

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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 Saikia, Shri Gokul (Lakhimpur)
 Saikia, Shri M. R. (Nowgong)

Sait, Shri Azeez (Dharwad South)
 Sait, Shri Ebrahim (Sulaiman Manjeri)
 Sakargayen, Shri Kalicharan (Khandwa)
 Salahuddin, Shri (Godda)
 Samant, Dr. Datta (Bombay South Central)
 Sambu, Shri C. (Bapatla)
 Sangma, Shri P. A. (Tura)
 Sankhwar, Shri Ashkaran (Ghatampur)
 Sankta Prasad, Dr. (Misrikh)
 Sanyal, Shri Manik (Jalpaiguri)
 Satyendra Chandra, Shri (Nainital)
 Sathe, Shri Vasant (Wardha)
 Sayeed, Shri P. M. (Lakshadweep)
 Scindia, Shri Madhavrao (Gwalior)
 Selvendran, Shri P. (Periyakulam)
 Sen, Shri A. K. (Calcutta North West)
 Sen, Shri Bholanath (Calcutta South)
 Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad (Bhadrak)
 Sethi, Shri P. C. (Indore)
 Shah, Shri Anoopchand (Bombay North)
 Shahabuddin, Shri Syed (Kishanganj)
 Shahi, Shri Laliteshwar (Muzaffarpur)
 Shailesh, Dr. B. L. (Chail)
 Shaktawat, Prof Nirmala Kumari (Chittorgarh)
 Shaminder Singh, (Faridkot)
 Shaikaranand, Shri B. (Chikkodi)

Shanmugam, Shri A. C. (Vellore)
 Shanmugam, Shri P. (Pondicherry)
 Shanti Devi, Shrimati (Sambhal)
 Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal (Karnal)
 Sharma, Shri Nand Kishore (Balaghat)
 Sharma, Shri Nawal Kishore (Jaipur)
 Sharma, Shri Pratap Bhanu (Vidisha)
 Shastri, Shri Hari Krishna (Fatehpur)
 Shervani, Shri Saleem I (Budaun)
 Shingda, Shri D. B. (Dahanu)
 Shivendra Bahadur Singh, Shri
 (Rajnandgaon)
 Shukla, Shri Vidya Charan (Maha-
 samund)
 Siddiq, Shri, Hafiz Mohd (Morada-
 bad)
 Sidnal, Shri S. B. (Belgaum)
 Singaravadivel, Shri S. (Thanjavur)
 Singh, Shri Bhanu Pratap (Pilibhit)
 Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap Narain
 (Padrauna)
 Singh, Shri D. G. (Shahabad)
 Singh, Shri K. M. (Hapur)
 Singh, Shri Kamla Prasad (Jaunpur)
 Singh, Shri Krishna Pratap
 (Maharajganj)
 Singh, Shri Lal Vijay Pratap (Jarguja)
 Singh, Shri N. Tombi (Inner Manipur)
 Singh, Shri Ram Narain (Bhiwani)
 Singh, Shri S. D. (Dhanbad)
 Singh, Shri Santosh Kumar (Azamgarh)
 Singh Deo, Shri K.P. (Dhenkanal)
 Sinha, Shri Atish Chandra (Berhampore)

Sinha, Shrimati Kishori (Vaishali)
 Sinha, Shrimati Ram Dulari (Sheohar)
 Sinha, Shri Satyendra Narayan
 (Aurangabad)
 Sodi, Shri Mankuram (Bastar)
 Solanki, Shri Kalyan Singh (Aonla)
 Solanki, Shri Natavarsinh (Kapadvanj)
 Somu, Shri N.V.N. (Madras North)
 Soren, Shri Harihar (Keonjhar)
 Soundararajan, Shri N. (Sivakasi)
 Soz. Prof. Saifuddin (Baramulla)
 Sparrow, Shri R. S. (Jullundur)
 Sreenivasa Prasad, Shri V. (Chamaraja-
 nagar)
 Subburaman, Shri A. G. (Madurai)
 Sukh Ram, Shri (Mandi)
 Sukhadia, Shrimati Indubala (Udaipur)
 Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati (Gurdaspur)
 Sultanpuri, Shri K. D. (Simla)
 Suman, Shri R. P. (Akbarpur)
 Sundararaj, Shri N. (Pudukkottai)
 Sunder Singh, Ch. (Phillaur)
 Sunil Dutt, Shri (Bombay North
 West)
 Surendra Pal Singh, Shri (Bulandshahr)
 Saryawanahi, Shri Narsing (Bidar)
 Swami Prasad Singh, Shri (Hamirpur)
 Swamy, Shri D. Narayana (Anantapur)
 Swamy, Shri Katuri Narayana
 (Narasaraopet)
 Swell, Shri G. G. (Shillo)

T

- Tanti, Shri Bhadreswar (Kaliabor)
 Tapeswar Singh, Shri (Bikramganj)
 Tariq Anwar, Shri (Katihar)
 Tewary, Prof K .K. (Buxar)
 Thakkar, Shrimati Usha (Kutch)
 Thakur, Shri C. P. (Patna)
 Thambi Durai, Shri M. (Dharmapuri)
 Thangaraju, Shri S. (Perambalur)
 Thara Devi, Kumari D. K. (Chikmagalur)
 Thomas, Prof K. S. (Eraakulam)
 Thomas, Shri Thampan (Mavelikara)
 Thorat, Shri Bhutesh (Pindharapur)
 Thota, Shri Gopal Krishna (Kakinada)
 Thungon, Shri P. K. (Arunachal West)
 Tigga, Shri Simon (Khunti)
 Tilakdhari Singh, Shri (Kojarma)
 Tiraky, Shri Piyus, (Alipurduars)
 Tomar, Shrimati Usha Rani (Aligarh)
 Tripathi, Shrimati Chandra
 (Chandauli)
 Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar
 (Khalilabad)
 Tulsiram, Shri V. (Nagarkurnool)
 Tur, S. Tarlochan Singh (Tarn Taran)
 Tyagi, Shri Durganvir Singh
 (Meerut)
 Tytler, Shri Jagdish (Delhi Sadar)

U

- Unnikrishnan, Shri K. P. (Badagara)

V

- Vairale, Shri Madhusudan (Akola)
 Van, Shri Deep Narain (Balrampur)
 Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mitha-
 bhai (Patan)
 Venkatesan, Shri P. R. S. (Guddalore)
 Venkatesh, Dr. V. (Kolar)
 Verma, Dr. C. S. (Khagaria)
 Verma, Shrimati Usha (Kheri)
 Vijayaraghavan, Shri V. S. (Palghat)
 Vir Sen, Shri (Khurja)
 Vyas, Shri Girdhari Lal (Bhilwara)

W

- Wadiyar, Shri Srikanta Datta
 Narasimharaja (Mysore)
 Walia, Shri Charanjit Singh (Patiala)
 Wasnik, Shri Mukul (Buldhana)

Y

- Yadav, Shri Kailash (Jalesar)
 Yadav, Shri Mahabir Prasad
 (Madhepura)
 Yadav, Shri R. N. (Parbhani)
 Yadav, Shri Ram Singh (Alwar)
 Yadav, Shri Shyam Lal (Varanasi)
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 (Mainpuri)

Yadava, Shri D. P. (Monghyr)

Z

Yashpal Singh, Shri (Saharanpur)

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Yazdani, Dr. Golam (Raiganj)

Zainul Basher, Shri (Ghazipur)

**Yogesh, Shri Yogeshwar Prasad
(Chatra)**

LOK SABHA

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Shri Somnath Rath

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, November 6, 1987 Kartika
15, 1909 (Saka)

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven
of the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as we meet today after an interval of more than two months, it is my sad duty to inform the House of the passing away of Dr. K. G. Adiyodi and Shri Dalbir Singh, sitting Members of this House, and eight of our former colleagues, namely Shri Amjad Ali, Dr. Pashupati Mandal, Sarvashri Ramsahai Pandey, M. Gopalaswami Thenkondar, Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit, Sarvashri Khushiram Sharma, Ajit Singh and Atamdas.

Dr. K. G. Adiyodi was a sitting member of Lok Sabha since 1984 representing Calicut constituency of Kerala. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Kerala Legislative Assembly during 1971-80.

An able Parliamentarian, Dr. Adiyodi took keen interest in various parliamentary activities. He was a Member of the joint Committee of the House set up to enquire into the Bofore Contract. He was also a Member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table.

An active political and social worker, Dr. Adiyodi served the State of Kerala as Minister of Finance, Forests and Irrigation during 1971-77. An able administrator and renowned academic, he served as the

Chairman of the Kerala State Public Service Commission from April to November, 1984.

A medical practitioner by profession, Dr. Adiyodi conducted free medical camps for the tribals and the poor. He was Director, Centre for Science, Development, Planning and Transfer of Technology in Kerala State. As President of Taluk Agricultural Marketing Society, he took keen interest in the improvement of Agriculture. He served as President of Regional Co-operative Bank for 14 years. He was also associated with Kerala State Bharat Scouts and Guides since 1974.

Dr. Adiyodi passed away at Kozhikode on 22 October, 1987 at the age of 61 years.

Shri Dalbir Singh was a sitting Member of Lok Sabha since 1984 representing Sirsa constituency of Haryana. He was also a Member of the Fourth, Fifth and Seventh Lok Sabha during 1967-70, 1971-77 and 1980-84 respectively. Earlier, he had been a Member of the Punjab Legislative Assembly during 1952-62 and was also a Deputy Minister there from 1957/62. He held with distinction various portfolios in the Union Council of Ministers first as a Deputy Minister during 1971-77 and later as Minister of State during 1980-84.

An able parliamentarian, Shri Dalbir Singh took keen interest not only in the proceedings of the House but also in the work of various Parliamentary Committees. He was the serving Chairman of the House Committee and a Member of the General Purposes Committees, 1987-88. An agriculturist by profession, he worked for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society.

Shri Dalbir Singh passed away at New Delhi on the 30th October, 1987 at the age of 62 years.

Shri Amjad Ali was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Dhubri constituency of Assam. Earlier, he had been a Member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 and of the Assam Legislative Assembly during 1937-45.

An advocate by profession, Shri Amjad Ali was associated with several educational institutions in various capacities. He was awarded the Ibnkhaldun Gold Medal for writing on "Louis XIV".

Shri Amjad Ali passed away at Guwahati on 31 August, 1987 at the age of 84 years.

Dr. Pashupati Mandal was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Vishnupur constituency of West Bengal. Earlier, he had been a Member of the First, Second and Third Lok Sabha during 1952-57, 1957-62 and 1962-67 respectively.

A medical practitioner by profession, Dr. Pashupati Mandal took keen interest in spreading education in rural and backward areas. He was closely connected with several educational institutions. He worked for removal of illiteracy and for upliftment of Backward Classes. He also took active part in the development of agriculture and initiated several minor irrigation schemes.

Dr. Pashupati Mandal passed away at Bankura on 16 September, 1987.

Shri Ramsahai Pandey was a member of the Fifth Lok Sabha during 1971-77 representing Rajnandgaon constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67.

A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Ramsahai Pandey entered politics while he was still a student. He was imprisoned in 1940 and 1942 for participating in the freedom struggle. A well known social worker, he took keen interest in the promotion of education among the rural masses and for the uplift of weaker sections of society. He also took keen part in the youth and labour movements.

A widely travelled person, Shri Ramsahai Pandey was an Indian delegate to

the World Assembly of Youth in Berlin in 1956. He was also invited by the Governments of U. S. A. and the U. K. in 1964 to study electioneering and general economy. He was also a member of the Indian Parliamentary Delegation to South East Asian countries in 1965.

Shri Ramsahai Pandey passed away at Bombay on 21 September, 1987 at the age of 67 years.

Shri M. Gopaldaswami Thenkondar was a Member of the Third Lok Sabha during 1962-67 representing Nagapattinam constituency of the then State of Madras.

Shri M. Gopaldaswami Thenkondar took keen part in the Quit Indian Movement in 1942 and suffered imprisonment. An agriculturist by profession, he worked for the welfare of the weaker sections of the society. He was associated with several social organisations and took keen interest in Harijan welfare work.

Shri M. Gopaldaswami Thenkondar passed away at Thanjavur on 22 September, 1987 at the age of 77 years.

Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit was a member of the Seventh Lok Sabha during 1980-84 representing Rajgarh constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha during 1977-79 and of the Maharashtra Legislative Council during 1959-77.

Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit took active part in various national movements and was arrested several times. An accomplished academic, Dr. Pandit was associated with several educational and social organisations. A renowned international astrologer, he was the first to get M. A. and Ph. D. in Jyotish Shastra in India. A widely travelled person, he attended the Commonwealth Conference in London in 1966 and in Delhi in 1975.

Dr. Vasant Kumar Pandit passed away at Bombay on 25 September, 1987 at the age of 66 years.

Shri Khushiram Sharma was a member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57 representing Meerut constituency of Uttar Pradesh.

A Pleader by Profession, Shri Sharma served as President of Bharat Socuts Association of Meerut District for three years and President, Rashtrabhasha Vidyapeeth for two years.

Shri Sharma passed away at Meerut on 29 September, 1987 at the age of 82 years.

Shri Ajit Singh was a Member of the Second Lok Sabha during 1957-62 representing Bhatinda constituency of Punjab. Earlier, he had been a Member of the First Lok Sabha during 1952-57.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Ajit Singh worked for the uplift and rehabilitation of weaker sections of the society. A valiant soldier, he served in the Indian Army for about six years.

Shri Ajit Singh passed away at Bhatinda on 8 October, 1987 at the age of 62 years.

Shri Atamdas was a Member of the Fourth Lok Sabha during 1967-70 representing Morena constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Earlier, he had been a member of the Interim Legislature of the then Gwalior State during 1948-49 and of the then Bharat Legislative Assembly in 1951.

Shri Atamdas took active part in the freedom movement and suffered imprisonment. An agriculturist by profession, he was associated with several social organisations and took keen interest in the uplift of weaker sections of the society.

Shri Atamdas passed away at Gwalior on 10 October, 1987 at the age of 75 years.

We deeply mourn the loss of these friends, and I am sure the House will join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

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

The Members Stood in Silence for a Short While

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Bank Loans During 1986-87

*1. SHRI A. CHARLES : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons all over the country to whom loan amount of not more than Rs. 10, 000 (Rupees Ten Thousand only) was given by banks during the financial year 1986-87 ;

(b) the total amount of loan given to them ; and

(c) the total amount of credit given by banks during the year 1986-87 to both Private and Public Sector Undertakings excluding the amount covered under item (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has reported that the present data reporting system does not provide information on loans below a certain amount all over the country. The outstanding advances of Public Sector Banks under priority sector and to weaker sections as at the end of March 1986 and March 1987 were as under :

	(Amount in Rs. crores (Accounts in lakhs))			
	Priority	Sector	Weaker	Sections
	March 1986	March 1987	March 1986	March 1987
Accounts	244.33	273.05	183.77	205.72
Amount	20852.75	24551.75	5077.94	6118.78
Average amount per borrowal account	8535	8992	2774	2974

(c) Advances by Public Sector Banks excluding Priority Sector Advances increased from Rs. 28775 crores as at the end of March 1986 to Rs. 31305 crores as at the end of March 1987.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, though I fully appreciate the earnest efforts of the hon. Minister and congratulate him the way in which he has been trying to give a loan to the weaker sections of the society and in building up their future, I am very unhappy about the first part of the answer and the casual way in which the Reserve Bank of India have furnished the information. It is very unfair that though they are able to give huge figures, given to the Public Sector Under takings, they are unable to give the details of the loans given to the weaker sections. The reason is very clear.

Only a very negligible amount is given to the weaker sections in spite of the earnest efforts being made by the hon. Minister. I may draw his attention to the answer given to part (c) of the Question :

“Advances by Public Sector Banks excluding Priority Sector Advances increased from Rs. 28775 crores as at the end of March 1986 to Rs. 31305 crores as at the end of March, 1987.”

I have no complaint about this ; let that grow. I have worked in governments department for some years and I know the method of collecting these simple facts. A mere

circular to every branch of the Bank would be sufficient to gather the facts. I come from Trivandrum. There is a fish market there. Lorry-loads of fish come to the market. The poor fisherwomen who come there to buy fish have to pay an interest of Rs. 10 for every Rs. 100 for every day. That comes to 3,600 per cent. In order to help those people belonging to the weaker sections, may I know from the hon. Minister whether, out of the deposits received from the rural areas which constitute about 70 per cent of the total deposits, at least half of the deposits will be earmarked for paying loans to the weaker sections in case there are sufficient number of applications which fulfil the norms and conditions ?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I share the concern of the hon. Member for the weaker sections. It is a conscious decision and a commitment given to the nation that we are going to meet the requirements of the weaker sections fully. Here as on June 1987 we have given Rs. 6,368 crores to the weaker sections. The target was ten per cent, and as against the target of ten per cent, we have already given about eleven per cent. It is true, as the hon. Member has stated, that the weaker sections are compelled to pay a higher rate of interest in the private borrowing market. It is because of that that we have been giving assistance to the weaker sections. For the benefit of the hon. Member I may also say that we have given instructions to our Department to increase the target for the weaker sections.

SHRI A. CHARLES : I am happy that a favourable answer has been given by the hon. Minister, and I am sure the weaker sections in the whole country will remember him for this. But, even here, there are certain loopholes, and certain frauds are being committed by the middlemen. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any possibility of constituting some cell with representatives of the banks, officials and non-officials to monitor the whole programme, to see whether the banks are giving loans in all eligible cases. In the Estimates Committee instances have come to our notice that even in very genuine cases, loans are not given. Therefore, I want to know whether these loans are given in all eligible cases and whether a monitoring system will be established to monitor this.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the IRDP is concerned, already there is a monitoring body; there, the District Collector is the convener and non-officials are also there. They are monitoring at that level even at the Block level also there are monitoring agencies. When the Estimates Committee makes recommendations, if they are in the interest of the weaker sections, definitely we will implement the recommendations of the Estimates Committee.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What about the question of 'middlemen' that he raised?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : May I know whether it is a fact that Government decided to organize a loan mela in Tripura despite the fact that the Chief Minister of Tripura had objected to holding such a loan mela just on the eve of elections? I want to know whether it is also a fact that the management of United Bank of India had lots of new application forms secretly printed in Calcutta? These forms are not approved by the Reserve Bank of India. Out of these, 1,20,000 forms were handed over to the Congress (I) leader to be distributed among their trusted people of Tripura.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It does not relate to loan mela. If you are

asking me to answer it, I am prepared to answer it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is related to the distribution of loans. Loan Mela is held to distribute loans.

MR. SPEAKER : A separate discussion is coming on this and you can raise this point at that time.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : My question would be different. I would like to ask the hon. Minister, whenever any nationalised bank organises schemes to distribute loans for weaker sections and if the concerned State Government comes in the way and incites violence in that area, what action is he going to take?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : It is the same thing.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : I am not asking about loan melas. I am asking about inciting of violence by State Government when loans are being distributed.

MR. SPEAKER : How is it concerned with the subject?

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr Speaker Sir, the hon. Minister has stated just now that in case of any difficulty in advancing loans to the weaker sections, steps are taken to remove it. Has the hon. Minister received reports to the effect that some people get loans in the name of the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society? Thus weaker sections are not actually getting loans because they have to make several rounds of the banks and they are so tired that they throw away the papers in sheer frustration. May I know the action proposed to be taken by the Government to remedy this situation?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : We have been receiving some reports from the State also. The programmes for weaker

sections, namely, IRDP and also educated unemployment Scheme, are implemented by the State Governments. We have been receiving complaints saying that they are not giving to the right people, the deserving people, and that some undeserving people are also getting it.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is that some people get bogus loans in the name of others.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am coming to that, Sir. The implementation is done by the State Government. They identify the persons belonging to the weaker sections under IRDP. Even for educated unemployed also, the State Governments identify the beneficiary. It is for the State Government to correctly identify and then forward those applications to the banks. If the Hon. Member has got any grievance in his State, he can write to the State Chief Minister saying that it has to be properly identified. So far as banks are concerned, whenever there is some deficiency, I myself monitor it. I act on the letters of the Hon. Members. I also act when there are complaints given by the citizens and we take proper action.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : There are instances that files of loans particularly within the limit of Rs. 10,000 are not disposed of by the banks strictly and quickly. There are specific cases where the banks are taking more than one year time.

May I know from the hon. Minister that these poor persons are forced to make rounds dozens of times and they are wasting energy and labour what steps is he going to take to dispose of these files of loans particularly belonging to the poorer sections?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Sir, we have crossed the target of 10 per cent and reached the target of 11 per cent. About Rs. 6368 crores have gone from the banking sector to the weaker sections. That itself shows that the programmes are being implemented. But that does not mean there is no scope for improvement. We are monitoring it. We have even advised the banks to hold the credit camps twice in a month

outside the bank premises to expedite and to see that it goes to the weaker sections.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his attention has been drawn to the report that had appeared in the Economic Times in whom it was mentioned one year back that on the occasion of the death anniversary of Mrs. Indira Gandhi in Bangalore about one lakh of forms were distributed on the occasion of two loan melas and on those forms which were secured from the sympathisers and supporters of Congress (I) a certain seal was put in the corner and they were given priority while clearing the loans? The hon. Minister had agreed to look into the matter and give the necessary reply. Still the reply has not come.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am prepared to answer provided the Chair allows.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir I request you to allow him to reply.

MR. SPEAKERS : Are you prepared to reply?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I am prepared to reply even to Shri Basudeb Acharia.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take it up later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, he has agreed to reply. I plead on his behalf to take it up.

MR. SPEAKER : He is prepared to reply. You are prepared to listen. But I am not prepared to allow it. We will take it up later.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, it is a great injustice to the Minister.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : In view of the fact that there is a serious drought situation prevailing in the country and more particularly in the State of Rajasthan and Gujarat may I know from the hon. Minister whether any instructions have been given to the banks to help the

needy for fodder, fertilisers, seeds and irrigation facilities? If so, what is the result?

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
On 12th September, 1987 the hon. Finance Minister convened the meeting of the Chief Executives particularly to see how the drought affected people are helped, On 15th September, 1987 the Reserve Bank of India had issued guidelines and we are meeting the requirements of the needy particularly of the ones referred to by the hon. Minister. We have also directed the Chief Executives and the Chairmen to go to the drought affected people to see that their requirements are met fully.

Import of Cotton and Man-made Fibre

*2. †**SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO:**

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to import 10 lakh bales of cotton and substantial quantity of man-made fibre during the current year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the quantity of cotton and man-made fibre already imported proposed to be imported in near future and the financial implications thereof;

(d) whether some cotton growers' Associations have urged Government not to import cotton; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : While it is happy to note that the

Government has positively responded to the representations of the Cotton Growers' Associations and Federations all over the country regarding agitated note of the request of the Cotton Mills Federation requesting the Government to allow import of 10 lakh bales of cotton and 1.2 lakh tonnes of man-made fibre yet now the Minister has told that the Government has not taken a decision so far.

We are very happy to know that. At the same time, I would like to know categorically from the Hon'ble Minister whether it is not a fact that a public notice was issued on 9th October 1987 wherein the Government had announced input-output norms for import of raw cotton against export of yarn. Against export of 1 kg of corded yarn of 40 counts and below, the exporter is permitted to import 1.5 kg of raw cotton. Similarly in respect of combed yarn of 43 counts and below import of 1.33 kg and for 1 kg of combed yarn of 40 counts and above, import of 1.39 kg raw cotton is allowed. Is this not in contradiction to part (a) of the answer given by the Government? Indirectly you are permitting the import of raw cotton into this country. The latest figures say that our cotton production this year will not be less than that of the previous year. In fact, it may be little higher.

So, I would like to know categorically from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government would reconsider and withdraw this public notice issued some time back.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I have actually answered parts (a), (b) & (c) of the question. The question was:

"Whether Government have taken a decision to import 10 lakh bales of cotton and substantial quantity of man-made fibre during the current year;"

The answer is: "No, Sir." We have also said categorically that the Government do not propose to import cotton at present.

It is true that a facility had been given to cotton yarn exporters under the import-export policy of the Government for a replenishment licence for the cotton yarn exported by them. This is because the Govern-

ment is keen to establish a firm climate for export of cotton yarn which will indirectly benefit alleviation of the sickness of mills suffering from over capacity. We have only allowed limited quantities of yarn exports and the consequent enabling import of cotton which has not even started. This order was issued only in October but no import has actually taken place. The cotton, if any, imported under replenishment licence will be a very small fraction of the total production of cotton in the country. It will also have an indirect benefit to the local cotton prices and the yarn prices for handloom and powerloom weavers while helping the sick textile mills.

Sir, this is an experimental measure. We will be continuously watching the situation. If there is a reason to believe that this assistance to exporters in any way militates against a stable cotton price situation, Government will take corrective action at that time.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you are well aware of the untold suffering faced by the cotton growers last year and before that due to intensity of white flood. Now the Minister says that the imports may be of very small amount. But you are opening a door which will hither to be difficult to close. After the imported quantities come in, the interests of the cotton growers will be jeopardised. Therefore, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to reconsider and withdraw this notice.

Sir, the estimated production this year will surpass that of the previous year. We had exported 1.4 million bales of cotton in the previous year. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Government proposed to export some quantity of cotton abroad to earn foreign exchange and to create a favourable price situation in the country, so help the cotton growers.

The present average yield is only 235 kgs lint per hectare. What steps do the Government propose to take so that this yield per hectare increases and also announce new support prices which really would give an incentive to the cotton growers?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : We have for the time being frozen export of

cotton, the remaining quota, earmarked for export this year because of the abnormal increase in the price of cotton and the resultant increase in the price of cotton yarn till about three months ago. However, the prices of cotton as well as the cotton yarn are now showing decreasing trend from August onwards. Our decision at the moment is that we will reconsider the question of export only after watching the current situation. The hon. Member is entirely correct that our earlier estimate of the volume of cotton crop has had an upward revision because of the August rains. We may probably get about ten lakh bales more than originally estimated. I would like to mention that even if this expectation is realised at the end of the cotton year 1987-88, we may be faced with a stock situation which may go below the safety level of three months requirement of the organized textile industry. In this matter, we are keeping our ears close to the ground and we would like to assure you that the interests of the cotton growers will be fully protected by the Government. The export window in cotton yarn is kept open because we want to increase the export of value added goods as against the primary raw material.

SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : I would like to know the areas and the countries where yarn is proposed to be exported and the countries from where cotton is proposed to be imported. I am interested to know this because in our export programme earlier, we exported cotton yarn and imported raw material from the hard currency areas. I am, therefore, interested to know the countries where the export is supported to be made and the countries from where the import has to be made.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The cotton yarn is being exported to European Economic Community, Czechoslovakia and other countries. As stated earlier, we are not intending to import cotton at present and as such, I cannot answer the other part of the question.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : The necessity for export in order to earn foreign exchange is, of course, a valid argument, but I would like to know whether it is not

a fact that in the recent months, every part of the country is experiencing an acute scarcity on the one hand and high prices of cotton yarn on the other. As a result of this, lakhs of handloom weavers are unemployed and their handlooms are idle. He has spoken a lot about looking after the interests of the textile mill units and the cotton growers.

I have no objection to that, but the textile policy which was adopted last year was supposed to look after handloom weavers also, who belong to weaker section. Is it not a fact that today lakhs of handloom weavers are sitting unemployed; they cannot get yarn or yarn is available at such high prices that it is beyond their means? To what extent has this new policy of exporting cotton yarn from the country which is being brought as an incentive for importing cotton, led to this condition in the handloom market, and whether any steps will be taken to help the handloom weavers, who are suffering acute crisis at this moment?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : The price of yarn required for handloom had shown an upward trend up to August this year, and thereafter the prices have been declining. I have got the figures as reported by the Handloom Commissioner. There is a list of very many counts, but on the average from August to the beginning of November there has been a five to ten per cent decrease.

So, the increasing trend of handloom price has been arrested. Sir, it is not true that the price increase in handloom yarn, which was experienced before August, was due to exports. We have been continuously monitoring the situation. The price of cotton had increased almost 50 per cent and the price of yarn, of which the cotton is the basic raw material, increased only about 50 per cent of the price increase of cotton. We had taken a series of steps to stabilise the handloom prices. I have got a whole list here. We have advised these instruments to the State governments and the Apex Societies. We have started a series of schemes through the National Handloom Development Corporation as well as the NTC. The interest of the handloom workers

is one of the primary concerns in the textile policy and we stick to that policy.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Is it not a fact that handlooms are lying closed in hundreds of thousands and the weavers are unemployed?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, certain percentages of the capacity of all segments of the textile economy, including handloom, power-loom and the organised textile mills, are closed from time to time because there is substantial over-capacity in the textile economy. The effect of the Textile Ministry is to balance the conflicting and competing demands of these different sectors of the textile economy and we have been trying to achieve a balance between the interest of these sectors.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the total quantity of yarns, long staple as well as extra long yarns, exported during previous year from Andhra Pradesh and Karnatka. What is the present policy, of Government towards the export of long staple and extra long yarns during this year?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR : Sir, I do not have the figures, variety-wise, for Andhra Pradesh but as I said earlier, the export which was originally earmarked at 6 lakhs bales this year has been frozen at 4.9 lakh bales and the rest 1.15 lakh bales are not going to be exported.

Court Cases of the State Bank of Indore

*4. **SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of court cases pending/lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, year-wise and the amount involved;

(b) the reasons thereof;

(c) the details of the action taken by the bank against the erring officials, employees/lawyers; and

(d) the details of the steps proposed to be taken by the bank to avoid loss of the

cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below.

Statement

Information available with the State Bank of Indore in respect of Civil Suits to which the Bank was a party, showing the number of Civil Suits pending, amount involved and cases lost during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 is set out below:-

Year	Civil Suits pending	Amount involved (In lakhs)	Number of Cases lost
1983	409	504.77	...
1984	531	1197.24	...
1985	594	1264.12	...

Since no Civil Suits has been lost by the bank in the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, the question of taking action on this account against any official/employee/lawyer by the bank does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. The notices of questions given by the hon. Members are curtailed by the Examiner of Questions. My question was about criminal proceedings during the years 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 but it was confined only up to 1985 and now the hon. Minister has confined his reply to civil cases only.

[English]

Suit is a civil suit but a case can be criminal also.

[Translation]

There is a vast difference between the two but the hon. Minister has not tried to identify the difference.

My question was :-

[English]

"The number of court cases pending lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, yearwise and the amount involved."

[Translation]

Sir, he has replied that according to the information available about the civil suits from the State Bank of Indore, in which the Bank was also a party, the number of civil suits pending during the years so and so was such and such respectively.

Several questions have been asked earlier also inviting the attention of the Government in regard to this matter. There has been a bungling of about Rs. 9 crores in only three branches, i.e. the Madras branch, the Amana Dewas branch (Madhya Pradesh) and the Chandni Chowk branch in Delhi. It had then been stated that a C.B.I. enquiry was conducted and the decision of the district judge has already been pronounced. Will the hon. Minister state the number and the names of persons involved in the criminal proceeding during the last three years for which this question was admitted, and also the number of those against whom cases are pending and the action being taken against them ?

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : The hon. member may kindly see part (a) of the question which is about the number of cases pending/lost by the State Bank of Indore during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985, yearwise and the amount involved. The hon. member has not asked for 1986. That is why the reply was confined only upto 1985.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want your protection. Firstly, information about 1986 has not been given as the Examiner had modified the question and secondly, in regard to the question which was admitted, the hon. Minister did not try to understand it fully and provide relevant information. I wanted to know

the number of criminal cases pending and also the number of FIRs filled both by the Government and the people separately.

MR. SPEAKER : It is true that you did not ask about the year 1985 ?

SHRI RAJ KUMAR KAI : It was curtailed by the Examiner at the outset and the information asked about 1983-84, 1984-85 in regard to the criminal cases was confined to civil suits only. So what can I say in this matter ? It was stated that there was no bungling and hence what more can I ask regarding the action taken in the various cases ? If you have allowed a detailed...

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the banks are concerned, they are looking after the civil suits. So far as the criminal cases are concerned, it is a state subject. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please. Let me hear the Minister.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Why are you interrupting?

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The hon. Minister has gone on record saying that crime is under the jurisdiction of the State...

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY : I will explain...

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him explain.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Rai, will you please take your seat ? Let us listen to the Minister first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. Please listen.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : First listen and then say something.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : So far as the criminal cases are concerned, these are administered by the State Government and prosecutions are filed by the State Government and the information is with the State Government. Now, if the hon. members write to me, I will also find out and collect the information and give it to them. So far as the civil suits are concerned, we have got the information with us and I have furnished the information.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Do you have the figures concerning banks are not ? Do not hide yourself under this...

MR. SPEAKER : No question of hiding.

[Translation]

Why are you arguing with each other ?

[English]

If any further information is required, you can say that you would furnish that also.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : I have stated that. If I get the information, I will furnish it. It is implicit.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : About the amount involved, etc. in civil

cases, I have mentioned it and about the criminal cases, if the hon. member wants it, I will furnish it.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER . He will collect the information and give it to you.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : About the criminal cases also, I want to know as to what action is being taken on the valuable information given to him by the public. So far, what has been done ?

Pak Firing on Indian Border

[Translation]

*5. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pak troops have opened fire several times on the Indian border;

(b) if so, whether any meeting has been held between India and Pakistan for a mutual settlement;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether Government of India are also taking counter measures ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir; There have been some cases of unprovoked firing by the Pakistani troops across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir.

(a) and (c) Matters relating to such incidents are sought to be resolved in flag meeting between the local Commanders. However, no such meeting has been held during the last one year.

(d) Our Armed Forces maintain full defence preparedness at all times to meet any threat to the security of the country.

[Translations]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to submit through you that the hon. Minister has not given a proper reply to my question. The hon.

Minister has referred to some incidents but has not stated the exact number of the incidents and also the losses suffered by the Indian army. Will the hon. Minister kindly make this clear?

MR. SPEAKER : I will not allow an unclear reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked whether Pak troops have opened fire several times on the Indian borders. Since many years both sides have been indulging in firing across the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir. There has been firing from the Pakistan side and our troops have also returned the fire. This has become a normal state of affairs there. Last year, the number of such incidents was somewhat more but this year it has been less. I am, however, not in a position to give you the exact number. Whenever there is a confrontation across the line of Control, then it is obvious that there would be some exchange of fire. In the absence of any confrontation such incidents do not occur normally. In the Siachen area, two such incidents have taken place. But I do not want to include them because these are quite different. The hon. Member has not asked a specific question in this regard and that is why I have not given a specific reply.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has stated that no flag meeting has been held during the last one year between the local commanders. If these meetings had been held, then perhaps the losses would have been avoided. Therefore, may I know the reasons for not holding flag meetings between the commanders of the two countries to prevent recurrence of such cases and the names of officers responsible for such carelessness and when the next meeting is likely to be held ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, two flag meetings were held in 1986. Flag meetings are held when some major incident occurs or there is some dispute over a certain position. In 1987, it was not thought necessary to do so. What has happened in Siachen, there is no question of any

carelessness about it. When we saw that there was an unusual concentration of forces on that side, our Army Commanders drew the attention of their counterparts on the other side towards this situation and expressed concern to them over the situation which might lead to confrontation, and asked them not to allow the situation to escalate. When we realised that an extraordinary situation was being created, we took precautions to the extent that we got in touch with them through the hotline at the military level and asked them to refrain from provoking us. Therefore, the question of carelessness does not arise.

{English}

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The hon. Minister in replying to the first supplementary said that Siachen does not come under this question. But subsequently, he has referred to Siachen. Therefore, I would like to know his views about the recent informal talks that our Prime Minister had with the Prime Minister of Pakistan in Kathmandu.

Obviously, such types of incidents do start afresh. So, I want to know what is the response of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the views put forth by our Prime Minister?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, this is a question I cannot answer. I do not know exactly what the answer of the Prime Minister of Pakistan was on this question. I have referred it to Siachen. I thought the hon. Member may have had that at the back of his mind when he put the question. I know that the country is concerned, the House is concerned, about the manner in which our posts were attacked. Our soldiers fought valiantly and attacks were repulsed. I am sure that I would be expressing the sentiments of the House if I extend my congratulations to our troops for the valiant manner in which they fought.

As I was just explaining, the responsibility for these attacks rests squarely on Pakistan, because through our own channels, our hotline between the two countries at the military level, we are in touch with them. When we saw there was an unusual concentration of forces, more coming in

and on the basis of the information of our Army Commander, we got in touch with the counterparts to say that this is a matter of concern for us and please do not allow the situation to escalate. Nevertheless it did escalate at two points. They did attack once in the last week of September and once in the first week of October. So, we tried to take this precaution of telling them not to allow the situation to escalate which is unusual. In order to avoid this kind of possibility, we took that step. It is not for want of a warning on all sides that this took place. It took place deliberately and therefore the response had to come from us.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I think the Minister has been pettifogging when he says that he did not want to associate the Siachen incident and firings on the border. I think, he owes it to enlighten the House on this. Now, I would like him to enlighten us as to the strategic importance of this waste of snow and ice at 14,000 feet to Pakistan so that it was prepared to squander so many lives of its men. Our troops fought valiantly. We congratulate them. We are happy about it. We have said so.

Then, I hope the Minister must have heard about Makran, Badaber, Mowripur, Gwarda, Turbat, Pasani, Jwani and Panjguar. Do all these names have any military significance to him and what is their military significance?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Secret cannot be revealed.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I do not know if really one should discuss this matter in this manner in the House. I would be perfectly prepared to discuss this matter with Prof. Swell if he wanted to discuss it.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : I have put the question in the House.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I do not know if the military significance of a particular area should be discussed openly by us in the House.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Call him in your chamber.

SHRI K. C. PANT : I will certainly tell him. I have no objection to telling any hon. Member. I say openly here goes out and therefore, perhaps he will agree with me that it will be better to discuss this across the table.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to know the number of times the Pakistani troops have made attempt to capture our posts in Siachen heights during the last one year and the number of casualties suffered by the Pakistani side as well as by our troops and also the number of sophisticated weapons deployed by the Pakistani side and captured by our troops. Whether any personnel of Pakistani troops on patrol duty have been captured by our troops in Siachen sector that is in the Ladakh Sector and if so, may I know the details?

MR. SPEAKER : No. For that also, you go to him.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now Question 6—Mr Jagannath Pattnaik is not there. Next Question—Shri Tulsiram.

D. A. To Central Government Employees

7 *SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a hike in the prices of commodities to the extent to 5 per cent during the period 1st January to 30th June, 1987 .

(b) if so, the reasons for not making cash payment of the DA arrears to the staff even after the declaration in this regard by Government ;

(c) whether Government are modifying the procedure to give DA to the staff ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the time by which necessary action is expected to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The 12-monthly

average Consumer [Price Index on 31st December, 1986 was 661.03 and the same on 30th June, 1987 was 687.50. Thus taking the 12-monthly average CPI of 608 as on 1-1-1986 as base, the hike in prices of commodities was 8.73% on 1-1-1987 and 13.07% on 30-6-1987 resulting in an increase of 4.34% during 1st January to 30th June, 1987.

(b) to (d) Keeping in view the acute drought condition in the country and the overall situation, the Staff side has been requested to agree to deposit the D.A. due from 1-7-1987 in their GPF accounts. The discussions are still going on and the final decision is expected to be taken shortly.

[Translations]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker Sir, it is good that the hon. Minister has admitted that prices have gone up. I was actually thinking that he may deny this fact.

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : We always speak the truth.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : It is good that you speak the truth but Mr. Speaker, Sir, a very large number of Government employees draw very low salaries and due to phenomenal rise in prices, they are facing serious problems and are in great trouble. The hon. Minister is right in saying that our country is in the grip of a dreadful drought situation and the Government is thinking in the right direction to combat it but it is also true that the low paid employees of the Government of India have been seriously affected by the drought conditions and consequent price-rise. If you do not pay the dearness allowance at the earliest, then only two alternatives will be left to them, that is, either to accept bribes or commit thefts or indulge in some other unlawful activities. Thus the Government will be responsible for their wrong conduct. If relief is not provided to these poor people earning such meagre salaries, how will they be able to support themselves. Today they have to face many hardships due to phenomenal rise in prices. Besides, as an hon. Member has just referred to Pakistan border, they may not infiltrate elsewhere, we will have to give a serious thought to it as well.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is a very experienced person and he knows

MR. SPEAKER : In which field he has gained experience ?

SHRI B. K. GADHVI : The hon. Member is aware that 95 per cent employees of the Government of India belong to 'B', 'C', and 'D' Groups. He is also aware that if we pump more money into the market, there will be further rise in prices. It is our responsibility to pay dearness allowance and we have already agreed to pay and we are going to pay it. But at present negotiations are going on with them and if they agree to deposit the D. A. amount due to them in their G. P. F. accounts, we will be in a better position to check rise in prices and also combat the drought situation more vigorously financially.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have no objection if he persuades them to deposit the D.A. arrears in the G. P. F. accounts. But as regards the current payment, he should release it forthwith so that they do not have to face any more difficulties because they are already facing lot of hardships due to rise in prices. He should find a way out by which a settlement can be reached at the earliest and their difficulties removed. He may get the arrears deposited in the Provident Fund in view of the drought situation but he must release the current D. A. payment according to the present price index. I hope that you will arrive at a settlement soon.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

Shrimp Export

*3. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any projections of shrimp export have been made by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) for 1987-88;

(b) the expected projection of shrimp export for the last financial year quantity-wise;

(c) whether a steep down-trend is anticipated this year in terms of quantity; and

(d) if so, the reasons for inviting foreign companies to further exploit the dwindling marine resources ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI : (a) and (b) Projection made for export of shrimp by the MPEDA for the last financial year was 50,000 tonnes and that for the year 1987-88 is 51,000 tonnes.

(c) and (d) As per the present indications, a steep down-trend in marine fishery catches is not anticipated this year. However, Government have taken steps for the development of deep sea fishing through Joint Ventures 100% FOU in order to fully exploit the resources in deep sea and increase our exports.

Financial Assistance by Central Bank to Drought Affected State

*6. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Regional Offices of the Central Bank of India have offered financial assistance to the drought affected States in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to all commercial banks, including Central Bank of India, to provide credit facilities to persons affected by drought for undertaking second sowing or raising alternative crops, short-duration crop, fodder etc., conversion of short term loans into medium term loans, assistance for production of seeds, rescheduling of investment credit where failure of crop warrants, expeditious sanction of loans for minor irrigation purposes, consumption loans to small & marginal farmers and other weaker sections upto Rs. 500/- and for setting up of Fair Price Shops.

In areas affected by drought consecutively for three years or more, banks are to defer recovery of the amounts falling due for a period of two years, or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. Banks have also been instructed not to charge penal interest in these cases nor should they compound interest on dues postponed. In the case of short term loans, the total interest payable by small & marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount. Banks are to charge a rate of interest of 10% per annum on short term loans upto Rs. 5,000/- in the case of farmers who have suffered three or more consecutive droughts and where loans have been converted/rescheduled.

Central Bank of India has reported that according to information available it has provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 8.34 crores and facilities in the matter of conversion of short term into medium term loans, rephasing of term loan instalments etc. in respect of outstanding loans amounting to Rs. 7.88 crores.

Violation of Fera and RBI Rules by Nationalised Banks

*8. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHAR-AMURTHY :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector banks in the country have been found indulging in large scale violations of FERA and Reserve Bank of India rules while mobilising foreign currency (FCNR) deposits;

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

(c) the action taken by Government against the authorities responsible therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to keep a close watch on the functioning of the public sector nationalised banks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Presumably,

the question is based on the news item appearing in Financial Express dated 19-9-1987. Inquiries have revealed that no Central Agency has submitted any report as stated in the News Item. Reserve Bank of India have also reported that according to violations of FERA/RBI regulations by banks, as alleged, have come to their notice. Reserve banks of India have been requested to look into the matter further.

Thrust Areas Export Plans by E.P.C.s.

*9 DR. V. VENKATESH:

SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Councils (EPCs) have been asked recently to prepare detailed export plans geared for thrust areas and markets;

(b) if so, whether the Export Promotion Councils have submitted the export plans; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the Export Promotion Councils have submitted Action Plans for Export.

(c) Engineering Export Promotion Council, Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council, Council for Leather Exports and Wool & Woollen Export Promotion Council have already submitted Action Plans for exports.

