statement of income and expenditure of these three engines on every 100 K.M. operation; and

(c) the time by which the most useful engine of these three is likely to be brought in operation all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Steam locomotive is an uneconomic mode of traction when compared with diesel and electric locomotives. Diesel and Electric locomotive are superior to Steam locomotives from environmental and speed considerations also. Economics of use of diesel or electric traction depend upon the traffic density on a particular section.

(b) The comparative cost of operation per 1000 GTKMs of different forms of tractions for the year 1986-87 are as follows:-

<i>Traction</i>	<i>Goods Services</i>		<i>Passenger Services</i>	
	<i>B.G. (Rs.)</i>	<i>M.G. (Rs.)</i>	<i>B.G. (Rs.)</i>	<i>M.G. (Rs.)</i>
Steam	293.78	226.28	121.50	102.22
Diesel	21.63	39.31	30.20	55.67
Electric	19.56	46.46	39.93	58.10

(c) It is planned to phase out steam traction by 2000 A.D. Both Diesel and Electric locomotives will be in use on Indian Railways.

[*English*]

Kerala Suggestion on Product Development Fund

278. SHRI T. BASHEER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government have suggested for the creation of a product development fund for the State for development of export-oriented projects in a memorandum submitted to Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). A suggestion was made by the Kerala Government that a Product Development Fund should be set up by Government and the State Governments should be credited with 15 per cent of the total export earnings, which would be utilized for specific projects.

(c) The matter is under the consideration of the Government.

Indo-USSR Steering Committee Meet

279. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the meeting of the Indo-Soviet steering committee to promote collaboration between business organisations was held on September 27, 1988;

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

(c) India's trade turnover with USSR in the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). A meeting of the business organisations of both the countries, under the joint sponsorship of the Steering Group of the Ministry of Commerce and the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry, was held in new Delhi from 26th to 27th September, 1988. These were followed by discussions with FICCI, ASSOCHAM and Indo-USSR Chamber of Commerce on the subsequent dates. The Indian Delegation was led by Commerce Secretary and the Soviet delegation was led by the Vice-President of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The discussions covered a wide range of subjects like diversification and promotion of bilateral trade promotion of new forms of cooperation like production cooperation, joint ventures in both the countries, cooperation in services sector, etc.

(c) The Indo-Soviet Trade Plan for 1988 envisages a trade turnover of the order Rs. 5,000 crores. The present indications are that the trade plan target is likely to be exceeded.

Tax Dues from Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

280. SHRI NATVARSIKH SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given on 5 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 1582 regarding tax dues from Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Private Limited and state:

(a) whether the balance demand of Rs. 26,82,164 has since been collected; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and action proposed to be taken to recover the amount?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The entire demand of Rs. 26,82,164/- is in dispute before the Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals). Therefore, recovery is not being enforced. However, the Commissioner of Income-tax (Appeals) has been requested to dispose of all pending appeals as early as possible.

Deposits of Public Sector Undertakings in Nationalised Banks

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

(a) the deposits of various sector undertakings with various nationalised banks;

(b) whether these are reflected in the Balance Sheet of the banks;

(c) whether various Ministries have been asked to deal with specific banks;

(d) if so, the names of Ministries which are not dealing with banks allocated to them; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that the present data reporting system of the Bank does not generate the information relating to the deposits of various public sector undertakings with the nationalised banks. However, the deposits of public sector undertakings with the nationalised banks form part of the bank's overall deposits and are reflected in their balance sheets.

(c) to (e). As per the scheme of departmentalisation of accounts of various Ministries/Departments, each Ministry/Department has been allotted one public sector bank with whom the Minister/Department can bank. According to RBI, all Ministries/Departments are dealing with banks allotted to them.

[*Translation*]

Decline in Foreign Exchanger Reserves

282. SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMMOOWALIA:
SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the foreign exchange reserves has declined sharply during the second quarter of the current financial year;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and position of the reserves as on 31 August, 1988; and

(c) the reasons for which this reserves has declined in such a way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The foreign exchange reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) which stood at Rs. 5819.52 crores as on 30th June, 1988 had gone down to Rs. 5242.54 crores on 31st August, 1988 but thereafter increased to Rs. 5460.57 crores by 30th September, 1988. The foreign exchange reserves as on 31.10.1988 stand at Rs. 6382.82 crores.

(c) The decline in reserves as per available indications, was mainly due to the bunching of some import payments, unusually high international prices for metals, edible oils, petrochemicals and other imports, increase in import of bulk commodities such as diesel, edible oils, steel and wheat necessitated by unprecedented drought last year and lower net receipts of aid and higher repayments to the IMF as compared to last year.

[*English*]

Ernakulam-Alleppey Railway Line

283. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the construction of Ernakulam Alleppey railway line; and

(b) by which time it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) 55%.

(b) During 1989.

Indo-Sri Lankan Efforts to Boost Tea Exports

284. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether joint efforts are being made by India and Sri Lanka to boost tea export; and

(b) if so, specific steps being taken to promote joint venture in the above matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). An Indian Tea Delegation recently visited Sri-Lanka and held discussions with Sri-Lankan authorities on matters of mutual interest including International Tea Scene. As a result of discussions both India and Sri-Lanka have agreed to set up a Working Group consisting of representatives of both the countries to work out the areas of mutual co-operation and the modalities for achieving such co-operation.

Working Capital for Small Scale Industries

285. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has drawn the attention of the banks for their tardiness in providing assistance to small scale industries, resulting in delayed

sanctioning of funds and inadequate provision of working capital to small scale industries;

(b) whether the Reserve Bank of India has also pointed out to the banks about the lack of coordination between them and the State Finance Corporations;

(c) if so, the steps contemplated to remedy the defects and the bottlenecks pointed out by the RBI in this regard; and

(d) whether any guidelines are proposed to be issued regarding joint and simultaneous appraisal of projects by the commercial banks and the State Finance Corporation (SFC) or the acceptance of the S.F.C. appraisals by the banks wherever the joint appraisals are not possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reiterated to the commercial banks for the sanction of timely and adequate working capital limits to small scale industries. RBI has also issued guidelines regarding joint/simultaneous appraisal of projects by commercial banks and State Finance Corporations and acceptance of the SFC's appraisal by the commercial banks wherever joint appraisal has not been possible. The banks have also been advised to formulate effective monitoring system for ensuring timely and adequate working capital finance for projects approved by State Level Financial Institutions and to include such cases where units have not been able to get working capital finance from commercial banks in the agenda for consideration by State-Level inter-institutions Committees which are required to meet once in 3 months.

Floods In Delhi

286. SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken in the past three years to prevent damage due to floods in Delhi;

(b) the number of families that had to be shifted due to recent floods in the Delhi areas during this period;

(c) whether Government have decided to rehabilitate such families on highlands to save them the repeated agony of flood-havoc; and

(d) if so, the details of the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) The steps taken include raising and strengthening of embankments, closing of gaps in embankments, construction of new embankments, spurs and studs and increasing capacity of drains.

(b) 8,122 families were shifted temporarily.

(c) and (d). Delhi Administration have no such proposals.

Transfer of Funds from Centre to States

287. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the transfers of funds from the Centre to the States as recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission is causing a big drain on Central resources; and

(b) the total amount of funds to be transferred and its impact on Central resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) and (b). The recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission estimate the transfer of Rs. 13663 crores to States as share in Central taxes and non-

Plan grants in the year 1989-90. The Central Budget for next year has to provide funds for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations as accepted by the Government.

CBI Enquiry Against Officials of State Bank of Indore

288. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI has completed inquiry into fraud cases of Delhi/New Delhi branches of the State Bank of Indore during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers till now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Certain allegations of fraud, corruption etc. in respect of two branches of State Bank of Indore in Delhi had been referred by Government to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). After careful examination of the allegations, the CBI have intimated that departmental action has already been initiated by the Bank in appropriate cases. CBI has also pointed out that in all deserving cases suits have also been filed by the Bank against the concerned firms and it has secured reimbursements from the concerned firms in other cases. CBI has, therefore, intimated that in above circumstances further investigation of the same allegations is not considered necessary.

Trade with GDR

289. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an agreement with East Germany to double the bilateral trade within the next couple of years;

(b) the trade turnover between India and East Germany in 1987; and

(c) the important items of import and export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). There is no specific agreement to double the bilateral trade within the next couple of years. However both the Governments have agreed to pursue with the efforts to enlarge and diversify the structure of bilateral trade and also to encourage new forms of economic cooperation like joint ventures, cooperation in services sector, etc., with a view to increasing substantially the levels of bilateral trade.

The main items of import from the GDR into India have been: Muriate of Potash,

steel & steel products, organic and inorganic chemicals, chemical products like cinematographic films, newsprint and machinery items like mining machinery, textile machinery, machine tools, printing machinery, diesel generating sets, etc. The main items of exports from India to the GDR have been: Finished leather, shoe-uppers, de-oiled cakes and other extractions, cottonseed extractions, spices, tobacco, iron ore, mica and mica products, cotton textiles including grey cloths, readymade garments and knitwear, jute products machinery items including machine tools and hand tools etc.

The DGC&S trade figures are made available on financial year basis only. The following tabular statement gives the trade flows between India and the GDR during the last two financial years:-

(In Rs. crores)

	1986-87 (P)	1987-88 (P)
Imports from the GDR into India	89.65	94.59
Exports from India to the GDR	84.01	106.23
Trade turnover	173.66	200.82

(P) : PROVISIONAL FIGURES
SOURCE : DGC&S, CALCUTTA.

Illegal Foreign Exchange Transaction at Raxaul town Bordering Nepal

290. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that illegal transaction of foreign currencies is rampant at Raxaul Town bordering Nepal in East Champaran District of Bihar;

(b) whether police, customs and immigration officials have conducted any raid to check the practice; and

(c) whether goods worth lakhs are being smuggled into India daily; if so, what action is taken/contemplated to prevent the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). No such information of illegal foreign currency transactions has come to the notice of Government.

(c) Indo-Nepal Sector of our land border continues to be sensitive to smuggling. The

value of contraband goods seized in the sector during the last few years is as follows:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Value of Contrabands seized (Rs. in lakhs)</i>
1985	609
1986	895
1987	1288
1988 (upto 24th Oct.)	1385 (provisional)

The anti smuggling drive has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery has been geared up alongwith vulnerable areas of the land borders. Close coordination is being maintained with all the agencies concerned in the detection and prevention of smuggling.

Foreign Debt

291. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY:
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position of India's foreign debt; and

(b) the interest India is to pay this year on foreign debt and the amount being borrowed to pay both the loan and interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The total outstanding foreign debt of India on Government Account, Non-Government Account, IMF Borrowings and External Commercial Borrowings at the end of March 1988 is estimated to be Rs. 54817 crores.

(b) The amount of interest to be paid during 1988-89 is estimated to be Rs. 2520

crores. The loans are repaid mainly from out of the country's exports and gross invisible earnings.

Export of Non-Traditional Items by Small and Medium Enterprises

292. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals for encouraging small and medium enterprises to export non-traditional items;

(b) if so, the non-traditional items identified for exports;

(c) whether Government propose to simplify export procedures in respect of articles produced by small and medium enterprises; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Question does not arise.

(c) The existing procedure have already been simplified in the Import-Export Policy for 1988-91, keeping in view the needs of the small and medium industries.

(d) Question does not arise.

Income-Tax Arrears

293. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of fresh directives issued to unearth hidden sources of money as well as income-tax arrears; and

(b) the break up of income-tax arrears cases of above Rs. 1 crore, above Rs. 50 lakhs but below Rs. 1 crore and above Rs. 10 lakhs but below Rs. 50 lakhs alongwith the

Names of assesses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) The Government has been taking various legislative and administrative steps from time to time for combating tax evasion. Some of the important administrative measures are systematic survey operations, verification of information by Central Information Branches, search and seizure operations in appropriate cases and in-depth investigation in a manageable number of selected cases. As regards income-tax arrears, the question of unearthing income-tax arrears, does not arise. However directives have been issued for making all

out efforts to recover arrears of tax. Arrear cases of Rs. one crore and above are being monitored by the Chief Commissioners and the Board. Specialised inspections of all items of arrears have been prescribed and these will result in recovery. The Action plan for current financial year has been so designed that every rupee of the collectible arrears shall be collected.

(b) The break-up of income-tax arrear cases as on 31.3.88 is furnished in the Statement below. However, as there are thousands of such cases, it is not practicable to furnish the names of the assesseees. If information is required in any specific case, the same can be furnished.

STATEMENT

INCOME TAX

Slab	No of Cases	Outstanding Demand (Rs. IN LAKHS)		
		Gross	Not Enforceable	Net
Rs. 1 Crores & above	404	155332.70	118575.59	36757.11
Rs. 50 Lakhs to Rs. 1 Crore	468	32540.37	21524.53	11015.84
Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 50 Lakhs	910	31510.78	18969.93	12540.85
Rs. 10 lakhs to Rs. 25 lakhs	1930	30857.72	17627.29	13230.43
Grand Total	3712	250241.57	176697.34	73544.23

[Translation]

Kalan; and

Railway Lines in M.P.

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

294. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend narrow gauge line from Jora to Moraina, Ambah, Ater, Phuf and Sheopur.

(b) Constraint of resources and heavy commitments already on hand for New Lines.

[English]

Gold Smuggling

295. SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether smuggling of gold into the country has shown an upward trend in the recent past;

(b) if so, the percentage of rise in the smuggling of gold into the country since the beginning of 1988, till date;

(c) how the smuggling of gold has affected the domestic prices of gold stating the percentage of rise in its price since the beginning of 1988 (till date) as compared to the rise in its price during the corresponding period in the previous year; and

(d) The quantity with value of the smuggled gold disposed of annually stating the manner to which it is disposed of?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Since smuggling is a clandestine activity, it is not feasible to estimate the quantum of gold being smuggled into the country. However, the quantum of contraband gold seized by the Customs authorities during the last few calendar years as shown in the table below have shown an upward trend. This need not necessarily be due to a spurt in smuggling and could be due to more effective anti-smuggling measures:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (in Kgs.)</i>
1986	2174
1987	2255
1988	3809 (Provisional)

Upto 30th September)

(c) The price of gold in the domestic market is highly susceptible to speculation and also depends on various factors like seasonal demand on account of marriages etc., availability of ready stock and higher international price and need not necessarily depend upon the quantum of gold smuggled into the country. It is observed that the price of gold in the Bombay market had reached a peak in November, 1987 and thereafter stabilised. The average price of gold in the Bombay market in January, 1987 was Rs. 2382.65 per 10 grammes and rose to Rs. 2875.55 per 10 grammes in September, 1987 indicating a rise of 20.69%. However, as against this, the average price of gold in the Bombay market was Rs. 3309 per 10 grammes in January, 1988 and gradually declined to Rs. 2991 per 10 grammes in September, 1988 indicating a fall of 9.61%.

(d) As per the prescribed modes of disposal, confiscated gold is deposited in the Government of India Mint. The quantum of gold so deposited during the last two financial years is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity of gold deposited in the Mint. (in Kgs.)</i>
1986-87	1832.966
1987-88	2481.854

However, since the prices of gold fluctuate from time to time, it is not feasible to estimate the exact value of the gold deposited in the Government of India Mint at any given time.

Deposits in Swiss Banks

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

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the report prepared by the Central Bank of India on deposits held by Indians in Swiss Bank;

(b) If so, whether such deposits have been increasing by 30-35% annually during the last four years;

(c) if so, the estimated value in rupees of deposits of Indian nationals in Swiss Banks at present;

(d) the total value of known deposits in Swiss Banks declared by their holders for tax purposes; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to obtain information on such deposits from the Swiss authorities on ground of criminal evasion of taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). Government have seen the Press report which is based on an article entitled 'Capital Flight and Developing Countries' published in September, 1988 issue of Central Bank of India's Economic Bulletin. In that article, the author has mentioned that according to some estimates Indian funds in Swiss Banks have been going up by 3—35 per cent every year. This view is not based on any study undertaken by Central Bank of India, nor supported by any authentic data or information. Government do not agree with this view. No person resident in India can keep accounts in Switzerland or any other country outside India without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

(e) For obtaining natural assistance in criminal matters, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between Governments of India and Switzerland. Our Mission in Berne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited.

Curtailment of Non-Plan Expenditure

297. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken any schemes to curtail non-plan expenditure;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) the funds expected to be saved as a result of the scheme during the current financial year and during the rest of the current plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c). As a part of normal budgetary exercise, which is undertaken every year, the expenditure programme of each Ministry/Department is closely reviewed with a view to controlling the expenditure and making provisions in the Budget for the minimum necessary amounts. Besides this, Ministries/Departments have been advised to adopt Zero Base Budgeting approach and undertake a thorough review of all their ongoing programmes and rank them in the order of priority to facilitate reduction or elimination of expenditure which are of low priority and applications of larger funds to items of higher priority. The impact of these exercises will be known over a period of years.

[*Translation*]

Number of Bank Dacoities

298. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of bank dacoities committed during 1987-88, and the banks where there dacoities took place;

(b) whether the culprits involved in the bank dacoities have been apprehended/identified; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Information as available in respect of number of bank robberies/dacoities which took place in 28 public sector banks during the years 1987 and 1988 (upto 30.9.88) is given in the

Statement below.

(b) and (c). As per available information, 135 persons have reportedly been arrested in connection with these bank dacoities/ robberies.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Bank</i>	<i>1987 No. of dacoities/ robberies</i>	<i>1988 (upto 30.9.88) No. of dacoities/ robberies</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1.	Central Bank of India	4	5
2.	Bank of India	11	4
3.	Punjab National Bank	17	12
4.	Bank of Baroda	—	4
5.	UCO Bank	5	6
6.	Canara Bank	6	3
7.	United Bank of India	6	1
8.	Dena Bank	—	—
9.	Syndicate Bank	2	—
10.	Union Bank of India	3	3
11.	Allahabad Bank	2	3
12.	Indian Bank	1	1
13.	Bank of Maharashtra	—	1
14.	Indian Overseas Bank	1	1
15.	Punjab & Sind Bank	10	6
16.	Oriental Bank of Commerce	1	1
17.	New Bank of India	1	2
18.	Corporation Bank	—	—

1	2	3	4
19.	Andhra Bank	—	1
20.	Vijaya Bank	2	—
21.	State Bank of India	13	15
22.	State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	—	1
23.	State Bank of Hyderabad	—	1
24.	State Bank of Indore	1	—
25.	State Bank of Mysore	—	—
26.	State Bank of Patiala	3	3
27.	State Bank of Saurashtra	2	—
28.	State Bank of Travancore	—	—
Total		91	74

(Data Provisional)

[English]

Life Insurance of Landless Labourers

299. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Life Insurance Corporation of India has taken a decision to insure the life of one member each of three crore families of landless labourers in the country during the current year,

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

(c) the number of beneficiaries under the scheme, State-wise, upto the end of September, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir. The Group Insurance Scheme sponsored by the Central Government on the life of one member, namely, the head of the family, for each of the estimated number of 3 crores families of landless agricultural labourers in the country has been introduced by the Life Insurance Corporation of India with effect from 15th August, 1987.

(b) Landless agricultural labourers in the age group of 18 to 60 years are eligible to become members of the Scheme, which provides life insurance cover of Rs. 1000/- payable in the event of death of the insured member. No premium is payable by the insured member under Scheme, and the entire premium cost is borne by Government of India.

(c) The number benefited under the Scheme, state-wise, upto 30th September, 1988 is as under:—

<i>S. No.</i>	<i>State/Union Territory</i>	<i>No. of claims settled</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1,191
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	10
3.	Bihar	6
4.	Chandigarh	2
5.	Goa	88
6.	Gujarat	354
7.	Haryana	21
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	7
9.	Karnataka	399
10.	Kerala	545
11.	Madhya Pradesh	242
12.	Manipur	4
13.	Orissa	279
14.	Punjab	200
15.	Rajasthan	310
16.	Tamil Nadu	3,370
17.	Uttar Pradesh	414
		7,442

Eighth Five Year Plan

300. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHOSALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have started the preparatory work for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the areas to get priority during the

Eighth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether the Railways propose to include more passenger amenities, punctuality of trains and more trains as one of its priorities during Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e). A Working Group for Railway Programmes for the VIII Plan has been constituted by the Planning Commission and as the work of the Group has just commenced, no concrete proposal has been made so far.

Kuriarkutty-Karapara Project

301. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kuriarkutty-Karapara irrigation project of Kerala is pending for clearance by Union Government;

(b) if so, since when it is pending; and

(c) by what time the clearance is likely to be given to this Project?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):
(a) No, sir.

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

Export of Spices

302. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of export of each of the spices during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there has been a decline in the quantity exported and the value realised;

(c) whether any long term measures have been taken to increase the export of spices; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) A Statement is given below.

(b) In case of certain items the exports have increased, in case of certain other items exports have shown marginal fluctuations.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) To increase export of spices, production, productivity and quality have to be improved. In regard to productivity in cardamom, Spices Board is implementing various development schemes like Extension Advisory Scheme, Replantation Scheme, Scheme for making available high yielding planting material, irrigation and plant protection schemes. In regard to other spices, the Ministry of Agriculture has set up a National Committee on spices and is implementing an integrated programme for development of spices mainly pepper to increase production and productivity which includes both long term and short term measures like production of rooted cuttings, distribution of input kits, rehabilitation of pepper gardens and plant protection measures etc.

For increasing export of spices in addition to regular market promotion programmes, the Spices Board is developing a logo as a symbol of high quality of spices in consumer packs for exports. To ensure that stringent quality standards are being met, the Board is setting up a quality control laboratory to make the logo scheme a success. Seminars and training programmes are being organised to improve and upgrade quality of spices. The Board is developing packages for consumer pack of spices. The Board is also trying to develop more end uses of cardamom for marketing value added products.

STATEMENT

Export of Spices from India during the years 1985-86 to 1988-89

(Qty. M. T. Value: Rs. Lakhs)

Item	1985-86		1986-87		1987-88		1988-89 (April-Sept.)		1987-88 (April-Sept.)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Pepper	37620	17248	39083	20033	41011	24058	25200	11807	19312	11901
Cardamom (small)	3272	5346	1447	1850	270	340	245	354	127	158
Cardamom (large)	393	181	195	97	155	70	85	40	99	44
Chillies	1241	202	4327	496	6122	833	1265	238	2845	360
Ginger	6816	1089	4843	571	2628	489	1950	372	1385	233
Turmeric	8562	1209	19529	1918	8747	923	2950	349	4886	447
Curry Powder	2527	366	2712	414	2559	438	1045	176	953	157

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

Seed											
Spices	10092	914	10706	1166	7709	1056	3250	320	3911	523	
Other											
Spices	3586	208	1543	172	650	104					
Spice Oils	50	491	41	292	46	272	143	608	193	734	
Spice											
Oleoresins	352	996	401	1191	382	1224					
Total	74501	28252	82827	28199	70279	29808	36138	14263	33711	14557	

Source: Customs Daily Lists, Provisional Figures.

IDBI Assistance Schemes

303. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the different schemes under which Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) is giving assistance; and

(b) the total amount of assistance given by the IDBI under those schemes in last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) provides

financial assistance to industrial units under various schemes of direct and indirect assistance. These include, *inter-alia*, project Finance Scheme, Modernisation Assistance Scheme, Textile Modernisation Scheme, Venture Capital Fund Scheme, Technology Upgradation Scheme, Refinance Scheme for Industrial Loans for Small and Medium Industries, Scheme for Single Window Assistance to Tiny and Small Units, Bills Re-discounting Scheme, Seed Capital Scheme, Scheme of subscription to Shares and Bonds of other financial institutions, etc.

(b) Available data furnished by the IDBI relating to the total amount of assistance disbursed under its direct and indirect schemes of assistance, State-wise, during the last three years is given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

Total amount of assistance disburse under IDBI's Direct and Indirect Schemes State-wise during the last three years.

(July-June)

(Rs. in crores)

<i>State</i>	<i>1985-86</i>	<i>1986-87</i>	<i>1987-88</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>
1. Andhra Pradesh	214.09	263.81	306.78
2. Arunachal Pradesh	2.25	1.39	0.79
3. Assam	25.41	34.29	29.35
4. Bihar	53.07	66.86	85.81
5. Goa	20.68	23.41	30.39
6. Gujarat	341.96	392.90	498.06
7. Haryana	74.98	86.86	85.57
8. Himachal Pradesh	45.16	42.27	41.98
9. Jammu & Kashmir	24.43	28.95	45.98
10. Karnataka	185.86	213.34	241.09

	1	2	3	4
11. Kerala		79.27	101.55	122.54
12. Madhya Pradesh		190.84	170.71	173.88
13. Maharashtra		353.16	398.61	517.76
14. Manipur		0.83	3.95	4.91
15. Meghalaya		5.88	8.54	8.45
16. Mizoram		3.02	3.85	5.99
17. Nagaland		3.34	2.73	3.31
18. Orissa		90.55	90.45	96.97
19. Punjab		64.32	131.46	125.66
20. Rajasthan		94.16	119.92	139.58
21. Sikkim		2.86	2.97	4.81
22. Tamilnadu		238.64	306.42	369.69
23. Tripura		0.86	1.95	2.39
24. Uttar Pradesh		376.29	396.75	571.19
25. West Bengal		121.29	132.68	179.84
26. Union Territories		48.26	72.96	99.52
Total :		2661.76	3099.58	3790.98

Note: Excluding assistance disbursed under Seed Capital Loans/Investments in Shares and Bonds of other DFLS and Loans to Leasing Companies.

**Import of Coconut Oil Under REP
Licence**

country ; and

304. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(c) if so, how do Government propose to safeguard the interest of the coconut growers ?

(a) the quantity of coconut oil imported under "fatty acid" of the REP licence scheme during the past three years, year-wise;

(b) whether such imports have resulted in a decline in the price of coconut oil in the

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNS): (a) No statistics are maintained relating to individual items imported against REP licences.

(b) Under the Import Policy for regis-

tered exporters, import of coconut oil is allowed up to 50% within the overall import replenishment of 20% allowed against the export of fatty acids. The import made under this limited provision cannot result in decline in the price of coconut oil in the country.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Profits Earned by STC

305. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the profit earned by the State Trading Corporation (STC) during the 1987; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to increase the profit earned by the State Trading Corporation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) In 1987-88, STC earned a profit of Rs 51.97 crores before tax.

(b) In order to increase its profits STC has been asked to :-

- (i) review its import procedures and introduce changes in order to minimise outgo of foreign exchange in its purchases and save on cost of imports;
- (ii) Improve return on capital invested; and
- (iii) reduce their stock level by 25% from the current level.

[*English*]

Setting up of National Small Unit Banks

306. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set

up national small unit banks;

(b) if so, the number of such small unit banks proposed to be set up in different States and Union Territories; and

(c) the location thereof and the time by which those banks are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The Government are considering to set up a Small Industries Development Bank of India as a subsidiary of the Industrial Development Bank of India to cater to the financial needs of small scale and tiny industries. The location and other details thereof are under examination.

Role of Lead Banks in Advancing Loans in H.P.

307. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the lead banks -Punjab National Bank for Una, Hamirpur, Mandi, Kulu and Kangra districts, UCO Bank for Solan and Simla Districts and the State Bank of India for Chamba district - have played any role in the advancing of loans on low rates of interest and other similar matter for providing relief and ensuring rehabilitation to the victims of heavy rains and floods in September, 1988;

(b) if so, the details thereof for each bank for each district for which they provided the lead; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). There are standing guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India for extending relief to persons affected by natural calamities such as

droughts, floods etc which will also be applicable to persons affected by recent floods in Himachal Pradesh. These guidelines envisage, *inter-alia*, conversion of short term production loans into medium term production loans, rescheduling of existing term loan instalments and provision of additional need based loans to the affected persons. In respect of current dues in default, no penal interest is to be charged. From 1st March, 1988, the rate of interest on short-term loans to farmers for agriculture has been further reduced.

Banks have already initiated steps to provide assistance to persons affected by heavy rains and floods. The lead banks for various districts in Himachal Pradesh propose to hold joint discussions alongwith the representatives of institutional finance and state Government to finalise the modalities of rendering financial assistance to flood victims in the State.

Opening of New Branches of Nationalised Banks In Himachal Pradesh

308. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued any fresh licences for opening new branches/extension counters for the nationalised banks in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof district-wise, alongwith the names of the banks concerned;

(c) whether any proposal for opening new branches/extension counters are still pending with the RBI; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the likely date by which a decision would be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, 140 licences were issued to Public Sector Banks including Regional Rural Banks for opening branches in Himachal Pradesh as per details given in statement I below RBI has granted permission to open six extension counters during the last one year to Public Sector Banks in Himachal Pradesh as per details given in statement II below.

(c) and (d). RBI has reported that it has not received any additional proposals for opening branches in Himachal Pradesh. RBI has, however, received four applications for consideration from banks for opening of extension counters in Himachal Pradesh as per details given below :-

Name of Bank	Extension counter to be opened at
State bank of India	Regional Engineering College, Hamirpur
UCO Bank	-do-
UCO Bank	Terminal Market, Parwanoo, distt. Solan
State Bank of India	airport, Gaggal, Distt. Kangra.

No decision has been taken by RBI on four proposals.

STATEMENT — I

District-wise details of centres allotted to Bank by Reserve Bank of India for Opening branches in Himachal Pradesh

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Name of bank allotted to</i>
1	2	3

DISTRICT : SHIMLA

1.	Koti	Punjab National Bank
2.	Dayorikhanati	State Bank of Patiala
3.	madhauni	Punjab National Bank
4.	Bawnoti	Punjab National bank
5.	Kutara	State Bank of India
6.	Pujari	State Bank of India
7.	Dharech	State Bank of patiala
8.	Kuthar	State Bank of India
9.	Balg	Punjab National Patiala
10.	Mauhri	Punjab Natinal Bank
11.	Nirth	Punjab National Bank
12.	Ganvi	State Bank of India
13.	Kawar	State Bank of Patiala
14.	Dhagoli	State Bank of Patiala

DISTRICT : SOLAN

15.	Kwarg	State Bank of Patiala
16.	Gauda	-do-
17.	Devra	-do-
18.	Kotbeja	Punjab National Bank
19.	Balera	Punjab & Sind Bank
20.	Nagaon	State Bank of Patiala

1	2	3
21.	Piplughat	Punjab National Bank
22.	Jabli	State Bank of Patiala
23.	Jagjitnagar	Punjab National Bank
24.	Badhalbh	State Bank of Patiala
25.	Sai	-do-
26.	Dabhota	Punjab national Bank
27.	Nund	-do-
28.	Loharghat	State Bank of Patiala
29.	Manpura	-do-
DISTRICT : SIRMUR		
30.	Bhagani	State Bank of Patiala
31.	Bharayi	State Bank of India
32.	Boghdhar	State Bank of Patiala
33.	Rajana	State Bank of India
34.	Bhawi	-do-
35.	Kheri	-do-
36.	Khalog	-do-
37.	Neripul	State Bank of Patiala
38.	didagkhanotyon	State Bank of India
39.	Wasani	State Bank of Patiala
40.	Timbi	-do-
41.	Hala han	-do-
42.	Panog	-do-
43.	Dharwa	-do-
44.	Koti Dhiman	-do-

1	2	3
45.	Parara	Punjab National Bank
46.	Denethi	-do-
DISTRICT : BILASPUR		
47.	Dagrahn (Jakatkhana)	State Bank of Patiala
48.	Chhakoh	Punjab National Bank
49.	Behal	State Bank of Patiala
50.	Mehri Kalthla	Punjab National Bank
51.	Harlog	-do-
52.	Morsinghi	State Bank of Patiala
53.	Auhar	State Bank of India
54.	Ghandir	State Bank of Patiala
55.	Karloti	-do-
DISTRICT : KULU		
56.	Sarsari	Himachal Gramin Bank
57.	Dohranal	-do-
58.	Seobag	Punjab National Bank
59.	Kalath	-do-
60.	Luhri	State Bank of India
61.	Kungas	State Bank of India
62.	Lagipal	Punjab National Bank
63.	Gushaini	State Bank of Patiala
64.	Jibni	-do-
DISTRICT : MANDI		
65.	Alsindi	State Bank of Patiala

1	2	3
66.	Tatapani	-do-
67.	Balhtikkar	State Bank of India
68.	Gumma	-do-
69.	Sandhol	Punjab National Bank
70.	Jamani	Himachal Gramin Bank
71.	Dhalwan	Himachal Gramin Bank
72.	Majhwar	Punjab National Bank
73.	Kauwal	Punjab National Bank
74.	Leda	Himachal Gramin Bank
75.	Karkoh	Himachal Gramin Bank
76.	Gorkon	-do-
77.	Parmash	-do-
78.	Jarol	Punjab National Bank
DISTRICT : KANGRA		
79.	Bankhandi	Punjab National Bank
80.	Pirsaluhi	Himachal Gramin Bank
81.	Majhin	Himachal Gramin Bank
82.	Bharoli	-do-
83.	Ghallour	Punjab National Bank
84.	Sansarpur	-do-
85.	Pongdam	State Bank of India
86.	Sunhi	Punjab National Bank
87.	Chamunda	Central Bank of India
88.	Dhroon	Punjab National Bank
89.	Sarimolog	Himachal Gramin Bank

1	2	3
90.	Gander	State Bank of India
91.	Rajhoon	Punjab National Bank
92.	Darani	Punjab National Bank
DISTRICT : UNA		
93.	Behdela	Punjab National Bank
94.	Chambi	-do-
95.	Gondpur Benehara	State Bank of India
96.	Ta-Imera	Punjab National Bank
97.	Raipur	-do-
DISTRICT : HAMIRPUR		
98.	Nalti	Punjab National Bank
99.	Kot	-do-
100.	Sera	State Bank of India
101.	Patlander	Punjab National Bank
102.	Tal	-do-
103.	Chakmoh	State Bank of India
104.	Dhangota	Central Bank of India
105.	Maharal	Punjab National Bank
106.	Jaure Amb/Jarree Amb	-do-
107.	Garli	-do-
DISTRICT. CHAMBA		
108.	Pukhri	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
109.	Rukh	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
110.	Sahoo	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
111.	Rajnagar	Parvatiya Gramin Bank

1	2	3
112.	Jadera	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
113.	Chaned	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
114.	Sach	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
115.	Mangla	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
116.	Dharbala	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
117.	Hatli	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
118.	Hobar	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
119.	Baghdhar	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
120.	Male	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
121.	Nakrot	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
122.	Trella	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
123.	Saikothi	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
124.	Bairagarh	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
125.	Sundla	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
126.	Brangal	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
127.	Teleka	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
128.	Dieur	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
129.	Khairi	StateBank of India
130.	Such	-do-
131.	Garola	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
132.	Siriri	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
133.	Lahal	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
134.	Harsar	Parvatiya Gramin Bank
135.	Durghathi	Parvatiya Gramin Bank

1	2	3
---	---	---

DISTRICT : KINNAPUR

136. Karcham Punjab National Bank

137. Moorang State Bank of India

DISTRICT : LAHUL & SPITI

138. Gemur State Bank of India

139. Hansa State Bank of India

140. Sangnam State Bank of India

STATEMENT — II

Details of extension counters allowed by Reserve Bank of India to Public sector Banks in Himachal Pradesh

<i>Sl.No.</i>	<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>Locatin of Extension Counter</i>
1	2	3
1.	UCO Bank	Baba Balak Nath Temple, Dist. Hamirpur
2.	State Bank of Patiala	H.P. Agro Industries Corporation Ltd, Khalini, Distt.Shimla
3.	Union Bank of India	Shri S.D. Vishnu College, Village Bhatoli, Distt. Bhatoli
4.	UCO Bank	Central Tibetan Secretariat, Dharmasaia, Distt. Kangra.
5.	UCO Bank	Market Committee Yard, Nihal, Distt. Bilaspur
6.	State Bank of India	Amb Camp, Jawalamukhi, Kangra. Distt. Kangra.

[Translation]

state:

Proposal for a Superfast Train Between Patna and Delhi

309. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce a superfast train between Patna and Delhi which could reach Delhi and Patna at 9 O' Clock;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public representatives of Bihar have unánimously made such a demand; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c). Lack of terminal facilities in Delhi area are coming in the way of such a train.

[English]

Demand for an Additional Passenger Train between Kharagpur and Tata Nagar on S.E Railways

310. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the commuters between Kharagpur and Tata Nagar on S.E. Railways had been asking for an additional passenger train for several years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) and (b). Introduction of short distance stepping passenger trains on busy trunk routes is generally not favoured.

Rajghat and Nuagan-Mayurbhanj Road Passenger Halts

311. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the year when the Rajghat and Nuagan-Mayurbhanj Road passenger halts on Kharagpur-Bhadrak Section of Kharagpur division under South Eastern Railway were established; and

(b) whether the railway users are de-

manding for conversion of these halts into flag station; if so, the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Rajghat and Nuagaon-Mayurbhanj Road passenger halts were opened in 1960 and 1969 respectively.

(b) The demands for conversions of these halts into flag stations were examined, but not found financially justified.

Export of Flowers and Mushrooms

312. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Agriculture and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has started some R & D works on mushrooms and horticulture for creation of export markets, if so, the details of R & D works and the result thereof;

(b) the countries which are importing flowers and mushrooms from India and the value of the export made during last three years;

(c) the amount earmarked for 1988-89 for the development of mushrooms and horticulture by R & D;

(d) whether the amount allocated is very meagre; and

(e) if so, whether Government propose to increase the allocation of funds to boost the export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is given below.

(c) An amount of Rs 1 lakh has been earmarked by APEDA for 1988-89 for mush-

room research.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

STATEMENT

Export of floriculture

	<i>Value (in Rs. Lakhs)</i>
1985-88	49
1986-87	36
1987-88	37 (provisional)

Average annual estimated exports of flowers are of the order of Rs 10 to Rs 12 lakhs and are mainly exported to the countries in the Gulf region.

Export of Mushrooms

	<i>Value (Rs. in Lakhs)</i>
1985-86	191
1986-87	1013
1987-88	1187

Mushrooms are exported mainly to France and Switzerland.

Cases pending in Allahabad High Court

313. DR. B.L.SHAILESH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases pending in the Allahabad High Court and the date of the oldest and the latest cases; and

(b) the steps being taken to augment the existing strength of the High Court Judges at Allahabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI

H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The present sanctioned strength of Allahabad High Court is 55 permanent Judges and 5 Additional Judges. It has been decided to create two new posts of Additional Judges in the High Court and also to fill up the existing vacancies.

Resources of States for Financing Developmental Programme

314. SHRI JAGANNATH PATNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the resources of the States for financing developmental programmes have undergone further deterioration in 1988-89 following steep rise in the non-developmental expenditure, despite Union Government directive to contain the same in the current fiscal year;

(b) if so, whether any analysis have been made by the Reserve Bank of India in this regard; and

(c) if so, the names of such States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) to (c). According to the analysis conducted by the Reserve Bank of India, the non-developmental expenditure of States is estimated to rise by 20.4% in the current financial year as compared to a rise of 18.3% in 1987-88. Increase in non-developmental expenditure in 1988-89 is anticipated in the case of all the States except Arunachal Pradesh, Goa and Nagaland.

The State Plan outlays, as approved, are fully funded after providing for non-Plan commitments. However, it is too early to say whether the State Plan outlays would be cut and if yes, the extent of such cuts in each State.

**Purchase of Minerals In Orissa By
MMTC**

315. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantities of iron ore, pig iron, manganese, bauxite and other minerals purchased by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Limited (MMTC) from various private companies and State Government's mines in Orissa during the last three years;

(b) the target fixed by the MMTC for purchasing those minerals in Orissa in the above years;

(c) whether target has been achieved;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to purchase minerals in Orissa according to the target fixed every year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b). Pig iron, Manganese ore and bauxite were not purchased by MMTC from Orissa during last three years. Quantities of iron ore procured by MMTC during last three years from Orissa and Bihar, and combined target for procurement of Iron ore by MMTC from Orissa and Bihar for export through Paradip Port are given below:

Qty : in Lakh Tonnes

Year	<i>Procurement</i>				
	<i>Private companies in Orissa</i>	<i>State Govt. Cos. in Orissa</i>	<i>Private Companies in Bihar</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Target</i>
1985-86	11.58	4.90	2.03	18.51	17.00
1986-87	14.82	6.30	2.45	23.57	23.50
1987-88	14.52	5.73	2.39	22.64	24.00

The targets and quantities of Chrome Ore exported from Orissa by MMTC during the last three years are given below:

Year	<i>Quantity exported</i>	<i>Target</i>
1985-86	1.66	1.80
1986-87	0.57	2.03
1987-88	1.38	1.75

(c) and (d). In respect of iron ore, targets for 1985-86 and 1986-87 were achieved by MMTC, while there was a marginal shortfall of less than 6 per cent during 1987-88 due to lower off take by the main buyers. In respect of Chrome Ore targets could not be achieved owing to depressed market condi-

tions.

(e) Improvement in infrastructural facilities at Paradip Port and market diversification are the main steps taken/proposed for increasing exports from Paradip Port and thereby maximising purchases of iron ore from Orissa. In respect of Chrome ore, target for 1988-89 has already been exceeded.

Credit Camps Held In Goa

316. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of credit camps held in Goa in the last one year;

(b) the areas in which these were held;

(c) the amount disbursed at each camp;

(d) the types of loans given;

(e) whether any more credit camps are proposed in the State; and

(f) if so, the names of the places where they will be held?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (f). Public Sector Banks have been organising credit camps at their own initiative as a part of the overall measures taken by them to improve the flow of credit to weaker sections. Central monitoring of credit camps is considered to be neither feasible nor necessary.

Income Tax Arrears and Prosecutions Against Film Actors Etc.

317. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the film actors and actresses whose income tax dues fall more than fifty thousand rupees;

(b) the names of film actors, actress, producers and distributors against whom prosecutions are pending under penal provisions of the Income Tax Act, wealth tax and Foreign Exchange Regulations Act:

(c) the stage at which these prosecutions have reached; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) Information relating to income-tax dues of Rs. one lakh and above is maintained. Accordingly names of film actors and

actresses who are in arrears of tax of Rs one lakh and above are furnished in the Statement I below.

(b) to (d). Information is give in the Statement II below

STATEMENT-I

List of Film Actors and Actresses with Arrear Demand of Rs 1 lakh and Above as on 30.6.88

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
	S/Shri
1.	K. Kalpana
2.	K.C. Bokadia
3.	K. Chiranjeevi
4.	Prem Nazir
5.	R. Jayaprada
6.	R. Rajni Kanth
7.	Sree Devi A.
8.	S. Kamal Hasan
9.	K. Bhagyaraj
10.	C. Suhasini Hassan
11.	Sripriya (Mum)
12.	Hema Malini (Smt).
13.	Randhir Rajkaoor
14.	G. Mahesh Babu
15.	G.S. R. Krishnamurthy
16.	N. Balakrishna
17.	N.T. Rama Rao

<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
18.	G. Madhavi (Miss)	39.	Vinod Mehra
19.	Ms. Deepti Naval	40.	Ms. Vidya Sinha
20.	Ms. Dimple Khanna	41.	Wahæed Rekhi
21.	Shakti Kapoor	42.	Amjad Khan
22.	Feroz Khan	43.	Rekha Ganeshan (Miss)
23.	Kadar Khan	44.	Rajesh Khanna
24.	Kamaluddin Kazi	45.	Jitendra Kapoor
25.	Maushmi Chatterjee	46.	Kishor Kumar Ganguly
26.	Padmini Kapila	47.	Narirkhan Sarverkhan
27.	Praveen Babi (Ms)	48.	Rati Agnihotri (Miss)
28.	Ranjeet Bedi	49.	S.S. Rajindram
29.	Ms. Reena Roy	50.	V.C. Ganeshan
30.	Smita Patila (Smt.) (Decd.)	51.	Vanishree (Smt)
31.	Shabana Azmi (Smt)	52.	C.R. Vijay Kumari
32.	Sanjay Alias Abbas Khan	53.	G. Sairtri
33.	Sujit Kumar	54.	G. Vijaya Nirmala (Smt)
34.	Satyendra Kumar Sharma	55.	J Jamuna (Smt)
35.	Ms. Sarika Thakur	56.	M.R.R. Vasu (Late)
36.	Sushma Shiromani (Miss)	57.	M.R. Radhika (Mrs.)
37.	Vijay Anand	58.	Pusnpavalli (Smt)
38.	Vikram alias Makandar	59.	Shreeram Lagoo
		60.	Tina Munim (Miss)
		61.	Sashiraj Kapoor

STATEMENT II

153

Written Answers

List of Pending Cases in Respect of Film Actors etc. as on 31.3.1988

Sl. No.	Name of the assessee	Assessments involved	Section of Prosecution	Present Position
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Km. R. Jayaprada	1979-80 to 82-83	U/s 276C, 277 & 278 of the I.T. Act.	Trial stayed by High Court.
2.	Sh. Rajesh Khanna	1976-77 & 82-83	U/s 276C, 277, 278 & 35A & 35D of W.T. Act.	Trial stayed by Supreme Court.
3.	Sh. Amjad Khan	1979-80 & 81-82	U/s 276C & 192, 193 & 191 of the I.P.C.	Hearing in progress.
4.	Shalimar Exhibitors	1976-77 to 85-86	U/s 276B	No effective hearing.
5.	Sh. Kadar Khan	1980-81 to 83-84	U/s 276C	-do-
6.	Miss Tina Munim	1981-82	U/s 276C, 191 & 192, 193 of the I.P.C.	-do-
7.	Miss Rekha Ganeshan	1979-80 & 82-83	U/s 276C & 277 of the I.T. Act. 35A & 35D of W.T. Act. 193 r.w.s. 192 of the I.P.C.	Case is pending in the Trial Court. The Central Govt. approved withdrawal of prosecution.
8.	Mrs. Hema Malini	1981-82	U/s 276C & 277 of I.T. Act.	No effective hearing.

KARTIKA 13, 1910 (SAKA)

Written Answers 154

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

9.	Sh. Dharmendra Deol	-do-	-do-	-do-
10.	Sh. N.N. Sippy	1978-77 to 82-83	-do-	-do-
11.	Sh. Parkash Mehra Combine	1977-78	-do-	-do-
12.	Sh. Mohd. Yusuf Khan alias Dilip Kumar	1964-65	Us 277	Hearing in progress.
13.	Mrs. Asha Parekh	1963-64	Us 277	-do-
14.	Padmaya Films	1982-83	Us 278B/278B	Trial stayed by High Court.
15.	Shirvaj Films (P) Ltd.	1979-80 to 82-83	Us 276C/278B	-do-
16.	Sh. S.P. Balasubramaniam	1980-81	Us 276C & 277/278B and under I.P.C. also	Trial Stayed by High Court.
17.	Sh. Man Mohan Desai	1983-84	Us 276C & 277	Pending in the Trial Court.
18.	Sh. G.S.R. Krishnamurthy	1982-83 & 83-84	-do-	-do-
19.	Sh. O.P. Raihan	1969-70 & 70-71	Us 36(2) of W.T. Act.	-do-
20.	Bombay Picture Circuit	1964-65	Us 277	Effective hearing to start.

1	2	3	4	5
---	---	---	---	---

21.	Sh. Namder Kumar Bedi	1978-79	U/s 276C	Pending in the Trial Court.
22.	Sh. K.K. Muridharan	1981-82 & 82-83	Section 465, 468, 471 of I.P.C. and 277/278 of I.T. Act.	-do-
23.	Sh. N.T. Rama Rao HUF	1986-87	35B of the W.T. Act.	-do-
24.	Sh. N.T. Rama Rao INDL	1986-87	-do-	-do-
25.	Sh. N. Jayakrishna HUF	1986-87 & 81-82, 82-83	-do-	-do-
26.	Sh. N. Jayakrishna INDL	1986-87	-do-	-do-
27.	Sh. N. Sai Krishna INDL	1986-87	-do-	-do-
28.	Smt. Vijayalatha	1985-86	193 of I.P.C. & 276C of I.T. Act.	Trial in Progress.
29.	Miss A.B. Shanthi	1987-88	276DD of the I.T. Act.	Stayed by Madras High Court.
30.	Sh. Prem Nazir	1978-79 & 1983-84	276C(1) & 35A(1) 276CC	Pending in Court.

Water Resources Position in Goa

318. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether water resource position of Goa has been surveyed by Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the impact of heavy monsoon of this year on the water resource position; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to improve the position in the State?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total surface water resources of Goa are assessed at 8570 Mcum and the replenishable Ground Water resource is 605.33 Mcum/year.

(c) Goa received normal rainfall between June to September, 1988, resulting in rise of Ground Water level of 0.79 to 13.3m over May 1988 in the stations monitored.

(d) The State Government have been suggested to plan judicious strategies for efficient use of available irrigation waters and a scheme for development of ground water in Goa has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board in consultation with Irrigation, Agriculture Departments of Goa alongwith State Bank of India and submitted to Government of Goa.

**Koraput-Rayagada Railway Project
(Orissa)**

319. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the target set for the completion of Koraput-Rayagada line in Orissa;

(b) the progress made in the construction of the above line; and

(c) the amount spent so far on this work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) The target set for completion of the line is 31.3.91. This, however, is subject to availability of adequate resources in the coming years.

(b) Koraput-Machiliguda section has been completed and opened for goods traffic. The overall progress of construction of full line is 30%

(c) Expenditure upto 9/88 is Rs 118 32 crores.

Electrification of Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali Line

320. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the electrification work on Vijayawada Guntur-Tenali line in Andhra Pradesh is going on as per schedule, if so, by when it would be completed;

(b) whether there is any proposal to introduce E.M.U. trains and provide a double line on this route; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to electrify Tenali to Repalle section?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. Vijayawada-Guntur section has already been energised. Electrification on the remaining Guntur-Tenali section is expected to be completed during the year 1988-89.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Exported African Countries

321. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's share of export to African countries has remained low in recent years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the African countries to whom export from India is being made and the details of items being exported;

(d) whether there is a big scope to develop trade with African countries; and

(e) if so, the steps being taken to promote it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) and (b). Indian exports to Africa are detailed below:-

1985-86	Rs.349.02 crores
1986-87 (P)	Rs.339.57 crores
1987-88(P)	Rs. 384.26 crores

Indian share in African imports is low due to reasons like scarcity of free foreign exchange with the African countries; our inability to match credit terms offered by developed countries and historical connections of Africa with European countries etc.

(c) India is exporting goods to practically all the African countries except South Africa. The composition of exports is dominated by capital and engineering goods, drugs pharmaceuticals and chemicals, jute manufactures, cotton and textiles and tobacco.

(d) and (e). Potential for exports to African countries varies from country to country. In order to exploit the potential, measures

like promoting counter trade; having Joint Commission meetings; organising Trade Fairs/Exhibitions etc. are being taken from time to time.

Steps to Promote Production and Export of Shrimp

322. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of shrimp exported during 1985-86, 1986-87, 1987-88, yearwise;

(b) the countries to which the export is being made;

(c) whether the production and export of shrimp has declined; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production and export of shrimp?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Export of Shrimps

<i>Year</i>	<i>Quantity (tonnes)</i>	
1985-86	—	50349
1986-87	—	49203
1987-88	—	55736

(b) The Major countries to which the export is being made are Japan, USA, UK, France, The Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Greece, Australia, Italy, Kuwait, U.A.E., Malaysia, Hongkong, Singapore etc.

(c) The production and export of shrimp have shown fluctuating trend during the last few years.

(d) The steps being taken in this regard include promotion of shrimp farming for augmenting production of cultured shrimps, setting up of shrimp hatcheries and seed banks and promotion of value-added items like IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) shrimps.

Credit Schemes for Rural Areas

323. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of credit schemes for rural areas at present;

(b) whether Government are considering to introduce a new credit plan for rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details of the new scheme and when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that in rural areas credit is available for agricultural and allied activities like poultry, dairy fisheries etc. and also for non farm activities like cottage and small industries, finance for rural artisans etc.

(b) and (c). No New credit plan as such for rural areas is being considered for the present. However under the service area concept, a group of villages will be allotted to a rural or semi-urban branch for taking care of the credit requirements of these villages. The branch is required to conduct a survey of the villages allotted to it and prepare a branch credit plan which will be aggregated into a Block Credit Plan which will be further aggregated into a District Credit Plan.

Action Plan for Income Tax Department

324. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched an action plan for the income tax department to ensure maximum revenue and disposal of all assessments by the year 1988; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the recently introduced scheme in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Action Plan for the financial year 1988-89; the Department proposes to complete all pending assessments except cases which may remain pending for reasons of investigation and or of being subjudice.

It proposes to reduce the total outstanding demand as on 1.4.1989 by 10% as compared to the total outstanding demand as on 1.4.1988.

Export of Buffalo Offal

325. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether export of Buffalo Offal is allowed;

(b) if so, the total quantity available in the country and anticipated quantity of export and earnings therefrom; and

(c) whether Buffalo Offal is surplus to our needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No authoritative data is available regarding total quantity available in the country. During 1988-89 75 MTs. of Buffalo Offals at a value of Rs 25.5.lakhs are expected to be exported.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Navigation Companies Closed Down

326. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state:

(a) the names of the navigation companies closed down and since when;

(b) whether the Scindia Steam Navigation Company has also been closed down, if so, since when;

(c) whether Government are considering to revive it;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the details of assistance rendered by Government; and

(e) the salient features of Government's policy as regards the revival of other closed navigation companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) D.G. Shipping has reported that some Indian Shipping Companies are understood to have already closed down their business/gone out of operation as per list given in statement below.

(b) to (d). Whilst Scindia Steam Navigation Company suspended operation of its vessels, the company did not close down. Various options in respect of Scindia Steam Navigation Company were considered and a decision has been taken to run the company through its Board of Directors. To meet the immediate requirements of the company, such as payments on account of wages, salaries, supplies, dry docking, repairs etc., Government have provided short-term loans to the company. The Company is now in the process of reactivating its viable vessels with a view to re-starting operations.

(e) The Shipping Credit & Investment Company of India (SCICI) has carried out financial appraisal of the shipping companies assisted by erstwhile SDFC. In the case of those sick shipping companies which are considered to be viable, rehabilitation packages have been/worked out for them by the

SCICI. The rehabilitation packages include, inter-alia, restructuring of the outstanding loan by converting the excess of the principal amount of the debt over the actual valuation of the assets into interest-free frozen debt and the outstanding interest into cumulative convertible preference shares. The promoters of the rehabilitated companies are also required to put in adequate contributions.

STATEMENT

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of the Shipping Companies</i>
1.	M/s. Faulad Lines Limited, Calcutta.
2.	M/s. Jaldoot Shipping Company, Bombay.
3.	M/s. M.M.P. Lines, Calcutta.
4.	M/s. Arcot Shipping Company, Madras.
5.	M/s. Reshamwala Shipping Company, Bombay.
6.	M/s. Himalaya Shipping Company, Bombay.
7.	M/s. Sujwala Shipping Company, Bombay.
8.	M/s. Nilhat Shipping Company, Calcutta.
9.	M/s. Raj Lines Limited, Calcutta.
10.	M/s. Panchsheel Shipping Company, Calcutta.
11.	M/s. Vijaya Lines, Bombay.
12.	M/s. South East Asia Shipping Company, Bombay.
13.	M/s. West Asia Shipping Company, Bombay
14.	M/s. Deccan Shipping, Visakhapatnam.

15. M/s. Universal Shipping, Bombay.
16. M/s. Pent Ocean, Bombay.
17. M/s. Vishal Comantak Shipping Company, Goa.
18. M/s. Tata Chemical Limited, Bombay.
19. M/s. Maini Shipping, Bombay.
20. M/s. Dempo Steamships Limited (under official liquidation)

Disbursement of Loans to Flood Affected People In Karnataka

327. SHRI H.B. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have directed recently the nationalised banks in Karnataka to give fresh loans for rehabilitation of people affected by the recent heavy rains and floods in that State; and

(b) if so, the details of procedure adopted for distribution of such loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India has reported that there are standing guidelines issued to commercial banks for extending relief to persons affected by natural calamities such as droughts, floods etc. and these guidelines will also be applicable to persons affected by recent floods in Karnataka. Reserve bank of India guidelines *inter alia* provide for conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans, rescheduling of existing term loan instalments and provision of additional need based loans to the affected persons. The lead bank in association with the district authorities is to evolve suitable procedure for the extension of financial assistance to the affected persons.

Visit of Bangladesh President

328. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER
JAIN:

Will the minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the President of Bangladesh visited India in the month of September, 1988;

(b) if so, the object of his visit;

(c) whether any discussions took place with him on flood control of Brahmaputra river; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (d). During the visit of the President of Bangladesh to India in September, 1988, a task force comprising experts of India and Bangladesh has been set up to study the Ganga and Brahmaputra water jointly for flood management and water flow thereof.

Indo-South Korean Trade

329. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether South Korea has submitted recently some proposals to his Ministry for the expansion of Indo-South Korean trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to give a boost to Indo-South Korean trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) These steps include holding to regular meetings of Joint Trade Committee, recent Ministerial level exchanges, visit of South Korean Buying Mission to India, exchange of delegations, participation in fairs etc.

Construction of Multi-Purpose River Valley Projects in Orissa

330. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of multipurpose river valley projects which are under construction

In Orissa;

(b) the dates of the beginning of the construction of those projects;

(c) whether the execution of some of those projects has been delayed;

(d) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the progress made so far in the construction of those projects?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a), (b) and (e). The requisite information is as under:-

S.No.	Name of Project	Latest Estimated cost (Rs. in crores)	Date of beginning of construction	Expenditure upto March, 1988. (Rs. in crores)
1.	Rengali			
	(a) Dam & appurtenant works	169.89	12/1973	150.54
	(b) Irrigation	707.39		73.00
2.	Upper Kolab		8/1976	
	(a) Dam Share	46.81		44.35
	(b) Irrigation	104.79		35.23
3.	Upper Indravati Unit I, II & III.	619.39	10/1978	206.01

(c) and (d). Yes Sir, the reasons for delay include among others constraints of resources and difficulty in land acquisition.

Financial Assistance from Japan

331. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japan is providing financial assistance for implementing some projects during 1988-89;

(b) if so, the names and the number of those projects;

(c) the amount of Japanese loan assistance expected to be made available for those projects; and

(d) the terms and conditions thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). For the

year 1988-89 the Government of Japan have extended to India a loan assistance of Yen 87.834 Billion (equivalent To Rs. 956.3 crores approximately) through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan for implementation of the following projects:

- (1) Raichur Thermal Power Station Expansion Project. (Karnataka's Yen 23.142 Billion or Rs. 252.0 crores approximately.
- (2) Ghatghar Pumped Storage Project (Maharashtra) : Yen 11.414 Billion or Rs. 124.3 crores approximately.
- (3) Tourism Infrastructure Development Project : Yen 9.244 Billion or Rs. 100.6 crores approximately.
- (4) Small Scale Enterprises Development Programme : Yen 19.500 Billion or Rs. 212.4 crores approximately.
- (5) Upper Kolab Irrigation Project (Orissa) : Yen 3.769 Billion or Rs. 41.0 crores approximately.
- (6) Upper Indravati Irrigation Project (Orissa) : Yen 3.744 Billion or Rs. 40.7 crores approximately.
- (7) Ramagundam Fertilizer Plant Rehabilitation Project : Yen 11.132 Billion or Rs. 121.2 crores approximately.
- (8) Mysore Paper Mills Modernisation Project, Bangalore : Yen 2.381 Billion or Rs. 25.9 crores approximately.
- (9) Hooghly Dock and Port Engineers Modernisation Project, Calcutta : Yen 3.508 Billion or Rs. 38.2 crores approximately.

(d) The above loan assistance is repay-

able over a period of 30 years including a grace period of 10 years and carries an interest rate of 2.5 percent per annum.

[*Translation*]

Circuit Benches of Allahabad High Court in Dehradun and Agra

332. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to open a Circuit Bench of Allahabad High Court in Dehradun and Agra this year;

(b) if not, whether Government have negatived the Report of Jaswant Singh Commission finally; and

(c) if not, the difficulties in accepting and implementing the report of Jaswant Singh Commission and the steps being taken by Government to remove them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The specific recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission relating to establishment of Benches of the Allahabad High Court were referred to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh on 23.10.86. A reply dated 26.6.87 was received but this did not give the definite views of the State Government in the matter. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh was again addressed on 25.7.87 and requested to give the definite views and proposals of the State Government in consultation with the Chief Justice.

A decision in the matter can be taken by the Central Government only on receipt of a specific, complete proposal from the State Government.

[English]

Import of Locomotives from USSR

333. SHRI V. TULSIRAM:
SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to import electric locomotives from the Soviet Union in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with number of engines for broad gauge, meter gauge and narrow gauge separately;

(c) the cost of each such engine; and

(d) the main reasons for import of such engines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b). Subject to Soviet side confirming supply to Indian Railway specifications, a proposal for import of 20 Nos., 6000 h.p. 25 kv a.c. thyristor Electric Locomotives for broad gauge is under active consideration.

(c) Does not arise at this stage as feasibility is yet to be established.

(d) This is to meet likely gap between requirement of electric locos and indigenous production.

Concession on South Central Railway to tourists

334. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have decided to give concessions to the tourists visiting Jammu and Shimla during the year 1989;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar concessions are

also proposed to be provided on South Central Railway to the tourists visiting hill stations in Andhra Pradesh; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Concession Hill Station Return Tickets will be issued from 1.4.1989 to 31.8.1989 from Stations located at a distance of more than 800 Kms. from Jammu Tawi and Shimla. The percentage of concession will be 20% in Second Class, 15% in First Class and Air-Conditioned Sleeper and 10% in Air-Conditioned First Class.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) This concession has not been given to any other hill station in the country.

International Tea Promotion Association

335. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Sri Lanka have agreed in principle to re-join the International Tea Promotion Association (ITPA);

(b) if so, the details of the agreement;

(c) the extent to which it will be helpful in boosting production of tea in India; and

(d) the extent to which export of tea will be increased and the foreign exchange earned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (d). During the recent visit of an Indian Tea Delegation to Sri Lanka, both the sides had discussions on mutual interest on International tea scene including the question of desirability of an

International Commodity Agreement on Tea. During discussions both sides were of the view that a fresh approach be made among tea producing countries to work out the modalities of a Commodity Agreement. It was felt that the reconstitution of the International Tea Promotion Association in order to include all major tea producing countries and the formulation of a programme of generic promotion designed to serve the interests of the tea producers would facilitate the efforts to work out a Commodity Agreement on Tea.

**Introduction of Fast/Superfast Trains
Between New Delhi and Andhra
Pradesh**

336. SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some fast/superfast trains have been recently introduced linking certain places in Uttar Pradesh to Delhi/New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether such trains are proposed to be introduced to link different places in Andhra Pradesh with Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons for not introducing these trains?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shaheed Express between New Delhi and Gorakhpur and on 4 days a week.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Existing services are considered adequate.

Loan from Islamic Development Bank

337. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of schemes and projects for which clearance from Union Government is sought for obtaining interest free loan from the Islamic Development Bank; and

(b) the total amount so far given by the Islamic Development Bank for various projects in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Loans for schemes and projects are given by Islamic Development Bank only to their member countries. India is not a member of Islamic Development Bank and as such the question of clearing any project for loans from Islamic Development Bank or Islamic Development Bank sanctioning any loans for projects in India does not arise.

Hardships to litigants in Delhi Courts

338. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the acute hardship being encountered by the litigants in getting certified copies of documents in Delhi Courts; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by Government to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Bonus to Central Government Employees

339. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the total expenditure incurred on the payment of bonus for 1987-88 to Central Government Employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Coffee Board Deposits In Bangalore

340. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether all retail sales depots of Coffee Board in Bangalore city are working for five days a week;

(b) if so, whether this working schedule has caused inconvenience to the public; and

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to restore the earlier working schedule for Coffee Board retail depots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. In view of the 5 days week (40 hours) for all employees in the Coffee Board, it will be appreciated that it would not be possible to adopt different norms for the Coffee Board Retail Depots.

Derailment of Brindavan Express

341. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO:
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passengers killed and injured when Madras bound Brindavan Express derailed on 7 October, 1988 near Bangalore Cantonment Railway Station;

(b) the details of financial assistance/compensation paid by Government to the families of the deceased and the injured

persons;

(c) the estimated loss of property;

(d) whether any inquiry has been ordered to find out the causes of the accident; and

(e) if so, the time by which the inquiry report will be submitted?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) In this accident, 3 passengers lost their lives and 11 suffered injuries.

(b) Rs. 22,250/- has been paid as ex-gratia to the injured passengers and the dependents of the deceased. District and Sessions Judge, Bangalore, the ex-officio Claims Commissioner is inviting applications from them for deciding the compensation to be paid.

(c) The loss to railway property has been estimated at Rs. 3,62,932/-.

(d) The Commissioner of Railway Safety, South Central Circle, who is independent of the Ministry of Railways, is inquiring into this accident.

(e) No information in this regard has been received from the Commissioner of Railway Safety.

[*Translation*]

Bhainsatori Irrigation Scheme of M.P.

342. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) when the Bhainsatori irrigation Scheme of Guna district of M.P. was sent to Union Government first time;

(b) the reasons for which this was sent back to the State Government; and

(c) the time by which this scheme is likely to be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No such scheme has been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

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

Pending Irrigation Schemes of M.P.

343. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names and other details of the irrigation schemes of Madhya Pradesh pending with Union Government, year-wise;

(b) the reasons for which these are pending; and

(c) the time by which these schemes will be given approval?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Out of 10 major irrigation projects received from the State Government, replies to comments of Central Appraisal Agencies on six major projects have not been received. Appraisal of two major projects has been completed. One major project, namely, Rajghat Canal has been deleted due to non compliance of comments for an unduly long time. More than 75% work has been completed in respect of one major project, namely, Tanwar Tank and so its appraisal now would not be worthwhile.

In addition, five medium project were received, appraisal of four of the medium projects has been completed and replies to comments on one medium project, namely, Sutyapat Tank, have not been received from the State Government.

[English]

Export of Non-Basmati Rice to East European Countries

344. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently issued permits for export of non-basmati rice to East European countries;

(b) if so, the criteria followed in issuing these permits; and

(c) the names of Calcutta-based firms which have been issued such permits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

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

Memorandum Between STC and Bofors

345. SHRI AJOY BISWAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by the State Trading Corporation with the Swedish arms manufacturing company Bofors;

(b) how much amount of Indian goods is to be purchased by the Bofors under the agreement; and

(c) how much trade has actually been completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the State Trading Corporation of India Ltd. and M/s. A.B. Bofors, Sweden provides that M/s. Bofors arrange exports from India valued not less than 5-0% of the value of the contract signed with the Ministry of Defence. The

MOU provides for export certain commodities and manufactured items from India which can be purchased by Bofors and/or their nominees abroad.

(b) In terms of the MOU, M/s. AB Bofors have to purchase Indian goods worth Swedish Kroner 4.2 billion (or Rs. 945 crores approximately at current exchange rates) by March, 1996.

(c) As at end September, 1988 goods worth Rs. 117 crores have been contracted under the MOU against which shipments of Rs. 27 crores approx have taken place.

Deposits in Nationalised Banks

346. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of deposits in the Nationalised Banks in the country in last three years including this year, and the break-up of the deposits, State-wise;

(b) the total investment by those banks, with breakup of the investment, State-wise, during the same period; and

(c) the credit-deposit ratio at national ratio average and the credit-deposit ratio, State-wise, during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (c). The total amount of deposits and credit: deposit ratio of public sector banks as at the end of Dec., 1985, 1986 and 1987 in all the States and Union Territories as well as for the country as a whole are set out in the statement given below. Information for the current year may be available after the close of the year.

(b) The information regarding State-wise investments of public sector banks is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House to the extent possible.

STATEMENT

State-wise Deposits and Credit: Deposit Ratio of Public Sector banks

(Amt. in Rs. crores)

State/Region/ Union Territory	December 1985		December 1986		December 1987	
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Deposit	Credit: Deposit Ratio (%)	Deposit	Credit: Deposit Ratio (%)	Deposit	Credit: Deposit Ratio (%)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
NORTHERN REGION	17024	59.8	20689	53.6	24168	49.6
Haryana	1499	68.0	1802	65.5	2206	61.9
Himachal Pradesh	519	41.4	626	39.9	781	37.1
Jammu & Kashmir	425	35.0	497	32.8	610	30.2
Punjab	4425	45.5	5321	44.2	6238	43.1
Rajasthan	1878	66.1	2228	64.9	2736	60.5
Chandigarh	609	224.0	741	166.5	871	99.2
Delhi	7669	54.5	9476	47.2	10725	46.0
NORTH-EASTERN REGION	1430	43.4	1668	44.3	1911	45.6

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Assam	890	52.2	1073	50.8	1261	50.8
Manipur	31	71.0	43	67.0	54	64.8
Meghalaya	119	28.1	143	27.4	190	22.6
Negaland	73	38.4	92	43.5	114	43.9
Tripura	78	59.0	98	50.9	119	51.3
Arunachal Pradesh	163	4.8	51	24.3	67	20.9
Mizoram	30	24.8	112	8.2	44	22.7
Sikkim	45	23.2	55	26.3	60	28.3
EASTERN REGION	12410	47.4	14098	46.0	17541	45.8
Bihar	3600	37.3	4412	35.6	5381	34.8
Orissa	968	79.9	1204	77.4	1435	78.2
West Bengal	7822	48.0	9256	46.8	10692	47.0
A & Nicobar Islands	20	39.5	25	37.8	32	34.4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

CENTRAL REGION 10761 48.7 13307 46.0 15630 46.1

Madhya Pradesh 2931 58.8 3560 60.0 4348 59.0

Uttar Pradesh 7831 45.0 9747 41.1 11282 41.2

WESTERN REGION 20485 74.4 23323 71.7 26559 66.4

Gujarat 5280 54.3 6143 55.7 7236 54.8

Maharashtra 14489 83.8 16350 79.7 18370 72.8

Goa, Daman & Diu 711 31.9 825 31.8 Goa 916
D. Diu 30 30.8 23.3

Dadra & Nagar Haveli 5 95.4 6 66.8 7 71.4

SOUTHERN REGION 15586 81.7 18629 61.6 21394 83.2

Andhra Pradesh 4516 76.4 5346 78.9 6003 79.2

Karnataka 3765 87.0 4437 86.3 5073 91.9

Kerala 2806 62.6 3151 60.0 3659 61.9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Tamil Nadu	4578	94.3	5515	93.9	6469	93.1
Pondicherry	115	54.7	156	50.8	185	51.9
Lakshadweep	4	29.0	4	27.7	4	25.0
ALL-INDIA	77697	64.2	92515	61.3	107202	59.2

Note: 1. Total may not add up due to rounding differences.

2. Data are provisional.

Passenger amenities on Delhi-Puri bound trains

347. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received in his Ministry for improvements in passenger amenities, particularly, catering service, on Delhi-Puri bound trains;

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve these services during the past two years; and

(c) the steps contemplated to bring about further improvements?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the catering services by these trains include introduction of three-piece casserole service, introduction of disposable cups for tea/coffee/drinking water along with meals, training of staff, provision of modern kitchen equipment, punitive action against staff responsible for poor quality of service etc. Steps taken to improve electrical services in these trains, include replacement of dynamos by alternators, provision of improved type of berth lights in upper class coaches, provision of 100 mm belts in place of 50 mm belts etc.

Special Fund for Export Projects

348. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create special fund for developing export projects;

(b) if so, the basis on which this fund is being created;

(c) when this special fund is expected to be developed; and

(d) the other steps contemplated to step up export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

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

(d) Other steps taken by the Government for boosting export of projects and consultancy services overseas include inter-alia the following:

- (i) Grant of Project assistance to the tune of 10% of net foreign exchange earnings from the services portion of the contracts;
- (ii) Market Development Assistance for reimbursement of 50% of cost of preparation and submission of bids; and
- (iii) Market Development Assistance for opening and operating overseas offices by the consultancy firms.

Constitution of Task Force for SSI Units

349. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI:
SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Task Force to examine the problems

of Small Scale Industry (SSI) units in obtaining timely credits from banks and for improving the industrial climate;

(b) if so, the composition of the Task Force and other details thereof; and

(c) by when the Task Force will submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). Detailed guidelines from RBI to the commercial banks already exist for providing adequate and timely credit facilities to small scale industries. RBI also have a Standing Advisory Committee under the Chairmanship of Deputy Governor, RBI to review the flow of institutional credit to small scale industry sector and other related matters.

With a view to looking into the problems raised by small scale entrepreneurs at a meeting of Young Entrepreneurs held at Bombay on Sept. 21, 1988, a Task Force under the Chairmanship of IDBI Chairman was set up. The Task Force had been requested to submit its report within one month.

Detection of Bogus Loan Networks

350. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Authorities at Bombay have recently unearthed a biggest bogus loan network in which many big business groups managed to evade income tax on crore of rupees;

(b) if so, the details of the raids conducted by the income tax authorities to detect bogus loans network; and

(c) the details of the big business groups involved and action taken by Government against them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) As a result of searches carried out at Bombay and Calcutta in July, 1988, the income-tax authorities have detected a bogus loan racket which shows that a number of business groups have sought to evade income-tax through this device.

(b) and (c). As the post-search investigations are in progress, it would not be in public interest to provide further details in this regard.

Indo-Bangladesh Task Force on Flood Situation

351. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN:
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL:
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint Indo-Bangladesh Task Force has been set up to combat the flood situation affecting both the countries every year;

(b) if so, when the Task Force was set up; and

(c) the specific short term and long term measures being taken or proposed by the Task Force?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Bangladesh and India have set up

a task force on 29th September, 1988 to study the Ganga and Brahmaputra waters jointly for flood management and water flow thereof. The Task Force is to meet soon to take up its work.

Export of Flowers

352. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of flowers has declined during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the efforts made by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to increase the production and thereby increase the export of flowers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) to (c). There has been a marginal decline in export of floricultural products including cut flowers during the last three as will be seen from the following table:-

Year	Value (Rs Lakhs)
1985-86	49
1986-87	36
1987-88	37 (Provisional)

Average annual estimated exports of flowers are of the order of Rs. 10 to 12 lakhs. The main factor inhibiting export is insufficient availability of high quality seeds and planting material for production of flowers and floricultural products of international standards.

Steps taken by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) to increase pro-

duction of flowers include organising research on major crops like roses, gladioli, chrysanthemum, carnations, orchids and tuberose, release of improved varieties, disease control measures etc.

With a view to developing production of flowers of international standards on a competitive basis and to increase our export earnings, Govt. with effect from 1.10.88 has allowed import of seeds of flowers and ornamental plants tubers and bulbs, cuttings etc. of flowers on OGL by ICAR, State Deptts. of Agriculture/Horticulture, State Agricultural Universities, registered growers etc. The policy is aimed at giving a boost to production and export of flowers and floricultural products.

C.W.C. Circle Office at Bhubaneswar

353. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have a proposal to open a circle office under the Central Water Commission at Bhubaneswar;

(b) if so, the steps taken to implement the above proposal; and

(c) the year by which the Circle office is expected to be opened at Bhubaneswar?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). The two divisions of the Central Water Commission located in Bhubaneswar are functioning effectively. There is no proposal at present to open a Circle Office.

Mahanadi-Chitrotpala Irrigation Project of Orissa

354. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES

be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanadi-Chitrotpala irrigation project of Orissa is awaiting Union Government's approval;

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard;

(c) the estimated cost of the project;

(d) the time by which the above proposed irrigation project is likely to be cleared; and

(e) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND):

(a) to (e). The project estimated to cost Rs. 40 crores has been recently received in the Central Water Commission in August, 1988. The project is not included in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Trade Relations with South Korea

355. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK:
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is good scope for expansion of trade relations with South Korea;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to set up joint ventures with that country; and

(c) the areas identified for further expansion of trade relations with South Korea?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Recently, on our persuasion the Republic of Korea sent a Buying Mission to India. Mission's meetings with companies in Public and Private Sector were arranged. Some of the members of the mission inter-alia evinced initial interest in setting up of joint ventures.

(c) These include iron ore, agricultural products, chemicals, light engineering goods, leather, etc.

[*Translation*]

Recovery of Direct Taxes

356. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recovery of direct taxes has been less in the first five months of the current financial year vis-a-vis corresponding period in previous years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are contemplating to take any concrete steps for speedy recovery of direct taxes; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main reason for the fall in collection in the first five months is that on account of change in law regarding payment of advance tax, no instalment was due until September, 1988. In earlier years one in-

stalment was payable in June.

(c) The collection upto September, 1988 is Rs. 2492.90 crores which is higher than the corresponding figures upto September, 1987 of Rs. 2302.38 crores by Rs. 190.52 crores. The outlook for collection is good presently for all direct taxes. In view of this, no further steps apart from the steps taken are contemplated at this stage.

(d) Does not arise.

Demand for Nationalisation of Peerless Company

357. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a continuous demand for nationalisation of Peerless Company;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in regard thereto; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). There have been several demands for nationalisation of Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Ltd., Calcutta (Peerless) in the past. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued a new set of directions known as "Residuary Non-Banking Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions, 1987" with effect from 15th May, 1987 which are applicable to companies like Peerless. These directions provide in built safeguards regarding investment of funds collected as also for the safety of deposit made with the companies, apart from enabling the depositors to get a reasonable return on their deposits.

[English]

Bilateral Talks on Cauvery Water Dispute

358. SHRI H.B. PATIL:
SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU:
SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are aware of the outcome of the talks between the Tamil Nadu Government and the Karnataka Government held in September, 1988 on the Cauvery Water dispute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Tamil Nadu Government has asked Union Government for setting up a tribunal to adjudicate on the issue; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Notwithstanding the efforts on both sides, the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka could not reach any common meeting point during the talks held in September, 1988.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No final decision has been taken in this regard.

Agreement with Switzerland to Book Economic Offenders

359. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI BHATTAM SR!
RAMAMURTHY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been signed with Switzerland which can bring to book economic offenders;

(b) if so, the terms of the agreement;

(c) whether specific cases have been referred to Government of Switzerland; and

(d) if so, the number thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (d). For obtaining mutual assistance in criminal matters, Government have decided that letters be exchanged between Governments of India and Switzerland. Our Mission in Benne has been suitably advised to make arrangements for the exchange of letters. The draft of letters to be exchanged is being examined by the Swiss Government whose final response is awaited. Unless the proposed letters are exchanged between the two Governments, it is not feasible for the Government of India to approach the Swiss Government for obtaining any information in this regard.

Liberalisation of Credit Policy

360. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently liberalised its credit policy;

(b) if so, the spheres where it has been done and the additional benefits given; and

(c) whether the new regulations will help improve the growth of economy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The Reserve Bank of India announced on October 8, 1988 a number of changes in credit policy measures. These relate inter-alia to (a) lending rates of the commercial banks, (b) credit authorisation scheme, (c) transfer of borrowal accounts under consortium lending arrangements, and (d) housing finance of the commercial banks.

Regarding Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS), on the basis of a detailed review of the Scheme, it has been decided that the present requirement of prior authorisation by the Reserve Bank for sanction of working capital credit limits/term loans be withdrawn. However, all proposals involving sanction of aggregate working capital limits beyond Rs. 5 crores (instead of the earlier limit of Rs. 2 crores) would be subjected to post sanction scrutiny by the Reserve Bank to ensure that the basic disciplines are being observed.

Secondly, borrowers under consortium arrangements can transfer their accounts from one bank to another without obtaining 'no objection' letter from the present bank and the existing restriction limiting the number of branches to five in respect of credit limit upto Rs. 50 crores has been removed. Thirdly, the housing finance given by the commercial banks has been liberalised by raising the maximum period of repayment by 5 years reducing the margin on such housing loans by a graded scale with maximum at 35% and revising the structure of interest rates on housing loan with 12.5% at the minimum and 14.5% to 16% at the maximum. Lastly, the ceiling rate of 16.5% on bank advances has been replaced by a floor rate of 16%.

(c) These credit policy measures have been geared to meet the increased genuine credit needs of the economy. The new credit policy measures along with various policy

initiatives already taken in the field of industrial licensing, foreign trade, taxes and duties are expected to support the uptrend in production and trade.

Introduction of A New Express/Fast Passenger Train from Bhubaneswar to Howrah

361. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have decided to introduce a new express fast passenger train from Bhubaneswar to Howrah;

(b) if so, since when and the proposed timings of departure/arrival from the above-mentioned stations;

(c) the names of the stations where this train will have its stoppages;

(d) whether the railways have decided to withdraw one pair of Puri-Howrah passenger trains after introduction of this new train;

(e) if so, whether the commuters have protested against the introduction of the new train and requested for having the stoppages where the Puri-Howrah passenger trains used to be stopped; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) From 30.10.1988. The train leaves Bhubaneswar at 14.45 hrs. arriving Howrah at 22.30 hrs. In the other direction it leaves Howrah at 06.45 hrs. arriving Bhubaneswar at 14.05 hrs.

(c) Cuttack, Jajpur Keonjhar Road,

Bhadrak, Balasore and Kharagpur.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f). There is no protest against introduction of new train. For the convenience of commuters, a new train 461/462 Passenger has been introduced between Kharagpur and Bhadrak to the timings of erstwhile 203/204 Howrah-Puri Passenger.

Jaunpur Town Protection Scheme

362. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on 5 August, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 1520 regarding Jaunpur Town Protection Scheme and state:

(a) whether the Scheme has since been reviewed; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Revised report from State Government has not been received to enable review.

Passenger amenities at Jaunpur City Railway station

363. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a demand for providing better passenger amenities at Jaunpur City railway station like double platform, drinking water, lavatory and urinal facility, waiting rooms/halls connecting railway station with motorable road to PWD road etc;

(b) if so, the steps taken thereon; and

(c) the time by which the work relating to these passenger amenities is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c). The station has been provided with adequate drinking water and toilet facilities, a waiting hall and a pucca approach road. These are considered to be adequate for present level of traffic dealt with at this station. A proposal to provide an additional platform will be included in Railway's future Works Programme subject to availability of funds and comparative needs of other stations.

Rise In Bank Frauds

364. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Reserve

Bank of India, the total number of the cases of frauds in the commercial banks had registered a rise by over 4 per cent during 1987 despite paying special attention to prevent them;

(b) if so, the total number of frauds during 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto June);

(c) the total amount involved in such frauds, year-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the commercial banks to reduce frauds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). According to Reserve Bank of India, the total number of cases of bank frauds within the country and amount involved therein in 28 public sector banks during the years 1986, 1987 and 1988 (upto 30.6.88) as reported to it by them, is as indicated below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. of frauds</i>	<i>Amount involved (Rs. in cores)</i>
1986	1823	44.42
1987	1902	40.84
1988 (upto 30.6.88)	900	12.22

(Data provisional)

(d) Banks have books of instructions indicating precautions/checks which their staff should observe to prevent occurrence or recurrence of frauds. Banks are taking steps to strengthen the control mechanisms including the internal audit/inspection machinery and to make them effective so as to eliminate the scope for frauds and malpractices. Banks have been taking a serious view

of irregularities committed by their employees and initiate action to inflict punishment befitting the seriousness of irregularities committed by their employees. They have been taking steps to ensure quicker disposal of departmental enquiries. Banks have reviewed and revamped their vigilance machinery, taken steps to tone up the control and supervision, strengthen management

information system, follow-up and inspection/audit arrangements and for clearing the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds in these areas.

