

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question is not asked in this manner. On the one hand you are reading it and on the other hand you are asking such a long question, then you will say that the hon. Minister has not answered it. Please ask a pointed question, he will give a pointed reply..... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am asking whether there is any time-bound programme in the Eighth Five Year Plan by which in all the States...

(*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** The question relates to the Central Road Fund. Would you like to ask whether any provision has been made for the Central Road Fund in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

**SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:** I would also like to ask whether the road cess money is being given to the States or not? (*Interruptions*)

**MR. SPEAKER:** You should make the question pointed, you will get pointed reply. Otherwise, the question will be missed.

**SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, what is the plan to construct metalled roads in villages having population of more than one thousand and is there any plan to mobilise financial resources for it? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**MR. SPEAKER:** You will reply only to that question which relates to the Central Road Fund.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is right as the money that should have been deposited in the Central Road Fund could not be deposited because the decision could not be taken and implemented though the resolution was

passed by Parliament. It was sent to the Cabinet Secretariat on 18th February for consideration. After taking decision, we will decide as to how to implement it.

[*English*]

**SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:** The distress condition of the national highways, from Calcutta to Madras through Orissa is a burning problem. The life and property of those travelling in the night is a jeopardising and hopeless one...

**MR. SPEAKER:** This relates to the Central Road Fund and not to a road from Calcutta to Madras.

**SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:** This is an inter-State road.

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am going to disallow it.

**SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK:** What steps the Government has contemplated to take up the problem of the particular region?

**MR. SPEAKER:** Would you like to provide some funds through this Fund for that road?

[*Translation*]

**SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the money is to be deposited in the Central Road Fund through the collection of road cess on increased prices of petrol and diesel. The decision has not been taken so far despite passing of the resolution in the Parliament. Unless the decision is taken and implemented, we are not in a position to provide funds to it.

[*English*]

#### **Dunkel Proposals**

\*66. **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:**  
**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:**  
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Dunkel proposals on GATT;

(b) whether the Government have examined the proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether the view of the various working groups, individuals were also called for by the Government in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(f) the proposals finalised by the Government for the Uruguay Round meeting of GATT;

(g) whether international negotiations were also initiated by the Government in this regard; and

(h) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (h). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### STATEMENT

In a comprehensive proposal dated 20 December, 1991. Mr. Arthur Dunkel, Director General of GATT has suggested compromise solutions in areas in which differences persisted among participants in the Uruguay Round till that date. Government are in the process of examining the Dunkel proposals. Government's preliminary examination shows that the Dunkel text contains both positive and negative features from India's point of view.

Government have held consultations on the Dunkel proposals with a wide cross-section of the public including economists, opinion makers and representatives of the political parties. Views have been

expressed both in support of and against the proposals contained in the Dunkel text. These are being examined.

Government has not yet finalised its stand in respect of the Dunkel proposals. Once the stand is finalised, Government will participate in further negotiations in the Uruguay Round at Geneva to ensure that our interests are safeguarded.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the Statement, the Government has stated that the Dunkel text contains negative features. I think that must be rated as the understatement of the year. The Dunkel text amounts to a subversion of our sovereignty, a threat to our security, a restraint on our freedom of economic action even in domestic matters, an erosion of our existing distribution system, in short, an accentuation of our poverty against growing affluence in the world. And, therefore, there is a tremendous national resistance to the Dunkel text. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to ask the question.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: There was a National Seminar and I hope that the Government has taken into account the deliberations of the National Seminar held on the 12th of January and its resolution. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Shahabuddin, please not like this. You are referring to Seminars and theories. You have to ask the question. There are many others who want to ask the questions. Please ask a pointed question.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: The crucial point of the Dunkel text is that it links up trade and tariff with investment measures, with patent laws, which affect the flow of technology and questions of national economic policy. I would like to know from the Government, whether they propose, before

going back into Uruguay rounds, to convene a National Commission of eminent jurists and economists to go into this question and to hold a discussion in the Parliament before they proceed further in the matter of Uruguay round talks.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM):** Yes, Sir. On a date suitable to Parliament and as decided by the Business Advisory Committee, I intend to initiate a full scale debate in Parliament, and without knowing Parliament's views, we will not participate in the Uruguay round of talks.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Shahabuddin, would you like to ask the second supplementary or would you like Shri Bhogendra Jha to ask the question?

**SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:** Let Shri Bhogendra Jha ask the question.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhogendra Jha

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to first apologise to the House and to you for the delay.

Sir, the answer that has been given in the statement is extremely vague. The Government is saying that it is both positive and negative. There is absolutely nothing in the world and in the universe which cannot have some positive aspects, whether it is poison or atom or any thing else. So, they are finding something positive in it. The question is that our patent laws are not the product or the processes which have to be patented. Are you sticking to that or not? I want to know whether in the so-called Dunkel's policy proposals, that is included or not.

[*Translation*]

**MR. SPEAKER:** He has already said that all this would be done after the discussion is held. You may ask the main question.

[*English*]

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Simply I want to know with regard to the GATT negotiations and other international property rights and particularly with regard to the Patents Law, what specific positive aspects the Government of India is finding that have been mentioned here. With regard to the negative points exactly what is the position? The country should know this because we are apprehensive that the Government may succumb to the US pressures.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** I have great respect for the views of the hon. Member Shri Bhogendra Jha. In a preliminary statement made by me on the 24th December, I had identified some positive features and a number of negative features. It is difficult to answer in a span of two minutes in the Question Hour the entire package of Dunkel—the positive and the negative aspects of the Dunkel package. As I have offered, on a date suitable to the Parliament, we will have a full scale debate and we can share all the views on the positive and negative aspects. I will certainly take into account, as I have repeatedly said, all the views expressed by the hon. Members, jurists, economists, knowledgeable persons before we finalise our views. I said it and I repeat the offer; let us wait for the full scale debate on a date fixed by the Business Advisory Committee.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:** You can circulate a note.

**SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM:** I accept the suggestion of the hon. Member Shri Somnath Chatterjee. While I initiate a debate, I will of course make a statement or circulate a note based on which a debate can take place.

**SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:** Should we take that before any agreement is arrived at the House will be taken into confidence and he will come before the House?

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN: As there are many negative features in the Dunkel draft, would the Government of India carry out some bilateral discussions with more advanced of the developing countries such as China, Brazil and Mexico to come out with a common platform at the GATT negotiations?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Since I assumed office I have, as well as our officers have, held bilateral discussions with a number of countries. The hon. Member mentioned three countries – China, Brazil and Mexico.

Brazil had been earlier very supportive of our position in the Uruguay round of talks. The hon. Members know this. Brazil has now given up its opposition to various proposals.

With China we had extensive discussions when the Prime Minister Li Peng was here. Again the hon. Members know that China has concluded a bilateral agreement with US which goes far beyond the Dunkel proposals.

Mexico has never supported our position. Mexico has in fact made laws which conform to the concern expressed by the United States. But we have not given up hope. I have spoken to a number of countries. I have received assurances that to the extent possible many developing countries will support our concern in a few crucial areas. But what position they will actually take when the Uruguay round recommences in April, we will have to wait and see.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: In the reply the hon. Minister has stated that the proposal has both positive and negative

things. I want to know, according to the Government's estimates which are the positive aspects and which are the negative aspects.

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss it when we discuss it extensively. He has agreed to discuss it in the House.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: We will discuss it. But they have already reached an estimate and they have given a reply to the House. In the reply it is stated that there are positive aspects and negative aspects. That means the Government has reached an estimate. So the Government should state, according to them which are the positive aspects and which are the negative aspects.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Sir, with great respect I may say that the same question was asked by the hon. Member, Shri Bhogendra Jha. I said that in the preliminary statement made by me on the 24th of December, I had identified some positive features and some negative features, it will be difficult to list all of them in the space of a few minutes in answering the question. When we have a full scale debate, I will list, whatever according to the Government are positive and negative features. We will certainly take your views into account before we finalise our views and before we go to the Uruguay Round of talks.

MR. SPEAKER: In view of this, we will go to the next question. Shri Simon Marandi.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is wrong. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee, it is not like this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Simon Marandi, please put your question.