Indian Fairs in Foreign Countries

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

(a) the names of countries where Indian Fairs have been organised so far;

(b) to what extent these fairs have helped to boost exports; and

(c) what is the Government's policy about having more Indian Fairs/Indian Trade Fairs in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) The names of countries where exclusive Indian Exhibitions have been organised by Trade Fair Authority of India during the last 5 years and during 19*7-88 (upto October (87) are indicated at Annexure-I. The prime objectives of holding exhibitions abroad are to project India's industrial and commercial capabilities, to explore business opportunities and possibilities of mutual cooperation for trade promotion. It is difficult to quantify the share of fairs and exhibitions in India's foreign trade because fairs and exhibitions constitute only one of the several modes of trade promotion. However, an indication of the success of the Indian exhibitions organised abroad can be had from the figures of business booked in these exhibitions which is also shown in the Statement below.

(c) While selecting venues for Indian Exhibitions, due regard is given to the most promising locations. The following factors are also taken into account :-

- (i) only those countries offering good export potential for Indian products are selected;
- (ii) only those countries are selected where general international fairs of importance are not held;
- (iii) care is taken to select those countries where India's achievements and capabilities in diverse fields have to be adequately projected; and
- (iv) efforts are also made to organise at least one Indian exhibition in each region, sub-region every year.

Government will also continue to organise Indian Exhibitions wherever necessary and desirable.

Statement

Sl. No.	Name of the country where exclusive Indian Exhibitions have been organised by T.F.A.I.	Years in which exhibitions were organised and details of business booked (Rupees in lakhs) in them by participants.					
		1982-83	1983-84	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87 (upto Oct, 87)	1987-88
1.	Malaysia	28.41	—	—	—	—	—
2.	U.K.	28.00	—	—	—	—	—
3.	Kuwait	2140.00	—	—	—	—	—
4.	Venezuela	50.89	—	—	—	—	—
5.	Seychelles	—	0.60	—	—	—	—
6.	Saudi Arabia	—	1150.00	—	—	—	—
7.	Ivory Coast	—	44.10	—	—	—	—
8.	Vietnam	—	2.89	—	—	—	—
9.	Mauritius	—	—	74.97	—	85.50	—
10.	Nepal	—	—	36.00	—	—	—
11.	U.S.S.R.	—	—	9844.00	—	4010.00	—
12.	France	—	—	—	106.14	—	—
13.	Qatar	—	—	—	23.90	—	—
14.	Kedya	—	—	—	70.27	—	—
15.	Cadada	—	—	—	180.55	—	100.00
16.	Oman	—	—	—	—	930.00	—
17.	Bangladesh	—	—	—	—	2410.00	—
18.	Burma	—	—	—	—	120.00	—
19.	Singapore	—	—	—	—	—	2699.56
20.	Afganistan	—	—	—	—	—	461.45

Counter Trade

*11. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the grounds of the decision to go in for counter trade;

(b) which new markets could be explored only because of the introduction of counter trade; and

(c) other gains reaped on account of counter trade ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c) Government has decided to encourage Public Sector Undertakings and private sector enterprises to promote exports, linked to imports of capital goods and bulk imports in order to augment foreign exchange earnings, gain access for Indian products and manufactures in new markets and develop new marketing channels. Since this policy has come into operation effectively only recently, it is slightly early to assess the implications of its operation.

Powerloom Units in Konkan Districts

*12. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the prolonged Textile strike in Bombay a large number of displaced textile workers migrated to Sindhudurg and Ratnagiri district of the Konkan region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the estimate of such migrated workers; and

(c) whether there are any efforts with the assistance of the Union Government to set up powerloom units in these districts of Konkan to provide employment to the textile workers who have migrated from Bombay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF

WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAMNIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (b) It is reported that during the last prolonged strike period in Bombay, many textile workers returned to their native places including Konkan region of Maharashtra. It is, however, not possible to give any precise estimate of the number of displaced textile workers who returned to the Konkan region.

(c) The Central Government have not received any proposal for assistance to set up such powerloom units.

Committee to Review cases of Blacklisted Companies

*13. INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a committee has been set up to review cases of some 20 companies falling under business blacklist;

(b) if so, the names of these black-listed companies and the reasons for their being so black listed; and

(c) the reasons for reviewing their cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Companies which wilfully and persistently default substantial amount of taxes receive less preferential treatment warranted by such default. The list is reviewed periodically by a Committee of Secretaries. The list undergoes changes frequently because some companies pay off the dues and their names get deleted from the list while some others whose accumulated arrears cross the cut-off limit of Rs. 5 crores or 5% of the tax paid for the period concerned whichever is higher, get into the list.

Working Group Report On Lead Bank Scheme

*14. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to the Unstarred Question No. 450 on 25 February, 1987 regarding working group report on Lead Bank Scheme and state :

(a) whether the Working Group on the Lead Bank Scheme has since finalised its report and submitted the same to Government :

(b) if so, the main recommendations made in the report and the Government decision on them ;

(c) the likely date by which the implementation of the decision would be ensured; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay and the likely date by which the report is likely to be submitted ?

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

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) The Working Group felt it necessary to undertake some field studies and to discuss issues at local levels. This took some time. The Group has almost completed its deliberations and is likely to submit its report in the near future.

Incentives For NRI Investment

*15. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to give more incentives to attract non-resident Indian investment ; *

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether Government are reviewing all the existing scheme to see what improvements can be made in them ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) NRI investment schemes are reviewed from time to time and suitable changes made, wherever necessary.

Nationalised Banks Schemes to Help Drought Victims in Karnataka

*16. SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR : SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any schemes have been evolved and implemented by the nationalised banks in the drought hit areas of Karnataka

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any report has been obtained from the nationalised banks as to the nature and extent of the assistance rendered by them to the drought flood affected victims, and

(d) if so, the outcome of the evaluation made by Government of these reports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for providing credit facilities to persons affected by drought including for those in the State of Karnataka for undertaking second sowing or raising alternative crops, short-duration crop, fodder etc. conversion of short-term loans into medium term loans, assistance for production of seeds, rescheduling of investment credit where failure of crop warrants, expeditious sanction of loans for minor irrigation purposes, consumption loans to small & marginal farmers and other weaker sections upto Rs. 500/ and for setting up of Fair Price Shops.

In areas affected by drought consecutively for three years or more, banks have been advised to defer recovery of the amounts falling due for a period of two years or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. Banks have also been instructed not to charge penal interest in these cases nor should they compound interest on dues postponed. In the case of short-term loans, the total interest payable by small & marginal farmers should not exceed the principal amount. Banks

are to charge a rate of interest of 10% per annum on short-term loans upto Rs. 5,000/- in the case of farmers who have suffered three or more consecutive droughts and where loans have been converted/rescheduled.

The information so far received for the country as a whole indicates that financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 206.77 crores has been provided to 299094 beneficiaries. In addition conversion of short-term loans to medium term loans and rescheduling of loans have been extended in 177845 accounts involving an amount of Rs. 102.21 crores.

Privatisation in Defence Production

*17. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal for the privatisation of defence production either wholly or in part;

(b) whether any steps have been taken towards the privatisation of defence production if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government tested artillery shells produced by any private enterprise; and

(d) if so, the outcome of such tests ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no proposal to denationalise any defence production unit. To enable the Ordnance Factories to maximise utilisation of their resources for production of sophisticated and high tech. defence equipments, the production of low technology and low value added items are being entrusted to the Civil Sector (Public & Private) to the extent capacities exist in the country.

(c) and (d) Shell Forgings for 105 mm Artillery Shells have been procured from three sources in the private sector. The pilot samples of the Shell Forging offered by these firms were subjected to all the prescribed tests and only after they were found acceptable, clearance for bulk production was granted to them.

Concessional Loan from Japan

*18. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH : SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Japan has extended a concessional loan of 29.5 billion yen (Rs. 270 crores) to help ease the strain on India's balance of payments due to widespread drought;

(b) if so, for which purpose this loan is to be utilised; and

(c) the scheme under which the loan has been sanctioned and the specific items that India propose to import ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) The Japanese Government have indicated that they will be willing to extend a loan of Yen 29.5 billion (about Rs. 270 crores) with a view to assisting India in its drought relief and economic reconstruction.

(b) and (c) The loan will be made available to cover payments for the import of such commodities as may be agreed to between the two countries. The loan agreement is yet to be negotiated and signed. The loan has been proposed through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan.

Export Oriented Units Status to Iron Ore Industry

*19. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether iron ore exporters have demanded the Status of 100 percent export-oriented units to iron ore industry; and

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

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) and (b) Iron ore exporters, mainly from Goa, have requested for 100% Export

Oriented Unit (EOU) status for iron ore industry in view of increased cost in mining and industry being fully export oriented in certain sectors. Government have decided to extend the benefit of 100% EOU scheme to mining sector, including iron ore under the terms and conditions as under the existing scheme.

Seizure of Gold by DRI

*20. SHRI M. RAGHUMA RIDDY;
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK : Will the Minister of
FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized gold worth Rs. 79 lakhs as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 17 October, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any arrest has been made and ;

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI B. K. GADHVI) :

(a) to (d) In pursuance of an information, the Officers of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, New Delhi, on 15th October, 1987, searched the residential premises of S Shri Sat Pal Bhandari and his son Ravinder Kumar Bhandari at Dera Wala Nagar, Delhi and another premises at 56, State Bank Colony, G. T. Road, Delhi. During the course of the search, one person identified as Hira Lal who had come to the premises in his Maruti car to enquire about Shri Sat Pal Bhandari was apprehended. Shri Hira Lal admitted that he had brought gold in his car to deliver the same to Shri Sat Pal Bhandari. On examination of the car, 220 foreign marked gold biscuits of 10 tolas each valued at about Rs. 79 lakhs were recovered from a cavity in the car. The gold and the Maruti car valued at Rs. 85,000 were seized under the Customs Act. The search of Bhandari's premises resulted in the recovery and seizure of Indian currency amounting to Rs. 11 lakhs. S, Shri Sat Pal Bhandari, Ravinder

Kumar and Hira Lal were arrested under the customs Act.

Facilities to official of Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh

1. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the allowances facilities to staff/officers in the regional rural banks of Andhra Pradesh are uniform ; and

(b) if not, the details of disparities and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (c)
As per section 17 (1) of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976 the pay and allowances of Officers and other employees of Regional Rural Banks including those of Andhra Pradesh are fixed according to the pay and allowances available to the equated category of posts in various State Governments including Andhra Pradesh Govt. The existing data reporting system does not yield exact information about the pay and allowances being paid by different Regional Rural Banks in States. However, instances of disparities and as when brought to the notice of Govt. NABARD are looked in to and remedial action taken wherever found necessary.

Rise in Prices

SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the
Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the overall prices of commodities have risen phenomenally and steadily over the last few months ;

(b) if so, whether this price rise continued even upto August-September and October ;

(c) the main reasons for this high rise in prices ; and

(d) the steps taken to check it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. KeE
GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The requisit

information on the monthly variation in All India Wholesale Price Index for All Commodities (base 1970-71 100) since April during the current year as also last year, is as under :

Month/Year	Percentage variation* in Wholesale Price Index	
	1986	1987
April	1.0	0.8
May	1.5	2.4
June	1.2	0.9
July	1.4	1.6
August	0.9	1.7
September @	Neg.	No.Ch.

Average of weeks
Latest available.

(c) and (d) The normal seasonal pressure on prices at this time of the year has been further aggravated by the drought conditions.

Government's anti-inflationary policy includes effective demand and supply management through strengthening of public distribution system, allocation of additional stocks of foodgrains to drought affected areas, augmenting domestic availability of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils, pulses, and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system. Central Government has also advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketeering.

• Iron Ore Exported from Paradeep Port

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

(a) the quantity of iron ore exported from Orissa through Paradip Port during last three years ; year-wise ;

(b) through which agency the export of iron ore, is being made;

(c) whether the Orissa Mining Corporation has requested to allow them to export iron ore directly ; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yearwise exports of iron ore from Orissa through Paradeep port during last 3 years is as under :-

Year	(Qty. in Million Tonnes)
	Quantity
1984-85	1.607
1985-86	1.870
1986-87	2.079

(b) Export of iron ore is canalised through Minerals & Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. except iron ore of Goan origin which is also allowed to be exported directly by Goan exporters to certain permissible destinations. Exports of iron ore concentrates and pellets are canalised through Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Ltd.

(c) and (d) Orissa Mining Corporation has not discussed with the Central Government recently for permission to export iron ore directly. However, in 1983, on their request, Orissa Mining Corporation was permitted to directly canvas orders for export of iron ore procured from Orissa region and consider the servicing of such orders by itself.

Position of Currency Note Printing Press in West Bengal

4. SHRI MANIK SANYAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state .

(a) the present position of the proposed currency note printing press in West Bengal; and

(b) expected time when it would be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The detailed feasibility report is under preparation.

(b) It would take about 48 months for the completion of the project from the date of approval of the investment decision.

Export of Polyester Fibre and Filament Yarn

6. SHRI R. M. BHOYE :

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government have introduced the value added concept for export of polyester fibre and filament yarn ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the policy of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) Government has decided to permit export of polyester fibre and filament yarn subject to ceiling on first-come-first served basis. Advance Licence could also be granted on export of polyester Fibre Filament Yarn subject to fulfilment of value addition criteria and other conditions as stipulated in Appendix-19 of Import Export Policy, 1985-88.

Purchase of Indian Equipment by USSR

7. SHRI CURUDAS KAMAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union is ready to purchase Indian equipment and chemicals for its oil sector ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The USSR has evinced interest in purchase from India of equipment and chemicals for its oil sector. An Indian Government-cum Industry delegation visited the USSR in Sept. 1987 to pursue the matter further. As a result of this visit, commercial negotia-

tions between Indian and Soviet organisations have commenced and we may expect that there would be positive results from those developments.

Import of Penicillin

8. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the policy of Government for allowing imports of Penicillin-G and Penicillin-V separately ;

(b) whether the guidelines for issue of import licence have been violated during last two years ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken against the responsible officers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Under the Import Policy for 1985-88, import of Penicillin G/V is allowed against supplementary import licences granted on the basis of certification of essentiality and indigenous clearance.

As Penicillin-G is indigenously available, its import is required to be linked to the lifting from the indigenous producers.

At present Penicillin-V is not produced in the country. Consequently its import is being allowed where a manufacturer could use only Penicillin-V as raw material and not Penicillin-G. As Penicillin-G is indigenously available, switch-over from use of Penicillin-G to Penicillin-V, as raw material, is not being permitted.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Review of New Economic Policy

9. SHRI PURNA CHANDRA MAILK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any review of its New Economic Policy ; and

(a) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The development in the economy are kept under constant review and changes in economic policy are effected as required in the light of the emerging trends. In view of the current drought, for example greater emphasis is being given to economy in expenditure, provision of reliefs to people in affected areas and control of inflation.

Rationalisation of Excise Duty

10. SHRI H. B. PATIL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have rationalised the excise duty rates in respect of certain consumer electronic items ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) New rates in respect of various affected items are :

<u>Description</u>	<u>Rates</u>
(1) Radios in combination with clock.	Twenty percent ad valorem.
(2) Broadcast television receiver sets (mono-chrome) of screen size not exceeding 15 centimetres.	Rs. 200,00 per set.
(3) Broadcast television receiver sets (mono-chrome) of screen size not exceeding 15 centimetres in combination with,	

(i) clock Rs. 200.00 per set.

(ii) Radios with or without clock Rs. 250.00 per set.

(iii) Cassette recorder player with or without clock Rs. 300.00 per set.

(iv) Cassette recorder player and radio with or without clock. Rs. 350.00

(4) Broadcast television receiver sets (mono-chrome) of screen size exceeding 15 centimetres but not exceeding 36 centimetres in combination with radio with or without clock. Nil.

(5) Broadcast television receiver sets (mono-chrome) of screen size exceeding 36 centimetres in combination with .

(i) Clock Rs. 300.00

(ii) radio with or without clock. Rs. 350.00 per set.

Loan given by Rural Banks in Gujarat

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

(a) the number of beneficiaries who have received loans from the rural banks in Gujarat and the amount advanced during the last three years ;

(b) whether it is a fact the at the rural banks in Gujarat have given a very poor performance in providing financial loans to individuals, agriculturists and others ;

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the efficiency of these banks ; and

(d) the details of instructions issued to these banks by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJJARY): (a) The information asked for is indicated in the following Table :-

T A B L E

Year ending December	No. of Loan A/Cs	Amount of loans (Rs. in Lakhs)
1984	35780	762.87
1985	53549	1234.81
1986	81602	1977.83

(b) to (d): Out of the above, the agricultural advances as at the end of December, 1984; 1985; and 1986 stood at Rs. 492 Lakhs, Rs. 839 Lakhs and Rs. 1419 Lakhs respectively. The annual growth in outstanding loans and number of beneficiaries in respect of nine RRBS in Gujarat has been found to be higher as compared to the All India growth. However, the NABARD is monitoring the progress of RRBS individually every quarter and RRBS are suitably advised in regard to the deficiencies found in their performance for taking remedial steps wherever necessary.

[*Translation*]

I. F. Raids

12. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the places where raids have been conducted in the country by the Income Tax Officers during the last 6 months;

(b) the details of the assets seized as a result thereof and the number of the persons against whom cases have been filed in court so far; and

(c) reasons for not filing cases against the remaining defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) to (c) The Income Tax Department conducted 4267 searches during the period 1-4-1987 to 30-9-1987 resulting in the seizure of prima facie unaccounted assets such as cash, jewellery etc. amounting to Rs. 49.89 crores.

No case has so far been launched in the courts for prosecution consequent to the searches conducted during the last six months. This is so because normally cases for prosecution are launched after the assessments are completed and are decided upon in the first appeal. Also, prosecutions are not launched in cases where the tax-payer, in his statement during search, surrenders the value of unaccounted assets for taxation. Such surrenders during the above six months amounted to Rs. 32.61 crores.

[*English*]

Tax Holiday to Foreign Fishing Vessels

13. DR. T. KALPANA DEVI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has given a hundred per cent tax holiday to foreign chartered fishing vessels operating in Indian waters;

(b) the foreign exchange earned from chartered fishing vessels in 1986-87;

(c) whether similar concessions are proposed to be extended to the Indian fishing vessels; 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) No, Sir. However, as the provision of Income-tax Act does not extend to the continental shelf of India and Exclusive Economic Zone of India in respect of fishing activities in these Zones, the income of foreign chartered fishing vessels operating in these areas are not liable to tax under the Income-tax Act, 1961.

(b) S 12,92,600.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The income of the Indian fishing vessel's operating in the continental shelf of India add the Exclusive Economic Zone of India shall be liable to tax as any other income which is not otherwise exempt under the Income-tax Act. Under the provisions of the Act, the global income of an Indian concern is liable to tax. The Indian Enterprises would, however, be eligible for deduction in respect of profits from Export Business, under section 80HHC of the Income-tax Act.

Garment Export Corporation

14. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Corporation for export of garments; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under Government's consideration at the moment.

[*Translation*]

Medical Insurance Scheme of National Insurance Company

15. SHRI SHANT DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have under consideration a Scheme of the National Insurance Company for medical insurance;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government on this Scheme of the Company so far; and

(c) if no action has been taken, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR-

DHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) A medical Insurance Scheme known as 'Mediclaim' for individuals has already been introduced in the country w.e.f. 3rd November, 1986 and is being marketed by the four subsidiaries of the General Insurance Corporation of India including National Insurance Company Limited.

(c) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Delay in Payment of Matured Policies by I. I. C.

17. DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether payment of matured policy is not made by Life Insurance Corporation well in time causing inconvenience and unnecessary harassment to policyholders;

(b) if so, the steps Government are contemplating for making quick payment; and

(c) the number of such cases pending for payment during last three years in Uttar Pradesh with specific number of cases in Basti District and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. LIC makes all out efforts to settle maturity claims on or before the maturity dates.

(c) The numbers of maturity claims pending for payment during the last three years in Uttar Pradesh and in Basti District are given below :-

As on	In Uttar Pradesh	In Basti District
31-3-1985	5910	54
31-3-1986	5973	29
31-3-1987	5189	82

These claims were pending due to one or more of the following reasons:

(i) Non-receipt of basic requirements such as original policy documents,

completed discharge vouchers claim forms etc. from the policyholders.

- (ii) Non-availability of the policyholders at their recorded address.
- (iii) Delay in submission of indemnity bond for loss of original policy document.
- (iv) Delay in submission of legal title to the policy money.
- (v) Clearance from exchange control authorities, wherever necessary.

Textile Mills taken over by NTC

18. SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILE be pleased to state :

- (a) the names of cotton textile mills whose management was taken over by the National Textile Corporation or the State Government in 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88;
- (b) their installed capacity in terms of spindles/looms;
- (c) production capacity in terms of cloth produced and major types of cloth produced ;
- (d) the terms under which the management has been taken over;
- (e) whether any other mills have closed down subsequently ; and
- (f) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (f) National Textile Corporation has not taken over the management of any textile mill during the

years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 so far. Information is not available in respect take-over of management by State Governments.

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

19. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the Cash Compensatory Support Scheme is to cover more items;
- (b) whether Government propose to continue the export of fresh fruits, grains, vegetables, processed and frozen foods despite shortages and high prices in the country; and
- (c) the item-wise export of these items, during last three years and the earnings therefrom year-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Cash Compensatory Support can be extended to all export items where adequate and representative cost data to justify grant of this facility within the parameters of the scheme can be provided.

(b) In view of the low levels of export of fresh fruits and vegetables and processed foods compared with current levels of domestic production and consumption, it is proposed to continue the existing policy on export of these items. Exports of wheat and non-basmati rice have been allowed only within limited ceilings which represent insignificant volumes in relation to domestic production.

(c) Exports of these items are indicated in the statement below.

Statement

		Value in Rs. Lakhs		
		1984-85	1985-86*	1986-87*
1.	Fresh Mangoes	1412	1637	1200
2.	Other fresh fruits	867	793	1300
3.	Fresh vegetables	2088	1651	1960
4.	Fruit juices & canned and bottled fruits	4495	4989	3934
5.	Canned vegetables	115	158	172
6.	Dehydrated vegetables	333	137	167
7.	Pickles & Chutneys	544	544	620
8.	Wheat	1109	5549	7481
9.	Basmati Rice	12168	17323	20678
10.	Non-Basmati Rice	Nil	Nil	132

*Provisional.

Scrapping of 100% Export Oriented Units

20. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to scrap the scheme of 100% Export Oriented Units ; and

(b) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

Fixation of Sales Tax Rates

21. SHRI AKHTAR HASAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi and its neighbouring States are divided over the assessment and fixing of the rates of Sales Tax; and

(b) if so, whether the National Capital Region Plan will help in solving the problem since the towns around Delhi will form part of it ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Sales tax is a State subject of taxation under the Constitution. Different States and Union Territories have the powers to levy different rates and adopt different procedures in respect of assessment, levy and collection.

(b) Does not arise.

Strike by Class III and IV Employees of Bangalore Branch of Reserve Bank of India

22. SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of days for which the Class III and IV employees of Bangalore Branch of Reserve Bank of India were on strike;

(b) the reasons for their strike;

(c) whether their demands were settled;

(d) whether the public were put to great inconvenience due to prolonged strike ; and

(e) the action taken/proposed by Government to avoid hardship to people in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Following an incident of indiscipline and insubordinate behaviour by a section of Class III employees, three Class III employees were suspended and report lodged with the police authorities. To press their demand for revocation of suspensions and withdrawal of police cases and in response to a call by the Reserve Bank Employees-Association, Class III employees were on strike for 41 days from 21-8-87 to 30-9-87. Class IV employees also struck work in support for 13 days.

(c) to (e) Following the intervention of Chief Labour Commissioner, a settlement was reached between the Bank Management and the All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association. According to the terms of settlement, the Association agreed to call off the strike and the management assured them that there would be no victimisation of employees for mere participation in strike like. However, the management did not agree to revoke the suspensions of the erring employees but agreed to conduct the enquiries by the competent authorities.

During the strike period, essential public services in Bangalore office were maintained by the RBI with the help of a section of staff. The clearing house also functioned normally. Reserve Bank of India has also indicated that all the Government payments were made and the public was also not put to any inconvenience during the period of strike. In future also, it will be Government's and RBI's endeavour to ensure that public is not put to and inconvenience.

Technological Upgradation Scheme of IDBI

23. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Industrial Development Bank of India has taken up a technological upgradation scheme for capital goods industry under which the concessional rates of customs duties were agreed to for the import of components and equipments to facilitate modernisation ; and

(b) if so, the capital goods industries which qualify for such concessional rates ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The Technological Upgradation Scheme of the Industrial Development Bank of India covers inter-alia fiscal relief by way of concessional rate of duty for import of specified list of capital equipment for technology upgradation of select capital goods industries.

(b) The capital goods industries which qualify for the concessional rate of 35% *ad valorem* in terms of notification 317/87 Customs, dated 17th September, 1987 are

- (i) Electrical machinery comprising electrical motors, transformers, circuit breakers and AC drives ;
- (ii) Power generation equipment comprising boilers, turbines, generators and their auxiliaries such as condensers, heat exchangers, coal mills, electrostatic precipitators, exciters and instrumentation and control systems ;
- (iii) Ferrous castings and steel forgings ;
- (iv) Machine Tools ;
- (v) Following selected industrial machinery :
 - (1) Metallurgical machinery
 - (2) Mining machinery

(3) Selected chemical equipment

(4) Sugar mill machinery

(5) Rubber machinery

(6) Food processing machinery.

Change in Gold Control Act

24. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the exporters of gems and jewellery have sought a change in the Gold Control Act to help double the export of jewellery in the next three years; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) No specific proposal has been received from the Gem and jewellery trade for any relaxation in the Gold Control Act for doubling the export of Gem and jewellery in the next three years,

(b) In view of (a) above the question does not arise.

Unearthing of Illicit Liquor Distilleries

25. DR. G.S. RAJHANS :
SHRI LALITESHWAR SHAHI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of illicit liquor distilleries have been unearthed by excise officials from different parts of the country recently;

(b) if so, the details of such raids conducted during the last 6 months; and

(c) the steps taken by Government against them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) Since the subject-matter of question pertains to the State

List, the Government of India do not have information of the same.

Proposal to Set Up Silkworm Project in Orissa

26. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up a silkworm rearing project in Orissa;

(b) if so, the name of the place where such silkworm project is expected to be set up;

(c) what would the production capacity of that silkworm project; and

(d) when the project is expected to be set up ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (d) In 1986-87 an Intensive Mulberry Sericulture Development Project has been sanctioned for implementation in Ganjam District of Orissa over a period of 4 years with an outlay of Rs. 4.27 crore with financial participation of Govt. of Orissa, Central Silk Board, Financial Institutions & NABARD. The project envisages an increased production of 1.8 lakh kg. of cocoons resulting in an increased production of 17 tonnes of raw silk.

Opening of Bank Branches in Bihar

27. SHRI RAM SWARUP RAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated a licensing policy for opening new branches of nationalised banks in different areas of Bihar;

(b) whether the focus of the policy is on the expansion of banking facilities in deficit areas; and

(c) whether Government propose to open branches in the rural areas of Gaya district (Bihar) ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANAR DHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 has been formulated for the country as a whole. The same Policy is applicable to all the States/ Union Territories including the State of Bihar. The main objective of the Policy is to achieve one bank office for every 17,000 population in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and filling up spatial gaps to ensure that at least one bank office is available within a distance of 10 kms. from each village. The task of identifying the potential growth centres was entrusted to Lead Banks/State Governments. The State Government of Bihar had forwarded to RBI a list of 49 identified centres for opening bank branches in District Gaya. Since the information furnished by the State Government was incomplete, RBI has advised the Government of Bihar to furnish the list of identified centres alongwith the information required as per policy guidelines. The allotment of eligible centres will be considered by RBI on receipt of the requisite information from the State Government.

Open Tender System for Garment Export

28. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an open tender system has been introduced for garment quotas under the new garment export policy;

(b) if so, whether this policy favours the more affluent exporters and excludes smaller manufacturers; and

(c) if so, the reasons for change of policy ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All exporters including small exporters are eligible to compete under this System.

(c) Does not arise.

Increase in Subsidy on Janata Cloth

29. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the subsidy on the Janata cloth; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No decision to increase the subsidy on the Janata cloth has been taken by Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Coconut Oil Import

30. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of coconut oil imported during 1987 against replenishment licences for exports of fatty acids;

(b) the price being paid by Government for imported coconut oil;

(c) the purposes for which imported coconut oil is used; and

(d) whether Government propose to consider to ban import of coconut oil in view of the difficulties faced by the poor coconut growers due to the diminishing prices of coconut within the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The statistics on import of Coconut Oil against REP licences issued on export of Fatty Acids is not maintained.

(b) and (c) No import of coconut oil have been made by the Government during 1987.

(d) Since only very limited import of coconut oil is permissible against export of Fatty Acids/Fatty Amines, for export production, no proposal for disallowing the import of Coconut oil against REP licences is under consideration.

Target for Manufacture and Distribution of Janata Cloth

31. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the target fixed for the manufacture and distribution of Janata cloth during 1986 and to what extent it was achieved; and

(b) the total target set for 1987-88 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The target fixed for the production and distribution of Janata cloth during 1986-87 and the achievement are 500 million square metres and 460.64 million square metres respectively.

(b) The total target of Janata cloth fixed for 1987-88 is 325 million square metres.

Tax Exemption to Repayment of Loans

32. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposed exemption under section 80(c) of the Income Tax Act, paid by the assessee for the purpose of purchase of or construction of residential house will also apply to repayment of loans and payment of instalments ;

(b) whether an assessee who purchases or constructs a house property for his own residence out of his own resources is entitled to deduction under sec. 80 (c) ; and

(c) if so, the particulars thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes Sir, it will apply to repayment of loans and payment of instalments in the cases specified in Section 80C (2) (h) (ii) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Ban on Export of Cotton and Cotton Yarn

33. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum and value of cotton and cotton yarn exported every year during the past three years ;

(b) whether greater relaxation and facilities have been granted recently for export of cotton and cotton yarn ;

Item	1984-85		1985-86		1986-87	
	Quantum	Value	Quantum	Value	Quantum	Value
*Cotton.	1.60	58.92	4.41	99.00 ^a	13.81	247.81
**Cotton) yarn.)	9.06	36.42	10.86	45.37	27.93	100.97

*Quantum in lakh bales and value in Rs. crores.

**Quantum in Million Kgs. and value in Rs. crores.

^a This includes spill-over of 9.71 lakh bales of 1985-86 crop shipped in 1986-87.

(b) No relaxations and facilities have been given recently for export of raw cotton. In respect of exports of cotton yarn the quantity ceiling of 60s has been increased to 75 Million Kgs. Government announced cash compensatory support of-8% for export of cotton yarn of all counts in July, 1986.

(c) and (d) The export of cotton/cotton yarn will be decided from time to time keeping in view the level of production of cotton/cotton yarn, domestic requirements and the prices ruling in the domestic and International Markets.

Pepper Export to USA

34. PROF. K. V. THOMAS : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the export of pepper to USA is facing a crisis ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) the steps being taken to improve the export of pepper ; and

(c) whether Government will consider imposing restrictions/ban on export of cotton and cotton yarn in view of their acute domestic shortage leading to exorbitant rise in prices and crisis among workers ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The quantum and value of cotton and cotton yarn exported during the last three years is as follows:

(d) the quantity of pepper exported during last three years to different countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) Import of pepper from India into USA has been placed under automatic detention by the food & drug administration of USA. Consequently every shipment from India is now being inspected by FDA before it is released into USA markets. This has happened because some of our black pepper shipments have been alleged to have contained some extraneous material.

(c) The steps being taken to improve the export of pepper include tightening of quality control inspection procedure, improving Godown facilities of packers and of Port Trust Authority Cochin and educating the growers on the need for better processing of pepper.

(d) A statement on quantity of pepper exported during the last three years to Principal markets is given below.

Statement

QTY : Metric Tonnes.

Countries	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
	QTY.	QTY.	QTY.
USSR	14893	8256	9468
USA	1152	14039	15091
Czechoslovakia	1048	826	866
Italy	989	1153	2220
Yugoslavia	976	934	883
GDR	814	1349	343
Poland	844	1300	410
Hungary	555	—	100
Canada	525	937	671
Rumania	500	306	50
Japan	329	373	520
Bulgaria	160	361	150
UK	121	441	3589
Saudi Arabia	52	438	677
Other Countries	2364	6807	4853
Total	25822	37520	36660

Source : Sources Board, Cochin.
1986-87 figures are provisional.
Figures exclude 209 tonnes of white
Pepper and other pepper.

Decline in Small Savings Collections

35. SHRI KRISHNA SINGH : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether small savings collections in 1986-87 declined by 25.69 per cent as compared to the preceding year ;

(b) if so, the comparative small savings figures for the last two years ; and the likely corresponding figures for the current year ; and

(c) the reasons for the decline ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) The pattern of investment by Non-Government Employees Provident Funds was

revised from 1,4.86, as per which these funds could not invest in Post Office Time Deposits. Excluding the net collections in Post Office Time Deposits for comparison, the net collections under small savings were as under :

1985-86 — Rs. 3243 crores

1986-87 — Rs. 3822 crores
(Provisional)

It is estimated to collect Rs. 4200 crores during the current year.

Joint Venture Between India and Nepal to Promote Trade

36. SHRI S. M. GURADDI :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India and Nepal have reached an agreement to promote trade and economic cooperation through joint collaborations in a number of projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) There is no formal agreement between Governments of India and Nepal to promote trade and economic cooperation through joint collaborations in projects. However, at the Inter-Governmental Committee Meeting held in Kathmandu in September, 1987, it has been decided to take steps to promote joint ventures.

Rise in Non-Plan Expenditure

37. SHRI H. M. PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been an excessive growth in non-Plan expenditure in recent months (since January, 1987);

(b) whether this has resulted in the abnormal price-rise; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to check non-Plan expenditure and arrest further price-rise?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Capital of Nationalised Banks

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

(a) the amount pumped into the nationalised banks to increase the capital base, year-wise, for the last three years; and

(b) the reasons why the nationalised banks are not earning much to increase their own capital?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) During 1985-86 and 1986-87, the Central Government, had subscribed a sum of Rs. 400 crores in each year to the paid up capital of the nationalised banks which as per the Scheme the banks invested in Special Government Securities. A sum of Rs. 200 crores is provided for in the current year's Budget to be utilised in the same manner.

The nationalised banks are increasing their Reserve Funds out of their annual profits which are influenced by factors such as increasing costs of operations, sizeable investments in approved securities, increasing proportion of lending at concessional rates of interest etc. These increases in the Reserve Funds have not, however, been commensurate with the deposit growth of these banks to yield the desired Capital : Fund Ratio.

New Policy Relating to Garment Export

39. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new policy relating to garment export is proposed to be formulated;

(b) if so, the prime objective of such a policy; and

(c) when such policy is likely to be introduced?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) On 15th October, 1987 Government has announced Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for Garments for the period 1st January, 1988 to 31st December, 1990. The main objectives of the Policy are :

(i) Maximum utilisation of annual limits.

(ii) Optimum realisation of foreign exchange.

(iii) Orderly development of export trade consistent with the above two objectives.

Credit Package from France

40. SHRI D.N. REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether France has proposed a credit package of about 3.5 billion francs, equivalent to about Rs. 700 crores to India, to cover the foreign exchange commitment of three projects in which French firms will be participating; and

(b) the names of the projects and the progress made in this respect ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) France has offered financial packages totalling 3.8 billion Francs for the Dulhasti hydro-electric project in Jammu & Kashmir and the telecommunications factory at Bangalore. These offers by France are in addition to the general protocol credits provided by France for financing other mutually agreed projects.

Negotiations are going on between National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and French consortium led by CGE Alsthom to conclude the contract for Dulhasti Hydro Electric Project. Regarding ESS-II factory at Bangalore a decision is yet to be taken.

Credit Camp Held by Vijaya Bank in Moti Nagar, Delhi

41. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Vijaya Bank in Moti Nagar, Delhi conducted a credit camp recently;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any complaints about this credit camp demanding a CBI inquiry into the whole affair; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Vijaya Bank has

reported that they have conducted a credit camp at Moti Nagar on 2.8.1987 to disburse loans under different schemes of Government Agencies/Reserve Bank of India following the norms and guidelines prescribed by Reserve Bank of India to accelerate lendings under various schemes.

(b) and (c) Vijaya Bank has further reported that they have received a complaint regarding irregularities of loans. The complaint was looked into by the bank and it is found that no irregularities has been committed in disbursement of loans.

Trade Deficit

42. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 12 October, 1987 captioned "Rs. 292 Crore fall in trade deficit";

(b) whether imports during April-August 1987 has registered an increase as compared to the figures of April-August, 1986;

(c) if so, the extent of such increase and the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to initiate to bring country's imports to the optimum minimum level ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. According to the provisional data available India's imports during April-August, 1987, amounted to Rs. 8463.26 crores as compared to Rs. 7492.54 crores during April-August, 1986, thereby registering an increase of 13.0%.

The product groups in respect of which India's imports have increased during April-June, 1987, for which commodity wise data is available as compared to April-June, 1986, include Edible oil, Sugar, Petroleum and petroleum products, Metalliferous ores & Metal scrap, Precious & semi-precious

stones, Electric machinery, Transport equipment, Organic and inorganic chemicals, Artificial resins, plastic materials, Professional & scientific controlling instruments etc. Higher imports have been effected to support the levels of consumption of essential items, investment and production in the country.

(d) Various efforts are being made to effect efficient import substitution particularly in the area of bulk imports. It has also been decided not to encourage imports of non-essential items.

Decline in Cardamom Prices

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

(a) whether there has been a continuous decline in the price of cardamom during last three years;

(b) whether this has resulted in heavy losses to the growers; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to arrest the decline in prices and provide a remunerative price to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The prices of cardamom at auctions during the last 3 years have been as follows :-

Year	All India Auction price (Rs. per kg.)
1984-85	199.91
1985-86	132.80
1986-87	118.82

(c) The following steps have been taken by Govt. :-

1. The Spices Trading Corporation is making purchases to stabilise prices. It is hoped that the purchases of the Spices Trading Corporation will ensure reasonable prices to the growers.

2. The Spices Board is closely monitoring the market trend to protect growers interest.

3. Incentives for export such as C23 and air freight subsidy at Rs. 7 per kg. have been provided.

[Translation]

Compensation to the People of Pithoragarh, U.P. for Acquisition of Land by Army

44. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that during China's attack on India in 1962, the Army had acquired land of local people of Dharchula, district Pithoragarh, Uttar Pradesh by giving nominal compensation;

(b) if so, whether he is also aware of the fact that most of these people belong to SC/ST; and

(c) if so, whether his Ministry propose to consider to give them some more amount as financial assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) to (c) No land was acquired by the Ministry of Defence in Dharchula, District, Pithoragarh (UP) during 1962. However, land measuring 142.434 acres was acquired on 24-2-73, compensation for which amounting to Rs. 10,03,260.35 assessed by the Land Acquisition Officer as per the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, has already been paid to the concerned people.

As per the law, the compensation has been paid to all including the owners of the acquired lands belonging to SC/ST, and it is not possible to give any more financial assistance to any of the owners whose land has been taken.

Raids on Industrialists and Film Stars

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

(a) the number of industrialists and company owners whose houses were raided for evading excise duty and income tax and the number of film actors and actresses whose houses were raided for evading income tax during 1983 to 1987; and

(b) the number of prosecution cases pending against them and the number of cases settled in favour of Government and also of those settled in favour of defaulters ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The information to the extent possible is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Muga Silk Production

46. SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the major centres of muga silk production;

(b) the amount of muga silk produced during last three years year-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken to produce more muga silk to meet domestic demand and to boost export ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The major centres of Muga silk production are Assam and Meghalaya.

(b) Year	Production (in M. Tonnes)
1984-85	43
1985-86	54
1986-87	55

(c) Towards development of silk industry, a Muga Seed Development Project is being implemented at a cost of Rs. 3.85 crore which aims at building up of infrastructure for systematic production and supply of commercial muga silkworm seeds. Towards marketing of muga cocoons, Central Silk Board have set up a Muga Raw Material Bank at Sibsagar with Sub-Depots in Lower Assam and Meghalaya. Muga Reeling Demonstration and Training Centre is set up at Sibsagar. A Regional Muga Research Station is functioning in Assam with 3 Extension Centres located in Assam and Mizoram. Since present production is small and there is a high indigenous demand, the possibilities of boosting exports of Muga Silk fabrics are limited.

States Share in Small Savings Collection

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

(a) whether State Governments share in loans from small savings has been increased from two thirds to three fourth; and

(b) State-wise break-up of this amount for 1986-87 and 1987-88 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The States share in net small savings collections has been increased from 2/3rd to 3/4th with effect from 1.4.1987.

(b) Statewise break-up of loan against small savings net collections, sanctioned during 1986-87 and 1987-88 (April to October, 1987) is indicated in the statement below.

Statement

Loans sanctioned to State Government during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 (upto October, 1987) against net small savings collections.

S. No.	Name of State	(Rs. in lakhs)	
		1986-87	1987-88 (upto October, 87)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	13200	7921
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	—	18
3.	Assam	5300	3638
4.	Bihar	22444	8723
5.	Goa	—	370
6.	Gujarat	27319	19502
7.	Haryana	7500	5926
8.	Himachal Pradesh	3005	2464
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	2152	2057
10.	Karnataka	17071	5143
11.	Kerala	5832	3705
12.	Madhya Pradesh	9567	6248
13.	Maharashtra	57200	31361
14.	Manipur	96	50
15.	Meghalaya	353	269
16.	Mizoram	—	24
17.	Nagaland	88	81
18.	Orissa	4419	2225
19.	Punjab	13955	11077
20.	Rajasthan	9540	5362
21.	Sikkim	6	33
22.	Tamil Nadu	12100	5239
23.	Tripura	400	328
24.	Uttar Pradesh	33398	27836
25.	West Bengal	35055	13136
	Total :-	280000	162735

*Translation]***Mustard Export**

48. SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of mustard exported during the last three years and the names of countries to which exported;

(b) the profit earned by Government therefrom; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the action proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) Export of mustard/rape seed is not normally allowed as per the Export policy. During the last 3 years a small quantity of 120 Kg. of mustard seeds valued at Rs. 768/- were exported to USSR in 1985-86.

*[English]***Income Tax Arrears in Film Industry**

49. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the first ten names of the film stars with highest tax dues to the Income Tax authorities with respective dues against each;

(b) the first ten names of the Income Tax payers from the film industry, other than film stars, with highest tax dues to the Income Tax authorities, with the figures of quantum due, individually;

(c) whether penal prosecutions have been launched in any of the cases; 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) The names of the top 10 film stars and income-tax demand outstanding against them as on 30-9-1987 are given in the Statement-I below.

(b) The names of the top 10 income-tax payers from the film industry, other than film stars, and income-tax demand outstanding against them as on 30-9-1987 are given in the Statement-II below.

(c) and (d) The position of prosecution in respect of film stars whose names appear in Statement-I is given below.

Amjed Khan	—	Concealment of income
Jayaprada	—	-do-
Rekha	—	Concealment of income
Ganeshan	—	and wealth.

As regards the Income-tax payers other than film stars whose names appear in Statement-II, no prosecutions has been filed.

STATEMENT-I

Sl.No.	Name of the Film Star	Demand Outstanding as on 30.9.1987 (Rs. in lakhs)
1.	Ranbir Raj Kapoor	152.54
2.	Rajesh Khanna	71.09
3.	Jayaprada	63.24
4.	Jitendra Kapoor	47.01
5.	Rekha Ganeshan	45.57
6.	R. Rajinikanth	39.02
7.	Amjed Khan	34.42
8.	A. Sreedevi	24.62
9.	Shashi Raj Kapoor	24.39
10.	Sreeram Lagoo	22.85

STATEMENT-II

Sl.No.	Name of the Assessee	Demand outstanding as on 30.9.1987 (Rs. in lakhs)
1	2	3
1.	Sujatha Films (P) Ltd.	380.40
2.	Prakash Mehra	184.03
3.	Sunlight Films	179.01
4.	Aruna International	144.45
5.	Amarnath Kapoor	106.69
6.	K.R. Films	89.92
7.	Kewal Suri	88.02
8.	Suresh Desai & Associates	75.83
9.	Akbar Ali Khan	67.90
10.	O.P. Ralhan	53.83

Opening of Bank Branches in Sikkim

50. SHRIMATI D. K. BHANDARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 3759 on 19 August, 1987 regarding growth rate of banking industry in Sikkim and state :

(a) the names of the banks to which seven centres for opening of bank branches in Sikkim have been allotted ; and

(b) the progress made in opening of each of these branches as on 31 October, 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) The names of banks to whom the 7 centres were allotted in Sikkim by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) under the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90, are indicated below. Necessary licences have also been issued to the allottee banks. RBI has intimated that as per information available with them, the banks have not opened the branches at these centres so far. RBI has advised the banks that branches at the allotted centres should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of the current Policy.