Loan From World Bank

365. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has announced a lion's share of loan to India for the current financial year;

(b) if so, the total amount of loan to be provided by the World Bank; and

(c) the names of the projects for which the loan will be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). The World Bank's projections for total IBRD and IDA commitments to borrowers for the Bank's fiscal year 1989 (1st July 1988 to 30th June 1989) are \$ 22.3 billion. At the Aid India Consortium meeting held in June 1988, the World Bank has indicated that Bank group commitments to India for the current World Bank fiscal year would be \$ 2.7 billion. The details of projects for which assistance will be committed in the current fiscal year is at present indeterminate, since this would depend upon the status of project preparation and processing.

Guidelines for Imports by Export Oriented Units

356. SHRI S.B.SIDNAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have stipulated additional conditions governing

imports by actual users approved as 100 per cent Export Oriented Units(EOU);

(b) if so to what extent these new guidelines have helped the importers and whether any more conditions are proposed to be stipulated; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. No further conditions are proposed to be imposed governing imports by 100% Export Oriented Units.

(c) Does not arise

Ceiling for Composite Loans Under Differential Rates of Interest

367. SHRI S.B.SIDNAL:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has turned down the proposal for raising the present ceiling for composite loans under differential rates of interest;

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

(c) the per capita loan disbursement under the scheme for 1983 onwards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised that any modification in the parameters of the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme including the enhancement of the loan ceiling

would disturb the inter-se position of the scheme vis-a-vis other Government sponsored schemes specifically designed for the upliftment of the weaker sections of society. The Task Force set up by the Government in the year 1983 to review various provisions of the scheme had also recommended that the existing ceiling of loan amount of Rs. 6,500/- should be continued considering the types of activities which are being selected for this class of beneficiaries. Further per capita average credit disbursed under DRI Scheme manifests that the scheme was still tilted in favour of small borrowers. Moreover, subsidy linked credit schemes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) etc. are more attractive to the beneficiaries. Taking all the relevant factors into consideration, RBI is of the view that the existing ceiling of composite loan of Rs. 6,500/- under DRI Scheme need not be modified for the present.

(c) According to the RBI per capita disbursement of credit under the Differential Rate of Interest (DRI) Scheme during the year 1983 to 1987 is given below:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Fer capita disbursement under DRI Scheme (In Rs.)</i>
1983	1084
1984	1249
1985	1204
1986	1323
1987	1274

Increasing the Number of Seats In Trains for Manipur

368. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the

Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to increase the number of seats for Manipur in the trains for which reservation can be made at the Imphal out agency, in view of the increasing demand;

(b) if so, train-wise details thereof;

(c) whether there is proposal for separate coaches for Manipur on trains leaving Dimapur particularly superfast trains; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (c). No, Sir.

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

Opening of More Rural Banks in North-East

369. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of rural banks, their status and location in the North East;

(b) whether Government are considering opening more rural banks in the North East;

(c) if so, the details thereof with State-wise break-up; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The details in respect of 11 Regional Rural Banks func-

tioning in the North-Eastern region are set out in the Statement below.

(b) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture

& Rural Development has reported that there is no proposal, for the present, to open more regional rural banks in North Eastern region.

STATEMENT

213

Written Answers

State/Bank-wise distribution of offices, Deposits, Outstanding Advances, Overdues and Working Results of RRBs in NE Region

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sr. No.	Name of the State/RRB	Date of Establishment	Districts covered	No. of branches	Deposits (Amount)	Outstanding Credit (Amount)	Overdues (Amount) to out-	% of over-dues	Ratio of deposit (+) Profit (-) Loss	Working results
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11

standing
advances

Arunachal Pradesh

1.	Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank, Pasighat.	30.11.83	East siang, West siang, Upper Suban Siti, Lower Subansiri.	15	107.15	28.58	4.89	17.1	27	-8.69
----	---	----------	--	----	--------	-------	------	------	----	-------

Assam

1.	Pragyoish Gaomila Bank, Nalbari.	6.7.76	Gopara, Kamrup, Darrang, Barpeta, Sonitpur, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, Nalbari and Beltoia & Panbari mouzas of Pragyoishpur Distt.	140	3194.97	2364.22	580.07	24.5	7	+81.14
----	----------------------------------	--------	--	-----	---------	---------	--------	------	---	--------

KARTIKA 13, 1910 (SAKA)

Written Answers 214

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----

2. Lakhimi Gaonia Bank, 29.7.80 Sibsagar, Nowgong, 80 1467.48 1515.95 228.49 15.1 103 -13.49
Golaghat.

Golaghat, Jorhat &
Mayang Mouzas of
Pragjyotishpur Distt.

3. Cachar Gramin Bank, 31.3.81 Cachar and Kaimganj 40 426.06 346.53 73.75 21.3 81 -18.48
Sichar.

4. Langpi Dehangi Rural Bank, 27.1.82 Karbi Anglong and 40 245.51 292.42 71.22 24.4 119 14.48
Diphu North Cachar Hills.

5. Subansiri Gaonia Bank, 30.3.82 Dibrugarh & 37 345.75 231.75 50.12 21.6 67 -16.33
North Lakhimpur. Lakhimpur.

Manipur

1. Manipur Rural Bank, 28.5.81 Manipur State 23 86.67 129.93 23.78 18.3 150 -9.23
Imphal.

Meghalaya

1. Khasi Jaintia Rural 29.12.81 East Khasi Hills, 42 544.05 283.81 54.96 19.4 52 -14.49
(Ka Bank), Shillong. West Khasi Hills
and Jaintia Hills.

Mizoram

1. Mizoram Rural Bank, 27.9.83 Aizawl, Chhim- 33 339.60 292.95 30.98 10.6 86 -30.15
Aizawl lupui, Lungleh.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Nagaland											
1.	Nagaland Rural Bank, Kohima.	30.3.83	Nagaland State	8	70.17	38.85	17.24	44.4	55	-5.79	
Tripura											
1.	Tripura Gramin Bank, Agartala.	21.12.76	Tripura North, Tripura South and Tripura West.	77	3009.68	3197.67	1294.53	40.5	106	+8.47	

Cases pending in Guwahati High Court	Manipur	—	1856
	Tripura	—	3102
	Total :		18751

(a) whether the existing capacity and resources of the Guwahati High Court can meet the requirements of the States within its jurisdiction;

(b) if so, the number of pending cases, State-wise break -up; and

(c) if not, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (c). Taking into account all the relevant factors, it has been decided to set up separate High Courts in the States in North East, which are at present served by the Guwahati High Court.

(b) As per information furnished by the Registry of the Guwahati High Court, 18751 cases are pending as on 30-6-87 in the Guwahati High Court. The State-wise break-up in these cases is as follows:

Assam*	—	13448	(*includes Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram)
Nagaland	—	79	
Meghalaya	—	266	

Seizure of Narcotic Drugs on Indo-Burma Border

371. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of Narcotic drugs seized on the Indo-Burma border in Manipur-Mizoram Sector during the last two years and their monetary value;

(b) whether some customs officials posted in the region have been appreciated for good work while some officials have been punished for dereliction of duty in regard to smuggling activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the measures taken by Government to check the drug trafficking on Indo-Burma border?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The number of cases and the quantities of various drugs seized on the Indo-Burma border in Manipur Mizoram sector in 1987 and 1988 (upto September) are given in the following Table?

<i>Name of drug</i>	<i>MANIPUR</i>				<i>MIZORAM</i>			
	<i>1987</i>		<i>1988</i>		<i>1987</i>		<i>1988</i>	
	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Qty.</i>	<i>No. of cases</i>	<i>Qty.</i>
<i>(Quantities in kilograms)</i>								
1. Opium	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1.750
2. Heroin	14	1.818	15	0.899	3	0.150	4	1.494
3. Ganja	..	..	7.123	9.500	8	68.500	7	11.595
4. Metha- qualone	4	16.107	..	..	..	..	..	..

No precise value of the drugs seized can be estimated as this is dependent upon various factors like purity, places of origin and sale, local demand and supply, etc.

(b) and (c). While the good work done by any officer in the discharge of his duties is always appreciated by incentives like issue of commendation certificate, payment of rewards for seizures of drugs, no instances of punishment of customs officials posted on the Indo-Burma border, for dereliction of duty, have been reported.

(d) A Special Group comprising senior officers of the Ministers of Home, Finance, External Affairs, Central Police Organisations and State Governments has been constituted to consider drug trafficking, movement of tribals and related matters. It has been decided to control the movement of tribals living upto 40 kms. on either side of the border to be regulated through fixed entry/exit points.

The border check posts are strengthened and the police authorities in the North Eastern Region have been instructed to

remain vigilant and take immediate action against infiltration of intruders, especially from across the borders. Monthly coordination meetings are also taken by the Home Secretary for the purpose.

A notification, empowering the police officers of the north-eastern region, has been issued to deal effectively with the illicit trafficking of drugs, under the Customs law.

Acetic anhydride, used for conversion of opium into heroin, has been notified as a 'specified item' under section 11-I of the Customs Act, 1962 and further the inland area of 100 kms. in width from India's land border with Burma falling within the territories of Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland and Arunachal Pradesh has been declared as 'specified area' under section 11 H of the above Act, for the purpose of checking its illicit export and movement from across the Indo-Burma border.

As a result of series of deliberations at a high level, between the Governments of India and Burma, both have agreed to cooperate with each other in matters of drug

trafficking. Nodal agencies of both the countries for exchange of all relevant information have been identified.

[*Translation*]

Development of Railway Stations In U.P.

372. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Railway stations in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) the amount likely to be spent on the development of railway stations in the State with details thereof during the financial year 1988-89?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) 1188.

(b) Rs 6.33 crores are likely to be spent on planned works relating to development of railway stations in U.P during 1988-89. In addition, a large amount is also being spent on provision and maintenance of passenger amenity items under ordinary Revenue.

The development of stations includes provision of waiting halls, foot-over-bridges, adequate drinking water, toilet facilities, raising or extension of platforms, platform covers, electrification and other amenities

[*English*]

Irregularities in Branches of State Bank of Indore in Delhi

373. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints were received about corruption/frauds/irregularities cases in the branches of the State Bank of Indore

in Delhi during last three years (position upto 1.8.1988);

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

(c) if so, the number of cases of corruption which have come to light during the above period and the number of officers and amount involved therein; and

(d) the present position of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (d). State Bank of Indore has reported that during the period 1.8.1985 to 1.8.1988 it had received seven complaints against its Delhi Branches involving allegations of corruption/fraud/irregularities. The Bank has also reported that allegations of corruption were not found substantiated in those cases wherein inquiry was undertaken by it. However, wherever procedural irregularities have been noticed, the Bank has initiated action for regularisation/recovery, as the case may be

Raids on the Premises of Senior Officers of State Bank of Indore

374. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the CBI officials had conducted raids during 1981 to March 1984 at the residential premises of senior officers of the State Bank of Indore branches in Delhi and Indore city;

(b) if so, the nature of incriminating documents seized by the CBI; and

(c) the action taken against the guilty officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The Central Bureau of Investigation has reported that during the period 1981 to March 1984, no searches were conducted by it at the residential premises of senior officers of State Bank of Indore Branches in Delhi and Indore City.

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

[*Translation*]

Complaints Against Officials of State Bank of Indore

375. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI:
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints received from Members of Parliament by Government during current year against the high officials of State Bank of Indore, Had Office Indore; and

(b) whether any inquiry was conducted into these complaints and if so, the findings thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). Information is being collected, and to the extent available, will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*English*]

Action plan to Boost Exports to West

376. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY :
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be

pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are contemplating an action plan for boosting exports to western countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the items likely to be exported; and

(d) the extent to which the export oriented industries will be benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (d). It is assumed the reference of the question is to West European countries. These countries constitute a major market for exports from India. The strategy to boost exports to this market includes measures such as under taking of specific commodity oriented market studies, promotional programmes, participation in fairs and buyer-seller meets, distribution of publicity material, exchange of delegations, etc. Major commodities exported to West European countries are textiles, agricultural products, leather goods, gems and Jewellery and engineering goods. Efforts are continuing to push more of these products and simultaneously increase exports of other engineering goods, electronics, chemicals, and allied items which have a high potential in this market. Emphasis has always been to encourage exports through Export Oriented Units by providing them necessary facilities and incentives

Trade Deficit During Current Financial Year

377. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

SHRI TEJA SINGH DARDI:
SHRI BALWANT SINGH RA-
MOOWALIA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the country's trade deficit during the first four months of the current financial year has jumped by Rs 504 crores as compared to the last year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to boost trade and remove deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While exports increased by 21.2 per cent, imports registered an increase of 22 per cent during April-July 1988 over the corresponding period last year, due to increased import of items like Petroleum & Petroleum Products, Edible Oil, Fertilizers, Iron & Steel, Precious and Semi-precious stones, Project goods, Organic and Inorganic Chemicals etc., which are essential for domestic consumption, production and exports.

(c) The Government have taken a number of steps designed to generate surpluses for exports, to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to encourage product and market diversification. At the same time, efforts are being made to effect import substitution particularly in the area of bulk imports.

Financial Irregularities In Indian Express Pvt. Ltd.

378. SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the report of the Company Law Board submitted in 1987 regarding financial irregularities and non payment of customs duty by the Indian Express Pvt. Ltd;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action being taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) to (c). An extract of the inspection carried out under Section 209-A of the Companies Act, 1956 which was received in the Central Board of Excise and Customs on 26.2.87, refers to the writ petition filed by M/s. Indian Express Newspaper (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. on the question of rate of customs duty on newsprint. M/s. Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. were earlier paying duty on their imported newsprint in terms of an interim order dated 2.6.1981 of the Supreme Court. In terms of the final orders passed by the Court on 6.12.1984 duty was fixed at Rs 550/- per M.T. with effect from 1.3.1981. A total amount of Rs 87.64 lakhs on this basis has been recovered from the Company.

Share of Income Tax to total Revenue

379. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
 PATIL :
 SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether share of income-tax to total revenue has dwindled over the years;

(b) whether any action plan has been mooted to augment revenue from income-tax and to take income-tax to a commanding position in the overall picture of the country;

(c) if so, the broad features thereof;

(d) whether income-tax apparatus has been geared to step up the war against black money; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and whether any qualitative change is envisaged in the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Tax base is being broadened through suitable legislative and administrative measures to augment revenue from income-tax. Administrative measures include strengthening of survey teams, intensifying survey work and streamlining of collection, collation, dissemination and verification of information regarding tax-payers. Action plan for 1988-89 lays emphasis on maximum collections.

(d) and (e). The Government has been taking various administrative steps from time to time for combating tax evasion. Some of the important administrative measures which have been taken are systematic survey operations, verifications of information by the Central Information Branches in a Planned manner and search and seizure operations in appropriate cases. It is also proposed to replace the present system of routine scrutiny in a large number of cases by in-depth investigation in a manageable number of selected cases.

Doubling of Jalandhar Jammu-Tawi Railway Line

380. SHRI KAMAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Jalandhar-Jammu Tawi

line via Mukerian is in need of doubling;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take up the project; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise

Introduction of Superfast Trains on Rajkot to Ahmedabad Route

381. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rajkot-Ahmedabad rail route is proposed to be included in the list for superfast trains like Shatabdi Express; and

(b) if so, the time by which the new high speed trains are to be started?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recommendations of ERA Sehziun Committee

382. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Era Sehziun Committee appointed by the Union Government in the late Seventies had discovered a large number of unreconciled accounts and the cases of internal frauds in each of the nationalised banks;

(b) if so, the major recommendations

, made by the Committee;

(c) the steps taken by Union Government and the Reserve Bank of India to implement the recommendations and the current assessment of the unreconciled accounts in the nationalised banks particularly (i) the Punjab National Bank, (ii) the State Bank of Patiala (iii) the United Commercial Bank (iv) the Central Bank of India, and (v) the State Bank of India.

(d) whether any urgent steps are proposed to be taken to rectify the situation and eliminate frauds; and

(e) if so, the nature thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). Government had not appointed any Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Era Sezhiyan. However, the Committee on "Papers Laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha" under the Chairmanship of Shri Era Sezhiyan had, in its 8th and 15th Reports presented to the House in 1983 and 1984, made certain recommendations, inter alia, pertaining to clearance of unreconciled inter-branch accounts in the public sector banks. The recommendations made by the Committee in these reports had been examined by the Government and the Reserve Bank of India and the "Action Taken Notes" thereon were sent to the Rajya Sabha Secretariat for their consideration.

Reserve Bank of India and Government have been impressing upon the public sector banks from time to time the importance of prompt reconciliation of inter-branch accounts. Banks have already been advised to initiate effective and concerted measures to keep this work upto date by streamlining their systems and procedures and, wherever considered necessary, introducing

computerisation for the purpose and having a time-frame for speedy liquidation of arrears. The progress made by the banks is monitored by RBI. The position is also reviewed by Governor, Reserve Bank of India in his periodic meeting with the Chief Executives of Public sector banks.

As a result of these efforts, all the public sector banks including Punjab National Bank, State Bank of Patiala, United Commercial Bank, Central Bank of India and State Bank of India have made a considerable progress in the elimination of their outstanding entries. The public sector banks have recently been advised to make effective and sustained efforts to reconcile their outstanding entries within a time frame and to bring the position upto date as quickly as possible so as to eliminate one of the areas of frauds.

Loans by Banks In Flood Affected Areas on Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, J&K and Haryana

383. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the nationalised banks and the State Bank of India have come to the rescue of the victims of heavy rains and floods in the last week of September, 1988 in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Haryana by sanctioning loans at low rates of interest for housing purposes and by deferring the payment of instalments of loans advanced by them earlier;

(b) if so, the steps taken by each of the following banks in providing relief and ensuring rehabilitation of the victims (i) State Bank of India (ii) UCO Bank (iii) the Punjab National Bank (iv) State Bank of Patiala (v) the Punjab and Sind Bank (vi) the Central Bank of India especially in designated villages

under these branches; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). There are standing guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India to commercial banks for extending relief measures to persons affected by natural calamities such as droughts, floods etc. which will be applicable to persons affected by recent floods in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana. These guidelines envisage, *inter-alia*, conversion of short term production loans into medium term loans, rescheduling of existing term loan instalments and provision of additional need based loans to the affected persons. In respect of current dues in default, no penal interest is to be charged. Effective from 1st March, 1988, the rate of interest on short term loans to farmers for agriculture has been further reduced. As for housing finance, commercial banks are required to grant loans for house repairs and house construction upto Rs 5,000 to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at concessional rate of interest of 4%.

Indian Trade Facilitation Council

384. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an Indian Trade Facilitation Council;

(b) if so, the functions thereof:

(c) if not, when it is likely to be set up; and

(d) the extent to which it will help obviate the procedural delays in external trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (d). No, Sir, a suggestion has however been received for constituting a Trade Facilitation Council with a view to simplifying procedures and documentation in external trade taking into account relevant international standards, which has been noted.

Lifting Curbs in Tea Dealers

385. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are rescinding the Tea (Registration of Dealers and Declaration of Stocks) Order, 1984;

(b) if so, the main reasons for rescinding the curbs; and

(c) to what extent these curbs have helped the tea dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Tea (Registration of Dealers and Declaration of Stocks) Order, 1984 was promulgated in the context of shortage of tea for domestic consumption with the resultant increase in tea prices in India. The situation has since changed with the availability of adequate quantity of tea in the country and consequent stability in prices. It was, therefore, felt that the Tea (Registration of Dealers and Declaration of Stocks) Order, 1984 was no more serving any purpose.

World Bank Disbursements to Developing Countries

386. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has urged the World Bank to work out a detailed action programme for increasing net disbursements and net transfers to developing countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) to what extent it will be beneficial to India and will reduce the high effective cost of borrowing from the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). At the meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee of the Board of Governors and the World Bank and the IMF, India urged the World Bank to work out a detailed action programme for increasing net transfer to developing countries. It was further emphasised that there was need for genuine additionality of resources and that the role of IDA in this regard was central.

Further, it was pointed out that, while the IBRD loans have provided a temporary substitute, the cost of servicing such loans has been high. There is however an opportunity to provide some additional resources to IDA through imaginative use of reflows to IDA. It was suggested that these reflows

could be utilised to subsidise interest rate on IBRD loans to low income countries (including India).

An enhanced net flow of concessional resources to India and utilisation of IDA reflows on the lines suggested by India at this meeting would lower the effective cost of borrowing.

Grants and Loans to Tamil Nadu

387. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of grants given to Tamil Nadu by Union Government during the last three years year-wise;

(b) the amount given to the State as loans during the said period; and

(c) the amount of grant and loans proposed to be given to the State during the year 1988-89?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) to (c). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

Central assistance for State Plans - Tamil Nadu

(Rs. in crores)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Loan</i>	<i>Grant</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	2	3	4
1985-86 (Released)	204.86	97.08	301.94
1986-87 (Released)	185.00	89.27	274.27

1	2	3	4
1987-88 (Released)	233.53	112.85	346.38
1988-89 (Allocated)	270.50	115.93	386.43

Over Bridge at Tiruppappullyur railway station

388. SHRI P.R. S VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct over-bridge at Tiruppappullyur railway station in Cuddalore South Arcot District, Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) No such proposal has been received from the State Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Sick Industrial Units In Tamil Nadu

389. SHRI. P.R.S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of sick industrial units in Tamil Nadu, district-wise, detected by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction under Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985; and

(b) the proposed measures to revive the sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). 52

references under Section 15 of the Sick Industrial all Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 were received by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) from industrial units in Tamil Nadu upto June 30, 1988. While BIFR have passed orders in 6 cases allowing time to the companies for making their net-worth positive, the Board dismissed 1 case as legally not maintainable, issued orders for winding up of 1 company and passed order in the case of company that it is not a sick industrial company under the Act. The Board have also sanctioned scheme for the rehabilitation of 1 sick industrial company. The remaining cases are at various stages of processing in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Doubling of Railway Track In Tamil Nadu

390. SHRI P.R.S. VENKATESAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently taken any decision to double some of the railway tracks in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the task is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Compilation of Dossiers on Big Units

391. DR. B.L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have compiled data of 50 top companies in the first go in its plan to compile dossiers on big units re; their sales realisation, dividend payments to shareholders, excise duties liabilities and other tax obligations; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this behalf so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) and (b). All Collectors of Central Excise have been asked to maintain dossiers in respect of 50 largest revenue paying units within their jurisdiction showing commodities manufactured, Central excise duties realised, dividends declared and income-tax paid. Similarly, it has also been decided to compile information regarding direct taxes in respect of leading corporate tax-payers.

Meeting of Chief Electoral Officers

392. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI G.S.BASAVARAJU :

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

(a) whether the Chief Electoral Officers from all over the country met in Delhi on Monday, 29 August, 1988 and had a long discussion regarding electoral reforms and changes;

(b) if so, the main points discussed;

(c) the final outcome consensus

reached; and

(d) their suggestion accepted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) A Conference of the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union territories was convened by the Election Commission at Udhagamandalam (Ooty) from 29th to 31st August, 1988 and not at Delhi.

(b) to (d). The main points discussed, the conclusions reached and the action taken position are given in the Statement below

STATEMENT

In reply to parts (b) to (d) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 392 for answer on 4.11.1988

1. Multipurpose Identity cards

A scheme of multipurpose identity cards on the pattern of a passport, with each page being used for a particular purpose may be introduced in one or more States on an experimental basis.

This is under consideration as an item of electoral reform.

2. Data of Elections:

As far as possible, general elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies whose terms are expiring within a span of six months, may be held together without any necessity for a State Government to dissolve the Assembly to bring it in line for a simultaneous election.

In order to achieve the Constitutional mandate of biennial retirements in

Upper Houses a specific scheme for dividing the seats in the Upper Houses in certain categories and for providing that members elected or, as the case may be, nominated to those seats should hold office upto specified dates, should be evolved.

Concrete proposals in this respect are still awaited from the Election Commission.

3. *Polling Boothwise counting:*

The present systems of counting of votes booth-wise need not be changed.

No further action required.

4. *Election Expenses:*

There should be a statutory restriction on the election expenses of a candidate; the present ceiling is unrealistic. The Representation of the People Act, 1951, should be amended suitably.

Formal proposals are awaited from the Election Commission.

5. *Model code of conduct:*

(a) Ambit of model code of conduct should be amplified to bring within its limit, even the use of personnel, vehicles, (including aircraft) rest houses etc. of the public undertaking so as to prohibit their misuse at the time election.

(b) All the transfers made six months before the date of normal expiry of the term of the Lok Sabha/State Legislative Assembly should be subject to the Scrutiny of Election Commission.

The Model Code being a voluntary code evolved by the Election Commission in consultation with the political parties, the Commission would be taking steps to con-

sult them.

6. *Election Commission:*

The existing system of single member Commission should be continued for smooth functioning and quick decisions.

This is under consideration as an item of electoral reform.

7. *Observers:*

Continuance of the present system of appointing observers without any necessity for clothing them with statutory powers was favoured.

No action required.

8. *Delimitation of constituencies:*

Articles 82 and 170 (3) of the Constitution may be so amended that while the total number of seats allotted to various States in the House of the People and in the Legislative Assemblies may remain unaltered, delimitation of constituencies after every decennial census should be undertaken. Rotation of seats reserved for Scheduled Castes so that no constituency remained reserved for long was also favoured.

These items are already under consideration as part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

9. *Application of indelible ink at Council election:*

The election law should be suitably amended for introducing the procedure of applying indelible ink to elections for Council Constituencies.

Formal proposals from the Election Commission are awaited.

10. *Countermanding of elections on account of death of any Independent candidate:*

It was decided that law be got amended so that the election may not be countermanded on the death of an independent candidate.

Formal proposals from the Election Commission are awaited.

11. *Electronic Voting Machines:*

Electronic voting machines should be introduced ail over the country as early as possible.

This is already under consideration as part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

12. *Problem of non-serious candidates.*

Stringent action should be taken for discouraging such persons from entering the election fray.

This is already under consideration as part of the proposals for electoral reforms.

Comprehensive Plan for Flood Protection

393. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI S.M.GURADDI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have urged the State Governments to adopt a comprehensive area approach while providing flood protection in their respective States;

(b) if so, whether Government had cir-

culated a model flood plain zoning Bill to the State Government in 1975;

(c) if so, how many States have enacted the legislation; and

(d) the main reasons for not introducing the legislation by the remaining State Governments?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND) :
(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). Manipur has enacted legislation, and Assam has sent the draft Bill for comments and advice. The other States have not been able to take a final decision with a few indicating that flood problem in their territory is not of such magnitude as to require legislative measures.

Castor Seeds Import Under Advance Licensing Scheme to Promote Export of Castor Oil

394. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have permitted Import of castor seeds under the advance licensing scheme to promote export of castor oil;

(b) whether many exporters are yet to be provided import licences;

(c) if so, how many applications are pending for issuing licences; and

(d) the reasons for delay and by what time these will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir, The licences against the applications which were complete in all respects have been issued.

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

Call for Tackling Industrial Sickness

395. SHRI SHANTILAL PATEL:
SHRI S.M.GURADDI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the commercial banks had been asked to set up zonal and regional level forums for continuous interaction with the State Governments and financial institutions to tackle the problem of industrial sickness;

(b) if so, whether any concrete formula/proposal has been made in this regard to the commercial banks;

(c) if so, the particulars thereof; and

(d) the areas of industrial sickness where it is high?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (c). RBI has reported that the commercial banks had been advised to set up special cells at their Head/Central Offices and at important Regional/Zonal centres having concentration of sick industrial accounts for attending to various issues relating to sick industrial units. RBI has again advised banks in 1987 to set up a nodal point at a level below Head Office/Circle Office to attend to various problems relating to sick/weak units including units coming under the purview of Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985 and cases of incipient sickness. The Cell would also attend to coordination matters between the banks and

financial institutions. State Government representatives are also invited to participate in joint meetings which are convened to evolve rehabilitation packages involving reliefs/concessions from the State Government.

(d) RBI has reported that there is concentration of sickness in Textile, Chemicals, Sugar and Engineering group of Industries.

Canalisation of Spice Imports

396. PROF. K.V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government contemplate to canalise the import of spices through Spices Trading Corporation; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Import of most spices is restricted as it is a consumer item. Some spices are allowed to be imported under OGL to meet the requirement of consumers and canalisation of such imports is not considered desirable.

Revenue Collection from Direct Taxes

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

(a) whether the revenue collections from the direct taxes have been showing a decreasing trend for the last three decades;

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

(c) the main reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government are planning to raise the share of direct tax revenue in the total collections; and

(e) if so, what steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA)

: (a) No Sir.

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

(d) and (e). Various measures are being taken to augment income-tax collection. Targets have been fixed for higher collections. Survey work to detect new taxpayers has been intensified. Central information branches in the Department have been strengthened to collect, collate, disseminate and verify information regarding tax payers.

Shelters at Platforms on Delhi and New Delhi Railway Stations

398. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have started work to cover the unsheltered portions of platforms at New Delhi and Delhi railway stations in view of the great difficulties faced by the passengers; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Platform covers provided at Delhi and New Delhi railway stations are considered to be adequate.

Modernisation of Major and Medium Irrigation Projects

399. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking steps to modernise some major and medium irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the names of such medium and major irrigation projects, States and Union Territory-wise;

(c) the amount spent on the modernisation of those projects so far; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B.SHANKARANAND) :

(a) to (d). A number of ongoing modernisation major and medium irrigation schemes are included in the Seventh Plan for which outlays were provided at the beginning the plan. The details of the schemes are given in the statement below.

STATEMENT

249

Written Answers

S. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Scheme	Likely Expenditure incurred upto March, 1988	(R.s. in Crores)
1	2	3	4	4

1. Andhra Pradesh Modernisation Schemes 2.27

2. Assam Jamuna Nil

Sukla Nil

Longa Nil

3. Bihar Some Modernisation 7.84

Kanchi Modernisation 5.93

13.77

4. Gujarat i) Modernisation of canals-UkanKeVrapar 48.81

ii) Modernisation of canals- (World Bank) 78.58

iii) Modernisation of canals- (other than World Bank) 11.90

139.29

KARTIKA 13, 1910 (SAKA)

Written Answers

250

5. Haryana	i) Modernisation of existing channels in Haryana (Phases II & III)	202.98
	ii) Western Yamuna canal Remodelling	11.84
	iii) Improvement, reconditioning & Remodelling of old existing channels	13.84
		<u>228.06</u>

6. Jammu & Kashmir	i) Modernisation of Marland Canal	0.77
	ii) Modernisation of Zaingir Canal	0.83
	iii) Modernisation of Ranbir Canal	2.00
	iv) Modernisation of Pratap Canal	0.72
	v) Modernisation of Kathua Canal	0.74
		<u>5.06</u>

7. Karnataka	i) Krishnaraja Sagar	15.36
	ii) Bhadra Canal	1.60
	iii) Tungabhadra Canal	0.89
	iv) Vani Vilas Sagar	2.00
		<u>19.85</u>

'Outlay
not
provided
'Expenditure
incurred

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

8. Kerala Modernisation Schemes Nil

9. Madhya Pradesh i) Modernisation of Harsi 2.99

ii) Sind Remova Link 1.60

4.59

10. Maharashtra i) Modernisation of old major Projects

ii) Modernisation of old medium Projects

iii) Extension of Krishna Canal

iv) Strengthening of Bhaigon

v) Strengthening of Ekrugh

vi) Strengthening of Darna

vii) Strengthening of Raadha Nagari

viii) Provision for extension and improvement of irrigation channels (40 ha. to 8 ha.)

0.45

11. Manipur

i) Khoupam

ii) Loktak Lift Irrigation

iii) imphal

iv) Sekmai

Nil

1	2	3	4
12.	Orissa		
	i) Modernisation of Rushikulya		1.23
	ii) Strengthening of Hirakud Dam		0.87
	iii) Extension of Ghoudahado Irrigation		0.20
	iv) Renovation of Baragah Main Canal		1.19
	v) Modernisation of Bhaskal Dam		0.13
			<hr/> 3.62

13.	Punjab		
	i) Lining of Channels Phase-I (World Bank Assisanced)		171.72
	ii) Raising linking of Bhakra Main Line for free board		0.10
	iii) Extension and improvement of Shahnahar Canal		30.79
	iv) Lining of channels Phase-I		5.23
			<hr/> 207.84
			<hr/> 28.40

14.	Rajasthan		
	i) Gambhiri Modernisation		
	ii) Meja Modernisation		
	iii) Modernisation of Gang Canal		
	iv) Modernisation Jaisaund (Udaipur)		-

1

2

3

4

- v) Modernisation of Morel
- vi) Modernisation of Masthi
- vii) Modernisation of Gudhra
- viii) Modernisation of Alania
- ix) Modernisation of Parwan

15. Tamil Nadu

- i) Modernisation of Periyar Vaigi system 52.31
- ii) Modernisation of Thanjavur canals 32.38
- iii) Remodelling of Ananthanar 2.08
- iv) Modernisation of Ponnir channels 2.81
- v) Modernisation of Tondapalli channels 3.00

 92.58

 71.77

16. Uttar Pradesh

- i) Modernisation of Upper Ganga Canal (World Bank Assisted) 6.10
- ii) Lining of channels 8.01
- iii) Modernisation of Yamuna Canal 11.52
- iv) Modernisation of Agra Canal

258

1

2

3

4

v)	Modernisation of Lachura Head Works	2.50
vi)	Modernisation of Ghagar Canal	5.96
vii)	Remodelling Mat Branch	6.27
viii)	Modernisation of Upper Sarada Canal	10.18
ix)	Modernisation of Farukhabad Branch	2.29
x)	Modernisation of Bewar Feeder	1.67
xi)	Modernisation of Anup Shahar Branch	4.23
xii)	Modernisation of Bhognipur Branch	3.86
xiii)	Remodelling of Bhimgoda Head Works	30.74
xiv)	Remodelling of Ken canal	3.06
xv)	Modernisation of Upper Ganga Canal	12.73
		<hr/> 180.89

17. West Bengal

i)	Modernisation of Mayurakshi project	4.18
ii)	Modernisation of Barrage and Irrigation system of DYC	3.33
iii)	Modernisation of Kangsabati project	1.69

1	2	3	4
---	---	---	---

iv) Barrage and Irrigation system of DVC (extension and improvement)

33.22

42.42

UNION TERRITORIES

Pondicherry

Improvements to channels in Karaikal

Not available

Steps to Widen Income Tax Base

400. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1960-61 income tax accounted for 28 percent of all the central taxes;

(b) whether the percentage figure in 1987-88 was 18 percent; and

(c) if so, the measures being taken by Union Government to widen the tax base and increase direct taxes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Widening of tax base through suitable legislative measures is a continuous endeavour. Administrative measures taken include strengthening of survey teams, intensifying survey work and strengthening of Central Information Branches in the Department to collect, collate, disseminate and verify information. Targets have also been fixed for higher collections.

[*Translation*]

Demands of Bank Employees

401 SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RA-
WAT:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 10 lakhs of bank employees did not work in their respective offices on 28 September, 1988 as a taken strike called upon by the National Federation of bank Employees and All India Bank

Employees Association;

(b) if so, the main demands of these employees and the time by which Government would fulfil these demands and the details of obstacles in the way of approving and implementing the same; and

(c) the steps taken by Government since January, 1988 to meet the demands of bank employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has reported that a large number of the 6.5 lakh workmen employees in the banking industry abstained from work on 28th September, 1988 in response to a call for one day token strike given by the All India Bank Employees Association and the national Confederation of Bank Employees.

(b) and (c). The main demands of the unions which remain unresolved are:-

- (i) Higher scales of pay and higher incremental pattern for clerks.
- (ii) Higher Dearness Allowance and substantial improvement in superannuation benefits.

IBA which is negotiating with the workmen unions on behalf of its Member Banks has also advised that it is unable to accept these demands in view of the high costs involved and wide repercussions it could have. Govt. is keen for an early settlement and has been impressing upon both the IBA and workers unions to adopt a flexible approach so as to reach a settlement early.

Concessions to Large Business Houses

402. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY:
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased

to state:

(a) the number of big industrial houses being provided various facilities by Union Government to increase the industrial export alongwith details thereof;

(b) whether Government propose to provide more facilities/concessions to these industrial houses and if so, the details of the facilities and concessions decided by these houses to increase the industrial export; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the bilateral trade between India and Pakistan since January, 1988?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE: (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) and (b). The Import Export Policy does not make any distinction between big industrial houses and small exporters and facilities for exports are available to all industrial undertakings. These incentives are available to all on the basis of the same percentage of FOB value of exports and for the same items of import replenishment irrespective of their status. However, the Import Policy provides for recognition of these registered exporters as Export House and Trading House subject to their achieving the minimum level of export performance in terms of average net foreign exchange earnings during the preceding three years, as specified therein. On recognition as such, the Export Houses and Trading Houses are eligible to certain additional incentives under the Import Policy such as the grant to Additional Licences. The benefits available to registered exporters and Export House/Trading House are kept constantly under review and amendments thereunder are made as deemed fit, from time to time.

(c) A number of measures have been taken by the Government to boost trade with Pakistan which interalia include exchange of

trade delegations, discussions at Commerce Minister level to determine ways and means to increase bilateral trade; a decision in principle to establish a Joint Business Council with Pakistan; encouragement to Indian exporters and export organisations to establish contacts with their counter-parts in Pakistan following the Government of Pakistan's Notification of the list of 249 items permitted for import by private parties in Pakistan from India etc.

Customs Duty Evasion on Coloured Photo Films Etc.

403. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people arrested and number of those against whom action has been initiated in respect of the racket involving evasion of customs duty on coloured photo films etc. with the alleged connivance of Customs staff at the Cargo Complex near the Indira Gandhi International Airport reportedly unearthed in August, 1988; and

(b) the progress of investigations in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). Thirteen persons have so far been arrested by the Customs officials and the officials of the Central Bureau of Investigation in the course of the investigations by them into a racket involving evasion of customs duty of about Rs. 4.60 crores, which was detected by the Customs authorities at the Air Cargo Complex near Indira Gandhi International Airport during the last week of July 1988. Other than these 13 arrested persons action has not been initiated against anyone else. The matter is being further investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation.

[English]

New Credit Policy of RBI

404. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has recently announced a new flexible credit policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether lending rates have come down as a result of the new credit policy;

(d) whether lending rates in India compare favourably with those abroad; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve bank of India announced some changes in credit policy measures on October 8, 1988. The changes made are summarised below:

i) *Lending Rates*: Effective from October 10, 1988 all lending rates which are presently prescribed at 16.5% fixed will cease to have a ceiling stipulation but will be subject to a minimum of 16%.

ii) *Inter-bank participation Certificates*: With a view of providing an additional instrument for evening out short term liquidity within the banking system, two types of Participation Certificates have been introduced, one on risk sharing basis and the other without risk sharing. While rate of interest on the two partici-

pation Certificates (PCs) when introduced would be left free to be determined by the two concerned banks, the interest rate on the 'risk sharing PC' would be subject to a minimum of 14% and that on the 'without risk PC' to a maximum of 12.5%.

iii) *Money Market Operations of Discount and Finance House of India (DFHI)*: The operation of DFHI in the call/notice money market would not be subject to the provisions of the ceiling on the rate of interest set out by the Indian Banks' Association.

iv) *Credit Authorisation Scheme*: The present system of prior authorisation by the Reserve Bank of India for sanction of working capital limits/term loans has been withdrawn. However, all proposals involving sanction of aggregate working capital limits beyond Rs. 5 crores (instead of Rs. 2 crores at present) would be subject to post sanction scrutiny by Reserve Bank to ensure that the basic disciplines are being observed.

v) *Transfer of borrowal accounts and lending under consortium arrangements*: Parties have now been allowed to transfer their accounts from one bank to another with the requirements of a 'no objection' letter from the existing bank. However, if any industrial group maintaining more than one account with a bank, seeks to transfer only a good account leaving unsatisfactory account with the existing bank, the latter may refuse to allow such transfer unless arrange-

ments are made by the party concerned to the bank's satisfaction. The limits on the maximum number of banks permissible in each consortium arrangement has been removed. It would, however be advisable to limit the number of banks in formal consortium arrangements to around ten.

vi) *Housing Finance*: The following

<i>Amount of loan</i>	<i>Rate of Interest (% p.a.)</i>
upto Rs. 20,000/-	12.5
Above Rs. 20,000/- & upto Rs. 50,000/-	13.5
Above Rs. 50,000/- and Rs. 1 lakh	14.0
Above Rs. 1 lakh	14.5-16.0

The rate of interest on housing loans to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes upto and inclusive of Rs. 5000/- remains unchanged at 4%.

(c) As a result of changes in lending rates the banks will have the discretion to lower the earlier fixed rate of 16.5% for some parties while they can raise the rate for others taking into account the quality of the borrowal account. The lending rates in the case of individual borrowers which were earlier subject to a fixed rate of 16.5% could rise, fall upto 16% or remain at 16.5%.

(d) and (e). Reserve Bank of India has reported that after making adjustment for differential in inflation rates, the average lending rates in India are broadly comparable to these in many developed countries.

Export of Engineering Goods

405. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN

changes have been made:

- i) Maximum loan period extended from 10 years to 15 years.
- ii) Margin requirements relaxed under graded scale with the maximum fixed at 35%.

III. *Lending rates altered effective from October 10, 1988 as under.*

SINHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether engineering export growth has slowed down in the current financial year as reported in the Economic Times dated 13th October, 1988;

(b) if so, whether there is likelihood of the export target of Rs. 2,000 crores not being attained;

(c) whether Engineering Export Promotion Council (EPEC) has urged a 10 per cent cash compensatory support to help Indian engineering exports to compete in international market; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. A comparison of

the export figures for comparable periods in 1988-89 vis-a-vis the same period in 1987-88 show an upward trend.

(d) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The proposal of the Engineering Export Promotion Council for an additional 10 percent cash support was made only in relation to project exports.