Name of Centre	Name of District	Names of allottee bank
1. Phodong	North Sikkim	State Bank of India
2. Dikchu	-do-	-do-
3. Majhitar	East Sikkim	-do-
4. Pakyong	-do-	-do-
5. Rhenock	-do-	Central Bank of India
6. Legchip	West Sikkim	-do-
7. Mangalbarey	-do-	-do-

Promotion of Woollen Textiles in Kashmir

51. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken for the promotion of woollen textiles in Kashmir :

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) To promote woollen textiles in Jammu & Kashmir, 17 applications covering a capacity of 28,212 spindles and 32 powerlooms have been approved. A proposal submitted by the State Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir for setting up of a process house at Pulwama for processing of woollen yarn/fabrics has also been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 167.37 lakhs.

[*Translation*]

**Cases of Malpractices by Bank Officers
in Bihar**

52. SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of officers found involved in the cases of bribery and bungling during the period 1st January to 31st October, 1987 in various banks in Bihar and the number of officers out of them against whom action has been taken, the number of officers arrested and the total amount involved in embezzlement/bungling and details of amount recovered therefrom ;

(b) the particulars of the officers found guilty of corruption/corrupt practices ; and

(c) the total number of bank officers/employees against whom C. B. I. has been conducting an inquiry and total number of cases in which Government are likely to get inquiry report by 31st December, 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that banks report all cases of frauds, including misappropriation, criminal breach of trust, credit facilities extended for reward or for illegal gratification, fraudulent encashment, manipulation of books of accounts or through fictitious accounts and conversion of property, negligence, cheating and forgery, irregularities in foreign exchange transactions and other corrupt practices. The

Reserve Bank of India has further reported that the total number of cases of frauds in India reported by the public sector banks to it during the period 1st January, 1987 to 30th June, 1987 irrespective of the dates of occurrence, is as given below :

No. of frauds -----	Amount involved ----- (Rs. in crores) -----
951	14.58
(Data provisional)	

It has been pointed out by the RBI that the present system of compilation of statistics relating to cases of frauds does not generate state-wise information.

(b) The Reserve Bank of India has intimated that as reported by the public sector banks, during the period 1.1.87 to 30.6.87, the number of delinquent employees against whom action has been taken for their involvement in cases of frauds and corrupt practices is given below :-

	Frauds -----	Corrupt practices -----
	(upto 30.6.1987) -----	
1. No. of employees convicted on charges of frauds/corrupt practices	46	—
2. No. of employees given major/minor penalties	370	275
3. No. of employees out of (2) above dismissed/discharged/removed	137	53
4. No. of employees against whom departmental proceedings are pending	882	370
5. No. of employees against whom prosecution is pending in Court	2176	1731
	(Data provisional)	

(c) Information is being collected and to the extent available will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Indo-French Trade Talks

53. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-French Trade talks were held in October, 1987 in Paris ; and

(b) if so, the main features of the talks and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) Yes, Sir, The sixth session of the Indo-French Joint Committee meeting was held in Paris from 26 to 29 October, 1987.

(b) This meeting concentrated mainly on measures to help reduce the imbalance in bilateral trade, step up industrial and technological collaboration between the two countries, develop joint research and development cooperation, besides sectoral cooperation in specific projects relating to areas like power, health, environment, mining, agriculture and transport.

Bank Loans for Working Capital

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

(a) whether there is a scheme for providing loan for the purchase of equipments and loan for working capital for the benefit of disadvantaged sections ?

(b) the total amount of loans disbursed through banks under this scheme in Kerala during 1986-87 ; and

(c) the number of beneficiaries in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) All credit linked schemes such as Integrated Rural

Development Programme (IRDP), Self-Employment to Educated Unemployed Youth (SEEUY) and Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor (SEPUP) etc. envisage provision of credit not only for purchase of equipment but also for working capital. The data regarding performance under these schemes in Kerala during 1986-87 as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is furnished below :

Scheme	No. assisted	(Rs. in lakhs)
		Amount
IRDP	143399	4189.60
SEEUY	11456	1867.23
SEPUP	10504	390.74

Commercial banks also provide composite loan i. e. a single loan for purchase of equipment and working capital combined under composite loan scheme formulated by RBI. In Kerala Rs. 2 337.41 lakhs have been disbursed to 460783 beneficiaries under composite loan scheme during 1986-87.

Earnings from Spices

55. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the export earnings from different spices with spice-wise break-up during 1986-87 ;

(b) whether there has been a progressive decline in the earnings from these spices over the year ;

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

(d) the remedial measures taken to boost their export ?

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

(b) to (d) The value of total export of spices has been increasing over the years

except during 1986-87 when it registered a marginal decrease due to fall in exports of cardamom owing to carry over stocks in the middle-east, less demand, fall in production and higher prices. The Govt. is taking various measures to boost export

of spices which include grant of Cash Compensatory Support, import replenishment air freight subsidy on cardamom and other marketing promotion schemes for West Asia, North Africa, USA & Canada etc.

Statement

Export of Spices from India During the Financial Year 1986-87

(Quantity : M. Tons : Value : Crores Rs.)

Commodities	1986-87	
	Quantity	Value
Pepper	36879	199.15
Cardamom Small	1447	18.50
Chillies	4029	4.49
Ginger Dry	4742	5.55
Turneric	18744	18.48
Curry-Powder	2575	3.91
Other Spices	10933	12.45
Oils & Oleoresins of Spices	437	14.75
Total	79786	277.28*

*The figures are still provisional.

Adulteration in Tea Packages for Export

56. SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of tea packages meant for export to West Asia were recently found tampered with and adulterated at the warehouse before these were shipped from Calcutta ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter ; and

(d) if so, outcome thereof along with the action taken/proposed to be taken against those involved in the adulteration of tea packages meant for export ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) M/s Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. (A Govt. of India Enterprise) were to export 1400 metric tons of tea to the Govt. Trading Corporation, Iran. The Company engaged the services of M/s Milton Tea packaging & Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta who were operating from a hired godown. While weightment of inspected/approved original teas was in progress prior to gunny wrapping and shipment, one of the tea chests accidentally fell down and split open. The company supervisor present on the spot found that the contents of the broken chests is were grossly inferior to the original sampled tea. All other chests which were already approved were opened and they prima facie appeared to be tampered with.

(c) and (d) A police case has been filed at the garden reach police station M/s

Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd. has taken action to recall and withhold shipment of all teas which have been processed at the above contractors godown earlier and were awaiting shipment to the docks. The company has decided to carry out reinspection of all teas processed in the above contractors godown before these are eventually exported. The local representative of the importing organisation has been appraised of the situation and assured that if any chest out of the present shipment is found to contain inferior tea the same will be replaced free of cost.

Withdrawal of Benefits to Staff of Regional Rural Banks in Andhra Pradesh

57. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing benefits to the staff in the regional rural banks of Andhra Pradesh are being withdrawn ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, in the case of officers, some benefits have had to be withdrawn because the equated category of post in the State Government does not enjoy these benefits.

Field Supervisors in RRBs in A.P.

58. SHRI SURESH KURUP : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) to which cadre the field supervisor at regional rural banks of Andhra Pradesh is equated in the State Government ;

(b) whether the regional rural banks have not upgraded the post of field supervisors although the State Government upgraded the equated cadre without any additional duties ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) To the post of Extension Officer (Cooperation).

(b) and (c) The Regional Rural Banks have not upgraded the post of Field Supervisor because unlike as in the State Government additional duties have not been given to the Field Supervisors.

Export Incentives to Firms

59. SHRI CHAUDHARY RAM PRARKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry have urged Government to grant special incentives to the firms engaged in export business with a view to increase foreign exchange earnings ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India in their background paper for a Workshop 'Doubling exports by 1990' held on 15th October 1987, made certain suggestions to promote India's exports. These suggestions were duly considered and it is felt that the existing policy framework is adequate to deal with most of the practical suggestions made.

Seizure of Smuggled Goods by Customs Authorities

60. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of goods seized by the customs authorities at all the international airports during the last three years, year-wise year-wise ;

(b) the total quantity of gold seized during the said period ;

(c) whether a large quantity of gold is being smuggled into the country ;

(d) if so, the steps being taken to check the smuggling at airport ; and

(e) the manner in which these confiscated goods are being disposed off ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI

B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The details of goods seized by the Customs authorities at the international airports in the country during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto September) are given below :-

(Value Rs. in Crores)

Commodity	1985	1986	1987 (upto September)
Gold	24.53	23.67	19.80
Watches	1.79	2.10	2.21
Synthetic fabrics	1.02	1.22	0.53
Dangerous drugs	4.71	1.50	1.98
Indian/Foreign currency	2.96	2.99	2.74
Others	5.50	6.10	5.77
Total	40.51	37.58	33.03

(b) Total quantity of gold seized under the Customs Act throughout the country, including at the international airports, during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto September) is given below :

Year	Quantity (in Kgs.)
1985	2525
1986	2174
1987 (upto September)	1497

(c) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sensitive to smuggling into the country.

(d) The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of sea coast, land border regions and airports remain alert to check and detect smuggling into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as : metal detectors, X-ray machines are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention

and detection of smuggling into the country.

(e) The following are the modes of disposal of certain categories of confiscated goods ripe for disposal :-

- (i) Gold and silver are deposited in the Mint and foreign currency with Reserve Bank of India ;
- (ii) Trade goods are sold by auction trader ;
- (iii) Consumer goods are also sold to public through registered Co-operative Societies Federations including National Consumers Co-operative Federation, Military/Para Military/Police canteens etc.
- (iv) Heterogenous and miscellaneous goods seized in small lots from passengers, post parcels, etc. are sold to public in retail through Customs retail shops.

Expenses of Tea Board on Advertising

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

(a) the total expenditure incurred by the Tea Board on TV and press advertising to foreign countries during the last three years, year-wise ;

(b) the names of the countries which are importing tea from India and the value of tea exported to them annually ; and

(c) the steps taken to popularise Indian tea in other countries to boost the trade ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The expenditure incurred by the Tea Board on TV and Press advertising in foreign countries during the last three years were as follows :

(Figs. in equivalent Indian Rupees)

	TV Advertising	Press Advertising
1984-85	1,86,519	18,12,546
1985-86	2,21,730	14,81,706
1986-87	31,98,130*	14,45,577

*Increased with the launching of Indian tea campaign in Egypt in 1986-87.

(b) Generally about 80 countries are importing tea from India. The names of the major countries are UK, Irish Republic, Netherlands, West Germany, France, Malta, USSR, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, USA, Canada, Qatar, UAE, Oman, Yemen, Bahrain, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, ARE, Libya, Sudan, Morocco, Afghanistan, Japan, Singapore, Nepal, Australia and New Zealand.

The value of tea exported to the countries during the last three financial years are given below :

1984-85	Rs. 771.39 crores
1985-86	Rs. 647.98 crores
1986-87	Rs. 619.23 crores*

*Estimated

(c) Some of the important measures taken during recent years for boosting up our exports of tea are follows :-

- 1) Excise duty rebate of 50 paise per kg. on all tea exports.
- 2) Excise duty rebate on tea going into packets as well as the duty on tea packets.
- 3) Higher CCS for packet tea, tea bags and instant tea.
- 4) Abolition of customs duty on filter paper used in the manufacture of tea bags.
- 5) Exemption of excise duty on tea bags (which are mainly for exports).
- 6) Provision of upto 10% of f.o. b. realisation for advertisement and promotion by individual companies abroad (June-1987).
- 7) Assistance to exporters of packet tea under the Brand Promotion Fund Scheme and Warehousing Subsidy Scheme.
- 8) Introduction of a scheme for providing loan to new packeteer for building up packaging capability in order to broaden the packet tea production base in the country.
- 9) Bilateral arrangements with some countries for exports of tea.
- 10) Import replenishment for import of raw materials for export in value added form.
- 11) Tea Board's promotional activities which include :-
 - a) Generic promotion programme through Tea Councils. India is presently a member of the Tea Councils of UK, West Germany, US, Canada and Australia.
 - b) Uninational campaigns such as in Egypt and Saudi Arabia

and other unimational programmes through Board's overseas officers.

- c) Promotional support to Indian exporters, media publicity, delegations, sampling of Indian teas abroad through in-store demonstrations, mobile tea vans etc. participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.
- d) Highlighting the quality of Indian tea through the introduction of Darjeeling Logo Campaign in the U.K. market.

Support Price for Raw Jute

62. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government have fixed support price of raw jute ;
- (b) if so, the details thereof ;
- (c) on what basis the support price has been fixed ;
- (d) whether the growers are demanding more price ; and
- (e) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Statutory minimum price for W-5, Grade of raw jute for delivery at Calcutta (ex-Calcutta other States) for 1987-88 season has been fixed at Rs. 334.50 per quintal as against the prices of Rs. 308.50 per quintal fixed during 1986-87 season.

(c) The Govt. fixes the statutory minimum prices for different grades/varieties of raw jute after taking into account all relevant factors including the recommenda-

tions of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) ; views of concerned Central Ministries, Planning Commission etc. While formulating their recommendations the CACP take into consideration various factors including the cost of production, demand and supply position, inter-crop price parity, the need to provide incentive to the producer for adopting improved technology and for maximising production, the likely effect of the price policy on the rest of the economy etc. etc.

(d) and (e) Yes Sir, However, it may be noted here that the statutory minimum prices for raw jute are fixed by the Government after taking into consideration all relevant factors including the recommendations of CACP etc.

Import of Aluminium

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

- (a) the quantity of aluminium imported during the last three years, year-wise from which country and at what rate ;
- (b) whether Government provide subsidy for the import of aluminium by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) so as to market it at par with the indigenous metal without taking into consideration the disparity in the duty structure; and
- (c) whether Government have received representations in this regard and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) A statement showing the quantity and value of aluminium imported by MMTC during the years 1985, 1986 and 1987 (upto October, 1987) is given below.

(b) No Sir,

(c) Does not arise.

Statement

Country wise Purchases of Aluminium Ingots (Cleender year)

(Qty : in MT)
(Value : Rs. crores)

	1985		1986		1986 (Act)	
	Qty.	Value	Qty.	Value	Qty	Value
Argentina	4782	7.15	660	1.05	—	—
Barzil	5170	6.80	13350	21.78	21000	41.22
Dubai	1000	1.33	5250	8.26	2666	4.72
Indonesia	—	—	11000	17.03	—	—
Spain	—	—	950	1.52	—	—
Venezuela	—	—	2000	3.13	3000	6.33
Egypt	—	—	—	—	1000	1.88
China	—	—	—	—	642	1.32
Hungary	—	—	—	—	351	0.27
Norway	—	—	—	—	11250	22.96
Russia	1000	14.74	10063	15.93	9967	21.40
Rumania	—	—	—	—	5008	9.55
Bahrain	4000	5.82	10136	15.95	4475	9.33
Total	24952	35.80	43273	84.65	59366	119.43

Proposal to Ban Export of Yarn64. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :****SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :**

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Textiles Corporation has started exporting yarn to countries other than the Soviet Union ;

(b) what is Government's policy regarding export of yarn instead of exporting value added products like cloth or readymade garments ;

(c) what efforts are being made to export cloth and readymade garments especially to Soviet Union and other Socialist countries ; and

(d) whether Government propose to ban export of yarn in due course ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exports of cotton yarn are allowed with a view to improve utilization of spindle capacity and to earn foreign exchange. Cotton yarn is exported because there is market for it as there is market for cloth and readymade garments.

(c) India's textile trade with Soviet Union and other socialist countries is governed by Trade Plan Provisions fixed annually. At the time of trade talks, effort are made to negotiate higher provisions and to persuade these countries to lift quantities in accordance with provisions made. Besides, the Textile Export Promotion Councils undertake regular export promotion measures such as participation in fairs sending trade delegations, organising Buyer-Seller Meets etc. in these countries.

(d) At present, there is no proposal before the Government to ban export of cotton yarn.

Production of Yarn and Cloth65. **SHRI GURDAS KAMAT :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total production of yarn and cloth during the year 1986-87 as compared to the year 1984-85 ;

(b) what are the total earnings from textiles during 1986-87 ;

(c) the total earnings from the textile exports during 1986-87 ; and

(d) whether Government propose to allot more quantity of coarse cloth in the public distribution system ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Total production of yarn during 1986-87 was 1471 million kgs. as against 1382 million kgs. during 1984-85. The production of cloth during 1986-87 was 12777 million metres as compared to 12014 million metres during 1984-85.

(b) Total excise revenue collected from cotton and man-made fabrics produced by textile industries during 1986-87 was Rs. 535 crores.

(c) Total earnings from textile exports excluding jute, coir and handicrafts were Rs. 2580 crores during 1986-87.

(d) There is no proposal to allocate any additional quantity of controlled Janata cloth over and above the target of production in this year.

Fixation of Seniority of Assistants in AFHQ66. **SHRI P. KANNAN :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the dispute between departmental promotees and direct recruits for their seniority in the grade of Assistant of AFHQ Civil Service had been sorted out by the Supreme Court order dated 25 April, 1985 ;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof in view of the Supreme Court direction on 17 February, 1987 to the effect that seniority has to be determined on the basis of continuous officiating service ;

(c) whether a revised seniority list of ACSOs is also being delayed due to review

of the whole matter and this delay is affecting many retiring officers who are denied their due promotion ; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to implement the decision of the Supreme Court ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLY IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL):

(a) No, Sir. After this judgement the Hon'ble Central Administrative Tribunal pronounced their judgement on this issue on 22 Aug. 1986. The Hon'ble Supreme Court also passed orders on 17 Feb. 1987 and 10 Aug. 1987 in this regard.

(b) The seniority list of Assistants issued in terms of the Supreme Court judgement dt. 25 April 85 and the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal dt. 22nd Aug. 86 was again revised after the Supreme Court order dt. 17 Feb. 87. It was issued on 8 May 1987.

(c) No, Sir. The seniority of promotee ACSOs amongst themselves based on the Court's judgement has since been determined and notified vide Note No. A/05111/Review Panels 77-78 to 86-87/CAO (P-1) dated 2nd November, 1987.

(d) The following steps have already been taken :-

- (i) Revised seniority list of Assistants of AFHQ Civil Service issued on 8 May 1987.
- (ii) Panels of Assistants for officiating promotion to the grade of ACSO for the DPC years 1977-78 to 1986-87 have been reviewed and published.
- (iii) Inter-se seniority of promotee ACSOs amongst themselves determined and issued.
- (iv) 37 ACSOs (Direct Recruit Assistants) who did not figure in the reviewed panels have been reverted to the grade of Assistant.

Formulation of Gold Storage Policy by MMTC

67. **SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new policy regarding sale and storage of gold by the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation ;

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

(c) when it is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) A scheme for MMTC to stock and release gold to gold jewellery manufacturing and exporting units in the 100% Export Oriented Gold Jewellery complexes has been proposed. As per the scheme, a foreign supplier is to make available gold for MMTC to stock and sell to these Units. The quantity of gold used in exports is to be replenished by purchase of gold from the foreign supplier at the ruling international price of gold.

(c) The scheme will be implemented, if and when approved.

Licences for Opening of Nationalised Banks Branches

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India have taken any steps to ensure that the nationalised banks take positive measures for opening new branches of the respective banks which were given licences under the current Branch Licensing Policy ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the names of branches opened by each of the nationalised banks since the sanction of the licences in the State of Himachal Pradesh in the Seventh Five Year Plan ;

(d) whether there are instances where certain banks have refused to open any branch or not opened any branch so far in Himachal Pradesh ; and

(e) if so, the names thereof and the action taken by the Reserve Bank of India against these banks and the steps taken to ensure the early opening of these branches ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that while issuing licences, banks have been advised to take effective steps for opening branches at places for which licences are issued to them. RBI has also advised the banks that branches should be opened in a phased manner during the remaining period of current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 and indicate their schedule of opening the branches period-wise to its Regional Offices under whose jurisdiction the centre fall. In addition, Task Forces have also been set up at each Regional Office of RBI to monitor the progress of opening of branches.

(c) RBI has reported that nationalised banks have opened so far 8 branches in Himachal Pradesh under the current Policy as per details given below :-

Name of Centre	Name of District	Name of Bank
Dabhota	Solan	Punjab National Bank
Majhwar	Mandi	-do-
Bankhandi	Kangra	-do-
Sunhi	-do-	-do-
Rajhoon	-do-	-do-
Darini	-do-	-do-
Chamunda	-do-	Central Bank of India
Karcham	Kinnaur	Punjab National Bank

(d) and (e) RBI has reported that none of the banks have refused to open the branches in Himachal Pradesh except UCO Bank which had expressed its inability to open branches at the 19 rural and semi-urban centres allotted to it in Himachal Pradesh under the current Policy, on the grounds that 73% of its existing branches in India are already in the rural and semi-urban areas and there are administrative and other problems in increasing this percentage. RBI has since reallocated these 19 centres in Himachal Pradesh to other banks.

Restriction on Import of Methylene Chloride

69. SHRI D. P. JADEJA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether vide notification No. 2080 ITC (PN)/85-88 dated 17-8-87 Government have restricted the import of Methylene Chloride ; and

(b) if so, how Government propose to provide relief to units manufacturing drugs ?

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

(b) Methylene Chloride has been shifted to the list of limited permissible items with effect from 17th August, 1987. Keeping in view the indigenous availability of the item, the requirements of imports are met by issuing supplementary licences to actual users after ascertaining the indigenous availability and the essentiality.

Rise in Gold Prices

70. SHRI B. L. SHAIKESH :
SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has recently been a sharp increase in the gold prices in the domestic market ;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ;

(c) the reasons why the quantity of newly-mined Indian gold keeps shrinking every year; and

(d) whether Government have initiated any steps to check not only the bullish trend in gold prices but also check its domestic consumption and hoarding by the unsocial elements, tax dodgers and its smuggling from the Gulf and clandestine imports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Shortage of supply, seasonal demand and anti-smuggling measures should be the reasons for increase in prices.

(c) The gold production by Bharat Gold Mines Limited, a Public Sector Undertaking of Central Govt., has been falling over the years mainly due to the gradual exhaustion of reserves coupled with fall in grade of ore.

(d) Since gold is not an essential commodity, Government has not found it necessary to take any steps to check the increase in prices of gold or its consumption and hoarding. Government has intensified the anti-smuggling drive throughout the country, particularly in vulnerable areas to check and detect smuggling. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as metal detectors, X-ray machines are utilised for detection of gold concealed on the person of passengers and in their Baggage in Cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the Central and State agencies concerned with the prevention and detection of smuggling into the country.

Vacant Posts of Chairmen of STC & MMTC

71. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the post of Chairmen of State Trading Corporation and Mineral & Metals Trading Corporation are at present vacant; and

(b) if so, how and when are these likely to be filled up?

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

(b) Steps have already been initiated to fill up the posts as early as possible.

Rapeseed offer of EPC

72. DR. B. L. SHAIKESH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the EEC countries are offering rapeseed to India on preferential credit;

(b) if so, the quantity offered and its f. o. b. price; and

(c) the Government response there to?

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

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Income Tax Raids

74. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of business houses raided by the Income Tax Department during the quarter from July, 1st, 1987 to September 30th, 1987, statewise;

(b) the total quantum of tax evasion detected during this period; and

(c) how many cases have been registered under the Income Tax Act during this period?

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

Benefits of Seniority and Fixation of Pay to ECOs/SSCOs.

75. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether benefits to seniority and fixation of pay are given to ECOs/SSCOs recruited against reserved vacancies in public sector banks ;

(b) whether similar benefits are extended to ECOs/SSCOs recruited against reserved vacancies in financial institutions such as Life Insurance Corporation ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for discriminatory treatment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) Benefits of seniority and pay fixation are allowed to Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers who were Commissioned between 1.11.1962 to 10.1.1968 and were appointed in public sector banks under the administrative control of Ministry of Finance (Banking Division) against posts reserved for them.

(b) In respect of Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers recruited against reserved vacancies in Life Insurance Corporation, total emoluments drawn by such officers at the time of their release are protected. However, no weightage is given by Life Insurance Corporation for their past service, for purposes of seniority.

(c) The posts in Public Financial Institutions like Life Insurance Corporation are isolated posts, and vacancies occur in different positions in these institutions.

Consequently, the point of entry varies from one institution to another depending upon the experience and qualification for a post and the suitability of Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers for the said post. Further, the service conditions of employees in Life Insurance Corporation (including seniority) are governed by the (Staff) Regulation which has the force of law. Granting the benefit of seniority to Ex-Emergency Commis-

sioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers in respect of their past service, to the detriment of existing staff in Life Insurance Corporation, will contravene the (Staff) Regulation. In view of these reasons, Life Insurance Corporation does not grant weightage for past service to Ex-Emergency Commissioned Officers/Short Service Commissioned Officers for purposes of seniority.

Disposal of Narcotics

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

(a) whether significant quantities of drugs have been seized under the Narcotics Act; and

(b) if so, the steps taken for their disposal to ensure that they are not recycled ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Considerable quantities of drugs, specially of heroin and hashish (charas), have been seized during 1986 and 1987, as indicated by the following figures :

	1986	1987 (upto 30.9.87) (Quantity in kilograms)
1. Hashish	18,909	9,553 7 hashish oil
2. Heroin	2,621	2,260
3. Mandrax	1,485	1,166

(Figures for 1987 are provisional and rounded off to the nearest kilogram)

(b) The confiscated drugs ripe for disposal, after due legal proceedings, are sent to the Government factories. While opium and morphine are further processed, other drugs are destroyed.

Licences to 100 Per Cent EOUS

77. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether licences are liberally given for imports required by the 100% Export Oriented Units (EOUs);

(b) if so, the number of such units and the quantum of foreign exchange released during 1985-86 and 1986-87; and

(c) whether the exports of such units justify the liberal treatment given to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) Units approved under the scheme of 100% EOU's are required to achieve stipulated levels of value addition taking into account the export earnings and the foreign exchange outgo. Subject to the terms of the approval, the scheme provides for the import of capital goods and production requirement by a unit under Open General Licence. The grant of specific import licences and release of foreign exchange for the purpose of 100% EOUs, therefore, does not arise. The number of valid approvals granted to 100% EOUs is 623 and the number of units in operation in accordance with reports received is 45. Exports under the Scheme have been progressively increasing since its inception. Government have recently taken measures to improve the working of the scheme and enhance the export capability.

Ordnance Factory in Andhra Pradesh

78. SHRI T. BALA GOUD :

DR. (MRS.) T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up an ordnance factory in Sidavaram in Kodur Taluka of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any survey in this regard; and

(c) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Writing Off of Loans by State Governments

79. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has criticised the policy of writing off of loans by State Governments;

(b) the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to take any steps to discourage this tendency on the part of State; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) In a Press release issued by Reserve Bank of India on 12.8.87, the Governor, RBI has clarified that no authority other than the Commercial Banks themselves can write off the bank loans. RBI has, accordingly, advised banks that only they are competent to judge the recoverability of the advances/loans and no other authority can take such a decision on behalf of the banks. As RBI has suitably advised the banks, no further instructions from Government have been issued to the banks in this regard.

[*English*]

Help to Fishermen by MPEDA

80. DR. (MRS) T. KALPANA DEVI : SHRI CHAUDHARY RAM PRAKASH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps to be taken by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to fetch good prices for the products of our fishermen;

(b) whether any complaints have been received regarding mal-functioning of the MPEDA; and

(c) the steps being taken to ensure that primary producers of shrimp are not exploited by exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MÜNSI) : (a) The unit value realisation of our marine products from exports is increasing every year, which shows that our fishermen are realising competitive prices for their produce.

(b) and (c) We have received certain letters concerning MPEDA. There was recently a problem of remunerative price of shrimp from Vizag. which has now been sorted out with the involvement of exporters, trawlar owners and other authorities concerned.

World Bank Assistance to Develop Sericulture in Andhra Pradesh

81. DR. (MRS) T. KALPANA DEVI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposal to develop sericulture in Andhra Pradesh with World Bank assistance is pending with the Agriculture Finance Corporation;

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

(c) the reasons for the delay and when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) to (c) Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC) has reported that a report for sericulture development in Andhra Pradesh has been prepared by them and submitted to that Government. AFC has further reported that there has been no delay in submission of the report from their side. As regards the figures relating to total outlay of the project, the same is being ascertained and will be laid on the Table to the House.

Collections of Small Savings Schemes

82. SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have obtained information regarding collections of small savings scheme including the Indira Vikas Patras;

(b) if so, whether there have been poor response to these schemes;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) further steps Government propose to take to extend more and more facilities to the people in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POJARY) : (a) to (d) The information regarding deposits in small savings schemes shows lesser deposits under some schemes. To improve collections, a new MONTHLY INCOME SCHEME was introduced on 15.8.1987. Government is considering steps necessary to maximise collections. A special drive for three months from 2.10.1987 has already been launched.

NTC Team to USSR

83. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether high-level team of the National Textile Corporation it so visit the USSR to discuss ways and means to augment export of textiles to that country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The memorandum of understanding signed as a result of the visit to USSR in June, 1987 of a high level NTC delegation led by its Chairman-cum-Managing Director provides, inter-alia, that NTC delegation will visit Moscow at the end of September, 1987 to negotiate for signing the deal relating to new varieties. This visit has not yet taken place.

Incentive to Aluminium Exporters

84. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give incentive to aluminium manufacturers to promote the aluminium export; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) At present India is a net importer of Aluminium. The question of giving incentive for aluminium export, therefore, does not arise.

Directions to Banks for Drought and Food Relief

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

(a) whether any directions have been issued to the nationalised banks to gear up their machinery to implement the drought and flood relief measures and help the affected people;

(b) if so, the response of the banks in this regard;

(c) whether Government are giving loans with a substantial amounts of subsidy; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India has issued detailed guidelines for providing credit support by banks to persons affected by drought/floods for undertaking second sowing or raising alternative crops, short duration crop, fodder etc. in case where the kharif crop has failed; short term loans are to be converted into medium term loans; assistance to be provided for production of seeds, rescheduling of investment credit if failure of crop warrants expeditious sanction of loans for minor irrigation purposes, consumption loan to small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections of Rs. 500/- and financial assistance for setting up Fair Price Shops. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has also issued detailed guidelines to Central Co-operative Banks/Land Development Banks/Regional Rural Banks on the lines of the instructions issued by RBI to enable these banks to provide necessary credit assistance to farmers and other weaker sections of society.

In the areas affected by drought/flood successively for three years or more, banks have been advised to defer recovery of amount fallen due for a period of two years or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. Banks have also been instructed not to charge penal interest in these cases nor should they compound the interest on dues. Banks are to charge a rate of interest of 10% per annum on short term loans upto Rs. 5,000/- in case of farmers who have suffered three or more consecutive drought/floods and whose loans have been converted/rescheduled. The reports received by RBI from banks indicate that they have started extending credit support to farmers and others affected by drought and floods.

Government do not have under consideration any new subsidy loan scheme for persons affected by drought/floods.

Nationalisation of Jute Industry

86. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government are considering a proposal to nationalise the jute industry; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Deposits of Nationalised Banks

87. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of deposits of each nationalised banks for the year 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and upto 30 June, 1987;

(b) whether in most of the nationalised banks amount of deposits have gone down; and

(b) if so, the number of banks in which it has gone down and the reasons therefor, bank-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (c) Bank-wise aggregate deposits (excluding inter bank deposits) of Public Sector Banks as on the last Friday of December 1983, 1984, 1985, 1986 and of June 1987 are given below. During this entire period all Public Sector Banks recorded increases in deposits (with only Canara Bank and Syndicate Bank having registered a very slight marginal

decline in their deposits in June 1987 as compared to level of December 1986). The annual rate of growth of aggregate deposits of Public Sector Banks between the years 1983 to 1986 ranged between 17 per cent and 19.6 per cent. While the trend in growth of deposits is satisfactory, year to year variations and bank to bank variations are naturally inevitable and such variations are considered as part of a normal pattern of overall deposits growth trend.

Statement

(Amount in Rs. crores)

Name of the Bank	(Amount in Rs. crores)					
	Dec. 1983	Dec. 1984	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986	June 1987	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	
1. State Bank of India	13627	16062	19776	22700	23529	
2. State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur	622	729	876	985	1090	
3. State Bank of Hyderabad	659	798	897	1094	1183	
4. State Bank of Indore	274	321	398	492	566	
5. State Bank of Mysore	487	598	655	735	816	
6. State Bank of Patiala	654	818	995	1190	1299	
7. State Bank of Saurashtra	342	389	433	504	550	
8. State Bank of Travancore	628	764	935	1114	1209	
9. Allahabad Bank	1272	1502	1763	2187	2602	
10. Andhra Bank	1020	1222	1459	1796	1857	
11. Bank of Baroda	3498	3824	4316	5314	5435	
12. Bank of India	3324	3980	4937	6044	6223	
13. Bank of Maharashtra	1203	1327	1525	1757	1891	
14. Canara Bank	3214	3830	5172	6287	6155	
15. Central Bank of India	4051	4686	5495	6704	6802	
16. Corporation Bank	478	588	684	909	939	
17. Dena Bank	1142	1280	1439	1590	1715	
18. Indian Bank	1449	1837	2314	2943	3162	

1	2	3	4	5	6
19. Indian Overseas Bank	1971	2280	2517	3139	3348
20. New Bank of India	720	832	977	1154	1233
21. Oriental Bank of Commerce	582	715	936	1160	1319
22. Punjab National Bank	4081	4697	5610	7054	7864
23. Punjab & Sind Bank	849	982	1176	1383	1498
24. Syndicate Bank	2378	2769	3040	3556	3537
25. Union Bank of India	2140	2571	3020	3604	3920
26. United Bank of India	1822	2179	2367	2664	2838
27. UCO Bank	2159	2307	2621	3129	3307
28. Vijaya Bank	667	828	995	1293	1312

Note : Date are provisional.

Merger of Nationalised Banks

88. SHRI T. BALA GOUD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to merge some of the nationalised banks which do not have sound position with other nationalised banks; and

(b) if so, the causes responsible for the unsound position of those nationalised banks which are proposed to be merged ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. Consideration of such a proposal has not found necessary.

Frauds in State Bank of Indore Branches

89. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of frauds committed in the various branches of State Bank of Indore during 1983, 1984 and 1985 year-wise ;

(b) the action taken by the management against officers/employees found guilty ; and

(c) the preventive steps taken by the management to avoid commission of frauds in future ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (b) State Bank of Indore has reported that during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 5 cases, 48 cases and 10 cases of frauds were detected in its branches. In connection with these cases, 52 officers/employees have been awarded following punishments :

i) Dismissed from the Bank's service	—	13
ii) Removed from the Bank's service	—	1
iii) Reduction in Grade Scale	—	3

iv) Withholding of increment

— 8

v) Censured

— 10

vi) Cautioned/warned

— 17

(c) The Bank has reported that do's and dont's have been advised for the guidance of members of staff. The Bank has further reported that the modus operandi of the cases is also circulated with instructions to guard against recurrence of instances of such cases. Systems and procedures are also reviewed and revised, as and when required.

Withdrawal of Money by Officers of State Bank of Indore

90. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some officers of Connaught Circus, New Delhi Branch of the State Bank of Indore have drawn money illegally from the bank as loan in the names of their relations and if so, the amount of such loan ;

(b) the number of persons in whose names the above mentioned amount has been drawn ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the guilty officers have been let off after being merely a simple warning ; and

(d) if so, the reasons thereof and whether Government propose to have the matter reinvestigated ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) State Bank of Indore has reported that it is not true that any officer of its Connaught Circus (New Delhi) Branch had drawn money illegally from the Bank. However, certain credit facilities had been sanctioned by the Connaught Circus Branch to two firms in which a relative of the then Branch Manager was a partner/proprietor.. The Bank has further reported that it is issuing a charge-sheet to the concerned officer and punishment, as may be appropriate, will be

awarded after the inquiry is concluded. The Bank has also stated that no concerned officer has been let off with a mere warning.

Loss suffered in Export of Garments from Andhra Pradesh

91. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Association of Andhra Pradesh Exporters has drawn the attention of Union Government towards the loss of valuable foreign exchange suffered during the last two years in the field of export of garments ;

(b) if so, the details of the loss suffered in export of garments from Andhra Pradesh during the last two years ; and

(c) the steps being taken by Union Government to provide necessary protection to the garment exporters in Andhra Pradesh ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) : Government does not maintain any State-wise statistics about export of garments nor are any steps taken with any particular State in view. The incentives given to garment sector are available to garment exporters in the country including those from Andhra Pradesh.

Modernisation of N. T. C. Mills in Andhra Pradesh

92. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount expended by Government on N. T. C. mills situated in Andhra Pradesh, mill-wise during the last two years ;

(b) the extent to which the efficiency and production in the NIC mills has improved as a result of modernisation in these mills in the State ;

(c) whether such a modernisation has reduced the cost of production of coarse

cloth for the benefit of the common man ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by NTC/Government to reduce cost of production of rough cloth by NTC ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Amount spent on modernisation/renovation etc. in respect of NTC mills situated in Andhra Pradesh, mill-wise, during the years 1985-86 and 1986-87 is given below :

Name of the Mill	Amount (Rs. in lakhs)
Azam Jahi Mills	76.58
Adoni Cotton Mills	29.87
Nataraj Spg. & Wvg. Mills	30.76
Natha Spg. Mills	37.60
Tirupati Cotton Mills	12.86
Ananthapur Cotton Mills	211.86
Total	399.56

(b) to (d) Significant investment has been made only in respect of Ananthapur Cotton Mills which is a spinning unit. The spinning utilisation in this mill has gone up from 61.4% in 1977-78 to 66.5% in 1986-87. There has been no improvement in the productivity in other mills.

Co-Financing with World Bank

93. DR. V. VENKATESH :

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL:

SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has cleared the proposal initiated by Commerce Ministry for entering into co-financing arrangements with the World Bank ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) It has been agreed in principle to enter into co-financing arrangements with the World Bank to promote Indian consultants for short-term operational assignments in connection with preparation, appraisal and supervision of Bank financed projects.

Viability of Sick and Closed Textiles Mills

94. DR. V. VENKATESH :
SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE
PATIL :
SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that some sick and closed textile mills have been referred recently to the high powered Board for industrial and financial reconstruction ;

(b) whether all these mills have been found to be non-viable ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) A statement is given below.

Statement

List of Mills Found to be Non-Viable by the Nodal Agency and are Closed-Cases referred to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction

Rajasthan

1. Krishna Mills Ltd., Beawar.
2. Sudarshan Textiles, Kota (Raj.) (Spg.)
(Unit of Maharaja Shree Umaid Mills Ltd.)
3. Jaipur Spg. Mills Ltd. Jaipur (Spg.)

Gujarat

4. Gaekwar Mills Ltd., Billimora.

5. Navjivan Mills Ltd., Kalol.
6. Aryodaya Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd. Ahmedabad.
7. Gujarat Spg. Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad (Spg.)
8. Shree Kailash Mills Pvt Ltd., Umargaon (Spg.)
9. Shri Bansidhar Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd. Ahmedabad.
10. Commercial Ahmedabad Mills Co. Ltd.
11. Maharana Mills Ltd. Porbandar.
12. The Navjyot Mills Ltd., Kadi.
13. Prasad Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad.
14. P. G. Textile Mills Ltd., Baroda.
15. Ahmedabad Shri Ramakrishna. Mills Ltd., Ahmedabad.
15. A Shree Mandvi Spg. Mills Ltd., Kutch, Mandvi (Spg.)

Madhya Pradesh

16. Shree Sajjan Mills Ltd. Ratlam.
17. Hope Textiles Ltd., Indore-two units.

Maharashtra

18. Modern Mills Ltd., Bombay.
19. Mukesh Textiles Ltd., Bombay.
20. Khandesh Spg. & Wvg. Mills Ltd., Jalgaon.
21. Shreeniwas Mills Ltd., Bombay.
22. Bradbury Mills Ltd. Bombay.
23. Kiran Spg. Mills, (Thane) (Spg.)
24. Rajan Textile Mills Ltd., Barsi (Spg.).

Tamil Nadu

25. Vasantha Mills Ltd., Coimbatore.
26. Shree Janardhana Mills Ltd.
Coimbatore (Spg.)
27. Mettur Textile Mills Ltd., Mettur.

West Bengal

28. Bangodaya Cotton Mills Ltd.
Calcutta.
29. Hanuman Cotton Mills, Calcutta
(Spg.)
30. India Linoleum Ltd. Calcutta
(Spg.)
31. Shri Durga Cotton Spg. & Wvg.
Mills Ltd. Calcutta (West Bengal)

Uttar Pradesh

32. Madan Industries Ltd. (Spg.).
33. J & K Manufacturers Ltd. Kanpur.

Haryana

34. Hissar Textile Mills, Hissar (Spg.).
35. Usha Spg. & Wvg. Mills Gurgaon
(Spg.).

Pak Attack in Siachen

95. DR. B.L. SHAILESH ;
SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT;
SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL ;
PROF. NARAIN CHAND
PARASHAR ;
SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH ;
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY ;
DR. CHINTA MOHAN ;
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK ;
SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK;
SHRI KRISHNA SINGH ;
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA ;
SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA ;
SHRI KALI PRASHAD PANDEY;
SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI
KHAN ;
SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the
Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Pakistan forces attacked Indian position and intruded in Siachen Glacier region during September and October, 1987;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Pakistan has increased its military strength in Ladakh Sector also; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Union Government there to and the steps proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b) During the last week of September Pakistani forces in a battalion strength attacked our posts on the Saltoro ridge area of Siachen. The attacks were preceded by heavy concentration of artillery fire. The Pakistani troops also used rockets and missiles.

On the night of 6/7th Oct. Pakistani troops, in a Company size, again attacked our posts in the same area.

On both these occasions the attacks were successfully repulsed by our troops.

(c) Government have seen some reports about Pakistan having increased its military strength in the Pak Occupied Kashmir opposite Ladakh.

(d) Government keep a close watch on all developments in the Siachen Glacier area and take necessary steps to meet any threat.

Cotton Export

96. DR. V. VENKATESH ;
SHRI BALASAHED VIKHE
PATIL ;
SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is contemplating not to export Cotton for the coming two seasons; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Opening of State Bank of India Branches Abroad

97. SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of State Bank of India branches abroad and the places where they are functioning;

(b) whether there is a great demand of more branches abroad;

(c) if so, the names of the places where new branches of State Bank of India are likely to be opened during the next five year; and

(d) the criteria adopted for opening a branch in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) At present, State Bank of India has 23 overseas branches. The country-wise distribution of these branches is as under :

Country	No. of branches.
U.K.	5
U.S.A.	4
Japan	2
Bangladesh	1
Bahamas	1
Bahrain	1
Singapore	1
Hongkong	1
Cayman Islands	1
Panama	1
Belgium	1
France	1
Sri Lanka	1
Maldiv Islands	1
West Germany	1
Total	23

(b) and (c) Reserve Bank of India has reported that State Bank of India has not submitted any plans regarding its expansion of overseas branches net work during the next five years.

(d) The policy adopted by the Reserve Bank of India in permitting Indian banks to open overseas branches is selective. The principles of reciprocity, the financial and managerial capacity of the applicant bank, the scope that exists for additional business, the need for the presence of an additional branch etc. are the main factors which are kept in view by the Reserve Bank of India while permitting an Indian bank to open overseas branches.

DA Instalments to Central Government Employees

98. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:
SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO :
SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether payment of instalments of Dearness Allowance to Central Government Employees have fallen due;

(b) if so, how many and from what date;

(c) why payment is being delayed;

(d) by what time this will be released; and

(e) the financial implication of this payment ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) According to the revised D.A. formula, compensation of price rise shall be sanctioned twice a year, payable with the salary for March and September. Dearness Allowance payable with effect from 1-7-1987 on the basis of percentage increase in whole numbers in the twelve monthly average of All India Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers (General) Base 1960-100) for the

period ending June, 1987 over the index average of 608 works out to 13%. This shows an increase of 5% over the percentage increase obtained for the period ending December, 1986 for which D.A. has already been paid. Accordingly, employees drawing basic pay upto Rs. 3500/- are to be allowed 100% neutralisation and those drawing basic pay between Rs.3501/- and Rs.6000/-, 75% and those drawing basic pay above Rs.6000/-, 65% and are therefore entitled to additional DA at the rates of 5%, 3% and 3% respectively.

(c) and (d) The matter is under consideration.

(e) The financial implication of the additional D.A. payable for the period from 1-7-1987 to 29-2-1988 would be Rs. 230 crores approximately.

Agreement With USA for LCA Manufacture

99. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been reached with USA for the manufacture of Light Combat Aircraft in India; and

(b) if so, the particulars of the agreement with regard to technology transfer, financial implications and the time schedule for starting the work ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) A agreement between Government of India and the Government of USA for Defence Technology Cooperation in the LCA Programme has been reached.

(b) An agreement for cooperation with the US Govt. was signed on October 28, 1987. It contains a mutually agreed framework for enabling various Indian agencies to interact effectively with the US Govt. and the US aerospace industry for the ICA programme. The "Mission Area" approach agreed between the two governments provides for expeditious export clearance by the US Govt. of technologies, consultancy service, end-items etc. for the time-bound

LCA programme. A "single-window" has been identified for this activity. A Laboratory-to-Laboratory cooperation programme between the concerned aeronautical laboratory under the Defence Research & Development Organisation and the concerned US Govt. Aeronautical Laboratories has been agreed to. The absorption of relevant aeronautical technologies from USA is expected to lead to the availability of systems, sub-systems etc. for the LCA programme. The terms of technology transfer, financial implications, delivery schedules etc. will be governed by techno-economic considerations and normal commercial negotiations and government regulations.

Visit of RBI Delegation to Switzerland

100. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL : SHRI RAM BAHADUR SINGH :

SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a second delegation of the Reserve Bank of India and Government Officials visited Switzerland during the last 3 months;

(d) whether the Swiss authorities have agreed to share information about individual accounts of Indians being maintained there;

(c) other points of agreement; and

(d) when this will be put into action ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) A six member team, representing Ministries of Finance, External Affairs, Law, Reserve Bank of India and the CBI visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987, to discuss the modalities of an agreement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Governments of India and Switzerland pending conclusion of a treaty on the subject between the two countries.

The delegation has submitted its report to the Government in the first week of October, 1987, which is under examination.

Aid for Indian Food Purchases in US

101. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the US Department of Agriculture and the World Bank have proposed to provide financial aid for Indian food purchases from the US;

(b) if so, whether the US officials have discussed this proposal with the Prime Minister during his visit to US recently; and

(c) if so, the details and outcome thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) No. Sir, World Bank assistance for fighting the drought is being negotiated between officials of Government of India and those of International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This proposed assistance will be utilised for imports under the normals World Bank procurement guidelines and are not tied to any source. Offers of assistance from U.S. Government are under discussion at official level.

(c) Does not arise.

Shifting of Pong Dam Branch of State Bank of India To Sansarpur Terrace

102. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be please to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has allowed the State Bank of India to re-open the Pong-Dam Branch after shifting it to Sansarpur Terrace in Kangra District of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, the date on which the branch has been opened;

(c) if not, the likely date by which the branch is likely to be opened; and

(d) the reasons for delay alongwith the dates on which the Pong Dam branch was

closed and the permission given by the Reserve Bank of India to re-open it at Sansarpur Terrace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed it to shift Pong Dam branch to Sansarpur Terrace on 15.3.1983. The branch could not be shifted to Sansarpur Terrace due to non-availability of proper premises and resistance by the local population at Pong Dam. However, after persistent efforts Pong Dam branch of SBI has now been shifted to Sansarpur Terrace and has started functioning there from 29.10.87.

RBI Guidelines to Nationalised Banks and NABARD on Drought/Flood Relief

103. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has issued any guidelines to the nationalised banks and NABARD for helping the farmers and landless agriculture labour adversely affected by drought/floods in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines and the action taken by each one of the nationalised banks, NABARD and cooperative banks;

(c) whether Government are satisfied with the provision of various concessions including deferring the payment of loans, waiving the penal rate of interest and sanctions of loans on low interest rates; and

(d) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to help the farmers :

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has issued detailed guidelines for providing credit support by banks to persons affected by droughts/floods for undertaking second sowing or

raising alternative crops, short duration crop, fodder etc., in cases where the Kharif crop has failed; short term loans are to be converted into medium term loans; assistance to be provided for production of seeds, rescheduling of investment credit if failure of crop warrants; expeditious sanction of loans for minor irrigation purposes, consumption loan to small and marginal farmers and other weaker sections of Rs. 500/- and financial assistance for setting up Fair Price Shops. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has also issued detailed guidelines to Central Co-operative Banks (CCBs) Land Development Banks (LDBs)/Regional Rural Banks (RRBs) on the lines of instructions issued by RBI to enable these banks to provide necessary credit assistance to farmers and other weaker sections of the society.

In the areas affected by drought/floods successively for three years or more, banks have been advised to defer recovery of amount fallen due for a period of two years or till the next normal year if it occurs earlier. Banks have also been instructed not to charge penal interest in these cases nor should they compound the interest on dues. Banks are to charge a rate of interest of 10% per annum, on short term loans upto Rs.5,000/- in case of farmers who have suffered three or more consecutive droughts/floods and whose loans have been converted/rescheduled. These measures have been taken in consultation with the Central Government.

Branch Expansion Policy

104. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA
NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the branch expansion policy of Government;

(b) whether the proportion of bank branches in some States like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala has been gradually decreasing than the other States after nationalisation;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the steps taken to remove this discrimination; and

(e) the number of bank branches at the time of nationalisation and at present State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARI): (a) The main objective of the current Branch Licensing Policy for 1985-90 is to achieve one bank office for every 17,000 population in the rural and semi-urban areas of each development block and filling up of spatial gaps by location of at least one bank office within a distance of 10 kms. from each village. Branch expansion in urban, metropolitan and port towns areas would continue to be selective and opening of new branches in these areas would be allowed taking into consideration the need and business potential of the area, the viability of the proposed branch etc.

(b) to (c) The details regarding number of bank offices in the country (State-wise/ Union Territory-wise) and average population per bank office at the time of nationalisation of major bank in 1969 and as on 31.3.1987 are set out in the statement below. It will be seen therefrom that the banking coverage in the States viz. Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala compare favourably with that of other States in the country.

Statement

Name of State/ Union Territory	At the time of nationalisation No. of branches	APPBO	As on 31-3-87 No. of Bank offices	Average Population per bank office
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Andhra Pradesh	571	74	4162	13
Arunachal Pradesh	—	—	56	11

1	2	3	4	5
Assam	74	202	981	20
Bihar	274	206	1232	16
Gujarat	758	34	3089	11
Haryana	174	56	1118	11
Himachal Pradesh	41	85	565	8
Jammu & Kashmir	35	114	727	8
Karnataka	761	38	3958	9
Kerala	605	35	2725	9
Maharashtra	1125	44	4940	13
Madhya Pradesh	344	116	3768	14
Manipur	2	497	67	21
Meghalaya	7	144	132	10
Mizoram	—	—	50	10
Nagaland	3	139	66	12
Orissa	100	212	1752	15
Punjab	354	41	2013	8
Rajasthan	369	69	2694	13
Sikkam	—	—	19	17
Tamil Nadu	1066	37	3935	12
Tripura	5	311	136	15
Uttar Pradesh	753	118	7408	15
West Bengal	505	87	3457	16
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	1	115	14	13
Chandigarh	21	7	107	4
Delhi	274	10	1060	6
Goa Daman & Diu	87	8	260	4
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—	—	6	17
Pondicherry	12	31	63	10
Lakshadweep	—	—	5	8
Total :	8321	65	53565	13

News-Item Captioned "Pak Action in Winter Feared"

105. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK :
SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Pak action in winter feared" appearing in the Hindustan Times of 16 October, 1987 wherein it has been stated that pattern of troops movement in the Pak held Kashmir so close to the onset of winter has created apprehensions in responsible quarters that Pak may embark on yet another adventurous action in snow bound heights, in the course of this month ; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Government have seen the media report but have no confirmed information to suggest any unusual movement or concentration of troops in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir.

(b) Government keep a close watch on all developments having a bearing on our security and take appropriate measures to ensure full defence preparedness.

Auction Quota for the Export of Garments

106. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :
SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH
MALIK : Will the Minister of
TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Garment Export Quota Auction Opposed" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 12 October, 1987 ;

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

(c) whether Government propose to review their decision and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government has announced the Export Entitlement Distribution Policy for garments on 15th October, 1987 which inter-alia incorporates Open Tender System for a portion of the super-fast categories. Since the Policy has been announced only recently, the Government does not have, at the moment, under its consideration any proposal to review this Policy.

DRI Raids on Indian Express Group

108. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA ;
SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER :
SHRI YASHWANTRAO
GADAKH PATIL :
SHRI G. S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether in September, 1987, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence conducted country-wide raids on the premises of the Indian Express Group ;

(b) if so, the reasons for these raids ;

(c) the outcome of the raids conducted ; and

(d) the follow up action taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence along-with the Officers of the Income Tax Department, the Enforcement Directorate and assisted by Officers of the Customs and Central Excise Departments simultaneously searched the premises connected with M/s Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt. Ltd. and M/s Traders Pvt. Ltd at Ahmedabad, Baroda, Bombay, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Vijayanagaram and Madras on 1.9.87 and at Cochin on 2.9.1987.

(b) The raids were conducted in pursuance of information received from various sources to the effect that M/s Traders Pvt. Ltd and other associated companies of the Indian Express Group were violating the provisions of the Customs Act, 1962, Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, the Import and Export Trade (Control) Act, 1947 and the Regulations and Policy made thereunder, the Income Tax Act, 1961 and other Allied Act.

(c) and (d) The raids resulted in the detection of violation of one or more of the above mentioned acts by M/s Traders Pvt. Ltd. and other Associated companies of the Indian Express Group and by some of their Directors and employees in respect of three separate imports viz :-

- (1) 14 units of web offset printing machines imported at Madras ;
- (2) Photo composing equipment imported at Bombay ;
- (3) Electronic colour scannery imported at Delhi.

Show cause notices have already been issued to the companies and persons involved in the aforesaid contraventions. Prosecutions have also been launched in the jurisdictional courts.

World Bank Contribution to Revolving Fund

109. SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA :
SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has asked the World Bank to increase its contribution to the newly constituted 'Revolving Fund' with a view to ensure an enhanced pace of disbursement of its project commitments.

(b) if so, whether the World Bank has agreed to this request.

(c) the total amount by which the contribution is likely to be increased; and

(d) the projects that are likely to be benefitted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India have requested the World Bank for enhancement of the Special Facility which provides for advanced disbursement into a Revolving Fund against specified projects.

(b) to (d) The World Bank has agreed in principle to the request. The list of projects to be covered by the 'Revolving Fund' is yet to be determined and therefore no estimate can be made of the likely contribution.

World Bank Team to Assess Special Loan for Drought Relief

110. CHOUDHRY AKHTAR HASAN:
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a team from the World Bank visited India to assess the nature and amount of special free standing loan in consultation with Union Government in the light of the severe drought in the country;

(b) if so, outcome of the visit;

(c) whether some steps have been suggested for disbursement of the loan received and implementation of concerned schemes under any agreement reached in this context; and

(d) if so, the main features thereof ?

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 possibility of World Bank assistance to India to meet the drought situation in the country is under discussion with them and the assistance and its modalities are yet to be finalised. As such it would not be possible to give any definitive details.

Sick Textile Mills in Karnataka

111. SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER :
Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the number of sick textile mills in Karnataka;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to take over these sick mills by the National Textile Corporation;

(c) if not, whether Government have taken steps to help the State Government in re-opening these mills to avoid labour unrest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) As on 31st August, 1987 there were 9 sick/closed cotton textile mills in Karnataka.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government had set up a Nodal Agency to examine sick textile mills in order to ascertain whether they are potentially viable or not. The Nodal Agency evolves and manages rehabilitation packages in respect of those mills found by it to be potentially viable. Non-viable mills may have to close down permanently. The workers of those non-viable mills which close down permanently from 6th June, 1985 will be entitled to financial assistance from the Textile Workers Rehabilitation Fund Scheme.

Holding Company for STC and MMTC

112. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had commissioned any expert advice from the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad regarding the desirability of merging STC and MMTC together with their subsidiaries into one holding company for a better consideration in the field of imports and exports;

(b) if so, whether any report had been received by Government from the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad on this subject; and

(c) if so, what are its main recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) Government had engaged the Administrative Staff College, Hyderabad for a study of the organisational structure of Holding Company in the public Sector in order to assess its suitability for foreign trade operations. The Study Team has since submitted its report. The main recommendations include an analysis of the rationale for setting up a holding company of STC and MMTC and its subsidiaries, and alternative organisational structures which are feasible. These are being examined by the Government.

Issue of Bonds by Public Sector Companies

113. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of public sector companies and the total amount for which the bonds were permitted to be issued by them so far;

(b) the details of the extent to which these were subscribed by the public; and

(c) whether any State Government had sought permission for their State Sector units to issue bonds on similar terms?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GODHAVI) : (a) As on 31st October, 1987, 10 Public Sector Enterprises were permitted to issue bonds amounting to Rs. 3217 crores.

(b) As on 31st October, 1987 issues to the extent of Rs. 2350 crores have been completed and the extent to which these bonds were subscribed is as follows :-

	(Rs. in crores)
(i) Financial Institution	349.00
(ii) Banks	1005.00
(iii) Corporate Bodies	567.00
(iv) Public	404.00
(v) Others	6.00

(c) Yes, Sir.

**Smuggling of Polyester Fibre and
Polyester Fabrics**

115. SHRI C. MADHAV REDDY :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether it has been brought to the
notice of Government that the smuggling of
polyester fibre and polyester fabrics from
gulf countries, Pakistan, Bangladesh and
Nepal has increase enormously during the
last two years; and

(b) whether the Indian synthetic fibre
and fabrics are several times costly than the
imported fabrics due to heavy excise duties
and the increased and unabated smuggling
in these goods is the direct result of the
high excise duty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) Reports rece-
ived by Government and seizures made in-
dicate that synthetic fabrics/fibre continue
to be sensitive to smuggling into the country.
Smuggling of synthetic fabrics/fibre into the
country is largely determined by fluctuating
profit margin between intertional and dom-
estic prices.

The prices of indigenous synthetic fibre/
fabrics even exclusive of excise duties is
higher than the price of imported fibre/
fabrics owing to various factors such as,
lack of economies of scale, higher energy
cost etc.

**Assistance to People Affected by Natural
Disasters**

116. SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA :
Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased
to state :

(a) whether Union Government had
called a meeting of public sector banks to
coordinate their help for people affected
by natural disasters like drought,

(b) if so, whether any package of
assistance has been developed for the people
affected by floods, particularly those in
Bihar;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI
JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d)
Government of India had convened a
meeting of Chairmen & Managing Directors
of public sector banks in New Delhi on
12th September, 1987, wherein besides
other operations of banks, the measures
taken by them in providing relief to dro-
ught/flood affected people were also dis-
cussed. Banks were asked to activate their
lead machinery in all States including Bihar
so that the requirements were assessed in
each district, for taking suitable timely
action.

A package of instructions have been
issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
for providing credit support so as to enable
the affected persons to undertake second
sowing or raising alternative crops, short
duration crop, fodder etc., conversion of
short term loans into medium term loans;
assistance for production of seeds, expedi-
tious sanction of loans for minor irrigation
purpos s, consumption loan to small
and marginal farmers and other weaker
sections upto Rs.500/- and financial assis-
tance for setting up Fair Price Shops.

National Bank for Agriculture and
Rural Development has also issued detailed
guidelines to Central Co-operative Banks/
Land Development Banks/Regional Rural
Banks on the lines of the instructions issued
by RBI to enable these banks to provide
necessary credit assistance to farmers and
other weaker sections of society.

In the case of areas affected by drought/
flood consecutively for three years or more,
banks have been advised to defer recovery
of amount fallen due for a period of two
years or till the next normal year if it
occurs earlier. Banks have also been ins-
tructed not to charge penal or compound
interest in these cases. Banks are to charge
a rate of interest of 10% per annum on
short term loans upto Rs.5,000/- in case
of farmers who have suffered three or more
consecutive droughts/floods and whose
loans have been converted/rescheduled.

Production and Export of Marine Products

118. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PAT-
NAIK : Will the Minister of
COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken
some steps to augment the production and
export of marine products;

(b) if so, the assistance given to the
marine States for the purpose; and

(c) the target set for the augmentation
of production and exports of marine pro-
ducts during the Seventh Plan ?

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

(b) For augmenting production and ex-
port of marine products Ministry of Agri-
culture gives assistance for development of
brackishwater aquaculture, modernisation of
traditional crafts and introduction of Beach
landing crafts. In addition to these MPEDA
is extending assistance for setting up of
prawn farms, establishment of seed banks
and prawn hatcheries.

(c) The original target for production
according to the th Five Year Plan document is
40.00 lakh tonnes, The VII plan has pro-
jected exports at Rs. 446 crores at the end
of the plan at 1984-85 prices.

Impact of Joint Ventures of Fishing

119. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is the nodal
Ministry for joint ventures and 100 per
cent export oriented marine industries;

(b) whether there has been a conti-
nuous fall in shrimp catches in last three
years;

(c) if so, whether these proposed
joint ventures with foreign country fishing
in the same grounds have led to adverse
consequences; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose
to undertake a review of the areas where
such foreign involved fishing boats will be
allowed to operate ?

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

(b) The shrimp catches during the
last three years, though fluctuating, were
more or less stagnant.

(c) The joint venture policy on deep
sea fishing stipulates, inter-alia, that exploi-
tation of near shore shrimp resources would
not be allowed.

(d) Does not arise.

**Balance of Trade between India and
Sweden**

120. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN :
Will the Minister of COMMERCE be
pleased to state:

(a) whether balance of trade between
India and Sweden has been adverse to
India for the last several years;

(b) if so, the details for last three
years;

(c) whether in 1986 Indian and Swe-
den agreed to redress this balance after the
Bofors agreement of howitzers was signed;

(d) whether subsequently there was an
agreement for counter-purchase of Indian
export commodities by Sweden; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the
major commodities exported or contracts
entered into ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R.
DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) India's bilateral
trade with Sweden during the last three
years has been as follows :

	(Rs. Crores)		
	Exports to Sweden	Imports from Sweden	Balance of Trade
1984-85	39.75	125.23	— 85.48

1985-86* 38.87 138.17 — 99.30

1986-87* 55.59 353.26 — 297.67

*Provisional

Source : DGCI&S, Calcutta.

(c) to (e) The SIC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with M/s. Bofors whereby the latter have agreed to Purchase a range of commodities including agricultural products, ores, metals and minerals, manufactured and finished goods from India. The imports from India will be made over a period of ten years, and will not be less than 50% of the value of the purchases made from Bofors.

Steps to Provide Relief to Handloom Weavers

121. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Handloom weavers throughout the country are facing great hardship due to steep rise in the price of yarn as reported in the Indian Express dated 7.9.1987;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Ram Sahai Commission which was set up during 1972 have not been implemented so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to save and provide relief to the Handloom weavers in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ram Sahai Commission was set up by the Government of Uttar Pradesh during 1972 and the implementation of its recommendations therefore falls within the jurisdiction of the Government. It is, however, understood that the U.P. Government have implemented a number of the recommendations of the Ram Sahai Commission.

(d) A statement is given below.

Statement

Government are operating a number of developmental schemes to strengthen the handloom sector in general and bring about improvement in the life of handloom weavers in particular. These schemes cover the areas of production, credit marketing, etc. In addition, Government is also operating Welfare Schemes for Weavers like Thrift fund Scheme and workshed-cum-Housing Scheme.

2. In regard to supply of yarn, which is the primary raw material for weavers, Government has taken the following measures to ensure adequate supply of yarn at reasonable prices :-

(i) Hank yarn obligation scheme :-
The Central Government have imposed a statutory obligation on all textile mills to pack at least 50% of their marketable yarn in the form of hanks with a further stipulation that 85% of such yarn should be in counts of 40's and below.

(ii) Loan Assistance to NCDC :-
Loan assistance is given to National Cooperative Development Corporation for setting up of new weavers cooperative spinning mills and for expansion of the capacity of existing mills.

(iii) Yarn Pools :-
The State Governments are requested to take necessary steps to pool the hank yarn produced by the spinning mills in the State/Cooperative Sector for supply at reasonable prices to State Handloom Agencies :-

(iv) Yarn Price fixation Committee in States :-
The State Governments have been advised to follow the system prevailing in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu, where a yarn price fixation Committee under Director of Handlooms meets

regularly to decide the price at which the yarn will be sold to the State Handloom Agencies.

(v) **National Handloom Development Corporation :-**

The Central Government have set up NHDC during 1983 primarily with the objective of supply of yarn at reasonable prices to the handloom sector. The States have been advised to formulate long term plan for supply of raw materials to handloom weavers and place firm indents with the National Handloom Development Corporation on that basis.

Central Committee to Combat Smuggling

122. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT:**
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :-

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up a Central Committee to combat smuggling in the country ;

(b) if so, by when the propose Committee is likely to be set up ; and

(c) the manner in which it will function to combat smuggling activities in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) and (c) The Hon'ble Members are presumably referring to setting up of a Central Committee of Senior Officers of agencies concerned with anti-smuggling work as directed by the Hon'ble Finance Minister during the Conference of Collectors of Customs on anti-smuggling work which was convened at Delhi on 17th September, 1987. The Committee consisting of senior officials of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, the Coast Guard, the Border Security Force and the Department of Revenue has been constituted under Finance Minister's orders dated 21st October, 1987. It would enable the agencies concerned to exchange information and to take co-ordi-

nation action so that the total anti-smuggling effort is strengthened.

Sericulture Production

123. **SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :**

SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether to intensify sericulture in the rain-fed areas all over the country the Central Silk Board has urged the Central and State Government to boost the sericulture production ;

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

(c) whether in view of the recent drought situation, Union Government propose to direct the State Governments to boost the production of sericulture in the country ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Silk Board and the Government of India have urged the State Governments to develop sericulture in rainfed areas by providing necessary financial and technical support to the farmers. In fact the VII Plan Programme envisages development of an (additional) area of 42,100 hectares of mulberry plantation under rainfed conditions.

(c) and (d) In view of the fact that mulberry plantation can withstand low rainfall conditions and it has tremendous employment potential, it assumes special relevance in the prevailing drought conditions. The State Governments of drought affected States have, therefore, been advised to take necessary steps to provide relief to the sericulturists in the form of supply of inputs such as mulberry cuttings on subsidised rates, land development, and labour generating supportive infrastructure works, like construction of rearing houses, grain-ages, Chowki Rearing Centres etc.

Seizure of Brown Sugar in Bombay

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

(a) whether the Customs Collectorate Bombay has recently seized brown sugar worth crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the quantum of brown sugar seized and total value thereof;

(c) whether any clue has since been found as to how the brown sugar in such a huge quantum has been smuggled; and

(d) what further steps Government propose to take to hook the persons involved in these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) During the month of August-September, 1987 the Officers of Customs (Preventive) Collectorate, Bombay seized 462 Kgs. of brown sugar/heroin in 5 major cases. No precise value of drugs seized can be determined as the illicit market price varies from place to place depending upon purity, place or origin etc.

(c) The investigations conducted so far reveal that the drugs were smuggled from across Indo-Pakistan border for onward smuggling to U. S. A. Western Europe and Africa.

(d) Anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of sea coast, land border regions and airports remains alert to check and combat smuggling of contraband, including drugs. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling of contraband goods including drugs.

Anti-Dumping Duty

125. SHRI DAULATSINHJI JADEJA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for abolition of anti-dumping duty;

(b) whether the matter was discussed with the Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) There is no anti-dumping duty on textile fibres or yarns. However, the Government had reduced the basic customs duty on polyester filament yarn from 200% adv. @ Rs. 15 per Kg. to 200% adv. with effect from 18th June, 1986. This duty reduction was made to create a salutary effect on the prices of indigenous polyester filament yarn which was showing an upward trend.

(b) and (c) The above duty reduction was made after taking into account the representations received from the polyester filament yarn user industry and the Association of Synthetic Fibre Industry.

Minimum Margins for Foodgrain Traders

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

(a) whether the Reserve Bank has raised the minimum margins for foodgrain traders from October 19 of this year;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) its likely impact on traders ability to buy the Kharif crop that comes into the market; and

(d) whether this would be helpful to farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) to (d) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised minimum margins on bank advances against paddy/rice, pulses and "other foodgrains" (excluding wheat) by 15 percentage points with effect from October 19, 1987. Severe

drought conditions in several States and floods in others have adversely effected Kharif crop. Prices have also shown an upward trend. The minimum margins have been raised to curb speculative boardings and prevent increase in prices. These measures are likely to help all sections of population particularly consumers and small marginal farmers.

Export Packages for Trading Houses

127. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINGHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose a package to measures for trading houses to help them play a key role in the export drive ;

(b) whether he made any such announcement in this regard at an ASSOCHAM workshop in October, 1987 ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the impact of such measures on smaller exporters, particularly of high tech. items ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The work relating to the new Import & Export Policy to be announced in April, 1988 has already started and no details can be disclosed at this stage.

(b) No, Sir,

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Liberalisation of Rules of 100 Percent EOUs

128. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to liberalise the rules relating to export obligation of 100 per cent export oriented units, (EOUs) ;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the objective in view ; and

(c) its effect on exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) Government have decided that 100% Export Oriented Units may, on a case by case basis and with the prior permission of the Government, sell up to 25% of the production in the Domestic Tariff Area subject to the payment of appropriate duties.

(c) The objective of the measure is to improve the viability of the units.

Agreement for Manufacture of Submarines

129. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has signed an agreement to manufacture most upto-date submarines in collaboration ;

(b) if so, the details of the agreement made in the name of the country with which the agreement has been made ; and

(c) where the unit to manufacture submarine is likely to be established ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad terms of the agreement cover total technical support and technology transfer, including training of Indian personnel for the construction activity to be undertaken by the shipyard. The agreement was signed with M/s HDW of Federal Republic of Germany on 11 December 1981.

(c) The submarines are being constructed Mazagon Dock Limited, Bombay.

Impact of Drought on Agricultural Exports

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

(a) the value of the agricultural products to be exported during 1987-88 ;

(b) whether drought has affected the export of agricultural products during 1987-88 ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : It is too early at present to correctly assess the value of agricultural exports and the full impact of drought on agricultural exports during the current year. As per present indications, the impact of drought will be felt in exports of Pepper and HPS Groundnuts where production has substantially decline and that of oil-meal extractions on account of substantial shortfall in oilseed production. Exports of Wheat have also been frozen within the ceilings earlier prescribed to ensure that substantial quantities are available for domestic consumption.

While it is not possible to assess the impact of drought on exports of fresh fruits and vegetables, any increase in domestic prices may affect exports during the current year.

Garment Export Quota Distribution Policy

131. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) what are the criteria for giving quotas for export units under the Garment Export Quota Distribution policy;

(b) whether it is a fact that the present policy has led to the monopolisation of the entire export of garments in the big exporters; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take remedial measures ?

THE DEUPTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) Under the Garments Quota Distribution Policy for 1987, the quotas are distributed on the following basis :-

	Percentage of annual level
Past Performance	65
Entitlement System	

FCFS Small Order System	25
Manufacturer-Exporter System.	7
Non-Quota Exporter System	1
Central/State Corpn. System	2

(b) Both small and big exporters can compete for allocation of quota under all the above Systems except the one reserved for Central/State Corporations subject to other eligibility conditions.

(c) Does not arise.

Economy Measures to Reduce Expenditure for Drought Relief

132. SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN :

PROF. K.V. THOMAS :

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the economy measures adopted by Government to reduce expenditure for finding resources for drought relief works;

(b) the amount of cut imposed on plan and non-plan expenditure separately; and

(c) the total amount thus realised for drought relief ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) The economy measures taken by Government include curbs on expenditure on travel including foreign travel, hosting of official dinners, purchase of furniture, publicity, fuel consumption and deferment of festivals, fairs, exhibitions and international conferences, wherever firm commitments have not already been made. Ministries/Departments have also been advised to defer execution of schemes which have not commenced by 1st August, 1987. Ministries have been instructed to absorb within their Budgets the expenditure on additional D.A. and bonus sanctioned to Government employees.

(b) Non-Plan budgetary allocations have been reduced by Rs.250 crores and Plan allocations by Rs.200 crores.

(c) Measures at (a) and (b) above are expected to yield Rs.650 crores for drought relief.

Trade Deficit Vis-A-Vis Inflation

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

(a) whether the trade deficit has sparked off an inflationary trend in the country's economy;

(b) if so, the main reasons for the inflationary trend in the country;

(c) the total number of countries with whom India have trade pacts; and

(d) the efforts made or being made by Government to contain trade deficit and the inflationary trends ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) According to the latest information available, the Wholesale Price Index for all commodities (1970-71 = 100) during the first 29 weeks of the current financial year (i.e. upto 17.10.1987) recorded a rise of 8.0% as against 7.1% in the corresponding period of the previous year. The current inflationary trend is on account of failure of monsoon and widespread drought conditions' resulting in seasonal pressure on prices of essential commodities like food-grains, pulses edible oils etc.

(c) India have trade pacts with 61 (Sixty-one) countries.

(d) In order to contain the trade deficit, the Govt. have taken a number of steps for export promotion and efficient import substitution. The export promotion measures have been designed to generate capacities for export production, to make our products competitive in costs and matching in technologies and performance and to make exports profitable. The Govt. have also initiated a series of steps to promote import substitution particularly

of bulk imports. In so far as inflationary trends are concerned, Government's anti-inflationary policy includes affective demand and supply management, strengthening of Public Distribution System, regulated release of sugar, edible oils, supply of food grains to weaker sections under special schemes, and mopping up of excess liquidity. Strict action has also been initiated against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and black marketeering.

Agreement with Switzerland about Illegal Accounts

134. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have initiated steps to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Swiss authorities for assistance in specific cases of Indians having accounts in Swiss banks with funds obtained illegally.

(b) if so, whether any understanding between the two countries have been reached;

(c) if not, the main reasons therefor and whether any memorandum of understanding is being worked out; and

(d) if so, by what time the final decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) A six-member team, representing Ministries of Finance, External Affairs, Law, Reserve Bank of India and the CBI visited Berne (Switzerland) in September, 1987 to discuss the modalities of an agreement for mutual assistance in criminal matters between the Govts. of India and Switzerland.

The delegation has submitted its report to the Govt. in the first week of October, 1987 which is under examination.

Indo-US Trade Position

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

(a) whether India and the US have agreed to improve the bilateral trade;

(b) if so, the main features of the agreement reached;

(c) to what extent, the trade between the two countries during 1987-88 has improved; and

(d) how does it compare with the trade in 1986-87?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R.

DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) There has been no formal agreement between India and USA to improve bilateral trade. However, during the meeting between the Prime Minister and President Reagan of USA on Oct. 20, 1987, a common view was expressed, that much could be done to expand the present level of activity in the field of bilateral trade and investment.

(c) and (d) According to latest provisional data available, the trade between India and USA during the first quarter of 1987-88 i.e. April-June, 1987 as compared to April-June, 1986 is as follows :

(Value : Rs. crores)

	Apr.-June 1986	Apr.-June 1987	Absolute change	% increase
Exports	551.78	647.89	+96.11	17.4
Imports	414.17	511.40	+97.23	23.4

World Bank Aid to Meet Drought Situation

situation in the country is under discussion with them and the assistance and its modalities are yet to be finalised.

136. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :

SHRI H.B. PATIL :

SHRI KRISHNA SINGH ;

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANRAN : Will the Minister

of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India approached World Bank for aid to meet the drought situation in the country;

(b) if so, whether the World Bank after discussions has agreed to provide aid and assistance to meet the drought situations; and

(c) if so, to what extent and how much of the amount provided so far is being utilised for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The possibility of World Bank assistance to India to meet the drought

Rise in Consumer Price Index

137. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether for the past six months the All India Consumer Price Index for urban non-manual employees is rising;

(b) if so, the Consumer Price Index at the end of September, 1987;

(c) whether this increase has resulted in increase in the annual inflation rate; and

(d) if so, the inflation as on 30 September, 1987 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) Data on monthly movement of All India Consumer Price Index Numbers (CPI) for Urban Non-Manual Employees (Base 1960 = 100) during the past six months is given below :

Month	Consumer Price Index for Urban Non-Manual Employees (Base 1960=100)
March, 1987	625
April, 1987	630
May, 1987	638
June, 1987	645
July, 1987	658
August, 1987 (Latest available)	670

(c) and (d) The CPI for Urban Non-Manual Employees reflects average change in retail prices applicable to that segment of urban population who are dependent on non-manual occupations and therefore is not an indicator of the general inflation rate. On the basis of this index the annual inflation rate works out to 9.30 per cent in August 1987.

Closure of Inefficient Nationalised Banks

138. SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision that those nationalised banks which do not live up to the Government's and the people's expectations would be closed down;

(b) if so, whether any proposal is pending with Government for the closure of such nationalised banks;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether any of such banks have been closed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) There is no such proposal to close down any nationalised bank. It is the continuing endeavour of all the public sector banks to improve their performance to meet expectations of the people. Government Reserve Bank of India continually monitor the progress

achieved by these banks in all aspects of their operations such as deposit mobilisation, rural lending, credit to Priority Sectors and to Weaker Sections, Customer Service, Housekeeping and Profitability, for which they have drawn up Action Plans.

Appointment of Scheduled Tribe Candidates in Nationalised Banks

139. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of vacancies existing in the nationalised banks functioning in the four States of South India for want of Scheduled Tribe candidates in the region for class I to class IV posts;

(b) since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(c) the action taken by the Banking Service Recruitment Boards working in the Southern States to recruit suitable educated unemployed young persons available in large numbers in Union Territory of Lakshadweep ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (b) Information in the form asked for in the question is not readily available. Provisionally available information of backlog of Scheduled Tribes candidates in respect of vacancies reserved for them in direct recruitment in the various cadres in the seven Nationalised banks with their Head Office in the four states of Southern India, as at the end of December, 1986, was as under :-

Officer	Clerk	Substaff
185	858	227

(c) Government has instructed all Banking Service Recruitment Boards, especially Banking Service Recruitment Board, Trivandrum, under whose jurisdiction the Lakshadweep Islands fall for the purpose of recruitment to the clerical cadre of the public sector banks, to take steps to afford adequate opportunities to the Scheduled Tribes candidates in Lakshadweep Islands to join public sector banks. The Banking Service Recruitment Board has also been advised to

consider setting up of examination centres in the Islands and to give wide publicity to their recruitment processes to enable the inhabitants of the Islands to take up jobs in the public sector banks.

Notices to Maruti Car Buyers

140. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Income Tax Department has issued notices to all Maruti Car owners in Meerut to show their resources for purchase of their vehicles;

(b) if so, the findings of the Department;

(c) whether some brokers have been found guilty and if so, their modus operandi;

(d) the action taken in the matter; and

(e) whether the Income Tax Department propose to issue similar notices in other big cities including Delhi ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) Yes, Sir. Letters of enquiry to ascertain investment had been issued to 303 owners of Maruti Cars in Meerut.

(b) The enquiries have revealed some cases of unaccounted investment.

(c) Involvement of brokers has not been admitted.

(d) In view of (c) above, does not arise.

(e) Enquiries to ascertain resources for purchase of vehicles are made at all places.

Export of N.T.C. Cloth to USSR

141. SHRI S.M. GURADDI :

SHRI G-S. BASAVARAJU :

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement between the Soviet Union and the National Textile Corporation was reached for export of cloth from its mills to the Soviet Union;

(b) if so, details of the quantity of cloth to be exported annually;

(c) the other terms and conditions of the agreement; and

(d) to what extent this will provide basis to the local manufacturers ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) to (c) A contract was concluded by the NTC with Soviet Union for supply of two million metres of cotton textiles to USSR. The delivery period for the supply of these cotton textiles is September to November, 1987.

(d) These orders will help NTC to improve its capacity utilisation and per unit realisation.

Review of Balance of Payment Position

142. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had reviewed the balance of payments situation in the context of decline in the foreign currency reserves and additional requirements of imports of agricultural commodities and diesel because of the drought;

(b) if so, whether Government had taken some austerity measures ; and

(c) if so, the situation of the foreign exchange reserves at the end of June 1987 and to what extent there was a decline after June and the final position of balance of payment at present ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) The situation arising from the additional imports necessitated due to drought and its impact on the foreign exchange reserves and the balance

of payments, is being constantly kept under review by the Government. The Government have taken a number of steps to curb inessential imports while at the same time ensuring easy availability of essential commodities, in view of drought situation. The foreign currency reserves (excluding Gold and Special Drawing Rights) as on 30th June 1987 and 30th October 1987 stood at Rs. 7276.44 crores and Rs. 6738.04 crores respectively.

Branch Expansion in Nationalised Banks During 1986

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

(a) whether there is slowing down of branch expansion in nationalised banks during 1986; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether the number of branches of nationalised banks abroad has declined from 159 to 153; if so, the reasons for the same; and

(c) whether the number of employees recruited in nationalised banks during 1986 were for below the previous year; if so, what are the reasons ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) The Branch Licensing Policy for the period from 1982-85 came to an end on 31.3.1985. However, with a view to enabling the banks to open as many offices as possible, the validity period of licences issued under this policy was extended by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), selectively, from time to time, upto 30.6.1986 pending identification and allotment of centres conforming to the norms laid down under the new Branch Licensing Policy for the period 1985-90. The licences issued under the previous policy which were pending as on 30.6.1986 were treated as lapsed/cancelled and allotment of centres under the new policy on the basis of lists of identified centres received from the concerned State/Union Territory Governments commenced towards the end of 1986. Thus, the licences for opening branches under the current policy were issued by RBI only towards the end of 1986

and beginning of 1987. In the circumstances, number of branches opened by the 28 public sector banks during 1986 was 139 as compared to 1910 branches opened during 1985.

(b) RBI has reported that at the beginning of 1986, 12 out of 28 public Sector banks were operating 138 overseas branches. During the year 1986, 6 overseas branches of the Indian public sector banks were closed down as these branches were found to be non-viable.

(c) The employees recruited in nationalised banks during 1986 was 21,450 (approx.) as against 28,900 (approx.) in 1985. The reduction in recruitment was because of general Government orders on economy, made applicable also to banking industry which restricted recruitment.

Tea, Coffee and Rubber Plantations in Degraded Forest Areas

145. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal to undertake tea, coffee and rubber plantations in the degraded forest areas;

(b) whether such areas have been identified in different States; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

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

(b) and (c) Although certain surplus areas have been identified for growing tea, rubber and coffee in degraded forest areas Yet detailed survey and technical examination of these areas has to be done in consultation with the Deptt. of Forest to assess the suitability of these crops as forestry crops.

Purchase of LCA

146. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a new approach has now been adopted by Government to buy from abroad the Light Combat Aircraft as well as appropriate technology instead of spending time on developing the same;

(b) if so, the reasons for this new approach; and

(c) the details regarding the plan of Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The Government has not adopted a new approach to "buy from abroad the Light Combat Aircraft". The Government's policy continues to be one of indigenous design, development and manufacture of the LCA with selective utilisation of services from foreign aerospace companies in critical areas where the indigenous skills and expertise are at present insufficient for building an aircraft of this class. Further, the technological base needed in the country will be strengthened with selective acquisition of technologies which would provide step inputs of the type needed. The make or buy decisions for various components will be governed by normal techno-economic considerations.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As (a) above.

Insurance Scheme for Landless Agricultural Labourers

147. **SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an insurance scheme for the landless agricultural labourers has been introduced by the Life Insurance Corporation of India on August 15, this year; and

(b) if so, the States where the said scheme has been implemented so far?

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

Yes, Sir. A Group Insurance Scheme for landless agricultural labourers has been introduced on national scale by the Life Insurance Corporation of India with effect from 15 August, 1987. The Scheme applies to landless agricultural labourers all over the country and is being implemented in collaboration with respective State Governments/Union territories.

Closure of Textile Mills for Want of Raw Materials

148. **SHRI VISHNU MODI :** Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of textile mills in the country;

(b) how many of them are sick or under lock-out indicating reasons therefor mill wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain mills are facing closure for want of raw materials like cotton, fibre, etc. on nominal price; and

(d) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to see that these mills are not closed down for want of raw materials?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) 1027 (744 spinning + 283 composite mills).

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

(c) and (d) The textile industry as a whole is faced with the problem of high cotton prices. However, raw material availability position is reviewed by Government from time to time and appropriate steps to help the industry are taken.

Cardamom Export to Scandinavian Countries

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

(a) whether the Cardamom Board had suggested export of Cardamom to Scandinavian countries;

(b) if so, whether any export has been made to those countries; and

(c) if so, the quantity and the prices thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) India's total export of cardamom to Scandinavian countries during 86-87 and 87-88 upto September is practically nil. The Spices Board earlier (Cardamom Board) has proposed a scheme for market promotion of cardamom for these countries.

Assessment of Export Promotion Councils

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

(a) the performance of Export Promotion Councils (EPCs);

(b) whether Government have entrusted any organisation with the job of assessing the performance and suggest ways to improve the EPCs;

(c) if so, the details of the suggestions received; and

(d) the action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d) The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad was entrusted with the task of undertaking a study of the functioning of EPC's and make recommendations. The Report of Study Team has been received. Necessary action has been initiated to examine the various recommendations.

Rate of Inflation

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

(a) whether the rate of inflation has increased during the past six months ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) how does it compare with the corresponding period last year ; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce the rate of inflation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (c) According to the latest provisional information available, the Wholesale Prices Index for All Commodities (Base : 1970 = 100) has recorded a rise of 5.5 per cent over the past six months ending 17th October, 1987 (latest available) as against a rise of 5.4 per cent in the corresponding period a year ago.

(d) The anti-inflationary policy being followed by Government includes effective demand and supply management like strengthening of Public Distribution System, allocation of additional stock of foodgrains to drought affected areas, augmenting domestic availability of essential commodities like sugar, edible oils, pulses and mopping up of excess liquidity in the system. The Central Government has also advised the State Governments to take strict action against traders indulging in profiteering, hoarding and blackmarketeering.

Assistance to Drought Affected Growers of Spices in Kerala

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

(a) whether the Spices Board has initiated any special scheme for helping the growers of different spices who have suffered due to drought in Kerala ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) The Spices Board has implemented a package scheme for minimising drought effects on Cardamom in Kerala. The major elements of the scheme are :

- i) Disseminating technical information to cardamom growers for adopting techniques for moisture conservation through mulching and similar cultural programmes to minimise drought effect on crop and plants. This was achieved through organising seminars, discussions, display of hoardings, slides etc. in important cardamom growing areas.
- ii) A contingent scheme, providing financial assistance to cardamom growers for procuring irrigation equipments and developing infrastructure for water sources, by constructing farm ponds, wells and small check dams for ensuring availability of water for irrigation to minimise drought damage to crop has been implemented. The scale of subsidies provided are 33 1/3% of the cost of irrigation equipments subject to maximum of Rs. 5000 for pumpsets and Rs. 30,000 for sprinkler units and 50% of the cost of construction subject to a maximum of Rs. 10,000 per farm ponds/wells and Rs. 50,000 per check dams.

[Translation]

**Central Government Employees
Contribution to Drought Relief Fund**

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

(a) the number of days' salary that has been paid as bonus to those Central Government employees who are not eligible for productivity linked bonus.

(b) whether Government and unrecognised employees union had issued joint appeal to the Central Government employees to contribute amount equivalent to two days bonus either towards the drought relief fund or the employees' provident fund ; and

(c) if so, the total percentage of Central Government employees who complied with this appeal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Central Government employees not covered by any productivity linked bonus scheme have been granted *ad hoc* bonus equivalent to 25 days emoluments in respect of the accounting year 1986-87.

(b) and (c) The Finance Minister had appealed to the Government employees to deposit the amount of bonus in the provident fund on voluntary basis. The President of the Confederation of Central Government employees endorsed the appeal of the Finance Minister.

No statistics of the number of employees who complied with the appeal have been maintained.