[*Translation*]

Opening of New Branches by Nationalised Banks

406. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of branches likely to be opened by the nationalised banks during the current year and upto March, 1989 in

Mathura city and adjoining areas;

(b) the names of the banks granted license by the Reserve Bank to set up new branches; and

(c) the number of rural farmers, small traders and unemployed youths likely to get loan from the proposed new bank branches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Branch Expansion Programme for the Seventh Plan period relating to urban, metropolitan and port town centres has been finalised and eligible centres have been allotted to various applicant banks. RBI has allowed two banks to open their branches in Mathura City as per details given below:-

<i>Name of Bank</i>	<i>Name of centre</i>	<i>Date of opening of the branch</i>
Syndicate Bank	Mathura-Jayshingpura (by upgradation of extension counter at methodist Hospital)	6.8.1988
UCO Bank	Mathura-Dhaulti Plan	25.3.1988

Apart from these two urban centres, RBI has allotted 12 rural centres to banks for opening their branches in District Mathura under the current Branch Expansion Programme.

(c) Data reporting system of RBI regarding disbursement of loans does not generate branchwise information. It is also not possible to indicate the number of beneficiaries who are likely to get bank finance from a new branch.

Cases of Embezzlement In Nationalised Banks In New Delhi

407. SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of embezzlement by the employees of nationalised banks in New Delhi which came to light since August, 1988 to date;

(b) the names of the banks, and the amount embezzled in each bank; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to check such cases of embezzlement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). As per available information, 8 cases relating to Delhi Branches of State Bank of India, Bank of India, New Bank of India, Syndicate Bank and UCO Bank have come to light since August 1988 till date wherein banks' staff has reportedly embezzled a sum of Rs. 18.10 lakhs.

(c) Banks take a serious view of irregularities committed by their employees and initiate action to inflict punishment, befitting the seriousness of irregularities, on the erring employees. Banks also take steps to ensure speedy disposal of departmental enquiries against such employees. Banks review and revamp the vigilance machinery, take steps to tone up the control and supervision, strengthen the management information system, follow-up and inspection/audit arrangements and for clearing the arrears in balancing of books and reconciliation of inter-branch and other accounts on a continuous basis so as to prevent frauds.

[English]

Bomb Explosion in Hyderabad-Madras Express

408. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there was a bomb explosion in Hyderabad-Madras Express on 7 October, 1988;

(b) whether any investigation has been made into the causes of explosion; and

(c) if so, the result thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) There was no bomb explosion in Hyderabad-Madras Express on

7th October, 1988. However, there was an explosion in a coach of train no. 53 Madras Central-Hyderabad Express at Madras Central Station on 7th October, 1988.

(b) and (c). Tamilnadu Railways Police has registered a case No. 1656/88 under Section 286 I.P.C. and 5(3) (b) of Indian Explosive Substance Act, which is under investigation.

Projects on Godavari River

409. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the projects envisaged on the river Godavari during the Eighth Five Year Plan for the purpose of harnessing the unutilised water potential of the said river; and

(b) the approximate investment required for fully harnessing the water resources of the river Godavari?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). Information is being collected from the State Governments concerned.

World Bank Observation on Drought Conditions in India

410. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has hailed India on its capacity to avert famines during catastrophic drought conditions; and

(b) if so, the details of observations of the World Bank?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The World Bank in its Annual Report 1988, has observed that "India's success in averting the worst effects of the drought was due to timely action by the government and the existence of well-established institutional mechanisms for coping with such emergencies. The government's program included emergency relief measures, as well as steps to salvage what production could be saved and to ensure the best possible production at the next planting. Both central and state governments increased their ongoing public works and relief programs in an effort to maintain the purchasing power of the poorer groups. The central government also moved to maintain availability of basic foods and contain price increases by drawing down its food-grain stocks, and by importing edible oils, pulses, and fodder.

Fulfilment of Reservation Backlog by Nationalised Banks

411. SHRI R.M. BHOYE: Will the Min-

ister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of vacancies are required to be filled to cover the reservation backlog due to snags in its implementation at initial stage; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to direct the nationalised banks to clear the backlog in the recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by adhering to the maximum recruitment as permitted by the Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The backlog in the filling up of vacancies reserved for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes through direct recruitment to the Officers, Clerical & Sub-staff Cadres of the 20 Nationalised Banks, as on 1.1.1988, was as under:-

<i>Cadre</i>	<i>Scheduled Caste</i>	<i>Scheduled Tribe</i>
Officers	541	- 516
Clerical	2598	2455
Sub-staff	788	1029

(b) Government has advised the Public Sector Banks to take various steps to clear the backlog in the vacancies reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe. These steps include reservations for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe upto maximum reservation limits as permitted by Supreme Court of India.

Discretion to Branch Managers for Extending Credit to SS' Units

412. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA: Will

the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has instructed the commercial banks to give discretionary powers to their branch managers for extending credit to small scale industrial (SSI) units;

(b) if so, whether the banks propose to extend full working capital limits to these units; and

(c) whether a mechanism for early

decisions on extension of these limits is also proposed to be evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks have been advised that as far as possible officers with requisite background and vested with adequate discretionary powers be posted to branches located in areas having potential for growth and development of small scale industries or having concentration of small scale units for extending credit to them.

(b) Reserve Bank of India has also advised the banks that full working capital limits determined on the basis of 'need' related to the rated capacity of the unit be sanctioned at the commencement itself *plus* a contingency provision of 10% to take care of unforeseen contingencies due to operational bottlenecks etc.

(c) Banks' decision regarding credit assistance for loans to Small Scale Industries (SSI) exceeding Rs. 25,000/- is to be communicated to the applicant within the prescribed period of 8 to 9 weeks. The credit proposals properly documented and progress monitored at multiple levels for ensuring compliance with these instructions.

Export of Sea Food

413. SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the countries that have shown interest in importing seafood from India;

(b) the items of seafood which are most popular in foreign countries;

(c) the difficulties being faced by seafood exporters; and

(d) the steps taken to remove those difficulties and to give promotional support to exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) Japan, USA, West European Countries, UAE, Iran, Hongkong, Singapore, Australia, Malta, Jordan, Tanzania, New Zealand, Kuwait, Nigeria, Malaysia, Korea, Argentina, Canada, Cyprus etc.

(b) Frozen shrimp, Frozen lobsters, frozen squids and cuttlefish, frozen fish, shark fins, fish maws, Bechede-mer and canned shrimps, canned fish, canned Tuna, canned Sardines, canned macherel and canned Anchovies.

(c) The major difficulties being faced by the Seafood exporters are lack of sufficient raw shrimp and high duty on import machineries.

(d) Steps taken by MPEDA in this regard include promotion of shrimp farming for augmenting production of cultured shrimps, setting up of prawn hatcheries and seed banks, promotion of value-added items like IQF (Individually Quick Frozen) shrimps, subsidy assistance to exporters/seafood processing industry and efforts to reduce duty on import of machinery used by the seafood industry.

Setting up of Desalination Plant

414. SHRI VJAY N. PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have examined the viability of desalination plants in Madras and Bombay for industrial uses to save precious drinking water;

(b) if so, the projects taken so far for experimental purposes;

(c) the cost anticipated to set desalination plants; and

(d) the views of Government on the assistance sought by Tamilnadu and Maharashtra Governments for setting up of desalination plants?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No specific/detailed project proposal for setting up desalination plants in Maharashtra and Madras for industrial uses has been received by the Central Government. In absence of such proposal, commercial viability of desalination on large scale for industrial purposes cannot be examined.

(b) Ministry of Urban Development has provided financial assistance of Rs. 24 lakhs to instal 8 demonstration desalination plants in 8 villages in four States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. These have been installed in two villages of each State.

(c) The outline proposal received from Government of Tamilnadu indicates that the cost of supply and erection of a 100 MLD plant will be Rs. 200 crores, of this the foreign exchange component would be Rs. 130 crores.

(d) While forwarding the outline proposal to the Central Government for technical and economic evaluation, the Tamil Nadu Government has also sought financial assistance. As the commercial viability of large scale application of this technology is yet to be established, investment decisions would depend on the projects viability.

Andhra Pradesh Proposal for Mobilising Funds for State Public Enterprises

415. **DR. VJAYA RAMA RAO:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have been introducing alternative financial schemes such as relief bonds to draw public funds;

(b) whether Central Public Enterprises have also mobilised over 1609 crores in the first two years of Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(c) whether Government propose to agree to Andhra Pradesh Government's proposal for permission to the State to mobilise funds for State Public Enterprises?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Government of India has introduced the Rahat Bonds to attract public savings.

(b) During the first two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the internal and external budgetary resources of the Central Public Sector comes to Rs. 15696 crores.

(c) The present scheme of Public Sector Bond is confined to Central Public Sector undertakings.

Recovery of Income Tax Arrears

416. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total income-tax arrears and out of that the amount against which there is no appeal or court stay;

(b) the total amount tied up in litigation and court stay orders and the steps being taken to get the litigation and court stay orders settled; and

(c) the steps taken to upgrade the quality of search and seizure operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) and (b). On the basis of provisional information so far available, the gross arrear demand as on 31.3.88 is Rs. 3993.56 crores. Out of this, in respect of Rs. 1556.49 crores, the assesses still had time to make the payment as on 31.3.88. Out of the balance, there was no court stay in respect of Rs. 1617 crores as on that date. However, there is no information about demands tied up in litigation. The amount covered by stay by courts and other authorities is Rs. 826 crores. The Central Board of Direct Taxes has issued instructions to the field formations from time to time regarding early settlement of cases and moving the courts for vacation or variation of stay. The Commissioners of I.T. (Appeals) have also been instructed to dispose of on priority the high demand appeals. The High Courts have been requested to constitute Tax Benches on regular basis.

(c) The Investigation Wing of the Income-Tax Department has been strengthened by augmenting the man-power both at the officer and the staff level. Equipment and vehicles for increased efficiency and operational mobility have been provided. Searches under the Income-tax Act have been intensified. Concerned authorities have been directed to pay greater attention to cases where the suspected tax evasions substantial.

Working of Income Tax Department

417. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:
DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the various weaknesses in the Income Tax Department pointed out by him while inaugurating recently the Conference of Chief Commissioner of Income tax; and

(b) the action being taken to eliminate those weaknesses in the Income tax Department?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): (a) While inaugurating the conference of the Chief Commissioners of Income-Tax at New Delhi on 6.10.88, the Finance Minister had, *inter alia*, made the following points:

- (i) The quality of assessment work leaves much to be desired and should be improved.
- (ii) While a large number of officers in the Income-tax Department have been doing their work excellently but there are a few who indulge in malpractices.

(b) With a view to improving the quality of assessments, the Central Board of Direct Taxes had already taken steps to ensure that in-depth investigation is done in a manageable number of selected cases, instead of making superficial assessments in large number of cases. Supervisory officers are also required to monitor the progress of enquiries and investigation in selected cases.

The Income-tax Department has a whole-time Chief Vigilance Officer and a number of senior officers to assist him. As soon as any specific malpractice comes to the notice of the Department, investigation is carried out and thereafter, if necessary, disciplinary action is initiated. Cases involving allegations of bribery, acquisition of disproportionate assets etc. are referred to C.B.I. for investigation and appropriate follow up action, such as, initiation of disciplinary proceedings, prosecution etc. is taken on receipt of C.B.I.'s reports. Besides, provisions of Fundamental Rule 56(J) and Rule 48 of

Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules for prematurely retiring officers/staff of doubtful integrity or those found ineffective are being vigorously implemented. A system has been devised by the Department for identifying officers of doubtful integrity in consultation with the C.B.I. and otherwise. Follow up action in such cases is taken by carrying out inspections of their financial affairs and technical performances. If such inspections reveal corruption or other malpractices, appropriate action is taken against the concerned officers in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

[*Translation*]

Irrigation Projects Pending for Approval of Maharashtra

418. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to the reply given on 6 May, 1988 to Unstarred Question No. 9933 regarding Projects of Vidarbha pending with Central Water Commission and state:

(a) the dates on which his Ministry received (1) Chapdoh, (2) Jamb Nala, (3) Lail Nala, (4) Gardi Nala, (5) Kategi and (6) Hathigota projects relating to the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra, and which are now pending with the Centre Water Commission;

(b) the present stage of progress thereof; and

(c) the names of projects which were sent back to Government of Maharashtra for submitting rough estimates in regard thereto and the areas with which these projects are concerned?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) These were received during March to July, 1987.

(b) Replies to comments on four projects not received from State Government. One project, viz. Garadi Nalla has been returned as its command has been included in the Gosikhurd project. State has informed that Jamb Nalla Project is a minor irrigation project.

(c) These are Tultuli, Bawanthadi, Lower Penganga and Lower Wardha relating to areas in Chandrapur, Bhandara, Yavatmal and Wardha districts of Vidarbha respectively.

[*English*]

Filling up of the Posts of Chief Justices and Judges In High Courts

419. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of sanctioned posts of Judges/Addl. Judges, High Court-wise, as on 30th September, 1988;

(b) the number of vacancies High Court-wise as on that date;

(c) the number of judges/additional Judges appointed during the period April-September, 1988;

(d) the number of posts of Chief Justices vacant as on 1 October, 1988; and

(e) the steps taken to fill up the vacant posts of Chief Justices and judges in various High Courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b). The requisite information is given in the statement below.

(c) During the period April-September, 1988, fresh appointment of 20 Judges/Additional Judges were made.

(d) As on 1st October, 1988, three posts

of Chief Justices were vacant.

(e) Necessary steps have been taken to fill up the vacancies in consultation with the concerned constitutional authorities.

STATEMENT

The Strength and Vacancies in Various High Courts as on 30.9.1988

High Court	Sanctioned Strength			Vacancies		
	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total	Pmt. Judges	Addl. Judges	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1. Allahabad	55	5	60	9	5	14
2. Andhra Pradesh	24	2	26	5	2	7
3. Bombay	42	6	48	4	1	5
4. Calcutta	42	.	42	4	.	4
5. Delhi	25	2	27	3	2	5
6. Gauhati	10	.	10	1	.	1
7. Gujarat	18	3	21	2	3	5
8. Himachal Pradesh	5	1	6	1	1	2
9. Jammu & Kashmir	7	.	7	.	.	.
10. Karnataka	25	.	25	3	.	3
11. Kerala	21	.	21	1	.	1

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
12. Madhya Pradesh	23	7	30	2	2	4	4
13. Madras	25	.	25	2	.	2	2
14. Orissa	11	1	12	1	1	2	2
15. Palna	35	.	35	8	.	8	8
16. Punjab & Haryana	23	.	23	1	.	1	1
17. Rajasthan	21	2	23	.	.	.	.
18. Sikkim	3	.	3	1	.	1	1
Total	415	29	444	48	17	65	65

Trade During April-September, 1988

420. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated value of export/import of all commodities during the period April-September, 1988;

(b) the value of exports imports during the corresponding period for the last two years;

(c) the percentage rise in value in rupees as compared to last year; and

(d) the percentage rise in value in convertible foreign exchange or SDRs as compared to last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI): (a) The figures of India's overall exports and imports during April-September 1988 are not yet available.

(b) The provisional figures of India's exports and imports were Rs. 5857.44 crores and Rs. 9239.01 crores during April-September 1986 and Rs. 7411.26 crores and Rs. 10398.87 crores during April-September 1987.

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

Public Deposits In Small Savings

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

(a) the total public deposit in small savings as on 1 April, 1988;

(b) the target of small saving collections for current year;

(c) the collection made during the period April-September, 1988;

(d) the steps taken by Government to promote such savings; and

(e) the brief Particulars of the schemes of small savings currently in operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) the total public deposits in Post Office Savings Bank Deposits and Savings Certificates as on 1 April, 1988 were Rs. 28366.56 crores.

(b) Budget 1988-89 assumes net small savings collections of Rs. 3700 crores.

(c) Net small savings collections during April to September, 1988 were Rs. 1382 crores.

(d) To promote small savings, Government have introduced new savings schemes, namely, Indira Vikas Patra, National Savings Scheme, Post Office Monthly Income Account and Kisan Vikas Patra.

(e) The brief particulars of small savings schemes currently in operation are as under:-

Name of Scheme		Rate of interest
1		2
1.	Post Office Savings Account	5.5%
2.	Post Office Time Deposit	
1	Year Account.	9.5%

1	2
2 Year Account.	10%
3 Year Account.	10.5%
5 Year Account.	11%
3. Post Office Recurring Deposits (5 Years)	11%
4. National Savings Scheme, 1987.	11%
5. Post Office Monthly Income Account (6 Years)	12%*
6. National Savings Certificates VI Issue (6 Years)	11%
7. National Savings Certificates VII Issue (6 Years)	11%
8. Social Security Certificates (10 Years)	Investment triples in 10 years.
9. Indira Vikas Patra	Investment doubles in 5 years.
10. Kisan Vikas Patra.	Investment Doubles in 5 1/2 years with facility of premature encashment after 2 1/2 years.

* Additional bonus at the rate of 10% also payable on maturity.

Business Turnover of LIC

422. SHRI UTTAM RATHOD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the business turnover expected by the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) during the current financial year indicating the collections made through premiums, payments made to policy holders, investments made etc. as also during the last two years;

(b) the new policies introduced, if any, for the benefit of the economically weaker classes;

(c) whether the bonus rates were increased recently for whole life policies and endowment policies; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The business turnover, collections made through premiums, payments made to policyholders and investments made during the last two years and expected during the current financial year are given below:-

(Rupees in Crores)

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89 (Expected)
New Business	19,958	26,289	32,000
Collections made through Premiums	2,097	2,672	3,554
Payments made to policyholders	981	1,172	1,396
Investments made	1,963	2,357	2,918

(b) The new policies introduced by the LIC for the benefit of the economically weaker classes include Group Insurance Schemes for Landless Agricultural Labourers, Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) Beneficiaries, handloom weavers and rickshaw pullers.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. The new bonus rates as a result of valuation as on 31/3/1988 are Rs.77.50 for whole life policies and Rs.62.00 for endowment policies per thousand sum assured per year as against Rs. 72.50 and Rs. 58.00 respectively as a result of valuation as on 31/3/1987.

Number of Sick Units

423. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick Small Sector Industrial units (SSI) including agro-based industries, non-SSI sick units and non-SSI weak units in the country as on 30th June, 1988 and the outstanding amount in these three industrial sector respectively from the financial institutions; and

(b) the steps taken to restore their health and the investment made in them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that in so far as sick and weak units in the portfolio of banks are concerned, the position as at the end of June, 1987 (latest available) is as under:

(Rs. in crores)

	<i>No. of units</i>	<i>Amount</i>
1. Sick SSI units	158226	1542.25
2. Non-SSI sick units (as defined in Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.	1057	2680.44
3. Non-SSI weak units (not covered under the Act).	655	1515.19

(b) RBI has advised the banks for close monitoring of all borrowal accounts for determining the viability of each unit and for evolving rehabilitation packages in respect of potentially viable sick units. The package may provide, inter alia, for reschedulement of repayment of principal and payment of interest, funding of overdues, waiving of penal interest, etc.

Rural Hut Insurance Scheme

424. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE

be pleased to state the number of beneficiaries of the Rural Hut Insurance Scheme introduced with effect from May 1, 1988, statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): The information relating to number of claims paid under Hut Insurance Scheme for Poor Families upto September, 1988, since its introduction on 1st May, 1988 is as under:-

<i>Name of State</i>	<i>Number of claims paid</i>
Andhra Pradesh	1632
Maharashtra	340
Tamil Nadu	1113
Uttar Pradesh	532
Delhi	44
Total	3661

Flood Control by Union Government

425. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the views expressed by some experts that the recurrent problem of floods could be solved effectively if the Centre took over planning and funding of flood control works State Governments; and

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

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER

RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b). There is no proposal to take over planning and funding of flood control works from the State Governments.

Introduction of a New Train from New Delhi to Kerala

426. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Railways propose to start new train services shortly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is a proposal to start

one more train from New Delhi to Kerala; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 9 pairs of trains have been introduced from the Winter Time Table.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Model Railway Stations in Kerala

427. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the work being undertaken at the model railway stations in Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Trivandrum Central Railway Station has been selected to be developed as a Model Station in Kerala. The remodelling of the station provides for the following Works:-

(1) Provision of cement concrete aprons on platform roads 1 & 2.

(2) Construction of new station building with a second class waiting hall on south side together with provision of circulating and car parking area

(3) Provision of latrines on platforms No.1, 2 & 3.

(4) Extension of Platform shelter on Island platforms No.2 & 3.

(5) Provision of second foot-over-bridge connecting platforms with new station building.

Concrete Sleeper Unit at Palghat

428. SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state.

the latest position with regard to the proposed railway concrete sleeper unit at Palghat?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC)'s offer for setting up the plant in joint sector under the name, "M/s. KEK Prestressed Concretes Ltd. has been accepted and orders placed on them on 12.8.1988.

Doubling of Ernakulam-Trivandrum Railway Line

429. PROF P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the doubling of track between Ernakulam and Trivandrum; and

(b) the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) Work on the new BG rail line from Ernakulam to Alleppey and onward to Kayankulam is in progress. This will provide an alternative route between Ernakulam and Kayankulam. Survey for doubling between Kayankulam and Trivandrum has been completed. This doubling will be planned for being taken up in phases.

(b) This will depend upon the availability of funds during the coming years.

Rate of Inflation

430. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of inflation during the past four years with year-wise break-up;

(b) whether the budgetary deficit is coming down due to the measures taken in that regard; and

(c) if not, what special steps are being taken to contain inflation and reduce the budgetary gap?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The rate of inflation measured on a point to point basis on Wholesale Price Index (1970-71=100) from 1984-85 is given below:-

<i>Year</i>	<i>Rate of Inflation (Per cent)</i>
1984-85	7.6
1985-86	3.8
1986-87	5.3
1987-88	10.6
1987-88 (upto Oct.17,1987)	8.3
1988-89 (upto Oct. 15,1988)	5.4

(b) and (c). The Government has been constantly endeavoring to keep the budgetary deficit within prudent limit by augmenting revenues and containing expenditures. The Government has also been keeping a close watch on the price situation and taking appropriate measures to reduce pressure on prices. Some of the measures taken in the past to contain price rise include strengthening of Public Distribution System, augmenting imports and releases of essential commodities mopping up excess liquidity and

raising production of foodgrains and other essential commodities through crash programmes.

Stoppage of Kerala Express at Faridabad

431. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of passengers of Kerala bound Kerala Express are facing great inconvenience due to non-stoppage at Faridabad; and

(b) if so, whether a stoppage will be provided at Faridabad?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Being a long distance Superfast train and to avoid inconvenience to through passengers, the halt is not considered justifiable.

Recognition of Political Parties by Election Commission

432. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of political parties recognised by the Election Commission indicating their names as on 1 November, 1988;

(b) the basis on which a political party is accorded recognition on national level for the purpose of contesting and participation in general elections;

(c) the names of such political parties as have sought recognition on national level after the last general elections; and

(d) the names of the Regional political parties which at present operate in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) As on 1.11.88, 7 political parties have been recognised by the Election Commission as "National Parties" and 35 political parties as "State Parties". Lists I and II of Statement given below the names of said "National" and "State" parties".

(b) The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) order, 1968 provides first for a political party being registered as such by the Election Commission and later for its classification as a 'recognised' political party on the basis of its performance in a General Election to the Lok Sabha or to the Legislative Assembly/ies. A political party which is so recognised in 4 or more States, shall have and enjoy the status of a "National Party" throughout the country. A political party so recognised in less than 4 States shall have and enjoy the status of a "State Party" in the State/s concerned.

(c) The position is that in terms of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) order, 1968, Election Commission suo moto makes a review of the poll performance of all the recognised political parties after each General Election. Such a review is made to determine whether on the basis of performance, the parties qualify for continued recognition or not. If during the review it is found that a recognised political party has

qualified for recognition in 4 or more States, that party is accorded the status of a "National Party" through out the country. There is no necessity for any party to apply for such a status.

As a result of the review made after the last General Election, there has been no addition to the list of the 7 "National Parties".

(d) The Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968, does not refer to a "Regional" Political party. In terms of that Order, political parties are classified as recognised; political parties or 'un-recognised' political parties. A recognised political party is further sub-divided into two categories, namely, "National Party" and a "State Party".

As on 1.11.88 the number of such parties is"-

(Recognised Political Parties.)

i) National Parties	— 7
ii) State Parties	—35

Un-recognised political parties — 18

The names of these parties are contained in list III in the statement given below:

STATEMENT

LIST-I

Recognised National Parties

1. Bharatiya Janata Party
2. Community Party of India
3. Communist Party of India (Marxist)
4. Indian National Congress

5. Indian Congress (Socialist - Sarat Chandra Sinha)
6. Janata Party
7. Lok Dal

LIST-II

<i>Recognised State Parties</i>	<i>States</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
1. All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu Pondicherry
2. All india Forward Bloc	West Bengal
3. All India Muslim League	Kerala
4. Asom Gana Parishad	Assam
5. Dravida Munetra Kazhagam	Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry
6. Goa Congress	Goa
7. Hill People Union	Meghalaya
8. Hill State Peoples' Democratic Party	Meghalaya
9. Indian Congress (J)—Bhalla Group	Haryana
10. Jammu and Kashmir National Conference	Jammu and Kashmir
11. Jammu and Kashmir Peoples Conference	Jammu and Kashmir
12. Jammu and Kashmir Panters Party	Jammu an Kashmir
13. Kerala Congress	Keraia
14. Kerala Congress (J)	Kerala
15. Kuki National Assëmbly	Manipur
16. Maharashtrawadi Gomantak	Goa

1	2
17. Manipur People's Party	Manipur
18. Mizo National Front	Mizoram
19. Muslim League	Kerala
20. Naga National Democratic Party	Nagaland
21. Nagaland People Party	Nagaland
22. Peasants 'and Workers' Party of India	Maharashtra
23. Peoples Conference	Mizoram
24. People' s Party of Arunachal	Arunachal Pradesh
25. Plains Tribals Council of Assam	Assam
26. Public Demands Implementation Convention	Meghalaya
27. Revolutionary Socialist Party	Tripura West Bengal
28. Shiromani Akali Dal	Punjab
29. Sikkim Congress (R)	Sikkim
30. Sikkim Prajatantra Congress	Sikkim
31. Sikkim Sangram Parishad	Sikkim
32. Telugu Desam	Andhra Pradesh
33. Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti	Tripura
34. United Minorities Front Assam	Assam
35. Pondicherry Maanila Makkal Munnani	Pondicherry

*LIST-III**Registered Unrecognised Parties*

1. Backward & Depressed People's Protection Front	Tamil Nadu
---	------------

1	2
2. Doordarshi Party	1. Gujarat 2. Himachal Pradesh 3. Madhya Pradesh 4. Rajasthan 5. Uttar Pradesh
3. Gandhi Kamaraj National Congress	Tamil Nadu
4. Jharkhand Mukti Morcha	Bihar
5. Jharkhand Party	Orissa
6. Naga National Party	Nagaland
7. National Democratic Party	Kerala
8. Republican Party of India	Maharashtra
9. Republican Party of India (Knobragade)	Maharashtra
10. Socialist Unity Centre of India	West Bangala
11. Tamil Nadu Congress (K)	Tamil Nadu
12. Jagrat Orissa	Orissa
13. Indian Farmers' and Toilers' Party	Tamil Nadu
14. Bahujan Samaj Party	1. Madhya Pradesh 2. Uttar Pradesh 3. Dadra & Nagar Haveli.
15. Mizo National Union	Mizoram
16. United Tribal Nationalists Liberation Front	Assam

1	2
17. All Party Hill Leaders Conference (Armison Marak Group)	Meghalaya
18. Bharatiya Republican Paksh	Maharashtra

Tea Export to Iran

433. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are exporting tea to Iran;

(b) if not, whether Iran has recently expressed its desire to import tea from India;

(c) if so, the details of proposals received from Iran; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (d). Iran is a regular buyer of Indian tea. In June, 1988 an Iranian Tea purchasing team visited India and places purchase orders for around 15 M. Kgs of Tea on various Indian Exporters.

Financial Irregularities in Nationalised Banks in Delhi

434. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the

Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of financial irregularities detected in the Punjab National Bank, the New Bank of India, the Oriental Bank of Commerce, the Bank of Baroda, the Syndicate Bank and the Union Bank of India in Delhi region during the last two years together with the amount involved in each case; and

(b) the details of action taken against the employees, bank-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) The present data reporting system does not generate Region-wise information as asked for in the Question. However, consolidated figures in respect of frauds and the amounts involved reported from all parts of the country by Punjab National Bank, New Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Bank of Baroda, Syndicate Bank and Union Bank of India to RBI during the years 1986 and 1987 is given below:-

	1986		1987	
	No. of frauds	Amount involved <i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>	No. of frauds	Amount involved
	1	2	3	4
Punjab National Bank	108	360.74	51	123.55

	1	2	3	4
New Bank of India	25	133.42	13	24.01
Oriental Bank of Commerce	14	11.08	12	17.32
Bank of Baroda	80	361.64	97	165.22
Syndicate Bank ⁸⁴	260.71	231	132.24	
Union Bank of India	88	196.44	82	153.11

(Data Provisional)

(b) Available information in respect of employees during 1986 and 1987 for their punishment awarded by the Bank to their involvement in fraud cases is given below:

	1986	1987
Punjab National Bank	40	27
New Bank of India	28	32
Oriental Bank of Commerce	3	8
Bank of Baroda	28	26
Syndicate Bank	27	36
Union Bank of India	19	7

(Data Provisional)

Import of Condoms**of condoms?**

435. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of condoms imported during the last three years, year-wise and country-wise alongwith the foreign exchange involved;

(b) whether the State Trading Corporation (STC) was involved in these imports;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the agencies that handled the import

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Details of imports of Colour condoms during 1985-86 are given below:

Quantity (in thousand Nos.) 3195

Value (in Lakhs) - Rs. 15. 58

Countries of imports : Japan, Korea RP, USA, Belgium, China and Thailand.

Complete data is available upto March, 1986 only. Besides normal imports under

OGL bulk imports were made through United Nations Fund for Population Activity and DGS& D of 18 million pieces in 1986-87, 262 million pcs. in 19087-88 and 43.5 million pieces in 1988-89.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. STC is not a canalising agency for import of this item, which is allowed under OGL by all persons for stock and sale.

(d) Details of individual importers are not maintained as the item is under OGL for import by all persons for stock and sale.

Import of High Speed Coaches

436. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHA-MAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways propose to import some high speed light-weight coaches to be put into service on trial basis;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to manufacture such coaches indigenously?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD) : (a) Some Modern high speed light weight coaches are being obtained with provision for transfer of technology for manufacture of the same in the Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala in the first instance.

(b) 42 Nos. of these coaches have been ordered. The coach body including furnishings is being supplied by M/s. EREL, UK and the bogies for the same by M/s. FIAT, Italy.

(c) Yes, Sir.

Non-Fulfilment of Export Obligations by Big Industrial Houses

437. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHA-MAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state the number of big industrial

houses which have not met their export obligations during 1986-87 and

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : As big industrial houses are not defined, perhaps Hon'ble Member desires information about MRTP Houses. The said information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[*Translation*]

Seizure of Goods on Indo-Nepal Border

438. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the smuggled goods seized on the Indo-Nepal border in the year 1988 so far as compared to the goods seized during 1987;

(b) the number of officers of customs department rewarded in 1988; and

(c) the facilities proposed to be provided to the collectorate of customs at Patna to make it more effective?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA) : (a) The Officers of Customs have in the jurisdiction of the Indo-Nepal border Customs Collectorate seized contraband goods worth Rs 13. 85 crores approximately during the calendar year 1988 (upto 25th October) as against contraband goods worth Rs 12.88 crores approximately seized during the entire calendar year 1987.

(b) 792 (provisional) Officers of the Indo-Nepal border Customs Collectorate have been granted cash awards of a total amount of Rs 6.91 lakhs approximately during calendar year 1988 so far.

(c) In order to make the anti-smuggling machinery more effective, the Indo-Nepal border customs Collectorate with Headquarters at Patna has been provided fire-

arms including self-loading rifles, metal detectors, vehicles and drug identification kits. The various formations of this Collectorate have also been linked through a wireless network to enable quick exchange of information and follow-up action on seizures. X-ray baggage machines are also being installed at the airports at Patna and Babatpur (Varanasi)

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex body for collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling activity supports this Collectorate.

[English]

Government Check on Deposits by Indians in Swiss Banks

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

(a) whether his attention has been invited to the news item captioned "Indians" Swiss Banks deposits increasing" appearing in the 'Times of India; New Delhi dated 6 October, 1988;

(b) if so, whether he has got the matter looked into particularly the reasons for 30-50 per cent increase annually during the last four years;

(c) whether Government are in a position to exercise any check on such deposits by the Indians abroad;

(d) if so, what is the nature of the check and whether it is obligatory on these depositors to intimate to the Reserve Bank of India or his Ministry about such deposits; and

(e) if not what checks do Government propose to take to discourage such hoarding of concealed and ill gotten wealth in Swiss banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) to (e). Government have seen the Press report which is based on an article entitled "Capital Flight and Developing Countries" published in September 1988 issue of Central Bank of India's Economic Bulletin. In that article, the author has mentioned that according to some estimates Indian funds in Swiss banks have been going up by about 30-35 per cent every year. This view is not based on any study undertaken by Central Bank of India, nor supported by any authentic data or information. The views expressed in the article are personal views of the author and not of the Central Bank of India. No person resident in India can keep accounts in Switzerland or any other country outside India without the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Voting Age

440. SHRI P.M. SAYEED: CH. KHURSHID AHMED :

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

(a) whether Government have received proposals regarding lowering the age of the voters from 21 to 18 years;

(b) if so, the details of the proposals thus received;

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government also propose to reduce the qualifying age for candidature to the Lok Sabha and State Legislatures from the existing 25 years to 21 years and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) (a) to (c). The Election Commission has drawn attention to the fact that in a large number of countries, the voting age is 18. This subject is presently being debated extensively. This is being taken

note of, but no final decision has been taken.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Talks on Telugu -Ganga Project

441. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL:
SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN:
SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government recently invited the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra to resolve the Telugu-Ganga issue; and

(b) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposed meeting did not materialise as the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh declined to attend.

[*Translation*]

Committee to Curtail Government Expenditure

443. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI:
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :
SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a committee to look onto the ways to curtail Government expenditure;

(b) if so, whether the said committee

has started working;

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

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K.GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The deliberations of the committee are a part of internal decision making process in Government.

[*English*]

FICCI's Suggestions for Exports Increase

444. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received suggestions from the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for increasing exports to wipe out the deficit;

(b) if so, what are the main suggestions and whether these are based on some specific study or assessment made by them; and

(c) the reaction of Government in the matter and the action proposed to be taken on the suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main suggestions pertain to immediate release of funds under the IPRS Scheme; simplification of procedural formalities; constitution of groups for thrust sectors to monitor their export performance; minimising the import duty on raw materials /capital goods & project imports; and reduction in the interest rates on export finance.

The Government is not aware if these suggestions are based on some specific study made by FICCI.

(c) The Government has reacted favourably and has taken the following action on the suggestions;

Funds have been released from the Engineering Goods Export Assistance Fund for disbursement under IPRS Scheme; procedural simplifications were introduced in the New Hand Book of Procedure for 1988-91; a Cell has been constituted in the Ministry of Commerce to monitor exports on monthly basis; the import duty on raw materials, capital goods and project imports is revised from time to time as and when necessary keeping in view the interest of the indigenous industry; and the interest rates for export credit are restructured by the Reserve Bank of India after taking into consideration the various factors in this regard.

Decline in Export of Mangoes

445. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Qty. (in M. Tonnes)</i>	<i>Val. (In Rs. Lakhs)</i>
1985-86	16,461	1,921
1986-87	10,500	1,200
1987-88	14,900	1,730

(Source: APEDA)

However, the percentage in the destination-wise exports has been maintained. The major destinations for export of mangoes from India are countries in Gulf region and U.K.

(d) The incentives such as Cash Compensatory Support, import replenishment for import of packing material, duty drawback on packing material etc. being granted to exporters are expected to boost the export of mangoes.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of mangoes from India has declined considerably;

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

(c) the foreign markets where India is losing during the last three years and to which country ;and

(d) the steps being taken to boost the export of mangoes during the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) to (c). Export of mangoes from India has been fluctuating during the last three years as the following table will show:-

World Development Report on Public Finance Policies

446. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of broad directions which public finance policies should strive to pursue as suggested by the World Development Report, 1988; and

(b) the steps being taken by Govern-

ment to effect financial decentralization and to implement the suggestion of efficient and effective public spending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b). According to the World Development Report 1988, public finance policies should try to adopt prudent Budget Policies, reduce the cost of raising revenue, increase the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending, strengthen the autonomy and accountability of decentralised public entities and design programmes consistent with poverty alleviation goals. The Government is fully alive to these broad objectives of public finance policies and it has continuously endeavored to follow prudent budget policies and secure efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of public spending at appropriate levels of decentralization.

Earning of Highest Amount of Revenue

447. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the first ten districts of the country which earned highest amount of revenue during the last three years; and

(b) the contribution made by each of the said districts to Central Revenue during the

last three years ; Year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K.PANJA) : (a) and (b). Central Revenue is collected from Central Excise, Customs and Income-tax, etc. The statistics regarding collection of Excise, Customs and Income Tax, etc. are not maintained district-wise but Collectorate/Commissionary-wise.

Production and Export of Iron-Ore, Ore Concentrates and Pellets

449. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron-ore, ore concentrates and pellets export during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the average value of iron-ore at mine head, year-wise; and

(c) the average FOB export value of iron-ore etc. year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) Quantity of iron ore exported by MMTC and Goan shippers and concentrates/pellets exported by KIOCL during the last three years has been as under:-

(Quantity in Lakh Tonnes)

Year	Iron Ore	Concentrates/ Pellets	Total
1985-86	279.60	20.60	300.20
1986-87	290.07	35.18	325.25
1987-88	243.97	38.64	282.61

(b) Average mine head value of iron ore production (including lumps, fines and concentrates) in 1985, 1986 and 1987 was Rs 57.62, Rs 60.83 and Rs 61.25 per tonne

respectively.

(c) The average FOB export value of iron ore and concentrates/pellets during the last three years was as under:-

(Rs./Tonne)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Iron ore</i>	<i>Concentrates/Pellets</i>
1985-86	184.87	190.92
1986-87	182.02	179.05
1987-88	172.43	195.57

Sino-Indian Trade Relations

450. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether in an effort to improve trade relations both Indian and China are likely to embark on the old barter trade principle to counter the foreign exchange shortage;

(b) whether the trade between the two countries have not been encouraging and India has been facing an adverse balance of trade with China;

(c) whether both the countries are working on an ambitious programmes of trade; and

(d) if so, the main features of the proposed trade and by what time final agreement in this regard is likely to be reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI) : (a) The FICCI trade delegation which visited China in June, 1988 has suggested that as China and India are facing foreign exchange constraints, considerable part of the foreign trade could take the form of barter or counter trade.

(b) Yes sir.

(c) and (d). In the Trade Protocol signed with China for the year 1988-89 at Beijing on 8th June, 1988, a number of new items have

been included which the Indian side expects China to import from India like oil field chemicals, oil field equipment, computer software, transportation systems such as commercial vehicles etc. The basket of items of exports has been diversified to include more value added products and non-traditional items. Similarly, new items have been added for imports from China.

12.00 hrs

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seats. I will call you

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : (Movelikara) I have given a notice about the incident in Maldives

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have given a notice. Government has been informed. The Prime Minister is going to make a statement on Male Affair at 12.30 P.M

* Not recorded.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura)
There is a serious situation in Tripura. Democracy is under attack and is being butchered. Political workers are being killed. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is a State subject I cannot allow.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Army has been deployed *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Already instructions have been given to withdraw the army. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Law and order is a State subject. Please listen to me. This is a State subject. Because it is a disturbed area, army is deployed. Now instructions have been given to withdraw the army also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have received information that already instructions have been issued to withdraw the army.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : We want a discussion on it.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : Give separate notice if you want a discussion.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : In violation of the Central Arms Act, West Bengal Government has supplied arms. The Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already given my ruling . It is a State subject, I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that because it is a disturbed area, that is why army is deployed. Now instruction has been issued to withdraw the army also.

(interruptions)

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : We want a discussion...

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already said that you can give separate notice if you want a discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (DumDum): They have admitted this position that they have supplied arms to their cadres. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a State subject. I cannot allow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a State subject. I am not allowing it.

(Interruptions)

Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is a State subject. You give separate notice for that. I cannot allow.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is an important matter. Please ask the Home Minister to make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is a State subject, I cannot allow.

*(Interruptions)**[Translation]*

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, 14th November is the birthday of Pandit Nehru. It is the centenary year.

It should be declared a holiday.

[*English*]

It should be declared a holiday.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the whole House agrees, I have no objection. We have to take the sense of the House.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, You may inform the Government. The entire House is agreeable to this. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : So, far as the Parliament not sitting on 14th November, which is the birth centenary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is concerned, the Government has no objection. We have no objection. We would support it. We shall not sit on that day.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the House agrees on this. November 14th is a holiday. There would be not be any sitting of the House on the 14th November in view of Pandit Nehru's centenary.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: Sir, You appreciate the danger. It is not a question of narrow political fight. It is a question of national security. The Home Minister is present here, he should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing, I cannot allow. It is a State subject.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You can give a separate notice, I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : (Guwahati) : Doctors are on agitation today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give notice I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Papers to be laid. Shri A.K. Panja....

(*Interruptions*)

Shri Basudeb Acharia and some other Hon. Members then Left the House.