[English]

Implementation of Scheme for Development of SC/ST by RRBs

154. SHRIMATI MEERA KUMAR : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the performance of the regional rural banks in implementation of schemes under special component plans and 20-point programmes for development of SC/ST is upto the expectations ;

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the measures under consideration of Government to improve their performance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) and (c) The Regional Rural Banks have been showing steady progress in the implementation of Government Special Programmes including 20-Point Programme. From January, 1986 to December, 1986 these Banks are reported to have issued loans of Rs. 306.71 crores in 1632974 borrowal accounts under I. R. D. P., DRI and other special programmes. On the 20-Point Economic Programme it is reported that 147 RRBs

as at the end of June, 1986 have disbursed Rs. 95.58 crores to 937918 SC/ST beneficiaries.

Separate figures of loans given to SC/ST persons under IRDP, DRI and other special programmes are not available. However these programmes are meant for target groups and as per norms should cover a majority of ST/SC borrowers. Since the target groups to which RRBs give loans have preponderance of SC/ST population, therefore, a sizeable amount of loans outside Government sponsored programmes also benefit it SC/ST population.

Reports Regarding Recruitment to Defence Services

155. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state ;

(a) whether Government have received reports regarding corrupt practices in recruiting youth to the defence services;

(b) whether Government have taken note of the specific case of corruption/attempt to receive bribe reported in respect of the recruitment to the services that was held in early September 1987 at Cannanore in Kerala ; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the officials responsible for such corrupt practices ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND DEFENCE SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No specific case has been reported. Certain complaints have, however, come to notice through press reports which are being enquired into.

(c) All complaints are investigated departmentally or through CBI and administrative/ disciplinary action taken against those who are found guilty.

Development Assistance from Japan

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

(a) whether Japan is giving Rs. 620 crore loan as development assistance to India ;

(b) how is this amount being utilised ;

(c) the amount allotted for Srisailem Hydro-electric power station in Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) when was the amount released to Andhra Pradesh ;

(e) whether any amount has been earmarked for development of Telecommunication in Andhra Pradesh ;

(f) if so, the amount earmarked in this regard ; and

(g) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) for the year 1987-88 Japan has pledged bilateral loan assistance to the tune of 68.477 billion yen (Rs. 625.87 crores) The amount is being utilised for implementation of the following projects ;-

i) Srisailem Left Bank Hydro Power Station Project (I).

ii) Purulia Pumpel Storage Project (Engineering Services)

(iii) Anpara 'B' Thermal Power Station Construction Project (II).

(iv) Assam Gas Power Station and Transmission Line Construction Project (II)

(v) Tamil Nadu Small-Scale Enterprises Development Project.

(vi) Telecommunication Network Expansion Project (X).

vii) Gorakhpur Fertilizer Plant Revamping/Rehabilitation Project.

(viii) F. A. C. T. Cochin Division Captive Power Plant Project.

The Srisaillam Left Bank Hydro Power Station Project (I) in Andhra Pradesh has been allocated a maximum amount of 26,001 billion yen (Rs. 238.56 crores). The amount will be utilised as per the implementation schedule of the Project.

(e) to (g) An amount of 3,337 billion yen (Rs. 30.50 crores) has been allocated for a national telecommunication network expansion project. The project does not provide for state-wise allocations.

Rural Banking Programme of Bank of India

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

(a) whether the Bank of India has extended its innovative rural banking programme;

(b) whether it includes veterinary service camps for milch cattle;

(c) if so, the States where such programme has been introduced; and

(d) whether such programme is proposed to be extended to Orissa also ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d) Bank of India has reported that it has recently introduced a scheme for providing veterinary aids for the benefit of rural poor, under which rural and semi-urban branches have been directed to arrange visits of veterinary doctors to the branch once in a week to render free treatment to the milch cattle belonging to the villages and nearby hamlets. The scheme is envisaged to cover the entire network of rural and semi urban branches of the bank including its network of branches in the State of Orissa.

Modernisation of Jute Mills with Soviet Collaboration

158. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether some Indian companies have taken steps to modernise their jute mills with Soviet collaboration; and

(b) if so, the details of the aid given by Soviet Union to modernise those jute mills with their names ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The Central Government is not aware of such proposal.

Diamond Export

159. SHRI HARIHAR SOREN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) the target set for export of diamond in 1987-88;

(b) the actual achievement made in diamond export by the end of September, 1987;

(c) how does it compare with the export figures of corresponding period in 1986; and

(d) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) The target for export of cut and polished diamonds in 1987-88 is Rs. 1,830 crores.

(b) to (d) According to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, exports of cut and polished diamonds during April-Sept. '87 as compared to April-Sept. '86 are estimated to be as follows :

	(Rs. Crores)
April-Sept. '87..	1159
April-Sept. '86..	908

High Tution and Hostel Fee by Engineering and Medical Colleges

160. SHRI VISHNU MODI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are many recognised Engineering and Medical Colleges in the country which are charging high tution and hostel fees from students; and

(b) whether no income tax rebate is allowed on the amounts paid towards fee and hostel charges in respect of the sons/daughters of Government employees; and if so, the reason therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) The Engineering College permitted by certain State Governments to offer engineering courses by charging high tution fee and hostel fee cannot be treated as recognized by the All India Council for Technical Education. So for as Government Medical Colleges are concerned, they are charging fees as approved by the Government.

(b) No income tax rebate is allowed on the amount paid towards fee and hostel charges in respect of the sons/daughters of government employees. These are personal expenses of the parents for which no income-tax rebate is normally allowed. The Government is contemplating to cut down as many deductions as possible from income for the purpose of computing income-tax and such rebate would not be in conformity with the same. Moreover, any benefit confined only to the government employees is liable to be challenged as discriminatory.

Seizure of Contraband Goods at Airports

161. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) quantum of contraband goods, seized with their value, at the various airports in the country in the last two months :

(b) whether Government have tightened the system of its custom and excise machinery so as to eliminate the trade of contraband goods from the airports;

(c) if so, the details of these measures; and

(d) whether these measures have produced the desired results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) The details of goods seized at various airports in the country during the months of August and September, 1987 are given below :

	(Value : Rs. in lakhs)
Commodity seized	
Gold	306
Watches	11
Synthetic fabrics	2
Dangerous drugs	51
Indian/Foreign currency	39
Others	143
	Total : 552 (Provisional)

(b) and (c) The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particularly in vulnerable areas of sea coast, land border regions and airports remain alert to check and detect smuggling into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as : X-ray machines, metal detectors are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling into the country.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Supply of Superfine Yarn to Handloom Societies

162. SHRI K. KUNJAMBU : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to increase the export of superfine variety of yarn;

(b) whether it will not adversely affect the handloom sector; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to provide superfine yarn at cheaper rates to the handloom societies ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR) : (a) The Government have been allowing export of cotton yarn in the count group 1 to 60s within a limited ceiling. The exports of yarn above count 60s have no limit. However, the export of high count yarn, namely, above 60s count, is not significant. Recently a decision not to allow exports of hank yarn in the count group 1 to 60s has been taken taking into account the interests of the handloom sector.

Smuggling of Gold

163. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether smuggling of gold continues to be on the increase;

(b) the weight and value (Domestic and International) of the gold seized in India in 1985-86 and till October, 1987;

(c) the areas and regions where smuggling has increased ;

(d) airports where maximum seizures have been reported in 1986 and 1987; and

(e) the preventive measures taken to stop smuggling of gold and plug the loopholes in anti-smuggling measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN

THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) Reports received by the Government and seizures made indicate that gold continues to be sentitive to smuggling into the country.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

(c) On the basis of the reports received by the Government and seizures made the following areas have been indentified as valnerable areas to smuggling :

1. West Coast
2. East Coast
3. Indo-Pak border
4. Indo-Nepal border
5. Indo-Bangladesh border
6. Indo-Burma border
7. International airports

(d) The value of goods seized at Bombay, Calcutta, Delhi, Madras and Trivandrum airports during the year 1986 and 1987 (upto September) is given below :

(Value : Rs. in crores)

Airports	1986	1987
		(upto September)
Bombay	20.21	18.87
Calcutta	1.72	1.49
Delhi	5.90	4.28
Madras	4.72	2.77
Trivandrum	3.83	2.29

(e) The anti-smuggling drive throughout the country has been intensified. The anti-smuggling machinery throughout the country particulaly in valnerable areas of sea coast, land border regions and airports remain alert to check and detect smuggling into the country. Sophisticated anti-smuggling equipments such as : metal detectors, X-ray machine, close circuit T.Vs are utilised for prevention and detection of gold concealed on person of

passengers and their baggage/in-cargo. Close co-ordination is maintained with all the concerned agencies in the prevention and detection of smuggling into the country.

(Figures for 1987 are provisional).

[*Translation*]

**Investment Credit Deposit Ratio of
Nationalised Banks**

164. SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had conducted a survey through the Reserve Bank of India regarding the steps taken by the nationalised banks and other financial institutions in regard to improving credit-deposit and investment-credit-deposit ratio; and

(b) if so, the State-wise brief details of that survey ?

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

(b) Does not arise.

[*English*]

**Dismissal of Civilian Employees in Armed
Forces Headquarters and Inter-
Service Organisations**

165. SHRI HAFIZ MOHD. SIDDIQ : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of civilian employees working in the Armed Forces Headquarters and Inter-Service Organisations have been dismissed/removed from service during the last three years on charge of unauthorised absence from duty ;

(b) whether an equally large number of employees were let off with the award of minor penalties for the same period ;

(c) if so, the reasons for discrimination and non-application of rules and regulations uniformly in all cases ;

(d) the steps taken to review all such cases and to ensure uniform application of rules and regulations in future ; and

(e) the cases so discriminated with details of review ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI V. SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) No, Sir, only 35 employees working in Armed Forces HQrs and Inter-Service Organisations, in an authorised establishment of over ten thousand, have been dismissed/removed from service on the charge of remaining absent from unauthorisedly during the period of 3 years from 1-11-84 to 31-10-87.

(b) 43 employees have been awarded minor penalties on the charge of unauthorised absence during this period.

(c) to (e) The Central Civil Service (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules 1965, provides for any one or more of the penalties mentioned in Rule 11 of the said Rules to be imposed by the competent disciplinary authority, for good and sufficient reason, upon a Government servant against whom any charge of misconduct is proved in disciplinary proceedings. No guidelines can be prescribed for the imposition of a particular penalty by the disciplinary authority for a particular act of misconduct since each case has to be decided after taking into consideration divergent factors like gravity of the misconduct, past record of the Government servant, and the circumstances in which the misconduct took place. The penalty of dismissal/removal from service has been imposed on Government servants who remain unauthorisedly absent for long durations, or have chosen to ignore the opportunity to present their defence before the Inquiry Officer, thereby providing a reasonable inference that the official is not interested in continuing further in service.

Agreement between British Aerospace and HAL for Supply of Tail Planes for Advanced Turbo Prop Airliner

166. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an agreement has been reached between British Aerospace and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for the supply of upto 150 set of Tail Planes for the advanced Turbo Prop regional airliner being manufactured by the British ?

(b) whether there are possibilities under the agreement to open ways for undertaking manufacture of other items ; and

(c) if so, the details regarding the agreements in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) to (c) In terms of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on 14.5.1987 between M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and M/s British Aerospace (B. Ae); B. Ae have agreed to place orders for tailplanes for at least 150 aircraft sets for the Advanced Turbo Prop Airliner being manufactured by the latter subject to the mutually agreed terms and conditions. This is inclusive of an order which has already been placed for 12 sets. The MOU also envisages possibilities of HAL undertaking manufacture of other items required by B. Ae subject *inter alia* to HAL being competitive.

Income Tax Dues of Cricketers

167. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the members of the Indian cricket team who are participating in the Reliance World Cup, owe any dues to the Income Tax Department ; and

(b) if so, the names and quantum due from each of them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b) The names of the members of the Indian cricket team who are participating in the Reliance Cup and against whom income-tax demand is outstanding are given as under (alongwith the demand outstanding against each) :

Names	Income tax demand outstanding (Rs.)
S Shri	
1. S. M. Gavaskar	1201
2. Dilip Vengsarkar	232 3
3. Roger Binny	4949
4. Mohd. Azharuddin	145
5. Maninder Singh	629

In respect of other participants, no income-tax demand is outstanding.

Indo-Soviet Trade Talks

168. DR. B. L. SHAILESH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Indo-Soviet officials level talks were held in new Delhi during the last month to finalise a list of export and import items and to step up trade by two and half times in the next three years ;

(b) if so, what else transpired at these talks ; and

(c) the broad outlines of any Indo-Soviet trade agreements entered into as a result of these talks ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (c) A Soviet delegation visited India from 17th to 26th October, 1987 to discuss matters concerning Indo-Soviet trade and economic relations and also about ways and means of

increasing the bilateral trade turnover by 2.5 times over the next five years. The discussions covered a broad range of subjects like diversification of the structure of trade, encouraging economic cooperation in fields like transport, civil aviation, energy, power, coal, oil, water resources etc., encouraging new forms of cooperation like joint ventures, cooperation in services sector, etc. and promoting direct relationship between the various organisations of the two countries including financial institutions. No trade agreement as such was concluded.

Diversification of Drought Relief Funds by States

169. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether some States are diverting drought relief funds given by Centre ;

(b) if so, the names of those States ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) No complaint of diversion of funds given by the Centre to the State for the current year's drought relief has been received so far.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Canara Bank Proposal for Setting Up A Subsidiary for Financing Housing Activities

170. SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Canara Bank propose to set up a subsidiary for financing housing activities ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA GOJARY) : (a) and (b) The

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have reported that they have received a proposal from Canara Bank for promoting a Housing Finance Company. The authorised equity capital of the finance company is proposed to be Rs. 100 crores and the initial capital of Rs. 5 crores would be subscribed by Canara Bank and others in the proportion indicated below :

1. Canbank Financial Services Ltd.	4%
2. Canara Bank	30%
3. Unit Trust of India	15%
4. Housing Development Finance Corporation	11%
5. Public issues	40%

The proposed Housing Finance Company would extend direct finance to individuals for house building. It would also finance group housing schemes of organisations like Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Development Corporation. The loan amount will range from Rs. 10,000/- to Rs. 3 lakhs depending upon the borrowers repayment capacity. The repayments will be spread over 5-20 years on equated monthly instalment basis. The rate of interest will range from 12.5% to 14.5% per annum. The company will also finance builders to complete their housing projects.

Cardamom Export

171. Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether cardamom export has shown a decline in 1987-88, as against 1985-86 and 1986-87 ;

(b) the quantity and value of cardamom exported by India in 1985-86 1986-87 and 1987-88 till October 1987 ;

(c) whether India is losing ground in the International market due to stiff competition from Guatemala and other countries ; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken to face the stiff competition in International market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) and (b) Figures for export of cardamom during 1987-88 would be available during the next financial year.

The quantity and value of cardamom (small) exported is as follows :

Year	Qty. (M. Tonnes)	Value. (Rs. crores)
1985-86	3271	53.46
1986-87	1450	58.50
1987-88 (Upto Aug.)	122	1.41

Figures of export for the period upto October, '87 are not available yet.

(c) Yes, Sir,

(d) Steps being taken include increasing of productivity of cardamom through various subsidy schemes like replantation irrigation scheme, research etc. and launching of market promotion schemes to popularise our product.

Lower Prices for Shrimp

172. SHRI GURUDAS KAMAT :

CHOWDARY RAM PARKASH:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that millions of fishermen all over the country have been affected by the lower prices of shrimp this year inspite of rising value of Japanese yen ;

(b) the reasons for Government's inaction in combating the price cartel formed by some unscrupulous marine product exporters ;

(c) whether in the interest of lakhs of fishermen a more representative MPEDA will be formed ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSI) : (a) to (d) Bulk of our shrimp exports to Japan consists of middle size of headless shrimp. On account of over supply of fresh cultured shrimp to the Japanese market from Taiwan, China, Vietnam etc. prices of shrimp came down during the middle of October, 1987 despite the strong Yen. However, the situation has improved due to peak beginning season for the year-end sales in Japan.

Recently, the problem of remunerative price for shrimps from Visakhapatnam was brought to the notice of the Government. That has now been sorted out with the involvement of exporters, trawler operators of Visakhapatnam and other authorities concerned. The MPEDA, in its present form is adequately represented to look after the interests of fishermen also.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichetti-palayam) : I have given a notice of an Adjournment Motion with regard to Sri Lanka.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : I want to raise a question regarding failure of the Government to handle the explosive situation in Sri Lanka in the context of the Rajive-Jayawardene Accord. They have brought shame to the country and we are made a laughing stock in the Non-Aligned world... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Not allowed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Will you listen to me ? Can I say something ?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) The Sri Lankan issue has to be taken up today immediately.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Please ask the government to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I will say something. I have got a firm commitment. I had a talk with all the opposition leaders and I am myself concerned that we must discuss the situation in Sri Lanka and we had agreed.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You are likely to go wrong. We also told you that we will insist on the Adjournment Motion. So, please be correct in saying that.

MR. SPEAKER : You have given me an Adjournment Motion. I admit that. About 10-15 Adjournment Motions are with me. I have an assurance from the Government that they will make a detailed statement on Monday because by that time they will have the.....

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Why not today ? You promised us.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Kolandaivelu, you were not there. You did not attend the later part ; you were in the earlier part ; and all the hon. members were there ; and we had a talk that, because of certain things, the final statement, the full statement will be coming on Monday. That is why I had initiated and put it on the slate that we shall discuss it immediately on Tuesday. So Simple it is.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I want a clarification. You have said about the statement. But what about our raising the question of the failure of the Government to handle the explosive situation ? There is an element of censure in that. That is different from the statement that they will make on Monday. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please don't interrupt me ; please don't interrupt me. I am saying something. Let me finish one subject. Then I will listen to you. We have put something according to the Rules Book which you have provided. I will take up the subject which is not put down on the

agenda, but I have done it with our concurrence. The full statement will be coming on Monday so that we can discuss it on Tuesday.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : This should have priority.

MR. SPEAKER : I understand the priority ; I understand the urgency. I would have done it, but according to certain compulsions and constitutional obligations we have to take up Punjab issue first.....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Can you tell us that there will be a device available for us to censure the government for their failure to handle the explosive situation in Sri Lanka ?

MR. SPEAKER : We have done it earlier ; we can do it later on.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is why we are insisting on the Adjournment Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : I do not agree. Not agreed.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the hon. lady member.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have listened to you. Now I have called the hon. lady member. I have given you a chance.

Now I have given the Floor to her.

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR (Bijnor) : This House is under a tremendous moral burden to immediately put the practice of sati to a stop. A teen age girl had been burnt alive in Deorala. It has sent a shock wave throughout the country ; it is a matter of national shame and a matter of national sin. We all must join hands in doing penance. There should be a full discussion on

it and a law made to immediately stop this practice of sati.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : We fully support her demand that there should be a discussion and there should be a central legislation to ban sati.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR : This is a very serious matter. There should be a full discussion.

MR. SPEAKER : I fully agree with you. What I say is, not only me, not only the Members of the Opposition, but the whole House agree with it. And we have already decided in our meeting to have a complete discussion and urge the Government to take active steps.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : What about legislation to ban this practice.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, while the whole country was upset and there were quite loud criticism and protests all over the country, I held a meeting with the Opposition leaders. The Prime Minister also directed that we must have an all India Act in this Parliament. Such a Bill will be passed. We will consult the entire Opposition, the whole nation before we bring it up before the Parliament. It will be a national approach and it will be a comprehensive and a very strict law to finish this social evil of Sati from our society.

MR. SPEAKER : A foolproof one.

(Interruptions)

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987, Finance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987, Representation of the people (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 and Auroville (Emergency Provisions)

Amendment Ordinance, 1987, Promulgated by the President.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): On behalf of Shri H. K. L. Bhagat, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123 (2) (a) of the Constitution :-

- (1) The Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (No. 5 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No LT-4916/87]
- (2) The Finance (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (No. 6 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 19th September, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT 4917/87]
- (3) The Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1987 (No. 7 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 22nd September, 1987. Placed in Library. See No. LT-4918/87]
- (4) The Auroville (Emergency Provisions) Amendment Ordinance, 1987 (No. 8 of 1987) promulgated by the President on the 28th October, 1987. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4919/87]

Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1987, Income Tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules 1987, Notifications under Customs Act, 1962 etc.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : I beg to lay on the Table : -

- (1) A copy of the Central Excise (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 769(E) in Gazette of India dated the 11th September, 1987 under sub-section (2) of section 38 of

the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944.

[*Placed in Librere Se No* LT 4920/87]

- (2) A copy of the Income-tax (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 894(E) in Gazette of India dated the 8th October, 1987 under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961.

[*Placed in Library. See No* LT 4921/87]

- (3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962 :-

(i) G.S.R. 725(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 151/82-Customs dated the 14th May, 1982 so as to exempt the imported goods from so much of the customs as is leviable on the handling charges incurred at the Inland Container Depot.

(ii) G.S.R. 729(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 25th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 154/86-Customs dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to remove certain ambiguity in the rates indicated therein and also deletes one of the rates indicated therein and also deletes one of the machines from the scope of concessional rate of duty so as to provide protection to the indigenous industry.

(iii) G.S.R. 745 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to video cassettes and video tapes recorded with University or Higher or Advanced Technical Educational Programme imported by University or research institution from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(iv) G.S.R. 746(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to video cassettes and video tapes recorded with University or Higher or Advanced Technical Educational Programme imported by research students from the whole of the basic and additional duties of customs leviable thereon.

(v) G.S.R. 747(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 2nd September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to goods covered by Notification Nos. 303/87-Customs and 304/87-Customs dated the 2nd September, 1987 from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

(vi) G.S.R. 748(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt goods covered by Notification No. 262/86-Customs dated the 24th April, 1986 from the whole of the auxiliary duty of customs leviable thereon.

(vii) G.S.R. 758(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to increase the effective basic customs duty on pentaerythritol from 80 per cent plus Rupees 5 per Kg. to 80 per cent plus Rupees 21 per Kg. with a view to protect indigenous industry.

(viii) G.S.R. 760(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 110-Customs dated the 17th February, 1986 so as to include therein "Message Re-transmission System-Madras of Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited" as a "Project" under heading 98.01 of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975

for the purpose of classification of all goods, imported for the above project under the said Tariff item.

- (ix) G.S.R. 774(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 186/87-Customs dated the 29th April, 1987 so as to omit proviso from the said notification which prescribes a concessional rate of basic customs duty of 60 per cent on specified computer peripherals so as to dispense with the requirement of furnishing a certificate that goods are of a kind and type not manufactured in India.
- (x) G.S.R. 783 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 88-Customs dated the 1st March, 1987 so as to prescribe a basic customs duty of 30 per cent on polystyrene Rupees 4,000 per tonne on paste and battery grade PVC resins, Rupees 2,000 per tonne on suspension grade PVC resins and Rupees 3,000 per tonne on LDPE.
- (xi) G.S.R. 784 (F) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September 1987, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 227/76-Customs dated the 22nd August 1976 so as to prescribe a uniform basic customs duty of 20 per cent ad valorem in respect of polypropylene and copolymers of polypropylene and basic customs duty of 30 per cent in respect of HDPE.
- (xii) G.S.R. 785 (F) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 206/87-Customs and 208/87-Customs dated the 12th May, 1987 so as to raise the auxiliary duty of customs in respect of PVC resins from nil to 25 per cent and lower the auxiliary duty of customs in respect of polystyrene from 40 per cent to 25 per cent.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 797 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification Nos. 6/84-Customs dated the 10th January, 1984 and 210/84-Customs dated the 1st August, 1984 so as to provide that the customs duty concessions would be available to components covered by a list approved by the Competent authority in the Director General of Technical Development and such list need not be approved by Ministry of Industry.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 799 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 188/87-Customs dated the 29th April, 1987 (which prescribes concessional rate of customs duty for specified electronic components so as to include four other types of memory IC's and delete reference to maximum access time (technical specification).
- (xv) G.S.R. 800 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 17th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified machinery required for technological upgradation of selected capital goods industry from the basic customs duty in excess of 35 per cent ad valorem and the whole of the additional and auxiliary duties of customs leviable thereon.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 806 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 19th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to increase the auxiliary duty of

customs wherever leviable by five percentage points except in the case of crude petroleum.

- (xvii) S.O. 865 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or vice-versa.

[*Placed in Library* See No. LT-4922/87]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under the Central Excise Rules, 1944 :-

- (i) G.S.R. 727 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 64/86-CE dated the 10th February, 1986 so as to completely exempt from payment of excise duty, parts of specified power driven pumps primarily designed for handling water when such parts are used in the manufacture of such power driven pumps.
- (ii) G.S.R. 733 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to forgings and forged products from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (iii) G.S.R. 734 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 27th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum extending the validity of Notification No. 190/87-CE dated the 4th August, 1987 upto 1st October, 1987.
- (iv) G.S.R. 736 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified goods manufactured by factories belon-

ging to Central Government for use by any Department of the Central Government from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.

- (v) G.S.R. 737 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to specified goods manufactured by a village industry and marked by or with the assistance of Khadi and Village Industries Commission from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (vi) G.S.R. 738 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 28th August, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to all goods manufactured in a prison from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (vii) G.S.R. 749 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 172/87-CE dated the 18th June, 1987 so as to exempt from excise duty finishing agents' dye-carriers to accelerate the dyeing or fixing of dye-stuffs and other products and preparation of a kind used in the textile industry when used within the factory of production for the manufacture of textiles and textile articles.
- (viii) G.S.R. 750 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd September 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to printing frames when used within the factory of production for printing of textile fabrics, from the whole of the duty of excise leviable thereon.
- (ix) G.S.R. 764 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1987 together with an

explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw an explanatory memorandum seeking to withdraw the benefits under the MODVAT scheme and the related benefits in respect of aerated waters (soda and soft drink) with effect from 1st October, 1987.

(x) G.S.R. 767 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum regarding exemption to cigarettes supplied as stores for consumption on board a ship of the Indian Navy from both basic excise duty and additional excise duty in lieu of sales tax subject observance of certain procedures.

(xi) G.S.R. 786 (E) published in Gazette of India dated the 15th September, 1987 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments to Notification No. 132/86-CE dated the 1st March, 1986 so as to prescribe a uniform excise duty of 30 per cent ad valorem in respect of polypropylene and copolymers of polypropylene.

[Placed in Library See No. LT-4923/87]

(5) A copy of the Research and Development Cess Rules, 1987 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 836 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1987 under sub-section (3) of section 10 of the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4924/87]

(6) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 879 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1987 appointing the 1st December 1987 as the date on which the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986, shall come into force issued under sub-section (3) of section 1 of the said act.

(7) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 880 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published

in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1987 specifying five per cent as the rate of Cess payable on all payments made towards the import of technology under sub-section (1) of section 3 of the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986.

(8) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 881 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 5th October, 1987 forming a fund called the Venture Capital Fund with effect from 1st December, 1987, issued under sub-section (1) of section 5 of the Research and Development Cess Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-4925/87]

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I have already given an adjournment motion on Sati. What about the adjournment motion?

Is there no method to censure the Government?

MR. SPEAKER: No, not on this.

[Translation]

CH. RAM PRAKASH (Ambala): Mr. Speaker, Sir, 3 Assembly bye-elections are going to be held in Haryana. There will be booth capturing there. The Government should deploy C.R.P.F. there.

MR. SPEAKER: Please write to Election Commission for this.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: We want to censure the Government for their failure to handle the situation in Sri Lanka. Since we have no liberty to censure the Government we are walking out in protest.

12.08 hrs.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate and some other hon. Members then left the House

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
RE : NOTICE FROM SUPREME
COURT REQUIRING HIS APPEAR-
ANCE IN THE COURT ON
9.11.1987

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that on 20th October, 1987, a notice was received from the Assistant Registrar of the Supreme Court of India requiring my appearance before the Supreme Court on 9th November, 1987 at 10.30 A.M. in connection with a Transfer Petition (Civil) No. 461 of 1987 and Civil Miscellaneous Petition No. 20825 of 1987. The Transfer Petition seeks to transfer from the High Court of Delhi to the Supreme Court of India, the Civil Writ No. 2470 of 1987 filed by Shri Ram Dhan and Shri Satpal Malik MPs, against the Union of India and others challenging the validity and constitutionality of the constitution (Fifty-Second Amendment) Act, 1985 and the Tenth Schedule added to the Constitution by the said Act.

As per well established practice and convention of Lok Sabha, I have decided not to respond to the notice. I have passed on the relevant papers to the Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Justice for taking such action as he may deem fit to apprise the court of the correct constitutional position and the well established conventions of the House.

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal) : Political murder is being committed in Haryana and atrocities are being perpetrated.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot talk about State subjects here.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Excesses are being committed. Where should we go ?

[Translations]

MR. SPEAKER : Sharmaji, please listen to me. I know that the Government

should observe the rule of law and treat everyone equally. If any person, who is in power, acts dishonestly, makes discrimination and indulges in vendetta, he does a wrong thing. But you should write to the Home Minister and the Election Commission.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Democracy is being throttled there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is a State Subject I cannot discuss State Subjects here.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : There the elections are being held on 8th instant. Candidates are being arrested. Where should we go ?

MR. SPEAKER : You go to the Election Commission.

[English]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Let the elections be fair. The chief Election Commissioner may be directed to send the CRPF.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You go to the Election Commission and talk to the State Election Commission.

[English]

I cannot do anything.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members who have referred to Haryana Elections.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is quite wrong to adopt a revengeful attitude.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : You please give us an assurance.

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing can be said here.

(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Hon. Members from both the ruling party and opposition have raised this question. The leader of C.P.M. spoke to me over telephone and also gave in writing. A very dangerous atmosphere has been created there and they are apprehensive that elections will not be fair there. What we can do is that we may place all Central forces at the disposal of the Chief Election Commissioner. He should deploy the forces there because they have no faith in the local Government.

[*English*]

We will place all the forces at the disposal of the Election Commission.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : If the Election Commission does not deploy the forces, where we would go ?

[*Translation*]

Political murders are being committed there. In these circumstances fair elections cannot at all be held there.

*(Interruptions)**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is all right now. That is all. Not allowed.

12.12. hrs.

MOTION RE: REPORT OF THE
JOINT COMMITTEE ON BOFORS
CONTRACT

[*English*]

Extension of Time for Presentation of Report.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND (Chikkodi): I beg to move :

"That this House to extend upto the last day of the first week of the Budget

Session, 1988, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee to enquire into Bofors Contract."

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House do extend upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session, 1988, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee to enquire into Bofors Contract."

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara) : This is a motion under rule 277 (1) It is an extraordinary move because a guarantee was given to the House that the report would be made available on the last day of the first week of this Session. Now, they have also given a statement—I have seen the statement which is totally unsatisfactory.

In this connection I want to point out some other departures from the precedents of this House and committee that I have found unfortunately this Committee has been indulging in. The first was an extraordinary practice of being photographed with the witnesses, which was disgraceful enough.

The two witnesses who ought to have been treated as witnesses had been entertained and a photograph taken and released to the press. They were given the status not of witnesses but the status of VIP visitors. And the Prime Minister of this country is going around and saying that they have given more than what they had expected. The Prime Minister, unfortunately, is not here. He is the leader of the House. He should have been more responsible and careful while talking about the deliberations of the Committee. The Prime Minister, who is a member, has no business, as you are aware, under the Rules of Procedure of this House, to talk about the deliberations of the Committee. I do not know whether he was talking about the information given to the Government or to the Committee. Since we are not part of this Committee, we have to go by the reports that have appeared in the press.

Under rule (275/2) only the hon. Speaker can allow inspection of records or evidence that had been tendered before the

Committee. What I want to know is what the Prime Minister has mentioned, the contents of the evidence, how he has been talking about it. Did the hon. Chairman of the Committee or any other member of the Committee convey it without your permission? Or was it done with your permission?

MR. SPEAKER : What communication?

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : The communication of names of the persons or firms which had been given by two witnesses who appeared before the Committee, names of companies, individuals, persons or corporations or whatever they are.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : They are not witnesses; they are culprits.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : That point I have already covered when I said the way the witnesses were treated as VIPs.

The Social Democratic Party's Congress of Sweden has expressed shock that they have been treated this way, when they said nobody has given certificate to Bofors in that Congress or in that country. It is a shame, national shame, we who have suffered have given these certificates. I want to know specifically whether under Rule 275 (2) you have given any permission or in your absented Chairman has given or what is this evidence the Prime Minister is talking about because he has no business and he cannot. As long as they are seeking this extension they cannot, because this evidence and I may repeat whatever evidence that has been rendered, whatever documents that have been submitted, if they are written documents, again I underline 'written documents' or statements made, they are in the precious custody of your good self and the House and the Secretariat also under Rule 383, is responsible. So therefore, ultimately it is your seat of responsibility, the trust we have placed in you. You are an instrument of the Constitution and this cannot be allowed to go on like this that the Prime Minister off hand goes somewhere and he issues a statement that this is what they have said. It is not done this way. It is a

disgrace again, for the first time that the newspaper have been full of stories about what is going on in this Committee. It is an unprecedented thing. How did this leak come about? Is this Committee going to function this way. That is the question I want to raise when they seek extension.

MR. SPEAKER : This is what you have already said.

Shri Madhavji

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : What happened to our amendments. They were not...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : What happened to our amendment. We have given an amendment to the original Motion.

MR. SPEAKER : Amendments are not permissible.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Why?

MR. SPEAKER : It is beyond the scope and negative in character. You can only oppose the extension of this time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : There can be a difference of opinion between you and us. *(Interruptions)*

On that particular amendment we have certain construction which you can allow.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can oppose it. You have that right. There is no question of amendment laid down anywhere.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Amendment and opposition are two different things.

MR. SPEAKER : The House may either adopt or not adopt the Motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have given an amendment which is not negative in character.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You can only oppose it. It cannot take any other form. As such no Amendment or substitute Motions can be moved to such a motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Firstly it is neither a Substitute Motion nor an Amendment. Anyway, I will explain my point of view at the time of my speech.

MR. SPEAKER : You can oppose it.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I feel there is no need for an extension because this Committee has failed to function ; the cooperation which is necessary from the Government was not coming. The Government know the companies which have received payments. But Government failed to give this information to the Committee inspite of repeated requests. What will the Committee do ? Even if we extend the term of the Committee, the Committee will fail to do anything in the matter and I think that there is no need for extension of the term of this Committee. Because Government has got enough information, Government must come out with the names of the companies which had received payments. Government knows about it. Why should they not give it to the Committee ? There is no role for the Committee when the Committee failed to get information, the Prime Minister says that the said information will be given to them after the enquiry is conducted by C. B. I. That means C. B. I. to-day has taken precedence over the Committee. Why should there be a C. B. I. enquiry with regard to payment made to the companies ? The Committee should have been really taken into confidence and given information. When full information is not being given to the Committee, I do not think that the Committee will serve any purpose. I oppose this Motion.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will come to the amendment later on. Of course, ultimately we have to accept your ruling. But I will try to put a construction by which you may reconsider your ruling about the amendments. [*Interruptions*]

We have perfect right to appeal to the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER : I will present those rulings.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will appeal to you. But just give me a patient hearing.

Firstly, we feel very strongly that in the present context and with the limited powers that the Committee has got, the Committee will not succeed even if the extension is given to them. If they have not been able to find any thing by this time, it is for the simple reason .

MR. SPEAKER : How do you know it ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, we know it. Sir, it is a simple mathematical proposition. They have said that on the last day of the first week of this Session, they will submit their report, findings and recommendations. The very fact that they have not done it means that they have not been able to find anything. It is a simple conclusion. (*Interruptions*) As far as this Committee is concerned, merely giving them extension of time without giving them the powers which we demanded for participating in the Committee, that extension will not be useful. I will repeat them.

There are four important powers which we wanted to be given to this Committee and not leave them to your decision because we feel that the Presiding Authority should not be involved in this process altogether, with due respect to you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That is right. I agree to that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, on a number of occasions, you have nodded your head saying that 'don't involve me', but ultimately they involved you.

MR. SPEAKER : Because I am the servant of the House. What can I do ?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Thank you, Sir. At least give us the freedom of interpreting what we feel. First, the Prime Minister had declared time and again that in 1980 they had decided that there

would be no middlemen at all and therefore the payment of commission to the middlemen did not arise. Therefore, we demanded for this Committee the first power that let this Committee have the power to examine all the decisions regarding the procurement and storage of arms. They said 'No'.

Second, we said that if the objective of the Committee is to be fulfilled, any Minister of the Cabinet including the Prime Minister can be summoned before the Committee and the Committee should have that power. They said 'No'. Third we said that if the security aspect has been examined and therefore Bofors affairs could be investigated, even the West German submarine deal is also important and therefore give this Committee the power of investigating that part also. That was refused.

Lastly we said that since the Bofors Company is a foreign company, a number of foreign nationals are involved and therefore give this Committee the power—if they are willing of inviting the foreign nationals take their evidence and record their evidence formally in the Committee. This was not done and since these powers are not given, my amendment says that if the extension is to be given, let this House revise the powers of this Committee so as to facilitate the presentation of the report in the extended time. This is not negative in character at all and therefore I suggested only a proviso that in order, that an extension could be fruitful these powers should be given ..

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing can be done. I have noted that point.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, you have your independent judgement and we have our own. But unfortunately they clash.

MR. SPEAKER : Not all the time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : But I am only trying to persuade you, Sir. I have full confidence in your understanding and comprehension. That is why I am trying to tell you how this amendment of mine in which I have merely said —it is a very important amendment at the end only add "and suitably revise the powers of the

Joint Committee so as to facilitate the presentation of its report within the extended time."

Secondly, Sir, I would like to point out to you that when you are giving them extension, even if they get the extension by the majority of the House, let them not commit the impropriety that they are committing. Sir, the Chairman of the Bofors came here. He had discussions with the Defence Ministry. He had probable discussions with the Minister and after that one does not know whether

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. C. PANT) : He did not have any discussions with me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : He had discussions with the Ministry. Let us make it inanimate (*Interruptions*)

They had discussion with the ministry.

SHRI K. C. PANT : It makes a difference.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : 'It' and 'he', there is a difference. I said that he discussed with the Ministry the officials. (*Interruptions*) Remember that the Ministry is headed by the Minister. Let him not forget it. (*Interruptions*)

The Chairman of the Bofors had discussions. (*Interruptions*) Yes, I had headed the Railway Ministry and I know it very well .. (*Interruptions*). Not with retrospective effect. (*Interruptions*).

Let me tell you that if the discussions were held with the Defence Ministry officials one does not know afterwards whether the Bofors Chairman met the Joint Committee, but even if he has met, in sharing information and discussions and views with the Ministry first and then even meeting the Joint Committee that has been appointed, there is a breach of privilege. I have given you independent notice, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got one from Sri Unnikrishnan.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I have already given, Sir. So, that will be coming

up. We will take it up independently. So, that impropriety is committed, I am afraid that even during the extended period, they are likely to do the same thing.

Sir, there is one more aspect to which I would like his attention to be drawn.

MR. SPEAKER : In spite of your warning

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATI : Yes, Sir, you probably know, it has been published in the press, there is a Swedish Secrecy Act, I would like to refer to Section 3, Chapter 14 of the Act. It reads :

"The Swedish Government may communicate a secret report to a public authority if it is evident that the interest of the information communicated prevailed over the interest which the secrecy purported to protect."

Sir, my contention is I do not know whether they have the knowledge of these provisions of Swedish Law, but they have not taken advantage of these provisions. At least we do not know whether they approached the Swedish Government and said that under Section 3, Chapter 14 of the Swedish Secrecy Act, we are entitled to get the National Audit Bureau Report (original Report) in which the names were already there. The names were erased and they were given to the Government of India. We have also received the copy and we have seen how they have erased the names. From that also you imagine what names might be there. That erasement is there. They have not taken advantage of that.

Then there is one more aspect to which I would like to draw the attention. They have not made sincere efforts to get all the information from the sources because the powers which we wanted the Committee to enjoy, those powers, were not there. Then there was a report that when the Chairman of the Bofors came, he said, 'I am prepared to share certain information with the Chairman of the Committee orally not in writing,' and it has been reported that the Chairman said, 'I will not accept any names orally.' Sir, the best procedure would have been, he could have accepted those names, convened

the meeting as the Chairman and said, 'As a Chairman I have received this information I am disclosing this to the Committee, let it be incorporated in the minutes of the Committee so that it becomes a formal Information'

MR. SPEAKER : Finish it, Sir.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATI : Sir, only two points. (*Interruptions*). They have committed so many blunders, I have to refer to all of them, Sir.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : This is one of the blunders that is being made.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Prime Minister's statement, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That is all over.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You listen to me. It is a very serious case, we should take note.

MR. SPEAKER : We will take note.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, firstly, giving a VIP treatment to the Chairman of the Bofors is giving the treatment to one who is a culprit, who is standing in the dock. Even the Swedish Social Democratic Party has expressed the view that this is not a proper thing that has been done. The Ruling Party in Sweden have expressed surprise as to how is it that in the National Audit Bureau I would like to tell you, Sir, to strengthen the argument of Mr. Unnikrishnan in the National Audit Bureau Report they have stated that Bofors has denied that they had any agents and they have paid any commissions, and while drawing their own inference the National Audit Bureau has said that 'we reject the contention of Bofors and on the basis of evidence that is available to me Bofors had an agreement with..... regarding the payment of commission.' So, they have rejected the credentials of Bofors. To such person whose credentials have been rejected whose bona fides have been rejected by the National Audit Bureau, they have been

given VIP treatment by our Government and they are not asked to appear before the Joint Committee as a witness.

Lastly, I would like the Chairman of the Committee to take cognizance of the fact that on 27th of August when I initiated the last debate on Bofors I had given certain information. The Minister was saying that 'you are not giving any information.'

So, I have brought in this House the case of Greaves Cotton company of which Mr. Thapar was the Chairman. I pointed out certain dealings. I pointed out 43 sub-contracts. I tried to point out the vehicle, the two trucks on which the Howitzer gun has been fitted how it is over-estimated by Rs. 100 crores. How in the Salb-Scania accounts over-estimation of Rs. 100 crores is there, which has gone out of India. All this should be taken note of and I wanted the Minister to reply. But he said, all this information will be passed on to the Joint Committee that they would set up. I do not know whether the Committee have taken cognizance of that or not. In spite of those provisions that are available, they are not able to do. Without the scope and powers which have been insisted upon, if they are not given, merely granting them an extension would not deliver the goods.

I am sure, next time the same Chairman will come before this very House and move another resolution saying that they should be given further extension and extension will continue till the dissolution of the House. And, therefore, we are opposing the extension because the 4 powers which we wanted this House to give to his Committee and to strengthen his hands, are not available. Therefore, it is meaningless to give this powerless and meaningless committee any further extension. That is what we have demanded and therefore, we oppose this motion.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) : In his statement just now made, he has made an allegation that the committee has committed blunders. This word "blunder" amounts to breach of privilege. Either he has to withdraw it or we will move the motion. Here, he has used the word 'blunder',

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Indrajit Gupta.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATI : In this House, Committee is Parliament. Just as we can have any views expressed in Parliament, we can say that the Minister has committed blunder. I can even say that the Parliament has committed blunder.

(Interruptions)

There is nothing wrong.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not a debate. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : Sir, I sought your permission to oppose the motion because it is my considered view that further extension of time for this Committee's work will amount to only waste of time and waste of public funds. There are, at the moment, two inquiries going on, parallel. One is the inquiry by the Committee and another is inquiry by the CBI. This is an extraordinary state of affairs that two inquiries are going on. We do not know which one has got precedence over which one and eventually whose word is to prevail. No 1, this is an extraordinary thing.

Secondly, as has been mentioned already by Mr. Unnikrishnan, this is extraordinary. I do not know how it can be permitted under any rule or any question of conduct or anything that while the inquiry is going on, the Prime Minister has made public statement. He is on record in the Press—it has not been contradicted that he has said that these two gentlemen who came here, Mr. Morberg, President of Bofors and Mr. Gothlin, Senior Vice President and Chief Jurist of Bofors have given to the Government the names of some companies to whom payments were made companies abroad in Switzerland or somewhere, I do not know where they are. Is this the way in which the Committee is functioning, that the Prime Minister who is not a Member of the Committee, is giving a public statement to the effect that the names of some companies have been supplied to the Government—whether they have been supplied also to the Committee or not,

I do not know but supplied to the Government or supplied to the Prime Minister? The whole hub of this Committee, the essence of this Committee's terms of reference is to find out who has taken the money. It is not whether money was taken or not. That has already been established by the Audit Commission report.