12.11 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[*English*]

Notification under Finance Act, 1979 Customs Act, 1962, Central Excise Salt Act, 1944 and Income Tax Act, 1961

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI A.K. PANJA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 41 of the Finance Act, 1979:-
 - (i) G.S.R. 875(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd August, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. A.A. Mokanou, Vice-President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of USSR and Mr. Molchanov, Deputy Head of the Department of South Asia on their visit to India from the payment of Foreign Travel tax.
 - (ii) G.S.R. 878(E) published in

- Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Rashleigh E. Jackson, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Guyana and two other members of delegation who visited India from 23rd to 27th August, 1988 from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (iii) G.S.R. 879(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 26th August, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. Ali Alatas, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and other members of delegation who visited India from 24th August, 1988 from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (iv) G.S.R. 951(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to their Majesties King Birendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev and Queen Aishwarya Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah of Nepal and other members of delegation who visited India from 29th to 30th September, 1988 from the payment of foreign travel tax.
- (v) G.S.R. 955(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to His Excellency Mr. H.M. Ershad, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and other members of delegation who visited India on 29th September, 1988, from the payment of foreign travel tax. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 6589/88]
- (2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act 1962:-
- (i) S.O. 892(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th September, 1988, together with an explanatory memorandum laying down the rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.
- (ii) G.S.R. 958(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 132-Customs dated the 2nd July, 1980 so as to add one more product of Nepalese origin to the List of items which qualify for preferential entry into India in terms of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, 1978.
- (iii) G.S.R. 959(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 132-Customs dated the 2nd July, 1988, so as to add three more products of Nepalese origin to the List of items which qualify for preferential entry into India in terms of the Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade, 1978.
- (iv) G.S.R. 998(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 7th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum

laying down the revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian Currency or vice-versa.

- (v) G.S.R. 1029(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 24th October, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rate of exchange for conversion of Russian Rouble into Indian Currency or vice-versa. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6590/88]
- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944:-
- (i) G.S.R. 866(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1988 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to certain Notifications so as to exempt packaging material from the whole of duty when brought for use in the manufacture of excisable goods in a Free Trade Zone and to further provide for removal of any capital goods after a period of three years from a Free Trade Zone to the Domestic Tariff area on payment of appropriate duty on the depreciated value at the time of clearance.
- (ii) The Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rule, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 895(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1988.
- (iii) The Central Excise (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 1988 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 996(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th October, 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6591/88]
- (4) A copy of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961:-
- (i) S.O. 2892 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Ahmedabad Textile Mills Foundation' under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1988-89.
- (ii) S.O. 2893 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Jnana Prabodhini, Pune', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (iii) S.O. 2894 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Adult Training Centre for the Blind, Ahmedabad', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1988-89.
- (iv) S.O. 2895 published in Gazette of India, dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Maharashtra State Council for Child Welfare, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.

- (v) S.O. 2896 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'SOS children's Village of India, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1980-81 to 1988-89.
- (vi) S.O. 2897 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Gandhigram Trust, Gandhigram, Madurai', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (vii) S.O. 2898 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Harijan Sevak Sangh, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (viii) S.O. 2899 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Swami Sukhdevanand Trust, Rishikesh', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (ix) S.O. 2900 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Assam Rifles Group Insurance Scheme, Shillong', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (x) S.O. 2901 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Bhagini Samai, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (xi) S.O. 2902 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Muncherjee Nowrojee Banajee Industrial Home for the Blind, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xii) S.O. 2903 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Friends of Moral Re-armament (India, Maharashtra)', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1985-86 to 1988-89.
- (xiii) S.O. 2904 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'People's Action for Development (Maharashtra)', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xiv) S.O. 2905 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Nimpith, West Bengal', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.

- (xv) S.O. 2906 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Little Sisters of the Poor', Calcutta', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xvi) S.O. 2907 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Shradhanand Mahilashram, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (xvii) S.O. 2908 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Annie Besant Trust, Madras', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xviii) S.O. 2909 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Veda Rakshana Nidhi Trust, Madras', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xix) S.O. 2910 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Gujarat Chief Minister's Relief Fund', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 and 1988-89.
- (xx) S.O. 2911 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'St. Joseph's Education and Medical Relief Society, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1988-89.
- (xxi) S.O. 2912 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Research and Information System for the Non-Aligned and other Developing Countries, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1984-85 to 1988-89.
- (xxii) S.O. 2913 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Amalgamated Tamil Nadu Shares of the Post War Services Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Ex-servicemen Funds', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxiii) S.O. 2914 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Bombay Panjrapole, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (xxiv) S.O. 2915 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sanjivani Trust Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961

- for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxv) S.O. 2916 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sri Vithaldad Damodar Thackersey Charitable Trust, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1988-89.
- (xxvi) S.O. 2917 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Navajivan Trust, Ahmedabad', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxvii) S.O. 2918 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Maharana Pratap Smarak Samiti, Udaipur', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1988-89.
- (xxviii) S.O. 2919 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Gram Vikas Trust, Ahmedabad', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1984-85 to 1988-89.
- (xxix) S.O. 2920 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Swaminarayan Akasharpith, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad, under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1988-89.
- (xxx) S.O. 2921 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Theosophy Company (India) Private Limited, Bombay', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxi) S.O. 2922 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'India International Centre, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxii) S.O. 2923 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sri Satya Sai Central Trust, Brindavan, Bangalore', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxiii) S.O. 2924 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Cathedral Relief Service, Calcutta', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961, for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxiv) S.O. 2925 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Agri-Horticultural

- Society, 1988 Madras', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1984-85 to 1988-89.
- (xxxv) S.O. 2926 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxvi) S.O. 2927 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Association of State Road Transport Undertakings, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (xxxvii) S.O. 2928 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Institute of Rural Management, Anand, Gujarat', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (xxxviii) S.O. 2929 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'The Institute of Company Secretaries of India', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xxxix) S.O. 2930 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Bharatiya Adimjati Sevak Sangh, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1988-89.
- (x1) S.O. 2931 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Emmanuel Full Gospel Mission Trust, Salem', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1985-86 to 1988-89.
- (x1i) S.O. 2932 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission and Vivekananda Math, Barrackpore, West Bengal', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (x1ii) S.O. 2933 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (x1iii) S.O. 2934 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Institute for Motivating Self-Employment, Calcutta', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.

- (xiv) S.O. 2935 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Centre for Public Sector Studies, New Delhi' under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (xiv) S.O. 2936 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Sri Krishna Gopal Ayurvedic Bhavan (Dharmarth Aushdhalaya), Kalera Distt. Ajmer', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1986-87 to 1988-89.
- (x1vi) S.O. 2937 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'South Central Zone Cultural Centre, Nagpur', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 and 1988-89.
- (x1vii) S.O. 2938 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Bureau of Indian Standards, New Delhi', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment year 1988-89.
- (x1viii) S.O. 2939 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'Bihar School of Yoga', under section 10(23C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 to 1988-89.

- (x1ix) S.O. 2940 published in Gazette of India dated the 1st October, 1988 regarding exemption to 'South Zone Cultural Centre, Thanjavur', under section 10(23 C) of the Income-tax Act, 1961 for the period covered by the assessment years 1987-88 and 1988-89. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6592/88.]

Notification ~~Re~~: exemption from Payment of Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax and Annual Reports of the Regional Rural Banks etc. etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 874(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th August, 1988 regarding exemption from payment of the whole of the Foreign Exchange Conservation (Travel) Tax on any release of foreign exchange for pilgrimage to Hayat Pitafi in Pakistan, under section 105 of the Finance Act, 1987 [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6593/88.]
- (2) A copy each of the following Annual Reports (Hindi and English versions):-
 - (i) Report of the Varada Grammeena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6594/88]
 - (ii) Report of the Ranchi Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year

- ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6595/88*]
- (iii) Report of the Nagaland Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report, thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6596/88*]
- (iv) Report of the Rae Bareli Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report, thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6597/88.*]
- (v) Report of the Tungabhadra Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6598/88.*]
- (vi) Report of the Panchamahar Vadodara Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6599/88.*]
- (vii) Report of the Sri Sathavahana Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6600/88.*]
- (viii) Report of the Sagar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6601/88.*]
- (ix) Report of the Shahdol Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6602/88.*]
- (x) Report of the Jaipur Nagaur Aanchalik Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6603/88.*]
- (xi) Report of the Ballia Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6604/88.*]
- (xii) Report of the Rayalaseema Grameena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6605/88.*]
- (xiii) Report of the Kamraj Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6606/88.*]
- (xiv) Report of the Kapurthala Firozpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See No. LT. 6607/88.*]

- (xv) Report of the Pragjyotish Gaonlia Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6608/88.]
- (xvi) Report of the Prathma Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6609/88.]
- (xvii) Report of the Palamau Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6610/88.]
- (xviii) Report of the Kashi Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6611/88.]
- (xix) Report of the Madhubani Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6612/88.]
- (xx) Report of the Santhal Parganas Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6613/88.]
- (xxi) Report of the Rushikulya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6614/88.]
- (xxii) Report of the Manipur Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6615/88.]
- (xxiii) Report of the Pithoragarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6616/88.]
- (xxiv) Report of the Subansiri Gaonlia Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6617/88.]
- (xxv) Report of the Begusarai Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6618/88.]
- (xxvi) Report of the Devi Patan Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6619/88.]
- (xxvii) Report of the Faizabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6620/88.]
- (xxviii) Report of the Bardhaman

- Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6621/88.]
- (xxix) Report of the Barabanki Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6622/88.]
- (xxx) Report of the Cuttack Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6623/88.]
- (xxxi) Report of the Puri Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6624/88.]
- (xxxii) Report of the Bhagirath Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6625/88.]
- (xxxiii) Report of the Giridih Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6626/88.]
- (xxxiv) Report of the Vidur Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon.
- [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6627/88.]
- (xxxv) Report of the Bastar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6628/88.]
- (xxxvi) Report of the Fatehpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6629/88.]
- (xxxvii) Report of the Pandyan Grama Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6630/88.]
- (xxxviii) Report of the Bareilly Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6631/88.]
- (xxxix) Report of the Champaran Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6632/88.]
- (x1) Report of the North Malabar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6633/88.]
- (x1i) Report of the Drug Rajna-

- ndgaon Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6634/88.]
- (xlii) Report of the Bilaspur Raipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6635/88.]
- (xliii) Report of the Dhenkanal Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6636/88.]
- (xliv) Report of the Kakathiya Grammeena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6637/88.]
- (xlv) Report of the Raigarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6638/88.]
- (xlvi) Report of the Shri Venkateswara Grammeena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6639/88.]
- (xlvii) Report of the Gaur Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6640/88.]
- (xlviii) Report of the Sharda Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6641/88.]
- (xlix) Report of the Sultanpur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6642/88.]
- (i) Report of the Shivalik Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6643/88.]
- (ii) Report of the Lakhmi Gaonlia Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6644/88.]
- (lii) Report of the Allahabad Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6645/88.]
- (liii) Report of the Monghyr Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6646/88.]
- (liv) Report of the Samvut Kshet-

- riya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6647/88.]
- (iv) Report of the Golconda Grammeena Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6648/88.]
- (vi) Report of the Balasore Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6649/88.]
- (vii) Report of the Pratapgarh Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6650/88.]
- (viii) Report of the Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6651/88.]
- (lix) Report of the Sriganganagar Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6652/88.]
- (lx) Report of the Sarayu Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6653/88.]
- (lxi) Report of the Magadh Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6654/88.]
- (lxii) Report of the Bhagalpur Banka Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6655/88.]
- (lxiii) Report of the Shekhawati Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6656/88.]
- (lxiv) Report of the Mallabhum Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6657/88.]
- (lxv) Report of the Junagadh Amreli Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6658/88.]
- (lxvi) Report of the Ellaquai Dehati Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. *See* No. LT. 6659/88.]

- (lxvii) Report of the Mayurakshi Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6660/88.]
- (lxviii) Report of the Ganga Yamuna Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6661/88.]
- (lxix) Report of the Mithila Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6662/88.]
- (lxx) Report of the Cachar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6663/88.]
- (lxxi) Report of the Balangir Anchalik Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6664/88.]
- (lxxii) Report of the Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6665/88.]
- (lxxiii) Report of the Vindhyaasini Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6666/88.]
- (lxxiv) Report of the Samastipur Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6667/88.]
- (lxxv) Report of the Tripura Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6668/88.]
- (lxxvi) Report of the Saran Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6669/88.]
- (lxxvii) Report of the Baitarani Gramya Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6670/88.]
- (lxxviii) Report of the Haryana Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6671/88.]
- (lxxix) Report of the Marwar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6672/88.]

- (lxxx) Report of the Chhatrasal Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6673/88.]
- (lxxxi) Report of the Kisan Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6674/88.]
- (lxxxii) Report of the Siwan Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6675/88.]
- (lxxxiii) Report of the Nainital Almora Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6676/88.]
- (lxxxiv) Report of the South Malabar Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6677/88.]
- (lxxxv) Report of the Mandla Balaghat Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6678/88.]
- (lxxxvi) Report of the Buldhana Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December,

1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6679/88.]

- (lxxxvii) Report of the Uttar Banga Kshetriya Gramin Bank for the year ended the 31st December, 1987 together with the Accounts and the Auditor's Report thereon. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6680/88.]

Notification under Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 898(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 30th September, 1988 making certain amendments in the Open General Licence No. 24/22 dated the 30th March, 1988 issued under section 3 of the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6681/88.]

Statements showing action taken by Government on various Assurances, Promises and undertakings given by Ministers during various Sessions of 8th Lok Sabha

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I beg to lay on the Table 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 Lok Sabha:-

- (i) Statement No. XIX—Fourth Session 1985. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6682/88].
- (ii) Statement No. XVIII—Fifth Session 1986. [Placed in Library.]

See No. LT. 6683/88].

12.13 1/2 hrs.

(iii) Statement No. XV—Sixth Session 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6684/88].

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

(iv) Statement No. XIII—Seventh Session 1986. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6685/88].

Marine Products Export Development Authority

(v) Statement No. XII—Eight Session 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6686/88].

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI): I beg to move the following:

(vi) Statement No. VIII—Second Parlot Eight Session 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6687/88].

"That in pursuance of sub-section 3 (c) of section 4 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, 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 Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

(vii) Statement No. VII—Ninth Session, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6688/88].

(viii) Statement No. V—Tenth Session 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6689/88].

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

(ix) Statement No. I—; Eleventh Session 1988. [Placed in Library. See No. LT. 6690/88].

"That in pursuance of sub-section 3(c) of section 4 of the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972, 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 Marine Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

12.13 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC UNDERTAKINGS

[English]

Forth-eighth Report

SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN (Allepey): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Public Undertakings on Action Taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Limited-Project Implementation.

The motion was adopted.

12.14 hrs.

NATIONAL HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT

(SHRI RAJESH PILOT): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an Authority for the development, maintenance and management of national highways and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

[*English*]

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: Sir, Home Minister should make a statement.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing. I will see. I cannot allow now.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, you allow a discussion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give in writing. I will find out the facts.

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW: Home Minister is here. Let him make a statement... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow.

(*Interruptions*)**

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have one request to you on this. The entire House is

agreed because we MPs are also concerned as our health is involved. On 29th of July 1988, the Government had assured all the doctors belonging to the Central Health Scheme that a package of certain reliefs will be given to them. That should be implemented. Please try to see that it is done.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already told Shri Dinesh Goswami that he has to give it in writing.

12.16 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(I) **Need to expand communication and transport facilities in Mirzapur district**

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): In spite of spending Rs. 28,000/- crores on key sectors of industries like coal and energy, in Mirzapur district, no infrastructural facilities are being developed such as the means of communication and transport.

It is really surprising that in spite of the demands from the industries like coal, energy, aluminium, cement, etc., this area has not been connected by STD phone, telex and even by microwave resulting in great inconvenience for the above-said industries. Moreover, this is the backward tribal area where the people are very badly hit economically, socially and educationally. In the interests of these people, it is also imperative that these facilities should be provided to this area.

In view of this, I want to draw the attention of the Central Government to expand the communication facilities, including transport facilities, by running more trains and by constructing roads and bridges in this area.

** Not recorded.

[*Translation*]

(II) Need to take steps to improve the financial position of hand-loom weavers

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Government has been taking steps from time to time to improve the condition of crores of weavers in the whole country. Under the New Textile policy, a decision has been taken to provide various facilities to improve their financial position. Despite all this, the problems of the weavers are becoming more complicated instead of being solved. Lakhs of weavers in Basti and Gorakhpur districts of Uttar Pradesh are facing starvation. A feeling of discontentment has been developing in their minds against the administration. The main problems of the weavers include non-availability of yarn in time, at reasonable price and in required quantity. As a result of this they are unable to weave cloth. Payment of the cloth purchased is delayed by months, due to which they are unable to weave cloth again and earn their livelihood. In this manner their condition goes on deteriorating day by day which should be remedied at the earliest.

I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Textiles to arrange to provide yarn in required quantity to them at reasonable rates and stipulate a period within which payment for the sold goods should be made. If the payment is not made within the stipulated period, provision should be made to pay them interest at the bank rate for the days exceeding the stipulated period. At the same time officers and staff found guilty of delaying the payment should be awarded deterrent punishment so that payment is not withheld unnecessarily in future.

(III) Need to declare the birthday of Maharishi Valmiki as a national holiday

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Maharishi Valmiki has been an apostle in the history of India. He not

only wrote the heroic deeds of a great man in his epic Ramayana but also his epic has been inspiring the people to follow the various norms and ethics propounded by that great men.

The life of Maharishi Valmiki is a source of inspiration to us. It instils confidence in the minds of lakhs of down-trodden people. In view of this his birth day should be declared a national holiday.

(IV) Need to modernise Sindri Fertiliser Factory and to set up a big industry in that area

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH (Dhanbad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Sindri fertiliser Factory is one of the oldest factories in the country and a large number of workers are working there. But today, it is on the verge of closure. It has upset the minds of the workers and their families. I request the Government to sanction adequate funds for the modernisation of this factory and start the work of modernisation immediately. Besides, keeping in view the importance of Sindri, some big industry should be set up in or around Sindri so that the persons who become unemployed there could be provided employment.

(V) Need to review the implementation of Urban Land Ceiling Act and to make suitable amendments in the Act

[*English*]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): Sir, the implementation of the Urban Land Ceiling Act has created innumerable problems and hampered the growth of planned housing in cities where the Act has been made applicable. The granting exemption under the Urban Land Ceiling Act has not been uniform. In many cases serious allegations of corruption and nepotism are alleged in granting exemption under the Act. Moreover, the tribunals functioning under the Act have not been able to cope up with the cases and dispose them of expeditiously. There is

an urgent need to make an assessment of the results of the implementation of the Urban Land Ceiling Act and to undertake suitable amendments to the said Act, so that the purpose and object of the Act is not defeated.

[*Translation*]

- (vi) **Need to issue directions to sugar mills in Bihar to start crushing cane immediately in the interest of workers and cane growers**

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Sugar industry is a major industry in North Bihar but now-a-days it is facing financial crisis. The State Government has itself admitted that the sugar mills have reached this situation owing to managerial in-efficiency. The livelihood of about 7 lakh farmer families and 40,000 workers of this area depends on this industry. 15 mills in the public sector and 13 mills in the private sector in Bihar have already suffered losses to the tune of about 16.8 crores. The mills in the public sector have to pay an arrear of about Rs. 10.5 crores to the cane growers. In most of the mills wages of workers have not been paid since February 1988. It is feared that the farmers as well as the workers will be facing undue difficulties and the Sugar Corporation will be suffering losses worth several crores of rupees if any delay is caused in crushing cane this year also. It is also learnt that the Sugar mills functioning in the public sector in Hathua, Loria, Sugoli and Motipur are being modernised. Due to this it does not appear that crushing of cane in these mills would start before 15th of December. They are finding it difficult to mobilise Rs. 30 crores required for repairing the mills. It is learnt that 4 mills in the private sector may start crushing in the first week of November. If the crushing does not take place in the mill located at Hathua, it may cause loss to the tune of crores of rupees. The General Manager said that not a single paice is available with the Hathua unit for repairing and maintenance. Despite requests made to Government, no funds have been made available so far. It is a matter of

great regret. I, therefore, request the Central Government to intervene in the matter immediately, take effective steps and get the crushing of cane started.

- (vii) **Need to take measures to check population growth in the country**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi): The United Nations Organisation has expressed its astonishment at the rising trend of population in India. Though large sums of money is being spent on family planning, its outcome is very negligible. It is because the figures showing number of persons undergone sterilisation and vasectomy operations are not genuine. The population growth would have been only 2 per cent on the basis of figures of sterilisation and vasectomy operations but the population is growing at the rate of 5 per cent. In densely populated States like Uttar Pradesh, fake sterilisation and tubectomy operation certificates are issued. Besides, people having more than 40-45 years age are being sterilised and made to undergo vasectomy operation. In a number of cases on person is being shown to have undergone sterilisation operation for a number of times. Now a stage has come when huge amounts are being spent on showing fictitious figures. Actual cases of sterilisation or vasectomy is negligible. The growth of population is stalling all development processes. The Government should take steps to punish people giving fictitious figures and showing sterilisation or vasectomy operations for the second time. It may also be ensured to keep the population growth at zero level and to implement schemes providing both punishment as well as incentives as the case may be.

12.24 hrs.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-

TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The Joint Committee on Salary and Allowances of Members of Parliament has been making recommendations from time to time for increasing the allowances and facilities of Members of Parliament.

After examining these recommendations carefully and in order to enable the Members to discharge their duties efficiently and diligently, the Government propose to accept some of these recommendations and even acceptance of these recommendations would involve the expenditure to the tune of Rs. 4 crores approximately per annum. It has not been possible to accept other recommendations in view of the financial stringency. This Bill provides to implement some of the recommendations and the other recommendations which the Government have accepted would be given effect to separately through amendment of the relevant rules. I would like to inform the House in brief some of the facilities which are being given effect to through the provisions of this Bill.

Section 3 of the Act entitles an M.P. to a salary of Rs. 1000/- per month. It is proposed to raise it to Rs. 1500/- per month. Under the same section a member is now entitled to a Daily Allowance @ Rs. 75/- per day. It is now being raised to Rs. 150/- per day.

At present a Member is not entitled to read mileage allowance for the journey by road performed by the spouse. The Bill seeks to entitle an M.P. to the road mileage allowance for the journey or part thereof performed by road by the spouse of the member unaccompanied by the Member.

Under Section 6 and 6 B of the Act, Members of Parliament, their spouses and

companies are provided with a free first class rail pass. It is proposed to provide them with a rail pass for air conditioned two tier in lieu of the pass for ordinary first class.

Under Section 6 A of the Act the companion of a member can travel in the lowest class of steamer (without diet) while accompanying the Member. It is proposed to allow the spouse or companion to travel by the highest class of steamer (without diet) free of charge while accompanying the members at any time between island and the mainland. It is also proposed to allow the Member to travel by air either with the spouse or companion from their usual place of residence in the island to the Nearest airport of the mainland.

Considering that the rail/road journey from Ladakh is very inconvenient and time consuming, it is proposed to entitle the member who has his usual place of residence in Ladakh to the air fare for each single journey by air performed by him accompanied either by spouse or a companion from any airport in Ladakh to the airport in Delhi and back at any time.

It is also proposed to make a provision for an Office Expense Allowance, @ Rs. 1000/- per mensem.

Section 8A of the Act provides for payment of pension to ex-Members of Parliament. It is proposed that in case a Member of Parliament dies in harness a pension of Rs. 500/- per month may be paid to the spouse or the dependent, if any, of such Member for the period of five years from the date of his death.

Section 8B of the Act entitles a Member of Parliament to a repayable advance upto Rs. 20,000/- for purchase of conveyance. It is proposed to raise the maximum limit of advance to Rs. 50,000/- Clauses 8, 9 and 10 of the Bill having financial implications may be taken as printed in thick type.

I would now revert to those facilities which the Government have accepted and would be given effect to by necessary

amendments in the relevant rules. These are:-

- i) Members of Parliament are at present entitled to constituency allowance at the rate of Rs. 1250/- per month. It is being enhanced to Rs. 3000/-per month.
- ii) Members at present are entitled to a concession of free water and electricity upto Rs. 3000/- per month. There has been a demand to calculate it annually. This would now be computed @ Rs. 3600/- per annum.
- iii) In view of the increase in taxi charges etc. the Government has accepted the demand to increase road mileage allowance from Rs. 2/-per k.m. to Rs. 3/- per k.m.
- iv) In case the member chooses to travel by circuitous route, the existing rule provides that he would be entitled to a sum of Rs. 120/- in addition to the normal air fare. It is proposed to increase this sum to Rs. 250/- for each such journey.

Since the Bill is very simple and non-controversial, I feel and hope that it would receive unanimous support from all sides of the House and may be passed without much discussion. With these words I commend the Bill for consideration by the House.

I have one or two verbal amendments to this which I will move later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament, Act, 1954 be taken into consideration."

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling): Sir, the Government have brought this Bill in an inopportune moment when the country as a whole is facing serious economic crisis.

What was the hurry in pushing through this Bill at this moment?

When about ten lakhs of State Government employees in Bihar are struggling and when they are on strike for the last two months for increasing their emoluments, why have the Government come forward to increase the cash emoluments like salary, allowances, DA, etc. of the MPs, instead of settling the reasonable demands of the striking employees?

If the Government are really interested in ensuring efficient and effective functioning of the MPs, they should consider providing other essential amenities like secretarial and clerical assistance, facility of free postal services, stationery, etc. If the Government are really interested in recognising the services rendered by the ex-MPs to the nation, they should consider providing free first class railway passes and reasonable pension to them irrespective of the number of terms served by the ex-Members of Parliament. They should also be provided free medical facilities where they are staying so that they may continue to serve the country with dignity.

But these amenities are not provided in the Bill.

Therefore, I request the Government to consider these proposals with sympathy.

12.32 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN MALDIVES

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): I rise to apprise the House about

[Sh. Rajiv Gandhi]

recent developments in the Maldives. In the morning yesterday, we received reports that the capital of our friendly neighbour, the Maldives was under attack from a group of mercenaries apparently recruited by disgruntled expatriate Maldivian citizens. These mercenaries arrived by ship. After landing in the capital, Male, at about four in the morning yesterday, they quickly captured some key government buildings, including the radio station, the TV station and the communications centre. They also surrounded the Presidential Palace. They were reported to have taken hostage one senior Government Minister and a large number of civilians. The objective of the operation, clearly, was to overthrow the democratically elected government of Maldives.

President Gayoom managed to elude the attackers and took refuge in an area outside the Presidential Palace. Shortly thereafter we received a formal appeal for urgent military assistance to put down this plot. This request was repeated by Maldivian emissaries in Colombo and New York. According to reports that we were receiving at regular intervals, the situation was critical.

Maldives is a peaceful country, with no Armed Forces except a small force to maintain law and order. President Gayoom is the democratically elected and popular President of this friendly neighbour of ours. He was re-elected for a third term in office as recently as September 23, 1988 securing over 95 per cent of the votes polled. Maldives is also one of our closest and friendliest neighbours. It appealed to us in desperation in its grave hour of need. After carefully considering this appeal, we felt that we must respond positively and go to the aid of a friendly neighbour facing a threat to its sovereignty and its democratic order.

Accordingly, two IAF aircraft with about 300 paratroopers of the Indian Army were despatched yesterday evening on a reconnaissance mission with carefully preplanned options. Later last night, I briefed leaders of the opposition of the action taken. I am glad

to inform the House that our troops successfully landed near Male. I take this opportunity to inform the House about the background of our action in support of the democratically elected government of a friendly neighbouring country.

I am proud to report that our troops have carried out their assigned task in an exemplary fashion in the highest traditions of the Indian Armed Forces. They successfully completed their major mission by around 2.30 this morning. The safety of the President and senior members of his government were ensured. The operations have been carried out in an extremely tight time frame without a single Indian casualty till now. More troops have landed in the Maldives during the early hours of this morning to ensure the availability of an adequate force to meet any contingency. Some armed rebels have been captured. Mopping up operations are continuing. We would like to withdraw our troops at the earliest. We are in touch with President Gayoom and hope that the withdrawal can begin today. President Gayoom telephoned me early this morning and expressed his deep appreciation of our prompt and timely assistance. We are happy to have been of assistance to the friendly people of the Maldives, with whom we have always enjoyed close and warm ties. The attempt to spread terror and undermine peace and stability in our region has been frustrated. I am sure the House would wish to join me in conveying the country's good wishes and support to President Gayoom and the people of the Maldives. We extend to our Armed Forces our appreciation and our warmest congratulations. This was an operation involving coordination between all three wings of the services. The country is proud of the speed and efficiency with which the operation was planned and executed.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our response to developments is a clear manifestation of our commitment to the promotion of peace and stability in our region. It is in keeping with our belief that countries in the region can resolve their problems in a spirit of friendship and cooperation, free of outside influences.

We have kept in touch with a number of friendly countries on these developments. I am happy that the response to our constructive approach, both in our neighbourhood and elsewhere, has been positive and indeed heartening.

Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We are resuming discussion on the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Baserhat): What an anti-climax, Sir, Salary, Allowances and Pension. Hear something at least about those people who have gone there. What is the reaction of those countries which were approached for help?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Indrajit Gupta, I cannot allow a discussion on the Statement. I cannot allow. You give it separately in writing.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Why should we be treated like school boys?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no. I am not treating you like school boys. I am following the convention and rules and regulations.

(Interruptions)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: In the Rajya Sabha, they are having a full discussion.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You change the rules. I have no objection. If you want to discuss it in such a manner, you will have to change the rules.

(Interruptions)

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar): While we extend general support to the line of action, we want to

know....

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: More information and more facts are needed.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you give it in writing, I will allow a discussion on this subject.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Either you have to change the rules or we have to change the House, Sir!

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to change it you can do it. Whatever you prefer, you do it. I have no objection.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Within the Rules, Sir, clarificatory questions used to be allowed earlier. I have been here for 25 years. I know what I am talking about.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not allowed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It was allowed. It is not disallowed at all under the Rules. It all depends on the discretion of the Chair.
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Rule is very clear here. Rule 372:

"A Statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made."

It is very clear. What can I do?

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, we wanted only to express our support and at the same time we also want to know what is the security implication in the Indian Ocean for us? Is there anything behind the move of these mercenaries?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is not allowed.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is our report? Who are the forces supporting these mercenaries? We are not told of anything. I am sure the Government has more information than what it is here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow a discussion right now.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): We must congratulate the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Soz, you speak on the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Is Prof. Soz allowed to speak on the statement of the Prime Minister? *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not allowed now. I have asked him to speak on the Bill on Member's Salary and allowances.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: What I feel is that India has fulfilled the responsibility of a neighbour.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. No. Nothing on the statement.

12.40 hrs.

SALARY, ALLOWANCES AND PENSION OF MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL—CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We now resume discussion on the Salary, Allowances and Pension to Members of Parliament (Amendment) Bill. Prof. Soz.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla): I find that this Bill on Salaries, Allowances and

Pension to Members of Parliament is deficient in certain respects. So far as pension is concerned, it is said that when a Member dies, his family will receive Rs. 500 per month for a period of five years. What about a living Member who becomes an ex-MP? As of now, it is Rs. 500. I would suggest that you give us the average pension of MLAs, i.e. which they receive within the country. As of now, members of Indian Parliament are the lowest paid in the world, because I have collected some statistics. There is no time to discuss those things here. But as far as pension is concerned, we have been trying; we had approached the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. We had suggested that the minimum pension should be Rs. 1500, for one term. Thereafter, the increment could be nominal, say Rs. 50 or Rs. 100. But initially it should be at a substantial level, with the index of prices being so high, and its continuing to increase year after year. Therefore, there should be a pension to an ex-MP which can help keep his body and soul together. It may not be easy, but I want a commitment from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. There should be a reasonable amount of pension available to MPs who cease to be Members and become ex-MPs.

Today, I am appealing to him that he should announce a pension which is reasonable. It should not be less than Rs. 1500. I will give you an example: Chaudhary Mohammed Khan from Jammu and Kashmir died recently. He had no money or bank balance—it was insulting—to support him when he was lying in the Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital. There were so many philanthropic agencies coming forward; but that MP had not a penny in the bank anywhere. So, Government must seriously consider whether Rs. 500 as pension is sufficient. Otherwise, you withdraw it, and leave them to God's mercy.

Secondly, ex-MPs have no unions. They cannot voice their grievances and demands. They should have a Railway Pass. They have lived in Delhi. Many far-sighted people have built houses, and there are many MPs who have a lot of private

perks. Some of them may be very well of. But a majority of the MPs are living in want. Therefore, the ex-MPs should have a First-Class Railway Pass, and a companion should be available. (*Interruptions*)

Then about the telephones. We had explained to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that telephone facilities should be available to Members, as they are available to the Ministers. Since there is some variance in perks, some MPs want to become Ministers. I give the example of Britain, where you have to motivate a person to become a Minister. Such is the dimension of perks that are available to Members there. In America, it is not easy for them to select a person to be a Minister. Here, because you want the MPs to be paupers, they sometimes think that they should become Ministers, in order to have perks. Therefore, in order to give dignity to MPs, telephone services should be available to MPs as they are available to Ministers. We do not want to have any enhancement of calls. Every MP has received telephone bills in excess of the calls he has made. At least I am not going to pay much, because I have used the telephone as a frugal-minded person. I have not misused it. But it is horrible. We have seen that STD facilities have been withdrawn. Voluntarily we have gone in for one telephone, instead of two. But we have to talk to our constituents. Therefore, this facility has to be there. If Mr Bhagat wants samarthan to this Bill, telephone facilities should be as much available to the MPs as they are available to the Ministers. Every MP is a potential Minister, but you should not make MPs aspire for Ministerships. We should be content with what our position is. But you should give us perks.

Then there is another lacuna. What is happening in States should be taken note of by Mr. Bhagat.

I have referred to MLAs. I do not grudge whatever perks are given to them. I gave an example also. Last time you gave Rs. 20,000 for car advance at the rate of 14 per cent interest. So, no MP must have taken it. One

MP told me that for his daughter's marriage, he misused that provision and got Rs. 20,000 at the rate of 14 per cent interest. I raised this question in so many sittings. You tell us the average figure of it.

Rs. 1 lakh has been given to an MLA for car advance and Rs. 1 lakh for house building advance at 4 per cent rate of interest. Now you are enhancing this amount to Rs. 50,000 at the rate of 14 per cent interest. It should not go to the perks in the sense that we are getting so many perks. We are worse than MLAs. So, you give us Rs. 1 lakh as car advance because the smallest car that is available in India is Maruti which is available for Rs. 85,000/-; Gypsy is available for more than Rs. 1 lakh. So, it should be Rs. 1 lakh for car advance. Then there should be some house building advance also. I can assure Mr. Bhagat that no MP is going to take Rs. 50,000/- at 14 per cent interest. So, you kindly make a provision for pension, railway facilities and telephone.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: There should be a facility for free postage.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: I do not know. That is a sort of comfort that can come later. I suggest than the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs must come forward to accommodate us.

DR. G.S. DHILLON (Ferozepur): I fully support Prof. Soz. If the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is prepared to enhance the pension of ex-MPs to Rs. 15,000/- p.m., I would welcome it. Secondly, though you are doing so much for MPs and ex-MPs, you have not thought about the ex-Speaker. In Britain and some other countries, even if a Member remains as a Speaker for one day, he is given pension; and after his retirement, the Speaker in Britain is created a Lord; he becomes a Member of the House of Lords. Here the poor Speaker has to sit for hours together, finding little time to go to his constituency with the result that his votes defect him. I do not mind if the Deputy Speaker is also included. I request Mr. Bhagat to amend

[Dr. G.S. Dhillon]
the provisions of Speaker's salary and allowance Act; and also after the retirement if there is no House of Lords, here at least you send him to Rajya Sabha. Thank you.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: You provide for ex-Prime Minister also.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): For a long many, many years, as a matter of fact, we have been pleading for an increase in various benefits and services which are not available at present.

Because, the object of this Bill according to the Minister is to help the Members perform their duties more efficiently, I do not think the duties can be performed more efficiently simply by giving them more cash. Of course, it will help them to solve some problems. But it does not necessarily make them more efficient as MPs. So, we have been asking them for some other type of facilities, not in cash, but related directly to work. I regret to say that those things have not been accepted. Take, for instance, the question of postage. There is a franking system I had seen myself in some other Parliaments. The MPs there do not pay anything for their postage; there is a central franking system which is used on all the correspondence, letters which the MPs have to write. We have to write many letters. Our request in this respect has not been accepted.

We have asked for an increase in the number of air journeys allowed during a year. There are many members—I do not mean any offence to anybody—who during the inter-session period either stay in Delhi or stay more or less in their constituencies. But there are other members who have to make many journeys in order to perform their duties. And at present the sixteen air journeys which are allowed in year are absolutely insufficient. We exhaust that number before half the year is over. I had pleaded personally with the Minister also that this number should be increased to make it at least 24 in the year. They have not agreed.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil): Bring in an amendment.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: It is no use bringing an amendment at this stage because it will not be accepted. I had some talk. He says that he will see about it later on.

I also support the plea made by my friend here about the rate of pension for the ex-MPs, because the ex-MPs are continuing to get Rs. 500/- a month which at today's cost of living is really quite a ridiculous amount. The pension of ex-MPs should be increased to at least a thousand rupees.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN (Baramulla): Soz Rs. 1,500/-.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Anyway, I want to say that we are still in favour of these. I do not want to go into the details. We have made many suggestions about how to improve the services and facilities available. If you compare those with what is there in some other Parliaments, you will see that we are very poorly off, whether it is secretarial assistance, or typing or postage or other things. Here the emphasis is more on increasing the cash emoluments. Well, we do not mind. Because, you should know—and I do not mind stating here—that nearly half of the money we get we have to give every month as a levy to our Party and so you are really subsidising our Party indirectly. I do not mind. It is given to our Party. I hope that your party members also will have some levy imposed on them so that they pay to the Congress Party. It does not require your money, I know. But still you should give it.

So, I only plead with the hon. Minister that he should consider some of the other suggestions which we have made so that they would really help us to work more efficiently. You should increase the number of air journeys in a year so that we can visit different parts of the country, for the functions which we have to perform.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-

FORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, what the hon. Members have said, I can quite understand and appreciate. But at this stage, however, I can offer only sympathy.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Do not offer homage, that is all.

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: Once I went to a foreign country, when I was an ex-Minister, and a Minister of that country asked me, "How do you feel, Mr. Bhagat as an ex-Minister?" I said, "Safer than you!"

Today, what hon. Dhillon said as an ex-Speaker, I can quite understand. I had seen Mr. Dhillon in the Chair and I have seen him here. He seems to be much more relaxed and much more humorous than he was ever in the Chair; And a very capable Speaker, he was. I must say. Once I had to shout quite a lot at him to catch his eye. He said, "Mr. Bhagat, I have to take two pills every day. If a man like you starts shouting, then I will have to take four pills to keep myself going." So, I can quite understand what he has said and I can offer him only my sympathy.

About what Mr. Indrajit Gupta has said, he has been saying this, he wanted particularly his emphasis was on—an increase in the number of air journeys and I quite understand that the whole House, all sections of the House certainly know it, that what we have brought about is not up to their expectations and they expected more. As compared to some countries in the world, the allowances, perks, etc. are far low. It is also correct. Some examples of some State MLAs have been given. There may be weight in it.

The hon. Member Soz talked and said that I should make a commitment about pension. I hope that he does not want me to give him a false commitment. In the House if I do it, then there will be consequences. I can only offer him sympathies to his viewpoint, nothing more than that at this stage.

A Member of CPIM made some statements and some observations. I would say it is a very interesting case that a person or a party wanting to have the same thing and at the same time wanting to show that they do not want it. The whole House wanted it, including CPIM. They have asked for it and written to us; the petitions have come to us; the Members Services and Allowances Committee which consists of Members belonging to almost all the parties wanted more. I am sorry that we have not been able to come up to their expectations. We have to keep the whole situation in view. He said that on the one hand we keep the economic situation in view and on the other hand, we are all keen to get more. Keeping the present situation in view, whatever is possible has been considered. I would not say that it is totally adequate and meets your requirements.

I beg all of you to accept the Bill as it is with one or two verbal amendments to be moved by me.

Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We shall now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

There are no amendments in Clauses 2 and 3.

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.

Clause 4 (Amendment of Section 6)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is an amendment by Shri Shanti Dhariwal.

Shri Shanti Dhariwal - not moving.

There are no amendments to Clauses 5 and 6.

The question is:

"That Clauses 4 to 6 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 4 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 7 (Amendment of Section 6 B)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now we take up Clause 7. There is an amendment by Shri H.K.L. Bhagat. Shri H.K.L. Bhagat

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I beg to move:-

Page 3, line 15, - -

omit "or from any other place",

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Charanjit Singh Athwal - not present.

Shri Vir Sen - not moving.

The question is:

Page 3, line 15,—

omit "or from any other place".

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 7, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 (Amendment of Section 8)

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I beg to move—

Page 3—

for lines 38 to 40, substitute—

'8. In section 8 of the principal Act, after the words "constituency allowance", the words "office expense allowance" shall be inserted.'

It is again a very simple thing. It is only to give a proper designation as "office expense allowance".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

Page 3,—

for lines 36 to 40, substitute —

'8. In section 8 of the principal Act, after the words "constituency allowance" the words "office expense allowance" shall be inserted.'

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 (Amendment of Section 8 A)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There are some amendments to Clause 9. Shri Aziz Qureshi - not present.

385 *Salary Allow. & Pension KARTIKA 13, 1910 (SAKA)* *Disc. under 193 on* 386
of M.Ps (Amdt.) Bill *Demands of farmers and agr.*
labour

Shri Ram Swaroop Ram - not present.
Shri Manoj Pandey - not present. Shri
Prabhu Lal Rawat - Not present.

Shri Vishnu Modi - not moving. Shri
Charanjit Singh Athwal - not present. Shri Vir
Sen - not moving.

The question is:

"That Clause 9 stand part of the
Bill."

The motion was adopted

Clause 9 was added to the Bill

Clause 10 (Amendment of Section 8 B)

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: There is an
amendment by Shri Vir Sen - not moving.
The question is:

"That Clause 10 stand part of the
Bill"

The motion was adopted

Clause 10 was added to the Bill

MR. DEPUTY - SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That Clause 1, the Enacting For-
mula and the Title Stand Part of the
Bill."

The motion was adopted

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the
Title were added to the Bill*

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

I would like to make it clear that some
part of it is to be implemented through rules.
As soon as the Bill gets through the Rajya
Sabha and gets the assent of the President,
we shall immediately call a meeting of the
concerned authorities and see to it that the

Bill is implemented.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Am I to take
that the arrears will be payable from the 1st
of April? In that case, is that liable to be
taxed?

SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT: The Bill is appli-
cable from 1st of April.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be
passed."

The motion was adopted

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock*

*The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at
four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Demands of Farmers and Agricultural
Labour - Contd.**

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we are
taking up item No. 10—further discussion on
the demands of farmers and agricultural
labour raised by Shri C. Janga Reddy on the
3rd November, 1988. Prof. Madhu Dan-
davate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Ra-
japur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to
participate in a very important debate on the
problems of the kisans as well as agricultural
labour. Sir, in the post-independence period,
we have witnessed a very significant agita-
tion by the peasants as well as the agricul-
tural labour. I am not merely referring to the
agitation of BKU but also referring to the
earlier demonstrations and agitations by the
left organisations in which agricultural labour
and landless labour had also participated.

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate]

Now these agitations have focussed certain important issues. Sir, I say that this agitation led by the BKU is very significant because for the first time in the last several years, the State endowed with all the powers could not suppress their agitation. Sir, on 31st October, a very significant day, again with all the powers at stake on one side and the harmless kisans on the other side led by BKU, the organisers of the Congress Rally were forced to go out to Red Fort. Of course, it is their choice, but that shows the organised strength of the peasants who had assembled at the Boat Club. So, the 31st October was a very significant day. The victory they gained on 31st October is also a significant day. That was the day which is the birthday of late Shri Vallabhai Patel and those who participated in the freedom struggle know that Sardar Vallabhai Patel became the 'Sardar' of India after leading the heroic battle of the kisans at Bardoli and that was the day on which the peasants won a great victory and again that was a significant day, 31st October, which was the birthday anniversary of Acharya Narendra Dev, the doyan among the socialists who led the kisan movement in the country, in the pre-independence era. On such a day, the heroic struggle was launched. The demands of the kisans were very simple. Basically, it was the assurance of remunerative prices for the farm produce and they concretised by saying that the remunerative prices after permitting 12% profit to the farmer should be in addition to the capital and the labour that was used as input. Then the second demand was that the prices should be fixed in consultation with the farmers' representatives and these two vary depending upon the general price-line of other essential commodities.

Sir, no doubt, there is Agricultural Prices and Cost Commission. But I may narrate a very interesting experience of mine. I will not refer to the exports. In one of the debates which I initiated in this House I was told that the Agricultural Prices Commission will take care of the remunerative prices for the peasants, and at that time I told Shrimati Indira Gandhi that one of the exports on agriculture whom I met, I asked

him a plain and simple question: Can you tell me the difference between rabi and kharif? He was not at all able to mention. Then I humorously said: Can you tell me at least whether these are the names of daughters or sons? So, this is the state of affairs of the exports. So, merely leaving them is not sufficient they say (i) on the Commission there should be adequate representation to the kisans, (2) scrapping of the levy on super-quality crops (3) free movement of grain throughout the country, (4), no zonal system (5) uniform power tariff and bank loans for cooperative lands policy all over the country and (6) waiving of all the pending loans, particularly in the areas ravaged by the recent floods and release of all the kisan demonstrators.

Sir, I have not the least doubt that irrespective of the political affiliations, the Members of this House who represent particularly the rural constituencies will have no hesitation in broadly supporting these demands. There might be differences on the modus operandi. There might be differences in the mode of struggle but as far as the broad demands of the kisans are concerned, I don't think there is any difference and linked up with that I stand not only for the interest of the kisans and peasants but I am also actually interested in the just and fair wage to the agricultural labour that is working on the lands of the kisans. And remember, Sir, when we had led a big march of the kisans and landless labour in Maharashtra some years back, at that time the landless labour and the agricultural labour also participated in the demands and demonstrations of the kisans with the perspective that if the peasant gets a better remunerative price, in that case the agricultural labour also can demand for a just and a fair wage and therefore, the agricultural labour as well as the peasants participated in the agitation that had taken place some time back in Maharashtra. So, these are the problems.

Sir, when such an agitation was launched, those who came to the Boat Club might be rustic kisans, they might not be in tune with the urban civilization and urban

culture, but basically they are the sons and daughters of the soil and they represented an ethos and therefore, a more sympathetic attitude was required. I am very sorry to state, and I go on the basis of the proceedings of the Supreme Court that when they launched this dharna and when they demonstrated the big strength of their people coming from different parts, I they had to lodge a complaint with the Supreme Court that their water supply should not be disconnected, the food packets available to them should not be taken away, this must be assured. After all, the leader of the kisans is fighting for the simple demands of the kisans. When I see this, I am reminded of what happened after the Chinese Revolution. Mao Tse-Tung was asked a simple question: 'What have you given to the people after this Revolution?' And very modestly that great revolutionist said, 'I have been able to offer a morsel of food to every Chinese in the country.' That is what he said. He did not say 'I am able to give them air-conditioning', he did not say 'I am able to give them palatial buildings', but his modest and ideal reply was: 'I have been able to give a morsel of rice to every Chinese', That is what Mao Tse-Tung told a journalist who asked him: 'What have you given after the Chinese Revolution?' I think those who are leading this agitation are not demanding palatial mansions for the kisans and the landless labour, they are not demanding huge lands for the landless labour where in an unscrupulous manner the ceiling laws can be violated. They are simply making certain demands which are extremely simple. And in spite of that, they were subjected to hardships.

Sir, here the *Times of India*, (Delhi), of 31 st October 1988 gives a brief report about the Supreme Court notice to Government on water to farmers. It says:

"The Supreme Court today directed the Union Government and Delhi Administration to consider expeditiously the representation made by the Bharatiya Kisan Union for supply of water and other essential amenities. A

Special Division Bench comprising Mr. Justice Sbyasachi Mukherjee and Mr. Justice S. Ranganathan issued the notice returnable on November 1 on a petition made by a farmer leader."

Fortunately, with some assurance on 31st the dharna was terminated with an assurance of a further agitation. But all said and done, the leaders of the demonstration had to go to the Supreme Court not to demand remunerative prices, not to demand better seeds, not to demand for parity between the agricultural and industrial prices, not to demand for the waiving of the loans, they had to go to the Supreme Court to demand the basic amenities of life saying 'Give us water and give us food packets.' That is all they had to demand. So, they came to demand for justice for the kisans and they had to go to the highest judiciary in the country to demand water which is the basic amenity that should be available in a free and democratic country to any citizen who lives and who is willing to die in this land. But that is the tragedy.

With this background I would like to take up the general problems that have been raised by all those who have been agitating for the demands of the kisans and also of the landless labour. For any agricultural produce to quantify a remunerative price we need a proper exercise. We are always asked by the Minister: 'Tell us what according to you is the ideal remunerative price.' Those of us who are coming from the movements should not fall into this trap and try to quantify the remunerative price for the very simple reason that remunerative price is not absolute, it depends upon the cost of production, it depends on the availability of various inputs, it depends upon price level at which all the inputs are available to the kisans and therefore, even the remunerative prices for the kisans are a direct function or a variable function of the cost of production in terms of the inputs that have to be provided. Therefore, that problem has to be tackled. Remunerative price of agricultural produce is linked with the costs of agricultural production, depending upon inputs like

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate] seeds, fertilisers, various medicines to be used, electricity, water, diesel etc. To make the price remunerative, it is essential that all the inputs that are required by the agriculturists are made cheap.

As far as the Agricultural Prices Commission is concerned, an important basis is, the Commission is, the Commission has to follow a by-product of costs. Norms for fixing up agricultural prices must not vary from these and the prices of industrial goods. Here, with due respect to all those who come from the trade union movement let me speak on behalf of the unorganised peasant movement that one complaint of the rural population is that under the pressure of the urban elites and also the organised working class in the cities, when you consider the question of prices, when you consider the question of prices of industrial goods, you consider everything. You take into account, the cost of production. You take into account the electricity used by the workshop in a textile mill. You take into account that if somebody is working in somebody else's place the rate that is paid. You also take into account the amount that is paid for the yarn. You also take into account the labour that is hired. You take into account even the position of the land on which the a factory is built up and taking all these into account, and a certain margin is left, then only the prices of industrial commodities are fixed up. I would like to ask a question to the hon. Minister and since he also comes from a peasant movement, I am sure that he will not basically differ with me: Is it not a fact that in our society while the prices of industrial commodities are fixed all aspects are taken into account but while fixing the prices of agricultural commodities, all the important aspects of inputs and various environmental conditions are not taken note of? That has to be done.

Reconstitution of the APC, Agricultural Prices and Costs Commission with greater representation to kisans is absolutely necessary. Let me tell you, some people have been finding fault with linguistic reorganisation of States. But there was one Gandhi in this country who understood the basic thing. If the administration is to be carried on with

the participation of the people, the administrators' language must be the language of the people. And that is why, Gandhi said this. I will give an illustration of my own State. I come from the State of Maharashtra, formerly it was the Bombay State. There were parts of Gujarat, parts of Karnataka, parts of Bombay. In that situation what used to happen? Nobody was able to know the language acceptable to all. If people spoke in Kannada in the Bombay State Assembly, the Marathi, speaking population would not know. If they spoke in Marathi the Gujarathi population would not know. And, therefore, they only used to address the entire gathering in English. Now here at least when you speak in English or Bengali or Tamil, simultaneous translations are available. Those translations were not available there. And, therefore, only English knowing people, English knowing MLAs used to participate. Now you go to Karnataka, go to Maharashtra, go to Andhra. Some of the best rural men, coming from the rural background, having rural culture, might not have read Shakespeare or Kaldash. But they have understood through their roots in the soil, the problems of the soil and I have heard some of these rural MLAs in the Maharashtra and Karnataka Assemblies. They are able to put forward their point of view in a beautiful manner, rational manner because their knowledge is an empirical knowledge which comes from the roots of the soil. Such people can speak there only when they have to address in terms of their own language. I have seen in your Assembly also that rural people might not be knowing English might not be able to speak in Hindi, are able to speak in Tamil well. Even the persons who are coming from rural areas are able to reflect their views on the floor of the Assembly. That way, people may question that if you have to take the representations of Kisans on the Agricultural Prices Commission, they might not have obtained doctorate in Economic or Agriculture Economics. But they will understand what are the rural problems of agriculture. Therefore, take some of them. They will be communicable to communicate to the experts some of the basic problems of agriculture, the price structure, the input structure and the experts

can utilise that empirical knowledge to rationally interpret their point of view and to arrive at a conclusion. Therefore, restructuring of the Agricultural Prices Commission is a must.

Parity between the prices of agricultural and industrial goods is a must. It might not be a cent per cent physical parity. But, at least a balance between the agricultural and the industrial prices is a must. Unless this is done, it will not be possible to satisfy the demands.

We find that there are fluctuations in prices. One of the consistent demands of those who have been working in the kisan movement throughout the country is that before the agriculturists take to the profession of agriculture, they must be assured that it is profitable to be an agriculturist. When an industrialist puts his capital into industry, he thinks a hundred times what infrastructure and facilities are available and at what cost he will be able to manufacture and sell industrial goods and then he decides on the particular line of industrial production that he has to take up. The same empirical choice is made by the agriculturists. But if the prices are fluctuating, he will not be knowing what price he is going to get. Therefore, the people in the kisan movement have been consistently demanding that before the sowing season of agriculture, the prices should be announced and the agriculturists should be assured that it is advantageous to take to agriculture and that it is a profitable job and, therefore, that particular demand which I think comes many times from both sides of the House has to be agreed to.

I would like to make a concrete suggestion to the Minister for Agriculture. This suggestion has been voiced many times by Members belonging to the ruling party as well as the Opposition and especially those who are connected with agriculture. They have been consistently demanding that if you want to give proper benefit to agriculture, treat agriculture as an industry. If you treat agriculture as an industry, there are a number of benefits in terms of law which are

not available to agriculture today but which will become available. That aspect has to be borne in mind.

Incidentally, I may mention that fishing is supposed to be a part of the Agriculture Ministry. But very often we find that the advantages that are available in terms of bank credit to the agriculturists, are not available to fishermen. You treat fishing industry as part of agriculture. But the concessional loan available to the agriculturists are not available to fishermen. Strangely enough, in this country lot of concessions on duty are available only to those fishermen who are making use of mechanized fishing and are using machines with a HP higher than 150 whereas if they are using machines below 150 HP those concessions are not available. I raised that issue on a number of occasions. The Agriculture Minister said that "I am referring it to the Finance." Finance says "We are giving it back to Agriculture." On one occasion Prime Minister was sitting here. I said "Both the Ministers are quarrelling. Prime Minister, you intervene in the House and ask them to give a harmonious reply." But they have not been able to do it and, therefore, that aspect also has to be borne in mind.

Since we are discussing the problems of agriculturists and their demands, in this context I would suggest that rationalisation of the machinery of NAFED is a must. NAFED must be streamlined. Proper warehousing facilities, refrigeration facilities and adequate funds should be made available to them. Its functioning should be free from all the bureaucratic checks. If that is done, we will be able to have better NAFED functioning. As far as technology is concerned, I would suggest that in this country, highly mechanised agriculture is not possible at all. Incidentally I may say that where per capita land available in some of the countries, 150 or 300 acres or hectares, they are talking of highly mechanized agriculture. I can't do it. But in a country like India where the per capita availability of land is only 1.5 acres, in such a country, to talk about highly mechanized agriculture with tractors, is a meaningless

[Prof. Madhu Dandavate] proposition. For those who are having large piece of land, it is all right. But we have a number of farmers who have got uneconomic holdings. Therefore, I would concretely suggest that for small holdings tractors are not useful but power tillers on the lines of those which have been used by agriculturists in Japan would be a good pattern to be emulated and I hope that will be done. There are small farmers. Middle and rich farmers are able to get all the services viz. fertilisers and all other services. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to actually encourage more and more service cooperatives so that for extremely small peasants and others, it will be possible to take advantage of various agricultural services through the agency of cooperatives and that will also lead to increase in productivity.

Then, Zonal System has been creating a great problem for agricultural economy. Our country is one. While we talk so much about national integrity in the midst of communal tensions and caste tensions, I would like you to remember that even in the context of agricultural problems, Zonal System should be destroyed and there should be a complete freedom for the peasant to move his commodities from one part of the country to another. In this country, the rich industrialists produce their luxury goods. They produce the essential commodities and wherever the market is available, there is no restriction on industrialists to move their industrial goods from one part of the country to another. But, as far as agriculturists are concerned, why do you give them a discriminating treatment? Therefore I request you to give them the freedom. The agriculturist is one man on whom the entire country depends, 80 percent of the people are involved in rural agriculture. In such a situation, I feel that the Zonal System should be completely abolished. The entire country should be treated as one single unit.

In this connection, I would like to make one concrete suggestion Mr. Minister and please take cognizance of that. It is possible to have certain agricultural industries very close to the land where the agriculturists are

tilling their lands. Industrial units should be in the vicinity of raw-material production centres in a decentralised way. In regard to agriculture, wherever such production units have been set up in the vicinity of agriculturist's land, please give the agriculturists the scope to the shareholders of that small industry that has been built up. That will give scope for the participation of the workers as well as the peasants in the process of production.

Our Finance Minister comes from Maharashtra. He knows the problems and complications of monopoly procurement of cotton. He also knows what are the problems. I will again repeat that monopoly procurement of cotton scheme is a welcome scheme. But it can never function as an island in the midst of so many vested interests. Therefore, I would say that experiment of monopoly procurement should be expanded, more funds should be made available and spinning mills should be near the place of cotton production. Peasants, labourers and industrialists are inter-linked with each other. I will just refer to that point and conclude in a minute. Very often some sort of a dichotomy is built up between agricultural labour and also the peasant. There is a fashion to talk in terms of rich peasant. Really speaking, in a country like India apart from some persons who go on violating the ceiling laws, basically the kisan is a simpler person. ...(*Interruptions*). If you go by the composition and break-up of this, you will find that a large number of people are middle-holders, small-holders. Therefore, do not try to dub the peasant as only a rich peasant. Very few rich peasants are there. By and large, middle and small peasants are there. Therefore, their interests are linked up not with the richest barons in the agricultural field but their interests are linked up with the small agricultural labourers and the agricultural labourers in many parts of the country have realised that if only the poor peasant is able to get a better remunerative price than only they will be able to get better wage. Therefore, we must see the entire scope of reconstruction and the struggle for justice. The struggle of the landless labourer and the

struggle of the peasant must go hand-in-hand. That is the reason for which the agitation is going on. Let it not be merely the agitation of the peasants, let it not be merely the agitation of landless labourer but if they work together, they will be able to succeed. I am glad only a few days back we have celebrate the Birth Anniversary of Sardar Patel while became Sardar after fighting the Bardoli struggle. I remember in the Bardoli struggle Sardar Patel said one thing. That struggle was not like the present day struggle. When Madhu Dandavate goes to offer Satyagraha at Boat Club, he tells his wife, " I am going for Satyagraha during this time. I will be coming for dinner at night." But the Satyagraha which Sardar Patel led was not a ritual like this. When he fought, I believe, Gandhiji said : "fight to the last." And he told the Kisans, "when you fight the battle of the kisan in Bardoli you will lose your property, you will lose your land, you will lose your earthen utensils, you will lose everything, be prepared to sacrifice everything. When nation becomes free, Sardar Patel assures you that your land will come back to you." Sardar went away but land came back to the peasants. Remember, that was the manner in which he fought the struggle of kisan tooth and nail and, therefore, he ultimately succeeded. Therefore, we must organise the peasants. Even the conscience we people who are coming from the urban areas, our conscience is not easily roused unless the peasants put their pressure on us. We are more interested in organised working class movement because if they stop the railways, passengers will not be able to move. The poor kisan has no strength like that to paralyse the society, to hold the entire society to ransom. But he has the inherent strength of expressing his conscience in an organised manner. That conscience has come to the *Praja*. Therefore, no matter to whichever party we belong, whether you like the BKU's struggle that was launched, let us try to understand the motivation of the peasants in Mahatma Gandhi's India, in Sardar Patel's India and in Narendra Dev's India. Once again, kisan has become conscious. Let him not be put to more sacrifices. With the best of our interest and best of our respect for the

kisan, let us try to concede his demands in a broader framework of our Indian economy. That will be our great tribute to the working class as well as peasantry who are the moulders of this soil

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am thankful and grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to take part in the discussion. It is good that our Minister for Agriculture is present in the House. He himself is a farmer and comes from an agricultural area.

During the half-an-hour yesterday and also during the half-an-hour to-day, I have listened to both of my learned friends Shri Janga Reddy and Prof. Madhu Dandavate who commenced the discussion respectively.

SHRI GIRIDHARI LAL VYAS : He is calling Shri Janga Reddy a learned man.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : It is my duty to address him as a learned man.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : But you will start with a poem.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Hon. Minister for Agriculture, the farmer and the agriculture are more important than recitation of a poem. I have been reciting poems at times before you but it will be very kind of you if you listen to me without recitation of a poem today.

I will not go into any political background because Prof. Madhu Dandavate is my elder brother and we learn much from him. But it is the first time that whatever we have learnt from him to -day warrants us to say that it would have been better if we have not learnt it. The background of farmers, rally referred to by Madhuji is known to us and to him also. The overall crux of the farmers, movement rested upon one or two things. I have to say with regret that I have to refer to "Veer Arjun"

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi] in which it has been written with responsibility that the people of the Bharatiya Janata Party promised to provide food to those who would take part in the farmers' rally at the Boat Club and the Lok Dal promised to go on collecting the people and urging them to keep sitting and not to disperse. Is this a farmers' movement? There was some or the other vested interest behind it.

Madhuji claims that the rally changed the venue and the Congress went to Red Fort. I want to say humbly that the Congress is the only party which is wise and large-hearted.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, not only the entire country but also the entire world has acclaimed that the Congress has a big heart and has taken a wise step to change the venue. Those people, who were unarmed as stated by Shri Madhu Dandavate, wielded sticks on the returning Congress soldiers and volunteers. They had to be taken to hospitals for stitches. They beat the Congress people openly.

Shri Janga Reddy said a fine thing yesterday that Shri Rajiv Gandhi could not find time to talk to the farmers assembled at the Boat Club. I do not want to refer to figures because these will go against my friends. I would, however, like to submit one thing that Shri Rajiv Gandhi did not need to go to the Boat Club to talk to the farmers because the Congress is the only party which has been talking to the farmers for the last 104 years. Whenever we talked, we talked to the farmers.

My elder brother Shri Madhu Dandavate has just said that farmers had made a great contribution in achieving independence. It does not look nice to say that the party who has been talking to the farmers for the last 104 years has no time to talk to the farmers. If Shri Rajiv Gandhi has not gone to see them, there must be some reason which should be found out. I can say with conviction that only Shri Rajiv Gandhi Government has done something for the farmers during the last 4 years. I do not hesitate to say this

because it is a fact. 400 representatives of farmers are sitting here. We are representatives of the farmers and have been elected from the rural areas. The Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Congress listens to us. We do not want to take part in such shows which you go on organising from time to time. One objective of this rally was to make an effort to prevent the Congress rally. The people and the history of Delhi know that the Congress rally held on 31st October surpassed all rallies held during the last 40 years after independence. We do not want to do anything which gives rise to tension. Nobody can deny this fact.

Shri Madhu Dandavate and Shri Janga Reddy, if you had requisitioned the Boat Club for only 25th instant then why this fuss has been created. Some organisers of this rally in the name of farmers and some armed people kept the people sitting at the Boat Club forcibly. Such a news has appeared in the "Veer Arjun" in which it has also been stated that the armed people told the farmers if they left, there would be riots. Those poor people were leaving but were not allowed to go. Your strategy was to keep them sitting till 2nd instant so that you are able to create uproar here. Why the greatest Speaker and the greatest authority of the Lok Sabha, who is himself a farmer, would put off the farmers. We all know where drama and hoaxes are staged.

Mr Deputy-Speaker, I want to tell the whole country through you that we are farmers and I am basically a son of an agricultural worker's family. To be a farmer is a big thing but I am smaller than the farmer. My mother and myself had guarded the crops and cut grass as well as crops in the fields. I know the suffering of agricultural labour but there comes a situation about which Shri Dandavate knows more than us. I want to recite two lines in Hindi in this connection. "Homne beshak unde Nahi Diya Laken unde Ke Bare Mein Murghi se Ziyada Janata Hein." (Though we have never laid an egg but in comparison to a hen we know more about the egg.)

The same applies to Madhuji. No doubt he did not do farming but he knows more about it. He does not lay eggs like a human but he has learnt the art of expressing the pains suffered by a hen. He knows who is eating the eggs of the hen. There was a plan to eat political eggs at the Boat Club which failed and then pain comes to this House through this discussion under 193. Had the demonstration been successful at the Boat Club, there would have been a different state of affairs. They are calling it a revolution. If thinkers like Shri Madhu Dandavate call such a drama as a revolution, then it be noted that no revolution would take place in this country. You are a thinker of this country. I want to tell you humbly that we are farmers. Mr. Deputy Speaker, we cannot forget certain things.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Do not be angry?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : vijayji how can I be angry with you. This dialogue is between us. Mamtaji, why are you coming in between. You can never make me angry. It is an expression of love.

SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT : We find love in anger and they find anger in love.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : We farmers are labourers. We learn by working hand and feel obliged to none. There is no question going any reply, after all he is my elder brother. We just cannot forget certain things. We always remember that Gandhiji was our emancipator. We also remember that our Congress is that party without which nobody is there to protect us. Congress is the protector of the farmer. We do remember certain things out of which I want to remind you about one or two things. To those who have raised this discussion under Rule 193 and made efforts to raise such a detailed discussion in this House, I want to tell that we remember that the Congress Government had provided a subsidy of Rs 4445 crores on fertilizers during the sixth five year plan. I want to draw the attention of the House that upto the fourth year of the seventh five year

plan a subsidy amounting to Rs 7985 crores which is approximately double, has been given on fertilizers under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Our two greatmen who have raised this discussion under 193, one of them Prof. Madhu Dandavate was the Minister of Railways 10 years back and used to sit on this side and the other Shri Janga Reddy whose party members were also ministers, I remember the name of Shri Barnala Sahib in this connection who was Minister for Agriculture. How much subsidy had been granted by them then on fertilizers. It is known to you that they had granted only Rs 24 crores as subsidy on fertilizers. Those who incurred only Rs 24 crore as subsidy on fertilizers in 1977-78 are raising objections today inspite of the fact that the present Government has incurred Rs 8985 crore on the same item. Now, the House is to decide whether we better know about the sufferings of farmers or not. If I also go on giving data, this will go an endless discussion because you are aware that the farmers represent 67 to 80 percent population of this country and the remaining 33 per cent also are in other occupations. My hon. brother, Prof. Madhu Dandavate perhaps could not say that there are about 900 lakhs agriculture holders in this country and 3/4 of them are those who own only two hectares of agricultural land. We will have to make more efforts for them. If we don't do anything it won't work. We know how much money was earmarked for irrigation in previous Five Year Plans. Total amount spent for irrigation in previous Five Year Plans was Rs 17489 crore whereas under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi this amount has increased upto Rs 49471 crore in the Seventh Five Year Plan.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : What about the Rolling Plan?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Why should I ask? Madanji, why you are diverting my attention. I cannot argue with my elder brother but I am saying this through hon. Deputy Speaker. I would like to submit that against Rs. 1,7489 crores incurred for the welfare of farmers in the previous five, Five

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

Year Plans, the Congress Government, under the leadership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi have made the provision of Rs. 49471 crores in the Seventh Five Year Plan. It is said, even after that, that this Government is doing nothing for farmers. Go and talk to the farmers what this Government is doing for him. Whom you bring here are not really the farmers. They are some other people in the guise of farmers. The farmers are those who do not come here and do work in their fields. You yourself say that this is an unorganised sector and the farmer is the one who works in the field. Excuse me, the people who hold rallies with the help of politicians are not farmers. They are the politicians in the guise of farmers. We know that these are the pawns of the chess. As regards oppositions allegation that the Congress Government has done nothing for the scientific development of agriculture in the previous 40-41 years, I would like to say with facts that at the time of Independence when I was in my childhood, the production of foodgrains was 5 crore tonnes while today when you are in the old age, and I am a middle aged man and our children have grown young, the production of foodgrains in the country has gone to 17 crores tonnes. If nothing was done, then how all this have been achieved. Something has certainly been achieved. However, I agree with you that the achievement has been below the expectations in such a big sector. But when you say that nothing has been achieved then it appears to be politically motivated statement. This does not reflect the wished and sufferings of the people. This type of allegations are made keeping an eye on the general elections and when the opposition begins to speak having an eye on General Elections, they adopt the dramatic language to speak which is generally far away from the solid facts. I want that speeches in the House should not be made with an eye over the election instead those should be based on facts. Out of 5.8 lakh villages in this country, 4.4 lakh villages have been electrified in 41 years and even after this the opposition say that nothing has been done for the farmers. The decision about the remaining 1 lakh and some points of the villages will be taken by the Government and the Opposition in the coming years.

I would like to tell that in the current Budget Rs. 300 crore have been provided for the crop based programmes. We are paying our attention towards the intensive cultivation of pulses, oilseeds, jute and cotton. As regards, the prices of fertilizers, the opposition has made it an issue and I am happy for that. I myself belong to that area where fertilizers are used. I want to tell that even today the floor price of urea is the same as it was in 1981. The Government led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi have brought it down by Rs 8.80 per bag and farmers are getting the benefits. But you people say that nothing has been done for the farmers. It seems ridiculous when I see my opposition colleagues starting anti-price rise agitations. I would like to draw the attention of the House and Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to expose the hypocrisy of the people who indulge in anti price rise agitations. Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, no one in this country is interested that the prices of cars, watches, fountain pens, shoes or the clothes etc. should be decreased. What do we want? We want to bring down the prices of wheat, rice and sugar. Why? Because these are the commodities produced in the fields of farmers. Sir, though you I would like to say that if such drama over the price rise continues, one day the farmer will come and say that he did not have even the shoes to wear but today he is in the position that he is cultivating his fields by tractors and is owing Maruti car for his comfort. Sir, the economic condition of farmers has improved because of the price rise and they are thankful for it. I, on behalf of the farmers would like to urge Shri Bhajan Lalji not to take step to bringing down the prices. Let the prices go on increasing and efforts should be made to enhance the purchasing power of the farmers. Please remember, if the Government increases the purchasing capacity of farmers, I can assure you that we will make efforts to control all other things. We will make concerted efforts. But you want our produce at a very negligible price, say two maunds of wheat in a rupee whereas the products of Tata at very high price, say a Chesis for Rs 3 lakhs and a pair of shoes of Bata for three hundred rupees.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I thing you will agree with me that the prices of those commodities should be brought down which are required by the farmers too. Will you agree to it or not?

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Madhu brother, I am a student of your school of thought. I am the student of your university. This is another thing that you kept absent at the time of convocation. I am also the product of the same school. I have been a member of the Congress Party for the last 45 years and never saluted any other party flag but I read the thesis of every political party. I am gratified to see Shri Janga Reddy and Shri Madhu Dandavate raising the issue of the welfare of farmers in one voice from the same platform. Their ways will be different as they get out of the House. Madhuji, you are changing the name of political party like clothes. Only the God knows what will be the name of his party to-morrow. But on the other hand, yesterday, I was speaking from the platform of Congress party and today also I am speaking from the same platform.

I want to say one thing to you that the farmers never asked you to make the things cheaper. The farmer asks simply the reasonable price of his product. Chowdhary Sahib, you yourself are a farmer, please take Mr. Madhu Dandavate in your chamber and talk to him. You will not be able to say what I am saying from the Congress platform. Is the price of wheat of Rs. 300 per quintal reasonable? No agriculturist can say so. This price is not reasonable. If the price of wheat is increased to Rs. 500 per quintal even then the farmer will come in a position of no profit and no loss. But the elected Government know that if the price of wheat is increased upto Rs 500 per quintal, the poor teachers will not be able to purchase wheat. We, therefore, persuade the farmer to have patience. You are asking for bringing down the prices of raw-material. There has been a Prime Minister, who never attended the sittings of the House, you people made him the Prime Minister, He could never face the House. He called himself a farmer.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He was made by your party.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Sir, you are shifting the responsibility of electing such a Prime Minister on us. Sir, we did that which the Janata Government could not. We thought it fit to go to the people for a fresh mandate. He did not sit in the House even for a day. He brought down the price of sugar to Rs 2.50 per kilogram and the result was that the farmers stopped sowing sugarcane in the fields. Later on, in 1980, the public had to purchase sugar at the rate of Rs 20 per kg. You want to bring down the prices of those commodities which are produced by the farmer. We shall not allow it to happen in the country. I will be very grateful if Chaudhary Sahib gives his attention towards certain things . I want to request you(Interruptions)..... Shri Viridhi Chanderji comes from Rajasthan and he knows that the cost of agriculture products is more there (Interruptions)..... what can be done, Chaudhary Sahib our problem is that our neighbors create more troubles for us. Shri Chavan, the Minister of finance, beside to you. I am serious to say that by encouraging small holdings you are creating small farmers in the country. I do not mean to say that small farmer should be made big. What I want to say is that the Government should fix a limit of small holding. Day by day he is resorting to small holdings. Government make laws to provide electricity connections to small farmers but what happens in reality is that four members of the same family in the guise of small farmers take four connections and the poor farmers is deprived of the same. This has happened, that is why I am making a reference to it. Kindly make a provision and discuss it in the Cabinet to enable the farmers live with dignity.

I would like to say one thing more. If an industrialist goes o Bank after incurring the loss of Rs 300 crores, the Bank manager gets up salutes him, offers him a chair and cup fo tea. But on the other hand, if a poor farmer goes to Bank to take the loan of Rs 500 or Rs 5,000 he is asked to come on the next Saturdays, Friday or the next Monday.

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]

The common man is annoyed if he does not get a hearing. I want to draw your and hon. Shri Chavan's attention towards this. An atmosphere needs to be created in which the common man can lead a respectable life. It would be better if this thesis could be changed. Possibly hon. Shri Madhu Dandavate would be in agreement with me on this thesis. In this country it is not possible for any government to pay high prices for major crops, like wheat, gram, maize and pulses. However, remunerative prices can and should be given for small crops like garlic, chillies and species. The burden on the farmer should be shared by every kitchen so that villages can sustain themselves. I want the government to consider this point.

Through the hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I want to draw attention to a matter which needs serious thought on the part of hon. Shri Bhajan Lal. Yesterday in his speech hon. Shri Bhajan Lal said that he would bring the bureaucracy round. However, will he bring them round. I hope the bureaucracy does not brainwash Shri Bhajan Lal. If that happens the farmers of this country would be in deep trouble. Hon. Shri Bhajan Lal should assess that at some on the other point bureaucrats too are the offspring of farmers. Agriculture in this country first started when Maharaja Janak, father of Sita., drove the first plough. He turned the barren land into fertile one. If we start from that period, every citizen of this country has blood relationship with the farmer. This is a thousand year old relationship. News-papers have been forecasting and we too have been proudly proclaiming that monsoons have been good this year. The Government says that crops being good, 117.01 crores tonnes of foodgrain would be available. This figure was given by the hon. Minister to the hon. Prime Minister. However, yesterday, the hon. Minister gave indications of three calamities—flood, famine and hailstorm. But the left out one calamity.

AN HON. MEMBER : Disease.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Not disease,

but Locust. How is the government going to deal with the predicated invasion of locust? Their source of origin is not known. The government can fight out other diseases, but what scheme does it envisage to combat locusts? I have heard that Press and T.V. reports are predicting the movement of locust towards India. I want to say that no doubt, crops are good, but we must be careful lest locust should play havoc with them. I request the Government to keep in mind its repercussions on the economic and political climate of the country. Now the last suggestion. I am fortunate that the hon. Finance Minister is present in the House today. Since both the hon. Ministers are present together it becomes easier for me to convey my suggestion. The NABARD has announced that a farmer will not get a loan to dig a well if he violates any code. The Government seeks to apply a World Bank rule to this effect. A farmer who wants Governmental help is discouraged. Areas have been declared dark on grey. Mandasaur and Jawra Ratlam districts in my constituency have been declared dark. If a farmer does come to the Government for assistance he is turned away. So what alternative does he have than to dig a well on instal a pump set on his own. How long will this hypocrisy in the name of irrigation continue? The farmer instals a diesel pump on his own and Government lets him do the same. But the Government does not give him an electricity connection on subsidy. This will not do. This rule should be withdrawn. Farmers may draw water from any source of their choice, but he should be given subsidy in every case. The most important problem is that of electricity. If this problem, which is of serious concern to all, is solved, the Green Revolution, will touch the farmers' life in the true sense. Only then will the Congress (I)'s and hon. Shri Rajiv Gandhi's dream come true.

With these words I ask my hon. colleagues in the Opposition not to stage political starts even though they want to use farmers to make political capital. To the Congress (I), I would say that apart from them, nobody can take care of the farmers. The Congress (I) is the saviour of the farm-

ers. The farmer will prosper if the Congress (I) takes strong measures to tackle their problems.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi: Mr, Tripathi, please be brief, because it is 3.000' clock and ... there are some more Members who want to speak.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : (Khalilabad) : Sir, I have to highlight the important points relating to the development of events that have taken place.

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there cannot be two opinions about the fact that agriculture is the back-bone of the Indian economy and 70-80% of the population is dependent on it for its livelihood. Majority of the people live in villages and practise agriculture. We compare the state of the present-day farming community to what it was 30-40 years ago. Previously, in the monsoon months, the 20 crore farmers of India used to skip supper and go to sleep. Nobody can deny that after Independence, under the leadership of Jawaharlal Nehru, Shrimati Indira Gandhi and Shri Rajiv Gandhi, there has been a tremendous increase in agricultural productivity. Just now hon. Shri. Bairagi raised some relevant points in a very articulate manner I want to draw attention towards certain important issues.

Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, It is an indisposed fact that production of crops like rice, wheat, maige, potato, sugarcane and tobacco has increased by 200-300 times. Some crops have registered a 90-100% increase in production. In spite of this development, the farmers continue to have problems. Deposit the increase in production and an improvement in conditions, the lot of the farms remains sadder than other sections of society.

Farmers are an appraised lot. They are

getting rewards proportionate to their labors. As a poet said:

" Jab tan ka rakat undel blihan, nis din mauton se khel kihan, tab ganna se gur le paelin, vah bhi sab gaya lagani mein, sab kahat bahar kisani mein."

Despite all the hard labour, the farmer is not getting a fair price for his produce. Whether it is the State Government or the Central Government, they grow wheat in 50 or 100 acres of land for the development of seeds. The amount of water and manure is the same and the quantity of seeds sowed per hectare is also the same but even after selling the wheat sown on their farms at the rate of Rs. 450 per quintal, their farm run in losses. The poor farmer who has no facility of water, funds, fertilizers tractor and pumpsets nor is he educated, somehow grows wheat but its price is fixed as Rs. 175 by some people who call it a remunerative price. Will you make it clear as to why losses are incurred in spite of the fact that all the facilities are available and the farms are serviced by an incharge who is an M.Sc (Agriculture). Even though he sells wheat at Rs. 500 per quintal he has to suffer losses. On the contrary, one fails to understand as to why a poor farmer who is not provided any facilities is told by experts that Rs 175 is a remunerative price. Who are those experts and from where they have received their education?

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapur): What has A.I.C.C. done?

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATI : A.I.C.C. has done incalculable work. You are unable to reach your target because there is a lot of pilferage in foodgrains.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Tell us about A.I.C.C.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : It is all due to A.I.C.C. that today the starving and poor India which was handed over to

[Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi]
Jawahar Lai has becomes the seventh powerful nation of the world. There are no words to describe the work done by Congress and in future too no one else but the Congress will succeed to deliver the goods. A former Chairman of Agricultural Price Commission, Dr. G.S. Bhalla had conducted a survey in the country and said that an agriculturist with 7.5 acres of land could not save even a penny on the basis of his farming. He had certainly said that the land-holdings of only those farmers who had more than 25 acres of land could be termed as economic ones. In the neighbouring State the Punjab Agricultural University had undertaken a research in regard to farmers and in 1983-84 conducted a comprehensive survey. In its report it mentioned that a clerk working in a Government Department earns Rs 15,736 per annum whereas a farmer tilling a land of 7.5 acres earns only Rs. 12,135 per annum. This means that a farmer possessing a land of more than 7.5 acres earns less than even a clerk working with the Government. You deserve to be congratulated for providing the facilities but there are various drawbacks everywhere so far as facilities, policies, projects, guidelines and the funds for the welfare of farmers are concerned. In spite of your good will, there is no improvement in the contain of the farmers. This is true that irrigation plays a crucial role in increasing agricultural produce and a network of canals is, therefore, being laid. But due to seepage in canals, the alkalines of the soil are coming up with the result that in spite of your best efforts to increase the agricultural produce, the day is not far off when thousands of acres of land will go waste and its fertility be lost during the next 20 years. Similarly, you provide a subsidy of 25 to 33 per cent to the farmers to enable them to purchase pump-sets. But, Sir, every Indian living in a village, knows that whenever a pump-set is purchased after taking loan from a bank, he has to pay Rs 7000 for a pump-set whose actual price in the market is Rs. 4000. A pump-set whose cost is Rs 4000 in the market is made available at a price of Rs 7,500 if purchased from your agency on credit. In my view, he has to pay more than 25 to 30 per cent subsidy given to

him. You should pay attention to it and take practical and concrete steps to improve the condition of the poor so that they may be benefitted. This is right that the price of fertilisers has been reduced but I would like to draw your attention to the fact that when we gist villagers particularly villages falling in our respective constituencies, we get complaints that farmers do get fertilizer but it is so, adulterated that at times instead of increasing the produce, it destroys the whole crop. A provision for a stringent punishment should be made and those who indulge in adulteration should be severely punished without showing any leniency whatsoever so that they are not able to pally with the destiny of the farmer. There has been an increase in the prices of all goods including agricultural produce. I want to present a comparative illustration. Hon. Agriculture Minister, Sir, in 1967, the price of urea was Rs. 40 per bag, the price of diesel was 72 paise per litre and the price of a tractor was Rs 20 thousand, Now the price of urea has shot up to Rs 117, that of diesel to Rs 3.50 per litre and that of a tractor to Rs 1,50,000. What I mean to say is that there has been three to four times increase in the prices of every commodity. Whereas price of wheat which in 1967 was Rs 72 per quintal is today Rs 175 per quintal just a little more than double. The prices of other commodities used as inputs by farmers have, however, shot up four to five times. But the price of farmers produce have only doubled. You can very well imagine how a farmer can sustain in such a situation. So far as electricity and diesel are concerned, agriculture has become mechanized these days. This is right that tubewells are installed for irrigation. Funds amounting to Rs 5 lakh are spend by the State Governments but it takes 5 years to energise these tubewells and in the meantime it is shown on papers that irrigation facilities have been provided. If energization is done, there is leakage at various spots in the drains. The farmer draws water for his farm from the tubewell through drains and 30 per cent of the water is wasted in the leakage but he is made to pay the whole amount. The farmer should not be made to suffer any loss at any level and if there is one, then the officer of the

department should be taken to task. The slogan of responsible Government, given by the hon. Prime Minister should be implemented by making recovery from the concerned officer's pay to prevent them from committing such irresponsible acts. So far as electricity is concerned, the position remains the same. No matter how much we claim to have achieved in this fields, the condition in villages is very bad. Electricity is not even available for 2-4 hours and even in that there is a trapping as to when it will be made available. Farmers constitute three-fourth portion of the total population of the country and if the prosperity of India is to be evaluated on the basis of the prosperity of farmers and if the progress of India is meaningless without the progress of the farmers in that case, Sir, the electricity being used by all air conditioners should be disconnected. We can do with a lamp, if electricity is not available in the Parliament House but the required electricity should be made available for agricultural purpose. Air conditioners should not be run at the cost of agriculture as this will be very wrong and unfortunate step.