MR. SPEAKER : That we will know when the Committee presents the report.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Now I am convinced and I hope you are convinced also ..

MR. SPEAKER : Leave me alone, Sir.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : ... that unless Bofors Company is willing on its own to reveal the names of the persons who have taken the money if they refuse to give that information there is no way by which Mr. Shankaranand or any of his colleagues can find out. It cannot be done. It is obvious that after the visit of these two gentlemen and the statement of the Prime Minister that they have given the names of some companies to the Government, they are not going to be able to proceed any further in this matter. Therefore, apart from this question of how they treated these two gentlemen, which is an impropriety, I should say, from any standard, and to cast doubt on the impartiality of the Committee and all that I think the Chairman should resign. Personally I would resign if I were the Chairman. I am sure his colleagues are not feeling very happy about it.

MR. SPEAKER : If you had felt like that, you would not have done that.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why are we being asked to extend the time? That must be explained to us. For what purpose? Either the Chairman should tell us. Otherwise, he should tell us in the House that they are on the track of certain clues or certain information which they feel will yield certain profitable results. There is nothing like that. Simply they have failed to reach the deadline.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Prime Minister goes on making statements.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should the Prime Minister be allowed to make statement?

MR. SPEAKER : I have taken that note.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: When Prime Minister's Government is under a cloud, how can he say that?

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : He has also said his family and everybody has been cleared.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : He has repeated that again. (*Interruptions*).

This is gross impropriety going on. (*Interruptions*).

This Committee of Enquiry should not be given any extension under any circumstances.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : Originally, from the Opposition, we had asked for the setting up of a parliamentary.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. PANT : We cannot allow this to go unchallenged. The Government is not under a cloud. This is wrong. Government is trying to ascertain the facts. Our friends have not cooperated by joining this Committee. It is no use expressing these sentiments now. You could have joined the Committee and got to know everything. We wanted you to.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You may differ. But we have a right. Many people in the country feel that Government is under cloud.

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not monopolise, the time.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Even the idea of Committee came from us, from the Opposition. We wanted the Committee to report for the purpose of finding out the

full facts as to whether bribe has been paid and, if so, to whom it has been paid. The Government at that time stalled it and the Government then became very enthusiastic to set up the Committee when the Swedish Audit Bureau report came disclosing that bribe has been given.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you opposing ?
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am opposing it. Ignoring all our requests and all our appeals, they set up a Committee without having any power to get the names from the company.

MR. SPEAKER : It has all been discussed. What is new about it ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Government must exercise its powers to get the names. Government has done nothing. The Committee is merely a shelter, a facade, behind which the Government is taking shelter, so that the names do not come. (*Interruptions*). Obviously, the Government itself has got people in high places implicated and that is the only conclusion we can draw. Let the Committee go on for ever and ever.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are waiting for another scandal to be referred to the same Committee.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati): The fact that the Chairman of this Committee has now come forward with a motion for extension of time and all that has come out of this Committee in the newspapers have fully vindicated the position that the Opposition took that this Committee will not be able to unearth any truth whatsoever with the powers given to this Committee. I will not repeat the other arguments but I would like to know before we are asked to vote on this, at least we must have some information. Firstly, this Committee was constituted by a motion of the Government. How, when a Committee has been constituted by a motion of the Government, a parallel inquiry has been conducted by the CBI on the same matter ? (*Interruptions*).

I would like to know has the Chairman written to the Government about restriction

of the CBI inquiry and his objection as to why a parallel inquiry has been set up. If not, how can you go on ?

The second point is more important. The Government has come forward with a statement that three names have been disclosed. (*Interruptions*). I am putting it in a different perspective. These names might have been disclosed to the Committee. These names might have been disclosed to the Government. If the committee has informed the Government about these three names, the House is entitled to know about these three names because the Committee cannot disclose anything to an outside agency. If the Committee has disclosed it to some authority, then the House is entitled to know. If the names have not been disclosed to the Committee, I would like to know from the Chairman what action he proposes to take. The names have been disclosed to the Government and not to the Committee, in fact. Therefore, the Substantive Motion for extension of time of this Committee is totally redundant. I hope the hon. Minister will give his answer. Without the answer, we cannot vote on this Motion.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD (Bhagalpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir since 1952 when the First Parliament was established up to the Eighth Lok Sabha, there have been hundreds of Committees set up.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Is he opposing the Motion ? (*Interruptions*).

Is the hon. Member opposing the Motion for extension of time ? No, Sir, under the Rules of Procedure, only those members who oppose the motion in the case of a motion of this kind — are allowed to speak. There is no debate... (*Interruptions*) It is not a debate.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Under the Rules, on any Motion, any Member can support or oppose the motion.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : With my permission, he can speak. I have permitted him.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : This only shows the ignorance or the knowledgeable ignorance of the hon. Members that on any motion a member can support or oppose can do both these things. Please see the rules. But I am surprised to know as to how they do now on this subject.....
(*Interruptions*). I was saying that since 1952 upto this Eighth Lok Sabha, there have been a large number of Committees formed by this House. There are many Committees which have come before this House for extension of time, not once, not twice but many times and the House has not grudged them. They have been given the extension. I agree with you that this is an important Committee and that is why it is important that the Chairman and the Members of this Committee should be given opportunities to have this extension to find out the facts. After all, what do we want?
(*Interruptions*). One of the hon. Members repeated that four powers have to be given. They have been discussed in this House and replied to adequately, in this House. They have not talked about the extension of time but about the substantive motion and about this, it has been discussed for 25 hours and 56 minutes, in this House. But the same things have been raised again. The intention is not to allow the Committee to find out the truth and also to intimidate the Committee in this House. I would like to say one thing. Sir, this is most unusual for the House that a Committee in the process of functioning, has been so much charged with so many things, as has been said. Prof. Madhu Dandavate has committed another blunder by not allowing the Committee of Parliament to function. Rather, he is mounting missiles on the Committee and trying to see that they do not work. What is the meaning of saying by an hon. Member that the Prime Minister is going on making the statement? Does he need the hon. Member's clearance to make the statement?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If he has cast any impropriety, I will see.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : I agree. I am saying today in this House that it is well-known that some representatives came. They met some Ministry's official - I mean the Government officials. They met the Committee. Now there are facts or there might be, I do not know. They know better. There might be some facts. They may be within the knowledge of the Government. Can't the Government say : "we have got knowledge". Or, they may like to put before the Committee or if the hon. Members want otherwise, it can be disclosed. It is surprising... (*Interruptions*) I would like to say three points. The first point is that in the Parliamentary Democracy, never before, a Committee asking for extension of time to find out the truth, has been charged with this kind of thing saying : "you are incapable, you cannot find out anything". I say that it would have been nice for the hon. Members, if they had joined the Committee and put all these questions there, they would have been in a better position to cross-examine the witnesses who had come. Now being outside the Committee, having developed cold feet at the last minute and not forming the Committee, they say this... (*Interruptions*) It is because they know that the charges they have brought against the Government are false... (*Interruptions*) Why this running commentary, Prof. Madhu Dandavate? You have always been like a professor creating all kinds of blunders; that is your record in this House, Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is that we are for finding out the truth. Therefore, we are for the extension of time asked for by the Committee. Let the truth be found out by this Committee... (*Interruptions*) I would say that it is not fair for them at this time when the Committee is trying to find out the truth, to level all these charges and say, "You are unable, you are incapable, you cannot find out the truth, you should close down, you should resign". Why should they resign? On the other hand, they should now join the Committee and say, "We will help you in finding out the truth".

With these words, I support this motion for extension of time.

MR. SPEAKER : At least I am happy on one account : blunder crosses blunder and everything is settled.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Sir, I have not said anything myself. I have only repeated what they said. Every word that I have said has been said by them; I have only repeated.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Do not expunge blunder, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : No : I will keep it.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Let the blunder be repeated by him all the time.

MR. SPEAKER : I will ask the Chairman of the Committee. Do you want to say something ?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : At this moment I have nothing to say on what the Members have said. What I have to say will be said in the Report. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : He should reply to the various points raised by the Members.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Sir, I have moved the Motion for extension of time and I appeal to you put the Motion for adoption.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Some points have been raised by the Members...

(interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The amendments I did not allow because it cannot be done under the rules. I was touched and impressed by the eloquence and finer points. But still my position is the same.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : A private Member like Mr. Bhagwat Jha Azad has replied. At least he should try to say something.

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : No

question of reply. I have my right to speak. Do not forget that. I have not replied. I have spoken.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : I have put a question to you...

MR. SPEAKER : I will see to it.

SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN : You can tell us later.

MR. SPEAKER : You can give it to me. I will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : Mr. Speaker, at this stage disclosing anything that is happening in the Committee will not be proper.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He wants to deal with them later. He says that he cannot divulge anything now. We can ask him later.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND : I would only submit to the House that the Committee is functioning quite effectively. It has not suffered from, or found, any difficulty in its functioning for want of anything as alleged by the hon. Members. We are perfectly going on the right lines and the Committee has been functioning very effectively.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That this House do extend unto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session, 1988, the time for presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee to enquire into Bofors Contract."

Let the Lobbies be cleared.

12.50 hrs.

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

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Lobbies have now been cleared. I want to inform the House that Shri Shankaranandji has already moved a Motion for the extension

of time regarding the Report of the Joint Committee. I shall now put that Motion to the vote of the House.

The question is :

“That this House do extend upto the last day of the first week of the Budget Session, 1988, the time for presentation of the report of the Joint Committee to enquire into Bofors Contract.”

THE LOK SABHA DIVIDED

12.56 hrs.

Division No. 1

AYES

Abdul Ghafoor, Shri

Agarwal, Shri Jai Prakash

Ahmad, Shri Sarfaraz

Ansari, Shri Z.R.

Anthony, Shri Frank

Awasthi, Shri Jagdish

Azad, Shri Bhagwat Jha

Baghel, Shri Pratapsinh

Baitha, Shri D. L.

Bajpai, Dr. Rajendra Kumari

Balaraman, Shri L.

Barrow, Shri A. E. T.

Basavarajeswari, Shrimati

Bhagat, Shri B. R.

Bhagat, Shri H. K. L.

Bharat Singh, Shri

Bhardwaj, Shri Parasram

Bhatia, Shri R. L.

Bhoi, Dr. Krupasindhu

Bhosale, Shri Prataprao B.

Bhoye, Shri S.S.

Bhuria, Shri Dileep Singh

Birinder Singh, Shri

Budania, Shri Narendra

Bundela, Shri Sujan Singh

Buta Singh, S.

Chandrakar, Shri Chandulal

Chandrasekhar, Shrimati M.

Charles, Shri A.

Chaturvedi, Shrimati Vidyavati

Chaudhry, Shri Kamal

Chavan, Shri Ashok Shankarrao

Chavan, Shrimati Premalabai

Dabhi, Shri Ajitsinh

Dalbir Singh, Shri

Dalwai, Shri Hussain

Das, Shri R. P.

Das, Shri Sudarsan

Das Munsi, Shri Priya Ranjan

Dennis, Shri N.

Dev, Shri Sontosh Mohan

Digal, Shri Radhakanta

Dighe, Shri Sharad

Digvijaya Singh, Shri

Dikshit, Shrimati Sheila

Dinesh Singh, Shri

Dogra, Shri G. L.

Dube, Shri Bhisma Deo

Gadgil, Shri V. N.

Gavit, Shri Manikrao Hodlya

Gehlot, Shri Ashok

Gholap, Shri S. G.

Ghorpade, Shri M. Y

Ghosh, Shri Bimal Kanti

Jagathrakshakan, Dr. S.

Jain, Shri Nihal Singh

Jain, Shri Virdhi Chander

Janarthanan, Shri Kadambur

Jangde, Shri Khelan Ram

Jatav, Shri Kammodilal

Jeevarathinam, Shri R.

Jena, Shri Chintamani

Jitendra Prasada, Shri

Jitendra Singh, Shri

Jujhar Singh, Shri

Kamat, Shri Gurudas

Kamble, Shri Arvind Tulshiram

Kamla Kumari, Kumari

Khan, Shri Aslam Sher

Khan, Shri Mohd. Ayub

Kidwai, Shrimati Mohsina

Kisku, Shri Prithvi Chand

Krishna Singh, Shri

Kunjambu, Shri

Lal Duhoma, Shri

Mahabir Prasad, Shri

Mahajan, Shri Y. S.

Makwana, Shri Narsinh

Malviya, Shri Bapula I

Mane, Shri Murlidhar

Manorama Singh, Shrimati

Mishra, Shri G. S.

Mishra, Dr. Prabhat Kumar

Mishra, Shri Umakant

Modi, Shri Vishnu

Mohanty, Shri Brajamohan

Motilal Singh, Shri

Murmu, Shri Sidha Lal

Murthy, Shri M. V. Chandrashekhara

Mushran, Shri Ajay

Muttemwar, Shri Vilas

Naik, Shri Shantaram

Naikar, Shri D.K.

Namgyal, Shri P.

Natwar Singh, Shri K.

Nawal Prabhakar, Shrimati Sunderwati

Negi, Shri Chandra Mohan Singh

Netam, Shri Arvind

Odedra, Shri Bharat Kumar

Odeyar, Shri Channaiah

Oraon, Shrimati Sumati

Pakeer Mohamed, Shri E. S. M.

Pandey, Shri Manoj

Panigrahi, Shri Sriballav

Pant, Shri K. C.

Parashar, Prof. Narain Chand

Pardhi, Shri Keshao Rao	Shah, Shri Anoopchand
Patel, Shri Ahmed M.	Shailesh, Dr. B. L.
Patel, Shri C. D.	Shankaranand, Shri B.
Patel, Shri U. H.	Shanmugam, Shri A. C.
Patil, Shri Prakash V.	Shanmugam, Shri P.
Patil, Shri Vijay N.	Sharma, Shri Chiranji Lal
Peruman, Dr. P. Vallal	Sharma, Shri Nand Kishore
Pilot, Shri Rajesh	Sharma, Shri Nawal Kishore
Poojary, Shri Janardhana	Sharma, Shri Pratap Bhanu
Potdukhe, Shri Shantaram	Shastri, Shri Hari Krishna
Pradhan, Shri K. N.	Siddiq, Shri Hafiz Mohd.
Purohit, Shri Banwari Lal	Singh, Shri Chandra Pratap Narain
Purushothaman, Shri Vakkom	Singh, Shri Krishna Pratap
Pushpa, Devi Kumari	Singh, Shri Santosh Kumar
Rai, Shri Raj Kumar	Sinha, Shri Satyendra Narayan
Ram, Shri Ramswaroop	Soren, Shri Harihar
Ram Awadh Prasad, Shri	Soz, Prof. Saifuddin
Ramachandran, Shri Mullappally	Sukhbuns Kaur, Shrimati
Rana Vir Singh, Shri	Sultanpuri, Shri K. D.
Rao, Shri J. Chokka	Sunder Singh, Ch.
Rath, Shri Somnath	Saryawanshi, Shri Narsing
Rathod, Shri Uttam	Swami Prasad Singh, Shri
Raut, Shri Bholu	Swell, Shri G. G.
Sahu, Shri Shiv Prasad	Tariq Anwar, Shri
Sankata Prasad, Dr.	Thakkar, Shrimati Usha
Satyendra Chandra, Shri	Thakur, Shri C. P.
Sathe, Shri Vasant	Thomas, Prof. K. V.
Sayeed, Shri P. M.	Tilakdhari Singh, Shri
Sethi, Shri Ananta Prasad	Tripathi, Dr. Chandra Shekhar

Vairale, Shri Madhusudan

Kurup, Shri Suresh

Van, Shri Deep Narain

Mahata, Shri Chitta

Vanakar, Shri Punam Chand Mithabhai

Malik, Shri Purna Chandra

Verma, Shrimati Usha

Masudal Hossain, Shri Syed

Vijayaraghavan, Shri V. S.

Misra, Shri Satyagopal

Vyas, Shri Girdhari Lal

Murty, Shri Bhattam Srirama

Yadav, Shri Kailash

Patel, Dr. A. K.

Yadav, Shri Ram Singh

Patel, Shri H. M.

Yadav, Shri Shyam Lal

Patil, Shri D. B.

Yadava, Shri Bal Ram Singh

Raju, Shri Vijaya Kumar

Yadava, Shri D. P.

Rao, Shri A. J. V. B. Maheswara

Yogesh, Shri Yogeshwar Prasad

Rao, Dr. G. Vijaya Rama

Zainul Basher, Shri

Rao, Shri Suhari

N O E S

Rao, Shri V. Sobhanadreeswara

Acharia, Shri Basudeb

Reddy, Shri B. N.

Barman, Shri Palas

Reddy, Shri K. Ramachandra

Bhoopathy, Shri G.

Riyan, Shri Baju Ban

Biswas, Shri Ajoy

Roy, Dr. Sudhir

Choudhury, Shri Sagar Brahma

Roypradhan, Shri Amar

Chowdhary, Shri Saifuddin

Saha, Shri Ajit Kumar

Dandavate, Prof. Madhu

Saha, Shri Gadadhar

Datta, Shri Amal

Shukla, Shri Vidya Charan

Deo, Shri V. Kishore Chandra S.

Tiraky, Shri Piyus

Dora, Shri H. A.

Unnikrishnan, Shri K. P.

Ghosh Goswami, Shrimati Bibha

Yadav, Shri Vijoy Kumar

Goswami, Shri Dinesh

Zainal Abedin, Shri

Gupta, Shri Indrajit

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Subject to correction, The result* of the division is as follows :

Hansda, Shri Matilal

Ayes ; 177

Iyer, Shri V. S. Krishna

Noes : 41

The motion was adopted.

*The following Members also recorded their votes :

Ayes : Sarvashri Arjun Singh, Subhas Yadav, Manvendra Singh, Shri-mati Chandra Tripathi, Sarvashri K. J. Abbasi, Navin Ravani, Shrimati Manemma Anjiah, Sarvashri Kinder Lal, Naresh Chandra Chaturvedi, Dr. G. S. Rajhans, Shri Mankuram Sodi, Shri P. Kolandaivelu and Shri Tape-shwar Singh.

Notes: Sarvashri C. Madhav Reddi, Syed Shahabuddin, Dr. Chinta Mohan and Shri C. Sambu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the House will take next item, namely, matters under Rule, 377 Shri Mohanty...

12.55 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

- (i) Need to provide more time for Oriya Programmes on TV and Radio by originating certain programmes from Cuttack and Sambalpur

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri) : A 10 KW Doordarshan Transmitter has been commissioned at Cuttack which relays programmes from Delhi. Oriya programmes from Doordarshan Kendra, Cuttack are not telecast by 10 KW transmitter except 40 minutes Area Specific programme. It is suggested that Oriya Programmes may be telecast from Cuttack from 6.00 P. M. to 8.40 P. M. like all High Power Transmitters with Oriya Regional News Service from 7.30 P. M. to 7.40 P. M.

Government of India had assured that a separate News Unit for A.I.R. Sambalpur will be set up soon after the studios are completed. Though studios have been commissioned, News Unit has not been sanctioned. Government should keep this commitment

so that a long felt need of the people of that region is fulfilled.

In Orissa, All India Radio has set up a 1 KW radio station at Cuttack for commercial broadcasting which covers area within 20-25 Km. radius. In view of increase in growth centres like Sambalpur, Berhampur, Rourkela, Angul (NALCO) Damanjodi (Nalco), Sunabeda (AEF) etc. Government of India should set up more commercial broadcasting stations to cover these growth centres.

- (ii) Need to check devastation by floods in North Bihar

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : North Bihar, particularly the Mithila region, has been ravaged by unprecedented floods this year, the like of which was not experienced in the last 100 years. Kamla, Kosi, Bagmati, Gahuma and Adhwara group of rivers have played havoc with the region. The floods continued for more than two months. Miseries of the people are beyond description. They lost everything including mud houses, standing crops, clothes, utensils and savings of life time. 90% of them have become pauper.

Most of these rivers originate from Nepal. Unless these rivers are controlled at the point of their origin, North Bihar will continue to be devastated by floods every year and no amount of relief will help in rehabilitating the maddened people. As such, the Central Government should initiated talks with the Government of Nepal on an early date and see to it that dams and reservoirs are constructed at the point of origin and North Bihar is saved from devastating floods every year. Incidentally, it needs to be mentioned that north Bihar is one of the most thickly populated regions of Asia and it is not humanly possible to evacuate the total population and settle them elsewhere.

At the same time the Central Government should depute the officers of Central Water Commission to find out the reasons for the breaches in embankments.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for lunch till fourteen of the Clock.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch
at seven minutes past Fourteen of the
Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377- Contd.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We now take up Matters under Rule 377.

(iii) **Need to convert metre gauge railway line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama into broad gauge**

SHRI SHANTARM NAIK (Panaji) : Although there has been a tremendous improvement since the liberation of Goa on 19th December 1961 in the road, air and sea transport for the convenience of the people coming to and going out of Goa, yet the rail transport refuses to move out of the bullock cart age.

The strategic importance of Goa on the west coast of India, inflow of annual tourist, both national and international, up-coming of Navy Project in the nearby Karwar, movement of industrial goods of the new industrial units in the State do not appear to have weighed in the minds of all those in the Railway Ministry in the matter of long-standing demand, of not only Goan people but virtually of the entire country to provide a broad gauge line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama.

Two years back, during one of his visits to Goa, the Prime Minister realising the importance of the matter had assured to consider the same to the utter joy and jubilation of the Goan people. It is only since then that some moves are being made. But the Railway Ministry is sticking to the narrow approach and the assurance remains on paper. It is feared that people's hope may not be fulfilled.

I, therefore, demand the conversion of metre gauge rail line from Londa to Vasco-de-Gama into broad-gauge.

(iv) **Need to appoint a Committee of Members of Parliament to enquire into the reasons for disregarding the judgement of Supreme Court for reducing the prices of drugs**

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Sir, the Supreme Court, in its historic judgement delivered on 10th April, 1987, gave the Department of Chemicals a time of two months and 14 days to dispose of representations of drug companies involved and pass final orders. No action was taken within the stipulated period, i. e., upto 25th June, 1987.

The Department has not reduced the prices of medicines in question, despite the judgement of Supreme Court. The consumer did not get benefit of price control for seven years due to litigation and now even after the judgement, the consumer is being charged higher price. Besides fixing of prices, and their implementation, the question of recovery into Drugs Prices Equalisation Account is involved. The amount involved is about Rs. 200 crores in these cases alone. No step has been taken to fix responsibility for the disregard shown to the court judgement and the hardship being caused to the consumer. I, therefore, request that a committee of Members of Parliament be constituted to go into the whole affair and fix responsibility.

(v) **Demand for appointing a Committee of Members of Parliament to look into the question of decontrol of Prices of certain iron based formulations used to prevent nutritional anaemia**

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, iron preparations are used as prophylaxis to prevent nutritional anaemia among poor pregnant women, children and infants.

Iron preparations are mostly the monopolised production of a few drug companies. Almost all the major selling iron products have been price-decontrolled and are being marketed under brands having turnover of Rs. one crore to Rs. twelve crores. With

decontrolling the prices of iron preparations, there will be a step increase in their prices. It is not clear why iron preparations have been price-decontrolled when these are being used by poor patients, specially pregnant mothers, infants, children of the country. It appears that the interests of drug industry have been looked after at the cost of poor patients of the country. I request the Government to constitute a Committee of Members of Parliament to go in detail on these issues and fix the responsibility.

(vi) Demand for a Kendriya Vidyalaya at Jharsuguda (Orissa)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Jharsuguda being a railway junction and gateway to western Orissa occupies an important place in the railway map of the State. There is a railway colony with a large number of employees staying there. A Kendriya Vidyalaya needs to be established there as early as possible in order to provide proper educational facilities for the children of these employees.

(vii) Need to instal an Electronic Telephone Exchange at Ettumanoor in Kottayam district (Kerala)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Ettumanoor Telephone Exchange at Kottayam district of Kerala was installed in the year 1948 with a capacity of 360 lines. Out of this, 358 connections are already given. As this is a manual operating system with limited capacity, the subscribers and applicants for new telephone connections are faced with considerable difficulties. Ettumanoor is situated only 10 kms away from Kottayam town, the district headquarters. This is one of the major pilgrim centres of Kerala on account of the Ettumanoor temple. The office of the Gandhiji University is only 2 kms away. Over the years, the area has developed enormously. There is a large number of applicants on the waiting list. The manual system of telephone exchange that is functioning presently is quite inadequate. Now, the Exchange is functioning in a rented building and the department pays an amount of Rs.6500 per

month as rent. There is enough land available for the construction of a new exchange I request the Minister to take necessary steps to install an electronic exchange at Ettumanoor.

(Viii) Demand to give up the decision for importing cotton and Viscose Staple fibre keeping in view the good crop in the country.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the cotton growers are alarmed at the reported decision of the Union Government to import ten lakh bales of cotton and 1.20 lakh kgs of viscose staple fibre, being on the suggestion of the Cotton Mills Association. The forecast of less production of cotton is far from reality. According to the recent estimates, the total production of cotton this year may reach a level not less than 100 lakh bales. In the northern region of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan, the production may touch 35 to 40 lakh bales as against 32 lakh bales last month. It is learnt that the acreage under cotton has increased by 12 per cent. In Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh the prospects are 27 to 30 lakh bales. Gujarat may get 12 lakh bales, Andhra Pradesh may get 15 to 16 lakh bales, Karnataka may get 7.5 lakh bales this year, while Tamil Nadu may have production of one lakh bales of winter crop and around 4 lakh bales of summer crop.

So, in these circumstances, the import of cotton will definitely cause harm to the interest of cotton growers, while it will definitely help the mill owners to corner the crop at very low prices only to bulge their profits. The Government should recollect the bitter experience in earlier years when it had imported cotton spending lot of amount, but the mills refused to purchase it saying that the price is very high, compelling the Government to again export it incurring huge loss to the exchequer.

I, therefore, appeal to the Government to give up the decision to import ten lakh bales of cotton and 1.20 lakh kgs, viscose staple fibre from abroad.

14.15 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE :
APPROVAL OF CONTINUANCE. IN
FORCE OF PRESIDENTIAL PROCLA-
MATION IN RESPECT OF PUNJAB**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
(S. BUTA SINGH) :** Sir, I beg to move
the Resolution :-

"That this House approves the conti-
nuance in force of the Proclamation dated
the 11th May 1987 in respect of Punjab,
issued under Article 356 of the Constitu-
tion by the President, for a further period
of six months with effect from the 11th
November, 1987".

As the House is aware, in view of the
then prevailing situation in Punjab, Procla-
mation under Article 356 of the Constitu-
tion in relation to the State of Punjab was
issued on May 11, 1987 on the recommen-
dation of the Governor and the State Legis-
lative Assembly kept under suspended ani-
mation.

Approval of the Lok Sabha as well as
Rajya Sabha for the issue of the Procla-
mation under Article 356 was obtained on
12.5.1987. The Proclamation so approved
will now cease to operate on 10.11.1987
at the expiration of period of six months.

The Governor of Punjab's assessment
is that when the President's Rule was pro-
mulgated in Punjab, the State administra-
tion had to deal with two dangerous
trends :

- (a) Fundamentalist terrorism in all
its destructive and anti-national
manifestation ;
- (b) Ordinary terrorism that was both
dangerous and anti-national in
character.

The first menace had been tackled
successfully immediately after the promul-
gation of President's Rule. The funda-
mentalist terrorism has virtually dis-
appeared. The meat liquor and cigarette

shops which had been forced by the funda-
mentalists among terrorists to be closed
were all reopened. The barbers commenced
carrying on their work. Violent people
stopped making demands on the heads of
educational institutions to order their stu-
dents to wear uniforms of their allegedly
fundamental design or colour. Marriages
were again held peacefully.

However, terrorism still continues. The
law and order situation in the State conti-
nues to be disturbed. During the period
from 12th May, 1987 to 21st October,
1987, the security forces arrested 1935 and
shot 197 terrorists in encounters. The
terrorists also killed 446 civilians and 49
policemen during this period. However,
the morale of the police is now high and
there is a will amongst them to fight and
ultimately succeed in containing terrorism.
The various extremist groups are at present
under intense pressure from the police and
para-military forces and have suffered
serious reversals. Although killings have
not stopped, the terrorists are in hiding and
virtually on the run.

In spite of the reverses on the law and
order situation, there is a discernable
change for the better. A great deal of
confidence has returned. 125 migrant
families have just returned from Delhi and
more are expected to go back shortly.
Opposition is now fast growing from every
community to terrorism anti-nationalism
and killings of innocents. The encouraging
feature is that even villagers are showing
courage and coming forward in large
numbers to apprehend terrorists.

The Governor is of the view that if a
popular Government is installed now, the pre-
sent firmness will go and the people thrown
into a state of nervousness and disarray.
Moreover, there is no party who can possibly
lead any Government effectively in the
present condition of the State with any
firmness or determination.

In view of the circumstances stated
above, the Governor has recommended that
the Proclamation dated 11th May, 1987 be
extended for a further period of six months
and the State Assembly continued to be
kept under suspended animation.

Keeping in view the situation prevailing in the State and taking all relevant factors into consideration, it is proposed that the President's Rule may be continued for a further period of six months with effect from 11.11.1987. If so approved, the President's Rule, unless revoked earlier, will continue upto 10.5.1988.

In view of the position explained to me, I solicit the approval of the hon. House to the Resolution mentioned by me at the beginning.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the proclamation, dated the 11th May, 1987 in respect of Punjab, issued under Article 356 of the Constitution by the President, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th November, 1987."

Shri Madav Reddi.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Sir, I rise to oppose this Resolution for the extension of the period of President's Rule. Just now, the hon. Minister for Home Affairs narrated certain events and referred to the Governor's Report justifying the extension of the President's Rule in Punjab. We did not have the benefit of studying the report of the Governor. At the time when the President's Rule was promulgated, a copy of the Governor's Report was given to us. But now, when an extension is demanded, we do not have the Report before us. Nevertheless, the Home Minister mentioned certain facts with regard to the law and order situation and stated that if a popular rule were to be restored at this stage, the firmness with which the present Government is dealing with the terrorists would disappear. Well, the facts are really different from what he has stated.

According to his own statement about 444 innocent people had been killed during the last six months. If you take these figures and compare with the figures of people killed during the popular regime for the same length of period, I think, this figure is larger.

The Governor's Report as it appeared in certain sections of the press says that the Governor feels that today he cannot negotiate with anybody for restoration of popular rule. He wants to negotiate but there is nobody in the field to negotiate. But the fact of the matter is that you have not left anybody in the field to negotiate. Is it not a shameful thing? Today, we are not in a position to talk to anybody. Whom are you going to talk to? Shri Barnala is out as you have already discredited him. Shri Badal is in jail. As regards the terrorists, I do not know whether you want to talk to them or not even though there was a statement by the Prime Minister in which he has stated that he would like to talk to anybody, if the violence is stopped and if there are no killings. This implies that he is prepared to talk even to the terrorists. I do not know if it is really so. But at least it gives ideas to people that here is a Government which is prepared to talk to the terrorists. I have no objection if you want to talk to the terrorists and settle the matter. But what have you been doing all these months? In spite of the fact that we had been sending forces whenever there was a demand, what was the performance of the Government and the police? Whenever Mr. Ribeiro wanted more and more security forces, we did send them. On that score, they do not have any complaint though they say that adequate intelligence personnel whom they wanted, had not been sent.

There is some sort of an intelligence failure which means that they do not know when the terrorists come and from where they come; how they shoot and disappear in thin air. That is the pattern of terrorism whether it is in Delhi or whether it is in any part of Punjab.

Today the terrorists come. They choose their own time. They don't tell us. They choose their place where they are going to shoot and after shooting they just disappear in thin air. There is not a single incident where the terrorists were shot or caught or were arrested on the spot, either when they were killing or when they were running away. You had captured some people later on. We do not know whether they are real terrorists or innocent people who were arrested subsequently. But in no instance

you were able to arrest people while they were killing or were running away after the killing. That shows the failure of the Government. That shows the popular support which you are claiming to this Government, is not there. It is all going on there. After all, they do have sympathy with the people. They go to somebody's house and take shelter there. It is so easy for them.

Now it is very unfortunate that the killings are going on. We condemn those killings. We condemn the atrocities - the terrorist acts in Punjab. We condemn all the acts and all the pronouncements made by irresponsible people who are today launching a campaign of Khalistan or talking of sikh QAUM and so on and so forth. There is nothing like sikh QAUM.

There is only one QAUM and that is the Indian QUAM. There can be no sikh QAUM separately from the Indian QAUM if QAUM means national. It is a nation. While we condemn the terrorists' acts in Punjab, we cannot fail to realise that today there is no buffer between the Government and the people. There is no agency between the Government and the people which can take the responsibility of restoring peace in Punjab. Except the Government of India there is nobody else to help restore peace. Today you don't want a popular rule as you said you seem to have a contempt for a popular rule because there would not be any firmness in a popular rule to deal with the terrorists. They will not be able to take action against the terrorists. I do not agree with this argument. The situation like is serious. The killings are taking place every day. I am happy that yesterday, Punjab was peaceful. It may be because of Guru Nanak birthday. I do not know. But today again there are reports that certain incidents have taken place.

But for all these six months, there was not a single day when there was no killing. Yet you claim that you have controlled the situation. Have we really controlled the situation? Have we really put an end to the terrorists' activities in Punjab? Can you say that today peace has returned to Punjab? You said today that the religious functions take place peacefully. The marriages are

performed peacefully. It so happens at the places where the marriages are being held perhaps, the terrorists, activities are not there. You have said that fundamentalism was openly practised earlier. The meat shops or the cigarette shops which were closed earlier have now been opened. What a poor consolation; if the meat shops could be opened; do you think that peace has returned?

During the last six months, we had been discussing Punjab on the floor of the House. There were several occasions to discuss this issue. It was said that the President's rule is going to be a stop-gap arrangement. Ultimately you have got to restore popular rule there in whatever manner you want to. Suppose nobody is there for you to negotiate with them you go in for elections. If you say that the situation is peaceful, certainly let us hold the elections. What is wrong in that? We have held the elections earlier, in the same atmosphere.

I am opposed to this extension further, because in principle I feel that the situation has actually deteriorated from what it was during the popular regime, and there is no justification at all for the President's rule in Punjab. This rule has to end I demand that there should be an effort made to restore the popular regime in Punjab.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA (Amritsar): My friend Mr. Madhav Reddi has raised certain points, and he wants that this period of President's rule should not be extended. The argument he has put forward is, first, that he did not have the copy of the Governor's recommendation. I think Mr. Madhav Reddi is a big leader, of the Opposition, and he must be reading the newspapers every day. He must be finding out as to whether the situation that was there before the Governor's rule has now improved or not. Evidently, everybody who has met me - for the Session people have come here; a large number of people met me in the Central Hall and the Lobby has expressed to me his satisfaction that now things seem to be better in the Punjab.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Who are those people?

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : M. Ps., not only of my party, but of other parties also. They said that things seemed to have improved.

S. BUTA SINGH : Those who know Punjab.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat) : This never go to Punjab, nowhere near Punjab.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : He said that terrorists were not caught on the spot. It means he does not understand what is happening in Punjab. The terrorists have definite targets, and they are waiting for their target. They do their job and go away. Therefore, the Police is not aware of what is their target. They come, and also operate in an area where they find it more safe. They do their job and go away. That is why the terrorists are not caught. But lately, he must know that many terrorists have been caught after fighting, and they have been followed up by the Police, and they have been arrested. For his information, I may say that about 1700 terrorists have been arrested so far in the Punjab.

He also said that between the people and the Government, there was no channel, or no buffer as he put it. I think what he meant by that is that we should have a popular rule there, if I understand him correctly. Did we not have a popular rule there before ? What happened ? A greater number of people were killed there then. One very bad thing happened during that time, which you must understand and which I would like to tell this House, viz. that migration started for the first time then, and a very large number of people have come to Delhi. Many of them have been met by the Opposition leaders also. For these reasons we had to do away with that popular rule, and bring about a rule of law.

He has also mentioned about holding of elections. Why should we hold elections ? The Assembly stands suspended. The situation is improving now ; our Home Minister has given you figures; he has described the true situation. I, belonging to Punjab and coming especially from Amritsar, can

vouchsafe that things are better now, and things are improving ; and we hope that in another six months or so, things will definitely improve, and then the popular rule can be brought back. I agree with him that the Assembly should be called back, but only after the law and order situation is well established.

The popular government of Akalis was formed on 29th September, 1985. During that rule, 3294 accidents took place and more than 800 people were killed. It was expected that during this popular rule law and order situation will improve as the people of Punjab had shown trust in the Akalis. Akalis also got cooperation from all parties, all sections of this House including the Congress Party; Congress Party gave them an assurance and cooperative so that they could succeed in their objective. But, unfortunately, it did not happen. What happened was that the moment they got elected, they declared it as a Panthic Government. I hope Mr. Madhav Reddi understands the meaning of Panthic. They took a solemn vow under a secular Constitution, but the moment they got elected, they called them a Panthic Government. It created mistrust among Punjabis. And what happened thereafter we all know. How the minorities were treated under that regime ? Not only that, in the name of social reforms, barbers were asked to close down their shops. Liquor shops were looted. The meat shopkeepers were asked to suspend their business. Worst of all, what happened was that from the Golden Temple people were issued threatening letters to pay so much money; otherwise they would be put to death.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : That is still going on.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : But it is going on on a very little scale. Recently, since they have taken over the area between Golden Temple and Guru Nanak Niwas, it has stopped altogether. Whenever I go back to Amritsar, a large number of people will come to me and show me the threatening letters. But many of them have quietly paid money; and it was estimated that between Rs.5-6 lakhs were being collected every day not only from minorities but

from everybody, industrialists, professionals; not only that, they even tried to settle disputes among the people. Many tenants were asked to vacate their houses within 24 hours or 48 hours; otherwise they would be killed; and many people left their houses. So, in this kind of a situation, how can you tolerate if a parallel authority was established by them in Punjab? Barnala Government had no control whatsoever. We had a lot of hopes from Barnala Government. Frankly I had because I was one of the persons who wanted that the elected Government should play their part. If they wanted, could they not stop those boys, misguided boys? Could they not offer them good jobs? Could they not accommodate them in the political field? If they could not do all this, they could do one very simple thing and that was to ask Jathedar Akal Takht to issue *hukumnama* not to kill innocent people. That was the simplest thing which Mr. Barnala could have achieved by requesting the authority which was under his control in the Golden Temple to issue *hukumnama* so that the innocent people were not killed. But unfortunately, nothing was done.

Then we were compelled on the 11th May, 1987, as was explained by Mr. Buta Singh, to have the President's Rule. During the President's Rule so many things have taken place, because as I mentioned, there has been an improvement in the situation. Migrations have been stopped. This is very important. At that time, everybody was afraid of those boys, misguided boys, as I would call them; even a wife was not sure whether her husband would come back home safe from the office.

The people in the villages will close their gates at 5 O'clock and if anybody knocks they think that the terrorists have come. I am not talking about the cities, I am talking about the villages. It is not only the question of Hindus only. I may tell you, it is the question of Hindus and Sikhs, both. This is how the people were living under threats. Now, under the President's Rule the authority of the Government has been established. The parallel government has been removed. Now the people have faith in the present Government that they will be in a position

to improve their lot. The choice of Mr. Roy and Mr. Riberio has been very good, because they have been able to instil confidence among the services. When the bad situation was going on in Punjab the worst victim was the administration. The officers would not act. They were also afraid. Many of them also got threatening letters. They were not acting. So many judges were not acting. Judges who were listening the cases of terrorists, they were shot at. Neither the magistrate, nor the judges nor the officers would play their role. A kind of a strange situation has happened in Punjab. Now all that is going, disappearing day by day. Now the administration is cooperating. They are fully working and large quantities of arms have been found from the people and the best thing that happened is about the intelligence services. Formerly the intelligence services were not doing the role, I do not know why. But now the intelligence forces are coming forward, giving clues and on the basis of that very large number of terrorists have been arrested and arms and ammunition have been found. This is the advantage that the President's Rule has brought to Punjab.

The Government of India has also taken some steps. Para military forces are made available to the Punjab Government for any areas they want to. The security arrangements in Punjab have also been taken seriously. There has been a demand in the last session, and I proposed that there should be a five-mile belt further on the Punjab border so that arms, ammunition and money could not come. But it was found a difficult thing because the people living at the border areas resisted this. Because, in Punjab even the last field to the border is cultivated and it is a very good land. So, the people resisted. But Mr. Buta Singh, what he has done now, is he has made strict arrangements at the border and now the situation is better.

Thirdly, Punjab has been declared a restricted area, under the Restricted Areas Act. Fourthly, the Terrorist Activities Prevention Act has been enacted. All these measures have helped to improve the situation. The work has started and measures taken are showing results.

As I said, a large number of terrorists have been arrested and some of them have been killed. But we do not say that the situation has improved completely. Still there is room for improvement. But all I can say is, that things are better and the people of Punjab have a hope that since the situation is improving and one day law and order situation will be normal.

I know the difficulties before the Government. We want that after the normal situation is there there should be some kind of a settlement and about this our Prime Minister has made categorical statement that as and when the law and order situation is normal, certainly they would like to negotiate, they would like to talk. But our difficulty is, as Mr. Madhav Reddi himself has said, with who will they talk? There are three trends in the Akali party. One is that they want a Government under the Constitution, power under the present Constitution. The other is they demand Anandpur Sahib Resolution. As you know, Anandpur Sahib Resolution has so many definitions. It is not clear to us. Mr. Ramoowalia will give one definition. The other friend will give other definition. There are so many definitions. They are not clear. The third, who want the glimpse of freedom, which is another vague term.

SHRI INDRAJIT GOPTA : LUE of freedom.

[Translation]

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : That is what I am saying : "Aazadi Ki Lau."

[English]

Do the people in Bengal not have that LAU of freedom? To the people in Kerala not have that LAU of freedom? What kind of LAU of freedom do they want? They must be defined. Nobody has defined it yet. What I mean to say is the Akalis themselves are not clear. They are a major party. After all, negotiation will take place with them. When they are not clear, what do they want, what Mr. Buta Singh can do? Talk to whom and talk what? That is the problem. So, these are the difficulties before the Government. I hope they will

find out a way. Mr. Buta Singh is a wise man and he will certainly see that some ways are found. But before that normal conditions must come.

Sir, you know the situation in Punjab. It is a fight between the secular forces and the fundamentalist forces and the foreigners are taking full advantage of this.

If we say that the foreigners are behind, they want to weaken India, they want to destabilise India, many of our friends in the Opposite start laughing at us. Whenever there has been a discussion in Parliament with regard to this, many raised doubts in the past. Now, I suppose the situation is very clear. The statement made by the terrorists is an eye-opener. How they have trained abroad, how they got the money and how they got the arms.

While we find that the foreign forces are taking advantage of this, all sections must cooperate to see the real danger which lies beyond the border. We are accusing each other. Congressmen may accuse Akalis. Akalis may accuse Congressmen. There is no difference. Hindus are not against Sikhs. I tell you in this present programme of going through the villages, from where I am coming today - for the last five days I was touring my constituency not a single majority people has killed the minority. So, the divide which these foreign forces wanted to do, is not succeeding. Hindus and Sikhs are living together like brothers. The desired objective of the foreign forces has not been achieved. All that we need is that the politicians should cooperate with each other and find a solution. That is the only way by which we can bring normalcy in Punjab.

We, the Punjabis, have been cast a duty by the history. All the foreigners came from the north and it was the Punjab people who had to bear the brunt of that. We have been fighting on our corps. You know the enemy has been able to go to Delhi. Now, this is the third attempt by the foreign forces, by the foreign enemy who is faceless. He is not coming forward like in 65 or 71. He is beyond it. He is trying to take some people from our own.

misguide them, give them money, give them training, give them arms and he is fighting indirectly. So, we must fight out this fight and I can assure you on behalf of Punjab that every Punjabi will fight these forces and will continue fighting till we are in a position to bring normalcy in Punjab and finish these forces who are at the back of this movement.

With these words, I support the resolution put forward by Mr. Buta Singh and I request all my friends to support it. As a Punjabi, I assure you that the things have improved and people are satisfied, and people are happy under the present system. If given a chance for six months more, I am sure there will be a considerable improvement and you all will be satisfied with it. Therefore, I request you to pass this resolution.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The statement made by the Home Minister, Shri Buta Singh, shows that the Government is far from realising the problem in Punjab and it is still considering this problem as a law and order problem. The Punjab problem is a political problem and a solution to this problem should also be a political one. I am sorry to say that not a single word or sentence is there for the need to restore joint campaign which was started in the month of January by all the leaders of the Opposition. We gave this proposal when the Prime Minister met us on 16th January. Then the programme was chalked out and accordingly the programme was started with a rally in Chandigarh. Thereafter three or four joint rallies were addressed by the national leaders of all political parties. But suddenly it was stopped because of undemocratic action of the Central Government. The time was chosen to impose the President's rule when the Chief Minister, Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, was defying orders of Akal Takt, was protesting the interference of religious chiefs in the affairs of the State. This we have been demanding since long that religion should be separated from politics and that religion has its own place in temples, mosques, churches. Why religious heads should interfere with the affairs of the State?

The hon. Minister as well as Mr. Bhatia have claimed that the situation has

improved. I say that this is complacency. And this complacency is dangerous. This is because you are still considering that the problem of Punjab can be solved by Riberio and Sidhartha Shankar Ray - by Police Chief and by the Governor - and not by political action or political campaign by isolating these extremists. He says that the villagers are now coming forward. When villagers are coming forward, why should we not utilise this opportunity? Why not all the political parties which are fighting for the unity and integrity of our country, have a joint campaign? I can say that the my party, the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the Communist Party of India and myself inaugurated one padayatra in Chandigarh.

I saw support of the people there. More than one thousand people started *padayatra* from Chandigarh to Amritsar. So, we should utilise the situation. That is a proposal made long back. In the statement made by the Home Minister, I do not find any proposal to restore the joint campaign by the political parties to meet the masses to isolate the extremists. When the situation has improved, when the rural people as mentioned by the Home Minister particularly - are coming forward, then we should utilise this situation. Government can claim that there is an improvement; but there is a change in the situation. Now these extremist forces have virtually occupied all the historic Gurdwaras of Punjab. The figure also shows that the killings of innocent people in Punjab have increased during the last six months. Then why this President's rule is required? For what purpose? These extremists and terrorists have been able to declare all Akali organisations, including the democratically elected body of SGPC which manages the affairs of the Gurdwaras, as irrelevant and the Panthic Committee has assumed all powers to run the affairs of the Sikhs with the declared aim of achieving a separate goal of Khalistan. This is a new development in the Punjab situation and we should realise this.

When the President's rule was imposed just on the last day of the Budget Session, we all opposed it. And we opposed on what ground? We opposed it on the ground that the President's rule was imposed just

on the eve of Haryana elections and that the action of the Government was not motivated for national unity and for national integration but to hood the Haryana electorates. But you have miserably failed there, hopelessly failed. This undemocratic action of the Government has rather helped and encouraged the terrorist and the extremist elements in Punjab. Why? When two months back you praised Barnala like anything, even the Prime Minister, in the middle of April, compared Barnala with Ranjit Singh. (Interruptions), when Mr. Narasimha Rao in a rally said that the Central Government is like a wall behind Barnala Government —

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That wall collapsed on him.

AN HON. MEMBER : But within one month that wall collapsed.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Not even one month but within fifteen days it collapsed.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : The wall collapsed on him only.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : So, what was the urgency of President's rule by removing a democratically elected government and keeping the Assembly in suspended animation?

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

So, Sir, again we are demanding from the Government that the Home Minister, while replying, should again clarify as to what was the urgency and why such a time was chosen when Surjit Singh Barnala was defying the order of Akal Takht, when he was fighting against the extremists. If there was any fault with the members of his Cabinet, it was not communicated even and his government was removed.

15.00 hrs.

When he was fighting, without giving him help and assistance to fight extremists, you removed him. That action rather

helped the extremists and terrorists in Punjab.

In this House, time and again, we have demanded that Punjab accord which is a time-bound accord should be implemented, Chandigarh was to be transferred on 26.1.1986 on the date the dispute was to be settled? Haryana was to get its territory, may be 45000 acres of land, may be 78000 acres of land, as recommended by some Commission. Why is Punjab accord not being implemented while all welcomed it? This action was berated action; but our Party suggested and when Prime Minister met us, we suggested that this was the only way in which Punjab problem could be solved. Punjab problem is a political problem and its solution is also a political solution. But why has Punjab accord not been implemented? Why has Chandigarh not been transferred? Now Punjab is under the President Rule. You can decide; may be 45000 acres of land or 78000 acres of land; if Haryana is to get that area, you can decide. Why are you not solving this water dispute between the three States?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : He himself says that a new development has taken place and that they are demanding Khalistan. Are all these relevant to that now?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Why not?

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : Now you face the latest situation.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It is not a recent demand.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : These villages could have gone to Khalistan or only to Haryana.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : By not implementing Punjab accord, this action has encouraged these terrorists campaign against the moderates who want peace in Punjab and who were fighting against those forces and want integrity and unity of our country.

Government can claim credit by not allowing to hold Sarbat Khalsa in Golden

Temple Complex on 22nd October, 1987. But this Panthic Committee had the temerity of announcing holding of Sarbat Khalsa elsewhere and release its Resolution to the Press.

What are the main contents of this Resolution? It announced dismissal of Darshan Singh Ragi as acting Jathedar of Akal Takhat and appointment of Gurcharan Singh Monochahal who is a proclaimed offender.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : There is original eleven page Resolution.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : It also announced appointment of three acting Head priests in place of those arrested by the Government. It further announced ex-communication of G.S. Tohra, Parkash Singh Badal and Kabul Singh, a former SGPC President belonging to Barnala Group all of them in connivance with the Government.

The question is not whether Sarbat Khalsa was held or not, but it is the extent to which extremism and fundamentalism can go. Extremists, it is quite clear, are acting at the behest of foreign powers. That is why we are also demanding that Government should publish white Paper on foreign intervention in Punjab.

These extremists are acting at the behest of foreign powers, not only because they have been trained in Pakistan; they are being provided with arms and ammunition. They have no regard for the religious institutions. They have no respect for their own religious institution. Like, the SGPC established as a result of innumerable sacrifices of Sikhs during Akali movement. They have no respect for their institution itself. The five persons whose hands are soaked with blood of innocent people have announced power to dismiss or appoint all priests, and high priests. This is not a sudden development.

Cult of Bhindrawala was also used. In 1975 he was introduced by the Congress Party. (*Interruptions*)

You are still pursuing the same line, narrow political game. In 1979 you intro-

duced Bhindrawala to the people of India. Who knew him? This cult was used then and was used during Akali Morcha also in order to bring pressure on Central government to make it to concede to Akali demands. Not only you but others also used Bhindrawala cult. Subsequently, the operation Blue Star the extremists used in fighting Akali Party and allowed to make historic Gurudwara as a sanctuary and a base to operate.

After they were flushed out from Golden Temple, was it not G.S. Tohra who allowed Sarbat Khalsa in January, 1986 and handed over Kar Seva of Akal Takhat to them? Was it not the same Tohra and his colleagues who allowed holding of another Sarbat Khalsa in April, 1986 when demand of Khalistan was raised? Was it not the same Tohra and Prakash Singh Badal who raised the question of ex-communication of Surjit Singh Barnala because he refused to act against Indian Constitution by submitting to the authority of Akal Takhat in the affairs of this State? Was it not the same Badal and Tohra who ignored the traditions of Akal Takhat which has been functioning for more than sixty years as a political party with duly elected bodies at all levels who authorised Jathedar Akal Takhat to dissolve Akali organisation and appoint a new one using seal of religious authority. The irony of situation is that Tohra and Badal...

(*Interruptions*)

They themselves have been ex-communicated.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR (Siwan) : Everybody has been ex-communicated by every political party.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : So, the situation in Punjab has not helped any of the political parties. We should now realise that the solution of Punjab problem is a political solution. Our party has been fighting for a solution and we are organising jathas and 'morchas' in Punjab. So, now the time has come to restore this political campaign. You have claimed that the situation in Punjab has improved. Now, those who migrated from Punjab are returning to their place. The people have now got confidence. Therefore, when the situation has now improved, why are you not restoring

a popular Government there? When there is a popular government, that Government can fight against the extremism, against the terrorism. If the situation has improved, you should think of restoration of popular Government. The assembly has been kept under suspended animation. You need not ask for the extension of President's rule.

SHRI R. L. BHATIA : Which Government are you recommending? Badal Government or Barnala Government?

[Translation]

SHRI SHAMINDER SINGH (Faridkot): Along with the written matter you have read read the name of the Chief Minister also.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Barnala Government. He is still in majority. Whoever has got the majority should form the Government. The Assembly has been kept under suspended animation. Why can't you instal a Government there? Why can't you restore a popular Government there? With the establishment of a popular Government you can fight the extremist forces. They were fighting before the imposition of President's rule. So, the Punjab problem is not the problem of Punjab alone. It is a national problem. You have to think about it seriously and I oppose the extension of President's rule for a further period of six months. I oppose the extension even for one day. I demand that a popular Government should be restored in Punjab and with the new Government you can fight terrorism and extremism there. You can start a political campaign with all the national political parties who are fighting for unity and integrity of our country. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI R. S. SPARROW (Jullundur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I suggest that we come down to brass-tacks. It would not help to flounder about, I have lately been in different districts, villages towns and cities of Punjab. I returned only last night and I have seen and assessed the situation in pragmatic terms as to whereabouts we stand.

And I am very pleased to find that this Resolution has been floated by the hon. Home Minister. There is a reason for this. The situation is coming to such a pitch, favourable pitch, that there is every hope that if we continue the mechanics with which we are working today to handle the situation to everybody's advantage—national question, yes, to everybody's advantage, for the public at large,—we shall have to keep that swing go on for some time. Mind you, this is my humble opinion, not airy-fairy manner, but down-to-earth. You go in the village now, Sir, and you will find Hindus, Sikhs, Harijans, Christians, Muslims, all of them, move around easy and free, better than what they could do previously, much better now, and they together enjoy their little holidays also. So, once you come to such a pitch, the only thing that is left to face is, terroristic jibing, terroristic type of little warfare that is there. Do you want to eliminate that, or you want to go back to square No. 1 again? This is my question to the hon. House. If not, then we shall have to go on with the process of extension of the Presidents, Rule) apropos, the situation obtaining. It is no good recapitulating what had happened this way, that way, and so on and so forth. There could have been certain slips made by many; it may have been Opposition Members, it may have been our local political organisations in Punjab, it may have some other outside influences and what not. It is no good churning all that matter in the form of recrudescence and confuse the whole issue.

Now, the question about terrorism. Sorry, very sorry. Whatever they have been doing, what one notices, you can check each and every case, had nothing to do with religion, frankly speaking, nothing at all. My Gurus never taught that way of life, no. Fighting, it is entirely different on a certain kind of situation as shown by Guru Gobind Singh, 'Sabhi Kalan Sampuran.' my Tenth Guru. When it was the question of politics, yes, Sir, he fought hand in hand with Muslim rulers also against others. And sometimes he had to pitch up himself against the ruler who was in position at that time. So, that is entirely different, but to tie everything to the religion

and that again fictitiously under the garb of terroristic way of life, I think, is highly unfair. It is not acceptable, in relation to one or two points that I would like to raise.

Now, about this question, say, of Accord, Everybody knows about the Accord, I would not say that it had anything to do—you mean to say it has not been having completed fully today, say, with Haryana or any other elections. No. That question did not arise. It was a question between different sections of society and party and somehow or other you can study the whole thing now, the whole perspective, that the Accord did not click, it did not work. That should not mean that we are not going to move forward, we will certainly move forward.

We should try to satisfy the society of Punjabis, as we may wish to satisfy any other State or any other people in India based certainly on one nation, secular basis and where unity comes into play and integrity comes into play. Those who do not agree with this are certainly termed as secessionists. There is no question about it. I would wish to advise whosoever may have that type of inclination. I personally feel, not many would be in that field in India. Nevertheless if someone feels that way, he shall have to educate himself that if he secedes even this bit or that bit, how is he going to work out himself to form a great nation. It is not possible. You have already become a great nation. You are one among the four top nations in the world. 103 different countries are prepared to toe your direction and line, as friend-to-friend, i. e. Non-Aligned Movement. Your Hon. Prime Minister and your Government are propelling that issue adequately well. To a considerable extent, we have been the gainers; India has been the gainer. It is unfortunate that some people from across the border under some other people's influences are trying to disintegrate us. There is no doubt on that. It is because, if you study as to how many arms come from this way and from where they have come to the hands of the terrorists, as already been enunciated by my friend, about Rs. 5 lakhs worth of substance has been pumped into India daily to upset our homogeneity and our stabi-

lity. So, we have to fight against that. We have to fight against that together, of course.

In so far as agreeing to work out some political solution is concerned, why should not there be a political solution? Yes, there should be. No one is disagreeing to that. But the big question under the circumstances is, to discuss with whom today, You have to wait for some time. May-be there are two main Parties in Punjab, Akali Dal Party and Congress Party and may-be amongst themselves, they find a proper type of solution. Amongst Akalis themselves, they may bring about some kind of understanding. Those who were hot headed are being pushed back and expectedly the others may be able to get together. Safely, soundly and sagely, we may come to certain (workable) conclusion. There will be no difficulty whatsoever because we have to build up India as a whole. So far as the Sikhs are concerned, my Gurus are concerned, the whole of India belongs to us, not only Punjab. Yes, it is so anywhere and everywhere. My 10th Guru was born at Patna Sahib and lived there for so long. My old Gurudwaras are there right down South up to Karnataka and beyond. At Bidar, there is one Gurudwara. Jagannath Puri has one. Dwaraka has one. At Hem Kund, it is there and soon. There is no place where you do not find gurudwaras. From every point of view, our civilisation, our culture from the days that have gone by to date has been common. There is no question about it. We fought our battles together. I had under my command, besides others also a full battalion of Muslims.

At that time, the chance had it, the fight was against Pakistan, Well they (our Muslim Soldiers) become the Shaheeds, but not one of them went back from the field of battles. There were Hindus, Sikhs, Harijans, Christians Muslims, all together and fighting for Mother India. That was the slogan and this slogan should go on. We should propel that issue. It is no one section or society or one party. In this issue, as was rightly said, this is a national issue. If it is a national issue, then we should look at it from a national angle and not with a political slant thrown here and there. This is my submission.

Proclamation about Punjab

Finally, I would wish to recommend, as my friend, Shri R. L. Bhatia has also recommended to Sardar Buta Singh Ji, kindly do the best that we can to seal off our border. The crux of the whole thing has been the turbulent border.

This has given us the gain. Every day people (intruders) are shot there also. We have now sharpened our things and working techniques. Yes, It all has improved under the aegis of Mr. Rebeiro and now the working of the Police Department and the intelligence Department has improved manifold. I do not know details about the other Departments. But they are also very well handled. Give them as much more aid as you can. It will help them and we should make the slate absolutely clean on which we can all sit together again as brothers. Racially, historically, ethically, Philologically, we are all of the same stock, Mr. Bhatia, myself and my friends sitting across. Anyone who is a Punjabi is absolutely of the same stock and stern. Why do you have dissensions? You (as Indians) are the owner of India from Kanya Kumari to Himalayas and you are the owner of all that is in your possession qualitatively and otherwise and other nations look at you, with awe and admiration your handling of the latest situation in relation to South-Asia is commendable. Even Pakistan is ready to discuss with you across the table. Why not? There is nothing wrong in that. We have to have a bigger perspective in view and with that we have to move forward so that we are all at ease and we look at the issue according to the Constitution of India.

Time is always there to improve further. We must maintain our mission with this ambitious sort of way of life. We should go ahead and not accuse each other; that this is not done and that is not done. I would say that the manner in which the situation of Punjab has been handled so far is commendable. And this must go as a credit to this Government. Anybody else would have broken down and things may have gone wrong. But I am glad it has gone in the right way. We will see better days.

With these words, I thank you for giving me the time.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I will have one minute only. I will remain on my legs till Monday.

Mr. Chairman, I carefully listened to the speech of the Minister of Home Affairs and also particularly to the speech of Mr. Bhatia. I do not want any acrimony to be developed on the question of Punjab in this House because it does not help the solution of the problem. But, at the same time, I would like that both the sides of this House have certain introspection as far as the situation in Punjab is concerned and adopt a posture and attitude which will be helpful not only in eliminating violence in Punjab but also in seeing that the spirit of alienation that has developed for various reasons is completely ended and normalcy is brought to Punjab. I do not say that only when violence on bodies wears off that Punjab is brought to normalcy. It is only when the mind of Punjab and the whole psyche of Punjab is restored, real normalcy is restored in Punjab and only in that context, I would like all the problems related to Punjab to be discussed in this House.

Shall I continue next time?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You may continue next time. Now we will take up private Members' Bills.

15.30 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[English]

[Amendment of article 54]

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :
"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

*Published in Gazette of India, Extra Ordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 6.11.1987.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

PASSPORTS (AMENDMENT) BILL*

[*English*]

(Amendment of Section 10)

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Passports Act, 1967.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Passports Act, 1967.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDIN : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN :

Shri K. Ramamurthy.. Not present.

Shri K.S. Rao .. Not present

Shri V. Sobhandreeswara Rao.

**FOREST (CONSERVATION)
AMENDMENT BILL***

[*English*]

(Amendment of Section 2 etc.)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijayawada) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the (Forest Conservation) Act, 1980.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.31 hrs.

TOBACCO BOARD AMENDMENT BILL*

[*English*]

(Amendment of Section 8, etc.)

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO (Vijaywada) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Tobacco Board Act, 1975.”

The motion was adopted

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.32 hrs.

**CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT)
BILL Contd.**

[*English*]

Amendment of Article 244 etc.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The next item is : Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Piyus Tiraky on the 28th August, 1987, namely :-

*Published in Gazette of India Extra Ordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 6.11.1987.

*Published in Gazette of India Extra Ordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 6.11.1987.

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India, be taken into consideration."

Dr. (Smt.) Phulrenu Guha to continue her speech...not present.

Dr. G.S. Rajhans.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Shri Piyus Tiraky is a very good friend of mine. I went through his Bill very attentively and also talked to him personally. He has drafted this Bill very exhaustively. He should have said in a simple way that a Jharkhand State should be formed in the country. This is his objective, but he has put in a round about way. It is also very interesting that the people who support the Jharkhand movement ask that a Jharkhand State may be formed by including some areas of West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. Thereafter, they may be allowed to do all in their own way. But Mr. Piyus Tiraky did not have the courage to take any steps against his own Government in West Bengal. Therefore, he has excluded the name of West Bengal from it though as compared to West Bengal, in Bihar the number of tribals is less. What I mean to ask is : what has prompted him to demand that autonomous regions be formed in Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh ? It is all right if Bihar is compared to predominantly tribal areas like Meghalaya, Tripura and Assam. Though it is very simple to say that we want to form autonomous districts and autonomous regions for the welfare of the tribals, yet the intention behind it is dangerous. Their Government is already facing a problem created by the G.N.L.F. Now why does he want to put his own Government into more difficulty ? He has taken the names of 3 States, but we will include West Bengal also in them. What I mean to say is that the country is already passing through a number of difficult situations and we should not create more difficulties. All of us unanimously agree that efforts should be made for the welfare of the tribals in the country for which welfare schemes should be implemented. Whatever is being done by the Government is not enough and much more is

required to be done. It is also a fact that whatever is being done, its benefit is not reaching them. We should find out its reason. We are all responsible for it. It is because of the fact that tribals are very simple people, but their leaders spare no stone unturned to exploit them. These leaders have always been misguiding the tribals. Some people even told them that it was in their interest to destroy forests. This is the reason that there has been unprecedented destruction of forests in our country. I do not say that only tribals are responsible for it. It is the vested interests and selfish people who have destroyed the forests by making them tools. As a result of that we have reached a stage wherein one part of the country is facing floods due to heavy rainfall and the other part has been hit by drought. The main reason behind it is that jungles are being cleared at random and a major part of the country is gradually turning into a desert which is going on increasing. Our ecological balance has been disturbed due to the present plight of the jungles.

Jungles cannot be planted and grown in a day. Africa is an example of this phenomenon before us. We should learn some lesson from it. A time was there when Africa used to be called a dark continent. But the people felled trees mercilessly and thus the old situation has now totally changed. The people of Ethiopia are dying of starvation, because the people of that country felled the trees haphazardly. Whatever happened in Ethiopia, it is going to happen here in our country also. The situation will go on worsening day by day if we do not check the felling of trees. We will have to ban this type of propaganda in order to check felling of trees. We should not arouse the sentiments of the people. No culture or tradition can march forward by removing forests or by destroying public wealth. It causes losses only. It gives rise to poverty, starvation and helplessness. Therefore, we should not encourage such things which create differences and difficulties for us. It should be our effort to ensure welfare of tribals in every State. I myself come from Santhal Paraganas from where the mover of the Bill used to come sometime ago. The Government of Bihar has done much for the Santhals during the past few years. But if to-day we find any

deficiency in that, it is due to vested interests and due to those people who claim themselves to be leaders of the tribals. It is known to everybody that the sentiments of the people in Chota Nagpur are being aroused. We find from newspapers that a demand is being made daily for formation of a state of Jharkhand. Efforts are being made to accelerate Jharkhand movement.

Who are the people behind it? If we encourage these sentiments, problems will be created in every State like that created by the G.N.L.F. In this way people in every State will make a demand like that of Gorkhaland and there will be no end to it. Therefore, I would like to say in brief that such things should not be brought at this juncture. It should be our effort to do more than what is being done at present for tribals. But it should be done within the constitutional frame-work. Nothing should be done beyond those provisions which already exist. Thanks.

*SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN (Tripura East): Mr Chairman, Sir, I extend my full support to this Bill. This Bill proposes to bring all those States of India under the purview of the Sixth Schedule by setting up Zila Parishads, wherein at present the Fifth Schedule is in force and regional councils have been set up under the fifth Schedule. This is because the regional councils are not working effectively for the upliftment and betterment of the tribals. I fully support this proposal.

Sir, out of those States where the Sixth Schedule is in force and Zila Parishads have been formed thereunder, Meghalaya and Mizoram only have a majority population of Schedule tribes. In two other States viz., Tripura and Assam the tribals are in a minority. In my opinion this Sixth Schedule should be enforced in those States where the tribals are in a minority. In eight States like, Orissa Bihar, Rajasthan etc. There the fifth schedule is in force and regional councils have been formed, the regional councils are not working properly. These regional councils are required to meet twice a year. Our experience is that they never meet even twice a year. We have

reports to that effect. They do not consider it necessary to meet twice a year. Therefore it is all the same whether those regional council exist or do not exist. Those councils are there only because they have been set up under the Indian Constitution. But actually these regional councils are not proving of any utility in the matter of upliftment and development of the tribals.

When we sit in the Consultative Committee meetings, many members of the ruling party also agree that the fifth schedule is not proving effective in various States. This is not working properly and it would have been better if the sixth Schedule was enforced in those States. In Tripura we waged a long struggle for the enforcement of the sixth schedule in that State. But it was only two years ago, after the left front Govt. came to power, that the sixth schedule was enforced in Tripura and zila parishads was formed thereunder after amending the Constitution. In these two years the zila parishads have been entrusted with all the work of tribal development right from the primary education of the tribals. These zila parishads are doing good work. I will invite the hon. Members of the ruling party to visit my State and see for themselves how the zila parishad under the sixth schedule has been functioning. I of course will not be able to say how the sixth schedule is functioning in Assam, Meghalaya and Mizoram. But in my State Tripura the tribals and the non tribals living outside the area where the sixth schedule is not in force, are clamouring to be covered by the sixth schedule. They are demanding this. This is only because the sixth schedule is working according to the requirement of the tribals. I will avail of this opportunity to state that the sixth schedule is functioning in Tripura depending entirely on the financial resources of the State Govt. I will therefore urge upon the Central Govt. to grant adequate financial assistance to the Tripura Govt. so that the sixth schedule may function more effectively in the interest of tribal development in that State. Sir, my experience is that the present opposition party in Tripura viz., the Congress party who were themselves in power till 1977, had all along opposed the enforcement of the sixth schedule there. Their contention was that his demand for sixth schedule was a secessionist demand, I am surprised at

*The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

this. The hon. Member who spoke before me and hon. Smt. Phulrenu Guha who spoke earlier also stressed that the demand for enforcement of the sixth schedule falls under the category of a secessionist and sepaatist demand. This astounding! I fail to understand it. If this demand is a separatist demand, then you delete it from the Constitution. The fifth schedule and the sixth schedule have been provided in our Constitution for the development and upliftment of the tribals. So long as they find a place in the Constitution this demand will be raised and this agitation will continue. This is a Constitutional provision. Now the issue of demand for Gorkhaland has been mentioned in this connection by some hon. Members. That is an absurdity. That has no connection with this issue. Those who are demanding Gorkhaland are not scheduled tribes as envisaged in our Constitution. This issue relates to only the schedule tribes who are the most backward in our country. The ruling party members have also admitted it. It is said that it is the responsibility of the Central Govt. to protect the language, culture, economy etc. of the tribals. But our experience is that their language is becoming extinct. Their economic condition is worse than before.

Their culture is near extinction. If this Govt. remains in power much longer then perhaps we will know about the language, culture etc. of the tribals only in the museums. Apart from the museums, nothing will be found elsewhere.

I know that a solution of the problems of the tribals is not possible till socialism comes to our country and the Communist party comes to power. Till that happens, it is necessary to enforce the Sixth schedule in various States as a temporary safeguard. So long as the Congress party was in power in my State, they did not implement the Sixth schedule there. Even now they are opposing the sixth schedule. They insist that the agitation for the enforcement of the sixth schedule is a separatist agitation. This is not at all so. If you ponder deeply you will realise that this is necessary for protecting their economic development. It is very necessary to immediately replace the sixth schedule at all those places where

regional council are functioning under the Fifth Schedule, if you are really eager for the betterment of the tribals. The tribals have forgotten everything about themselves. Nothing is left. Nothing will be left unless there is a change in the attitude and thinking of the Govt. So far as I have understood, the previous speaker was saying that our forests have been destroyed because of the tribals. Yes, our tribals do live in the forests. But the tribals do not destroy forests. They just do not have the means to cut down large trees, make planks or to carry the huge trees outside for sale with the help of elephants. They use the forests in a small way for their own use and requirements. They protect the forests also. But our country's forests are getting denuded. This is a fact. Who are doing this?

This is being done by the rich capitalists of our country for increasing their profits and wealth. They are cutting down forests with heavy implements and bringing in elephants to carry away the rich wood. The forest department is also a party to it. Through contractors they are denuding the forests. This is the main cause of the destruction of our forests. The poor tribals are not at all responsible for it. But we find that everybody is blaming the tribals, that they are destroying forests by joom-cultivation etc. But why are the tribals compelled to go in for joom cultivation? This is because they do not have any other alternative to earn their livelihood. Had they been provided with any alternative means to earn their livelihood, then there was no need for them to engage in joom-cultivation. In my State, the left front Govt. has allowed the tribals for joom-cultivation till some alternative means are provided to them. I think it is necessary to make such arrangements in other States also. So long as this Congress Govt. remains in power, they will not be able to stop this joom cultivation. They do not have the inclination, to provide facilities of livelihood to the poorest of the country. It is necessary to protect the land of the tribals and to provide reservations to the tribals in respect of Govt. jobs. Our experience is that in no other State of the country except the States ruled by the left-front Govt., the land of the tribals is being

protected. Though there is a law that if the land of the tribals is transferred illegally, the same will be restored to him. There is further a law in force whereby the permission of the Govt. shall be necessary if the tribals land is sold or transferred to somebody else. All these legislations and conditions are there. But these are not being implemented. Only in Tripura the tribals are able to survive without selling their land because the left front Govt. have provided them with alternative means of livelihood. Unless and until such alternative arrangements are provided, it will not be possible to save the land of the tribals. There are some exploiters in existence. For example, there is a community called 'Laskars' in Tripura. In language, custom, culture etc., they are like any other Bengali community. But these 'Laskars' during the Congress regime in Tripura were considered as tribals, God knows under what law or what consideration. They were recognised as tribals during the Congress rule and after obtaining certificates from the Govt., they are purchasing land from other tribals as tribals. But when they are selling it to Bengalis as non tribal Bengalis! Because according to our land reforms act, any tribal selling his land to a Bengali, shall have to obtain permission first. They are thus evading this law. During the Congress rule in Tripura large areas of tribal land have gone out of their hands in this manner. For that the then Congress Govt. is fully responsible. This process has been halted after the left front Govt. came to power there. Similarly in the case of employment also these 'Laskars' are enjoying the benefit although they are not tribals really.

I think that in many other States also some such arrangements is prevailing. Others are enjoying such benefits in matters of land and employment and depriving the tribals of their legitimate dues. Therefore, I demand that the schedule of the President listing the various scheduled castes and scheduled tribes in various States need to be revised. All those names should be deleted which are considered unnecessary and new names may be added which are considered necessary. All the scheduled must be re-cast. One more thing Sir. In Bihar, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh one class of people live whom we call 'Santhals' in brief. This community is included in the

schedule and are called by different names in different States. Their economic condition has deteriorated alarmingly. Even during the British days they were in a better condition. I do not say that they were well off during the British rule. But their condition is still worse today. They were originally residing in the Santhal Pargana. But after independence due to the reorganisation of States their area was divided in various States like Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh. In this process their combant habitation got disturbed and disunited. As a result of that they are not enjoying the original security any more. The Govt. is not providing facilities to them to earn their livelihood in their own area. Therefore, today we find them scattered over in all the States. They are found working in the brick kilns in Tripura or in road construction works elsewhere. In punjab you will find them working in fields and farms as farmers. In this manner the original inhabitants of the Santhal Parganas are being made to work all over the country at a very low wage. They are being exploited. If the Govt. provided them with means of livelihood in their own place then there would have been no need for them to roam over the whole country in search of work. It is surprising that these people are not recognised as tribals in other States. For example the 'Santhals' who are working in the tea-gardens of Assam and who are called by various caste names like 'Shabar?', 'Mundas etc., are not recognised as tribals in Assam. Therefore, I demand that these should be an all India list of 'Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. At present it is different in different States and that has caused great difficulty and distress for these people. One who is a tribal in one State, is not recognised as a tribal in another State. For example, I am a tribal in Tripura. But if I take up permanent residence in Delhi or Punjab, I will not be considered and recognised as a tribal. Therefore the provisions of the Constitution in respect of the tribals is not being implemented in spirit. This handicap could be avoided if an comprehensive all-India Schedule Could be drawn up in respect of SC/ST.

In the end I will say that the regional council of the Fifth Schedule has become ineffective and obsolete. You have no

inclination to introduce zila parishads to replace them. You do not have the mentality for that, and you do not make any budgetary provision also for that. In Tripura we introduced the Sixth Schedule after amending the constitution. Similar steps may be taken in all other States. Wherever there is a density of tribal population, zila parishads may be set up for their development. In this manner the tribals may be provided with an opportunity to survive. So long as we are not able to establish socialism in this country, this step is necessary to maintain their existence, somehow. With that Sir, I once again extend my full support to this Bill and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Sir, I oppose this Bill. Though it seems very simple, there is a motive behind it. It is an open secret, we know, who is behind this Jharkhand movement and whether any foreign agency is assisting that. This Bill intends to sow the seed of disintegration and disturbance.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill stated by the Mover is,

"The proposed amendment will help in preserving the culture, language and common laws of these areas."

I am sorry to say that though the hon. Member has moved this Bill relating to Orissa, he does not know which are the districts in Orissa inhabited by the tribals and what are the names of the districts in Orissa. I invite your kind attention to the Bill, page 4, part iv, where it is stated that there are two districts, one is Ganghpur and the other is Keonjhar. There is no district in Orissa called Ganghpur. By this, you can well imagine that if this Bill is made an Act, where will it come into operation?

16.00 hrs.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurdwars) : I agree, there may have been a mistake, but I have spoken about the scheduled areas also in Orissa.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH : I am not casting any aspersions on the hon. Member, but what I am saying is that before he introduced this Bill, he should have studied the problems of Orissa, known the tribal districts and drafted the Bill carefully. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated :

"The proposed amendment will help in preserving the culture, language and the common laws of those areas."

As far as Orissa is concerned the culture of Orissa is Jagannath DHARAM or Jagannath cult ; it is not only in Orissa, but it is international, Lord Jagannath was the diety of tribals. He was worshipped throughout India as also outside. What culture does not the hon. Member want to preserve in Orissa by implementation of this Bill ?

Coming to language, there is only one language in Orissa, and that is Oriya, there is no second language. Does the hon. Member want to introduce another language ?

As regards common laws, in Orissa peace is prevailing. Then job protection. There is not only job protection for Adivasis, there is job protection even for Harijans. The percentage is fixed. For the information of the hon. Members, employment is given to the Adivasis, tribals and Harijans as per the Act which is in force. If in a particular year, the quota of Adivasis, Harijans etc. is not fulfilled, sufficient applicants do not apply for the jobs, the vacancies are carried to next year. No appointments can be made against the posts meant for Adivasis and Harijans. There is a penal section; if anybody does that, he is punished.

Then, land reforms. In Orissa, no person other than a tribal can purchase the land of another tribal, not even a Harijan, unless permission is granted.

As regards poverty alleviation schemes, much attention is given to the Adivasis and Harijans in Orissa. The poverty alleviation programmes are being implemented in these

areas. The Central Government is kind enough to give enough funds to implement different schemes and programmes, MADA etc.

The foodgrains, rice etc. are supplied to areas on subsidised rates. What more common laws does the hon. Member think to be introduced in Orissa than the laws now prevailing, than the protection now being given ?

By bringing forward this Bill, a seed of discontent is going to be spread not only in Oriss, but Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and other areas also. I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill and not to press for it.

Sir, the hon. Member who spoke just now mentioned that this Bill is necessary for the States where the tribals are in minority. If that is so, then has the hon. Member got any notion about the population in Keonjhar District ? Why was then the Keonjhar district included ? So, I would humbly submit that the hon. Member should carefully study the situation of each State and then bring this Bill.

Sir, it is a fact that Advasies in Orissa destroy the forests by burning them not for any profit motive but to raise crops. The ashes are utilised as the manures. There is not any ill intention in their burning the forests. They do not cut the forests and send it for any monetary motive. They burn the forests in order to raise some crops like Red Gram. Attempts have been made to see that the shifting cultivation or Podu cultivation should be stopped and they should be educated. They should be rehabilitated not on mountain tops but on plain lands. For cultivation they should be given proper land, manure and all sorts of assistance.

Under these circumstances, I request the hon. Member to withdraw the Bill in the interest of the integration of the India as a whole.

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SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK (Panaji) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, whenever I have gone through the provisions with respect to the creation of the autonomous district and autonomous regions, I have come to one

conclusion and before I start, I would like to mention to this House about the conclusion which I have drawn after going through the provisions of this Bill. The conclusion is, "That there is no need to have the provision of autonomous districts and regions in the Constitution."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the entire country is divided into States and further into districts and then administratively we divide them into blocks etc. We can give some concessions, some assistance or some monetary concessions to a particular area but to have this provision incorporated in the Constitution itself is something which should be done away with. Sir, there are obvious reasons behind my saying this.

These autonomous districts and autonomous regions which are created will have the power of legislation also; no doubt the State governments will have control over those legislations. If a legislation is enacted by a Regional Council or a District Council on the same subject on which a State Govt. enacts a legislation, then the State Government's legislation will prevail. So, once you are giving them power to legislate and then at the same time taking away the power to legislate, will naturally give scope for contradiction. So, the creation of District Council and giving them the legislative powers is something which is not fair in the interest of the country.

We have given them powers to legislate on matters such as marriage and divorce. We have also given them powers to legislate upon other social customs. In case, each such district or regional council legislates upon social customs, marriage, divorce and so on and so forth, what will happen to the country ? We know what sort of evil customs prevail in our remote villages today. Are we going to give sanction to all such evil customs ? No wonder, incidents like 'Sati' take place in our country even today! And I am giving 'Sati' as one example. There are so many evil customs and traditions in our entire rural and tribals areas today. It is our duty to enlighten our tribal and other backward people about the harmful effects of these evil customs. I am all for legislation at the State level to improve their condition without causing

them any harm. On the contrary, if we are to protect all these evil customs by giving them powers to legislate on such delicate matters, then we will only be giving sanction to social evils such as 'Sati'. That is the reason why I say that we should do away with district councils altogether.

We also give them powers in matters such as 'Jhum' cultivation, inheritance of property, etc. I am of the opinion that all the rights of the tribals with respect of 'Jhum' cultivation, etc. should be protected fully by the concerned State Governments. These tribal people are living in the jungles for hundreds of years and they should enjoy their traditional rights with respect to forests. And it is the responsibility of the State Government as a whole to protect such traditional rights. Instead of that, if we ask each district or regional council to decide upon such matters by giving them legislative powers, I wonder what will happen. We are all aware of what is happening in our country today. If we give these districts or regional councils this sort of legislative powers, I am afraid they may all try to be autonomous, completely independent and they may even demand for statehood. Therefore, it is the State Government which should protect the interests of the tribals by bringing special legislation if necessary, but only at the State level.

At present, the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution gives them powers with respect to inheritance of property, etc. What will happen if these autonomous districts or regional councils legislate on these aspects? All these aspects should be seen from the point of view of our national forest policy. Of course, they cannot encroach upon reserve forests. But as far as certain forest areas are concerned, they do have a right and if they bring forward legislations with respect to these areas which may run contrary to our overall forest policy, what will happen them? Therefore, such delicate matters should not be left in the hands of autonomous districts or regional councils. Only the States should have the power to legislate on such matters.

I would like to mention one more point here. Although we speak of district councils, districts which are the backbone of our

development, through which we pump money for all developmental purposes, are not so far recognised by the Constitution. Although 'State' as a unit is recognised in the Constitution, district is not recognised. Here, I will humbly submit that we should open a new chapter in our Constitution for the purpose of giving an honourable status to district. District as a unit should be specifically mentioned in our Constitution. The scope of the district, when a district should be created, with what area, what population all these aspects should be dealt with by the Constitution. Today, how are the districts created? Districts at presents are created by the Land Revenue Code of a State Government. Districts which are the backbone of our administration are not created under Constitutional provisions. These are created by a small legislation like Land Revenue Code. I am of the opinion that districts must find a place in our Constitution. Secondly, in the chapter on districts to be inserted in our Constitution, there should be a mention with regard to the elected bodies of the districts, just as the Zilla Parishads in Maharashtra.

Statutorily, by constitutional provisions, we should have Zilla Parishads or similar elected bodies with any other nomenclature in district, and in every five years or four years, the election should be held. The election should be conducted through the Election Commission. It is in this manner that we can give our districts an honourable place in the Constitution and also in the country.

Today, only some tribal areas have created a some sort of Council with legislative powers.

At the moment I am speaking about the districts. Those districts. Zilla Parishads will not have legislative powers. It is only for the purpose of administration and for the purpose of development. This should not only be set up in certain areas but in the whole country. Our States should be divided into districts, by virtue of the provisions in the Constitution. They should be provided with Zilla Parishads or similar elected bodies which should be elected from time to time, through the machinery of the Election Commission. And even the State

Governments should have a Commission, just like the Finance Commission, for distributing funds to the districts. Today, the Finance Commission allots funds to the States. Similarly, there should be a Finance Commission at the State level which should allot funds to the districts in an equal manner or in a manner which is deemed to be worthwhile. I am saying this because, there may be some States which are backward. So, more funds should be allotted to them. But that Commission should decide how to allot the funds, to each district. Today, the State Governments are not allotting funds in an equal manner or in a just manner. Therefore, that job should be entrusted to the Finance Commission.

In this manner, I urge upon the Government to bring a new Constitutional Bill for the purpose of giving due place for the districts in our Constitution so that our districts are honoured. Today, the districts which are created by a small legislation, tomorrow, we may be the creators of the Constitution.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Mr. Chairman, sir, as I rise to speak on this Bill, I really do not know whether to support it or not to support it.

The Bill has certain very promising features. It is a step, in my view, in the right direction. But as Dr. Rajhans pointed out, the Bill has a purpose. My point is that this Bill does not fulfil that purpose. It is only a step, as I said in the right direction, but it does not take into account the social, political and economic realities of today.

Mr. Chairman, a fire is raging across the country. The fire of discontent from the Eastern most part of our country to the Western most part of our State, across the habitat of the tribals. I do not know whether a measure as envisaged under this Bill, that is to say, virtually to abolish the Vth Schedule and to bring all possible tribal districts under the scheme of VIth Schedule, will today serve the purpose. I think the Bill in this sense is inadequate. The Bill is perhaps too late in the day. We know the idea of the autonomous district failed. We know the idea of the autonomous areas

failed. In Bihar, we are trying the idea of the regional development authority. None of them has really worked to eliminate the discontent and to satisfy in my view the legitimate aspirations of the tribal people.

Therefore, we have to look at it in a historic perspective. Where are we going?

I would like to say that there is nothing sacrosanct or divinely ordained about the number of States of the Union nor about the present boundaries.

These are manmade institutions, primarily for the welfare of the people, to meet their legitimate aspirations, to live in peaceful co-existence to work for their common development within the framework of a civilized, orderly and constitutional existence; and that is there is to it. They are not like gospels that have come down to us from the heavens, that cannot be changed. Therefore, I feel that we must take into account this situation today, and study the problem in greater depth: Why is Tribal India up in arms? Why is it in virtual revolt today?

The Home Minister has just come back from a visit to Jharkhand. This is the first visit of a Home Minister of India to Jharkhand. This itself implies the seriousness and the gravity of the situation, which is slowly going beyond the control of the State Government, perhaps beyond the limits of their wisdom or their intelligence on how to handle it. Therefore, Shri Buta Singh had to rush out and give some advice. But he made some statement which, I think, will only serve to pour fuel over the raging fire. The fire of discontent will not subside with this sort of fleeting visits, and this sort of off-one-cuff, EX-CATHEDRA pronouncements challenging the patriotism of the people and ascribing motives to those who want a legitimate place for themselves under the Indian sun.

The Tribal India today is psychologically alienated. If it is cutting down its own forests, forests which have been its habitat for centuries, forests which in many instances it even worships, forests which give the tribal his life, his culture and his

ethos, we must understand why he is doing so. We simply cannot restrain ourselves from asking the question. The answer is that he is frustrated.

He feels that national development has passed him by. He feels that he is not getting a due share in the fruits of development. He feels he does not have his fingers on the levers of power. He feels that he has got no say in the administration of his own home. He feels that in employment he is cheated. Socially, he is degraded. Politically, he has no place. Culturally, he is suppressed and his language is discriminated against. This is the plethora of grievances which have been built up over a period of time, and the respective State Governments which are controlled by elements hostile to the tribals, which are in fact controlled by vested interests which feed on the exploitation of the tribals, have done nothing to alleviate their sense of frustration. And that is why we have come to a situation where even a well-intentioned move as has been made in this Bill presented by our learned colleague Mr. Tiraky is not going to set matters right. This is the fear I have, and that is why I said in the beginning that I did not know whether to support it or to oppose it.

In one word, the tribes wherever they are in a compact concentration today, look at the map of India and want a State of their own; and we have rightly or wrongly given them the idea, because we have created mini-States and micro States. Perhaps we could not have helped this process. It is not just an Indian phenomenon. It is a world-wide phenomenon. Look at the United Nations today. You find that we have got members which have hundreds of millions of people, and members whose total population is only a hundred thousand. Exactly in the same way, within our own Union of India, we have got a State like the giant State of Uttar Pradesh with about 120 million people if I am not wrong—and States with population which you can count in lakhs. And every day, we are giving in to pressure. Therefore, what justification do we have in denying State-hood to an area like Jharkhand—if that be the real purpose and intention of the mover of this Bill, as

suggested by Dr Rajhans? And I believe it is.

What justification do we have in denying a Statehood to the Jharkhand people, only because Mr. Tiraky has not mentioned the right name of the District included in the Bill? That is not important. The important thing is to find out what is happening there. Despite all the things that we have done during the last 40 years, what results have we achieved? That is happening at the grass-root level, at the ground level? Why is it that even the well-intentioned schemes of development for hydro electric development or mining development or industrial development today are being opposed by the people of that area? Unless we answer this question, we cannot get to know the real answer about this unrest. They are being opposed because they feel this will really mean further exploitation of their area not in their interest but in the interest of somebody else. People from outside will come, a contractor will come, an engineer will come a government officer will come and they will rob them of their last chicken. This is what is happening. Therefore, if they want to be the master of their home within the framework of our country, within the framework of our Constitution what business do we have to impute anti-national motive to them? What right do we have to say that this is a secessionist move? Where will they take away Jharkhand, to which country? Where will Jharkhand sqil away, across the Bay of Bengal? It will remain where it is. It will only serve to give a rightful place, as I said, under the Indian sun to the people of that area who have been deprived of their due for centuries, for thousands of years, who are even today being exploited, who are even today denied their dues. Therefore, we must speak very frankly.