Our economic system has given rise to two types of farmers i.e. big farmers and small farmers. The former are very prosperous. They possess tractors and are educated and approachable. They exercise a lot of influence on the officials and Government machinery. They are able to get all the facilities and also good price for their produce. But the condition of the small farmers in the country is pitiable and they cannot get any facility from the Government. I would like to request the hon. Minister that just as you have made a provision for advancing loans on 4 per cent interest for the upliftment of the weaker section, similarly a provision for advancing loans on 4 per cent interest to the farmers should also be made for crop insurance and for purchase of fertilizers and implements so that they may purchase the impetus used in agriculture. The rate of interest on the loans given to them should be lowered. We all want that the poor farmer who works day and night should get fair price for his produce and his problems may be removed. In this connection, the Govern-

ment has started " crop insurance scheme" for the benefit of the farmers. I appreciate that but if its preview is slightly extended and made comprehensive by covering cattle, farming implements, and horticultural produce then the farmers can be benefitted to a great extent.

Today, the farmer cannot afford to store his produce for a long time. My submission is, that facilities of cold storage or chilling houses should be provided at district or tehsil level to the farmers by the Government so that they have not to sell their produce out of the fear of its being destroyed. The situation today is such that a farmer has to buy potatoes at a rate of Rs 10 per kg for his own use, whereas he has to sell his own potatoes at such a time when its price is only 50 paise per kg. Farmers cannot get a fair price for their produce unless we make provision for cold storage or chilling houses. Therefore, the Government should make all these facilities available to the farmers so that they may feel that the Government is working in their interest. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, since you are repeatedly ringing the bell, I conclude while submitting that the Government has done a lot for the benefit of farmers but there still remains a lot more to be done. The Government should help in raising the standard of living of the farmers by taking solid steps to solve their problems.

[English]

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA
RAO (Vijayawada): I express my heart-felt thanks to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

It is most unfortunate that the farmers of this country who are producing nearly 37% of our gross national product, are compelled to come to Delhi to press for their demands. I will not go into the details of the Farmers' Rally organized by the Bharatiya Kisan Union under the leadership of Shri Mahendra Singh Tikait. The hon. Members who preceded me Mr Junga Reddy and Prof. Madhu Dandavate and others have all gone into the details of the Rally, and the difficulties they had to encounter. It is very shame-

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao]
ful on the part of this Government to have denied drinking water and food packets for the farmers who had come from very very far-off places, braving the extremely chilly weather. What are the abnormal or unreasonable demands they have made? I believe you will certainly agree that almost all the demands put forward by the farmers' association are quite reasonable.

I will cite only a few examples. One is that they wanted a uniform tariff for the electricity supplied to the agricultural sector. Do you feel that it is an unreasonable demand as a member coming from an agricultural family who has served as Chief Minister of a very prosperous, agriculturally developed State?

Now, at present, The Commission for Agricultural Prices and Costs determines the minimum procurement prices or support prices or the statutory minimum uniform prices for the agricultural crops throughout the country. Even fertilisers supplied to the farmers throughout the country are at a uniform price. The Government of India is bearing the transport subsidy and seeing that the fertiliser is supplied to the farmer at the same rate. Then is it not the duty of the Government to see that the agricultural power supplied to the farmer is supplied at a uniform rate. Now, there are lots of variations. For example, in the State of Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are supplied electricity at Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. If you calculate it, it will come to around 10 paise per unit; in Punjab, it is 12 paise per unit; in U.P., it is nearly 20.70 paise per unit; in Bihar, it is 36 paise unit; and in Maharashtra, it is Rs. 100 horsepower per year. So, there are wide variations. The request of a farmer is that you kindly supply it at a uniform rate. What is the difficulty in doing it? You may say that the power is in the hands of the State Government; but you advise the State Government to see that this power is supplied to the agricultural sector at a uniform rate at Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. After all, our State Government of Andhra Pradesh is already burdened with several social welfare

measures like the supply of rice to the poor people, supply of cloth at a subsidised rate to the poor people, houses to the poor people, in spite of this burden our government, out of affection towards the farmers, is supplying power at the rate of Rs. 50 per horsepower per year. When our government can do it, why not other State Governments should not do? Why should not the Government of India advise the State Governments accordingly, if necessary, come to the rescue of the concerned State Government? In view of the fact, they have to see that the farmers, whose one of the main inputs is power, is supplied to them at a uniform rate and at a cheaper rate.

As you know, the government invests so much of money on medium and major irrigation projects; sometimes they spend even thousands of crores of rupees; and you are making available water at a comparatively lesser price to the agriculturists under flow irrigation and the government is burdened with so much of money for maintenance and other requirements. But when a farmer himself has gone in for a tubewell/dug well with his own investment, is it not the duty of the government to see that water is brought out of the land from a deep place to grow crops at a lesser price? So, the demand of the farmers is quite reasonable and I hope the government will consider it in all earnestness and see that the power is supplied to the agriculturists at a uniform rate Rs. 50 per horsepower per year or at the rate of 11 or 12 paise per unit.

What is the other important demand that they have made? They wanted that an efficient rural credit delivery system should be arranged for the benefits of the farmers. Now the farmers are going from pillar to post for getting short-term loan or long-term loan. He goes to a cooperative bank in his own village or near his own village for a short-term or medium-term loan; he goes to the Land Development Bank or some other commercial bank or, other regional rural bank at different places for getting medium or long term loan. Why not he be supplied the necessary credit from a single agency in his

own village or near his village through the Primary Cooperative Credit Society?

When our Government, the Andhra Pradesh Government, has taken up this single window cooperative credit delivery system for the farmers, why can the Government of India kindly not take suitable steps to encourage the State Governments to see that credit is made available to the farmers through a single credit agency both long term and medium term as well as short term loans?

Now, what is going on? The farmers are not given the necessary quantities of credit and as a result of it they are compelled to go to the private money lenders, who charge very very high rates of interest. It still goes on.

The medium and large industry sector, which is not even producing nearly 20 per cent of the gross national income, it is walking away with nearly 36 per cent of the bank credit, whereas the entire millions of farmers in this country, though they are producing nearly one third of the gross national product, they are not getting even 17 percent of the total bank credit. Is it not injustice? Is it not indifference towards the needs of the farmers? So, my suggestion is, you kindly see that more amount is allocated for making available the credit requirements of the farmers in this country.

The other important demand they have made is, to waive off the bank arrears, the dues to the banks which they have taken for raising some crops. Some times it is so happening, that droughts are taking place and floods are taking place and the Government is giving the particulars that on an average in a single year either due to drought or floods nearly Rs. 2000 crores worth of damages are taking place either to the crops or public utilities and the major portion relates to the loss of crops and so what is it we are helping them? Apart from the crop insurance scheme there is no other thing to help the farmers. And in these circumstances, the farmers are demanding

a waiver of the loans. But unfortunately the hon. Minister is not so kind enough. But the Union Government and Reserve Bank are writing off Rs. 200 crores. The Reserve Bank is writing off loans as bad debts for these industrialists, whereas the Government of India does not show any sympathy to the farmer.

I do not want to take much time, because my time is very limited. But I would like to repeat that the forty deaths of unfortunate cotton growers could not bring any change in your attitude, your very very rigid attitude. My succession is, very recently also two persons died. So, I request the Government to kindly reconsider and in such extreme cases, in some special cases where the circumstances require, due to continuous drought for three years or some natural calamity in the country, please show sympathy. It is not a question of readjustment or re-phasing of loans, but you must try to write off the loans.

When, several decades back, the great man Rajaji, could bring forward the Madras Agriculturists Debit Relief Act, in view of the problems of the farmers, giving relief from indebtedness to the farmers, why not, after several decades—nearly forty-fifty years—this Government which claims to take the country into the twentyfirst century, does not have the softness towards the needs of the farmers?

Though several friends from the other side have said that this Government is doing so much, so much, for the farmers—I do not say that it is not doing anything—I do say, that it is not doing enough or what it should do for the benefit of the farmers.

Under that Act, the total interest including penal interest should not exceed the principal. But now what is the commercial bank doing? Yesterday, my friend Mr. Janga Reddy has quoted instances in Chittoor district where the farmers who have taken a few hundreds of rupees are made to pay several thousands of rupees and after that they are put behind the bars, in the jails. Is it justifi-

[Sh. V. Sobhanadreeswara Rao] able? I ask the Government to kindly look into this and bring the necessary changes in the Banking Regulation Act and see that the banks also follow the provisions in that Act, the Madras Agriculturists Debt Relief Act, so that the banks also do not charge compounding interest and that the interest including the penal interest does not exceed the principal. I request the Government to take this very important step to help the farmers, most of whom as my friends Dr. Chandra Shekhar Tripathi has said, are small and marginal farmers.

In this aspect, I would like to bring to your kind notice that our State Government has taken a step to write off loan arrears of interest amounting to nearly four crores of rupees, on the loans due to the Cooperative Banks in respect of the cotton growers of Prakasam and Guntur Districts. Why not the union Government, which is getting nearly thousands of crores of rupees by way of exporting fabrics, cotton garments and other things to other countries, cannot do it? The cotton growers in those two Districts, who have helped so much in exporting cotton to other countries, are suffering very much. After all the amount is only Rs. 24 crores. My information is, the interest due on the loan arrears of the cotton growers in those two districts to the Commercial Banks is Rs. 24 crores. Not Sobhanadreeswara Rao or my colleagues in this House or in the other House have been requesting you. Several peoples' representatives and MLAs of your own party have come to Delhi and made fervent pleas kindly reconsider it and see that it is written off. Then, regarding remunerative price, my good friend Prof. Madhu Dandavate had dealt in detail. So, I would not like to go into in detail and repeat those things. The Government has appointed three growers' representatives in CACP. We welcome it. In spite of that, there is one hard reality. The figures which the CACP is arriving at are not realistic. The hon. Members on the other side of this House have just now said that the prices are fixed by the Government are not remunerative. The computation of cost of cultivation or cost of production

is not quite realistic. The prices which are determined by the CACP and finally agreed to by the Government are not really taking care of the additional cost of cultivation due to the escalation in several factors.

If your prices were remunerative and incentive, then definitely this country would not have gone to other countries for import of pulses; this country would not have begged other countries for oilseeds or edible oils. Sir, in 1956, the per capita availability of pulses, which is the stable food for the common man of this country, was at 70 grams per head per day. Now it is only 40 grams per head per day. Is it not a miserable state of affairs, I would ask this Government? After all, you had fixed the price of grams in 1986-87 at Rs. 260/- and in 1987-88 at Rs. 280/-. There is only a marginal increase. The price increase is not enough to encourage the farmers to go in a big way for growing blackgrams or greengrams or pulses or other varieties. In fact, the area is coming down and the per hectare yield is not increasing. I would request the Government to kindly take care in seeing that the prices are quite realistic so that this country can have enough foodgrains, pulses and edible oils for the necessities of the people of this country.

Why you are so adamant to the request of the farmers? I will tell you one instance. Today, the Government has given the particulars of assets owned by Tata and Birla. Tata company was owing assets worth Rs. 4900 crores in 1986; they were having only Rs. 2800 crores in 1983 and Rs. 1530 crores in 1980. Similarly, Birla have increased their assets by three times. Can you show a small number of farmers who are having five crores, have acquired additional five acres? When the Government is helping big capitalists and monopoly industrialists to acquire so many crores worth of properties, why not you see that the farmers get a fair price for their produce.

After all, he is producing by toiling day in and day out and by risking his crop to natural calamities like drought and floods. So the basic attitude towards farmers must receive

a radical change. The Government should make amends to its attitude. It should not treat it as a prestige issue. If necessary, call the representatives of the farmers' organisations, sit across the table, discuss their problems and try to solve their problems. Then only the country can make a rapid progress. Even in communist countries like China, they are making rapid changes. They have given property right. Now they are allowing the farmers to get more income in order to purchase any amount of consumer goods. This in turn will help the rural industries and also provide further employment in those areas. Similarly, if our country is to develop, we have to make necessary changes in our policy. I request the Government to make necessary changes in its policy.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to take only one minute. Though this discussion will be concluded on Monday or Tuesday but since Shri Bairagi has mentioned about *locusts'* invasion, it would not be appropriate if this gets published in papers. I want to simply inform that this year many stages of North and North-West Africa are threatened with *locusts*, invasion. A programme at international level has been started for the control and destruction of locusts by the officials. There is no indication as such of the advancement of locusts towards the North-Eastern border of India, and even if locusts enter our country, we have made full arrangements to prevent them to cause any damage to our crops. After holding talks with the B.S.F., we have deployed the entire staff in aeroplanes, so that if the locusts arrive here we may tackle that problem. But there is no indication till now if locusts are entering India.

15.32 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 16)

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): 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

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.

SCHEDULED CASTE CONVERTS (RESERVATION OF POSTS AND OTHER BENEFITS) BILL*

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Idukki): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental there.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for reservation of posts in services and other financial benefits to scheduled caste converts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: I introduce the Bill.

**MARRIED WOMEN (PROTECTION OF
RIGHTS) BILL***

15.34 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 155)

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
(Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill to protect the rights of a married woman
and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

SHRI S.M. GURADDI (Bijapur): I beg to
move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to protect the rights of a married
woman and for matters connected
therewith."

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill further to amend the Constitution of
India."

The motion was adopted

The motion was adopted

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: I
introduce the Bill.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I introduce the
Bill.

15.33 1/2 hrs.

**BANNING OF SEX DETERMINATION
TEST, BILL***

15.34 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) Bill*

**(Substitution of new article for article
263)**

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
(Bellary): I beg to move for leave to introduce
a Bill to provide for ban on pre-birth sex
determination tests and for matters con-
nected therewith.

[English]

SHRI S.M. GURADDI (Bijapur): I beg to
move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The ques-
tion is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a
Bill to provide for ban on pre-birth sex
determination tests and for matters
connected therewith.

"That leave be granted to move a Bill
further to amend the Constitution of
India."

The motion was adopted

The motion was adopted

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI: I
introduce the Bill.

SHRI S.M. GURADDI: I introduce the
Bill.

RIGHT TO WORK BILL*

15.36 1/2 hrs.

[English]

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA (Ahmedabad): Sir, I beg to move† for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for right to work to all citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for right to work to all citizens and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted

SHRI HAROOBHAI MEHTA: I introduce the Bill.

15.36 hrs.

HIGH COURT OF ORISSA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT BERHAMPUR) BILL*

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Orissa at Berhampur.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Orissa at Berhampur."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Article 141)

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, 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 SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.37 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of article 344, etc.)

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, 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 SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in Gezette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 4.11.88.

†Moved Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.37 1/2 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of the Preamble)

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, 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 SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*
(Amendment of Article 143)

[English]

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji): Sir, 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 SHANTARAM NAIK: I introduce the Bill.

15.38 1/2 hrs.

FOREIGN VISITS BY THE PRESIDENT
AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF
MINISTERS BILL*

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate foreign visits by the President, Prime Minister and other Members of the Union Council of Ministers.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate foreign visits by the President, Prime Minister and other Members of the Union Council of Ministers."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES (AMENDMENT)
BILL*

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Official Languages Act, 1963.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Official Languages Act, 1963."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER (AMENDMENT) BILL*

INDIAN TELEGRAPH (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Section 5)

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952."

The motion was adopted

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

(Amendment of Section 5)

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Telegraph Act, 1885."

The motion was adopted

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: I introduce the Bill.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL—*CONTD.*

(Amendment of article 311)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Bills for consideration and passing. Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Suresh Kurup on the 12th August, 1988, namely:-

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Shri Suresh Kurup.

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam): Sir, my Bill is for a limited purpose to amend the Article 311-2(b) and Article 311(3). Sir, Article 311 (2) (b) is giving unlimited powers to the authority to dismiss or remove from service a Government servant without conducting a proper enquiry. The Article 311(3) says:

"(3) If, in respect of any such person as aforesaid, a question arises whether it is reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry as is referred to in clause (2), the decision thereon of the authority empowered to dismiss or remove such a person or to reduce him to rank shall be final."

15.41 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTTAM *in the Chair*]

These are the two clauses which my Bill envisages to amend. Sir, already there is a big demand from various Government Department employees' organisations all over the country that Article 310, Article 311(2) (a) (b) and (c) should be amended. But I am mentioning only about two clauses because. I only expect that this Government should be magnanimous to accept at least this much and delete from our Constitution an important lacuna and will give job security to the Government employees. Sir, as everybody knows, in 1975, in Mr. Chellappa's case, the hon. judges of the Supreme Court gave a clear-cut verdict that an employee should be heard as to the quantum of punishment to be given to him before giving that punishment. So, the Article which I mentioned in my Bill is practically not in operation from 1975 onwards after the judgement of Chellappa's case. But recently in Shri Tulsiram Patel's case, the Division Bench of the Supreme Court over-ruled the judgement on the Chellappa's case and with only one judge, Justice Thakkar gave dissenting opinion. The remaining 4 judges gave the verdict that principles of natural justice do not apply to Article 311(2) (a) (b) & (c) and a Government

servant can be removed from service *ex-parte*.

Sir quite naturally this judgement had caused great concern among the State and the Central Government employees. From that date onwards, cutting across all party affiliations all political parties, Members of Parliament, trade Union activists, all the organisations of the Government employees various Central Trade unions, all of them have been consistently demanding that this particular article giving unlimited powers to the executive, unlimited power to the bureaucrats should be removed from our Constitution. In all these months, the attitude of the Government was not at all helpful. Earlier also, this demand was raised in this House and my colleague, Mr. Janga Reddy had earlier brought a Bill like this. My senior colleague Prof. Madhu Dandavate's Bill is pending before this House. All these concern with this particular Article of the Constitution on and this shows the genuineness of this demand. (*Interruptions*) Shri Thampan Thomas' Bill is also there.

I am not mentioning about Article 30 and all that. All these came into our Constitution from our colonial powers. And this Article 311 was taken *in toto* from the Government of India Act of 1935. Even the words are the same except sub-clause (c) and clause 3. This article was taken verbatim and the clauses were taken from the Government of India Act of 1935.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to the fact that when the Government of India Act of 1935 was enacted, the Indian National Congress opposed it right from the beginning. Each and every clause of this Act was opposed by the Indian National Congress at that time, by our freedom movement at that time, and in the Government of India Act it was Article 240 and now in our Constitution it is Article 311.

Sir, each and every accused in this country gets an opportunity to be heard and to prove his innocence. Then only the verdict is given. And strangely enough our Govern-

ment somehow or other thinks that this should not be applicable in the case of Government employees. Sir, this Supreme Court verdict and the provisions in this Constitution are clearly against the principles of natural justice. The principles of natural justice clearly mean that no one should be punished before he is heard by the authority. That is the law of the country, that is the law everywhere in any civilised country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Before he is heard.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Yes, before he is heard.

Another thing is that nobody can be a judge in his own case. These are the two cardinal principles of natural justice. This most fundamental of the Fundamental Right is violated by this particular Article and the sub-clause of our Constitution. And when we go to the Judgment on Tulsi Ram Patel's case, it was only Justice Thakkar who dissented and in his dissenting note he has made it very clear that the cardinal principle of judicial collectivism was not upheld while delivering this judgment. Sir, one group of Judges cannot express their opinion ignoring other Judges. This is the essence of the principle of judicial collectivism, but this cardinal principle was violated in the Judgment on Tulsi Ram Patel's case. Justice Thakkar has alleged that there was no serious deliberation between the Judges regarding this important Judgment to come to a common understanding and the Judgment was delivered on July 11, and the honourable Judges were so particular to give that Judgment on that particular date because on that day Chief Justice Chandrachud was about to retire. So, before his retirement they wanted to deliver this Judgment and Justice Thakkar has alleged at page 237 that the majority Judgment was not at all circulated, it was circulated only three hours before. I quote from his Judgment as follows:

"If only there had been a meeting in order to have a dialogue there might have been a meeting of minds, and we

might have spoken in one voice. Failing which, the holders of the dissenting view point could have prepared their dissenting opinions. That was not to be. On the other hand, it has so transpired that the full draft judgement running into 237 pages has come to be circulated in the morning of July 11, 1985 less than 3 hours before the deadline for pronouncing the judgement. There is a time compulsion to pronounce the judgement on 11th July, 1985 as the learned Chief Justice who has presided over the Constitution Bench is deemed to retire on that day and the judge-time invested by the 5 judges would be wasted if it is not pronounced before his retirement..."

This is what Justice Thakkar mentioned in his dissenting judgement. What I want to say is, on this sort of very important point which affects somewhat 12 million Government employees of our country, even the hon. Judges of the Supreme Court were so callous in giving the judgement.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): So "what"?

SHRI SURESH KURUP: The hon. judges were not so serious in delivering the judgement. (*Interruptions.*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can criticise the judgement. But you cannot criticise the judges.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: Because of this judgement, because of this sub-clause in article 311, ultimately the Government is going to suffer because if the Government wants efficiency from their employees, if they want their employees work quite efficiently, they should be given job security. They cannot ensure efficiency by retaining this atrocious clause in the Constitution of India. That is one important point.

[Sh. Suresh Kurup]

There have been so many examples in independent India where the Government blatantly misused this power of dismissal of employees without giving them proper hearing. During 1971, when the President's rule was there in West Bengal, some of the major leaders of the West Bengal State Government Employees Federation were unceremoniously dismissed from the Government service including Comrade Sukomal Sen who is an M.P. in the other House. Even Mr. P.N. Sukul who represents the ruling party in the Upper House was dismissed from the U.P. Government Service by using this provision. In 1974, after the railway workers' agitation, hundreds of railway employees were thrown out of service using rule 14 of the Railwaymen Rules which is similar to article 311. After this judgement also, so many actions were taken all over the country. This shows the genuineness in the demand of the workers of this country and the Government employees. The Government of India which is the largest employer in this country takes this sort of attitude towards its workers, its employees, what will be the attitude of the private industrialists? How can the Government arbitrate in their labour disputes?

So, as the largest employer in our country, Government should be courteous enough to delete this Article from the Constitution. It is quite strange that whenever any communal group or religious fundamentalists ask for Government's intervention in over-ruling the Supreme Court judgment or any other court's judgement, Government immediately succumbs to their pressure and brings forth atrocious legislation in this House. This House has witnessed it. The Government was forced to bring forth the Muslim Women's Bill to over-ride the judgment given by Supreme Court in Shahbanu case. They succumb to such pressures and they bring forth legislations to over-ride the judgment given by the Supreme Court. But in this case when 12 million Government employees and their organisations and their national trade unions and Members of Parliament belonging to both

the sides, unanimously demand that this Clause and this judgment is against the democratic principles of our country, against natural justice, the Government is keeping mum. This is putting the Government in a very poor light. Already they are in very poor light.

So, I request the Minister concerned and the concerned authorities to be good enough to reconsider their stand on this and bring forth constitutional amendment to delete the sub-Clause.

MR. CHAIRMAN: When an hon. Member is speaking, the other Members should not divert the attention of the Minister in charge of that subject. You must hear what the hon. Member says.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): He is seeking expert opinion.

SHRI SURESH KURUP: So, I request the Minister to seriously to consider the bringing of an amendment to the Constitution and safeguarding the Government employees all over the country.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol): Mr. Chairman, sir, I rise to oppose the Amendment brought forth by my friend Mr. Suresh Kurup. When we got independence, we adopted one political system which was of our own choice. But the bureaucracy is a legacy of the British. There are many lacunae in the Indian context that over the years now we find that it is tending to become white elephant. The expenditure over the administration and management is increasing on percentage basis over the expenditure on developmental works. What we find is that right from the beginning, superior officers were not taking small disciplinary action right in time to warn the employee for his conduct and his negligence. There are provisions of fine of Rs. 10/- or Rs. 50/- or to force him to go on leave without pay. But, all these things we seldom see being adopted and the measures for punishing the employees are not being properly worked.

Now-a-days, the tendency is just to transfer him if he is unwanted, if he is not doing proper work at one place. Transfer is considered as punishment. Of course, it may be a punishment in the present-day context because of the difficulties experienced by the employee when he is transferred from one place to another to get housing facility or to get admission to his children in a school in the new place. But that is not the type of punishment we seek for. When a Government employee is given a permanent order, he is very much relaxed. Whatever he used to do when he was working as a daily wager in the Government Department, after confirmation he starts doing less work. That is the thing we observe.

My friend has mentioned about the Supreme Court judgement regarding removal of one or two Government officials. But he ignores the fact that there are lakhs and lakhs of cases which deserve some kind of a punishment or the other considering the vast number of State Government and Central Government servants. The Supreme Court also gives judgement which we see. We have seen in the recent past such judgements in favour of the employees. In the case of Civil Aviation Ministry, one senior officer was sacked. He approached the Supreme Court. Orders were issued for his reinstatement. Some remarks were passed against the Minister and there were some people who had the audacity of demanding the resignation of the Minister even. Over the years, we have seen one thing. Earlier, the Minister of Railways could directly order an inquiry against the TTR. Now, it has become difficult. It is seen in the Central Government Departments that there is a lot of protection, a cluster of protection evolved by the different methods adopted. If you want to punish an officer, depending upon his appointing authority, depending upon his cadre, you have to refer to the Department of Personnel, Ministry of Law and get the opinion from them. Many times, the employee gets opinion in his favour and punishment is not there. We have seen that there are different rules in various Departments. For example, if somebody comes late for one hour or so, far

example in the Department of Post, & Telegraphs, continuously for three days, he will be marked absent for half-a-day. But that is even not being observed. Such small petty punishments are not being given. If you give punishment of transfer, there are so many Government servants who approach the Court and immediately the court grants stay for them even on transfer matter. They remain in one station life-long. This is the other side of the picture. We have to bring discipline with a heavy hand, if we want increase the efficiency of the Government servants. Of course, all Government servants are not like that. But there is a sizable percentage of such people.

My hon. friend Shri Kurup referred to Article 311 (2) (b), I think. But that is not being invoked and taken help of by The Central and State Governments in many cases. May be in a very few cases it might have been just taken help of. Not only that. Under the present-day circumstances, what we see is that if some inquiry is instituted for some alleged act or negligence against the Government official, nothing much comes out of it. If you suspend a Government employee, invariably after six months or one year or two-years, he is reinstated with full back wages. It will call it as a suspension and the compulsory rest. If a Government employee is cunning enough and if he wants to start some business or to take some rest, he can do that prima face to get suspended and again get back in the service. That is what is happening unfortunately.

When the Central Government started five day week, time and again, in this House, I had requested that this decision should be reviewed. But it is not being done. What is happening is that with the five day week and with the holidays which we grant to the office bearers of the various unions, and the office bearers at the district level also enjoy these holidays under the garb of taking meetings, the total number of holidays go even to 165 days in a year. That means these office bearers are absent for fifty per cent of their time in a year. That is a very big loss to the Government. These are very sad things, as

[Sh. Vijay Patil]

far as discipline is concerned, as far as efficiency is concerned. To keep the fear in the minds of the people, this small provision is there in the Constitution which is not being invoked, which is not being taken help of many times, But smaller punishments are given and they are lift off with warning.

We see that if we try to impose discipline in some wings of the various departments there is immediately a very strong reaction. If some statement is made in good faith, the unions come forward and try to protect the negligence, the blunder, the mistakes of the employees. I would like to cite an example. There was a rail accident in Bombay between Siddheswari Express and Minar Express. It was alleged that the driver ignored the yellow signal. It was alleged by the senior railway officers. Next day, the Railway Drivers Union came forward with a statement charging the railway officers of high-handedness in making a statement and they accused them. They said: "it is not the fault of the railway driver." But a common man like me can judge that the system is so foolproof there, that if the signal is not red or green, it turns yellow immediately. And it was definitely the fault of the railway driver. But because the union said it, senior officers of the railways had to withdraw this allegation. Even such blunders are being ignored and they go without punishment. I would like to suggest to my friend. Mr. Kurup that now time has come to evolve some method, to take some steps to bring discipline among the Central Government and State Government employees who do not do the proper work which is required. Many times we see that some people consider only to attend the office as their duty and to work is over-time for them. They won't work during office hours. Whatever is required to be done, in the evening, they start the work and take over-time. That is the thing which we are seeing in many wings. When it was stated that in the railway mail vans a person was taking 24 hours over time for all the seven days in a week, we had to stop that overtime because it is obvious that it is not possible for any human being to work for 24 hours a day

for a week continuously. Such things are happening. We have to prevent these things, and to stop such things and to improve the efficiency, we have to bring in new legal measures and impose discipline.

The Department of Personnel I hope will look into this because there is already a trend to protect the officers of the same cadre. We have seen-forgive me for saying this - that many IAS officers, if they are appointed as inquiry officers against other IAS officers, try to protect their colleagues in whatever manner possible. This protection of a junior colleague by the person of the same cadre is not a proper thing. It does damage to the Government machinery. Many times we have to institute an inquiry. The Inquiry Officer is appointed and we find that a proper inquiry is not held and again we have to appoint another inquiry officer.

What my friend Mr Kurup has cited is the example of a very few cases in which this article was involved in punishing them and in removing them. Otherwise the Governments both at the State level and at the central level has given a lot of protection to the employees. We see that in the Labour Courts for many decisions there is no appeal. The Labour Court is the final authority. The employer many times is not allowed to appoint an advocate. The Labour Union can appoint advocates but the employer finds it difficult to appoint an advocate because he is seen as accused and he has to prove that the employee was at fault. There are Labour Courts at the State levels, there are tribunals and arbitrations in which sufficient protection is given to the Government employees—no matter whether he is a Class IV employee or a senior super class I officer.

So, my friend Shri Kurup need not fear about the provisions which are there in the Article 311, 2(b) and demand for its amendment. With these words I oppose the Bill.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS (Mavelikara) : I congratulate my friend for bringing this Constitution (Amendment) Bill. It is a

very important in the present context. There is a fear in the minds of the Government employees about the arbitrary use of the power given under the Article 311,2(b) and (c). To give an assurance for the employees who work for the country that their services are protected is the duty of the Government. Instead of a Private Member's Bill, it would have been much appreciated if the Central Govt. had brought forth an amendment since the Supreme Court has given the pronouncement. It was still in practice upto the judgement was given by the Five Member larger Bench of the Supreme Court of India.

The Supreme Court gave earlier in Challappa's case which is mentioned by my friend "that the right of a person to be heard is very fundamental, and no person can be dismissed or reduced in rank or punished without giving an opportunity for the Government servant to be heard." This is also the right not only of the civil servant but of any worker,. Even our laws in India, such as, Industrial Disputes Act or other labour laws which govern workers give a mandatory provision that there should be an opportunity, for a person who is charge-sheeted to be heard. This is very basic to Indian jurisprudence. It is well accepted over the years. If Government is employing somebody and when Government is terminating or reducing a rank of the employee it means Government themselves decide their cause. It is not permitted. A person cannot be a judge of his cause. This is fundamental to the jurisprudence of our country.

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is the cause of the Government?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : I will come to that. Under Article 311(2) (b) and (c) especially (c) this gives the power to the Governor and the President. The Governor or the President acts on the basis of the advice of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers consist of political representatives. Mr. Chairman, you know now-a-days even the Government employees are politically organised. There are politically led

Government servants organisations. If the Chief Minister of Kerala thinks somebody is in service who is politically inconvenient to him and if he can advise the Governor to terminate his service and the Governor terminates his service ultimately it has political motive.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will it happen?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It is possible. That is why we want to give a safeguard in the Constitution and create confidence in the minds of the civil servants that their interests are safeguarded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Under which clause it is possible?

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : It has to be under Article 311(2) (c).

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : We are discussing 311(2) (b). That is why I suggested we should discuss both Bills together.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Prof. Danavate is coming forward with that amendment but I am on the basic question. I would like you to answer those things at the end. This is a basic question. Two clauses are there (b) and (c). One is without giving an opportunity to terminate and the other is to record the reason as to why an inquiry could not be conducted. Clause (c) says a person can be terminated at the pleasure of the President and the Governor and President on the basis of advice of the Council of Ministers and the Council of Ministers are politically controlled. So political malafide or interference is possible in the matter of Government servants' service conditions.

Secondly, when it is said under Article 311(2)(b) inquiry could not be conducted the reason is only to be stated by the superior officer. That situation can be utilised by the

[Sh. Thampan Thomas]
 authority superior to him to harm the cause of the worker who is working under him. This correlates to the doctrine of pleasure. In a democratic country like ours where we have achieved Independence since 40 years ago this doctrine of pleasure of someone has to be changed. I believe that worker has got an equal right. Government servant is as equal as anybody else. Why you want to impose the thinking of master and servant relations? Or much more than that, is it somebody's pleasure to continue? It may be a thing with the Crown. Are the British Crown and the Indian Crown one and the same?

What are the things happening and taking place there? When the Supreme Court delivered this judgment, its immediate reaction was that the civil servants were insecure. And the Government is bound to remove that insecurity which originated in the minds of the civil servants for a healthy civil service relationship. Instead of Mr. Kurup having to bring an amendment, the Government themselves should have brought an amendment to this extent safeguarding the interests of the workers.

Then, giving an opportunity for hearing was there even in 1850 when the Britishers, the East India company, came here. They had what is called the Public Services Enquiry Act, 1850.

The statutory provision of holding an enquiry or giving a chance to explain to the government before an employee is removed from service was provided under Public Services Enquiry Act 1850. The provision gained further strength with its inclusion in the Government of India Act, 1935.

So, this is a right which is explained there and is now abrogated. Now the Supreme Court has given a different interpretation. Earlier, this interpretation was not there and the interpretation was in our favour, in the workers' favour, and in the civil servants' favour. That was by three judges and again four judges said so. But giving thought to the entire situation, whether a three Judges

Bench decision is good or the four judges Bench decision is to be followed is the primary consideration for the Parliament when it makes a law. And the Government which governs the country in totality is required. In this particular case, I do remember that when the judgement came, I was one of the persons who went to meet the Prime Minister because an apprehension was expressed by the workers from various sides. When this was explained to the Prime Minister, he said: what is it? It is only an apprehension.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Thampan Thomas, being a lawyer, it is not fair on your part to say, it is three-judges judgement and four-judges judgement.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : No, no; three-judges and four-judges judgement is as far as the legal things are concerned. Of course, I say that it is four-judges judgment. (*Interruptions*).

I would like to submit that they say that Crown and the doctrine of pleasure is to be followed. But in that country, the Parliament is supreme and Parliament makes a law. When the supremacy of the Parliament is accepted, they make the law. Therefore, the same is my contention here. Here also, you accept the supremacy of the Parliament and let Parliament come forward with a legislation in the light of the Supreme Court Judgment in the interest of of the nation safeguarding the interests of the workers. That is the question.

When we met the Prime Minister, he told us "You see, one interpretation was given. Earlier, there was another interpretation. The Supreme Court gave it. It is for the Government's side." According to me, it should not be the look-out of a Prime Minister or a Government. The Supreme Court gave a Judgment in favour of the Government. That is the way in which the Government looks at the problem. That is not fair.

I would like to submit that the Government should look at the problem in its totality

and when Government looks at a problem in totality, the first thing is, whether it infringes Article 14. Of course, Government can argue that Constitution is a compact thing; Article 14 and Article 311 are part of the same Constitution. Article 14 cannot override Article 311 and Article 311 cannot override Article 14. But when we analyse the question, is there equality before law? Is it there for a Government servant in this matter? If it is not there, on a technical ground saying, whether Article 14 violates or not, Article 311 has got an independent standing and, therefore, there need not be an amendment, is not a correct stand. That means that Government is not looking at the problems of the workers and employees and not giving security to them.

The Government, specially the Parliament, has to look at it impartially. The position is that the Judgement of the three Judges Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court in Chellappa case was favourable to the workers and in their interest, but the other judgement has created certain apprehensions in the minds of the workers and, therefore, an amendment in the Constitution has become imperative. My submission is that instead of a Private Member's Bill, the Government should come forward with an amendment in the Constitution which would be in consonance with the democratic principles of our country, and for which we all stand.

Here is a lengthy judgement of the Supreme Court and I would like to go into the details of it. Justice Thakkar's point of view was narrated by hon. friend already. If you look at the opinion of the individual judges, there opinion is divided. Who has to bring a clarity in that ? Only the Government by a legislation. In the present context, we fear that the provisions will only be misused. When the railway workers went on strike, there were used against their interest. That is the problem. For what causes are the provisions in Article 311 (2)(b) and (c) going to be utilised. One is where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person etc. is satisfied that it is not reasonably

practicable to hold such inquiry and, two where in the interest of the security of the State it is not expedient to hold such inquiry. These two contingencies may be mostly available not on individual's indiscipline, but these two provisions will be used in the case of struggle or agitation by the workers, or when the members of the civil service demand more wages or they join some agitation. These are going to be used in their cases only. According to the present interpretation by the Supreme Court, as I said, these provisions will be used only against those agitationists and workers who demand betterment of their living conditions.

I am not going to criticise the Supreme Court judges for their judgement, but I would like to mention that they made a remark in the judgement that now-a-days there is a talk everywhere of struggle and the workers may held the society to ransom and, therefore, some restraint should be there and these provisions are meant to take care of that. These two provisions in the Constitution have, however, to be interpreted in the present context.

When thousands of railway workers went on strike, they were given termination notice summarily. And as we know, they went on strike for a genuine cause. If such a thing happens again, these two provisions will be used. These will not be used against some individual for his dereliction of duty, indiscipline or for his dirty actions. These provisions will be utilized against the civil servants for their collective bargaining, for their joining together and making demands. In the name of Governor or the President, these provisions will be used for political purposes.

According to Article 311(1),(a), if person is convicted on a criminal charge, his services can be terminated. The other two clauses are more draconian ones and they are more dangerous ones and they very seriously affect the right of the workers to take a stand for their collective and genuine demands. Therefore, in this way these two clauses of Article 311(2)(b) and (c) infringe

[Sh. Thampan Thomas] the right of the workers. Now, has the Government got any sympathy for the workers and other officers who are working under them? The Government just thought to bring a law. It is not for the first time that they have behaved like this, whenever the Supreme Court or the High Court gives a judgement, there is no hesitation on the part of the Government to bring the law. Even Mr. Chidambaram has brought such laws in this House. I have also participated in one of the discussions when in Bombay some firm was taken over by the Burmah Shell or an Oil Company was taken over, a few workers were to get some more salary as per the Judgement of the court but immediately a law was made in this House restricting their pay. It is a quite common feature of the Government to bring legislation to over ride the court's decision.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum) : In Kerala your own Government is doing it.

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS : Every-where the Government in power is doing it. But my question is that when the whole workers, the Civil Servants in the country were suspicious and were feeling insecure, why did you not bring an amendment to this enactment? A Government which loves its servants who are working for the country, at least should have filed a revision petition before the Supreme Court to get the clarification. But the Prime Minister said, "I have won." He told us, when we went to him, "There was a dispute and it was in your favour earlier but now the Government has won and the Supreme Court has given a judgement in the Government's favour, Therefore, why should we change it?" That attitude is not good. The attitude that the Government has won something in the Supreme Court and, therefore, it wants to retain it, should not be there and I would say at whose cost they are doing this; it is at the cost of the Civil Servants of this country.

Therefore, my appeal is that the amendments which Mr. Kurup has brought and also other amendments which Prof. Dandavate

has brought -of course, they are not on record as being discussed these amendments should be brought together as the official amendments by the Government, This will give some guarantee to the Civil Servants of this country that their services are respected and what they do for this nation is very well taken care of. With these words I support this Bill.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, as far as the Bill of Mr. Suresh Kurup is concerned, I partly support the Bill with respect to one particular Clause. If you look at the Article 311, you will find that it is not something new that the Supreme Court has said all of a sudden. The Supreme Court or any court for that matter is expected to interpret the law and, therefore, the Supreme Court has laid down the law under Article 311.

As far as giving opportunity to the dismissed Civil Servants is concerned, Article 311 provides that on three occasions or in three cases such opportunity need not be given. One is where criminal charges are already proved with respect to the matter under which a man is suspended. Suppose a Civil Servant is suspended on certain charges and a departmental inquiry is pending; Suppose it involves some financial fraud, etc. and the criminal proceeding is also pending. Now, if the charges are proved as a result of criminal prosecution, then there is absolutely no need to give that person an opportunity under the departmental inquiry. This exception under part (a) is, therefore, very well understood.

Now (c) reads as follows:

"Where the President or Governor as the case may be, is satisfied that in the interest of the State it is not expedient to give to that person such an opportunity".

When the interest or security of the nation is concerned, I do not think, Mr. Suresh Kurup or Mr. Thampan Thomas would overlook this very important aspect of

national security and expect that even in such sensitive matters, a full-fledged inquiry resulting in the exposure of the entire evidence should be held. Therefore, this part (c) of Clause 311 (2) of the Constitution, according to me is quite justified and it has stood the test of the time and it should be there. I say this because interest of the nation is above everything.

Now, I only feel that the Government should have a fresh look at sub-clause (b), where it is said:

" Where an authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for some reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to give to that person an opportunity..."

This wording is very vague and it is bound to be interpreted by different officials or authorities in different ways. These words are being interpreted in different ways. I do not say that these should be removed or deleted altogether. But we should have a fresh look at it and see to it that this visible lacuna which is apparent here should be removed so that no authority takes undue advantage of this provision.

Security of the country of the interest of the nation is protected under (c). Other things are also protected by necessary provisions in the Constitution. But these words, 'where an authority is satisfied that for some reasons to be recorded by that authority in writing, it is not reasonably practicable to hold such an inquiry' are something one cannot understand. I say this with all respect to our Constitution makers and we must have a look at this provision. Therefore, to that limited extent, I support this Bill of Shri Kurup.