If the Bill is considered by Mr. Tiraky as a half way house, I wish him well and he has been very careful that he does not include the tribal area of his own State. (*Interruptions*) That is the business between him and his party. But I am happy if by suitably bringing these tribal districts under part VI we can have another tribal. Let them have real powers, let them have real

institutional changes, let them have real employment opportunities, let them have real control of development resources. Maybe we can have a sincere try, but, frankly, Mr. Chairman, I feel that the time even for that is running out. Therefore, we must say very clearly that if a group of people, tribal people, want a State and it they demand a State, then the demand should be considered with sympathy.

How can a State be defined? I think, that picture is before us. A State can be defined with a certain degree of socio-culture homogeneity; then only it will move forward; then only it shall have certain impulse of its own. We have seen small State being created whose development has been fast because all the people of that State Pool their effort to push the State forward. It is our State and we have got to make it run, we have got to make it work; we have got to push it forward. Once that spirit takes over a people nothing can stop them; and that will be not to the detriment of our country; that will not be to the glory of our country; that will be another impetus to the progress and development of our country.

But I have some fear. Chauvinism breeds chauvinism; sectarianism breeds sectarianism. I am afraid that sometimes our tribal brothers also start looking upon non-tribals who have been living among for ages as their neighbours as them or foreigners. There are some people among us who say that if tribals demand their own State, well they are either inspired by the foreigners or they are agents of the foreigners. On the other hand, there are some tribals also who look upon non-tribals living next to them and say, once we have the State, you will have to go. I think if the tribal movement for self-assertion, for identity, for home-land within the constitutional framework is to succeed, is to be sympathetically received by the rest of the country, then they also have to do something to dispel these fears and apprehensions.

Anybody, whatever may have been the circumstances, who has gone to and has been domiciled in what was a tribal area

shall be considered a part and parcel and an equal resident of the tribal State, if ever it comes into being. There shall be no discrimination against him. That assurance must be given to him. After all, it is a common country and all of us are the people of India. One compartment cannot be completely sealed off from the other. In that case we would really be going towards balkanisation and that must be prevented. We have all to work against balkanisation but we cannot afford to stand in the path of this historic process, what I call the resurgence of identity.

Who is opposing this movement? Let us look at them. Always, a dominant majority in those particular States. Why? Because they are reaping the benefits. Therefore, basically it is a struggle between the STATUS QUO and anti STATUS QUO forces and it is the anti STATUS QUO forces whose historic movement has come. Time is on their side, whether we look to that area or not, this movement will gather strength because by the very nature of the economic process in a capitalist society they shall continue to be discriminated against however pious intentions we express in the precincts of this august House, and these fires will go on raging.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I would like to suggest that if the idea was to project a Jharkhand State, even the supporters of the movement I know that the movement is getting re-organised, re-structured they should make certain pronouncements, the natural limits of the proposed Jharkhand State. It cannot be a historic limit, it cannot be based on any historic claims. It must be based on the current ethnic and demographic picture, meaning thereby, that they take the tribal majority districts as they can and add certain areas from the neighbouring districts based on certain principles, may be the principle of contiguity the principle of linguistic affinity or linguistic cum cultural affinity and the principle of village as the unit. But whole district on the fringe of tribal concentration areas cannot be forced against their will for merger into a new State, to be a part of a new State. Therefore, without going into historic claims, respecting the rights of non-tribals.

to live within the tribal State, we must invite the attention of the political forces to the possibility of re-drawing the map of India on the basis of what Shri Jaya Prakash Narain once called socio cultural homogeneity on that basis we can perhaps satisfy our tribal brothers, not only in Jharkhand because the battle will not end in Jharkhand. The battle will go on, sweep across everywhere and we will have to face exactly the same problem and then give them what they want, not secession, not separation, not a State separate from India, but a right to Statehood and a claim to the resources of what they consider to be their homeland.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Caunnamore) : Are you supporting or opposing the Bill?

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : When it comes to voting you will know it.

SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Just like your party, you are confused.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : You should call two persons from this side and one from the other side.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is what I am doing. Before the hon. Member proceeds, I want to know whether you would like to extend time, because the time allotted will be over at 4-40.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The next bill is mine.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon) : Only half an hour.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : One hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We extend the time by one hour.

Now, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank

you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on this Constitution Amendment Bill 1985 moved by our hon. friend Shri Tiraky.

The Bill is for amendment of the Constitution, that is Article 244 and Schedule VI. I carefully listened to the speeches made by the hon. Members who spoke now. Our learned friend Sri Syed Shahabuddin spoke eloquently on the necessity of having a separate State called Jharkhand for the tribals, that is the part of Bihar and the adjoining area.

The mover of the Bill is not very clear about the purpose of his Bill and he says that there should be a separate State called Jharkhand and he has outlined the areas to be covered by the proposed State and at the same time he says that if that was not possible, then some autonomous districts as provided for in the Schedule VI should be created. So, he is not sure himself.

The first question that strikes me when we are discussing this question is this. Is it the time that country should engage itself or the Parliament, the representatives of the people, to such a discussion? Are we having a dearth of problems? We are having serious problems threatening the very integrity and unity of the country. We are discussing about Punjab. We see what is happening there. Of late there is some improvement in the situation. Tamil situation took a different turn. A group of Tamil militants are going back on their stand, on the word they had given at the time of signing the accord. The problem of Gorkhaland is very much active in the State, where from our mover himself comes. He knows the problem. As observed by some hon. Member. Mr. Tiraky has knowingly omitted his own State from the purview of this Bill. So, when there are so many problems threatening the very integrity of the country, why should we try to add one more to it?

Sir, the concept of Jharkhand is the demand for the creation of a State comprising certain tribal dominated areas. It is not a demand of recent origin. It dates back to several decades and it was subsid-

As you know, late Jaipal Singh was the first person who started this agitation.

But later on, he revised his own opinion. So it has passed through different stages. Later on other groups have come up and they have also pressed for this demand.

I would like to ask one question. If a state, as suggested, is created, will the entire gamut of problems, the sufferings of the tribals be over overnight? Definitely not. Will the emancipation of tribals be there automatically overnight? Definitely not. The tribals in this area are also not united. They have their own divisions on the lines of caste, creed and sub-caste. That way, they do not have a common language and culture. But I agree and I emphasise that what is more important than granting statehood or autonomous districts is their economic prosperity, economic development. Since independence we have taken a number of steps for the economic prosperity of the tribals. But admittedly they are not sufficient; they are not adequate. Much more has got to be done. It is time that we should concentrate on that and give our attention to that. When it was made clear to Shrimati Indira Gandhi that in spite of planning machinery and several five year plans, the rich were getting richer and the poor poorer and that the down trodden, tribals and Harijans were not getting the benefits as expected, then tribal-oriented programmes, Schedule caste-oriented programmes were formulated and put to implementation also. I agree that there are loopholes in the implementation of these programmes. If these programmes like the tribal sub-plan are properly implemented, then naturally more benefits would accrue to the tribals.

The demand of statehood or autonomous districts is an unending demand. What I would suggest is that concerted efforts should be made on successful implementation of different economic programmes meant for the tribals and other down-trodden.

This demand has to be viewed in another context also. Now there is a demand from SWARNAS i.e. caste Hindus that there should be a division on the lines of economic conditions. There are several

very very poor people among caste Hindus who are rotting in poverty and do not have even two square meals a day. But since they belong to a higher caste, they do not get any benefit. I am not equating the two. But the problems will multiply. 90 per cent of the tribals are very poor. Of course, there are tribal zamindars. Tribal rajas are there.

So, naturally we cannot just have a general demand like this.

Keeping the problems of the tribals in mind, a different Ministry of Welfare is now functioning at the Centre. In different States also, particularly where there is a sizeable tribal population, we have Departments of SC and ST for tribal development. There are also Assembly committees comprising of SC and ST members to oversee the implementation of different programmes meant for the tribals.

Regarding alienation of land, there are very strict laws in different States, including Orissa, and the alienation of land belonging to tribals is forbidden thereby. So, that is also being strictly observed.

As regards forests, tribals are a part of forest. They live within the forest. Forest is their life we know. Recently, as a member of the Regional Forest Advisory Group, I had an occasion to visit the Chhota Nagpur area-the Saranda Forest Division-where this Jharkhand movement is very much there. Rather that could be called the headquarters of the Jharkhand movement. Only tears will roll down to see how there is large-scale organised illegal felling of trees. Naturally, the tribals residing in that forest are not responsible for this. They are being incited, they are being persuaded and even threat are given to them to fell those trees. Even collection is made from them by some leaders. The collection is made from them under coercion.

They say: "You have to keep this land under plough and you have to pay off money to us". They have let loose the reign of terror. This is what we have seen as members of the Parliamentary committee. The tribal people are very simple. When

people from outside go there with their jeeps, etc., they are deserting their homes. They don't even get an opportunity to speak to those people. There are some people, some middlemen who are really exploiting them. Whether there is a State for them or not, whether an autonomous district for them is there or not, the exploitation of tribals at different levels, by whomsoever it may be, must be put an end to. That is the first work we have to do. Exploitation has to be put an end to. Not only we have to put an end to the exploitation of tribals, but we have also to ensure economic development economic prosperity of the tribal people. We have to ensure successful implementation, speedy implementation of different economic programmes meant for the tribals.

Regarding education, there is a lot of scope for tribal people. In Orissa, as everywhere also, free education is given to them from K. G. to P. G. from primary standard up to university level. They are also given accommodation in the hostel on priority basis because it is a must for them, and the expenditure is also borne by the State. We should see that they are educated, jobs are given to them and economic benefits also accrue to them properly in the right perspective.

The areas that are outlined in the proposed State or the autonomous district, etc. include some portions of Orissa also. Mr. Rath has earlier referred to that. These areas were never under one administrative unit. Before Independence, they were under different Princely States. We call them gajjats. There is no similarity between them and other tribals. They are in a different State, their language is different and so many other things are also different. Surprisingly, Sir, till today, in spite of all the provocations, the original tribal residents of those areas in Orissa, as far as I know, have never demanded the formation of Jharkhand State. It is always some people who have infiltrated into these areas from the neighbouring States, who are making hue and cry.

So, there is no demand absolutely from the local residents, adivasi residents and also there are no law and order and other

problems. I do not appreciate this Bill because this Bill has been brought at such a juncture when our attention, of our nation as a whole, should be concentrated on the economic prosperity, development of overall tribal community wherever they are, not only elsewhere but wherever they are.

With these words, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL (Erandol) : As referred to by my friend Shri Syed Shahabuddin, this Bill has come very late. It should have been brought in early 50s and 60s. Then it would have served some purpose. But now the tribals within the States mentioned by my friend Shri Baju Ban Riyan have progressed themselves and many are IAS and many are in business also. They are now in the mainstream of the country.

My friend, Dr. Rajhans has expressed surprise why Shri Tiraky has overflowed from Tripura to Bihar and did not include Bengal in the proposed amendment? It is his political expediency and that is why he is not interested in that State.

My friend, Shri Riyan was referring that Left Front Government has done a lot of things for the tribals and the land grabbed by other caste people has been returned in that State where the Left Front Government is ruling. He has conveniently forgotten that in 1975-76 it was Madam Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi who enacted a law in Parliament under which all over the country land purchased by other caste people had to be returned. Lakhs and lakhs of acres of land was returned to the tribals. In Maharashtra, I had legally purchased 38 acres of land but because of that enactment I had to return that land to tribal, Madam Prime Minister and Congress Government right from the beginning has been doing good service to the tribals, to the weaker section in this country. But indirectly raising the question of Jharkhand, such an amendment is not proper on the part of any true Indian national. It is because this will divide the country on casteism factor. Now, in the Santhal Pargana, there is tribal predominance. In Satpura, out of 45 MPs from

Maharashtra in Parliament, we have got 6 MPs. Around Satpura, in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra included, we see the development done by those States. My friend, Shri Chittubhai Gamit, has a sugar factory in Gujarat. The tribals are so much educated and intelligent that in my district in Dhulia there is a Civil Surgeon, a very intelligent persons. Shri Vasave, a Collector was from the North Eastern area.

The Deputy Registrar was also a tribal. The main district officers were tribals. This is so because of progressive policy of the Congress Government, because of the reservation given and opportunities made available to our tribal people. So, it is not necessary now to bring forward this amendment for these 3 districts alone and include these three districts in Sixth Schedule. What does this Sixth Schedule mean? It is for creation of new districts as per different castes in the tribal areas. We have got 'Konkanis' and 'Bhil' communities in our State. If we have to divide according to the caste the districts in our area, then one district will be created and that will be a small district. A very small district will not be viable. Of course, regional council is there. But there the Regional Council concept is an autonomous district Council and that district Council idea is well served by the Zila Parishads which are in existence. In the State like Maharashtra, wherever this predominant tribal population exist, we have also tribal President in our Zila Parishad. I will suggest that on the other hand if we involve more number of our tribal friends and Scheduled Castes in national stream, we will be doing a great service for them. We have enacted an Act in Maharashtra and if such a kind of enactment is there in other States, it will go a long way for the development of these areas as also these people. In Maharashtra, in the Cooperatives at the district level, we have made it compulsory that there should be at least two persons from the Schedule Tribe and Scheduled caste community. In the Co-operative Societies and in the Panchayat Samitis, there is already reservation. In other autonomous bodies or local bodies we have got this reservation system and because of this reservation system, our friends from weaker section can

get opportunity to be the members of decision making bodies, administrative bodies. Not only that. In the sugar cooperative societies of Maharashtra which are very progressive, the Maharashtra Government has given facilities to the Scheduled Tribe people becoming members of these cooperatives. Maharashtra Government purchases shares for them by paying them Rs. 900 as their share and Rs. 100 only are to be paid by these people while others have to pay Rs. 1000 for their shares. These are the facilities given in order to bring them in the main administrative stream of the local government, local bodies. Therefore, it is not necessary to have an amendment like this in the Sixth Schedule of our Constitution.

I would request Mr. Tiraky to withdraw his amendment because he is bringing forward this very late. The country has progressed well and the Constitution has taken the country towards the path of progress for the last 40 years and now after a short-spell of Janata Government when our Party came back to power, we have extended the facilities of reservation in the service matters for another 10 years. That also shows our good intention and our friendship and sympathy towards all the tribal people all over the country. In the North-Eastern areas, the Central Government is constructing roads and establishing more industries there. Whatever the demands will be there in the tribal areas, specially in Santhal Parganas, these demands will be looked into by the Government. In these areas, in the factories which are based on minerals and metals, more employment opportunities will be given to them and that should be your demand.

17.00 hrs.

They should be given more opportunities for service instead of bringing people from outside. Even in private industries and public sector industries which are producing different products out of the minerals and metal available in Santhal Parganas, local people should be given more opportunities, more promotional opportunities. That should be the demand made by the State Government and the Central Government and with that, there

will be more progress, instead of bringing in this Amendment to the Constitution.

With these words, Sir, I oppose the Bill.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, though I do not want to say anything in favour or against the Bill that has been brought forward by the hon. Member, Shri Tiraky, yet I would like to refer to certain points in respect of this Bill.

First of all, the moot point is as to why a demand of Jharkhand State has been made by the Jharkhand Party. When we people discuss matters here in this Home, we are biased by party feelings and as advocates plead in a court, we plead that we are not guilty and it is they who are guilty. We are good and they are bad. This type of people are not devoted to the country and do not want to safeguard the unity of the country. True facts should be stated in this House. The most important thing is why a demand for a Jharkhand State has been raised. Who is responsible for this? Why did it become necessary for S. Buta Singh to go there? Has there been no Home Minister during all these years? Only one party has been ruling both at the Centre as well in the States for the last 40 years during which the people have been treated as animals. This type of treatment was not even meted out to them during the British times. As a result thereof a sort of discontentment has spread among them. Now the young people have become mentally alert and their demand for a separate Jharkhand State is quite justified. The people of Mizoram struggled against the treatment meted out to them by you for 20 years and their leader was branded as a traitor and a separatist but that every traitor has now become the Chief Minister of that State.

15th August is our great national festival. The Jharkhand Mukti Morcha called upon their youth on 15th August, 1987 not to participate in the Independence Day and their youth boycotted the celebrations. They say that it is not their country. What

are the reasons for this and who is responsible for this? They were not given human treatment. As far as possible, they were treated even worse than animals. Their wealth and labour force was exploited. A number of officers, big politicians and businessmen have become millionaires there. This resulted in spreading discontentment among their young people. They think that they are not being given proper treatment and say that this country is not theirs. They question the utility of this country for them. They feel that they have neither developed economically nor mentally. This Bill has come in a situation when discontentment has spread every-where for which you people are responsible. The Congress Party people claim that they have ensured development of Adivasis. If it is so, then why have that party lost power in 13 States.

17.05 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

Had you worked on right lines, the regional parties would not have come into being? They established their Government in the State. Why did it happen so? Your party which claims itself to be a national party has now become a regional party. Your party has become a party of a person who never took part in politics in his life so far. How did you reach this position? You should think about it honestly.

You have encouraged party politics and casteism. This is the reason that a demand for a Jharkhand State has come up before us. It is your party that has encouraged regionalism. Had you strengthened nationalism, everybody, whether he is an Adivasi or a Brahman, would have called himself a citizen of the country. You should have the guts to judge all those issues honestly. If you had tried to develop all the people equally, such type of question would have never arisen. Instead of doing so you are indulging in party politics more and more. You should note that you have already been removed from 13 States. If you do not bring about improvements in your functioning and try to win these Adivasis, you will be removed from everywhere. I am of the view that it will be difficult for you to continue here. You should ponder over it.

Our Adivasis were converted and they embraced Christianity which helped them to receive education and made them occupy high positions. But you have failed to bring them to such a position so far. Therefore, a number of Adivasis have to change their religion. I visited Orissa as a member of a Lok Sabha Committee and I stayed there in the area of Sambalpur where my relatives work. On seeing the plight of the people in that hilly area, my eyes became red in anger. I saw there that old men and women including small children were digging out the roots of grass. On making an enquiry they pointed out that they eat these roots after boiling them. Had any member of your family or any family member of S. Buta Singh eat n this grass, there would have been much hue and cry in this House. No one can survive after consuming that root. This is the plight of those tribals, who work hard day and night for our welfare and keep their heart and soul together by consuming herbs. Who is responsible for this ?

You should ensure that undeveloped areas are equally developed. Unless there is balanced development in the country, the unity of this country can not be safeguarded. In order to achieve this end we will have to make concerted efforts. If you want to avoid introduction of such Bills, you will have to ensure that nothing is done which give rise to such a feeling in the nation.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, if it is considered seriously, then the Bill which has been brought forward by Shri Tiraky is essential for the development of the Adivasi areas. But I shall oppose it if the hon. Member wants to take any political advantage out of this Bill, Because, today the country is following a policy which is for the upliftment of adivasis. Various schemes have been launched to develop Adivasi areas by declaring them Scheduled areas. Necessary provisions have also been made for their development. There is an Adivasi Development Council in every State which is called Advisory Council. This Adivasi Council was constituted with the stipulation that it will function effectively. Had works been done

in Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa in accordance with it, there would have been no need of such a Bill. To-day a necessity of this Bill has been felt only because this Council has not been functioning effectively. It has been envisaged that the Council will look into the laws framed for these areas and if the laws are found against the traditions, circumstances and living conditions of that area, the Council will accordingly recommend to the Governor of the State who will forward the same to the President alongwith his views. If approved by the President, the recommendation will be implemented in that area. No ther law of the State or the Centre will otherwise be implemented there. If this provision had been implemented properly, there would have not been any need to discuss the question of the development of backward areas.

There is still time to make improvements in it. The Council had forwarded a Bill about exploiters in Madhya Pradesh. The Governor was asked therein that if the district administration detects any exploiter, he should be removed from that place. It was sent to the President also. But thereafter there was no trace of it. Already 8 to 10 years have passed since then. This is indicative of the fact as to what the Government is doing for these people. In this way we will not be able to deliver the goods. The benefits of the development so far made in tribal areas have been grabbed by those well-to-do people living in pucca houses built along the roads who have settled there from outside. These are the people who first get benefits of the schemes which are made for tribal areas. These people have means with them. They can invite officers to their houses and offer tea to them. As per their wishes Adivasis are told about the scheme and are asked to avail of its benefits. I would like to cite an example in this regard. There is a scheme to provide 50 to 75 per cent subsidy for digging wells for the development of agriculture so that they may progress. Before digging of the well takes place, an agreement is signed for electricity line. He does not get water and thus is not able to repay the loan. When loan is not repaid his land is auctioned and sold. People have started saying to the extent that if anybody gets tempted to have the land of any

Adivasi he may trap the in this scheme and thus grab his land.

Therefore, what we are going to do against a law which goes against the tradition of that area.

A law was framed to check large scale felling of trees which was going on in the forests. A rule was made for the demarcation of boundary. The forest people marked the boundary. The ancestral land on lease belonging to the Adivasis also came within the boundary. This caused a lot of harassment to them.

Therefore, this Council was formed with a view to check the laws which go against their tradition and to seek Presidential orders accordingly.

To-day one can see green forests in the Adivasi areas. Due to infiltration of outside people into these areas, the green forests are being destroyed. Because these people get the trees felled by Adivasis by making cash payment and then say that Adivasis are felling the trees. In this way the Adivasis earn a bad name. You talk of environment but forests are being felled in these areas. The forest department appears to be conniving in these deeds. The the then Prime Minister had allowed Adivasis to prepare liquor for their own use on the occasions of festivals. This provided relief to them. Because earlier the contractors used to grab the land of the Adivasis by implicating them in one or the other case and entering their houses without warrant and disgracing their women. It was very essential to check this sort of exploitation. If the rules, which already exist, are properly enforced, they will improve the lot of Adivasis. Similarly in what shape the Forest Act, 1980 about small trees and big trees came before us? We cannot connect one village with the other by constructing roads. Similarly, the land required for boring for drinking water came within the forest area. The forest department did not allow drawing of water from there. This case relates to the block headquarters. Dantewada, where the State Government had to intervene and provide water. There are no buildings for schools and colleges in Bastar. Funds sanctioned for constructing buildings are

surrendered because no site is available for buildidgs. It is because maps show forests having big trees there. Therefore, the laws for the tribal areas be made in accordance with their situation and tradition. The objective of this Bill is all right. Exploiters should be checked from entering these areas. The Adivasis should get full benefits of the development assistance provided to the State or the area by the Government. Keeping all these facts in view, autonomy should be granted to these areas. If it is rightly considered, there should be no need of this Bill. Therefore, it is difficult to say whether we should support this Bill or not. If the schemes chalked out by the Government are against the tradition, culture and progress of tribals, a simple way should be found to rectify them and the pace of development should be accelerated. Then only we will be able to bring these people in the mainstream and march forward.

With these words I conclude.

*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjher) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our friend Shri Piyus Tirkey for moving this Constitution Amendment Bill. While moving his Bill Shri Tirkey has highlited the problems of tribals. At the same time by introducing this Bill he has also given us an opportunity to express our views. Shri Tirkey has moved the Bill with a noble intention. Through his Bill he wants to create an awareness among the public about the genuine needs and the rights of the tribals. But he has expressed his view through a private Member Bill. Therefore it is not possible for the Government to accept it. However, Shri Tirkey has apprised this House the plight of the tribal and urged upon the Government to take immediate steps for the upliftment of these people. So it is the duty of the Government to inform the House as to what specific programmes are proposed to be taken for the socio-economic development of these backward people. Because the Govt. have taken a series of measures to raise the tribal people from below the poverty line. Many Centrally sponsored schemes have been

*The speech was originally delivered in Oriya.

introduced for their economic upliftment. Attention has been paid to their educational development. But it is regrettable that they have not been developed to the desired level. We must find out the reasons as to why they are lagging behind other communities while discussion started on this. Bill I sat quietly because I wanted to understand the views of every member. I have heard everybody attentively. I am sorry to say that many hon. Members do not have the knowledge about the living conditions of the tribals. They have never lived with the tribals. They only know the tribals through books and principals. That means they have only theoretical knowledge about the scheduled tribes. Hence is the trouble. But now we cannot sit silently any longer. We have to think as to why these innocent people have not made progress to the desired level despite the fact that the Government of India have spent so much money under different tribal development programmes. Perhaps Shri Tirkey wants to draw the attention of the Government to this very fact.

Sir, many hon. Members blamed the tribals without knowing anything about their habits and nature. For example now our ecology is imbalanced. There has been growing degradation of forest. News are coming about the large scale felling of trees. But who is responsible? Unfortunately the tribals are being blamed for this.

Now, I would like to say a word about Jharkhand stir which is gaining momentum in Chootanagpur plateau. The Jharkhand stir leaders are branded as separatists. In the present Bill there is no mention of Jharkhand State. But I do not know why Jharkhand movement has been brought into the purview of the discussion by some members. In our Constitution there is provision for making all round development of the tribals. Shri Tirkey has emphasised the need to take steps for the educational, cultural and socio-economic development of the tribals. The tribals are being exploited and neglected by the outsiders as well as the local administrators. The State Governments are not taking adequate steps to save them from exploitation. Then what is the harm in demanding the amendment of the Constitution for creating

autonomous districts for the scheduled areas? Is it not the duty of a tribals to raise the demand for the upliftment of their own people who have been neglected for the last 40 years? Then why some hon. Members are so much bitter in their criticism? As I have observed, the speeches are being delivered in the House to achieve political ends. Such Members do not think about the upliftment of tribals. If they are seriously thinking about the welfare of the tribals, they should have given suggestions to the Government about the steps that can be taken to raise the economic status of these people and to bring them at par with the other people in the society. Instead of doing that I am sorry to say that they are giving political colour to this issue. Please do not brand the tribals as separatists. If some tribals raised their voice or they demanded a separate Jharkhand State then what is the harm in it? How can they be branded as divisive forces? Are they not Indians? Is India not their mother land? For your information they are the original inhabitants of this country. Have those innocent and neglected people no rights to highlight their problems? If you give wrong interpretation of any stand taken for the welfare of tribals, that may spread between the tribals and non-tribals. If your attitude towards the tribals continues to remain like this, it may lead to the division of the States and you will only be responsible for this.

Sir, seats have been reserved for ST in Lok Sabha as well as in State Assemblies. The Govt. have been implementing programmes in every tribal area with a view to raise their standard. The programmes undertaken in ITDP areas are on full swing. But please tell me very frankly, whether these schemes are really implemented effectively? Is the benefit really reaching the tribals? Sir, I am extremely sorry to say that the money is being spent in the same of the tribals, but they are not the real beneficiaries. The middle men and the local officials who are incharge of implementing programmes pocket the money. The ITDP programmes, the micro projects and the special projects under way for the tribals are not at all implemented seriously by the district level administration. The fund is being misused. It is not reaching the field

level. In order to put an end to corruption and misuse of funds it is very necessary to entrust such people with the implementation of the tribal development projects who really know the pulse of the tribals.

Sir, I would like to say something about the tribal culture. Please give me some more time because I belong to a tribal family. You do not know the tribals and their culture to the extent I know. In your speech you have said that the tribal culture is Jaganath culture. I oppose this. In order to justify your stand you are giving a different interpretation and somehow describing tribal culture as Jaganath culture. But it is not at all correct. Every tribal community has different customs and different culture. When a child is born in a tribal family, when a tribal goes for marriage or when he dies, different customs and rites are observed. Sir, you have said about the preservation of tribal culture. I agree with you that tribal culture should be preserved.

Now, let us discuss the present administrative set up. Take the case of a State, say, Orissa. The present administrative set up in that State is applicable for the entire State. But the present administration has failed to solve the problem of the tribals living in the State. Similar is the case in other States. So wherever there is sizeable tribal population those areas should be identified. The problems of the tribals should be identified and steps should be taken to solve those problems. But the State Govts. have failed to solve the problems of tribals. They are getting poorer and poorer. In such cases it is very necessary to create autonomous districts in the scheduled areas of those States. There is no harm in granting autonomous districts to those scheduled areas. The Jharkhand movement has nothing to do with the creation of autonomous districts. It is only a wrong impression of some hon. Members. Take the case of Assam, Meghalaya and Tripura. The scheduled tribes living in those State have made some progress only because they have autonomous districts. Some hon. Members have criticised Shri Tirkey for not bringing his State in the purview of this Bill. I do not know what his intention is. But we should not say that this Bill has been brought forward with

political motive. The present administration in Bihar, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and west Bengal has not been able to attend to the immediate needs of the tribal people. Their development aspect has not been properly looked into. So I would like to suggest that those areas should be granted autonomous districts, in States where there is sizeable tribal population. Because the autonomous districts can only help in the upliftment of the tribals. But there are certain lacunae in the Bill moved by Shri Tirkey. In this context, I would like to suggest to the Govt. to make a list of the various tribal welfare programmes that have been introduced in the country so far. The achievement made under those programme should be properly reviewed. The reasons of the failure of different scheme should also be found out. It should also be decided as to what specific measures should be adopted to implement the tribal development programmes. If autonomous districts can help the tribals on their development then in what ways such autonomous districts should be constituted. All these points should be taken into consideration and then a comprehensive Bill should be brought forward by the Govts. so that the tribals living in the country can be provided some benefit and they are made equal with other community in the country. Secondly, hon. Member (CPM) has said about the land problems of tribals. In his speech he said that the left front Govts in Tripura and West Bengal are protecting the interests of tribal farmers. He alleged that land reform measures are not being implemented in the Congress ruled States. They are not protecting the interest of tribal farmers. It is not true. Because the irregularities are in existence not only in Congress ruled States but in CPM ruled States also. The tribal farmers are being harassed everywhere. The district level revenue officials are harassing the tribal farmers on one plea or the other. It seems the hon. CPM Member is politically motivated and so he appreciated the CPM Governments and criticised the Congress ruled State Govts. I do not know why he does not like to State the correct facts. Have their C. P. M. Govts. implemented land ceiling laws successfully? Have they been able to distribute the surplus land to the landless tribals? Have their Govt. been able to give back the land

to the tribals which was forcefully occupied and enjoyed by the landlords. I have visited those States. People known to me are living in those States. He should not give political colour while dealing with the problems of tribals.

Another thing I would like to bring to the notice of the Govts. Some tribes are scheduled tribes in Orissa. But their relations who migrated to West Bengal and Assam, are not treated as tribals. If the people of one community are scheduled tribes in Bihar and Orissa they should also be treated as Scheduled Tribes in other State whether it is Assam, West Bengal or Tripura. Many people do not know anything about tribals. Though they have full sympathy for the tribals but they have not studied their problems. So they are not able to implement the tribal welfare programmes if they are put in charge of implementing those programmes. Therefore Mr. Tinkey has rightly stated that autonomous districts should be created for the scheduled areas and the persons acquainted with the tribals problems should be made incharge of the administration in those districts.

Sir, I have heard the speech delivered by my friend Mr. Shantaram Naik. In his speech Shri Naik has said that if a particular State Govt. has failed to give justice to the tribals there is no harm in creating autonomous districts for the scheduled areas in that State. After all the overall administration of those districts will be under the control of the State Government. Therefore if we think of the welfare of the tribals first we have to change our attitude toward a them. Sir, it is a tragedy that the people put incharge of implementing the tribal upliftment programme are exploiting them. The upper caste people and particularly the moneylenders are responsible for the backwardness of the tribal people. If exploiters are made the protectors of these people how can we expect their progress? If Govt. officials instead of protecting the interest of tribals will safeguard their own interest and misappropriate the Central allocation how can we achieve our target of providing benefit to the tribals. The cat is very fond of fish. If the cat will be asked to take care of the fish you can imagine the fate of the

fish. Similarly if the corrupt officials are put in charge of tribal development projects the money will come to their pockets and the tribals will continue to remain backward.

Then take the case of the employment of tribals. The Govt. of India have reserved posts for tribal candidates. But sometimes the employers do not fill up the vacancies in the plea of the non-availability of suitable candidates. The non-tribal candidates are finally appointed against the reserved posts. It is really very unjust. This matter is discussed in this House many times in the past. I would like to know why action is not being taken against the employer who violates the reservation rule. So it is necessary to have some autonomous bodies to look into such grievances. The officials who deliberately deprive the tribal candidates of their employment will not dare to do so as they will have to face the autonomous body which can take action against them. This has no link with Jharkhand State. There is no question of separatist attitude. Shri Shahabuddin said that there is no harm if a separate Jharkhand State is created. I do not say that there should be a separate Jharkhand State exclusively for tribals.

But many States have been constituted like Assam, Bihar and Orissa etc. in the past. Recently also we have given statehood to the people of some areas. If ever it will be felt that there is a need to set up a separate Jharkhand State for tribals then there is no problem in creating a new State. The people other than Adivasis belonging to those areas can also continue to live in the new State. So the people should not be misled regarding the creation of Jharkhand State.

In the beginning of my speech I had referred to the destruction of forest wealth. There is unabated felling of trees taking place on a large scale. The forest officials in connivance with the contractors are cutting the trees and making a good profit. But the tribals are being implicated in false cases and the smugglers, contractors and the corrupt forest officials are allowed to go scot free. My friend from Madhya Pradesh

Shri Sodhi has rightly stated that the tribals are made responsible for cutting the trees, but real culprits operate from behind the scene. The tribals live in the forest.

Forest is their home. They get their food, fuel and fibre from the forest. They get water and other things of day to day requirement. In the forest they sing song. They love mountain, water fall and rivers of the forest. Everything wanted by them are available there. So they will not destroy the forest. We should not blame the tribals for the destruction of forest. But the outsiders who do come to the forest area as forest officials or who live in the nearby villages for business purposes destroy the forest and smuggled out valuable forest wealth. These non-tribals some time engage the tribals in the destruction of forest. Those who think that the tribals are responsible for the destruction of forest they are absolutely wrong. If there is any forest existing anywhere it is only in the tribal area. You make a comprehensive study of the total forest area in tribal area and also in non-tribal area. You will come to know about it. Therefore, the forest officials, contractors, officials of the forest development corporation in Shinilipal area of Orissa, The officials of the Shimilpal Forest Development Corporation are responsible for the destruction of forest. The tribals are innocent and they do not protest even if you implicate them in false cases. That does not mean you will blame them.

Lastly, I once again request to the Govt. to think over the problems of tribals and decide how more benefit can be extended to them. You have to examine as to how far the autonomous districts can safeguard the interest of the tribals. Keeping all these things in view the Govt. should come before the House with a comprehensive Bill as soon as possible.

With these words I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to take part in the discussion and conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for discussion of this Bill is going to be over after five minutes. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time of discussion ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With the consent of the House, we extend the time for discussion of this Bill by one hour. Mr. Samar Brahma Choudhury may please speak now.

SHRI SAMAR BRAHMA CHOU-DHURY (Kokrajhar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been listening with rapt attention to the speeches made by the Hon'ble Members. In the course of discussions, many Hon'ble Members have expressed the view that by moving this Bill, the mover is attempting to take away the tribals from the mainstream of the country. It has also been accused of encouraging secessionist tendencies. Some Member has gone to the extent of describing it as a blow to the unity and integrity of the country.

Sir, I wonder what is the concept of unity and integrity of the country. If Bengalis get a State on language basis, if Gujaratis get a State on language basis, if India reorganises its States on the basis of language, if a big chunk of area is taken away from Bihar to Bengal to accommodate Bengali-speaking people on the plea that it is predominantly a Bengali-speaking area, that doesn't give a blow to the unity of the country. That doesn't threaten the integrity of the country.

When the tribals demand the benefits of the constitutional provisions which are already enshrined in the Constitution of India, they are dubbed as secessionists. They are dubbed as people threatening the unity and integrity of the country. I wonder about the meaning of integrity of the country.

Sir, the mover of the Bill, Mr. Tiraky has sought to extend the provisions of the Sixth Schedule to the areas other than the State of Assam. In fact, what is there in the Sixth Schedule ? It has been proved that even the Sixth Schedule is inadequate to protect the interests of the tribals. On a number of occasions, this viewpoint has been accepted by the Government itself and by the ruling party.

Because of that Meghalaya was created, because of that Mizoram was created, because of that Nagaland was created. So,

to protect the interests of Nagas and Mizos, the provisions of the VI Schedule has been formed to be inadequate. So is the case of Garos and Khasis. Now, when the Government of India have accepted the provisions of VI Schedule to be inadequate to protect the tribal interests what is the reason to continue with the provision of V Schedule? What does it provide? It provides Advisory Councils and by providing Advisory Councils, it has been pretended that the tribals are consulted, the right of consultation has been given to the tribals. But in reality the right of consultation has not been given under the Fifth Schedule because the advice of the Advisory Councils is not bound to be accepted by the concerned Government. It means that there is no statutory obligation on the part of the concerned Government to accept the advice of the Advisory Councils. So, even the right of consultation has been denied under fifth Schedule. This is rather denial of democracy to the tribals living within the V Schedule areas. That being so what is the use of continuing with that provision? We have admittedly accepted that even the provisions of VI Schedule are inadequate then what is the point in continuing with the provisions of the V Schedule? Sir, what is the crux of tribal problem? The point is the tribal also want to maintain their ethnic identity. They also want to preserve their geographical areas the areas in which they had been inhabiting since time immemorial, the area which had been handed over to them by their forefathers from generations to generation. They have got every right to protect their areas and I feel that the right of the tribals to their areas, to their land are inalienable. It cannot be alienated. They have got every right to preserve their land and areas, Though hon. Members have been expressing that this Bill will encourage the secessionist-tendency and will give blow to the unity and integrity of the country, none of the Members has denied the special responsibility to develop the tribals to protect the tribal areas and their interests in their land. Now, the tremendous goodwill to do something good for the tribals to develop and protect their areas should be cultivated. How do we manifest this in reality? What are we doing? We say that tribals should be protected and Government should take special care to develop the tribals to protect

the interests of tribals. But when some one bring the question of giving them the right to protect their own land and areas, at once we see a foreign hand in it and we discuss a secessionist tendency, we discover a tendency to give blow to the unity of the nation. The idea of tribal development has always been to feed the tribals with spoon; there has been a concept of spoon feeding; they should be fed by some guardian, because they cannot protect themselves. Why? In a democratic country like India why should not the tribals be given democratic rights to protect their areas, to develop their areas. It is a very unfortunate situation that always the dominant society of a concerned State develops vested interests in the tribal areas. These vested interests get very much alarmed when somebody proposes to extend democratic rights to tribals and they try to discover the secessionist tendency. When the people of dominant group discover the tendency of secessionism a blow to the unity of the country, tribals on the other hand, discover the working of vested interest of dominant society, the cultural and linguistic imperialism of the dominant group. Mr. Chairman, Sir distrust be gets distrust. If non-tribals distrust the tribal and in town if tribals become apprehensive about non-tribals, where will this lead us?

Some hon. Member was speaking about the JHUM cultivation. Of course. JHUM cultivation is not good. It does harm not only to the forests, but to tribal people also. It is a shifting cultivation, is not doing good to the tribal economy. But should we believe that if tribals are given some kind of autonomy within the framework of the Indian Constitution, they will perpetuate this JHUM cultivation? Laldanga took over as Chief Minister of Mizoram. After assuming the power, his first serious attempt was to eradicate the JHUM cultivation. So far as we know, he has taken elaborate steps to stop JHUM cultivation and to provide permanent type of cultivation or some other means of livelihood. If tribals are given some sort of autonomy, if they are allowed to manage their own affairs, will it be proper to assume that they will perpetuate everything bad. We must not take for granted that the tribals lack progressive ideas or wisdom. Patriotism is not the monopoly of certain people only. Some hon. Member was saying that there are

tribal IAS officers and they are very intelligent, Tribal societies are capable of producing progressive and intelligent people. Definitely, they can understand what is good or what is bad and we must not forget that. In spite of all sorts of adverse circumstances the tribal societies have survived thousands and thousands of years and even today, they are surviving.

Tribals are no less patriotic than any other people. If some sort of autonomy is given to tribals within the framework of the Indian Constitution, I do not think we should assume that they are secessionists and they will give a blow to the unity of the country. That kind of mentality and opinion will hurt the sentiments of the tribals because they will feel mistrusted. I think, Mr. Chairman, Sir the very concept of mainstream is detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country. Every citizen should have equal status. Some citizen come from the mainstream and the others from other stream; this concept does not go along with the concept of democracy. We must treat every citizen equally. Every linguistic and ethnic group need be treated equally. Every group of people is equally patriotic.

We are suffering from a contradiction in India. We have reorganised States on the basis of language, and regional culture. But in the United Nations we are advancing the theory of boiling pot to describe the Indian scenario. The international communities and the United Nations are thinking of providing some standards to protect the interests of the indigenous and tribal people. The Government of India has declared in United Nations that "India is a melting pot and its population and cultures are melting and mingling into one". But in reality we have reorganised States on the basis of language. We have recognised one language as the regional language or official language for each State such as Bengali, Assamese, Marathi, Punjabi, Oriya and so on. We have not recognised any one language as the only language for the purpose of literary award. The Gyanpeeth award is recognised as a national award. We give this award to each and every major Indian language. We do not have any particular language which is recognised as the sole language for the award of Sahitya Academy. We give the award the writers of all major Indian

Languages. This shows that the melting pot concept is quite contradictory to what we practice in reality. As we know, the ILO-International Labour Organisation - had accepted the standards under 107 conventions in the year 1957 to protect the interest of the indigenous and tribal people. Currently the world-wide move is to revise these standards, which United Nation has accepted. So far as I know, the United Nation has sent a questionnaire to the Government of India.

But the Government of India never bothered to consult the tribal people or even the Parliament as to what should be the standard. A voluminous questionnaire has been sent by the United Nations to the Government of India and this has never been submitted to Parliament and even a Parliamentary Committee has not been constituted to consider this matter. On the one hand, Government of India accepts the multi-lingual and multi-cultural identity of its people on the other hand, they are presenting this theory of a boiling pot in the United Nations. So, I say that we are suffering from contradiction.

Mr. Chairman, when all the other major Indian languages can survive and thrive, the smaller ethnic and tribal languages should also be assured of their survival. It is also the responsibility of the Government of India and it is the responsibility of the nation as a whole to give protection to the tribal languages. It is the responsibility of the nation to provide such arrangements-political and administrative-whereby small ethnic and tribal groups can feel safe. We must never deny reality. If we are really sincere in our efforts to solve tribal problems, we must try to solve it on the basis of the existing reality. Today, we see that the dominant group are developing vested interests in the tribals. So, it is our responsibility to see how this dominant group should be checked and smaller ethnic groups should be protected. I feel that some sort of autonomy which is already provided in the Constitution of India should be extended to all the tribal areas so that they can not only have the right of consultation but they will also have a right of participation. Indian Constitution has got enough provisions to safeguard the rights of the tribals. There is the

provision of Sixth Schedule. There is the provision of autonomous districts under Article 244(a). When Garo and Khasi hill tribals were struggling hard, to get a separate hill state, it is this very Parliament which had added Article 244(a) to the Indian Constitution and created the status of a sub-state within the State so as to provide a sense of security among these people. When this Parliament by creating a new instrument provided autonomy to being a sense of security, a sense of participation in the minds of hilly tribals of North East. Why cannot we again evolve some such instrument whereby we can really provide a sense of security and a sense of belonging to the other tribals ?

One hon. member has mentioned that this Bill would sow the seed of discontentment. I would say that this Bill is rather, the product of discontentment. Discontentment is already there among the tribals and as one of the hon. members has stated. Tribal India is already in flames. Recently, I had an opportunity to go to Jharkhand.

18.00 hrs.

What I have seen in Jharkhand is that not only the tribals are actively involved in

the Jharkhand movement but also other people non-tribal are involved. So, instead of being apprehensive, I will appeal through you Mr. Chairman, that it is high time, that we should seriously reconsider the problems of the Schedule Tribes and do something to provide some kind of autonomy so that they can feel safe and secure.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Thank you. This Bill will again come up next time. Now the House stands adjourned to meet at 11.00 A.M. on Monday, November the 9th, 1987.

18.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven
of the Clock on Monday, November
9, 1987 Kartika 18, 1909 (Saka)*