Now, I come to the next point. We have to accept and honour the principle of natural justice. It is only in very rare exceptions that we can discard or overlook the principle of natural justice. Therefore, I am in agreement

with Shri Kurup that the principle of natural justice is sacrosanct. But while considering this aspect, if we are to just overlook all the other aspects mentioned in Article 311, it also will not be fair.

We also have to have a look at the laws declared by the Supreme Court from time to time. Sometimes, we are carried away by the decisions given by various courts. Even if we do not like a judgement even we do not like to have a law laid down by the Supreme Court under Article 141, we do not go and amend that provision just because the Supreme Court of India has laid down a law in its judgement. And many a time, we as common men do not even know what exactly is the law laid down.

Therefore, out of the four constitutional amendments which I have introduced today, I would like to mention one very small but rare amendment. In this amendment, I have proposed that Article 141 regarding the law declared by the Supreme Court should be amended to the extent that provided that when the Supreme Court through a judgement proposes to declare a law, it shall distinctly pronounce the same as such at the end of the judgment and a law so declared through the judgment and not any other part of the judgement shall be read as the law of the Supreme Court. This is what I have stated. Otherwise it may run into thousands of pages and no common man will be able to understand as to what a law is. Therefore, when the Supreme Court proposes to discuss a law, it should be specifically at the end of the judgement. This is the law which is declared to be followed under Article 141 of the Constitution. This is what I have done in order to avoid any sort of lacuna or something like that.

Although the courts are supposed to interpret a law and in a way create some sort of law, we have to from time to time, assess and scrutinise the law pronounced by them. Otherwise what will happen? If we see the law as a whole according to my personal assessment - 60 per cent of the law today which is existing or which is in force, is the

[Sh. Shantaram Naik]
 one declared by the judiciary and only 40 per cent of the law is enacted here. I am saying this because our Articles are very scanty. They are very small Articles. The entire elaboration is done by the courts from time to time and even a major part is done by the courts. Therefore, it may happen in course of time that a major part is the one which is laid down by the courts and the minor part of the law may take the form of statutes. To avoid all these things, it has been suggested.

I would like to submit that from the Government's side, a submission should be made to the Supreme Court and various other courts regarding all these things. Today a tendency has arisen whereby the functions of the executive are encroached upon by the judiciary. It happens many times that the courts in writ petition or other petitions ask the Government to take a particular project. Recently in my State — Gca — there were plot holes in the National Highways caused due to monsoon and you will be surprised to know that in a writ petition filed by citizens, the Court has directed the Government to fill up those plot holes. You can imagine how it is being done. This is only a beginning. In the judiciary in this manner starts encroaching upon the functions of the executive, it will become still worse. Therefore one should remain in its own respective compartment.

Since we are dealing with Article 311 which relates to service matters, the Ministry of Personnel of the Central Government should give directions to the various State Governments to have their recruitment rules properly framed. Many litigations are now pending before the Administrative Tribunal. Our recruitment rules are not quite clear. They are amended from time to time. Amendment sheets are not available to anybody. If anybody gets hold of that document, he thinks as if it is a rare piece of document. So, if our recruitment rules regulating various Services are properly framed, Government servants entitled to promotion and to other benefits will know well as to where they stand. When they look at the

recruitment rules, Government servants will know whether an injustice has been done against them by Government when X, Y or Z is promoted — or not.

Today, one does not know where he stands. The same thing about Character Rolls. As far as maintenance of Character Rolls of Government servants is concerned, we have loose circulars issued by various State Governments, except with respect to IAS where there is a Statute. In respect of all others, State Governments are having some loose circulars. So, a difference between various remarks in Character Rolls are made, causing injustice to the other persons. For instance, in respect of remarks Good and Very Good, many a time Very Good is selected, and Good is not selected.

Mr. CHAIRMAN : In some cases, Goods is bad .

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : In such cases, Good becomes an adverse remark. One has to understand this. If it is so, a Show-Cause Notice has to be issued to him. The remark has to be conveyed to him saying: "Why should this remark not be retained in your character Rolls?"

I give only a small example. Therefore, the suggested language for writing character Rolls, provisions for appeal, revision petitions to various authorities—their time and duration etc.— everything should be mentioned in a law enacted by various State Governments, as far as the States' Services are concerned, and as far as Central Services are concerned, by a Central legislation passed by Parliament. If these two things are adopted, viz. proper recruitment rules, and a law to regulate Character Rolls—or writing of Confidential Rolls as we commonly call them— most of the litigations in various courts can be done away with.

I would only make a request to Mr. Kurup, at the end . No doubt he has expressed the sentiments of several employees who may be affected by the judgements of courts. But point-blank he should not hold

an opinion that the judgement in its entirety is bad, or that the Article, as it stands, is bad totally. He should come out with suggestions to make this Article a little better, or make it serve the interests of the employees.

Considering all these aspects, I suggest that he should withdraw his Bill.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jharjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Bill presented by Shri Kurup is a very important one in many ways. A debate has been going on in the press on this subject and also it has been discussed in this House many times. I am not an advocate to speak in favour or against the judgement of the Supreme Court, but I would like to make two-three points. The Supreme Court must have given this decision after due consideration. The fear of the people that the Government employees will be dismissed without any reason, is quite reasonable. I would like to tell you about Bihar. There is a kind of feudalism in the Government upper hierarchy. An I.A.S. or I.P.S. officer has 25-30 employees at his command for his personal work which is an illegal thing. As many as 30 to 40 Government servants are deputed at collector's bungalow. Similarly, 25 to 30 constables are posted at the residence of Superintendent of Police for doing household work. As many as three Government vehicles are kept at the disposal of a collector for taking his children to schools. A hoard of 10 peons is attached with him. A feudal system has been in practice and it is on the rise at a massive scale. No one dare raise voice against that system. It is not likely to be given up and it is most unfortunate that knowingly or unknowingly we have vested all powers in the collector. In every sphere, be it N.R.E.P. , R.L.E.G.P. or 20 point programme or work relating to small irrigation or construction of dams, the final authority is the collector. What does a collector do? You can know about it from any Lok Sabha Members from Bihar. There is a rule of tyranny and no one dare raise voice against him. The strong hold of I.A.S. lobby in this country can be seen in Bihar. Within a period

of three to four years, an I.A.S. officer becomes collector and within five to six years of service, he constructs a house at a cost of Rs 50-60 lakhs and it is shown that he has taken loan from his parents or in-laws to construct the house. This system has been going on and there is no one to check it. All the rules are for those subordinate employees who are always in fear of getting sacked. Some sort of justice should be there. Although the Supreme Courts judgement is right, but the people should also get justice. People are not getting justice. So they should be protected in some or other way. Today, position of a Government employees have been virtually reduced to a slave of senior government officials. With a full sense of responsibility, I would like to submit that if you send a study team comprising five to six Members of this House hailing not from Bihar, you will be surprised to know the sorts of slavery practised there. Openly, as many as fifty employees are forward to be at the disposal of an I.A.S. officer for doing his personal work. No development work is being done. To whom will you lodge complaint? Even I wrote to the Chief Minister, of course I am not referring to the present incumbent, the same reply is given that the matter is being looked into. Most of them will not even reply, because they know that they have to take work from those district magistrates. A vicious circle has been formed which cannot be broken easily, no matter how many times it is discussed in the Parliament. Unless this vicious circle is broken, this country cannot make progress. But we have to break that vicious circle by making clear to them that the Government means governance by the representatives elected by the people. The Government does not mean governance by bureaucracy but today in own country there is hundred percent bureaucratic governance. One of my friends who happens to be a collector, I don't want to disclose his name here, says that unless a collector amassed wealth valued at least Rs. 80-90 lakhs within three years of his tenure, he is not a sort of collector. His own colleagues started condemning him if he did not do so. So the time has come to protect smaller fishes from the big sharks. Lower rank employees think that

[Dr. G.S. Rajhans]

if a collector or an S.D.O can earn 10 to 20 lakhs rupees in one year what is harm in earning a small amount of 5 to 10 or 20 thousand rupees by them. More over, when a person earning 10 lakhs of rupees are not being jailed, rather he leads a luxurious life, no harm can be done to them. So, at some point, justice should be done. I am not in favour of the strike of the non-gazetted employees of Bihar Government. As a result of it, Government work has been stopped in Bihar for the last two months, but still there is no end in sight. All the development programmes have been stopped. to whom one could complain. Time is running fast. Recently, relief aids were given by the Central Government and the voluntary agencies for the people affected by the earthquake in some districts in Bihar, but those have not reached to the people, because non-gazetted employees are on strike. No one is there to give information about the villages suffered from earthquake and damages done to the life and properties due to it. I am saying on the basis of my much considered opinion and I would like to request the Central Government to intervene in the matter to resolve the issue. The people of Bihar are being crushed and no solution is in sight.

There is not very much to say about this Bill, but I would like to say that low paid employees should get justice. They should not be left in tanter hooks of being sacked on their not becoming domestic servants of top brasses. Hundred of pretensions can be made for removing from the service and any one can be sacked. Ideological changes are taking place quite often in the world. Why can't we follow the path of liberalisation that is taking place in Russia. Democratic system does not mean that a person once secured a good position like I.A.S. is allowed to lead life luxuriously for ever. There is nothing wrong if an experienced Professor of a University is appointed as a secretary of a Department or an experienced school teacher is appointed as a joint secretary in any Government Department. This is done in the foreign countries, like U.S.A Brilliant persons get chance there. The Collectors

having poor records should be sent to the innocuous departments. Once a policy of hire and fire is adopted, good results are bound to follow. In private sector, such policy has yielded results. I have worked in private sector. You should bring efficient persons from private sector and appoint them as managers in public sector and then see the results. This work cannot be done without bringing ideological revolution. You have taken it for granted that I.A.S. is the solution to everything. But he does not know anything about engineering, forestry or medical science. If you want to bring this country at par with China and Japan in the matter of development, you have to bring ideological revolution. You have to recruit bare footed bureaucrats in place of those who sit in air condition rooms.

17.01 hrs

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I would like to say to the persons sitting on the top in the Government to go to Bihar and the Western part of U.P. Only then you will find the high handedness of these I.A.S. officers. Unless things are changed, no amount of our speeches is going to make any effect. Our real population lives in the villages and it is they who are feeling the pinch. This thing cannot be felt sitting here in Delhi. For this, you have to go to villages. People have to drink water of dirty ponds, but the funds given for installing hand pumps are shared between the I.A.S. officer and Executive Engineer and no body dare make complaints against them. When the situation has assumed such a serious proportion, how could you provide justice to the people. For the heaven sake, do something for the people who have elected us. If you allow to continue this state of affairs, the day is not far when these bureaucracy will put obstacle in every work relating to development. Now a days, bribes are taken under the table, but a time will come, when these bureaucrats will openly say that this much is their share, so first put it on their table, then they will do the work. Sir, although there is a tribunal for this, but a machinery should be set-up, so that the

lower rank employees are not crushed and big officials do have some sort of fear of being sacked for not performing their duties properly. This fear of God should be imposed on their minds, only then results can be achieved.

In private sector, employees have the fear of being sacked from their jobs if they do not do their duties properly. He always has this thing in mind that if he fails to achieve results, he will lose all facilities and will not be able to give good education to his children in good school or nor will he be able to take well furnished house on rent and live life luxuriously. In order to maintain his standard of living, he labours hard, due to which he achieves good results. In private sectors also, there are strikes. It is the same thing there, as it is in the Government. But how the manager in private sector gets the work done and in public sector nothing can be done.

About one and half years ago, the house of an M.D. of the Cement Corporation was raided and an asset near about an and half course of rupees was recovered from his house, whereas C.C.I. was incurring losses. In A.I.C.C. meeting, Shri Rajiv Gandhi said a very good thing that when Shri Nehru envisaged an idea of public sector, he never thought that middlemen would pocketed everything. The time has come that a we should change our views and the officers and senior officers of this country be made development minded. The principle of hire and fire should be applied on their jobs. It is not so that once a person becomes an I.A.S. officer he will be allowed to lead a luxurious life without any fear of hire and fire. Smaller employees should be provided job security. They should have some sort of faith that the justice will be done to them.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIN. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur)
: I give my qualified support to Mr. Kurup's Bill. There is not much politics in this be-

cause the theory of punishment, the theory of discipline is more or less universal.

The same person who is a victim of punishment, may even become another architect of another serious atrocious act against another victim. So, human possibilities are involved in it. I am not a lawyer. Therefore, I would like to give my own general view of this very important Bill.

I have been very much interested as also other hon. Members when a Government employee or an employe becomes vulnerable to whimsical, atrocious actions from the senior officer. The Government or the law makers, particularly, this Parliament has a responsibility, as Dr. Rajhans has said, to save a small fish from the clutches of a bigger fish.

The officer who writes a character rolls holds much power in his hands so far as the interest of the subordinate officers is concerned because he can dismiss, demote and transfer another officer. I recall, when my State was a Union territory in the late '60s I was a very poor Minister because a Minister in a Union territory has not much power. Beyond certain amount in the matter of sanctions or in the matter of punishment beyond certain things, the Chief Commissioner, who is not even of the rank of Lt. Governor sat in judgment over the decisions of the Ministers or the entire Government. During that time we did not have much funds; we did not have much power. Nevertheless, we wanted to do something for the people. We called our officers, Secretaries and Development Commissioners to make certain notes, certain proposals so that we can get approval from the Central Government. The Chief Commissioner called all the Secretaries and Development officers and instructed them not to help the Ministers by submitting them or helping them in making elaborate notes, because he was looking from his own angle. Perhaps, he might be right. But then one of the officers told me that this was a very reasonable thing. You wanted a university for Manipur. We could not put up a note for this because the Chief

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

Commissioner had instructed us not to do it. He is the person who writes our character roles. He can just punish or demote or transfer us anywhere. So, we have to respect him and not the Minister. So it is not merely official or political element that is misused. The officers may be thinking rightly or wrongly but who can ensure that everybody has the right thinking? Therefore, the two provisions that have been quoted here, section 311(1)(b), that is a long rope and I do not suggest that this can be omitted, as has been suggested. But I would suggest that when there can be dismissals, demotions and also transfer actions, may be for sufficient cause, there may also be whimsical actions taken under this provision. So, in order to prevent that kind of whimsical or capricious action against a poor officer who does not enjoy the confidence or pleasure or affection of the senior officer who can demote him or who can dismiss him, I think the Government of India should come forward with some proposal to amend the Constitution. That is why I said in the beginning that I give a qualified support to Mr. Kurup's Bill

Similarly, as regards article 311(3), again the provision of the previous clause has been strengthened. There may be cases where such action is appropriate and called for but then my only suggestion in this connection is that adequate amendment should be made to this clause also to protect them so that there may be no whimsical misuse of this power by senior officers in the case of their subordinate officials.

Civil Service is a colossus. After the attainment of our independence and after the functioning of the Constitution since 1950, we see that in the Centre, in the States, in public undertakings, in police department, in railways and in other departments, there are different systems, there are different disciplines. We have to go by certain general norms whereby we provide at least the minimum sense of justice to our citizens. As my friend Dr. Rajhans has just pointed out, the junior officers have been

enslaved by the fear from their seniors. Now very few people go with complaints to the courts. Those who go may or may not succeed. But they stand in a different category. By and large, 99 per cent of the employees do not go to courts. Those of the employees who are protected by trade unions, also stand somehow protected. But there are categories of officers who do not enjoy the facility of trade unions and these people suffer silently and they have no way out. In order to provide protection to these categories of officers, I think it is time that the Government comes out with an appropriate amendment and with that I think Mr. Kurup also may be satisfied. We cannot say that the whole Bill and the amendment proposal is acceptable. It is not.

Another aspect to which I would like to make a reference, as has been mentioned by my hon. friend also, is the possibility of political misuse by the President or the Governor—President in the Centre and the Governor in the State. Here also I am speaking from my experience. In small States like in the North-East, where the societies are very well-knit, everybody knows one another. There the norm of functioning of the services and relations between senior officer and the junior officer are very peculiar. When the change in the government takes place or when there is instability, the repercussion is invariably on the officers. During the seventies, particularly my State of Manipur was subjected to continuous political instability. Government changed every six months or at least every year. So, naturally it was the officers, even very good officers, who suffered. May be our own Government. I am not ruling out that the Congress Government might not be committing this thing also. But then there are different Governments coming up. The local regional party governments come, the National Party governments come and different Governments are coming up and a number of engineers, doctors and IAS and IPS officers had to suffer because of the change of the Governments. So, in this case, invariably in one or two cases, engineers are being dismissed or compulsorily retired.

I am not pointing out what was the Government, what was the party—but I am just generalizing, it could be our own Government also. The Government had to act on the advice of the Council of Ministers and the good officers had to suffer. As I said, a few officers can go to court but generally many officers who do not like to go to court just suffer silently. So, in order to provide protection to this category of officers, whether at the Centre or in the State or in different departments, the Government could have a look at this provision and bring adequate amendments. With these few words I conclude my observations and I offer my qualified support if Mr. Kurup withdraws his Bill and also if the Minister assures that adequate amendment will be brought in this regard, I shall be very happy.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

The Bill presented by the hon. Member, Mr. Kurup is an important one and all the members have accepted its importance. Both the ruling as well as the opposition should support and get this Bill passed because it involves a question of powers.

The powers given to the Officers Under Article 311 and 311(B) are being misused by them against their sub-ordinates which has created a feeling of terror among them. Today the entire country is being run by these employees as the maximum of work is being done by them. But when they apprehend some threat to their services by the Government, how can they work properly? The Government must think over it. Today everybody talks about discipline. As regards, discipline it cannot be imposed on them by force. In fact, discipline springs from justice itself or people themselves become disciplined when they get justice. Thus justice is a natural corollary to make the people disciplined. No discipline is possible when people do not get justice. A feeling of dissatisfaction prevails among them, so the Gov-

ernment shall have to look to this aspect also. Your contention is that the Supreme Court has given such decision. That is right but I don't want to go into them. The decisions of the Supreme Court have their own significance but yours is a democratically elected Government. You say that the Government works for the welfare of the people but I want to tell you that the employees are also a part of the public, they do not belong to some other country. If you are a democratically elected Government, leave apart the Supreme Court. I want to present before you the ordinary case of Shah Bano. The Supreme Court gave their judgement in favour of Shahbano by which the entire Muslim women community of the country could be benefited but you have brought the party politics in it and the Government concluded the matter in the House only for winning votes. You may see that the Government gained nothing out of it but this has done a great harm. Our assertion is that in case of matter of public welfare, the supreme court has given its decision, the Government should not be very serious about it here. The Government is vested with powers to alleviate the fear of the employees. Criminal Procedure code is there in our country and if anybody commits an offence, he will be punished accordingly. The Government should see that such incidents are taking place in all the departments. Recently, our hon. Member Dr. Rajhans referred to several such incidents. We will also say that Hon. Prime Minister spoke some words about Jahanabad only on 15th August, when a number of such incidents have been taking place under your party regime in that State. The Government came to know about it on that very day that Jahanabad is also a place in India but what have the Government done for Jahanabad? We are giving a challenge to you as you are the Home Minister of the country. A number of untoward incidents have been taking place there. Crores of rupees have been spent there but I want to know from the Government whether some step will be taken to provide more relief to the poor and to weaken the extremists because only then, the people will be able to work there wholeheartedly. The Government

[Sh. Ramashray Prasad Singh] have built these houses worth crores of rupees in the name of shops but I want to know whether there is somebody to purchase these houses which have been there for the last two years. There is nobody to purchase these houses. There is no farmer or labourer or a businessmen to purchase these houses. Afterall why these houses were constructed? Why these were got built by an officer or a collector. Why the elected representatives of the people were not consulted regarding the site of the construction of these houses so that the maximum number of people could be benefited with it. Then even a son of a labourer or a farmer or a businessman could have opened a shop there. The Government would have also earned huge profits. Thus the Government could have faced and bring an end to the extremists' activities to a great extent. But who was responsible for furthering the cause of extremists' activities there. I have made a mention of it because the Government talks of extremism.

Secondly, the powers given to the officers are being greatly misused by them. I had gone to the Ministry of Railways to discuss some points with Mr. Mahavir Babu. I told him that some such activities are going on that some people were dismissed from service for no reason simply on the charge of raising discussions with their officers. This is the group of five persons, which belongs to Railway Protection Force but out of these five, three have been promoted and remaining two have been terminated because both of them were weak. Thus you will have to look to it that such practices are in vogue and causing great harm. If the employees live in a state of fear, they wouldn't be able to perform their duties with due concentration.

There is strike since last two months in Jahanabad. Is it not the duty of the Government to interfere in it? The State has been incurring heavy losses due to these strikes, whose loss is this? You talk of the development but for the last two months, all the files of developmental works are lying pending.

Should the Government not interfere in it? The Government of your party is working there. If the strikes had continued for such long a period during the regime of some other party, you would have also alleged that the Government is inactive and its employees and officers are not happy with it, hence it should be removed from power. What is the cause of such a long strike? Only due to that strike and 'Bundh' observed in Bihar, the programme of our Hon. Prime Minister had to be cancelled. In view of all these things, you are required to see to it whether it is necessary to continue with the present law or make amendments in it. Unless and until you make amendments in it, you cannot be popular. Hence the Government should do that.

Today in Bihar such things are happening which are causing great trouble to the people. Whether it is a political maneuvering. For example, there are 250 colleges with a strength of twenty thousand professors, lecturers and other employees who are in such a situation which is worse than that of the bonded labour. An enquiry should be got conducted in this regard as they are not being paid their salaries for the last twelve and fourteen years. You should find out, afterall what is the reason and who is the Secretary there and to which party he belongs. In fact these people have become millionaires and multi-millionaires because of their corrupt practices as the Government have given them a free hand. Thirty-thousand educated, learned people blessed with reasoning have been thrown into hands of poverty and made to starve. The members of their family think that in spite of their high education, they have been facing this sort of adversity. Therefore, the Government must look to all this and enquire into the matter. The Central Government must have a uniform policy to protect these 30 thousand people against such atrocities. I, therefore, want to submit that if the Government wants to maintain discipline, it will have to amend clause 3 of Article 311 of the constitution which will have to be adopted and should not be resisted. With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Before I call Shri Y.P. Yogesh to speak, I want to put one thing. At 5.30 p.m, the time allotted for this Bill is expiring. Is it the pleasure of the House that the time should be extended further?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P.NAMGYAL) : Another Bill on the same subject is coming . Let them discuss. There is no new subject involved. Others can speak on the next Bill also, i.e. amendment to article 311.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you like to speak on the next Bill or do you want to extend the time?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Time may be extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right. It is extended by one hour, for the present. Let us see.

Shri Y.P. Yogesh.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I think that the Constitution amendment Bill which has been presented in the House by Mr. Suresh Kurup deals with a very significant matter which is worth consideration. From this point of view, this subject should be discussed quite seriously.

Article 311 of the constitution gives substantial power to the bureaucrats in regard to the service matters of the Government employees and its results are coming before us. Thus it is making it clear that this law has been so framed that even the Supreme Court has reversed judgements. Any movement whether it is a labour movement or any other movement is in fact, not a

healthy thing. It is neither in the interest of the administration nor it is justified.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever an employee is charged with an allegation, it becomes his right to know the charges levelled against him. He should be given an opportunity to present his case to counter those charges. It is a general law and also the requirement of the natural justice but it is not known what has prompted the learned judges of the Supreme Court to reverse the decisions given in regard to the powers conferred under article 311 from which it can be easily discerned what should be the form of a trade union or a labour organisation or a trade union movement. It causes a setback to the trade union activities. proviso (b) of Article 311 (2) of the constitution provides that :

[English]

" Where the authority empowered to dismiss or remove a person or to reduce him in rank is satisfied that for reason, to be recorded by that authority in writing it is not reasonably practicable to hold such inquiry;"

[Translation]

It has been provided that anyone could be straightaway dismissed, charge sheeted, punished or demoted without any enquiry. All this is not just. This proviso (b) has been unnecessarily attached to Article 311(2) of the constitution. This should be removed because it has no significance .

In this connection the case of Shri Tulsiram Patel came to light and was discussed. When he did not getting his allowance for one year he went to talk to the concerned officer and attacked him. A case was then filed against him. As I have been associated with the Trade Union Movement for long, I know that a person can be exonerated by the tribunal, for every lapse except assault, rowdiness and theft. No one has any right to do so. We feel that the demand made by Shri Kurup and others regarding the Tulsiram

[Sh. Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh]
Patel case for having beaten an official is not a strong one. Therefore it is not right on the part of those judges to have left it on the discretion of our bureaucracy to be just with the employees feeling that they are mature and responsible persons looking after high offices. It can not be overlooked that injustice is being made with the people.

We found such a case in the Water Resources Department where an official was kept on probation for 14 years. The period of probation is normally 2 years and it can be extended maximum upto 4 year. It is a conspiracy to keep someone on probation for 14 years. It is not a healthy administration to dismiss a person after keeping him on probation for so many years and making him do all kinds of work.

We want to know as to why there is such a wide rift between the officials and the needy. Such a gap creates misunderstanding. There should be such a system which could bring close harmony and coordination between the officials and needy and both sides may work at an equal level in the society and the society may find a new direction. The administration should be such that no one is victimized.

I would like to submit that the supreme Court has scrapped the decision of the earlier bench regarding article 311(2) (b) of the Constitution in its recent judgement. This is a retrograde step. Bureaucracy, which is already quite defamed has been provided full powers to dismiss the workers of the Union from job. In this connection I quote the remark made by the Times of India "It is a ridicule of the Fundamental Rights that a person should not get a chance to say anything in his defence"

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Kurup has submitted that the proviso of Article 311(2)(b) should be deleted. I feel that such an amendment should be made in it so that it becomes miled. So far as the present proviso is concerned, it is a dangerous weapon in the hands of bureaucracy against the employ-

ees. This should certainly be made ineffective.

I do not want to take much time of the House because it is a constitutional subject. But some points have been raised regarding Bihar which do not have much relation to this subject. Such things normally keep happening in some or the other part of the country. It is not right on the part of the employees to go on strike for 2 months when Bihar was hit by such a severe earthquake and other natural calamities. You can see the number of occasions when agitations have been launched Bihar and the number of times when their demands have fulfilled. But how far is it appropriate to indulge in such an activity at this time? It is not appropriate that the Government bones in front of bargaining agencies at the cost of ignoring the suppressed sections in all the States, to whom we can not even provide food, and who are living below poverty line. Therefore my submission is that our approach should be that of reconciliation rather than resorting to strikes. With these words I support the amendment Bill presented by Shri Kurup.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a good Bill but it has been brought forward with bad intention.

Some safeguards have been provided to the Government employees under articles 311 and 312 of the constitution. But the Supreme Court in its 1983 judgement brought a basic change in the position in respect of protection provided to the Government servants. The Supreme Court has pronounced that a senior officer or the appointing authority can dismiss a Government servant or ward penalty to him without assigning any reason simply on the ground of public interest. I do not think it would be appropriate to permit such a thing in a democratic state under a democratic constitution. It is not at all justifiable that a senior officer, however, big authority he may be, should maybe should allowed to terminate the services of an employees on the simple ground of public interest. When the employees brought this shortcoming to the

notice of the Government and expressed their discontentment, to the Government clarified the point through a circular for which I am grateful that an authority under whose order such dismissals are made, will have to justify his action, if not at the time of dismissal but at a later date, and if his justification is not found to be proper, action would be taken against him. This provided some protection to the employees. But there are still some departments where senior officers are removing the employees from service in an arbitrary manner. The railways is a living example of this. In the railways, employees are being removed from service by stating simply that they are inefficient and not working properly. If an employee ventures to express even a mild protest to his senior officer and he has no support of a union or bigwigs in the administration or the fails to please his officer, he is bound to be removed from service by stating simply that he is inefficient and the action is being taken in the public interest. I would like to submit in this connection that a political review should be made and the Ministry of Home Affairs should call for the details as to how many persons have been removed from service on this ground after the judgement. There could have been some justification if one or two persons were removed from service in a department on this ground. But there are instances that hundreds of persons are being removed from service on this ground. I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to hold an enquiry into it, because a sense of insecurity is being developed in the minds of employees which is more harmful to the Government than the employees. The constitution makers had framed the constitution after a careful considerations. That is why it was provided in the constitutions the conditions under which a Government servant could be removed from service. At the same time, the constitution provided a number of protections to the Government servants. I fail to understand why the Supreme Court gave a ruling that a Senior Officer could terminate the services of any employee in the public interest. I, therefore, urge the Government to bring forward such an amendment which could restore the pro-

tections to the Government servants again which had been provided by the constitution makers. I am of the view that Shri Kurup said the things in a political tone. I have nothing to do with that. I am concerned for the discontentment which was created in the minds of the employees following the 1983 judgement. It concerns our country and this august House as well. I, therefore, urge the Government that there is no need to go into the matter superficially and there is a need to go deep into it and restore the protection earlier available to the Government servants. The cases of those employees who were removed from service after the Judgement may be reviewed by a committee. The cases where excesses were committed may please be reviewed in detail, and justice done to affected persons.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I congratulate Shri Kurup for bringing forward such a significant Bill. I also support the views expressed by Shri Harish Rawat., It is true that a minor amendment should be made in article 311(b). We are concerned with the employees at grass root. The workers feeling and our feeling is identical. An enquiry must be held before dismissing a person from service. At least, the Government servant should be given protection. The Government employees have been provided constitutional rights. If we will not give protection to these right who else will give. Shri Harish Rawat, Shri Dandavate and Shri Kurup are distressed only because of summary dismissal of the Government servant. There is no difference of opinion about it. The Government should bring forward an amendment to article 311(b) so that the Government officers may not work against the interest of the Country. The Government should find some way out so that nobody could misuse the provision enshrined in article 39(b) of the constitution. I am saying out of my personal experience that in the banks, railways and P & T. an employees is being transferred, demoted and suspended from service when his relations are estranged with his senior officers. In genuine cases, an enquiry should be held to ascertain the facts.

[Kumari Mamata Banerjee]

It will not be appropriate that an officer gets angry with an employees and takes action against him. At least democratic rights must be given. The Government should pay due attention to those officials who are misusing the power. As regards article 311(b), I have already said that it should be amended. You are the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs. I had raised this issue in the morning. Now with the support and blessings of Madhu Dandavateji also, I would like to say that at the time of G.N.L.F agitation in Darjeeling, big I.A. S. officers who are posted in the States on transfer from the Central Government were there. But they had delegated their powers to C.P.I. (M). You should hold an enquiry into it. No. Government official or State Government employee can support the ruling party in this manner and supply arms. It is totally against the Arms Act and the Constitution. You should hold an enquiry by a Central agency to ensure that no I.A.S. officer is involved in it. It is not proper that some officer will work in the interest of the agitation and take part in it. It is a threat to democracy and to the security of the country. I shall be grateful to you if you pay attention to this aspect.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Mr. Chairman Sir, I am grateful to Mr. Suresh Kurup who has initiated this debate and to the other Hon. Members who participated in the discussion. It has given the Government an opportunity to clarify that legal position as well as to state its side of the case.

I looked at the date on which Mr. Kurup moved this Bill. It is 17th April 1986. I also looked at the date on which Prof. Madhu Dandavate introduced his Bill. That is 23rd August 1985. Both Hon. Members apparently exercised by the judgement of the Supreme Court delivered on the 11th July

1985-I am sure motivated by the best of intentions to safeguard the rights of the Government employees have moved these Bills.

I concede that the judgement caused a lot of apprehension in the minds of Government employees. In fact, I was faced with the situation immediately after I became Minister in the Ministry of Personnel. One of the first things that I did was to issue a very elaborate, carefully worded and I believe thoroughly researched order on the 11th November 1985 which was supplemented by another order on the 4th April 1986 and I may say that these two orders have set at rest all apprehensions and all fears among the Government servants. I have just asked for data. To the best of my recollection there has not been a single case under Article 311(2)(b) which has come to me either as a grievance or in the matter of an appeal for review of the decision. I may be wrong. There may have been an isolated case here and there but I am not able to recall a single case.

In this Bill we are dealing with Article 311 (2) (b) and I will, therefore, confine my reply to Article 311(2) (b). Sir, in the first place the judgement of the Supreme Court has not established any new principle of law. It has only clarified the Constitutional provisions as embodied in Article 311(2) of the Constitution. The judgement does not take away the Constitutional protection granted to Government employees by the Said Article under which no Government employee can be dismissed, removed or reduced in rank without an inquiry in which he has been informed of the charges against him and given a reasonable opportunity to defend himself. The judgement is a declaratory judgement. It does not add to the law. It does not establish a new principle of law. Nor does it change the principle established in Chellappan's case because Chellappan's case arose under a separate rule and they were dealing with the rule which used the word 'consider'. Chellappan's case was not a case under Article 311(2) at all and therefore, wherever another rule has been made

by the executive or by the employer which goes beyond the guarantee under Article 311(2) that rule will still continue to be honoured by that organisation or that employer. However, the Judgement notes that there are three exceptional circumstances. They are not new circumstances. They are circumstances which were there when the Constitution was made. They are contained in clauses (a) , (b) and (c) to the second proviso of Article 311. Fortunately there is no controversy about clause (a). The present controversy is about clause (b) and let me for the sake of brevity read to portion of the order which I had the privilege of approving and which was issued and after reading this order if there still remains any doubt I will certainly try to clarify it.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE : Between the judgement and administrative order which will be supreme.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The judgement does not lay down any principle and the judgement has been summarised, explained and instructions have been issued how the clause and how the judgement have to be applied in individual cases.

I quote;

" Coming to clause (b) of the second proviso to Art. 311(2) , there are two conditions precedent which must be satisfied before action under this clause is taken against a government servant. These conditions are :

- (i) There must exist a situation which makes the holding of an inquiry contemplated by Art. 311(2) not reasonably practicable. What is required is that holding of inquiry is not practicable in the opinion of a reasonable man taking a reasonable view of the prevailing situation. It is not possible to enumerate all the cases in which it would not be reasonably practicable to hold the inquiry. Illustrative cases would be :-

- (a) where a civil servant, through or together with his associates, terrorises, threatens or intimidates witnesses who are likely to give evidence against him with fear of reprisal in order to prevent them from doing so; or

- (b) where the civil servant by himself or with or through others threatens, intimidates and terrorises the officer who is the disciplinary authority or members of his family so that the officer is afraid to hold the inquiry or direct it to be held; or

- (c) where an atmosphere of violence or of general indiscipline and insubordination prevails at the time the attempt to hold the inquiry is made."

These are illustrations which are given by the Judges themselves.

"The disciplinary authority is not expected to dispense with a disciplinary inquiry lightly or arbitrarily or out of ulterior motives or merely in order to avoid the holding of an inquiry or because the Department's case against the civil servant is weak and is, therefore, bound to fail.

- (ii) Another important condition precedent to the application of clause (b) of the second proviso to Art. 311(2), or rule 19 (ii) of the CCS(CC&A) Rules, 1965 or any other similar rule is that the disciplinary authority should record in writing the reason or reasons for its satisfaction that it was not reasonably practicable to hold the inquiry contemplated by Art. 311(2) or corresponding provisions in the service rules. This is a constitutional obligation and, if the reasons are not recorded in writing, the order dispensing with the inquiry and the order of penalty following it

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]

would both be void and unconstitutional. It should also be kept in mind that the recording in writing of the reasons for dispensing with the inquiry must precede an order imposing the penalty. Legally speaking, the reasons for dispensing with the inquiry need not find a place in the final order itself, though they should be recorded separately in the relevant file. In spite of this legal position, it would be of advantage to incorporate briefly the reasons which led the disciplinary authority to the conclusion that it was not reasonably practicable to hold an inquiry, in the order of penalty. While the reasons so given may be brief, they should not be vague or they should not be just a repetition of the language of the relevant rules.

It is true that the Art. 311(3) of the Constitution provides that the decision of the competent authority under clause (b) of the second proviso to Art. 311 (2) shall be final. Consequently, the decision of the competent authority cannot be questioned in appeal, revision or review. This is, however, not binding on a Court (or Tribunal having the powers of a Court) so far as its power of judicial review is concerned, and the court is competent to strike down the order dispensing with the inquiry as also the order imposing penalty, should such a course of action be considered necessary by the court in the circumstances of the case. All disciplinary authorities should keep this factor in mind while forming the opinion that it is not reasonably practicable to hold an inquiry.

Another important guideline with regard to this clause which needs to be kept in mind is that a civil servant who has been dismissed or removed from service or reduced in rank by applying to his case clause (b) of the second proviso to Art. 311 (2) or an analogous

service rule can claim in appeal or revision that an inquiry should be held with respect to the charges on which such penalty has been imposed upon him, unless a situation envisaged by the second proviso is prevailing at the hearing of the appeal or revision application. Even in such a case the hearing of the appeal revision should be postponed for a reasonable length of time for the situation to return to normal.

This is also incorporated in the judgement. Therefore, there are any number of precautions. The first pre-condition is that a reasonable man taking a reasonable view must come to the conclusion: It is not possible to hold an inquiry.

The second condition is: He shall record its reasons for dispensing with the inquiry. We have directed that it would be of advantage to indicate the reasons in the order communicated to the officer while imposing the penalty. We have pointed out that this will not bind the Court or the Tribunal in exercise of its powers for judicial review and it can set aside both the orders dispensing with the inquiry and the consequential order imposing a penalty. The most important safeguard is that there is right of appeal under the rules.

18.00 hrs

There is a right of revision and review under the rules. The situation which compelled a reasonable man to take a reasonable view that no enquiry is possible is not likely to last for all times to come. By the time an appeal is filed, the situation may return to normal, by the time the revision is filed, the situation may return to normal. In the appeal and in the revision, the delinquent officer is entitled to ask for an inquiry and the appellate authority and the revisional authority is obliged to give him an inquiry if at that stage the normal situation prevails. In fact, the court has gone to the extent of saying that if the situation continues to be abnormal, you will be perfectly within your right to postpone the appeal or the revision. After this order was passed, since apprehensions were

expressed in the event of dispensing with serving a charge memo, we issued another order on the 4th April, 1986, and after that I have not come across any case where anybody has complained to me that Article 311(2) (b) has been misused.

Let me read this order and conclude:

"A question has been raised whether, in a case where clause (b) of the second proviso to Article 311(2) of the Constitution is invoked, the disciplinary authority may dispense with the issuing of charge memo listing the charges. Clause (b) is attracted in a case where the disciplinary authority concludes, 'that it is not reasonably practicable to hold such an inquiry'. The circumstances leading to such a conclusion may exist either before the inquiry is commenced or may develop in the course of the inquiry. In the Tulsi Ram Patel case, the Supreme Court observed as under:

It is not necessary that a situation which makes the holding of an inquiry not reasonably practicable should exist before the disciplinary inquiry is initiated against a Government servant. Such a situation can also come into existence subsequently during the course of an inquiry, for instance, after the service of a charge sheet upon the Government servant or after he has filed his written statement thereto or even after the evidence had been led in part. In such a case also, the disciplinary authority would be entitled to apply clause (b) of the second proviso because the word 'inquiry' in that clause includes part of an inquiry."

Then our guidelines:

"Article 311(2) of the Constitution concerns itself with the punishment of dismissal, removal or reduction in rank, which comes in the category of major punishment under the service rules providing the procedure for disciplinary

action against Government servants. The first step in that procedure is the service of a memorandum of charges or a charge sheet as popularly known, on the Government servant, listing the charges against him and calling upon him, by a specified date, to furnish a reply either denying or accepting all or any of the charges. An inquiry hence commences under the service rules with the service of the charge sheet. Obviously in the circumstances even before the commencement of an inquiry are such that the disciplinary authority holds that it is not reasonably practicable to hold an inquiry, no action by way of service of charge sheet would be necessary. On the other hand, if such circumstances develop in the course of inquiry, a charge sheet would already have been served on the Government servant concerned.

In para 6 (1) of this Departments O.M. dated 11.11.1985 certain illustrative cases have been enumerated where the disciplinary authority may conclude that it is not reasonably practicable to hold the inquiry. It is important to note that the circumstances of the nature given in the illustrative cases, or other circumstances which make the disciplinary authority conclude that it is not reasonably practicable to hold the inquiry, should actually subsist at the time when the conclusion is arrived at. The threat, intimidation or the atmosphere of violence or of a general indiscipline and insubordination, for example referred to in the illustrative cases, should be subsisting at the time when the disciplinary authority arrives at his conclusion. It will not be correct on the part of the disciplinary authority to anticipate such circumstances as these that are likely to arise, possibly later in time, as grounds for holding that it is not reasonably practicable to hold the inquiry and, on that basis dispense with serving a charge sheet on the Government servant."

We have gone into it very carefully. We

[Sh. P. Chidambaram]
have understood the apprehensions of the Government servants. We have issued two orders and after the issue of these two orders, to the best of my recollection, unless I am given any information that there was a case, there has been no case which has come to me saying that an inquiry has been dispensed with unreasonably or without recording any reasons or arbitrarily, and that he has not been given an inquiry. In fact none of the Hon. members, to the best of my understanding of their submissions, was able to cite a concrete case where Tulsi Ram Patel's case has been mis-applied or these guidelines have been ignored or violated. If there is any such case certainly I shall look into it and I shall ensure that the Government Servant gets a fair inquiry before the disciplinary action is concluded against him. I think, these apprehensions were valid when the Bill was moved. These apprehensions are no longer valid since the last two years. I

have been in this Ministry for a little over three years. The judgement was delivered three years and three months ago. These orders have been in force now for about three years. I don't think these apprehensions are any longer valid. The Government is, as much as the Hon Members are, interested in defending the rights of the Government servants and we are second to none in doing so. I don't think these apprehensions are any longer valid. So, I would appeal Shri Suresh Kurup to withdraw this Bill.

MR CHAIRMAN : We will continue this Bill next time.

18.06 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the
Clock on Tuesday, November 15, 1988/
Kartika, 24, 1910 (Saka)*